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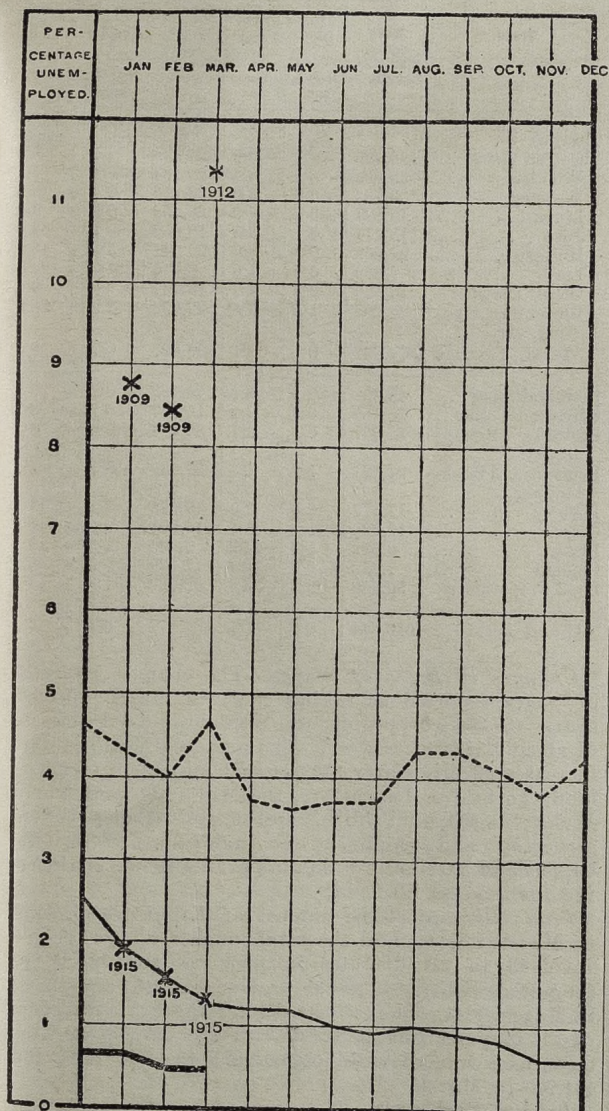
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— *Thick Curve* = 1916. — *Thin Curve* = 1915.
..... *Dotted Curve* = Mean of 1906-15.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1906-15.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

THE LABOUR MARKET.

THE general high level of employment of recent months was fully maintained in March, and notwithstanding the increasing introduction of women into industry, the shortage of labour became still more acute.

In the coal mining industry employment continued very good; at shale mines it was also very good; at iron mines employment declined slightly, but was still good; it was good at lead mines, and fair at tin mines. In the quarrying industry employment was fair generally except at the North Wales slate quarries, where, however, there was a slight improvement.

Employment in the pig iron industry was good, but there was still a difficulty in obtaining raw materials. At iron and steel works employment was very good, with overtime in some districts. The engineering trades were very busy with much overtime, and the shipbuilding trades also continued to work at high pressure. The tinplate and steel sheet trades showed little change, but most of the other metal trades were very active and much overtime was worked.

In the cotton trade shortage of labour caused some stoppage of machinery in the spinning section, but employment was fairly good; in the weaving section there was some slackness. Employment continued brisk in the woollen trades, and activity also prevailed in the worsted and hosiery industries. In the linen industry employment was quiet generally in Ireland and good in Scotland; it was also good in the jute trade. Employment in the bleaching trade was fair, and in the dyeing industry good; with calico printers it continued irregular in England and fair in Scotland. Employment in the lace trade improved, and was good generally; in the silk and carpet trades it continued fairly good.

Employment in the boot and shoe trades continued very good, though some temporary dislocation was caused by shortage of labour; the leather trades were well employed, and overtime was worked in certain districts; it was quiet, however, in some branches of the saddlery and harness trades. The bespoke tailoring trade showed a decline, and employment was slack; in the ready-made branch it was fairly good. In millinery and dressmaking employment continued fair with retail firms in London; with court and private dressmakers it improved, but was still only moderate. Employment was good in the corset trade, and fairly good on the whole in the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, and in the shirt and collar trades. Employment was moderate in the felt hat trade, and bad in the silk hat trade.

In the building trades employment on private work remained quiet, but owing to the transfer of many men to non-building occupations, those remaining were generally well employed. Brickmaking showed a general decline, but employment in the cement industry was good generally, with a shortage of labour and much overtime. In the furnishing trades employment continued fairly good on the whole; in the woodworking trades it was good generally.

In the printing trades employment was fairly good; in the bookbinding trades it was good, and much overtime was worked, especially in London; in the paper

trades it also remained good. A shortage of labour was general to all three trades.

The glass trade continued well employed; the pottery trade showed a further improvement, and employment was good. In the food preparation trades it was very good generally. Agricultural operations were greatly delayed by wet and stormy weather, and consequently the general deficiency of labour was not so much felt.

With dock labourers employment was fair generally, but showed a decline. The supply of seamen for mercantile ships was reported as equal to the demand at nearly all ports.

Compared with March, 1915, there was a marked decline in the number of workpeople unemployed.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 944,527 reported 5,178 (or 0.5 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1916, compared with 0.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1916, and 1.3 per cent. at the end of March, 1915.

Trade.	Membership at end of Mar., 1916, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces.	Unemployed at end of Mar., 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building*	82,785	1,201	1.5	—	- 1.2
Coal Mining†	137,963	41	0.0	—	- 0.3
Iron and Steel	37,493	294	0.8	—	- 0.8
Engineering	255,126	850	0.3	—	- 0.2
Shipbuilding	68,995	210	0.3	—	- 0.3
Miscellaneous Metal	39,154	41	0.1	—	- 0.5
Textiles†—					
Cotton	78,912	864	1.1	+ 0.1	- 1.4
Woolen & Worsted	8,289	12	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.6
Other	52,638	157	0.3	—	- 0.8
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper	55,567	797	1.4	+ 0.3	- 2.3
Furnishing	15,367	362	2.4	- 0.2	- 2.2
Woodworking	28,859	233	0.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
Clothing	69,571	41	0.1	—	- 0.4
Leather	4,379	55	1.3	- 0.1	—
Glass	761	3	0.4	- 0.1	- 1.9
Pottery	6,400	5	0.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Tobacco	2,268	12	0.5	- 0.6	- 3.1
Total	944,527	5,178	0.5	—	- 0.8

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of March, 1916, was 0.7, compared with 0.8 at the end of February, 1916, and 1.4 at the end of March, 1915.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces	Unemployed at end of March, 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed on a	
		Number.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building	550,973	7,914	1.4	- 0.4	- 1.0
Construction of Works	113,427	473	0.4	—	- 0.9
Engineering and Iron-founding	846,009	3,826	0.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Shipbuilding	222,870	1,005	0.5	—	- 0.4
Construction of Vehicles	167,075	1,035	0.6	—	- 0.4
Sawmilling	8,239	64	0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Other Insured Workpeople	43,224	98	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.4
All Insured Workpeople	1,951,817	14,415	0.7	- 0.1	- 0.7

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: MINING AND METAL TRADES.

The following Table summarises the returns from firms employing 689,606 workpeople in March, 1916, in the industries mentioned:—

* This percentage is based mainly on Returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.
† In the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is usually met by short time working.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for March, 1916.	March, 1916.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining ...	511,868	5.71	+ 0.02	+ 0.05	
Iron " ...	11,692	5.73	- 0.14	- 0.19	
Shale " ...	3,097	5.93	- 0.04	+ 0.05	
Pig Iron ...	25,363	Furnaces in Blast. 264	No. 1	No. 9	
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	25,758	Mills Working. 486	+ 3	+ 38	
Iron and Steel	111,828	Shifts Worked (One Week). 649,647	Per cent. + 0.5	Per cent. + 11.2	

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 610,634 workpeople in the week ended 25th March, 1916, showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.7 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 6.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Trade.	Number Employed.		Wages Paid.	
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Textiles:—				
Cotton ...	188,796	- 0.7	208,246	+ 0.1
Woolen ...	25,003	- 0.1	29,184	+ 0.1
Worsted ...	33,734	- 0.0	33,215	+ 2.4
Linen ...	40,824	+ 0.3	28,558	+ 0.3
Jute ...	13,214	+ 0.1	13,852	- 0.1
Hosiery ...	22,969	+ 0.7	22,741	+ 3.3
Lace ...	7,859	+ 0.4	8,816	+ 4.0
Other Textiles	16,570	+ 0.8	15,147	- 0.0
Bleaching, Dyeing, etc.	25,295	+ 1.5	39,938	+ 2.2
Total, Textiles	374,264	- 0.1	399,697	+ 0.7
Boot and Shoe ...	63,398	+ 0.2	79,185	+ 0.2
Shirt and Collar ...	20,189	- 0.5	15,547	+ 0.7
Clothing (Ready-made)	35,837	- 0.2	32,401	+ 0.4
Printing and Book-binding	24,531	- 1.2	32,289	+ 0.1
Pottery ...	17,677	- 0.3	19,695	+ 2.1
Glass ...	10,025	+ 1.7	16,261	+ 0.5
Brick ...	6,652	- 1.8	9,096	- 2.3
Cement ...	7,252	+ 0.6	12,339	+ 0.2
Food Preparation	50,809	- 2.8	52,062	- 1.5
Grand Total	610,634	- 0.4	668,572	+ 0.4

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported as taking effect in March affected nearly 459,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net increase of about £35,200 per week. The principal changes were increases affecting over 377,000 coal miners in Cumberland, Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Midlands, and North Wales; 18,500 semi-skilled and unskilled men in engineering and shipbuilding establishments on the Clyde; and 8,000 men of similar grades in the engineering industry at Sheffield.

Trade Disputes.—The number of disputes beginning in March was 44, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 58,388, as compared with 12,831 in the previous month, and 33,903 in March, 1915. The estimated total aggregate duration of all disputes during the month was 327,300 working days, as compared with 102,600 in February, 1916, and 151,200 in March, 1915.

Labour Exchanges.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended 10th March was 35,337, as compared with 45,948 in the previous four weeks, and with 34,477 in the four weeks ended 12th March, 1915. The average weekly number of vacancies filled for the same periods was 27,417, 28,902, and 24,797 respectively.

EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY IN FEBRUARY.*

The following is the general conclusion arrived at by the German Department of Labour Statistics as to the course of employment in Germany during February:—

"With the exception of the textile and clothing trades, the industrial situation in February showed a very considerable improvement as compared with February, 1915. The revival which, in normal times, takes place in February in a number of trades, was less marked this year owing to the preponderating influence upon the labour market of the trades concerned with war work. The principal trades engaged upon war contracts have been employed to their utmost capacity for some months past, and employment in them continued good during the 19th month of the war.

"The demand for coal, which in peace times is often less in February than in January, continued at the same high level and led to a much better state of employment than in the corresponding period of 1915. In the metal and engineering and electrical trades employment on the whole continued as good as in the preceding month, and for the most part was better than in the corresponding month of 1915. To some degree, in fact, employment in these trades (as also in the chemical and woodworking trades) was even better than in January. There was no revival in the building trades."

Returns from Trade Unions.—Returns relating to employment were furnished by 37 Trade Unions, the membership covered being 815,196. Of these, 22,987 (or 2.8 per cent.) were out of work at the end of February, as compared with 2.6 per cent. in the previous month and 5.1 per cent. in February, 1915.

Unions.	Membership reported on at end of Feb., 1916.	Percentage of Membership reported as Unemployed at end of month.		
		February, 1916.	January, 1916.	February, 1915.
All Unions making Returns...	815,196	2.8	2.6	5.1
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:				
Building trade operatives ...	71,192	5.2	3.9	11.5
Painters ...	9,081	4.9	7.0	...
Metal workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	233,141	1.2	1.2	2.3
Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch-Duncker) ...	9,988	0.7	0.7	2.3
Metal workers (Christian) ...	15,205	0.7	0.6	2.1
Textile workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	62,628	12.1	10.9	5.1
Hat makers ...	8,131	17.4	8.1	14.1
Boot and shoe makers ...	18,185	1.6	1.3	2.3
Transport workers ...	69,895	0.8	0.8	2.9
Printers (book and job) ...	29,600	0.1	0.2	9.0
Lithographers ...	6,416	2.0	1.8	10.5
Bookbinders ...	17,054	6.5	6.3	9.6
Saddlers and bag makers ...	9,709	1.8	2.0	0.6
Leather workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	6,526	1.9	3.7	9.6
Wood workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	68,770	2.2	2.4	3.5
Porcelain workers ...	5,457	9.7	11.0	0.6
Bakers ...	8,934	2.5	3.3	6.2
Brewery & corn mill workers	21,233	0.6	0.4	0.9
Tobacco workers ...	20,036	0.5	0.6	1.1
Factory workers irrespective of trade (Soc. Dem.) ...	83,348	1.4	1.3	3.9
State and municipal workers	26,985	0.6	0.6	0.9

Among male members of Trade Unions the percentage unemployed at the end of February was 1.5, as compared with 1.4 per cent. at the end of the preceding month and 4.5 per cent. in February, 1915. Among women members the percentage was 9.7 at the end of February, 8.2 at the end of January, and 9.4 at the end of February, 1915.

Returns from Labour Exchanges.—Returns relating to the operations of Labour Exchanges during February show the proportion of applications for employment to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been as follows:—

	February, 1916.	January, 1916.	February, 1915.
Males ...	86	84	113
Females ...	167	163	172

* Reichsarbeitsblatt (the journal of the German Department for Labour Statistics), March, 1916.

From these figures it appears that the demand for men during February was about the same as in the previous month and considerably better than in February, 1915. In the case of women there was also very little difference between January and February, but a slight improvement as compared with February, 1915.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES.

UNITED KINGDOM AT 1ST APRIL, 1916.

COMPARISON WITH 1ST MARCH.

RETAIL prices of food advanced during March by less than 1 per cent. British beef prices increased by about 2 per cent., imported beef and British mutton by about 3 per cent., and imported mutton by about 6 per cent. The increase in the prices of flour and bread which commenced in November last has now been arrested, and a decrease of between 1 and 2 per cent. is shown this month. Granulated sugar showed an advance of 4 per cent. on the average, making a total increase of 18 per cent., or 3d. per lb., during the present year. Potatoes showed a rise of about 4 per cent., and cheese 3 per cent. Butter, margarine, bacon, milk and tea showed very slight average advances. Eggs and fish were cheaper than a month earlier, to the extent of 9 and 3 per cent. respectively, on the average.

COMPARISON WITH A YEAR AGO.

As compared with 1st April, 1915, there was an average increase of 19 per cent. The increases may be summed up as follows:—Sugar and frozen mutton were dearer by about 35 per cent., and fish by 30 per cent. British and imported beef, British mutton, bacon and tea had risen in price by about 25 per cent. Milk, butter, cheese and eggs showed advances of 15 to 20 per cent.; margarine, flour, bread and potatoes, about 6 to 11 per cent.

COMPARISON WITH JULY, 1914.

In the following Table is given a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st April, 1916, in relation to the normal prices of July, 1914:—

Article.	Percentage Increase from July, 1914, to 1st April, 1916.			Article.	Percentage Increase from July, 1914, to 1st April, 1916.		
	Large Towns (populations over 50,000)	Small Towns and Villages	United Kingdom.		Large Towns (populations over 50,000)	Small Towns and Villages	United Kingdom.
Beef, British—				Bread ...	56	48	52
Ribs ...	42	38	40	Tea ...	49	48	49
Thin Flank ...	60	45	52	Sugar (granulated)	135	120	128
Beef, Imported—				Butter—			
Ribs ...	59	51	55	Fresh ...	34	37	35
Thin Flank ...	80	67	74	Salt ...	32	35	33
Mutton, British—				Cheese ...	44	45	45
Legs ...	38	36	37	Margarine ...	19	13	16
Breast ...	65	44	54	Eggs (fresh) ...	39	32	36
Mutton, Frozen—				Potatoes ...	10	- 4*	3
Legs ...	64	53	58				
Breast ...	98	79	89				
Bacon (streaky) ...	38	30	34				
Fish ...	108	74	91				
Flour (house-holds)	56	64	80	ALL ABOVE ARTICLES †	52	46	49

With a further advance in March, the price of granulated sugar at 1st April was considerably more than double that for July, 1914, and there has been a further increase since 1st April. Flour averaged 60 per cent., and bread over 50 per cent. dearer than immediately before the war. British meat had risen 45 per cent. and imported meat considerably more. For milk, butter and bacon the increases recorded averaged between 30 and 35 per cent., and cheese was 45 per cent. dearer. The increase in tea prices now approaches 50 per cent., an increase of 9d. per lb., 7d. of which is owing to increased duty. Margarine prices averaged about 16 per cent. higher. The price of fish varied widely according to locality, but on the average nearly

* Decrease.
† Weighted net percentage increase.

doubled that for July, 1914. Potatoes and eggs are subject to seasonal fluctuations.

Taking the country as a whole, and making allowance for the relative importance of the various articles in working-class household expenditure, the average increase in the retail prices of food since the beginning of the war may be put at 49 per cent. This figure relates to food only, and in estimating the increased cost of living this percentage must not be applied to the total family expenditure, but only to that proportion which is expended on food.

BERLIN IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February a slight fall, amounting to 0·8 per cent., was recorded in the general level of retail prices of certain of the more important articles of food in Berlin, as compared with January, while food prices as a whole were 85·6 per cent. above those of July, 1914. In arriving at these results allowance is made for the relative importance of the various articles in working-class consumption. The following Table is based upon returns published in the Prussian official journal, *Statistische Korrespondenz*—

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1916, as compared with	
	January, 1916.	July, 1914.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Rye bread	+ 42·9	+ 27·7
Wheat bread	No change.	+ 46·7
Rye flour	- 8·3	+ 14·3
Wheat flour	- 11·1	+ 106·2
Butter	No change.	+ 224·7
Lard	+ 6·7	+ 28·0
Sugar	+ 9·5	+ 48·4
Coffee	- 23·1	+ 185·7
Eggs	No change.	+ 36·4
Milk	+ 5·4	+ 117·1
Beef	+ 1·7	+ 106·4
Mutton	- 0·5	+ 99·0
Veal	No change.	+ 72·8
Pork	- 0·5	+ 153·0
Bacon	No change.	No change.
Potatoes	+ 9·1	+ 380·0
Rice	No change.	+ 187·5
Split peas	+ 0·9	+ 132·0
Haricot beans		
ALL ARTICLES TOGETHER (WEIGHTED NET PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	- 0·8	+ 85·6

For eight out of the nineteen articles shown in the Table the prices recorded for February show no change as compared with the previous month. As regards the remaining items the decreases in price slightly outweigh the rises, the result being (as stated above) that on the whole the general level showed a slight fall.

It can no longer be considered that these percentages show the full extent to which the normal food supplies of Berlin are being reduced owing to the war. The prices recorded are in several cases maxima, above which retail dealers are not allowed to charge. Moreover, many of the articles may only be sold in strictly limited quantities—e.g. bread, flour, butter, lard, milk; while others, such as peas and beans, would appear to be practically unobtainable at the ordinary shops. For the two last-named articles Berlin quotations have ceased for some months, and the percentages are based on the average prices for the remaining towns of Prussia. Lentils would appear to have practically disappeared from the Prussian markets, since no prices are recorded for February either for Berlin or for Prussian towns generally. The disappearance of this article from the returns has the effect of still further reducing the computed percentage rise in the general level of food prices since July, 1914.

ITALY IN FEBRUARY.

During February there was a decrease of 0·1 per cent. in the retail prices of food in Italy, and the general level stood at 32·6 per cent. above that of July, 1914. The percentages in the following Table are based on index numbers published in the issue for 1st April of the journal of the Italian Labour Department (*Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro*), and relate to 42 towns in Italy:—

Articles.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1916, as compared with	
	January, 1916.	July, 1914.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wheat bread	+ 0·4	+ 30·5
Wheat flour	- 1·2	+ 40·4
Macaroni, &c.	- 0·9	+ 39·3
Beef	+ 0·8	+ 58·8
Bacon	- 1·1	+ 26·9
Olive oil	+ 2·2	+ 25·0
Milk	- 0·5	+ 10·7
ALL ARTICLES TOGETHER	- 0·1	+ 32·6

AUSTRALIA IN DECEMBER.*

During December, the latest month for which figures are available, the index numbers of retail food prices for the 30 principal towns in the Australian Commonwealth show a fall of 1·1 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, but an increase of 29·1 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. In obtaining these figures account is taken of the extent to which each of the various articles of food entering into the computation of the index numbers is consumed throughout the Commonwealth, and also of the respective populations of the 30 towns.

WAR AND WAGES IN FRANCE.

ACCORDING to a paper, read by M. Picquenard before the *L'Alliance d'Hygiène Sociale*, and published in the *Revue Bleue* of 29th January—5th February, 1916, the first effect of the outbreak of war on the industrial classes was prostration. More than half the industrial and commercial establishments of France closed their doors; and most of those who kept open did so with reduced staffs working short time. In some cases the workpeople were set to do work merely in order to enable them to earn something.

The number of employed persons may be estimated at about eleven millions, including 3,300,000 persons employed in agriculture; 5,000,000 in industry; 1,000,000 in commerce; 800,000 in the public service; and 900,000 in domestic service.

As to agricultural workers, the paper gives no particulars. Civil servants were not affected. The example of the State in maintaining its staff was followed by most municipal administrations, railway companies, tramway companies and similar bodies; also by the great banks and insurance companies. The situation of other wage-earners was far less favourable, but it varied considerably according to the nature of their occupation.

As regards industrial workers, the closing down of more than half the undertakings had the effect of suddenly stopping the earnings of more than 2,000,000 workpeople. The remaining 3,000,000 who continued in their occupations did not by any means continue to receive their normal wages. Time-workers were employed for fewer hours or at lower rates; and in some cases, piece-rates also were reduced. Reductions of time rates were rare in men's trades (or in trades where men and women work together), but were numerous in women's trades. An official enquiry ascertained that 85 per cent. of the great Parisian clothing manufacturers reduced the rates of day-wages at the outbreak of war, the reductions varying from 25 to 50 per cent. The association of employers passed a resolution fixing the normal reduction at 50 per cent.

In commercial enterprises reductions of wages, ranging from 20 to 50 per cent., were generally made.

Domestic servants had to submit to reductions varying from 40 to 50 per cent.; and in some cases all money payments ceased. Some householders had the names of domestic servants, whom they kept in their service, entered as claimants of benefits from unemployment funds.

Improvement began in October, 1914. The percentage of industrial establishments in operation rose to 57 per cent. in that month, to 65 per cent. in January, and to 80 per cent. in the following October. The

* Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, December, 1915. Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne.

improvement as regards the employment of workpeople was still more marked, so that by October, 1915, it was ascertained, that if proper allowance were made for the mobilised men, the percentage out of work was only 2 per cent. of the number employed in peace-time.

The effect of the improvement of wages was not uniform. As regards domestic servants, an enquiry, made in September, 1915, showed that their wages remained 30 or even 40 per cent. below the normal rates. As regards clerks and shop assistants, wages were better. In the great Paris shops, the fixed wages of the lower grades of employees were restored to the normal rates; others continued to get less. In some business houses, higher salaries were paid to compensate for the insufficiency of commissions earned on sales. In certain towns (where the presence of British soldiers caused a stir in business) wages were advanced beyond the normal rates.

Time rates of wages have been increased in certain cases, notably in the food and transport trades, as well as in those trades concerned with the handling of stores, &c., and generally in war industries of every kind. Such increases, however, have mainly affected skilled workers or men of strong physique. In both cases the supply is restricted, the number of skilled men, already limited, being further reduced by national mobilisation. The substitution of piece-rates for time-rates, in order to stimulate production for the army, has become common, and increased earnings from this cause have by no means been confined to skilled workers. Reports of factory inspectors speak of increased earnings in many industries in the North of France and in Normandy, and dock labourers have benefited almost everywhere by increased rates. In the Calais district the construction of numerous barracks for British soldiers has caused an extraordinary rise in the wages of carpenters, masons and bricklayers, and builders' labourers.

Women employed in factories, especially those in the food and other trades working in the interest of the national defence, have had their wages restored to the previous level. But in many of the textile trades the wages of women remain below normal. The substitution of women for men has increased to a remarkable extent. Where this has occurred the present earnings of women are appreciably higher than their old earnings, although in the majority of cases it appears that they are paid at lower rates than those fixed for the men whom they replace.

A great number of wages increases have thus occurred in the course of the war. These advances have been produced by the same causes as those which operate in times of peace. The increase in the cost of living has instigated the workers to demand corresponding advances in their daily wages. Men have been more successful than women, and industrial workers than commercial or domestic employees.

Strikes have been rare. Thus, from 1st August, 1914, to 1st December, 1915, only 97 strikes (involving 9,110 workers) have been recorded, whereas in the twelve months of 1913 the number was 1,073, involving 220,000 workers. On several occasions the appeal of the Labour Department to the patriotism of the workers has led to a settlement.

The intervention of the State affected the general situation. Inspectors were instructed to investigate systematically the wages paid in establishments which were entrusted with army orders, and in July, 1915, a circular was issued to the effect that normal rates of wages were to be guaranteed for factory and home-workers in all new contracts for the army. In executing these instructions the factory inspectors have verified wages in respect to nearly 2,500 contracts, which involved 120,000 workpeople, and have reported that in connexion with 10 per cent. of the contracts increases, in some cases very considerable, had been arranged.

In conclusion, the writer of the paper states:—
"Wages, after having declined at the time of mobilisation, have subsequently recovered to an appreciable extent. They tend more and more to become normal, and for certain groups of workers they exceed the normal rates."

*

CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE IN 1914.

THE following particulars relating to registered agricultural co-operative societies in the United Kingdom are based upon returns made direct to the Department, supplemented by information supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Returns obtained by the Department for the year 1914 showed that there were at work at the end of the year in the United Kingdom 975 registered co-operative societies engaged in agricultural distribution and production. Of these societies 895 were engaged wholly in agricultural operations, 512 being engaged in the distribution of seeds, manures, implements, &c., and 383 mainly in the production of butter.

The 895 societies had an aggregate membership of 117,044, an increase of 4,898, or 4·4 per cent., on that of the previous year, and of 51,436, or 78·4 per cent., on that of 1904. The total share, loan and reserve capital amounted to £1,155,393, an increase of £123,996, or 12·0 per cent., on the amount in 1913, and of £754,607, or 188·3 per cent., more than that of 1904.

The aggregate sales by these 895 societies amounted to £6,849,945 during the year, an increase of £779,685, or 12·8 per cent., over those of 1913, and of £5,054,150, or 281·4 per cent., over those of 1904, while the profit was £102,037, an increase of £62,114 over that of 1913.

The number of persons employed by these societies was 3,413, and the amount paid in wages to them £178,805, an increase over 1913 of 118 and £16,132 respectively.

In addition to the 895 societies mentioned above, there were 80 industrial co-operative societies having farming and dairying departments; in 1914, 789 persons were employed in these departments, to whom £43,798 was paid in wages, while the sales amounted to £336,443.

The following Table shows for England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland the sales in 1914 of all the 975 distributive and productive societies and departments:—

	Agricultural Distributive Societies.	Agricultural Productive Societies and Departments.	Total.	
			Amount.	Per-centage.
England and Wales	£ 2,078,002	£ 469,832	£ 2,547,834	35·5
Scotland	468,165	308,368	776,533	10·8
Ireland	783,927	3,078,094	3,862,021	53·7
UNITED KINGDOM	3,330,094	3,856,294	7,186,388	100·0

The sales by the distributive societies in England and Wales were over 62 per cent. of the total, or nearly twice the amount of the combined sales in Scotland and Ireland; but in the productive societies and departments the sales in Ireland amounted to 79·8 per cent. of the total, or nearly four times those in England and Wales and Scotland.

DISTRIBUTION.

The Table given below shows for the years 1904-14 the sales of agricultural distributive societies in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively:—

Year.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.	
	No. of Societies.	Sales.	No. of Societies.	Sales.	No. of Societies.	Sales.
1904	65	£ 146,197	2	£ 44,850	155	£ 372,080
1905	82	214,292	5	46,610	150	371,273
1906	111	387,775	8	51,511	161	420,223
1907	121	572,735	12	80,338	163	484,771
1908	131	751,445	19	99,530	157	469,556
1909	145	885,683	31	227,141	160	491,034
1910	165	1,036,515	43	291,838	168	521,193
1911	217	1,325,547	55	335,470	159	525,580
1912	228	1,623,805	69	367,273	153	641,239
1913	242	1,822,050	73	417,742	150	694,841
1914	278	2,078,002	77	468,165	157	783,927

As compared with 1904 the sales by societies in England and Wales and in Scotland showed large increases, and in Ireland, where agricultural co-operation was already well established in 1904, the sales were more than doubled. Compared with the previous year the sales in 1914 increased by 14.0 per cent. in England and Wales, by 12.1 per cent. in Scotland, and by 12.8 per cent. in Ireland.

PRODUCTION.

The following Table gives the number of societies, with the amount of their sales and transfers, engaged in productive operations during the years 1904-1914:—

Year.	Special Farming and Dairying Societies.		Farming and Dairying Departments of Wholesale and Retail Industrial Distributive Societies.		Total Agricultural Production by all Classes of Societies.	
	No. of Societies.	Sales.	No. of Societies.	Sales and Transfers.*	No. of Societies.	Sales and Transfers.*
1904 ...	256	1,232,668	60	401,383	316	1,634,051
1905 ...	260	1,372,552	56	402,639	316	1,775,191
1906 ...	272	1,683,120	61	473,258	333	2,156,378
1907 ...	287	1,829,279	64	477,379	351	2,306,658
1908 ...	303	1,969,532	69	494,889	372	2,464,421
1909 ...	318	2,044,917	71	467,967	389	2,512,884
1910 ...	336	2,255,047	71	435,568	407	2,690,615
1911 ...	338	2,387,642	72	330,267	410	2,717,909
1912 ...	332	2,925,432	76	301,069	428	3,226,501
1913 ...	368	3,135,627	73	307,015	441	3,442,642
1914 ...	383	3,519,351	80	336,443	463	3,856,294

As compared with 1904 the sales of special farming and dairying societies were nearly trebled, but the sales of agricultural departments of industrial societies showed a decline. Compared with 1913 there was an increase of 12.3 per cent. in the sales of special farming and dairying societies, and of 9.6 per cent. in those of the agricultural departments of industrial societies. Of the total production in 1914, 12.2 per cent. was in England and Wales, 8 per cent. in Scotland, and 79.8 per cent. in Ireland.

PROFIT SHARING.

The returns made to the Department show that of the 512 agricultural distributive societies 43, employing 183 persons and paying £16,341 in wages, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to £1,072, which was equal to 6.6 per cent. upon the wages of the participants. Of the 383 agricultural productive societies 61, employing 435 persons and paying £19,982 in wages, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to a total of £1,111, or 5.6 per cent. upon the wages of the participants.

Of the 80 departments of the industrial societies 14, employing 172 persons and paying wages amounting to £11,161, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to a total of £382, or 3.4 per cent. upon wages; of this total £278, or about 73 per cent., was accounted for by the farming department of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS SOCIETIES.

In the year 1914 there were at work 147 co-operative small holdings and allotments societies, with a total membership of 16,205, compared with 131 societies and 14,471 members in 1913. Their total capital was £49,665, consisting of £11,818 in shares, £33,308 in loans, and £4,539 in reserve funds.

These societies held 15,432 acres of land, for which £26,657 was payable by them for rent, rates and taxes; 15,017 acres were let to 12,234 tenants, who paid £31,139 to the societies for rent, rates and taxes. A number of the societies have formed trading departments for the purchase of members' requirements and for the sale of their produce. The total sales by the societies amounted to £3,471, and the net result of the operations of the whole of the societies in 1914 was a profit of £215.

* The goods produced by the productive departments of Industrial Co-operative Societies are usually not sold direct, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

INDUSTRIAL FATIGUE.

THE seventh memorandum of the Health of Munition Workers Committee* deals with Industrial Fatigue and its Causes.

For the purposes of this Report, fatigue is defined as the sum of the results of activity which show themselves in a diminished capacity for doing work. The Committee consider that it is of vital importance for the proper study of industrial fatigue to recognise that the bodily or subjective sensations of fatigue are not an adequate measure of it, and that real or objective fatigue is shown and is measurable at any stage by the diminished capacity for performing the act that caused it. Further investigation shows that the problems of industrial fatigue are primarily and almost wholly problems of fatigue in the nervous system, and that for practical purposes in industrial management it is therefore important to observe the following two main characteristics of nervous fatigue:—

(1) That during the continued performance of work, without obvious sign and without his knowing it himself, a man's capacity for work may diminish owing to his unrecognised fatigue. His time beyond a certain point then begins to be uneconomically spent, and it is for scientific management to determine this point, and to determine further the arrangement of periods of rest in relation to spells of work that will give the best development over the day and the year of the worker's capacity.

(2) The results of fatigue which advances beyond physiological limits ("over-strain") not only reduce capacity at the moment, but do damage of a more permanent kind which will affect capacity for periods far beyond the next normal period of rest.

For these reasons, chief among others, the Committee emphasise the importance of detecting latent fatigue, and since sensations of fatigue are unpunctual and untrustworthy, it is evident that means must be sought of observing the onset of fatigue objectively. The Committee therefore consider in some detail the most direct test available, viz. the measurement of output in work, their recommendations in this connection being as follows: (a) The output must be measured under the ordinary conditions of the work, and, in cases where from the nature of the work the output is not automatically measured, it must be tested by methods which do not allow the workers to be conscious at particular times of the test being made. In this way, the errors due to special effort from interest or emulation will be eliminated. (b) The results of work expressed in output must be corrected by allowance for all variable factors save that of the workers' changing capacity; changes in supply of steam or electric power and of raw material, for instance, must be determined for the correction and interpretation of the actual output returns. (c) The output must be estimated for successive short periods (e.g. each hour) of the day's work, so that the phenomenon of "beginning-spurt" and "end-spurt," and other variations complicating the course of fatigue as such, may be traced and taken into account. (d) The records must also extend over longer periods to show the onset of fatigue over the whole day and over the whole week, and under particular seasonal or other conditions, in order to detect and measure the results of accumulating fatigue. (e) Measurements of output must be recorded at so much for each individual or for each unit group. But account must also be taken of the output of particular individuals. The Committee call attention to the fact that astonishing results, bringing advantage both to employers and employed, have been gained in other countries by the careful selection of individuals for particular tasks, based not upon the impressions of foremen but upon the results of experiment.

The Committee believe that in the present time of crisis patriotic incentive has done much to abolish reduction of effort among munition workers, but they

* Cd. 8213, Price 1/4d.

OUTPUT OF COAL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.*

A RETURN recently issued by the Board of Trade shows the estimated quantities of coal raised in mines in various areas of the United Kingdom in each quarter of the years 1914 and 1915. The output in 1915 amounted to 253,188,000 tons, compared with 265,643,000 tons in 1914, and 287,412,000 tons in 1913. The decrease of 12,455,000 tons in 1915 on the output of the previous year occurred almost entirely in the first half, when the comparison is with pre-war output. The records for the year show an increase of 892,000 tons in Yorkshire, where operations were suspended during three weeks in April, 1914, on account of the minimum wage dispute and an increase of 378,000 tons in Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester. Elsewhere decreases were shown as follows: in Northumberland 1,370,000 tons, or 11.0 per cent.; in Durham 3,828,000 tons, or 10.2 per cent.; in Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales 1,235,000 tons, or 4.7 per cent.; in Stafford, Salop, Worcester and Warwick 495,000 tons, or 2.4 per cent.; in South Wales and Monmouth, where about a week was lost by the majority of the pits in July, 1915, on account of the disputes connected with the Conciliation Board Agreement, 3,513,000 tons, or 6.5 per cent.; in East Scotland 1,901,000, or 13.1 per cent.; and in West Scotland 1,474,000 tons, or 6.1 per cent. The average number of persons employed in coalmining in 1915 was less by 12.2 per cent. than the number in 1914, while the quantity of coal raised was less by 4.7 per cent. In spite of the considerable decrease which had taken place in the numbers employed, the output in the second half of 1915 was practically the same as in the second half of 1914. The output for 1915 compared with that for 1913 shows a decrease of 18,097,000 tons in the first half of the year, and of 16,127,000 tons in the second half.

The exports of coal, including the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel shipped, amounted to 46,321,000 tons in 1915, to 62,458,000 tons in 1914, and to 77,307,000 tons in 1913, leaving available for consumption 206,867,000 tons in 1915, 203,185,000 tons in 1914, and 210,105,000 tons in 1913. These quantities are inclusive of coal for the use of the Admiralty, and of 13,631,000 tons in 1915, 18,536,000 tons in 1914, and 21,032,000 tons in 1913 shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade.

The following Table gives particulars for each half-year from the beginning of 1913:—

Half-year ended	Output (including coal used for colliery purposes).	Exports (including the coal equivalent of coke and manufactured fuel).	Quantities available for Consumption.†	Quantity shipped for the use of steamers; engaged in the Foreign Trade included in the preceding column.
30th June, 1913 ...	145,923	37,279	108,644	10,087
31st December, 1913 ...	141,489	40,028	101,461	10,945
30th June, 1914 ...	140,274	36,390	103,884	10,182
31st December, 1914 ...	125,369	26,068	99,301	8,354
30th June, 1915 ...	127,826	23,505	104,231	7,400
31st December, 1915 ...	125,362	22,726	102,636	6,231

The Return also includes a statement relating to the number of days on which pits were idle during the holiday periods in 1914 and 1915. Fewer holidays were taken in the latter year, the proportion of workers absent not more than two days in 1915 being 93 per cent. at Easter and Whitsuntide, 85 per cent. for the Scottish annual holidays and August bank holiday, and 59 per cent. for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Thus, while pits at which only 7 per cent. of the miners were employed were closed for more than two days at Easter and Whitsuntide in 1915, the corresponding figure in the previous year was 54 per cent. at Easter and 48 per cent. at Whitsuntide.

* House of Commons Paper, 54 of 1916.

† Including coal for the use of the Admiralty, or for use as bunker coal in merchant ships.

‡ Not including steamers taken up by the Admiralty.

point out that it is of great importance to note that a special and strenuous voluntary effort, if it be maintained under a badly-arranged time-table of work and rest, does not necessarily bring increased output over a long period. On the contrary, under wrong conditions of work with excessive overtime, some deliberate "slacking" of the workers might actually give an improvement of output over a period of some length by sparing wasteful fatigue, just as the "nursing" of a boat-crew over part of a long course may improve their performance. It cannot in such circumstances be said that a workman so restraining himself, consciously or unconsciously, is doing more to damage the output on the whole than the employer who has arranged over-long hours of work on the baseless assumption that long hours mean high output.

In investigating the test of industrial fatigue afforded by sickness, lost time, and "staleness," the Committee found that in very many munition factories the complaint is made by workers, and not least by the most intelligent and willing of them, that they are feeling "done up," and the evidence shows that this state of "staleness" is becoming increasingly common and obvious. By experienced managers and medical officers this condition is attributed almost wholly to persistent long hours and the deprivation of weekly rest. It has grave accompaniments, which paradoxically appear not only in a state of lethargy and indifference, but also in a craving for change and excitement. No doubt the restlessness of the condition must often predispose also to indulgence in the alleviation given by alcohol. At all points the state is apt to set up a vicious circle in which the very need for change and rest prevents the proper use of such chances of rest as are given.

The Committee are of opinion that proper attention earlier in the War to the need for weekly rest would have prevented a large part of the diminished capacity of this kind, and would have averted much costly and wasteful expenditure upon imperfect work. But stress must be laid here on a further point. For the avoidance of staleness in conditions of strenuous labour it is not enough to treat workmen in the bulk and to regulate daily and weekly rests upon a physiological basis devised for the average. If that be done, widespread evils like those too commonly present now may be avoided, but good management will consider always the individual workman as well. The Committee have no doubt that in very many cases, perhaps in almost all, in which staleness is well marked or has even advanced to definite sickness, a single "day off," given occasionally at the right time, would have avoided much wasteful reduction of capacity and in the worst cases the loss of many days of work.

By studies of industrial fatigue measured by tests of individual output, a large body of valuable information has already been gained in various countries, and its application wherever management is scientific has become a commonplace of administration. It must be admitted, however, that in England, and no doubt to the detriment of both health and wealth, management based upon the experimental science of industrial fatigue is far less common than in the factories and business concerns of America and of Germany. Taking the country as a whole, the Committee are bound to record their impression that the munition workers in general have been allowed to reach a state of reduced efficiency and lowered health which might have been avoided without reduction of output by attention to the details of daily and weekly rests. They call special attention to the fact that the signs of fatigue are even more noticeable in the case of managers and foremen, and that their practical results are probably more serious than in the case of the workmen.

In conclusion, the Committee state that unless our industrial life is to be guided in the future by the application of physiological science to the details of its management, it cannot hope to maintain its position hereafter among some of its foreign rivals, who already in that respect have gained a present advantage.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.*

On 27th September, 1915, an Act was passed by the Argentine Congress which introduces an entirely new principle into the legal relations subsisting between employers and workpeople in that country.

Under the new Act every employer, whether an individual or a corporate body, will be held responsible for accidents which may occur to his workmen or employees during the time of their employment, whether such accidents arise out of and in the course of the employment or through some casualty or *force majeure* inherent in the work.

The Act only applies to workmen and employees whose annual wages do not exceed 3,000 dollars (£260) and who are employed in the following trades or undertakings: (1) Factories, workshops and industrial establishments in general in which any power other than human is used; (2) Construction, conservation and repair of buildings, railway lines, ports, docks, canals and similar works; (3) Mines and quarries; (4) Transporting, loading and unloading; (5) Manufacture or use of explosives or inflammable substances and electricity; (6) Forest and agricultural industries, but only as regards persons occupied in transport, or in the working of mechanical motive power; (7) Placing, repairing and dismantling of telegraphic and telephonic installations or lightning conductors; (8) Every industry or undertaking of a like character, not included in the foregoing list, which is dangerous to the workmen, and which shall have been scheduled as such by the Executive Power (upon report from the Department of Labour) at least 60 days prior to the date of the accident.

In place of their obligation for compensation employers may substitute a policy of insurance issued in favour of the workmen or employees in question by an insurance company or employers' insurance association which complies with the requirements prescribed by the Act.

If an accident causes the death of a workman the employer is obliged to defray the funeral expenses up to 100 dollars (about £8 10s.), and also to pay to the family of the victim compensation amounting to the total wages of the last 1,000 days worked, but not exceeding 6,000 dollars (£520). In the case of permanent total disablement compensation is to be paid at a corresponding rate. In the case of permanent partial disablement the compensation paid is to be equal to 1,000 times the reduction in the daily wage-earning capacity of the victim on account of the accident. Temporary disablement produced by the accident entitles the victim to compensation equal to half his average daily wage from the day of the accident to the day on which the victim is able to return to work.

When a workman is incapacitated for work, or dies as the result of a disease contracted while carrying on his work, he is entitled to compensation accorded under the Act on the following conditions: (a) The disease must be proved to have originated exclusively from the class of work carried on by the victim during the year previous to his incapacity; (b) No compensation is to be paid if it be proved that the workman was suffering from the disease before entering the employment which he has had to leave; (c) The compensation is to be claimed from the last employer under whom the man worked during the year referred to in the class of work which caused the disease, unless it be proved that the same was contracted while in the service of another employer, in which case the latter is responsible; (d) If the disease, owing to its nature, could have been contracted gradually, the employer in whose service the victim worked during the last year in the class of work which caused the disease is obliged to refund to the last employer a proportion of the compensation paid by him, such proportion to be fixed by arbitrators should there be any disagreement as to the same; (e) The employer in whose ser-

vice the workman is incapacitated through disease is obliged to give notice as in the case of an accident.

Industrial diseases are to be scheduled by the Executive Power and published by decree upon report by the Technical Department, and responsibility for the same only commences 90 days after the publication thereof.

Any stipulation intended to relieve the employer from liability for accidents, or which may be in any way derogatory to this Act is absolutely null and void.

LABOUR IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVER-SEA AND IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

CANADA.*

Employment in February.—Exceptionally severe weather conditions characterised the month of February, and in practically all parts of the country outdoor building and other construction work was interrupted or impeded, and railway operation rendered very difficult. The effect on employment, however, on the whole, was favourable. Large numbers of unskilled labourers were given work in the clearing of streets and railway tracks, and ice-cutting continued to provide employment for many men.

A scarcity of farm labour was reported, though wages offered were considerably higher than for the same period last year. Lumbering was fairly active, with some quiet in parts where adverse weather conditions prevailed. Coal and metal mining continued active, although hindered in districts by snowstorms, &c. Manufacturing continued fairly active, with a scarcity of labour reported from several localities. Railway construction was quiet. Railway transport continued to be interrupted by heavy snowfalls. Fairly active conditions prevailed at winter ports.

Labour Disputes in February.—During February 6 new disputes were recorded by which 1,072 workpeople were directly affected, and 11,508 working days lost. In addition, 3 disputes, directly affecting 95 workpeople and resulting in a loss of 1,700 working days, were continued from January. In February 5 disputes were settled, one in favour of the workpeople and one in favour of the employers, while 3 were compromised.

Retail Prices and Cost of Living in February.—The total weekly expenditure of a family in February, 1916, as computed from returns of prices of food, fuel, lighting and housing in about sixty cities of Canada, amounted to 59s. 6d., as compared with 58s. 11d. in the previous month, and 59s. in July, 1914. Thus, on the assumption that the standard of living has been identical for all three periods, there was an increase in the cost of that standard of 0.9 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, and of 0.7 per cent. as compared with July, 1914. The sum spent upon food alone at the retail prices prevailing in the respective months was 35s. in February, 34s. 6d. in January, and 30s. 11d. in July, 1914, showing for the month under review an increase of 1.5 per cent. as compared with the preceding month, and of 13.3 per cent. as compared with July, 1914.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.†

Employment.—The percentage of persons unemployed in the Commonwealth owing to lack of work, according to returns received from Trade Unions, decreased from 8.4 in the second quarter to 7.8 in the third quarter of 1915. The percentage in the third quarter of 1914 was 9.6.

Industrial Disputes.—The total number of labour disputes which began in the Commonwealth during the third quarter was 91, as compared with 51 in the preceding quarter and 63 in the third quarter of 1914.

* The Labour Gazette, issued by the Canadian Department of Labour, March, 1916.

† Labour Bulletin No. 11, July—September, 1915. Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne.

* Based on a translation of the Act transmitted by H.M. Minister at Buenos Aires, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated 30th January.

In the new disputes 20,082 workpeople were involved directly and indirectly, the corresponding total for the preceding quarter being 9,050, and, for the third quarter of 1914, 10,630. The number of working days lost through new disputes amounted to 82,058, as compared with 67,544 and 38,661 respectively. The number of days lost by reason of disputes which began prior to the quarter and continued into the quarter under review was 25,587, giving a total of 107,645 working days lost during the quarter owing to strikes and lock-outs.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—During the third quarter of 1915 particulars were collected concerning 96 changes in rates of wages, 45 of which occurred in New South Wales. The total number of workpeople affected was 37,167, and the net average increase amounted to 4s. 11d. per head per week. The largest number of persons affected in any single trade group was 10,328 in the metal, engineering, &c., trades, who obtained increases averaging 5s. 8d. per week.

Immigration.—During the third quarter of 1915 1,158 assisted immigrants (including 677 dependants) arrived in the Commonwealth. The greatest number was reported from New South Wales (380). As regards occupations, 96 males were classified as following agricultural, pastoral, &c., occupations, and 243 females were domestic and hotel servants, &c.

RUSSIA (FINLAND).

Changes in Wages, July, 1914, to July, 1915.—An article in a recent issue of the journal of the Industrial Department of Finland* shows the changes which took place in the wages of a considerable body of industrial workers in the Grand-Duchy between July, 1914, and July, 1915.

Employers were requested to fill in a form showing the number of workpeople employed and the average daily wage paid in their establishments in each of these months. The latter figure was to be obtained by dividing the total amount of wages paid during the month by the total number of days of work performed by all the workpeople during the same period.

The summarised results of this enquiry are based on returns from 556 undertakings employing 81,865 workpeople in July, 1914, and 74,042 in July, 1915. The average daily wage computed in the manner described above was 3.63 marks (2s. 10½d.) in the former and 3.70 marks (2s. 11½d.) in the latter month—an increase of 1.9 per cent. The slight advance indicated does not necessarily mean a corresponding increase in the rates of wages, whether for time work or for piece work, but may have been due to such things as an increase of overtime or a change in the proportion of men to women, adults to young persons, or skilled to unskilled in the establishments covered by the enquiry. Increases were shown in eleven and decreases in ten of the groups of trades distinguished in the report, one only—a relatively small group of workers in the chemical trades—showing no change. The increases varied from 0.6 per cent. in bakers to 18.9 per cent. in "other paper trades" (i.e. omitting paper making). The decreases ranged from 0.3 per cent. in "other woodworking trades" (i.e. excluding sawmills and joinery works) to 11.7 per cent. in sawmills. Decreases of 11.2, 9.4 and 8.5 per cent. were reported in the minor textile, lighting and cellulose industries respectively.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Employment in Austria in October, 1915.—The latest available official information concerning unemployment in Austria relates to October, and appears in the issue of *Soziale Rundschau* (the journal of the Austrian Department of Labour Statistics) for December. The figures are summarised in the following Table, par-

ticulars being given also for the two months immediately preceding and for October, 1914:—

Union.	Membership making returns as to Unemployment at end of Oct., 1915.	Percentage reported unemployed at end of month.			
		Oct., 1914.	Aug., 1915.	Sept., 1915.	Oct., 1915.
All Unions together ...	89,158	11.4	2.9	2.8	2.9
Metal workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	28,945	3.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
Textile workers (Soc. Dem.) ...	30,436	18.4	3.5	3.4	3.6
Do. (Christian) ...	2,229	...	1.8	1.5	1.2
Hat makers ...	1,898	41.4	12.3	13.5	12.5
Printers & typefounders ...	7,925	17.5	5.4	4.8	4.7
Lithographers ...	2,264	21.4	2.7	2.1	1.7
Bookbinders ...	2,626	...	4.4	0.5	3.8
Woodworkers ...	3,383	12.2	4.0	3.9	4.8
Saddlers & leather workers ...	2,679	...	...	...	0.6
Bakers & confectioners ...	3,121	5.0	11.2	8.8	5.6

The percentage of male members out of employment at the end of October was 2.3, as compared with 2.3 in September, 2.4 in August, and 9.3 in October, 1914; among female members the percentages at corresponding dates were 4.8, 4.6, 4.9 and 21.3.

NORWAY.†

Employment in February.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of February in certain Trade Unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries, comparative figures being added for the previous month and for February, 1915:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	29th Feb., 1916.	31st Jan., 1916.	28th Feb., 1915.	29th Feb., 1916.	31st Jan., 1916.	28th Feb., 1915.
Bricklayers and Masons (Christiania) ...	777	759	650	5.8	4.6	5.1
Carpenters, &c. ...	1,678	1,649	1,489	2.7	5.5	12.6
Painters (Christiania) ...	379	389	396	16.9	20.3	16.9
Metal Workers ...	9,283	9,242	8,227	0.8	0.6	1.9
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	975	945	784	0.2	1.4	2.0
Wood Pulp and Papermakers ...	825	874	733	0.1	0.1	0.8
Printers ...	2,206	2,183	2,128	1.4	1.1	2.8
Bookbinders (Christiania) ...	680	656	606	1.7	2.0	1.7
Cabinet Makers ...	625	613	578	...	...	2.9
Bakers (Christiania) ...	436	400	441	4.8	7.0	13.8
Tinned goods (Stavanger) ...	552	557	546	3.4	6.1	2.2
TOTAL ...	18,376	18,267	16,573	1.7	2.1	3.8

SWEDEN.

Employment, October-December, 1915.—The issue of *Sociala Meddelanden* (the journal of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs) for February, 1916, contains particulars as to unemployment among members of Swedish Trade Unions at the beginning of October, November and December respectively.

Unions.	Membership reporting at Dec. 1st, 1915.	Percentage Unemployed on 1st of Month.		
		October, 1915.	November, 1915.	December, 1915.
All Unions making Returns	66,947	3.5	3.8	4.5
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Stoneworkers ...	2,253	17.5	16.1	15.1
Bricklayers and Masons ...	1,231	10.2	19.1	27.9
Painters ...	1,278	0.2	7.8	20.1
Blastfurnacemen, &c. ...	4,645	0.3	0.2	0.3
Foundrymen ...	2,496	1.5	1.7	1.2
Tinplate workers, &c. ...	1,205	1.2	4.2	9.5
Engineering operatives ...	19,287	1.5	1.7	1.9
Boot, shoe and leather workers ...	2,275	1.0	0.4	0.3
Bakers and confectioners ...	1,104	2.4	4.6	4.2
Sawmill workers ...	4,097	1.1	2.1	2.2
Woodworkers ...	4,980	5.4	6.1	8.4
Municipal workers ...	4,044	0.5	0.7	1.1
General workers and factory operatives (trades not distinguished) ...	8,029	8.4	8.8	8.4

* Percentage unemployed less than 0.05.

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries.

* Arbetsstatistisk Tidskrift utgiven af Industristyrelsen i Finland, 1915, No. 6, Helsingfors.

DENMARK.*

Employment in January.—According to returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Office, 10.5 per cent. of the 138,200 members of Trade Unions reporting were unemployed at the end of January, as compared with 11.8 per cent. in the previous month and 17.5 per cent. in January, 1915. The average time lost through unemployment during January was 2½ days per member, as compared with 2 days in the previous month.

UNITED STATES.

Employment in January.—Returns furnished to the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics by representative manufacturers enable a comparison to be made as to the volume of employment in identical establishments in January, 1916, December, 1915, and January, 1915.

(a) Comparison of January, 1916, and December, 1915.

Industry.	Number of Establishments Reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Aggregate Earnings.		
		Dec., 1915.	Jan., 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	Dec., 1915.	Jan., 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
		Per cent.		£	£	Per cent.	
Iron and steel ...	93	142,509	144,701	+ 1.5	1,009,046	950,191	- 5.8
Cotton manufacturing ...	56	43,792	42,370	- 3.0	73,757	75,024	+ 1.7
Cotton finishing ...	16	12,051	11,937	- 0.9	28,188	27,596	- 2.2
Hosiery & underwear ...	46	24,321	24,573	+ 1.0	47,486	46,861	- 1.3
Silk ...	31	14,789	15,211	+ 2.9	65,561	63,576	- 3.0
Woolen ...	14	9,398	9,769	+ 3.9	20,331	21,642	+ 6.4
Boot and shoe ...	63	50,016	51,606	+ 3.2	133,581	136,403	+ 2.1

Returns for January compared with December show an increase in the number of workpeople in five out of the seven industries covered, the greatest increase being 3.9 per cent. in the manufacture of woollen goods. Two industries show a decrease, the decrease in cotton manufacturing being 3 per cent. In earnings, however, four of the seven industries showed a decrease in January as compared with December.

(b) Comparison of January, 1916, and January, 1915.

Industry.	Number of Establishments Reporting.	Number of Workpeople.			Aggregate Earnings.		
		Jan., 1915.	Jan., 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	Jan., 1915.	Jan., 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
		Per cent.		£	£	Per cent.	
Iron and steel ...	86	100,792	135,831	+ 34.8	547,079	886,940	+ 62.1
Cotton manufacturing ...	63	59,694	58,847	- 1.4	103,406	105,107	+ 1.6
Cotton finishing ...	18	12,597	14,853	+ 17.9	27,660	34,219	+ 23.7
Hosiery & underwear ...	56	27,467	31,526	+ 14.8	45,362	59,741	+ 31.7
Silk ...	42	17,033	18,642	+ 9.4	63,804	76,575	+ 20.0
Woolen ...	21	17,057	19,462	+ 14.1	34,459	42,583	+ 23.6
Boot and shoe ...	69	56,929	65,097	+ 14.3	143,767	178,996	+ 24.5

Each industry, except cotton manufacturing, shows an increase in the number of workpeople in January, 1916, as compared with January, 1915, the greatest increase being in the manufacture of iron and steel, where it amounted to 34.8 per cent. In earnings, the industries covered showed an increase ranging from 1.6 per cent. for cotton manufacturing to 62.1 per cent. for iron and steel. As a whole, the increase in earnings between January, 1915, and January, 1916, was not quite as great as between December, 1914, and December, 1915.

In addition to the data presented in the above Tables as to the number of workpeople on the pay-roll, 83 plants in the iron and steel industry returned 118,549 workpeople as actually working on the last full day of the pay period reported on in January, 1916, as against 85,730 for the reported pay-roll period in January, 1915, an increase of 38.3 per cent. Figures given by 91 establishments in the iron and steel industry for December, 1915, and January, 1916, show that 130,345 workpeople were actually working on the last full day of the pay period reported on in December, 1915, as

* Statistiske Efterretninger, 3rd April, 1916. Danish Statistical Office.
† Revised figure.

‡ Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, March, 1916. Washington.

against 127,323 for the reported period in January, 1916, a decrease of 2.3 per cent.

Operations of Federal Labour Exchanges in January.—The March issue of the *Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics* contains a summary of the operations during January of the Labour Exchanges which work under the control of the Division of Information. (For an account of these exchanges and for data as to their work from February, 1915, onward, see p. 436 of the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for December last.)

The following Table shows the number of applications for employment and of situations obtained, and the number of applications per 100 situations filled during January, 1916, and the two preceding months:—

Month.	No. of Applications for Employment.	No. of Situations Filled.	Per cent. of Applicants Placed.
November, 1915 ...	11,908	4,146	34.82
December, 1915... ..	11,902	2,170	18.23
January, 1916	15,015	3,419	22.78

Retail Food Prices.—According to the *Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics* for March, the general level of retail food prices in the United States in December was 1 per cent. higher than in the preceding month, 3 per cent. higher than in December, 1914, and 4 per cent. higher than in December, 1913. As compared with November, the greatest differences in price took place in the case of potatoes, onions, beans, butter—all of which rose—and pork chops—which fell. As compared with December, 1914, only four articles out of seventeen comprised in the statistics advanced in price, but the prices of sugar and potatoes increased to such a marked degree as to offset the decline in other articles. The price of potatoes appears to have been low in December, 1914, so that while December, 1915, shows a marked increase, there is practically no change when the latter month is compared with December, 1913.

New York State.

*Employment in New York State in February.**—According to the report compiled by the New York State Bureau of Statistics and Information, the factories of New York State in February employed 3 per cent. more operatives and paid 4 per cent. more wages than in January, and employed 19 per cent. more operatives and paid 31 per cent. more wages than in February, 1915. These facts are based upon an analysis of monthly reports received from about 1,300 representative manufacturing establishments, employing nearly half a million workpeople.

The dominant factor in the increase in the volume of business between January and February was the extension of activities in the metals, machinery and conveyances group, and in the clothing and millinery group of industries. Important increases were recorded also by the wood manufactures group, and by the textiles group. Losses between January and February were recorded by the stone, clay and glass products group. All industry groups were doing a much larger volume of business than a year ago.

Massachusetts.

Employment in Massachusetts at End of December, 1915.†—For the quarter ending 31st December, 1915, returns were received from 1,026 labour organisations in Massachusetts with an aggregate membership of 168,122, or about 70 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in the State. The proportion of such members unemployed on 31st December, owing to causes other than labour disputes and disablement—e.g. lack of work, shortage of materials, weather conditions, holidays and temporary shut-downs—was 5.3 per cent., as compared with 4.4 per cent. at the end of September, and with 16.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1914.

* Bulletin of New York State Industrial Commission, March, 1916. Albany, N.Y.
† Thirty-second Quarterly Report on Unemployment in Massachusetts, Quarter ending 31st December, 1915. Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING MARCH.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good during March, and showed little change on the whole from either a month ago or a year ago. There was an increase of 441 in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 15,450, or 3.0 per cent., on a year ago.

Of the 511,868 workpeople included in the returns 255,218, or 49.9 per cent., were employed at pits working 12 days* during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while a further 207,568, or 40.6 per cent., were employed at pits working 11 days, but less than 12 days.

The highest average number of days worked were in Gloucester and Somerset (5.95 days), and in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.93), and the lowest averages were in Ireland (4.95 days) and in West Scotland and the Lothians (5.45 days).

Districts.	No. of Work-people employed in Mar., 1916, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1916, on a	
		25th Mar., 1916.	26th Feb., 1916.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Northumberland ...	43,920	5.48	5.50	5.48	- 0.02	+ 0.04
Durham ...	82,489	5.55	5.53	5.51	- 0.03	+ 0.04
Cumberland ...	6,263	5.86	5.70	5.74	+ 0.16	+ 0.12
South Yorkshire ...	64,506	5.86	5.88	5.86	- 0.02	- 0.05
West Yorkshire ...	25,581	5.88	5.73	5.73	- 0.05	+ 0.06
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	46,221	5.84	5.82	5.78	+ 0.02	+ 0.06
Derbyshire ...	31,046	5.87	5.80	5.72	+ 0.07	+ 0.15
Nottingham and Leicester ...	34,338	5.48	5.47	5.25	+ 0.01	+ 0.23
Staffordshire ...	26,456	5.76	5.62	5.81	+ 0.14	- 0.05
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,075	5.86	5.70	5.67	+ 0.16	+ 0.19
Gloucester and Somerset ...	6,148	5.95	5.84	5.91	+ 0.11	+ 0.04
North Wales ...	8,068	5.89	5.87	5.88	- 0.02	- 0.01
South Wales and Mon. ...	84,162	5.93	5.86	5.98	+ 0.07	- 0.05
ENGLAND AND WALES.	467,275	5.74	5.72	5.71	+ 0.02	+ 0.03
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	17,449	5.45	5.35	5.03	+ 0.10	+ 0.42
The Lothians ...	2,358	5.45	5.44	5.07	+ 0.01	+ 0.38
Fife ...	24,308	5.52	5.51	5.35	+ 0.01	+ 0.17
SCOTLAND ...	44,115	5.49	5.44	5.20	+ 0.05	+ 0.29
IRELAND ...	478	4.95	5.15	4.42	- 0.20	+ 0.53
UNITED KINGDOM ...	511,868	5.71	5.69	5.66	+ 0.02	+ 0.05

Employment continued good or very good in every district, except Ireland, and showed some improvement in Cumberland, Staffordshire, Warwick, Worcester and Salop, Gloucester and Somerset, and in West of Scotland, where some time was lost owing to a breakdown of machinery. In Ireland there was a decline, but in the other districts there was not much change. Compared with a year ago there was a considerable improvement in Nottingham and Leicester, Warwick, Worcester and Shropshire, West Scotland, the Lothians, and in Ireland; in the other districts there was little or no change.

Description of Coal.	No. of Work-people employed in Mar., 1916, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1916, on a	
		25th Mar., 1916.	26th Feb., 1916.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Anthracite ...	5,917	5.02	5.43	5.85	- 0.41	- 0.83
Coking ...	24,760	5.78	5.78	5.75	- 0.03	+ 0.03
Gas ...	36,882	5.49	5.53	5.41	- 0.04	+ 0.08
House ...	55,886	5.67	5.56	5.57	+ 0.11	+ 0.10
Steam ...	179,779	5.79	5.75	5.75	+ 0.04	+ 0.04
Mixed ...	209,044	5.72	5.70	5.64	+ 0.02	+ 0.08
ALL DESCRIPTIONS ...	511,868	5.71	5.69	5.66	+ 0.02	+ 0.05

* The figures in this article and the following only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore or shale was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day that the mines or works were open.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago employment showed a considerable decline at anthracite coal pits and an improvement at house coal pits; at the other pits there was not much change.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during March amounted to 3,282,000 tons, a decrease of 28,000 tons on a month ago and of 862,000 tons on a year ago.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

At iron mines employment, though still good, showed a decline on both a month ago and a year ago; it continued very good at shale mines, good at lead mines, and fair at tin mines.

There was a slight improvement at the North Wales slate quarries; at other quarries employment was fair generally. A good deal of time was lost on account of unfavourable weather.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods named below, relating to the same mines and open works in each case, show that the number of workpeople employed in March, 1916, was 11,692, a decrease of 91 (or 0.8 per cent.) compared with February, and of 747 (or 6.0 per cent.) compared with a year ago.

Districts.	Work-people employed in March, 1916.	Average number of days worked per week by Mines in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in March on a	
		25th March, 1916.	26th Feb., 1916.	27th March, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	5,307	5.80	5.85	6.00	- 0.25	- 0.40
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	3,449	6.00	6.00	6.00	-	-
Scotland ...	728	5.71	5.84	4.69	- 0.13	+ 1.02
Other Districts ...	2,208	5.64	5.70	5.97	- 0.06	- 0.33
ALL DISTRICTS ...	11,692	5.73	5.87	5.92	- 0.14	- 0.19

The weekly average number of days* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.73, compared with 5.87 a month ago and 5.92 a year ago. The decline, as compared with the previous month, was most marked in the case of Cleveland. In the Cumberland and Lancashire mines a full six days per week were worked.

Shale.—According to the returns received, there were 3,097 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 25th March, 1916, at mines which worked on the average 5.93 days per week, compared with 3,063 workpeople in February at mines working 5.97 days per week, and 3,196 workpeople a year ago at mines working 5.88 days per week.

Tin.—Employment in Cornwall continued fair on the whole; there was a general shortage of labour.

Lead.—In Flintshire employment continued very good; it was also good in Weardale and at Darley Dale (Matlock).

QUARRYING.

Slate.—In North Wales there was a slight improvement, but the general depression continued and over 2,000 workpeople were reported as working only 4 or 5 days per week. At Delabole (Cornwall) employment continued fairly good.

Granite.—In Leicestershire employment was good in the macadam trade. In Cornwall it was quiet and worse than a year ago. In the Aberdeen district the labour shortage was acute; workpeople still at the quarries were very busy.

Limestone.—In Weardale employment was fair generally, but was interrupted by stormy weather. In the Cleveland district overtime was worked by some firms;

* See note * in previous column.

but, on the other hand, there were stoppages on account of inclement weather. At Westgate it was stated to be very good, with much overtime being worked; but at Stanhope and Frosterley it was only fair. In the Buxton district employment continued fair and was better than a year ago. In the Plymouth district it was moderate and slightly better than a month ago.

Other Stone.—The Bakewell chert quarries continued busy. In the Clee Hill road-material (basalt) quarries employment was good except when interrupted by weather conditions. In the grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district there was a slight improvement on a month ago, when employment was bad; some short time was worked on account of bad weather. The depression in the Forfarshire sandstone quarries continued.

Settling.—In Scotland employment was fair on the whole; in the Clee Hill district it continued quiet. The reports mentioned loss of time on account of unfavourable weather.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell district employment was good, and better than a year ago; at Shaugh and Lee Moor it continued fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, but was not so good as a year ago. There was continued difficulty in obtaining supplies of raw materials, and many firms in consequence reported a shortage of coke, iron ore and limestone. There was a shortage of labour, particularly of furnace men.

Returns received show that 264 furnaces were in blast at the end of March, this being one less than in the previous month and nine less than a year ago.

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in March, on	
	March, 1916.	Feb., 1916.	March, 1915.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:					
Cleveland	69	69	69	...	...
Cumberland and Lancs	29	29	27	...	+ 2
S. and S.W. Yorks	11	11	11	...	...
Derby and Nottingham	27	27	32	...	- 5
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton	27	27	28	...	- 1
Staffs and Worcester	29	29	32*	...	- 3
S. Wales and Monmouth	11	11	11	...	...
Other districts	5	5	4	...	+ 1
ENGLAND AND WALES	208	208	214*	...	- 6
SCOTLAND	56	57	59	- 1	- 3
TOTAL	264	265	273*	- 1	- 9

* Revised.

The imports of iron ore in March amounted to 554,000 tons, compared with 404,000 tons a month ago and 549,000 tons a year ago.

The exports of pig iron totalled 87,000 tons during March, an increase of 3,000 tons on the previous month and of 67,000 tons on a year ago.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very good, and was much better than a year ago. Overtime was still reported to be worked in some districts.

According to returns relating to 111,828 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 25th March, 1916, was 649,647, showing an increase of 3,073 (or 0.5 per cent.) on a month ago and of 65,367 (or 11.2 per cent.) on a year ago.

Compared with a month ago employment showed some improvement in every district, except in the Sheffield and Rotherham and "other Midland counties" districts, where there was but little change. In the departments the most marked change was an improvement at puddling forges. In the Birmingham district the output was somewhat restricted owing to bad weather and the difficulty of getting fuel.

Employment at Sunderland and Wolsingham was good, and extra shifts were worked; it was also good at Jarrow and Consett; with steel smelters at Newburn and with forge and hammermen on the Wear. In the Tees and Hartlepoons district employment was good, except with pipe and chair foundrymen, with whom it was only fair. At Sheffield it was good with steel smelters; overtime was reported to be worked at works employed on munitions. At Stocksbridge it showed an improvement. At Rotherham all branches of the iron and steel trade were reported to be exceptionally good. In the Potteries district employment was very good; some of the men were reported to have worked three extra shifts per week owing to the shortage of suitable labour.

Compared with a year ago the number of workpeople employed and the average number of shifts worked per man showed a decline in the Leeds and Bradford district, but in every other district both the numbers of workpeople employed and the aggregate number of shifts worked showed increases; the largest increases were in the Sheffield and Rotherham and the Cleveland districts and in Scotland. All the departments showed an improvement, the increase being most marked at crucible furnaces and foundries.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of Shifts worked.	
	Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	10,756	+ 0.4	64,275	+ 0.4
Crucible Furnaces	572	+ 4.2	3,435	+ 2.9
Bessemer Converters	1,537	- 4.1	8,646	- 2.2
Puddling Forges	7,287	+ 0.9	38,469	+ 4.0
Rolling Mills	31,533	+ 0.3	171,568	+ 0.5
Forging and Pressing	5,468	+ 1.8	31,452	+ 1.6
Foundry	17,559	+ 1.1	112,420	+ 1.1
Other Departments	15,684	+ 0.4	90,948	+ 0.4
Mechanics, Labourers	21,452	+ 0.8	128,436	+ 0.9
TOTAL	111,828	+ 0.2	649,647	+ 0.5
DISTRICTS.				
Northumberland & Durham	12,294	+ 0.7	70,863	+ 0.8
Cleveland	9,631	- 0.5	57,148	+ 0.9
Sheffield and Rotherham	28,475	+ 0.0	175,744	- 0.2
Leeds, Bradford, &c.	3,821	- 0.3	21,711	+ 0.1
Cumberland, Lancashire, & Cheshire	8,518	+ 0.6	47,598	+ 0.6
Staffordshire	9,468	+ 0.1	52,001	+ 2.0
Other Midland Counties	5,361	- 1.2	29,932	- 0.1
Wales and Monmouth	12,842	+ 1.4	70,738	+ 0.6
TOTAL, England & Wales	90,410	+ 0.2	525,735	+ 0.5
Scotland	21,418	+ 0.1	123,912	+ 0.3
TOTAL	111,828	+ 0.2	649,647	+ 0.5

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during March, 1916, amounted to 65,000 tons, compared with 62,000 tons a month ago and 65,000 tons during March, 1915.

The exports (excluding pig-iron, black plates, tinplates and galvanized sheets) totalled 143,000 tons during March, 1916, compared with 133,000 tons a month ago and 148,000 tons a year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THESE trades continued very well employed, with much overtime. Trade Unions with 255,126 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, compared with 0.3 per cent. in February, and 0.5 per cent. in March, 1915.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in these trades insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 846,009, of whom 0.5 per cent. were reported as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 0.4 per cent. a month ago and 0.7 per cent. a year ago, and 3.0 per cent. in March, 1914.

In only two areas (London and Ireland) was the percentage unemployed in excess of 0.5.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1916, on a	
		31st Mar., 1916.	25th Feb., 1916.	26th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	88,474	1.2	1.0	1.2	+ 0.2	...
Northern Counties	83,766	0.1	0.2	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
North-Western	161,829	0.5	0.4	0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Yorkshire	108,028	0.3	0.3	0.5	...	- 0.2
East Midlands	52,835	0.4	0.3	0.7	+ 0.1	- 0.3
West Midlands	101,046	0.4	0.4	0.7	...	- 0.3
Eastern and S.E. Counties	58,106	0.2	0.2	0.7	...	- 0.5
South-Western	36,315	0.4	0.3	0.9	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Wales	15,457	0.1	0.1	1.1	...	- 1.0
Scotland	121,827	0.2	0.2	0.5	...	- 0.3
Ireland	18,326	1.8	1.8	2.6	...	- 0.8
UNITED KINGDOM	846,009	0.5	0.4	0.7	+ 0.1	- 0.2

The only noticeable exceptions to the general state of employment as described above were as follows:—

An improvement was reported at Oldham, where workpeople formerly employed in textile engineering are now busy on munition work; the same applies to textile tool makers, &c., at Leeds. In the Glasgow district some time was lost during the month owing to disputes. In a few places employment with iron-moulders, patternmakers, &c., was only fair.

The imports of machinery during March, 1916, were valued at £686,000, an increase of £72,000 on the value a month ago and of £103,000 on the value a year ago.

The exports (British and Irish) of machinery were valued at £1,424,000, compared with £1,525,000 a month ago and £1,590,000 a year ago.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

THESE trades continued to work at high pressure. There was still a shortage of labour, and much overtime was worked. During the month outdoor work was interrupted by bad weather, a considerable amount of time being lost by ironworkers on this account.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and of shipwrights, with 68,995 members, reported 0.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, compared with 0.3 per cent. at the end of February and with 0.6 per cent. at the end of March, 1915.

The percentage unemployed among the 222,870 workpeople in the shipbuilding industry who are insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was reported as 0.5 at the end of March, compared with 0.5 a month ago, 0.9 a year ago, and 3.5 two years ago.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1916, compared with a	
		31st Mar., 1916.	25th Feb., 1916.	26th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	9,882	1.7	1.9	1.6	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Northern Counties	48,779	0.1	0.2	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.4
North-Western	34,256	0.2	0.2	0.4	...	0.2
Yorkshire	5,480	0.3	0.2	0.4	+ 0.1	- 0.1
East Midlands	1,424	1.1	1.2	5.3	- 0.1	- 4.2
West Midlands	418	...	0.5	1.0	- 0.5	- 1.0
Eastern and S.E. Counties	7,085	0.4	0.4	0.8	...	- 0.4
South-Western	22,051	0.7	0.5	1.3	+ 0.2	- 1.1
Wales	10,273	0.1	0.1	0.9	...	- 0.8
Scotland	67,049	0.1	0.1	0.7	...	- 0.6
Ireland	16,173	2.6	2.3	2.8	- 0.2	- 0.2
UNITED KINGDOM	222,870	0.5	0.5	0.9	...	- 0.4

The only noticeable variations as compared with the preceding month, or exceptions to the general state of employment as described above, were as follows:—

With shipwrights at Aberdeen employment was reported as fair on the whole, and not so good as a month ago. At Hartlepool and Middlesbrough employment with joiners on repair work continued only fair.

TINPLATE AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of March, 1916, at the works covered by the returns, together with the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago.

* * *

ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 25,700 workpeople:—

Works.	Number of Works open.		Number of Mills in operation.	
	At end of March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Tinplate Steel Sheet	75	...	400	+ 3
	12	+ 1	86	...
TOTAL	87	+ 3	486	+ 3

TINPLATE.

Employment showed little change compared with February, but was better than a year ago.

The demand for tinplates was good, but production was hindered by the continued shortage in the supply of raw material, especially steel bars. There was also difficulty in regard to transport. The diminished supply of sulphuric acid was, to some extent, overcome by the use of a substitute. At many works there was a shortage of labour.

The exports of tinned plates and tinned sheets during March, 1916, showed a large increase on a month ago, due principally to increased shipments to France and Norway. Compared with a year ago there were increases in the quantity sent to France, Italy and Australia, but in the case of most other countries there was either little change or a decrease.

	March, 1916.	February, 1916.	March, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in March, 1916, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States	172	85	47	+ 87	+ 125
British East Indies	4,058	5,085	6,013	- 1,027	- 1,955
France	11,149	4,174	5,774	+ 6,975	+ 5,375
Netherlands	697	2,258	602	- 1,561	+ 95
Russia	260	435	16	- 175	+ 244
Norway	4,310	1,076	6,336	+ 3,234	- 2,026
Portugal	815	1,889	1,160	- 1,074	- 345
Italy	2,058	706	1,144	+ 1,352	+ 914
China and Japan	3,883	2,406	4,385	+ 1,487	- 1,032
Australia	5,521	4,024	4,491	+ 1,497	+ 1,030
Canada	19	51	158	+ 32	- 139
Argentina	609	187	2,389	+ 422	- 1,780
Other Countries	5,921	4,913	3,055	+ 1,008	+ 2,866
TOTAL	39,482	27,289	36,170	+ 12,193	+ 3,312
Black Plates for Tinning.					
TOTAL	17,808	18,811	2,403	- 1,003	+ 15,405

STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

In this branch of the trade the number of mills in operation during March, 1916, was the same as in the previous month and a year ago. The demand for sheets was fairly good; the production of galvanised sheets was confined solely to Government orders. Mills making large sheets kept running fairly regularly, but the shortage of labour and materials reduced the output.

The imports of crude zinc during March, 1916, amounted to 2,956 tons, compared with 3,771 tons a month ago and 8,570 tons a year ago.

The exports of galvanised sheets totalled 13,900 tons in March, 1916, compared with 14,300 tons in the previous month and 29,700 tons a year ago. Compared with a year ago the quantity sent to Australia and New Zealand showed an increase, but to nearly all other destinations there was a decrease, most noticeable in the case of British India (8,800 tons) and the Argentine Republic (3,000 tons).

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

Most of these trades continued very busy during March. Much overtime was worked on Government orders, and there was a shortage of labour, especially in the Sheffield cutlery trades. Trade Unions with 39,154 members reported 0.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, compared with 0.1 per cent. at the end of February and 0.6 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—Brassworkers continued exceptionally busy on war work, and much overtime

was reported. There was a shortage of materials and of labour, and women were being employed to an increasing extent. With bedstead workers employment continued fair; it was better than a year ago.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—Nut and bolt makers continued well employed generally; nut, bolt, rivet and spike makers at Blackheath and Halesowen reported a slight decline on a month ago. Shoe rivet and wire nail makers at Birmingham continued very busy.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, &c.—All branches of the cutlery trades at Sheffield were working at full pressure, and the demand for every class of worker was much greater than the supply. Edge tool makers at Birmingham and Wednesbury reported employment as good; hoe makers at Wednesbury were well employed. Employment with makers of saddle and harness furniture at Walsall was fairly good, but showed a slight decline on a month ago; with bit and stirrup makers it continued bad. At Redditch employment was good with needle makers, and very good with fish hook and fishing tackle makers.

Tubes.—At all the principal centres employment continued good; skilled men were in request. Brass and copper tube makers at Birmingham were very busy.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, &c.—At Cradley employment was good with anchor smiths and chain makers and very good with block makers. Anchor smiths reported it as good on the Tyne and fairly good on the Wear. At Walsall it was good on motor chains; with case hame and cart gear makers it was fairly good, but not so good as a month ago and a year ago. Axle and spring makers at Wednesbury reported employment as good and better than a month ago. At Redditch and West Bromwich makers of steel springs and small steel parts were busy on Government orders. Anvil and vice makers at Dudley continued to be well employed.

Sheet Metal Workers.—The brazing and sheet metal working trades continued very busy, and much overtime was reported. Reports from Accrington, Bolton, Grimsby, Warrington and Aberdeen described employment as fair. With ironplate workers it was very good in the Lye district and good at Birmingham, and at Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton. Aluminium workers at Stoke-on-Trent were on double shifts.

Wire.—Wire workers at Glasgow and Manchester reported employment as quiet and worse than a month ago. It was fair on the Tyne and good on the Wear where overtime was reported. With wire weavers at Glasgow and Norwich it was good. With wire drawers employment continued good and was better than a year ago at Matlock, Sheffield, Halifax, and Newport.

Locks, Hollow-ware, &c.—In the cast-iron hollow-ware trade employment was good at Wolverhampton and moderate at West Bromwich. With stampers and piercers at Wolverhampton it was good, but rather worse than a month ago. With tin and enamel hollow-ware makers it was good at Wolverhampton, but not so good as a year ago. Makers of galvanized hollow-ware in the Midlands were fairly well employed; some time was lost on account of the shortage of material and the high price of spelter. Makers of builders' ironmongery at Wolverhampton reported employment as quiet.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—At Luton and Leeds employment was good; at Sheffield fair, and at Thornaby moderate. At Rotherham about 30 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time. In Scotland employment continued fairly good generally.

Jewellery, Plated Ware, &c.—At Birmingham and Sheffield employment was good and better than a year ago. In London it was fair with goldsmiths and jewellers, and good in other branches of the trade.

COTTON TRADE.

DURING March there was some further stoppage of machinery in the spinning section owing to shortage of labour, but employment on the whole was fairly good. In the weaving section there was some slackness, partly due to lack of orders and partly due to waiting for weft. Comparison with a year ago so far as wages are concerned is affected by war bonuses.

Returns from firms employing 188,796 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.9 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 5.3 per cent. in the wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Preparing ...	23,731	- 0.7	- 4.4	23,761	+ 0.6	+ 2.9		
Spinning ...	40,801	+ 0.7	- 3.6	44,247	+ 0.9	+ 5.9		
Weaving ...	89,732	- 1.6	- 4.6	97,047	+ 0.9	+ 4.1		
Other ...	16,510	+ 0.4	- 1.1	22,282	+ 1.4	+ 9.5		
Not specified ...	18,022	- 0.1	- 3.0	20,909	+ 0.8	+ 7.9		
TOTAL ...	188,796	- 0.7	- 3.9	208,246	+ 0.1	+ 5.3		

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Ashton ...	10,525	+ 0.2	- 2.2	11,680	+ 0.8	+ 5.9		
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde ...	13,428	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	13,715	+ 1.2	+ 11.2		
Oldham ...	22,181	- 0.1	- 5.7	27,369	+ 0.9	+ 6.0		
Bolton and Leigh ...	21,783	- 0.1	- 3.6	22,048	+ 1.7	+ 7.5		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden and Todmorden ...	18,482	- 0.5	- 1.3	19,311	+ 0.6	+ 6.6		
Manchester ...	13,593	- 0.8	- 4.3	14,193	+ 0.7	+ 7.5		
Preston and Chorley ...	15,496	- 1.0	- 6.2	15,791	- 2.1	+ 0.6		
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen ...	31,252	- 2.5	- 7.5	35,684	- 3.4	- 4.3		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson ...	21,747	+ 0.0	- 2.1	28,643	+ 2.4	+ 13.3		
Other Lancashire Towns ...	7,053	+ 0.3	- 3.2	6,028	+ 1.8	+ 3.9		
Yorkshire Towns ...	6,491	- 0.1	+ 0.9	6,028	+ 0.0	+ 10.3		
Other Districts ...	6,765	- 2.5	- 4.2	6,956	- 1.0	+ 6.1		
TOTAL ...	188,796	- 0.7	- 3.9	208,246	+ 0.1	+ 5.3		

In the Oldham district employment in the spinning section continued good. The shortage of labour was still very acute, and owing to further enlistments more machinery was stopped than a month ago; the situation has, however, been somewhat relieved by the further employment of women in the spinning rooms. In the weaving section employment was good on the whole, but somewhat irregular, being affected by the stoppage of machinery in the spinning section.

In the Bolton district employment was fairly good, but as a result of insufficient labour about 20 per cent. of the machinery was idle during the month. In the Manchester district employment was reported as fair with spinners, but slack with weavers.

In the weaving departments in the Preston, Blackburn and Burnley districts there was some slackness, partly due to want of orders and partly due, directly or indirectly, to the labour shortage.

The imports of raw cotton during March, 1916, amounted to 2,783,000 centals, compared with 2,165,000 centals a month ago and 3,546,000 centals a year ago.

The exports of cotton yarn totalled 13,446,000 lb. during March, 1916, a decrease of 2,317,000 lb. on a month ago and of 2,107,000 lb. on a year ago. The quantity of cotton piece goods exported during March, 1916, was nearly 425,000,000 yards, compared with 417,000,000 yards a month ago and with 352,500,000 yards a year ago.

COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

Description of Cotton.	March, 1916.			Feb., 1916.			March, 1915.		
	Bales.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Bales.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Bales.	Per cent.	Per cent.
American ...	250,362			232,691			277,972		
Brazilian ...	6,588			7,167			5,372		
East Indian ...	3,748			4,256			10,461		
Egyptian ...	34,621			31,752			31,933		
Miscellaneous ...	14,307			14,828			7,216		
TOTAL ...	309,626			290,694			332,954		

PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The average price of Middling American cotton at Liverpool during March, 1916, was 7.79d. per lb., a decrease of 1.0 per cent. on the average for a month ago, but an increase of 4.9 per cent. on the average for a year ago. As regards Good Fair Egyptian cotton the average price for March (11.13d. per lb.) was 1.6 per cent. below that for a month ago, but 47 per cent. above the average for a year ago.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting ...	572	+ 2.3	+ 0.5	713	+ 1.6	+ 11.6		
Spinning ...	5,972	- 0.2	+ 2.6	7,452	- 0.3	+ 13.9		
Weaving ...	9,339	- 0.3	- 2.1	9,848	- 0.3	+ 2.9		
Other Departments ...	6,666	+ 0.4	+ 3.8	8,299	+ 0.2	+ 8.6		
Not specified ...	2,454	- 0.6	- 3.6	2,872	+ 2.1	+ 5.7		
TOTAL ...	25,003	- 0.1	+ 0.4	29,184	+ 0.1	+ 7.6		

MIDDLING AMERICAN:	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Year ago.	Month ago.		Year ago.	Month ago.			Year ago.
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	7.79	- 0.08	+ 2.57					
Highest price on any one day	7.87	- 0.24	+ 2.35					
Lowest " " " "	7.69	+ 0.03	+ 2.78					

GOOD FAIR EGYPTIAN:	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Month ago.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Year ago.	Month ago.		Year ago.	Month ago.			Year ago.
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	11.13	- 0.18	+ 4.04					
Highest price on any one day	11.51	- 0.19	+ 3.91					
Lowest " " " "	10.49	+ 0.44	+ 3.94					

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good during the greater part of the month, and was better than a year ago. The shortage of labour continued.

Returns from firms employing 13,214 workpeople in the week ended 25th March, 1916, showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 8.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Preparing ...	3,012	+ 0.0	+ 7.3	3,007	+ 0.2	+ 11.2		
Spinning ...	3,641	+ 0.4	+ 2.5	3,418	+ 0.6	+ 10.1		
Weaving ...	4,636	+ 0.1	+ 2.0	4,945	+ 0.4	+ 7.6		
Other ...	1,925	- 0.6	+ 3.3	2,482	- 2.6	+ 7.1		
TOTAL ...	13,214	+ 0.1	+ 3.5	13,852	- 0.1	+ 8.9		

In the Dundee district, in which 94 per cent. of the total number of workpeople reported on are employed, employment continued good till the 27th, when, owing to a dispute, the industry was disorganised. At Forfar, Arbroath and Kirkcaldy the mills continued busy.

The imports of jute during March, 1916, amounted to 35,000 tons, compared with 22,000 tons a month ago and 57,000 tons a year ago.

The quantity of jute yarn exported was 2,586,000 lb., compared with 3,585,000 lb. a month ago and 2,928,000 lb. a year ago. The exports of jute piece goods during March, 1916, amounted to 10,132,000 yards, compared with 9,820,000 yards a month ago and 13,722,000 yards during March, 1915.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued brisk. About 12 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during both February and March, as compared with 22 per cent. a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 25,003 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 7.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*		
Wool Sorting ...	572	+ 2.3	+ 0.5	713	+ 1.6	+ 11.6		
Spinning ...	5,972	- 0.2	+ 2.6	7,452	- 0.3	+ 13.9		
Weaving ...	9,339	- 0.3	- 2.1	9,848	- 0.3	+ 2.9		
Other Departments ...	6,666	+ 0.4	+ 3.8	8,299	+ 0.2	+ 8.6		
Not specified ...	2,454	- 0.6	- 3.6	2,872	+ 2.1	+ 5.7		
TOTAL ...	25,003	- 0.1	+ 0.4	29,184	+ 0.1	+ 7.6		

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*		
Huddersfield District ...	3,977	- 1.7	+ 0.1	5,591	- 2.0	+ 7.7		
Leeds District ...	2,302	- 0.6	+ 2.9	2,586	+ 2.5	+ 3.9		
Dewsbury & Batley District ...	3,228	- 2.1	- 3.5	4,056	- 1.5	+ 6.5		
Other Parts of West Riding	2,915	- 0.8	+ 0.5	3,519	+ 0.8	+ 2.5		
TOTAL, WEST RIDING ...	12,422	- 1.4	- 1.3	15,752	- 0.5	+ 4.2		
Scotland ...	6,123	+ 1.4	+ 0.9	6,637	+ 1.2	+ 11.3		
Other Districts ...	6,458	+ 1.2	+ 3.5	6,795	+ 0.6	+ 12.7		
TOTAL ...	25,003	- 0.1	+ 0.4	29,184	+ 0.1	+ 7.6		

A considerable amount of activity prevailed in the Huddersfield and Dewsbury and Batley districts, although a certain proportion of the machinery was stopped at night owing to shortage of labour. At Leeds the mills were well employed, but hampered by the increasing shortage of labour and also by difficulty in obtaining delivery of materials. In the Rochdale district, Government work was largely responsible for the satisfactory state of employment. In Scotland employment was good, and above the level of a year ago.

WORSTED TRADE.

In this trade also activity prevailed. About 11 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime during the month, as compared with 5 per cent. a month ago and 12 per cent. a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 33,734 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed no change in the number employed and an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 8.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*		
Wool Sorting and Combing ...	4,250	- 0.9	- 8.5	5,867	- 0.9	+ 3.8		
Spinning ...	16,191	- 0.2	- 1.6	12,287	+ 4.1	+ 10.4		
Weaving ...	7,813	+ 0.3	- 3.1	8,634	+ 2.1	+ 7.5		
Other Departments ...	3,375	+ 0.4	- 3.6	4,365	+ 1.1	+ 10.2		
Not specified ...	2,096	+ 0.7	- 0.4	2,062	+ 5.0	+ 11.8		
TOTAL ...	33,734	- 0.0	- 3.0	33,215	+ 2.4	+ 8.5		

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*		
Bradford District ...	17,348	+ 0.1	- 2.9	17,569	+ 1.7	+ 8.4		
Keighley District ...	5,707	- 0.3	- 6.9	5,473	+ 4.1	+ 1.6		
Halifax District ...	2,545	- 0.2	- 1.2	2,219	+ 3.6	+ 4.9		

nearly 76,000,000 lb. a month ago and with 134,500,000 lb. during March, 1915.

The exports of tops and of woollen and worsted yarns during March, 1916, amounted to 4,029,000 lb., compared with 6,165,000 lb. a month ago and 2,315,000 lb. a year ago. The exports of woollen tissues totalled 10,903,000 yards in March, 1916, compared with 9,330,000 yards in the previous month and 7,775,000 yards a year ago. The corresponding figures for worsted tissues were 4,379,000 yards, 4,338,000 yards and 4,072,000 yards respectively.

PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

	March, 1916.		Feb., 1916.	March, 1915.	
	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
AVERAGE PRICES:					
Lincoln Hogs	20½	20¼	20¼	17½	
40's Crossbred tops	27½	28¾	28¾	24¾	
60's Super Botany tops	43¾	45	45	31	
COURSE OF PRICES:					
Lincoln Hogs	20¼, 20	20¼	17, 18		
40's Crossbred tops	28¾, 26¾	23, 23½	23, 26		
60's Super Botany tops	44, 42½	46, 44	30, 32		

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued quiet generally in Ireland and a good deal of short time was worked. In Scotland employment was good. There was a shortage of both male and female labour.

Returns from firms employing 40,824 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. both in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.9 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 9.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	5,737	+ 0.9	- 1.0	3,815	+ 0.8	+ 12.5
Spinning	10,684	+ 0.3	- 2.2	6,963	+ 0.5	+ 9.9
Weaving	12,715	+ 0.3	- 6.9	8,221	+ 1.0	+ 8.0
Other	6,233	- 0.5	- 2.9	5,865	+ 0.0	+ 9.1
Not specified	5,455	+ 0.4	- 4.4	3,521	- 1.8	+ 11.2
TOTAL	40,824	+ 0.3	- 3.9	28,558	+ 0.3	+ 9.6
DISTRICTS.						
Belfast	16,993	+ 0.7	- 1.4	11,465	- 0.3	+ 10.3
Other places in Ireland	12,714	+ 0.1	- 4.1	8,082	+ 0.4	+ 8.9
TOTAL, IRELAND	29,707	+ 0.4	- 2.6	19,547	+ 0.0	+ 9.7
Fifehire	5,188	- 0.2	- 10.1	3,998	+ 2.9	+ 7.7
Other places in Scotland	5,228	- 0.6	- 5.2	4,433	- 1.0	+ 9.8
TOTAL, SCOTLAND	10,416	- 0.4	- 7.7	8,431	+ 0.8	+ 8.8
England	701	+ 4.0	- 1.7	580	+ 7.6	+ 17.6
UNITED KINGDOM	40,824	+ 0.3	- 3.9	28,558	+ 0.3	+ 9.6

In the Belfast district many firms continued working short time. Flax dressers and linen lappers reported employment as good; and weavers and winders and flax roughers as fair. In other parts of Ireland there was little change. A shortage of labour, principally in the weaving branch, was reported.

At Brechin employment continued good. At Dunfermline the home trade continued fairly good, but the foreign trade showed a further slackening; there was a shortage of all kinds of labour.

At Barnsley the mills were busy on Government orders.

LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT generally continued good, and was much better than a year ago when much short time was

ported. The supply of labour was insufficient, and in consequence output was restricted in many cases.

Returns from firms employing 7,859 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 20.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Levers	1,837	+ 1.3	+ 8.1	2,233	+ 1.1	+ 35.0
Curtain	2,121	- 1.5	- 5.7	2,618	+ 7.2	+ 5.1
Plain Net	2,987	- 0.6	+ 3.4	3,182	+ 3.5	+ 29.3
Others	914	- 0.5	+ 1.4	783	+ 3.7	+ 10.7
TOTAL	7,859	- 0.4	+ 1.6	8,816	+ 4.0	+ 20.6
DISTRICTS.						
Nottingham City	2,914	- 2.4	- 0.7	2,971	- 1.4	+ 15.6
Long Eaton and other out-lying Districts	1,101	+ 2.1	+ 6.8	1,472	+ 4.0	+ 27.4
Other English Districts	2,590	+ 0.9	+ 5.9	2,852	+ 5.0	+ 35.1
Scotland	1,254	- 0.5	- 4.6	1,521	+ 13.7	+ 3.0
TOTAL	7,859	- 0.4	+ 1.6	8,816	+ 4.0	+ 20.6

At Nottingham employment in the levers section showed a further improvement and was fair; the curtain and plain net branches continued well employed. At Long Eaton employment continued brisk and overtime was worked. In the West of England operatives were fairly well employed, and employment was above the level of a year ago. At Newmilns employment continued good and about half the workers were making three hours per day overtime.

SILK TRADE.

IN this trade employment continued fairly good, but production was restricted by the labour shortage. Comparison of earnings with a year ago is affected by increases in rates of wages.

Returns from firms employing 9,735 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 12.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	1,299	- 0.2	- 1.0	740	+ 0.3	+ 6.9
Spinning	2,422	+ 1.3	- 9.8	2,345	+ 2.5	+ 9.2
Weaving	3,912	+ 0.3	- 3.3	3,179	+ 1.9	+ 14.7
Other	1,170	+ 0.5	+ 5.0	1,144	+ 2.9	+ 12.7
Not specified	932	+ 0.9	- 1.8	970	+ 5.5	+ 14.5
TOTAL	9,735	+ 0.6	- 3.7	8,378	+ 2.5	+ 12.1
DISTRICTS.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	2,757	+ 1.0	- 10.8	2,710	+ 1.7	+ 4.0
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,845	-	+ 4.8	1,704	+ 3.1	+ 19.7
Eastern Counties	3,005	+ 1.0	- 1.4	2,472	+ 2.8	+ 14.9
Other Districts, including Scotland	2,128	- 0.1	- 3.5	1,492	+ 2.5	+ 15.3
TOTAL	9,735	+ 0.6	- 3.7	8,378	+ 2.5	+ 12.1

At Macclesfield employment continued good with throwsters and spinners; with weavers it was fair. At Leek and Congleton it continued good in all the principal branches.

Employment in the Eastern Counties was reported as good at Norwich and Yarmouth, fair at Sudbury and Halstead, and slack at Braintree. In the West Riding employment was fair. With artificial silk workers employment at Coventry was fairly good, with ribbon weavers it was fair.

HOSIERY TRADE.

THIS trade continued very active during March, and employment was above the level of a year ago. There was much difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of labour, and in some districts production was curtailed in consequence.

Returns from firms employing 22,969 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 18.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester	13,582	+ 1.4	+ 4.3	14,234	+ 3.8	+ 19.5
Leicester Country District	2,001	- 0.3	- 0.3	1,752	+ 2.2	+ 13.8
Notts and Derbyshire	3,546	- 0.6	- 1.0	3,279	+ 0.6	+ 15.9
Scotland	3,257	+ 0.2	+ 7.3	3,054	+ 5.2	+ 22.0
Other Districts	583	- 0.9	+ 11.7	422	- 2.8	+ 15.0
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	22,969	+ 0.7	+ 3.6	22,741	+ 3.3	+ 18.8

At Leicester all the factories continued very busy, but output was restricted by the scarcity of male and female labour, and some machinery was idle from this cause. At Hinckley employment continued good, but the scarcity of female menders and countermen was more acute than last month; at Loughborough most branches continued busy.

In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment with power-frame workers continued good and was better than a year ago; about 25 per cent. of the operatives worked overtime to the extent of 8 to 10 hours per week; with hand-frame workers in the country districts a considerable amount of short time was reported.

In Scotland employment continued good and was better than at either of the other periods under review.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good and was better than a year ago, but manufacturers were still hampered by the shortage of labour and scarcity of materials.

Returns from firms employing 6,835 workpeople and paying £6,769 in wages in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 2.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 6.2 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 6.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 6 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, as compared with 20 per cent. a year ago.

In the Kidderminster district employment continued fairly good and some overtime was reported, but production was curtailed by the labour shortage and scarcity of material. In the Halifax district employment continued good and was better than a year ago. In Scotland the operatives were also well employed.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

DURING March employment continued good and was above the level of a year ago. There was a general

* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

shortage of labour, and production was also affected by the scarcity and high price of raw materials.

Returns from firms employing 25,295 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 6.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 28.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
TRADES:						
Bleaching	2,883	- 0.2	- 0.2	3,554	- 0.4	+ 11.6
Printing	650	+ 1.4	+ 13.4	1,046	- 0.1	+ 35.0
Dyeing	13,017	+ 1.4	+ 8.9	23,518	+ 3.4	+ 36.0
Trimming, Finishing and other Departments	7,635	+ 2.6	+ 4.0	10,041	+ 0.7	+ 19.3
Not specified	1,110	+ 0.2	+ 12.3	1,779	+ 0.9	+ 28.9
TOTAL	25,295	+ 1.5	+ 6.5	39,938	+ 2.2	+ 28.6
DISTRICTS:						
Yorkshire	12,399	+ 1.0	+ 8.5	22,779	+ 3.5	+ 35.5
Lancashire	7,949	+ 3.3	+ 7.6	11,061	- 0.2	+ 22.4
Scotland	2,250	+ 0.3	- 3.5	2,488	+ 3.2	+ 11.2
Ireland	692	- 0.4	- 5.3	601	+ 1.5	+ 8.3
Other Districts	2,005	- 0.2	+ 7.5	3,009	+ 0.3	+ 25.1
TOTAL	25,295	+ 1.5	+ 6.5	39,938	+ 2.2	+ 28.6

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire continued fair and was better than a year ago. At Basford overtime was general in the hosiery section, and a great demand for labour was reported in the lace section. At Dundee employment was disorganised by a dispute.

Printing.—With machine calico printers in England employment continued very irregular, and a shortage of workers and dye stuffs was reported. In Scotland it was fair with machine printers and engravers.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers continued good; about 86 per cent. of the operatives were working overtime; there was an improvement as compared with a year ago, when a good deal of short time was reported. With cotton and silk dyers employment was also good. Hosiery dyers at Nottingham and Basford were well employed, and some overtime was worked during the month.

Trimming, Finishing, &c.—At Leicester employment was good with hosiery trimmers, &c., especially with those firms engaged on Government work; it was better than in March, 1915. At Hinckley it was fairly good. At Basford and Bulwell employment was very good, but some short time was necessitated by shortage of labour on preparatory stages. At Dundee calender workers were affected by a dispute.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, with overtime in certain districts and some shortage of labour. It was reported as quiet, however, and worse than a year ago in some branches of the saddlery and harness trades at Walsall, and also with curriers in London. An improvement was reported by saddle and harness makers in the London district.

The imports of raw hides amounted to 99,000 cwts. during March, 1916, an increase of 27,000 cwts. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 65,000 cwts. compared with March, 1915.

The exports (British and Irish) of leather during March, 1916, amounted to 20,000 cwts., compared with 15,000 cwts. a month ago and less than 7,000 cwts. a year ago. Exports of leather manufactures were valued at £127,000 during March, 1916, compared with £126,000 a month ago and £90,000 a year ago.

* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

WITH very few exceptions, employment continued very good in all the principal districts, and on the whole there was little change compared with a year ago.

Some temporary dislocation and reorganisation of departments was reported in some cases, owing to the gradual depletion of male labour, but female labour is being gradually introduced to an increasing extent where practicable.

Returns from firms employing 63,398 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and also in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.3 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
ENGLAND AND WALES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
London	2,247	- 1.0	- 7.7	3,159	- 0.8	+ 4.5		
Leicester	11,245	- 0.0	- 5.7	15,751	- 0.4	+ 1.9		
Leicester Country District	2,933	+ 0.5	- 6.6	3,649	+ 1.5	+ 4.6		
Northampton	10,126	- 0.0	- 3.1	12,859	- 1.1	+ 0.8		
Northampton Country District	8,957	- 0.4	- 4.4	10,989	- 0.0	- 0.7		
Kettering	4,039	- 0.7	- 5.3	5,490	+ 6.9	+ 4.0		
Stafford and District	2,585	+ 1.5	- 5.0	3,067	+ 0.7	+ 0.7		
Norwich and District	3,995	+ 0.9	- 2.2	4,365	+ 1.7	+ 9.6		
Bristol and District	1,668	- 0.1	+ 4.4	1,853	+ 0.3	+ 8.0		
Kingswood	1,931	+ 0.5	- 7.6	2,419	+ 1.2	+ 6.2		
Leeds and District	2,317	- 0.3	+ 0.2	2,760	- 2.7	+ 5.8		
Manchester and District	3,432	+ 0.3	+ 7.9	4,076	+ 1.6	+ 20.0		
Birmingham and District	883	- 0.6	- 8.0	930	- 8.3	- 0.2		
Other parts of England and Wales	3,283	+ 0.6	+ 4.7	3,480	+ 1.3	+ 9.7		
ENGLAND AND WALES	59,631	+ 0.0	- 3.3	74,847	+ 0.3	+ 3.7		
SCOTLAND	3,213	+ 3.1	- 4.6	3,877	- 2.3	- 1.6		
IRELAND	554	+ 1.1	+ 3.9	461	- 0.9	+ 12.2		
UNITED KINGDOM	63,398	+ 0.2	- 3.3	79,185	+ 0.2	+ 3.5		

The exports (British and Irish) of boots and shoes of leather during March, 1916, amounted to 115,331 dozen pairs, compared with 103,231 dozen pairs in February and 100,983 dozen pairs a year ago.

TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—During March employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms paying £6,840 in wages to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 25th March showed a decrease of 6.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 19.6 per cent. compared with a year ago; in March, 1915, there was more military work on hand.

Other Centres.—At Liverpool employment was quiet, but showed some improvement towards the end of the month. At Glasgow it continued slack, the operatives only working about three days a week. At Belfast employment was fair and better than a month ago.

READY-MADE.

In this branch employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but was not so brisk as a year ago. There was a shortage of men cutters and women machinists in some parts, but a number of firms reported that the labour supply was adequate.

About 16 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time during the month, and about 11 per cent. were on overtime; in March, 1915, 54 per cent. were working more than the usual hours.

Returns from firms employing 35,837 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a

decrease of 5.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Indoor Workpeople.					
	Number Employed.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	£	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.
Leeds	9,165	- 2.1	- 9.6	8,706	- 1.6	- 6.9
Manchester	3,602	- 0.2	+ 6.7	3,754	- 0.1	+ 8.9
Other places in Yorkshire, Lancs and Cheshire	4,932	- 1.2	- 9.8	4,177	- 1.4	- 16.0
Bristol	1,767	- 5.5	- 16.1	1,215	- 12.0	- 26.7
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	3,410	- 2.1	- 9.4	2,918	+ 9.7	- 12.4
South Midland and Eastern Counties	3,454	+ 0.2	+ 3.0	2,994	+ 3.5	- 1.6
London	3,793	+ 9.7	+ 5.0	4,039	+ 6.6	- 11.7
Glasgow	1,954	- 1.1	- 12.2	1,766	- 3.7	- 15.5
Rest of United Kingdom	3,760	+ 1.4	+ 1.2	2,832	- 1.3	- 2.6
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	35,837	- 0.2	- 5.1	32,401	+ 0.4	- 8.4

The total amount of wages paid to outworkers by the above firms showed an increase of 5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 63 per cent. compared with a year ago.

At Leeds employment was fairly good, but there was an insufficient supply of labour, especially male cutters and female machinists. At Manchester employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. At Hebden Bridge employment continued good, at Huddersfield it was moderate, at Liverpool it was fair.

At Bristol employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; a considerable amount of short time was reported. At Stroud employment continued fair. At Walsall and Tamworth employment was good, at Norwich it was slack, at Plymouth it was fair.

In London employment was fairly good and better than a month ago, although not so brisk as in March, 1915.

At Glasgow employment continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago.

HAT TRADE.

Silk.—Employment continued bad in London and in the provincial centres, and was worse than a year ago; enlistments have, however, accounted for most of the unemployed.

Felt.—In this branch employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago. The able unemployed have been absorbed in other trades or in military service, but a considerable amount of short time was reported in some districts. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February and March was 0.1, as compared with 2.7 a year ago.

At Denton employment was reported as quiet, and about the same as a year ago, 75 per cent. of the operatives being on short time at both periods. At Stockport 20 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, as compared with 80 per cent. in March, 1915, and employment on the whole was reported as fair. In Warwickshire employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT generally continued fairly good and showed little change compared with a year ago. The supply of labour was not equal to the demand, especially as regards women machinists and male cutters. A small amount of short time was reported during the month, affecting about 8 per cent. of the total number employed covered by the Returns.

Returns from firms employing 20,189 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week

ended 25th March showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.			
London	4,459	+ 0.4	- 3.0	4,116	+ 1.7	+ 2.9		
Manchester	3,226	- 0.2	- 4.9	2,839	+ 1.1	- 1.6		
Rest of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	1,882	+ 1.1	- 0.7	1,287	+ 0.3	+ 8.2		
S.W. Counties	2,812	+ 0.5	+ 3.1	1,933	+ 2.5	+ 13.5		
Rest of England and Wales	1,636	- 2.0	- 3.9	1,265	+ 5.2	+ 1.5		
Glasgow	2,434	- 3.4	- 8.0	1,736	- 2.7	- 5.5		
Londonderry	1,891	- 1.6	+ 5.0	1,151	- 3.3	+ 8.1		
Belfast	1,405	+ 0.4	+ 6.9	994	- 2.2	+ 11.9		
Rest of Ireland	444	- 0.2	+ 13.8	226	- 0.9	+ 26.3		
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	20,189	- 0.5	- 2.1	15,547	+ 0.7	+ 3.7		

In London employment was fair, and slightly better than a month ago; at Manchester employment continued fairly good: at both centres there was a considerable shortage of women machinists and men cutters. In the South-Western Counties about 18 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, but employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and was above the level of March, 1915; in the collar and cuff factories at Bideford employment was reported as fairly good, at Barnstaple it was brisk, and at Exeter it was moderate. At Glasgow employment continued fairly good.

In Ireland generally employment continued fair; it showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

In London employment with dressmakers in retail firms continued fair; compared with a year ago there was a decline in numbers employed, but less short time was reported, about 9 per cent. of the workers being thus affected, as compared with 18 per cent. a year ago. Returns from firms, chiefly in the West End, employing 1,991 dressmakers in the week ended 25th March showed a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 9.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

With court and private dressmakers employment was only moderate, but was slightly better than a month ago. Firms employing 730 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 5.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 21.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

With milliners in the West End employment was fair, but worse than a year ago; the numbers employed showed a decline of 20 per cent. compared with March, 1915.

MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and millinery trades returns from firms in London employing 5,529 workpeople in the week ended 25th March on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 7.5 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was on the whole fairly good and a shortage of labour was reported.

At Manchester returns from firms employing 5,427 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was

good, and the supply of machinists was unequal to the demand.

At Glasgow employment continued fair. Returns from firms employing 2,231 workpeople in the week ended 25th March in the mantle, costume and under-clothing trades showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Some shortage of labour was reported.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment continued good at all the principal centres, and was slightly better than a year ago. Returns from firms (mainly in England) employing 6,169 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 25th March showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

PRIVATE building work remained quiet, employment being affected by high prices and, to some extent, by difficulty in obtaining delivery of materials. Many men, especially plasterers and masons, were still working in non-building occupations. Men remaining in the building trades were, however, generally well employed, partly owing to Government requirements, and in some cases there was a shortage of men for private repair work. Employment with painters again showed an improvement. The general percentage unemployed in all building occupations was 1.3 compared with 1.6 in February, and 2.2 a year ago. For plasterers the percentage was 4.5, but for plumbers, navvies and labourers it was 1.0 or less.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed among 664,400 workpeople insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act at the end of March, 1916:

Occupations.	Number Insured at end of March, 1916.	Percentage Unemployed at end of March.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
			Carpenters	121,214	1.2	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Bricklayers	55,298	1.5	- 0.2	- 1.9
Masons	32,043	2.4	- 0.2	- 2.2
Plasterers	15,717	4.5	- 1.0	- 1.7
Painters	97,428	1.3	- 1.7	- 0.6
Plumbers	31,105	0.9	- 0.4	- 1.0
Other skilled occupations	35,687	0.9	- 0.2	- 0.9
Navvies	91,675	0.4	...	- 0.8
Labourers	184,203	1.0	...	- 0.8
ALL OCCUPATIONS	664,400	1.3	- 0.3	- 0.9

The next Table shows in detail the percentage unemployed in the above occupations in each division. The percentage for all occupations taken together was less than 1.0 in eight divisions; in the South-Western division, however, it was 1.5, in London 2.2, and in Ireland 6.8. Compared with a month ago the percentage showed a decrease in nearly all districts. Taking the occupations separately a decreased percentage was shown in all districts by painters and in most districts by bricklayers, masons, plasterers and plumbers. With carpenters, navvies and labourers, who were already very well employed, little change was shown. For every occupation the highest percentage unemployed was in Ireland—in the case of masons 12.8 and in the case of plasterers 11.8. For painters in Ireland the percentage was 10.8, but this shows a great reduction compared with a month ago (21.7). Outside of Ireland the highest percentage unemployed for any occupation was 7.6 for plasterers in London.

Compared with a year ago there were reductions in the percentages unemployed in every district, except in one or two occupations in Ireland and the South-Western district of England.

Districts.	Number Insured.	Per cent. Un-emp. ply'd.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Number Insured.	Per cent. Un-emp. ply'd.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Mnth ago.	Year ago.	Mnth ago.	Year ago.		Mnth ago.	Year ago.		
Carpenters.										
London	22,702	1.6	-0.1	-1.2		10,337	3.6	-0.7	-1.4	
Northern Counties	5,458	0.2	...	-2.0		2,587	0.3	-0.4	-1.8	
North-Western	14,113	0.6	...	-1.3		6,633	0.4	-0.2	-3.1	
Yorkshire	9,417	0.4	-0.2	-1.2		4,742	0.5	-0.3	-2.0	
East Midlands	5,853	0.6	+0.2	-1.2		4,094	0.7	...	-3.5	
West Midlands	8,482	0.4	...	-0.4		6,289	0.2	+0.1	-1.2	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	16,497	0.6	...	-0.8		10,691	1.4	-0.4	-2.0	
South-Western	15,823	1.5	+0.6	+0.5		4,828	1.6	...	-0.9	
Wales	6,175	0.4	-0.2	-0.5		1,717	0.1	-0.1	-1.9	
Scotland	10,817	0.3	-0.2	-1.6		1,810	0.4	-0.1	-1.4	
Ireland	5,877	8.4	+0.8	+1.2		1,550	6.1	-0.2	-1.9	
Bricklayers.										
London	2,183	4.3	-0.3	-2.9		3,291	7.6	-1.9	-2.4	
Northern Counties	2,172	0.3	-0.2	-1.7		645	0.9	-0.3	-2.1	
North-Western	3,041	2.5	-0.5	-5.0		1,732	3.2	-1.5	-2.4	
Yorkshire	3,930	0.6	-0.3	-2.5		1,698	1.3	-1.0	-2.9	
East Midlands	767	2.0	+0.2	-3.4		366	5.7	-0.3	-3.5	
West Midlands	665	2.0	+1.1	-1.2		757	2.4	-1.7	-4.1	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	838	1.9	-1.8	-6.1		1,192	5.8	-2.2	-1.0	
South-Western	5,683	2.4	-0.1	-1.4		1,825	3.9	+0.2	+0.3	
Wales	4,948	0.6	-0.1	-1.5		1,400	1.2	+0.2	-2.0	
Scotland	5,827	1.9	...	-1.6		1,600	2.0	-0.4	-0.5	
Ireland	1,939	12.8	-1.6	+0.5		1,241	11.8	-0.8	+2.4	
Masons.										
London	2,183	4.3	-0.3	-2.9		3,291	7.6	-1.9	-2.4	
Northern Counties	2,172	0.3	-0.2	-1.7		645	0.9	-0.3	-2.1	
North-Western	3,041	2.5	-0.5	-5.0		1,732	3.2	-1.5	-2.4	
Yorkshire	3,930	0.6	-0.3	-2.5		1,698	1.3	-1.0	-2.9	
East Midlands	767	2.0	+0.2	-3.4		366	5.7	-0.3	-3.5	
West Midlands	665	2.0	+1.1	-1.2		757	2.4	-1.7	-4.1	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	838	1.9	-1.8	-6.1		1,192	5.8	-2.2	-1.0	
South-Western	5,683	2.4	-0.1	-1.4		1,825	3.9	+0.2	+0.3	
Wales	4,948	0.6	-0.1	-1.5		1,400	1.2	+0.2	-2.0	
Scotland	5,827	1.9	...	-1.6		1,600	2.0	-0.4	-0.5	
Ireland	1,939	12.8	-1.6	+0.5		1,241	11.8	-0.8	+2.4	
Plasterers.										
London	6,919	2.0	-1.5	-0.7		6,919	2.0	-1.5	-0.7	
Northern Counties	3,224	0.3	-0.4	-0.8		1,583	0.1	-0.1	-0.5	
North-Western	12,202	1.3	-2.7	-0.6		4,494	0.3	-0.1	-2.1	
Yorkshire	6,416	0.5	-1.3	-0.6		2,702	0.4	-0.1	-1.7	
East Midlands	3,835	0.7	-0.9	-1.7		1,234	0.3	-0.1	-3.1	
West Midlands	6,553	0.8	-0.4	-0.6		1,904	0.2	-0.2	-0.6	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	13,911	1.4	-1.2	-1.0		3,069	0.7	-0.2	-0.5	
South-Western	9,470	2.4	-0.4	+0.8		2,548	0.6	+0.1	-0.3	
Wales	3,082	0.6	-0.3	-0.7		900	0.1	...	-1.3	
Scotland	7,273	0.5	-1.4	-0.6		4,591	0.1	...	-0.6	
Ireland	3,506	10.8	-10.9	+0.9		1,151	6.1	+0.1	-0.6	
Painters.										
London	27,956	2.3	-1.7	-0.7		6,919	2.0	-1.5	-0.7	
Northern Counties	3,224	0.3	-0.4	-0.8		1,583	0.1	-0.1	-0.5	
North-Western	12,202	1.3	-2.7	-0.6		4,494	0.3	-0.1	-2.1	
Yorkshire	6,416	0.5	-1.3	-0.6		2,702	0.4	-0.1	-1.7	
East Midlands	3,835	0.7	-0.9	-1.7		1,234	0.3	-0.1	-3.1	
West Midlands	6,553	0.8	-0.4	-0.6		1,904	0.2	-0.2	-0.6	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	13,911	1.4	-1.2	-1.0		3,069	0.7	-0.2	-0.5	
South-Western	9,470	2.4	-0.4	+0.8		2,548	0.6	+0.1	-0.3	
Wales	3,082	0.6	-0.3	-0.7		900	0.1	...	-1.3	
Scotland	7,273	0.5	-1.4	-0.6		4,591	0.1	...	-0.6	
Ireland	3,506	10.8	-10.9	+0.9		1,151	6.1	+0.1	-0.6	
Plumbers.										
London	10,361	0.9	+0.1	-1.1		10,361	0.9	+0.1	-1.1	
Northern Counties	2,417	0.2	...	-0.5		5,447	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	
North-Western	4,772	0.5	-0.3	-0.8		11,952	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	
Yorkshire	2,626	0.2	-0.1	-0.9		11,897	0.1	...	-0.7	
East Midlands	1,394	0.4	...	-1.1		4,487	0.5	...	-1.4	
West Midlands	2,828	0.2	-0.4	-1.0		6,599	0.2	...	-0.5	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	15,284	0.3	+0.2	-0.7		9,930	0.4	...	-1.4	
South-Western	12,313	0.6	-0.2	-0.7		7,211	0.8	...	-0.5	
Wales	1,353	0.2	-0.1	-0.5		9,816	0.1	...	-0.5	
Scotland	6,219	0.2	...	-0.4		11,511	0.1	-0.1	-0.6	
Ireland	1,137	4.4	-0.1	-0.8		3,364	1.9	...	-5.3	
Other Skilled Workers.										
London	8,089	2.3	-0.2	-1.2		10,361	0.9	+0.1	-1.1	
Northern Counties	2,417	0.2	...	-0.5		5,447	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	
North-Western	4,772	0.5	-0.3	-0.8		11,952	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	
Yorkshire	2,626	0.2	-0.1	-0.9		11,897	0.1	...	-0.7	
East Midlands	1,394	0.4	...	-1.1		4,487	0.5	...	-1.4	
West Midlands	2,828	0.2	-0.4	-1.0		6,599	0.2	...	-0.5	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	15,284	0.3	+0.2	-0.7		9,930	0.4	...	-1.4	
South-Western	12,313	0.6	-0.2	-0.7		7,211	0.8	...	-0.5	
Wales	1,353	0.2	-0.1	-0.5		9,816	0.1	...	-0.5	
Scotland	6,219	0.2	...	-0.4		11,511	0.1	-0.1	-0.6	
Ireland	1,137	4.4	-0.1	-0.8		3,364	1.9	...	-5.3	
Navvies.										
London	8,089	2.3	-0.2	-1.2		10,361	0.9	+0.1	-1.1	
Northern Counties	2,417	0.2	...	-0.5		5,447	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	
North-Western	4,772	0.5	-0.3	-0.8		11,952	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	
Yorkshire	2,626	0.2	-0.1	-0.9		11,897	0.1	...	-0.7	
East Midlands	1,394	0.4	...	-1.1		4,487	0.5	...	-1.4	
West Midlands	2,828	0.2	-0.4	-1.0		6,599	0.2	...	-0.5	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	15,284	0.3	+0.2	-0.7		9,930	0.4	...	-1.4	
South-Western	12,313	0.6	-0.2	-0.7		7,211	0.8	...	-0.5	
Wales	1,353	0.2	-0.1	-0.5		9,816	0.1	...	-0.5	
Scotland	6,219	0.2	...	-0.4		11,511	0.1	-0.1	-0.6	
Ireland	1,137	4.4	-0.1	-0.8		3,364	1.9	...	-5.3	
Labourers.										
London	43,570	1.8	+0.1	-0.7		135,408	2.2	-0.5	-0.9	
Northern Counties	7,645	0.3	-0.1	-0.2		31,188	0.3	-0.1	-0.8	
North-Western	21,583	0.6	+0.1	-0.4		80,542	0.8	-0.5	-0.9	
Yorkshire	15,284	0.3	...	-0.7		58,712	0.4	-0.2	-1.0	
East Midlands	7,925	0.6	+0.2	-0.9		29,955	0.7	...	-1.7	
West Midlands	13,229	0.2	...	-0.6		47,306	0.4	-0.1	-0.7	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	24,459	0.7	-0.1	-1.1		82,276	0.9	-0.4	-1.3	
South-Western	21,988	0.9	...	-0.6		71,689	1.5	+0.1	-0.3	
Wales	8,302	0.4	...	-0.8		37,693	0.4	...	-0.8	
Scotland	12,089	0.3	-0.1	-0.5		61,737	0.5	-0.2	-0.8	
Ireland	8,129	4.1	...	-3.5		27,894	6.8	-1.3	-1.3	
All Occupations.										
London	43,570	1.8	+0.1	-0.7		135,408	2.2	-0.5	-0.9	
Northern Counties	7,645	0.3	-0.1	-0.2		31,188	0.3	-0.1	-0.8	
North-Western	21,583	0.6	+0.1	-0.4		80,542	0.8	-0.5	-0.9	
Yorkshire	15,284	0.3	...	-0.7		58,712	0.4	-0.2	-1.0	
East Midlands	7,925	0.6	+0.2	-0.9		29,955	0.7	...	-1.7	
West Midlands	13,229	0.2	...	-0.6		47,306	0.4	-0.1	-0.7	
Eastern & S.E. Counties	24,459	0.7	-0.1	-1.1		82,276	0.9	-0.4	-1.3	
South-Western	21,988	0.9	...	-0.6		71,689	1.5	+0.1	-0.3	
Wales	8,302	0.4	...	-0.8		37,693	0.4	...	-0.8	
Scotland	12,089	0.3	-0.1	-0.5		61,737	0.5	-0.2	-0.8	
Ireland	8,129	4.1	...	-3.5		27,894	6.8	-1.3	-1.3	

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

MILL SAWING AND MACHINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally. Overtime was reported on the Tyne and Wear, in the Glasgow district, and in engineering shops at Sheffield. Employment was quiet, however, at Grimsby and Belfast, and some decline was reported at Leeds owing to increasing difficulty in obtaining material.

The percentage unemployed at the end of March among workpeople engaged in saw-milling and insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act was 0.8, as compared with 0.7 in the previous month, and 1.4 in March, 1915. Trade Unions with a membership of 8,539 had 0.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, 1916, the same as a month ago, compared with 1.5 per cent. in March, 1915.

FURNISHING.

Employment was still fairly good on the whole, about the same as a month ago, and generally better than a year ago. There was a demand for workpeople at several centres, but employment was quiet at Belfast and in several of the cotton towns. In London french

polishers reported employment as fair and improved, upholsterers in the West End as bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With upholsterers employment generally was better than a month ago.

Trade Unions with 15,367 members had 2.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 2.6 per cent. a month ago and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

COACH BUILDING.

Employment continued fairly good and was better on the whole than a month ago and a year ago. Overtime was reported at a number of centres. Employment was quiet, however, at Salford, Saltley and Belfast; there was a decline at Saltley and an improvement at Belfast.

Trade Unions with 11,496 members had 1.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 1.5 per cent. a month ago and 1.4 per cent. a year ago.

COOPERS.

Employment remained good generally with coopers. A decline was reported, however, at Burton-on-Trent and Birmingham, and at Sheffield employment was bad. There was an improvement at Manchester, where overtime was worked owing to shortage of workpeople.

Trade Unions with 3,915 members had 0.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 0.2 per cent. a month ago and 0.4 per cent. a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Brushmaking.—Employment was very good generally, and a considerable amount of overtime was reported, partly due to Government orders. There was a further improvement with painting brushmakers.

Trade Unions with 1,331 members reported no unemployed at the end of March and February, 1916, compared with 0.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, 1915.

Other Trades.—Employment continued fairly good with wheelwrights and smiths. Packing case makers were still well employed, with some shortage of labour, and overtime was worked, especially at Manchester. An improvement was reported at Liverpool and Bristol, and a decline in London. With skip and basket makers employment continued very good at Oldham, and good in London, on the Tyne and at Leicester.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT showed a decline compared with a month ago. It was better on the whole than a year ago, although the number employed was much smaller.

There was again a general scarcity of all kinds of male labour, which was most marked in the case of clay-hole hands, wheelers and navvies, and of brick drawers and setters.

Returns from firms employing 6,652 workpeople in the week ended 25th March, 1916, showed a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 21.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 15.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Districts.</

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, and showed a further slight improvement in all branches. It was much better than a year ago, when a considerable amount of short time was reported. With makers of tiles and sanitary ware employment was still quiet, but showed some improvement on the previous month. Some short time was reported. There was again a general shortage of both skilled and unskilled male labour, which was most marked in the case of biscuit and glost placers, ovenmen, saggarmakers and labourers.

Returns from firms employing 17,677 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 14.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
China Manufacture	3,356	+ 0.9	+ 12.0	4,695	+ 5.5	+ 34.7
Earthenware Manufacture	11,496	- 0.7	- 2.7	12,110	+ 1.3	+ 10.4
Other Branches (including unspecified)	2,825	- 0.2	- 16.9	2,890	+ 0.6	+ 5.2
TOTAL	17,677	- 0.3	- 3.0	19,695	+ 2.1	+ 14.5
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	13,163	- 0.9	- 3.1	13,561	+ 2.4	+ 12.4
Other Districts	4,514	+ 1.6	- 2.4	6,134	+ 1.6	+ 19.4
TOTAL	17,677	- 0.3	- 3.0	19,695	+ 2.1	+ 14.5

GLASS TRADES.

THESE trades continued well employed. There was a considerable shortage in most classes of labour, especially in the glass bottle branch.

Returns from firms employing 10,025 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 11.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Glass Bottle	7,159	+ 1.3	- 2.3	12,352	+ 0.6	+ 13.4
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,919	+ 2.8	- 7.2	2,670	- 1.4	+ 5.7
Other Branches	947	+ 2.2	- 3.5	1,239	+ 3.6	+ 5.4
TOTAL	10,025	+ 1.7	- 3.4	16,261	+ 0.5	+ 11.5
DISTRICTS.						
North of England	1,150	+ 4.4	- 19.6	2,100	+ 2.3	- 0.1
Yorkshire	4,526	+ 1.7	+ 1.4	7,303	- 0.2	+ 14.3
Lancashire	1,098	+ 1.3	+ 4.2	1,727	+ 4.2	+ 20.2
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	1,024	- 4.2	- 7.3	1,409	- 4.3	+ 1.0
Scotland	832	+ 2.0	- 16.1	1,345	- 1.5	- 2.3
Other parts of the United Kingdom	1,395	+ 4.5	+ 4.9	2,377	+ 2.6	+ 26.0
TOTAL	10,025	+ 1.7	- 3.4	16,261	+ 0.5	+ 11.5

The glass bottle trade remained very active; any short time worked being due to the breaking of "sets" owing to enlistments. Flint glass makers and cutters in the Midlands remained well employed; a shortage of labour was reported, and overtime was worked in

many cases. Pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear reported employment as good and better than a month ago. With sheet and plate glass workers at St. Helens it remained only fair, and was not so good as a year ago, a number of men working short time.

The imports of glass during March, 1916, were valued at £308,000, compared with £264,000 a month ago and £161,000 a year ago.

The exports of glass were valued at £80,000, or £5,000 less than a month ago and £24,000 less than a year ago.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good generally, and was better than a year ago. There was a general shortage of labour. Many of the reports mentioned a continued difficulty in obtaining raw materials. Transport delays also interfered with business.

Returns from firms employing 50,809 workpeople in the week ended 25th March showed a decrease of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the number employed increased by 4.4 per cent. and the amount of wages paid by 13.7 per cent.

Trade.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Sugar Refining, &c.	5,294	+ 0.2	- 2.9	8,733	+ 2.7	+ 2.4
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	21,579	- 2.5	+ 0.6	20,183	- 0.0	+ 16.0
Biscuits, Cakes, &c.	9,860	- 5.5	+ 10.3	8,979	- 9.8	+ 9.0
Jams, Marmalade, &c.	7,890	- 2.8	+ 13.7	7,610	+ 0.8	+ 35.3
Bacon and Preserved Meats	5,275	- 2.3	+ 3.2	5,758	- 2.3	+ 7.3
Pickles, Sauces, &c.	911	+ 0.1	+ 9.1	794	+ 2.5	+ 27.2
TOTAL	50,809	- 2.8	+ 4.4	52,062	- 1.5	+ 13.7

Sugar Refining.—Employment was very good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery.—Employment was good generally, but many firms reported restriction of output on account of the shortage of labour and the difficulty in obtaining supplies of sugar.

Biscuits, Cakes, &c.—Employment was fairly good. It was not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago.

Jams, Marmalade, &c.—Government contracts kept many firms busy, and employment showed a great improvement on a year ago. The shortage in sugar supplies interfered with the ordinary trade.

Bacon and Preserved Meats.—Employment showed a slight decline on a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Pickles, Sauces, &c.—Employment was good, better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

AGRICULTURE.*

THROUGHOUT England and Wales agricultural operations during March were greatly delayed by wet and stormy weather, accompanied by much snow. Very little spring sowing was carried on, and field work fell into arrear generally. Labour was everywhere deficient, but the shortage was not so much felt, as little work could be done.

In Scotland some ploughing was possible in certain districts, but outdoor work, generally speaking, was much behindhand. The scarcity of most classes of labour, although almost universal, was not acutely felt in certain districts of Aberdeen, Forfar and Berwick, owing to the adverse weather conditions. In South Ayr, on the other hand, as also in some of the other South-Western districts, though the supply of labour was very short, it was found possible to make satisfactory progress.

* Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT generally was fair, but was not so good as either a month ago or a year ago.

LONDON AND TILBURY.

London.—Employment was fair generally, and not so good as a month ago or a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves was 17,684, a decrease of 3.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 10.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks, and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks.			At Wharves making Returns.	Total in Docks and at Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners.	Total.		
Week ended Mar. 4th	7,441	2,633	10,074	7,963	18,037
" " " 11th	6,931	2,679	9,610	7,832	17,445
" " " 18th	7,353	2,641	9,994	7,650	17,644
" " " 25th	7,118	2,714	9,832	7,777	17,609
Average for 4 weeks ended 25th Mar., 1916	7,211	2,667	9,878	7,806	17,684
Average for Feb., 1916	7,288	3,172	10,460	7,930	18,390
" " Mar., 1915	7,660	4,131	11,791	7,974	19,765

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day* in March, 1916, were as follows:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	17,952	11	17,163	22	16,997
2	18,136	12	17,169	23	17,959
3	17,565	13	17,616	24	18,240
4	17,872	14	17,495	25	17,889
5	18,159	15	17,752	26	18,985
6	16,816	16	18,283	27	16,891
7	16,988	17	17,516	28	16,891
8	17,478	18	17,947	29	17,957
9	18,068	19	17,947	30	18,347
10		20	16,621	31	18,102

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during March was 2,093, compared with 2,281 a month ago and 2,310 during March, 1915.

OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—On the Tyne employment with dock labourers was good generally, and better than a month ago, overtime being worked on cargoes of ironstone and timber; on grain cargoes, however, there was a decline. With trimmers and teamers it was fair on both the Tyne and Wear. Dock labourers were well employed at Blyth. Employment continued good at Hartlepool and very good at Middlesbrough, but there was a slight decline on a month ago. A further decline occurred at Hull and Grimsby, and at Goole employment continued bad. At Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Lynn, Ipswich and Harwich employment was slack and generally worse than a month ago.

South and West Coasts.—Employment was fair, and rather worse than a month ago at Plymouth and Falmouth, but continued very good at Hayle and Dartmouth. There was a decline at Bristol, where employment was only fair and was worse than a year ago, some short time being worked. It continued fair at Gloucester. At Cardiff and Barry dock labourers were again well employed and coal trimmers exceptionally busy. Employment continued good at Liverpool, but was worse than a year ago, when much overtime was worked.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH PORTS.

There was a decline at Dundee, where, however, employment was still fair with a certain amount of overtime on coasting steamers. At Glasgow employment was fair and slightly worse than a month ago. It was very good at Greenock, Ayr and Troon. There was a decline at Belfast. Employment was bad and worse than a month ago at Cork and Limerick.

* Sundays are omitted.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, and was less affected by unfavourable weather than in the previous month.

East Coast.—At Hartlepool employment was good with fishermen and slack with fish curers. It was good at Hull; at Grimsby it was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. Fishing operations remained practically suspended at Yarmouth, most of the men having found other employment. Employment was slack at Lowestoft and Brightlingsea.

South Coast.—Employment with fishermen on the coasts of Devon and Cornwall was fair on the whole, but was irregular owing to variable weather conditions. It was fair with packers, carters and curers.

Scotland.—There was a further improvement at Aberdeen, where employment was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers and curers. At Peterhead it was fair with fishermen, but bad with fish curers. At Macduff employment continued moderate with fishermen, but bad for other classes, and at Fraserburgh it was bad generally and worse than a month ago. Employment continued moderate at Dundee, and was quiet at Arbroath and Montrose.

Ireland.—The total quantity of fish (other than shell fish) landed decreased by over 3,000 cwt.

FISH LANDED IN MARCH, 1916.

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Mar., 1915.
Fish (other than shell):				
England and Wales	301,960	- 236,312	451,274	- 129,696
Scotland	284,925	+ 43,063	250,754	+ 75,079
Ireland	20,319	- 3,490	21,188	+ 8,301
TOTAL	607,204	- 196,739	753,216	- 46,316
Shell Fish			24,691	- 2,481
TOTAL VALUE			777,907	- 48,797

SEAMEN.

THE supply of seamen for mercantile ships during March was nearly equal to the demand. From South Shields it was reported that the supply was slightly in excess of the demand, but some shortage of seamen was reported from Newcastle, Bristol, Avonmouth, Barry and Penarth. At all the other ports included in the Table the supply was stated to be equal to the demand.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Three months ended		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	March, 1915.	March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1916.
ENGLAND AND WALES:						
<i>East Coast—</i>						
Tyne Ports	1,641	- 70	- 264	5,331	5,202	- 129
Sunderland	156	- 169	- 38	800	766	- 34
Middlesbrough	413	+ 239	+ 258	475	1,149	+ 674
Hull	952	- 43	- 117	3,820	3,011	- 809
Grimsby	26	+ 18	- 35	229	100	- 129
<i>Bristol Channel—</i>						
Bristol †	1,284	+ 491	+ 297	2,931	3,053	+ 122
Newport, Mon.	785	- 127	- 581	3,758	2,472	- 1,286
Cardiff ‡	4,191	+ 765	- 1,000	14,589	12,401	- 2,188
Swansea	161	+ 27	- 54	1,049	654	- 395
<i>Other Ports—</i>						
Liverpool	10,005	- 814	- 5,386	40,031	31,633	- 8,401
London	6,675	+ 162	- 2,914	25,024	21,267	- 3,757
Southampton	800	- 13	- 100	4,368	2,747	- 1,621
SCOTLAND:						
Leith	214	- 375	- 46	1,039	1,615	+ 576
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	3	- 51	- 68	320	152	- 168
Glasgow	3,378	+ 1,336	+ 50	8,587	8,073	- 514
IRELAND:						
Dublin	6	- 86	- 65	208	211	+ 3
Belfast	104	+ 12	- 472	2,281	379	- 1,902
TOTAL	30,794	+ 1,302	- 10,515	114,843	94,894	- 19,949

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

(a) DISPUTES IN MARCH.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes beginning in March was 44, as compared with 38 in the previous month, and 74 in March, 1915. In these new disputes 53,661 workpeople were directly, and 659 indirectly, involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 58,388 workpeople involved in trade disputes in March, 1916, as compared with 12,831 in the previous month, and 33,903 in March, 1915.

New Disputes in March, 1916.—In the following Table the new disputes for March are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	8	1,310	...	1,310
Coal Mining	2	1,000*	...	1,000
Engineering	4	3,843	49	3,892
Shipbuilding	3	153	58	216
Other Metal	2	66	18	84
Textile	8	30,492	259	30,751
Clothing	1	18	...	18
Transport	6	15,419	240	15,659
Other Trades	10	1,355	35	1,390
TOTAL, MARCH, 1916	44	53,661	659	54,320
TOTAL, FEBRUARY, 1916	38	9,353	503	9,856
TOTAL, MARCH, 1915	74	12,982	3,377	16,359

Causes.—Of the 44 new disputes, 23 arose on demands for advances in wages, 4 on other wages questions, 10 on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, 2 on questions affecting hours, 2 on details of working arrangements, 2 on

(c) PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN MARCH.

Occupations and Locality.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.				
BUILDING:— Painters—Edinburgh and District.	450	...	27th Mar.	...	For advance of 1d. per hour in wages and of 3s. per week in country allowance and for the signing of working rules as from 1st March instead of 1st January as hitherto.	No settlement reported.
Painters—Leeds.	500§	...	27th Mar.	...	For a war bonus.	No settlement reported.
ENGINEERING:— Fitters, turners, machinemen, etc.—Glasgow.	2,000	...	17th Mar.	15	Dispute arising out of refusal of employers to allow a "shop" representative to have free access to all departments of the works without special permission.	Work resumed.
Fitters, fitters' labourers, turners and machinemen—Belfast.	1,807	...	23rd Mar.	12	Against employment of drillers on work claimed by fitters.	Work resumed on old conditions.
TEXTILE:— Jute workers, etc.—Dundee.	30,000	...	27th Mar.	...	For advance in wages of 15 per cent.	No settlement reported.
TRANSPORT:— Dock labourers—Liverpool and Birkenhead.	15,000	...	29th Mar.	4	Alleged delay in the issue of an award of the Committee on Production as to rate of payment for night work and dissatisfaction with the award when received.	Work resumed.
Sailors, firemen, etc.—Belfast.	500§	...	6th Mar.	...	For advance in wages.	No settlement reported.
PRINTING, ETC.:— Workpeople in printing, bookbinding, etc., trades—Edinburgh and Glasgow.	1,000||	...	13th Mar.	...	Refusal of lithographic printers in Edinburgh to handle lithographic stones prepared by "black-leg" labour, followed by general lock-out by Employers' Association in Edinburgh and Glasgow.	No settlement reported.¶
Papermill workers—Bristol (near).	247	...	1st Dec.	86	For advance in wages.	Work resumed on employers' terms.

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—50 disputes, involving about 40,000 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.
 † In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information.
 ‡ i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes.
 § Estimated number.
 || Estimated number involved in March; the total number involved by 3rd April was 3,000.
 ¶ It is reported in the press of 15th April that an amicable settlement has now been reached.

questions of Trade Union principle, and 1 in sympathy with other workpeople on strike.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 28 new disputes, directly involving 20,576 workpeople, and 5 old disputes, directly involving 388 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes 5 were settled in favour of the workpeople, 18 in favour of the employers, and 10 were compromised. In the case of 6 other disputes, work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in March by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 256,000. In addition, 71,300 working days were lost in March owing to disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total aggregate duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 327,300 days, as compared with 102,600 in the previous month, and 151,200 in March, 1915.

(b) DISPUTES IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1915 AND 1916.†

Groups of Trades.	Jan. to March, 1915.			Jan. to March, 1916.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in Progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in Progress.
Building... ..	11	6,188	51,000	15	1,563	9,700
Mining and Quarrying	9	7,929	47,800	8	7,629	19,800
Engineering	27	11,594	129,500	21	7,538	75,600
Shipbuilding	20	2,467	20,800	3	216	300
Other Metal	7	1,829	8,000	12	1,986	4,700
Textile	14	5,356	78,500	14	32,222	217,200
Clothing... ..	8	1,074	4,800	6	1,288	11,700
Transport	35	12,608	66,800	13	16,144	51,700
Other Trades	30	2,512	18,700	38	10,455	167,900
TOTAL	161	51,557	425,900	130	79,041	558,600

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

The changes in rates of wages and war bonuses reported to the Department as taking effect in March affected nearly 459,000 workpeople. With the exception of 1,400 builders' labourers, from whom a bonus, which was given in December last for the winter months only, was withdrawn on the 1st March, the whole of these workpeople obtained increases, the net effect on weekly wages being an advance of about £35,200.

The industry principally affected was coal mining, in which over 377,000 workpeople in Cumberland, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, the Midland Counties, and North Wales received an increase of 5 per cent. on their basis rates. Of the remaining 82,000 workpeople, the engineering and shipbuilding trades accounted for 27,000, iron and steel manufacture for nearly 17,000, and the textile trades for over 13,000.

Changes in January-March.—The total number of workpeople affected by the changes in wages which have been reported to the Department as taking place during the three months ended 31st March, 1916, is 1,164,000, of whom 1,114,000 have received increases. The net effect of all these changes is an increase of nearly £72,500 per week.

The groups of trades in which the largest numbers

have been affected are coal mining, accounting for 546,000 workpeople; the textile trades, with nearly 372,000 operatives affected; and the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades in which 130,000 workpeople have received increases.

The extent to which the different groups of trades have contributed to the total is shown below:—

Group of Trades.	No. of Workpeople affected.	Amount of Net Increase per Week.
Building	15,288	£ 1,453
Coal Mining	546,000	30,118
Iron, &c., Mining... ..	10,127	724
Quarrying	2,037	62
Pig Iron Manufacture	19,219	2,000
Iron and Steel Manufacture	57,478	7,568
Engineering and Shipbuilding	53,412	3,016
Other Metal	19,146	1,939
Textile	371,525	17,533
Clothing	2,871	279
Transport	28,795	4,419
Printing, Paper, &c.	3,938	328
Glass, Brick, Pottery, Chemical, &c.	6,216	661
Other Trades	17,450	1,468
Local Authority Services	10,344	919
TOTAL	1,163,846	72,487

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH, 1916.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
Increases in Rates of Wages, and War Bonuses.					
Building and Allied Trades	Tyne and Wear ...	March	Painters	600	Increase of ½d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.).
	Sheffield	3 Mar.	Bricklayers	500	War bonus of 6d. per day or 3s. per week.†
	Blackpool	1 Mar.	Painters	180	Increase of ¾d. per hour (8½d. to 9½d.).
	Bury	1 Mar.	Painters	150	Increase of ¾d. per hour (9d. to 9½d.).
Coal Mining...	Nottingham ...	11 Mar.	Electrical wiremen and fitters ...	150	Increase of 1¼d. per hour (8½d. to 9¾d.).
	Exeter	18 Mar.	Carpenters and joiners	150	Increase of ¾d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.).
	Aberdeen	1 Mar.	Painters	200	Increase of 1d. per hour (9d. to 10d.).
	Dundee	15 Mar.	Plumbers... ..	200	Increase of 1d. per hour (11d. to 1s.).
Pig Iron ...	Londonderry ...	1 Mar.	Painters	75	Increase of ½d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.).
	Cumberland ...	1st pay-day in Mar.	Hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers	8,300	Increase of 5 per cent. on the basis rates of April, 1915.
Iron and Steel	Federated Districts	1st pay-day in Mar.	Underground workers and certain classes of surface workers	360,000	Increase of 5 per cent. on basis rates, making the wages of hewers 37'05 per cent. above the standard of December, 1911, including the war bonus granted in May, 1915.
	S. Staffs. and E. Wore.	1st pay-day in Mar.	Hewers and other underground workers and surface workers	9,000	Increase of 5 per cent. on basis rates, making the wages of hewers 37'05 per cent. above the standard of December, 1911, including the war bonus granted in May, 1915.
Pig Iron and Iron and Steel	W. Scotland ...	1st full pay after 17 Mar.	Blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers	3,500	Increase of 5 per cent.‡
	S. Wales and Mon.	1st full pay after 17 Mar.	Blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers	7,000	War bonus of (a) 3s. and (b) 2s. per week, granted in 1915 to workers earning (a) 20s. and under 30s., and (b) 30s. up to 50s. respectively, increased to 5s. per week; and a bonus granted to those earning over 50s. but under 55s. to make their total earnings up to 55s.
Engineering and Boilermaking	Northumberland, Durham, and Cleveland	27 Mar.	Iron puddlers	750	Increase, under sliding scale, of 1s. per ton (11s. 9d. to 12s. 9d.).
	W. Scotland ...	27 Mar.	Iron and steel millmen	3,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent.
	W. Scotland ...	19 Mar.	Iron puddlers	2,900	Increase, under sliding scale, of 1s. per ton, making wages 13s. 9d. per ton plus bonus of 1d. per heat.
	W. Scotland ...	19 Mar.	Bricklayers' labourers and general labourers in steel works	3,750	Increase under sliding scale of 10 per cent.
Shipbuilding	Sheffield and Rotherham	1st full pay in Mar.	Enginemen, cranemen, firemen, &c.	3,000	Increase of 1d. per hour.
	Oldham	1st full pay after 17 Mar.	Semi-skilled men and labourers ...	5,000	War wage of 3s. per week, granted in March, 1915, increased to 4s. per week.
	Oldham	1st full pay after 17 Mar.	Ironmoulders and coremakers ...	500	Increases, usually of 1s. per week, to make a total advance of 4s. per week since the outbreak of war.
	Oldham	1st full pay after 17 Mar.	Ironmoulders and coremakers ...	500	Increase of 1s. per week.
File-making...	Clyde	1st full pay after 3 Mar.	Enginemen, cranemen, firemen, furnacemen, slingers and riggers, red leaders, brass dressers, hand drillers, and labourers	10,500	Increase on time rates of ¼d. per hour or 1s. per week, and on piece rates of 2½ per cent.
	Londonderry ...	1st full pay in Mar.	Smiths' strikers and platers' helpers	100	War wage of 3s. per week, granted in March, 1915, increased to 4s. per week.
	Londonderry ...	1st full pay in Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, and pattern-makers	100	Increase on time rates of ¼d. per hour or 1s. per week.
	Londonderry ...	1st full pay in Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, and pattern-makers	100	War wage of 3s. per week, granted in March, 1915, increased to 4s. per week.
Woolen and Worsted	Clyde	1st full pay after 3 Mar.	Enginemen, cranemen, firemen, furnacemen, riggers, staggers, red leaders and labourers	8,000	Increase on time rates of ¼d. per hour or 1s. per week, and on piece rates of 2½ per cent.
	Sheffield	25 Mar.	Platers' helpers and smiths' strikers	1,100	Increase on time rates of ¼d. per hour or 1s. per week.
Cotton ...	Keighley... ..	21 Mar.	File forgers and cutters (hand and machine)	3,000	Increase of 5 per cent.
	West Bowling, Great Horton, and North Bierley Districts	March	Spinners, drawers, twistors, doffers, &c.	3,400	Increase of 1s. per week to full-timers and of 6d. per week to half-timers.
Cotton ...	Huddersfield and District	Pay-day nearest 9 Mar.	Power loom tuners	150	War grant of 3s. per week to men§ (excluding those who received an equivalent increase in May, 1915, and those on standing wages of 50s. or more), in substitution for war bonuses up to 2s. per week granted to certain classes of men in May, 1915.
	Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge	1st pay after 18 Mar.	Cotton-waste workers	200	Increases of 3s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. per week substituted for war bonuses of 2s. and 1s. per week granted in April, 1915, to men and women respectively; and an increase of 3d. per person per mixing for putting down mixings.

Increases in Rates of Wages and War Bonuses (continued)

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
Lace	Nottingham	1st pay day after 4 Mar.	Auxiliary male workers (levers section)	100	War bonus of 10 per cent. on earnings not exceeding 20s. per week, and of 5 per cent. on earnings over 20s. and up to 40s. per week.
	Glasgow and Ayrshire	6 Mar.	Lace workers: Men	2,300	Increase of 3/4d. per rack on piece rates for weaving, and of 2s. per week on time rates.
Hosiery Manufacture	Hawick	3 Mar.	Women, boys and girls	3,000	War bonus of 1s. per week.
			Hosiery workers		Increase of 12 1/2 per cent., in substitution for war bonuses of 1s. 6d. and upwards per week to married workers, 1s. per week to unmarried workers, and 6d. per week to apprentices granted in April, 1915.
Silk Manufacture	Leek	March	Spinners and throwsters	70	Increase of 1s. per week.
		10 Mar.	Dyers and Bleachers: Men (over 21 years)	170	Increase of 3/4d. per hour in minimum rate (3d. to 6 1/4d.), and war bonus of 3/4d. per hour to those receiving over 6 1/4d.
Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, and Finishing	Nottingham	Pay-day nearest 31 Mar.	Youths (16-20 years)	500	Increase of 3/4d. per hour.
			Auxiliary hosiery workers		New price list adopted, estimated to result in an increase of about 12 1/2 per cent. on earnings.
Boot and Shoe	Northampton	25 Mar.	Makers, sewers and stitchers (hand-sewn and hand-welted work)	200	New price list adopted, estimated to result in an average increase of about 7s. 6d. per week.
Transport	Liverpool and Birkenhead	27 Mar.	Carters (including coal carters)	5,300	Increase, to regular men, of 2s. per week for seniors and 1s. per week for juniors, and, to casuals, of 4d. per day for seniors and 2d. per day for juniors.
			Motor drivers, second men & trailer men	300	Increase of 2s. per week.
Woodworking	Cardiff, Newport, and Swansea	4 Mar.	Machinists, hauliers, deal carriers (regular men), enginemen, &c., in saw mills and timber yards	450	Increase of 3s. per week.
	Glasgow and District	11 Mar.	Coopers	300	Increase on time rates of 3/4d. per hour, and on piece rates of 5 per cent.
Food and Drink	Edinburgh	4 Mar.	Coopers	130	Increase of 4s. per week, in substitution for war bonus of 2s. per week previously granted.
	Leith	16 Mar.	Coopers	5,000	Increase of 3/4d. per hour (9 1/4d. to 10d.).
Miscellaneous	Burton-on-Trent	1st pay-day in Mar.	Brewery workers	900	War bonus of 2s. per week to men earning up to 38s., and of 1s. per week to youths; men earning over 38s. and less than 40s. to have a bonus sufficient to bring their total earnings up to 40s.
	Greenock	1 Mar.	Sugar refinery workers	170	Increase of 2s. per week.
Local Authorities	London	First full pay after 2 Mar.	Boiler coverers	2,100	Increase of 3/4d. per hour (8d. to 8 1/2d.).
	Hull	1 Mar.	Corporation employees (excluding certain classes whose wages are regulated by arrangements between the Trade Unions concerned and outside employers).	532	War bonus of 2s. per week, granted in March, 1915, increased to 4s. per week, or such smaller amount as will bring the total weekly wages up to 50s.
	Burton-upon-Trent	29 Mar.	Ditto		War bonuses of 2s. per week to men (and women temporarily doing men's work) whose ordinary wages are 38s. per week or less, and of 1s. per week to youths under 21, and boys; men whose ordinary wages are over 38s. to be given such bonus as will bring them up to 40s.

Decrease in Wages.

Building	Bristol	1 Mar.	Labourers, scaffolders, engine drivers and stone sawyers	1,400	Bonus of 3/4d. per hour granted in December, 1915, for winter months, withdrawn.
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Reduction in Hours of Labour.

Coal Mining	North Wales	28 Mar.	Colliery stokers	300	Reduction of 4 hours per shift (12 to 8).
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Changes in April.—Full particulars will appear in the May Gazette of the following important changes arranged to take place in April:—

Coal Mining.—Increases of 12 per cent. on the basis rates of coal miners in Northumberland and of 6 1/4 per cent. in Scotland.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Increases to blastfurnacemen of 7 per cent. in Cleveland and Durham, of 9 1/2 per cent. in West Cumberland, and of 10 per cent. in South Staffordshire.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Increases of 1s. per ton to puddlers and 10 per cent. to iron millmen in the Midlands.

* Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, and Government employees.
 † To include any bonus, up to this amount, already paid by individual employers.
 ‡ This increase was given as the result of a finding by the Committee on Production (see p. 153) dated 3rd March, to take effect from 1st February, and to be regarded as a special advance to meet the lessened production arising from the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory supplies of ore, coal, &c.
 § To men who received advances of less than 3s. per week in May, 1915, the amount of war grant is the difference between those increases and 3s. per week.
 || In the case of one firm which granted an increase of 1s. per week in January, the increase in March was only 1s. per week.

SLIDING SCALE CHANGES IN WAGES.

THE results of the ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron in various districts are given in the Table below:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Increase of last Audit on		
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	
COAL (Average of all classes of Coal at pit's mouth.)		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Northumberland	{ Dec., 1915 } { Feb., 1916 }	13 11	1 6 3/4	4 7	
Pig Iron.	1916				
Cleveland	Jan.—Mar.	72 11 1/4	5 7	20 2 1/2	
Cumberland	Jan.—Mar.	115 0	7 6	32 2 1/2	
MANUFACTURED IRON.					
North of England (Bars, plates, bars and angles)	Jan.—Feb.	214 4 1/2	21 2 1/4	72 4 1/4	
Midlands	Jan.—Feb.	243 11 1/4	19 7	95 2 1/2	
West of Scotland (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods.)	Jan.—Feb.	225 7 1/4	22 11	83 4	

Coal.—In connection with the ascertainment of the

average selling price of Northumberland coal for the quarter ended 29th February, which showed an advance of 1s. 6 3/4d. as compared with the previous quarter, the wages of miners were advanced under the sliding scale by 12 per cent. on the basis rates, to take effect from the 3rd April, making the wages 90 per cent. above the standard of 1879.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the quarterly ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blast furnacemen were increased, under sliding scale, by 7 per cent. in Cleveland and Durham, making wages 51 per cent. above the standard of 1879, and by 9 1/2 per cent. in West Cumberland, raising wages to 93 3/4 per cent. above the standard of 1889.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the result of the bi-monthly ascertainment of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron was to increase the wages of puddlers by 1s. per ton (making the rate 12s. 9d.) and those of millmen by 10 per cent. Similar increases were granted to iron puddlers and millmen in the Midland Counties and in the West of Scotland, making the rates for puddlers in the Midlands 14s. 6d. per ton, plus a bonus of 6d. per ton, and in the West of Scotland 13s. 9d. per ton, plus a bonus of 1d. per heat.

PRICES OF WHEAT, FLOUR AND BREAD.

I.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

(a) Supplies.

Imports.—The quantity of wheat and wheat meal and flour imported into the United Kingdom during March, 1916, together with the increase or decrease compared with March, 1915 and 1914, is shown in the following Table:—

From	Quantity imported during March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with	
		March, 1915.	March, 1914.
WHEAT.			
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
From Russia	...	...	...
United States	6,379,200	+3,374,800	+4,236,812
British East Indies	...	-315,200	-125,500
Australia	253,900	+183,500	-1,643,540
Canada	1,723,500	+846,400	+451,355
Argentine Republic	824,000	-550,900	-534,600
Other Countries	40,000	+10,600	-415,600
TOTAL	9,220,600	+3,549,200	+719,427
WHEAT MEAL AND FLOUR			
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
From United States	470,400	-229,452	+120,971
Canada	464,000	+167,100	+111,397
Other Countries	18,908	-10,792	-111,690
TOTAL	953,308	-73,144	+120,678

During the first seven months (September-March) of the current cereal year 1915-16 the imports of wheat totalled 53,983,100 cwts., compared with 55,453,730 cwts. and 54,283,925 cwts. in the corresponding period of the 1914-15 and 1913-14 seasons. The figures for wheat meal and flour were 5,598,208 cwts., 6,746,581 cwts., and 7,413,209 cwts. respectively.

Deliveries of British Wheat.—In the following Table the deliveries of wheat by farmers at the various markets of England and Wales, from which returns are received by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, are shown for the 31 weeks of the current cereal year, together with the increase or decrease compared with a year ago and with two years ago:—

1915-16	Quantity delivered.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		1914-15.	1913-14.
Twenty-six weeks ended Feb. 26th, 1916	2,351,762	Quarters. +216,789	Quarters. +641,614
Five weeks ended April 1st, 1916	370,516	-32,410	+61,982
TOTAL	2,722,278	+184,379	+703,596

(b) Prices.

In the following Table particulars are given of the average declared values and market prices of wheat and flour during March, 1916, with the increase or decrease compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

	March, 1916.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		February, 1916.	March, 1915.
WHEAT:—			
Imported: average declared value per 480 lb.	s. d. 63 1	s. d. +1 2	s. d. +3 0
Imported: spot price at Liverpool per 480 lb.:			
No. 1 North Manitoba: Average price	68 7	-1 10*	+3 5
No. 2 Hard Winter Gulf (new): Average price	58 4	-6 5	-5 4†
British:—Gazette average price per 480 lb. (England & Wales)	57 9	...	+3 1
English white wheat per 504 lb. (London)	57 11	-3 9	-0 8
FLOUR:—			
Imported, average declared value per cwt.	17 0	+0 1	+1 4
Town Households No. 1 London (ex mill, less usual discount), average price per sack of 280 lb.	49 3	-3 6	-1 1

* Comparison with No. 1 North Manitoba new wheat.
 † Comparison with No. 2 Hard Winter. No quotations for Gulf wheat during March, 1915.

During March, 1916, nearly eight-ninths of the total wheat received came from the United States and Canada. The "spot" price at Liverpool of No. 1 North Manitoba wheat at the beginning of the month was just over 70s. per 480 lbs.; on the 20th the price was 68s. 10d.; from that date there was some decline, and the quotation for 31st was 67s. 2d. In the case of No. 2 Hard Winter new (Gulf) wheat the price on 1st March was 61s. 5d.; on 16th, 59s. 2d. to 59s. 7d.; and at the end of the month (28th to 31st) about 55s. The GAZETTE average price of British wheat showed a successive decrease during each week of the month; the returns received for the week ended 4th March giving an average of 59s. 4d. per quarter, and those for the week ended 1st April an average of 53s. 6d. The price of No. 1 town households flour in London varied from 51s. 6d. on 6th March to 46s. 6d. on 27th March. The price on 3rd April was 47s. 6d.; the present price (14th April) is 48s. 6d.

II.—BREAD.

BETWEEN 1st March and 1st April there was some decline in the price of bread, the average price on 1st April being 8 1/4d., as compared with 9d. a month ago and 8d. a year ago.

Returns received from 120 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations and 30 returns received from other sources are summarised below. In these Tables the predominant prices, i.e. the prices at which the bulk of the bread was sold, are utilised, but it will be understood that bread was also sold at both lower and higher prices.

District.	Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb.		
	1st April 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) compared with 1st March, 1916.	1st April, 1915.
London	d. 9	d. -3/4	d. +1
Northern Counties & Yorkshire	9	...	...
Lancashire & Cheshire	9	...	...
Midlands	8 3/4	-3/4	+3/4
Eastern Counties	8 3/4	...	...
South Eastern Counties	9	-3/4	+3/4
South Western Counties & Wales	8 3/4	...	...
Scotland	8 3/4	...	...
GREAT BRITAIN	8 3/4	-3/4	+3/4

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant prices were as under:—

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lb. on 1st April, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Amount per 4 lb.
London	d. 9	d. -3/4	d. +1	Mar., '16	-3/4
Birmingham	8 3/4 & 9	-3/4	+3/4	Mar., '16	-3/4
Bristol	8 3/4 & 9	...	+1	Jan., '16	+3/4
Cardiff	9	...	+1	Jan., '16	+1
Derby	9	...	+1	Jan., '16	+1
Hull	8 3/4 & 9	+3/4	+3/4	Mar., '16	+1/2
Ipswich	8 3/4	...	+1	Jan., '16	+3/4
Leeds	8 & 9	-3/4	+3/4	Mar., '16	-3/4
Leicester	8	-3/4	+3/4	Mar., '16	-3/4
Liverpool	8 3/4 to 9	-3/4	+3/4	Mar., '16	-3/4
Manchester	9	...	+1	Jan., '16	+3/4
Middlesbrough	8 3/4	...	+1	Jan., '16	+3/4
Norwich	8 3/4	+3/4	+3/4	Mar., '16	+3/4
Nottingham	7 3/4 to 8 3/4	-3/4	+3/4	Mar., '16	-3/4
Portsmouth	9	-3/4	+1	Mar., '16	-3/4
Southampton	9	...	+1	Jan., '16	+1/2
Stoke-on-Trent	8 3/4	...	+3/4	Feb., '16	+3/4
Wolverhampton	8 3/4	-3/4	+1	Mar., '16	-3/4
Aberdeen	7 3/4 & 8	...	-3/4	Oct., '15	-3/4
Dundee	8 3/4	...	+1	Jan., '16	+3/4
Edinburgh	9	...	+1	Dec., '15	+3/4
Glasgow	8 3/4	...	+1	Feb., '16	+3/4
Belfast	8 3/4	...	+1	Jan., '15	+3/4
Dublin	9	...	+1 1/4	Jan., '16	+1

There have been very few changes in the price of bread since 1st April.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS

IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.]

THE total number of cases of poisoning, of anthrax, and of toxic jaundice reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1916, was 51, of which 27 were due to lead poisoning, 1 to mercurial poisoning, 1 to phosphorus poisoning, 12 to anthrax, and 10 to toxic jaundice; 4 deaths due to anthrax and 4 due to toxic jaundice were also reported. In addition, 9 cases of lead poisoning (1 of which was fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During the three months ended March, 1916, the total number of cases of poisoning, of anthrax and of toxic jaundice reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 123, compared with 86 during the corresponding period of 1915. The number of deaths in 1916 was 12, as compared with 4 in 1915. In addition, there were 27 cases of lead poisoning (including 3 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first three months of 1916, compared with 32 cases (including 15 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1915.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Cases.			Deaths.		
	Month of Mar., 1916.	Three Months ended Mar., 1916.	Mar., 1915.	Month of Mar., 1916.	Three Months ended Mar., 1916.	Mar., 1915.
Lead Poisoning.						
AMONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN—						
Smelting of Metals ...	1	9	9	—	—	—
Brass Works ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	2	5	3	—	—	—
Printing ...	—	2	4	—	—	—
File Cutting ...	2	2	—	—	—	—
Tinning of Metals ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	2	7	6	—	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	3	4	5	—	—	—
*Pottery ...	1	5	4	—	—	1
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vitreous Enamelling ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	5	15	15	—	—	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	2	4	1	—	—	—
Coach and Car Painting ...	3	6	10	—	—	2
Shipbuilding ...	3	6	1	—	—	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	1	4	3	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	2	7	10	—	—	—
TOTAL IN FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS	27	77	72	—	—	3
Other Forms of Poisoning.						
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	9	27	32	1	3	15
MERCURIAL POISONING—						
Barometer and Thermometer Making ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	1	7	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	7	2	—	—	—
PHOSPHORUS POISONING ...	1	1	—	—	—	—
ARSENIC POISONING—						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL "OTHER FORMS OF POISONING"						
TOTAL	2	8	2	—	—	—
Anthrax.						
Wool ...	7	18	5	2	4	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	5	5	—	2	2	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	—	3	7	—	1	1
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ANTHRAX	12	26	12	4	7	1
TOXIC JAUNDICE ...	10	12	—	4	5	—
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT	51	123	86	8	12	4
GRAND TOTAL	60	150	118	9	15	19

* The person affected was a male.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1916.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.]

THE number of workpeople, exclusive of seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in March, 1916, was 284, a decrease of 34 on a month ago and an increase of 50 on a year ago. The mean number for March during the five years 1911-1915 was 226, the maximum being 261 and the minimum 152.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during March, 1916, numbered 48, compared with 35 in February, 1916, and 48 in March, 1915.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 92, a decrease of 20 on a month ago, and an increase of 4 on a year ago. There were 8 fatal accidents at quarries, compared with 4 a month ago and 7 a year ago.

The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in March was 133, a decrease of 29 on February, 1916, and an increase of 45 on March, 1915.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen during March, 1916, was 245, a decrease of 179 on a month ago and of 60 on a year ago.

The Table shows the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1916, February, 1916, and March, 1915:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1916, on a	
	Mar., 1916.	Feb., 1916.	Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
RAILWAY SERVICE—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	5	1	5	+ 4	—
Engine Drivers	2	1	3	+ 1	—
Firemen	2	2	1	—	+ 1
Guards (Passenger)	1	—	2	+ 1	—
Permanent Way Men (including labourers)	12	7	7	+ 5	+ 5
Porters	4	6	5	— 2	— 1
Shunters	6	4	6	+ 2	—
Mechanics	—	1	4	—	+ 4
Labourers	4	1	3	+ 3	+ 1
Miscellaneous	11	8	11	+ 3	—
Contractors' Servants	1	—	1	+ 1	—
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	48	35	48	+ 13	—
MINES—					
Underground	79	94	78	— 15	+ 1
Surface	13	18	10	+ 5	+ 3
TOTAL, MINES	92	112	88	+ 4	+ 4
Quarries over 20 feet deep	8	4	7	+ 4	+ 1
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—					
Textile—					
Cotton	8	8	5	—	+ 3
Wool and Worsted	1	2	1	— 1	— 3
Other Textiles	1	2	4	— 1	— 3
Non-Textile					
Extraction of Metals	6	3	1	+ 3	+ 5
Founding and Conversion of Metals	16	23	9	— 7	+ 7
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	2	5	4	— 3	— 2
Ship and Boat Building	10	20	3	— 10	+ 7
Gas	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Wood	1	4	3	— 3	— 2
Clay, Stone, &c.	2	1	—	+ 1	+ 2
Chemicals	9	9	5	—	+ 4
Laundries	—	—	—	—	—
Food	4	11	5	— 7	— 1
Drink	1	4	4	— 3	— 3
Paper, Printing, &c.	1	3	1	— 2	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	38	33	22	+ 5	+ 16
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	103	129	69	+ 26	+ 34
ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	14	12	9	+ 2	+ 5
Warehouses	4	4	2	—	+ 2
Buildings to which Act applies	12	17	8	— 5	+ 4
TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.	30	33	19	+ 3	+ 11
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Acts, 1894	3	5	3	— 2	—
TOTAL, EXCLUDING SEAMEN.	284	318	234	+ 34	+ 50
SEAMEN—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	10	47	40	— 37	— 30
Steam	224	360*	229	— 136	— 5
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	8	4	5	+ 4	+ 3
Steam	3	13	31	— 10	— 28
TOTAL, SEAMEN	245	424*	305	— 179	— 60
TOTAL, INCLUDING SEAMEN.	529	742*	539	— 213	— 10

* Includes 106 seamen lost in ss. *Malaja*.

BUILDING PLANS.

RETURNS received by the Department from 96 of the principal urban districts in the United Kingdom (exclusive of the County of London), giving the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans were passed during the first quarter of 1916, show that there was a net decrease of £184,096 (or 7.4 per cent.) compared with the corresponding period of 1915. The population of the districts included in the Returns is over 12,000,000:—

District and Population at Census 1911.	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops, Offices, Warehouses and other business premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, Additions and Alterations.	TOTAL.
Outer London (1,700,000)	£ 94,805	£ 80,984	£ 8,078	£ 29,800	£ 29,554	£ 243,221
Northern Counties (725,000)	18,200	42,045	1,775	29,640	18,519	110,179
Yorkshire (1,925,000)	86,649	204,072	58,115	89,760	46,175	484,771
Lancashire & Cheshire (2,375,000)	110,899	77,515	126,615	55,250	69,740	440,019
Midlands (1,200,000)	170,198	208,581	59,787	40,302	67,727	546,595
Other Districts in England (1,145,000)	61,675	4,980	4,450	3,350	33,233	107,688
Wales & Mon. (430,000)	22,610	570	4,340	14,988	10,576	53,084
Scotland (1,830,000)	41,380	132,171	6,480	91,896	77,576	349,503
Ireland (825,000)	74,660	5,850	44,565	3,575	12,273	140,923
TOTAL	681,076	756,768	314,205	358,561	365,373	2,475,983
First Quarter of 1916.						
Outer London (1,700,000)	£ 56,690	£ 46,935	£ 8,040	£ 22,888	£ 54,781	£ 189,334
Northern Counties (725,000)	6,845	30,525	9,081	2,890	10,837	60,178
Yorkshire (1,925,000)	103,470	454,433	102,350	35,223	76,873	772,349
Lancashire & Cheshire (2,375,000)	59,595	123,078	15,227	13,020	109,876	320,796
Midlands (1,200,000)	42,435	270,701	38,701	5,950	104,251	462,038
Other Districts in England (1,145,000)	25,620	50	2,440	5,750	25,484	59,344
Wales & Mon. (430,000)	9,250	15,000	250	—	5,770	30,270
Scotland (1,830,000)	48,370	120,547	18,895	11,380	59,536	258,728
Ireland (825,000)	29,480	1,630	79,910	4,000	23,830	138,850
TOTAL	381,755	1,062,899	274,894	101,101	471,238	2,291,887

Compared with the corresponding period of 1915 there were increases in the values of factories and workshops, other buildings, additions and alterations for which plans had been passed, while all other buildings showed decreases, which was most marked in the case of churches, schools and public buildings (71.8 per cent.).

There was a considerable increase in Yorkshire (59.3 per cent.), but all the other districts showed large decreases except Ireland, which was only 1.5 per cent. The most noticeable decreases were Northern Counties (45.4 per cent.), "other districts in England" (44.9 per cent.), and Wales and Monmouthshire (43.0 per cent.).

The following Table shows, for each class of building and for each district, the increase or decrease in the quarter ended 31st March, 1916, compared with the corresponding quarter of 1915:—

CLASS OF BUILDING:	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	
	Amount.	Per cent.
Dwelling Houses	£ 299,321	— 43.9
Factories and Workshops	+ 306,131	+ 40.5
Shops and Other Business Premises	— 39,311	— 12.5
Churches, Schools and Public Buildings	— 257,460	— 71.8
Other Buildings, Additions and Alterations	+ 105,865	+ 29.0
TOTAL	— 184,096	— 7.4
DISTRICTS:		
Outer London	£ 53,887	— 22.2
Northern Counties	— 50,001	— 45.4
Yorkshire	+ 287,578	+ 59.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	— 119,223	— 27.1
Midlands	— 84,557	— 15.5
Other Districts in England	— 48,344	— 44.9
Wales and Monmouthshire	— 22,814	— 43.0
Scotland	— 90,775	— 26.0
Ireland	— 2,073	— 1.5
TOTAL	— 184,096	— 7.4

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN MARCH.*

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

THE total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the five weeks ended 31st March, 1916, was 17,676, as compared with 16,959 during the four weeks ended 25th February, 1916, and with 32,916 during the four weeks ended 26th March, 1915. Of the total of 17,676 claims 10,513 (or 59 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 7,163 (or 41 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the five weeks was 3,940, 3,539, 3,494, 3,248, and 3,455, the average being 3,535 as compared with 4,240 in the four preceding weeks and with 8,229 in March, 1915.

The total amount of unemployment benefit paid direct during the five weeks ended 31st March, 1916, was £3,814, and through associations during the four weeks ended 25th March, 1916, £2,238.

Districts.	Average Weekly No. of Claims Made.			Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.		
	Mar., 1916.	Feb., 1916.	Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1916.	Feb., 1916.	Mar., 1915.
London	1,361	1,516	2,162	£ 334	£ 407	£ 585
South-Eastern	265	374	674	124	183	329
South-Western	426	416	643	143	146	185
West Midlands	123	137	396	38	46	160
East Midlands	106	128	410	42	39	169
Yorkshire	160	225	606	59	65	205
North-Western	375	547	1,250	142	259	588
Northern	56	75	413	16	21	131
Scotland	185	225	688	63	97	280
Wales	34	54	295	15	22	76
Ireland	441	543	692	347	473	438
UNITED KINGDOM	3,535	4,240	8,229	1,323	1,758	3,

cluding those on the Registers at the beginning of the period), in the principal groups of trades:—

Trades.	Proportion of Vacancies filled to Vacancies notified.		Proportion of Vacancies filled to Registrations.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Insured Trades—				
Building, Construction of Works and Sawmilling	79.5	96.1	38.1	97.3
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Construction of Vehicles.	83.8	94.6	52.6	89.0
Uninsured Trades—				
Textiles	32.7	69.5	51.5	38.5
Dress	40.7	82.0	19.2	23.2
Transport	68.3	81.5	37.2	17.7
Agriculture	33.9	52.4	23.8	8.8
Paper, Prints, &c.	30.6	71.7	30.9	35.5
Chemicals, Explosives, &c.	93.6	96.3	45.6	10.9
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging	51.8	83.5	37.2	29.4
Commercial and Clerical	65.8	73.3	11.8	12.6
Domestic	33.5	72.5	21.4	26.1
General Labourers	86.3	—	27.1	—
TOTAL	75.3	81.7	38.1	19.1

The average daily number of registrations and vacancies filled for the periods stated are shown below:—

District or Department.	Insured Trades.			Uninsured Trades.		
	4 weeks ended 10 Mar., 1916.	4 weeks ended 11 Feb., 1916.	4 weeks ended 12 Mar., 1915.	4 weeks ended 10 Mar., 1916.	4 weeks ended 11 Feb., 1916.	4 weeks ended 12 Mar., 1915.
	REGISTRATIONS*					
London	545	593	714	2,600	2,458	1,568
South-Eastern	214	238	254	640	619	363
South-Western	208	227	295	456	475	316
West Midlands	255	291	219	613	598	433
East Midlands	136	160	153	326	297	264
Yorkshire	202	217	291	653	626	445
North-Western	415	435	448	1,233	1,152	826
Northern	127	143	227	503	522	295
Scotland	256	290	305	815	872	553
Wales	162	169	264	293	295	184
Ireland	151	179	169	299	351	254
Men	2,363	2,683	3,262	1,639	1,693	1,935
Women	231	172	26	5,345	5,098	3,890
Boys	69	78	52	644	671	522
Girls	8	9	4	802	873	704
TOTAL	2,671	2,942	3,344	8,431	8,335	5,551
	VACANCIES FILLED.					
London	273	296	227	991	928	732
South-Eastern	148	141	137	207	209	150
South-Western	111	132	266	180	171	176
West Midlands	214	216	125	239	240	180
East Midlands	121	144	75	103	104	117
Yorkshire	166	204	166	188	208	217
North-Western	257	265	139	334	370	393
Northern	128	137	151	107	123	115
Scotland	272	306	149	279	302	256
Wales	115	130	188	85	90	77
Ireland	23	32	28	48	49	69
Men	1,416	1,664	1,586	716	778	919
Women	310	235	19	1,358	1,334	910
Boys	56	61	44	328	333	302
Girls	16	13	2	339	349	321
TOTAL	1,828	2,023	1,651	2,741	2,794	2,482

INSURED TRADES.*

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 61,124 (men 53,833, women 5,486, boys 1,611, and girls 194). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 85,371 (men 73,710, women 9,098, boys 2,136, and girls 427). These figures exclude 2,975 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed during the period, and represent separate individuals.

Of the registrations among men, 52.5 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 35.9 per cent. in engineering, and 8.5 per cent. in shipbuilding.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at 10th March was 23,009, as compared with 23,736 on 11th February, 1916, and 27,588 on 12th March, 1915.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 52,196, a daily average of 2,175, as compared with 2,493 in the previous four weeks, and 2,145 in the four weeks ended 12th March, 1915. The number of

* Including re-registration of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period.
* The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II. of the National Insurance Act.

vacancies filled was 43,876, a daily average of 1,828, as compared with 2,023 in the previous four weeks, and 1,651 in the four weeks ended 12th March, 1915.

Building and construction of works account for 49.0 per cent. of the total vacancies notified for men, and 47.9 per cent. of the total vacancies filled by men, the corresponding figures for engineering and shipbuilding being 38.9 and 10.2 per cent. of the vacancies notified, and 40.9 and 9.6 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations.—The number of registrations during the period was 195,985 (men 37,775, women 124,312, boys 15,088, and girls 18,810). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 304,487 (men 56,018, women 200,385, boys 19,945, and girls 28,139). These figures exclude 6,365 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

Among men 21.1 per cent. of the total registrations were in the transport, &c., trades, and 33.3 per cent. as general labourers, while of the women registered 23.7 per cent. were in domestic offices or services, and 32.3 per cent. in explosives, &c. Commercial and clerical occupations accounted for 9.5 per cent. of the registrations among men, and 6.8 per cent. among women.

The number of workpeople on the Register at 10th March was 112,353 (men 18,475, women 80,359*, boys 4,667, and girls 8,852), as compared with 106,418 on 11th February, 1916, and 59,416 on 12th March, 1915.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 89,153, a daily average of 3,715, as compared with 5,165 in the previous four weeks, and 3,601 in the four weeks ended 12th March, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 65,791, a daily average of 2,741, as compared with 2,794 in the preceding four weeks, and 2,482 in the four weeks ended 12th March, 1915.

Of the vacancies notified for men, 23.9 per cent. were in the transport, &c., trades, and 20.7 per cent. as general labourers. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 25.0 per cent. and 27.5 per cent. Among women 38.3 per cent. of the vacancies notified were in domestic offices or services, 8.3 per cent. in the textile trades, and 19.8 per cent. in explosives, &c. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 35.2 per cent., 7.3 per cent., and 24.1 per cent.

Of the vacancies filled 5,590 (men 1,930, women 3,470, boys 89, and girls 101) were known to be for less than a week's employment, while of the 16,005 vacancies filled by boys and girls 3,858 (boys 1,749 and girls 2,109), or 24.1 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men who obtained casual employment through the Exchanges was 391, and the number of casual jobs found for them was 3,182 (2,881 for dock labourers and 301 for cloth porters at Manchester), a daily average of 133, compared with 106 in the preceding four weeks, and 230 in the four weeks ended 12th March, 1915. During the period there were also 3,739 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House system for dock labourers at Liverpool.

UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

As in February, large shortages were reported of fitters, turners, riveters, &c., in engineering and shipbuilding centres; labourers; colliery and quarry workers; chemical workers; navvies; carpenters; transport workers; spinners and weavers (cotton and wool); female domestic servants; and juvenile messengers.

There was also an unsatisfied demand for metal machinists; dressmakers, &c.; and silk and flax workers.

Conspicuous among the local shortages reported were workers in jewellery (Birmingham); juvenile workers in chocolate and tobacco manufacture (Bristol); painters (Liverpool); and cement workers (Grays).

* Of the women on the Register, about 15 per cent. were known to be in employment, and a further 17 per cent. were reported to have never been in employment.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES—FOUR WEEKS ENDED 10th MARCH, 1916.
Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 10th March, 1916.

A.—INSURED TRADES.

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS,†	ADULTS.				JUVENILES.			
	REGISTRATIONS.		VACAN- CIES.	Filled during Period.	REGISTRATIONS.		VACAN- CIES.	Filled during Period.
	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.*			On Register at End of Period.	On Register at Beginning of Period.		
Building:—								
Carpenters, Joiners, &c.	2,202	6,210	2,068	3,790	16	21	4	19
Bricklayers	1,216	2,472	1,041	926	1	3	1	—
Masons	710	1,113	808	118	1	1	1	—
Painters, Decorators, &c.	4,243	5,324	2,413	2,029	1	8	1	21
Plumbers and Glaziers	404	1,088	433	344	5	14	2	13
Other skilled occupations	882	1,531	916	221	—	2	—	2
Labourers	1,652	6,639	1,503	3,395	6	43	8	60
Construction of Works	1,123	5,395	1,033	5,469	1	8	2	4
Sawmilling...	176	433	153	217	3	10	3	12
Shipbuilding:—								
Platers, Riveters	273	555	55	414	23	60	20	46
Shipwrights	72	1,911	292	1,355	—	3	1	2
Labourers	361	2,355	361	1,491	41	159	56	137
Mechanical Engineering:—								
Moulders (Iron and Steel)	592	1,277	576	386	6	24	5	25
Smiths	240	618	234	266	4	18	4	11
Erectors, Fitters, Turners	1,514	6,734	1,947	4,738	221	571	203	443
Metal Machinists	658	2,539	731	1,452	77	281	75	221
Wiremen	222	767	241	391	33	39	25	33
Other skilled occupations	731	2,333	670	1,182	23	128	25	101
Labourers	1,395	6,082	1,350	5,520	59	228	55	164
Making of Vehicles	442	1,000	393	212	13	18	6	19
Cabinet Making, &c.	242	345	173	85	2	3	1	3
TOTAL MALES	19,350	56,721	17,391	34,001	536	1,642	497	1,337
TOTAL FEMALES ‡	3,618	5,541	4,942	8,154	232	195	179	384
GRAND TOTAL	22,968	62,262	22,333	42,155	768	1,837	676	1,721

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.
† Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.
‡ These figures are mainly in respect of the Engineering and Vehicle Trades.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.	ADULTS.									JUVENILES.					
	On Register at Beginning of Period.			Registrations during Period.*			On Register at End of Period.			Vacancies Filled during Period.			Vacancies Filled during Period.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying	94	12	106	215	38	253	127	23	150	162	37	199	15	7	22
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	168	335	503	898	1,253	2,151	214	640	854	937	696	1,633	220	375	595
Textile:—															
Cotton	138	796	934	610	2,596	3,206	167	790	957	425	1,161	1,586	84	154	238
Wool and Worsted	65	134	199	237	506	743	59	195	254	149	213	362	39	60	99
Silk, Flax, Linen, &c.	96	611	707	305	1,826	1,881	111	674	785	178	1,001	1,179	101	329	430
Dress:—															
Boot and Shoe Workers	106	66	172	315	257	572	108	75	183	129	177	306	75	60	135
Tailors	208	568	776	293	1,017	1,310	184	474	658	47	530	577	25	183	208
Dressmakers and Milliners	—	652	652	—	1,054	1,054	—	595	595	—	336	336	—	182	182
Seamstresses	—	1,193	1,193	—	2,814	2,814	—	1,160	1,160	—	827	827	—	220	220
Others	38	273	311	61	644	705	29	197	226	21	112	133	27	65	92
Conveyance of Men, Goods, &c.:—															
On Railways	106	—	106	214	—	214	96	—	96	—	—	—	—	—	—
On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c.	3,094	1,507	4,601	8,088	3,256	11,558	1,764	4,830	4,500	842	5,133	5,975	92	837	2,660
Agriculture	307	404	711	640	2,504	3,144	329	1,546	1,875	230	257	487	55	23	78
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	129	380	509	285	829	1,114	134	367	501	129	430	559	113	464	577
Wood, Furniture, Fittings, &c.	217	95	312	519	255										

PAUPERISM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.]

The number of paupers relieved on a day in March, 1916, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 162 per 10,000, the same rate as in February.

Compared with the previous month the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 483 (or 0.2 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers decreased by 481 (or 0.3 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 2. Eight districts showed no change in the rate per 10,000 of population, and 10 showed increases, the largest being in the Dublin district (7 per 10,000). The other 17 districts showed decreases. The largest decreases were in the Manchester, Cardiff and Swansea, and Coatbridge and Airdrie districts (3 per 10,000).

Compared with March, 1915, the total number of paupers decreased by 44,251 (or 12.9 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 25. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 20,153 (or 12.4 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers by 24,098 (or 13.4 per cent.). Every district showed a decrease. The largest decreases in the rate per 10,000 of population were in the Central Metropolitan district (46) and in the East Metropolitan district (37). Eight other districts showed a decrease of 30 and under 40 per 10,000, 12 districts a decrease of 20 and under 30 per 10,000, and 14 districts a decrease of under 20 per 10,000.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in March, 1916.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
<i>Metropolis.</i>						
West District	10,248	1,767	12,015	148	- 1	- 28
North District	12,979	5,908	18,887	188	- 2	- 33
Central District	3,806	1,270	5,136	361	- 2	- 46
East District	11,878	4,495	16,373	746	+ 2	- 37
South District	20,545	12,079	32,624	173	...	- 30
TOTAL, Metropolis	59,516	25,519	85,035	188	- 1	- 33
<i>West Ham</i>	<i>4,438</i>	<i>9,919</i>	<i>14,357</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>- 1</i>	<i>- 27</i>
<i>Other Districts.</i>						
Newcastle District ...	2,101	3,793	5,894	121	+ 5	- 30
Stockton & Tees District	1,138	3,260	4,398	174	+ 2	- 32
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,984	3,207	7,201	88	- 2	- 18
Wigan District	1,736	4,546	6,332	144	- 2	- 27
Manchester District ...	8,815	5,621	14,436	140	- 3	- 30
Liverpool District	10,166	10,572	20,738	182	- 1	- 24
Bradford District	1,928	1,569	3,497	94	...	- 13
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,182	2,358	3,540	92	- 1	- 17
Leeds District	2,438	2,885	5,323	111	- 2	- 20
Barnsley District	837	2,843	3,680	118	- 1	- 6
Sheffield District	2,833	3,277	6,110	123	...	- 27
Hull District	1,804	5,057	6,861	217	...	- 30
North Staffordshire	2,060	4,639	6,729	165	...	- 30
Nottingham District ...	1,897	3,846	5,743	123	- 1	- 24
Leicester District	1,377	2,448	3,825	163	- 1	- 30
Wolverhampton District ...	3,441	6,129	9,570	138	...	- 29
Birmingham District ...	6,435	4,278	10,713	126	- 1	- 29
Bristol District	2,666	3,697	6,363	162	+ 1	- 15
Cardiff & Swansea	2,208	5,291	7,499	167	- 3	- 29
TOTAL, "Other Districts" ...	59,106	79,346	138,452	138	- 1	- 25
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	3,481	17,418	20,899	219	+ 2	- 19
Paisley & Greenock District	729	2,546	3,275	171	- 2	- 14
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,492	4,815	6,307	156	...	- 11
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	636	2,003	2,639	131	- 2	- 19
Aberdeen	438	2,729	3,167	189	+ 3	- 15
Coatbridge and Airdrie	288	1,504	1,792	173	- 3	- 23
TOTAL for the above } Scottish Districts }	7,064	31,015	38,079	188	...	- 17
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	5,869	4,792	10,661	259	+ 7	- 17
Belfast District	2,614	831	3,445	81	+ 1	- 13
Cork, Waterford and ...	3,303	4,206	7,509	306	+ 3	- 5
Limerick District	298	148	446	130	+ 2	- 15
TOTAL for the above } Irish Districts }	12,174	9,977	22,151	197	+ 3	- 15
Total for above 35 Districts in March, 1916 }	142,298	155,776	298,074	162	...	- 25

* Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards, and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.
† Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

I.—IMPORTS IN MARCH.

[Note.—Certain goods which, at the time of importation, were the property of H.M. Government or of the Governments of the Allies, are not included in the imports.]

(a) VALUES.

The total values of the imports (less re-exports) in March, 1916, was £77,281,397, an increase of £9,886,481 (or 14.7 per cent.) compared with March, 1915, and of £19,870,377 (or 34.6 per cent.) compared with March, 1914. To a large extent these increases are due to the higher prices prevailing in March, 1916. Compared with both a year ago and two years ago there were large increases in the value of the imports of grain and flour, dutiable articles of food, raw cotton, wood and timber, and chemicals, dyes, &c. Compared with March, 1914, there were also large increases under the headings meat, raw wool, and oil seeds, nuts, oils, &c.

The figures for the four principal groups into which the imports are classified are shown below:—

Groups.	Value of Imports (less re-exports) in March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in March, 1916, compared with	
		March, 1915.	March, 1914.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 34,330,138	+ 4,860,221	+ 11,909,117
Raw Materials and Articles mainly un-manufactured	27,663,480	+ 2,288,275	+ 8,540,997
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	14,840,879	+ 2,553,589	- 810,068
Miscellaneous	446,900	+ 184,396	+ 230,331
TOTAL	77,281,397	+ 9,886,481	+ 19,870,377

(b) QUANTITIES.

The following Table gives the quantities of some of the principal articles imported during March, 1916:—

Principal Articles.	Quantity imported (less quantity re-exported) during March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in March, 1916, compared with	
		March, 1915.	March, 1914.
Food, Drink and Tobacco—			
Grain and Flour cwt.	17,070,235	+ 878,475	+ 2,921,847
Dead Meat cwt.	1,900,075	- 329,572	- 346,930
Butter and Margarine cwt.	427,983	- 114,145	- 104,983
Cheese cwt.	157,554	- 23,112	- 40,115
Eggs Great Hundreds (120's)	469,255	- 592,594	- 1,625,915
Cocoa, Raw lb.	29,291,472	+ 16,354,421	+ 19,861,013
Sugar cwt.	3,615,500	+ 1,236,972	+ 619,318
Tea lb.	17,483,771	+ 1,284,945	+ 2,717,666
Tobacco lb.	6,102,516	+ 4,840,259	- 5,566,149
Metals and Manufactures of Metals—			
Iron Ore tons	554,378	+ 5,555	+ 37,253
Other Metallic Ores tons	110,408	- 5,585	- 19,982
Iron and Steel Manufactures tons	58,776	- 5,142	- 155,565
Copper, Lead, Tin and Zinc tons	28,866	- 19,433	- 19,069
Machinery tons	5,446	+ 76	+ 2,968
Textiles:—			
Raw Cotton cents of 100 lbs.	2,505,484	- 670,442	+ 212,892
Sheep's or Lambs' Wool lb.	88,821,315	- 36,961,758	+ 35,976,578
Flax, Hemp and Jute tons	37,027	- 33,703	+ 9,455
Silk Broadstuffs, wholly of silk yds.	3,510,538	- 1,147,022	- 4,268,335
Silk Broadstuffs, mixed materials yds.	4,197,915	+ 111,099	+ 2,040,958
Miscellaneous:—			
Wood, hewn, sawn or split loads	362,759	+ 14,996	+ 37,032
Flax or Linseed qrs.	349,148	+ 189,531	+ 11,947
Petroleum galls.	24,254,028	- 43,075,708	- 23,175,946
Hides, wet and dry cwt.	78,642	- 48,227	+ 10,399
Wood Pulp tons	33,431	- 9,467	- 5,046
Rubber cents of 100 lbs.	74,443	- 1,697	+ 36,363
Leather cwt.	68,787	- 76,082	- 14,902
Paper cwt.	953,256	+ 67,044	+ 90,629

Compared with a year ago, the imports of raw cocoa from British West Africa showed a large increase; there were also increases in the quantities received from Brazil and the British West Indies. Imports of refined sugar from the United States amounted to over 1,000,000 cwt. in March, 1916, compared with practically nil a year ago; unrefined sugar from Cuba showed a sevenfold increase. There were large decreases in the quantities of raw wool received from Australia and New Zealand, British South Africa, the Argentine, and the West Coast of South America; the imports from the British East Indies, however, increased by 4,000,000 lbs. The quantity of petroleum fuel oil imported in March, 1915, was nearly 30,000,000 gallons; in March, 1916, the quantity was only 280,000 gallons.

Compared with March, 1914, there were increases in the imports of wheat, barley and maize; oats showed a decrease; in the case of rice there was not much change. The shortage in the supplies of eggs was due to absence of Russian, French and Italian imports and to decreases in the quantities coming from other countries (except Egypt). Imports of raw cocoa from British West Africa increased from 3,250,000 lbs. to over 21,250,000 lbs. Tea imports from the British East Indies (including Ceylon) increased by over 4,700,000 lbs. Petroleum imports showed a decrease under most headings, more particularly as regards fuel oil and gas oil.

II.—IMPORTS IN JANUARY—MARCH, 1916.

During the three months ended March, 1916, the total value of the imports (less re-exports) was £202,122,973, compared with £186,066,604 for the three months ended March, 1915, and £167,635,425 for the three months ended March, 1914.

III.—EXPORTS IN MARCH.

(a) VALUES.

The value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom during March, 1916, amounted to £37,598,119, an increase of £7,422,053 (or 24.6 per cent.) compared with a year ago, and a decrease of £6,920,542 (or 15.5 per cent.) compared with March, 1914.

The value of the exports during March, 1916, was higher than that for any month since the war began, the previous highest month being July, 1914, with a total value of £44,405,380.

The increase compared with March, 1915, was mainly in iron and steel and manufactures thereof, and in cotton and woollen manufactures. Compared with March, 1914, there were large decreases in the value of the exports of machinery and cotton manufactures.

The figures for the four principal groups into which the exports are classified are shown below:—

Groups.	Value of Exports in March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in March, 1916, compared with	
		March, 1915.	March, 1914.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 2,416,218	+ 357,174	+ 19,936
Raw Materials and Articles mainly un-manufactured	4,628,126	+ 284,848	- 1,228,570
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	29,419,887	+ 6,499,240	- 5,911,616
Miscellaneous	1,103,888	+ 280,791	+ 199,708
TOTAL	37,598,119	+ 7,422,053	- 6,920,542

(b) QUANTITIES.

The following Table gives the quantities of some of the principal articles exported during March, 1916:—

Principal Articles.	March, 1916.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in March, 1916, compared with	
		March, 1915.	March, 1914.
Coal and Metals and Metal Manufactures:			
Coal—Steam tons	2,243,546	- 752,083	- 2,051,187
“ Other sorts tons	789,387	- 192,257	- 825,692
Total of Coal—tons	3,032,933	- 944,340	- 2,876,789
Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof:—			
Pig Iron tons	87,283	+ 67,111	- 5,081
Railroad Materials tons	5,847	+ 24,199	- 51,748
Plates and Sheets (except galvanised and tinned) tons	45,100	+ 30,650	+ 26,871
Galvanised Sheets tons	13,866	- 15,803	- 54,782
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets tons	39,482	+ 3,312	- 1,381
Tubes and Pipes and Fittings, wrought and cast tons	13,223	- 8,984	- 13,304
Steel Bars, Angles, Rods and Shapes or Sections tons	50,243	+ 12,208	+ 31,057
Other Iron and Steel Manufactures tons	46,061	+ 832	- 35,865
Total Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof } tons	301,105	+ 65,127	- 104,233
Copper and Manufactures thereof:			
Lead, Tin, Zinc and Manufactures thereof tons	1,643	- 826	- 3,062
Cutlery and Hardware tons	3,317	- 2,257	- 2,603
Machinery tons	39,332	- 6,515	- 51,438
Textiles:—			
Wool, Sheep's or Lambs' lb.	1,004,500	- 1,281,300	- 2,665,100
Cotton Yarn lb.	13,446,200	- 2,106,900	- 6,378,100
“ Piece Goods yds.	424,729,500	+ 72,294,400	+ 165,645,500
Woollen Tissues yds.	10,902,800	+ 3,127,900	+ 4,287,400
Worsted Tissues yds.	4,379,300	+ 307,600	+ 1,813,800
Jute Piece Goods yds.	10,132,100	- 3,590,300	- 4,005,900
Linon Piece Goods yds.	13,808,900	+ 3,750,200	- 5,069,400
Miscellaneous:—			
Tobacco and Snuff lb.	2,981,267	- 442,648	- 934,452
Boots and Shoes dozen pairs	133,212	+ 2,357	- 20,813
Chemical Manures tons	28,888	- 30,552	- 44,659
Painters' Colours cwt.	153,165	+ 11,913	- 47,264
Paper cwt.	250,561	+ 32,594	- 52,144

Compared with both March, 1915, and March, 1914, there was a general decrease in the exports of coal (except to France), and an increase in the exports of pig iron to France and Italy; the decrease on 1914 in the case of pig iron being more than accounted for by the stoppage of exports to

Germany. The decrease in railroad materials is largely attributable to British South Africa and the British East Indies, and the increase in plates and sheets, steel bars, angles, &c., to France, while the decrease in galvanised sheets and in copper was mainly due to reduced exports to British India. The exports of hardware showed a decrease, mainly confined to France as compared with 1915, but almost general as compared with 1914. The decline in machinery exports compared with 1914 was also general, except in the case of sewing machines, which showed an increase on both 1915 and 1914.

The exports of wool to the United States showed a great decrease. The decrease in cotton yarn, compared with a year ago, was due to the smaller exports to Switzerland and the Netherlands, while the increase in cotton piece goods was fairly general, France being the chief exception; compared with 1914, France showed a large increase in both yarn and piece goods, while most other countries showed a decrease. The increase in woollen tissues was mainly under the heading of light woollens; compared with 1915 the increase was widely distributed, while compared with 1914 France took almost all. Worsted tissues to the United States showed a large decrease, especially in comparison with two years ago; but increases were shown by the Argentine, Canada and Australia. The decrease in jute piece goods compared with 1915 is attributable to the Argentine; the decrease on 1914 was general (excepting France).

Paper for packing showed a great decrease; but printing paper showed a large increase on a year ago and little change on 1914.

IV.—EXPORTS IN JANUARY—MARCH, 1916.

During the three months ended March, 1916, the value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom amounted to £110,691,068, an increase of £26,090,473 compared with the corresponding period of 1915, and a decrease of £22,895,555 compared with the first three months of 1914.

V.—EXPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

The value of the re-exports during March, 1916, was £8,811,497, compared with £8,067,133 in March, 1915, and £9,536,295 in March, 1914.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: SEAMAN ASHORE ON SHIP'S BUSINESS: SLIP ON ORANGE PEEL IN STREET.

The skipper of a schooner which was lying in dock went ashore along with the owner, and proceeded with him to the office of the ship's brokers to discuss with them a matter of business. Having finished their business, the two men went into a public-house, where the owner left the skipper. Later, on his way back to the ship, the skipper had to walk along a very busy and crowded street, in which were stalls for the sale of various commodities. As he was walking in this street he slipped on a piece of orange peel, fell and broke his thigh. He claimed compensation under the Act. When he fell it was given in evidence that he was carrying some meat, but there was a conflict of evidence whether he had bought the meat for the crew by order of the owner.

The County Court Judge held that the claimant had gone ashore on the ship's business, and that he was obliged to traverse this busy street on his way back to his ship; that, owing to the fruit and other stalls in the street, a passenger walking along it ran a greater risk of slipping on orange peel than persons in other and quieter streets; and that the accident arose out of and in the course of the claimant's employment. He therefore made an award of compensation. The owner appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that any person walking in the streets was exposed to the risk of slipping on orange peel, and it was impossible to say there was more risk in this particular street than in many other streets. The accident had, it might be assumed, happened "in the course of" the claimant's employment, but to award him compensation was to strike out of the Act entirely the words "arising out of" the employment. There was nothing in the claimant's employment that made him more likely to slip on orange peel than anyone else, and therefore the Judge was wrong in awarding compensation. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Chapman v. Owner of Ship "John W. Pearn."*—Court of Appeal.—15th March, 1916.

PAYMENT OF WAGES TO SOLDIERS: IS A WORKMAN IN RECEIPT OF COMPENSATION STILL AN EMPLOYEE?

Soon after the outbreak of war a Co-operative Society issued a circular to their employees stating that "During the period of the war it has been decided to pay employees who have been called up or volunteered for service full wages, less Government allowances and thrift fund contributions." This circular was dated 4th September, 1914, and on the 11th September, to make its meaning clearer, a note in red ink was added to it, which stated that "Henceforward these conditions will apply only to those employees in the service of the Society prior to the declaration of war."

A workman in the employment of the Society met with an accident in February, 1914, in respect of which he was entitled to compensation under the Act, and received weekly payments. In April, 1914, he partially resumed work, being helped in his work by other workmen, but his trade union interfered and he had to desist. After this he continued to receive weekly payments. In March, 1915, he had fully recovered and returned to work. In May, 1915, he enlisted in the army.

Later he brought an action in the County Court to recover from the Society wages in the terms of the circular, and judgment was given in his favour for £35. The Society appealed to the High Court.

It was argued on behalf of the Society that he was not in their service prior to the declaration of war as provided by the note in red ink to the circular. The Court dismissed the appeal. They held that if a man is away from his work owing to illness, and so not rendering service at the moment, he is still an employee. In this case the circular with the note added to it constituted a contract between the Society and any employee within its scope who enlisted, i.e., any employee who had been continuously in their employment from some date before the war to the time of enlistment. The plaintiff came within this description, and he was therefore entitled to the excess of his wages over his army pay.—*Warburton v. Co-operative Wholesale Society.*—King's Bench Division.—28th March, 1916.

AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION: AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: MAN EMPLOYED ONLY TWO DAYS A WEEK: WORKING INDEPENDENTLY REST OF WEEK.

Where compensation is payable to an injured workman under the Act, it is calculated as a sum not exceeding 50 per cent. of his average weekly earnings during the previous twelve months, when he has been in the employment of the same employer during those twelve months. If he has made concurrent contracts of service, under which he works at one time for one employer and at another time for another, his average weekly earnings are computed as if all his earnings under the several employers were earnings in the employment of him for whom he was working when he was injured.

A man worked two days a week as gardener for an employer. The other four days of the week he worked on his own account, chiefly in cutting and selling firewood and cultivating a garden of his own. His wages for the two days he worked for the employer were 10s. a week, but he earned nothing more during the week in the nature of wages. While working for his employer, trimming a hedge, he met with an accident, as a result of which he lost an eye. His employer admitted liability to pay compensation, and the only question for the Judge, in a claim heard in the County Court, was as to the amount of compensation payable.

The Judge held that it was proved that a jobbing gardener would earn wages in that district of from 25s. to 30s. a week, and he awarded the claimant 12s. 6d. a week. The employer appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that, as in this case the Court knew to a penny how much wages the workman earned from his only employer in the previous year, the compensation was a simple question of arithmetic, and could not exceed 50 per cent. of those wages. No regard could be had to the fact that his income was derived partly under a contract of service and partly from work not within the Act. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Sales v. Abbot.*—Court of Appeal.—22nd March, 1916.

OFFER BY EMPLOYERS TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO WORKMEN ENLISTING: ACCEPTANCE BY ENLISTMENT: CONTRACT.

A Co-operative Society passed a resolution soon after the declaration of war that married workmen in their employment who should join the army should be paid half wages and should be reinstated in their situations at the end of the war. A notice in accordance with this resolution was posted up in various parts of the Society's premises.

A workman whose wages from the Society amounted to £2 5s. a week enlisted in the Mechanical Transport Corps of the army at 6s. a day. He was a married man with three children. The secretary of the Society gave him a form to fill up, and arranged to pay £1 2s. 6d. a week to his wife. This payment was made to the wife for five or six weeks, and then the Society refused to pay any longer, on the ground that the soldier had not lost pecuniarily by enlisting, and therefore was not entitled to half wages. He then brought an action in the High Court against the Society asking for a declaration that under a contract with the defendants he was entitled to £1 2s. 6d. a week. There was some contest of evidence as to what had passed between the plaintiff and the secretary before the plaintiff enlisted, but the jury found that he had never been informed that the offer of half wages did not apply to him. It was contended on behalf of the Society that there was no consideration for their offer, and therefore no contract binding in law.

The Judge held that the fact that the plaintiff had joined the army was sufficient consideration for the promise to pay him half wages; that the defendants were bound by contract to pay him half wages; and that he was entitled to the declaration he asked for. Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiff.—*Budgett v. Stratford Co-operative Society.*—King's Bench Division.—23rd March, 1916.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

CASES UNDER CONCILIATION ACT, 1896, AND MUNITIONS OF WAR ACTS, 1915 AND 1916.

CARTERS, LIVERPOOL.—A difference having arisen between the Master Cart Owners' Associations of Liverpool and Birkenhead and the Mersey Quay and Railway Carters' Union respecting an application made by the latter for an advance of wages and revised overtime conditions on behalf of carters and motor workers in the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the men tendered notices to cease work. The matter was then brought to the attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, who invited representatives of the parties to meet him. A conference was accordingly held on 24th March, when a provisional arrangement was made, whereby the employees concerned receive certain increases of wages and revised overtime conditions. This agreement has since been ratified by the parties.

SHIP REPAIRERS, &c., LIVERPOOL.—On 15th March joint application was made by the Employers' Association of the Port of Liverpool and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades for Sir George Askwith to decide a question that had arisen regarding the rate of pay to men who worked on New Year's Day, 1916, under the 47 Hour Agreement which regulates conditions of work in the Ship Repairing Trade of the Port of Liverpool.

New Year's Day, 1916, was, by Royal Proclamation, constituted a Bank Holiday, and the men called upon to work on that day claimed that they should be paid double time. This the employers contested. Sir George issued his award on 28th March, deciding that the contention of the employers was

correct, and that double time was not payable in respect of work done on New Year's Day, 1916.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY DISTRICT.—The Joint Standing Committee in connection with the Government boot and shoe contractors having referred to Sir George Askwith as umpire certain claims upon which they were unable to agree, Sir George heard the parties at Kettering on 27th March, and issued his award on 31st March determining the matters in dispute.

STEEL WORKERS, BILSTON.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Alfred Hickman, Ltd., Bilston, and the British Steel Smelters, Mill, Iron, Tinplate and Kindred Trades' Association, respecting the settlement of a new wage agreement, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, and the Right Honourable Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., was appointed arbitrator. Sir David issued his award on the 21st of March determining the rates of wages to be paid for the various processes.

COACHMAKERS, &c., LONDON.—Differences having arisen between the Grosvenor Carriage Company, Ltd., on the one hand, and the London and Provincial Coachmakers' Trade Union and the Wheelwrights' and Coachmakers Operatives' Union on the other, regarding an alteration of working hours proposed to be made by the firm to permit of an interval for breakfast, and also on the question of overtime rates, it was agreed between the parties to refer the matters to an arbitrator appointed by the Department.

Sir William Collins, K.C.V.O., the arbitrator appointed, met the parties on the 7th of March, when agreements were arrived at on the matters in dispute.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, NOTTINGHAM.—A difference having arisen between the Electrical Contractors' Association, Nottingham district, and the Electrical Trades Union in connection with an application made by the Union for an advance of wages of 2d. per hour on behalf of their members, and negotiations between the parties proving ineffectual, the matter was reported to the Department, and Sir William Robinson was appointed to decide it.

In his award of 9th March, Sir William decided that the minimum rate to be paid to electrical wiremen and fitters should be increased to 9d. per hour, such increase to be regarded as war wages and due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

TOOL WORKERS, SHEFFIELD.—Messrs. Joseph Evans and Sons, Ltd., and the National Steelworkers' Association Engineering and Labour League being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages and a reduction of working hours, the matter was referred to the Department, who appointed Sir William Robinson to act as arbitrator.

In his award, dated 20th March, Sir William granted a war bonus of 1s. per week to all men in the firm's employ whose wages are under 30s. a week, and disallowed the claim for a reduction of working hours.

PAINTERS, BLACKPOOL.—On 4th March joint application was made to the Department for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide certain matters in dispute between the master and operative painters at Blackpool.

Sir William Robinson, the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 22nd March, deciding that the minimum rate of wages be raised to 9d. per hour, and determining certain other matters in connection with the working rules.

PAINTERS, SWINTON.—On 15th March joint application was made to the Department for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide certain matters in dispute between the master and operative painters at Swinton.

Sir William Robinson was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 4th April, increasing the minimum rate to be paid to the operatives from 9d. to 10d. per hour.

PAINTERS, BRADFORD.—Sir William Robinson, the arbitrator appointed to decide certain matters in dispute between the master and operative painters at Bradford (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 113), issued his award on 22nd March, deciding that the rate of wages should be increased from 8d. per hour to 9d. per hour, and determining other matters in connection with the working rules.

SAILORS AND FIREMEN, DUBLIN.—The City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, Ltd., and the National Union of Sailors and Firemen being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages of 7s. 6d. a week on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, and negotiations between the parties having proved unsuccessful, the matter was reported to the Department, and His Honour Judge E. A. Parry was appointed to decide it.

Judge Parry heard the parties on 7th March and granted an increase of wages of 6s. per week for the six working weeks, and of 5s. per week for the three lie up weeks.

ELECTRICIANS IN STEEL WORKS, GLASGOW.—The Scottish Steel Makers Wages Association and the Electrical Trades Union, in framing working rules, being unable to agree with regard to certain rules, the matter was reported to the Department, and Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to decide it.

Sheriff Mackenzie issued his award on 8th March, determining the points in dispute.

SUGAR WORKERS, GREENOCK.—A difference having arisen in connection with the wages of workmen employed in the sugar refineries at Greenock, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement of the matter, it was reported to the Department, who appointed Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., to inquire into and report upon the causes and circumstances of the dispute.

Professor Irvine accordingly met representatives of the employers and workpeople separately, when both parties agreed that any decision arrived at by Professor Irvine as a result of his inquiry should be binding upon them. Professor Irvine subsequently made certain recommendations to the Department regarding the wages of the workpeople concerned, the general effect being to increase the rates of wages by 2s. per week. These recommendations have since been adopted by the Department.

CARTERS, GLASGOW.—A difference having arisen between the United Alkali Co., Ltd., and the Scottish Horse and Motor-men's Association respecting an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of the carters employed at the St. Rollox works of the firm, and negotiations between the parties having proved unsuccessful, the matter was reported to the Department, and Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C., was appointed arbitrator.

Mr. Sandeman issued his award on 27th March, deciding that the claim had not been established.

ENGINEERS, &c., LONDON.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. The King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., Abbey Wood, and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, in connection with a claim made by the latter for payment of time-and-a-half in place of the existing rate of time-and-a-quarter to men employed on night shift, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to decide it.

In his award, dated 10th March, Mr. Mackenzie decided that the claim had not been established.

THEATRICAL WORKERS, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Differences having arisen between the Barrow-in-Furness Entertainment Managers' Association on the one hand, and the National Association of Theatrical Employees and the National Amusement Workers' Union on the other, respecting wages and conditions of labour, the parties agreed to refer the matter to the decision of an arbitrator appointed by the Department.

Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his awards on 11th and 13th March, determining the matters in dispute.

DOCK LABOURERS, CARDIFF.—A difference having arisen between the Cardiff Railway Co. and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union, respecting the rate of wages to be paid to men employed in discharging iron pyrites from Huelva, and the parties being unable to arrive at a settlement in the matter, it was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to decide it.

In his award, dated 23rd March, Mr. Mackenzie decided that the rate of wages for the particular work in question should be 7d. per ton per gang for day work, and 8½d. per ton per gang for night work.

WOOD-WORKERS, LONDON.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Hampton & Sons, Ltd., and certain of their employees engaged as joiners, cabinet-makers, wood-working machinists, French polishers, and labourers, in connection with an application made by the employees for a special war bonus of 1d. per hour, and negotiations between the parties proving unsuccessful, the matter was reported to the Department, and Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to decide it.

Mr. Mackenzie issued his award on 27th March, deciding that the men's claim had not been established.

CORPORATION WORKERS, BURTON-ON-TRENT.—A difference having arisen between the Corporation of Burton-on-Trent, on the one hand, and the Amalgamated Society of Gas, Municipal and General Workers, the Workers' Union, and the Amalgamated Society of Tramway and Vehicle Workers, on the other, in connection with an application made by the Unions on behalf of their members, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to decide it.

Mr. Mackenzie accordingly met the parties on 29th March, and succeeded in effecting a settlement of the points in dispute, on the basis of a war bonus of 2s. per week to men earning up to and including 38s. per week, and a bonus of 1s. per week to boys and youths.

BOILERMAKERS, BURTON-ON-TRENT.—Messrs. Thornewill and Warham, Ltd., Burton-on-Trent, and the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Ship Builders Society, concerning an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members employed by the firm as anglesmith, plater, and fitter, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to act as arbitrator.

In his award, dated 3rd April, Mr. Mackenzie granted an increase of 1s. per week to the plater, but disallowing the claim in respect of the other workpeople.

SAILORMEN AND FITTERS' LABOURERS, SUNDERLAND.—Messrs. Wm. Doxford & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland, and the National Union of Gas and General Workers being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members employed as sailormen and fitters' labourers at the firm's quay, the matter was reported to the

Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to arbitrate thereon.

In his award, dated 16th March, Mr. Mackenzie granted the workpeople concerned an increase of 1s. per week, such increase to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions prevailing in consequence of the war.

CREWS OF IRONSTONE-CARRYING VESSELS, TYNE.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Co., Ltd., Hebburn-on-Tyne, and the National Union of Gas and General Workers, in connection with an application for an advance of wages to the crews of the ironstone-carrying vessels to the firm's wharf on the Tyne, and the parties being unable to come to an agreement on the matter, it was reported to the Department, and Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Mackenzie issued his award on 20th March, deciding that the men's claim for the Tyne Port rates of pay had not been established, but granting an increase in wages of 5s. per week to the crews of the vessels in question.

IRON ORE DISCHARGERS, HEBBURN-ON-TYNE.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Company, Ltd., and the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, in connection with a claim made by the latter for an increase of wages on behalf of the iron ore dischargers at the firm's blast furnace jetty and of the charge wheelers in the firm's rolling mills department, and negotiations between the parties proving unsuccessful, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to decide it.

In his award, dated 20th March, Mr. Mackenzie granted an increase of 1d. per ton for discharging Menera Briquettes, and decided in respect of the charge wheelers that the claim had not been established.

GAUGERS, TRUCKERS, &C., BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness, and the National Federation of Women Workers being unable to agree in respect of an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members employed by the firm as gaugers, truckers, sweepers and tray-cleaners, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to arbitrate thereon.

Mr. Mackenzie issued his award on 20th March, deciding that the claim had not been established.

SHELL WORKERS, BARROW.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness, and the National Federation of Women Workers relative to the employment of women to operate two machines instead of one in the processes of rough turning, finished turning and screw milling shells, and the parties being unable to arrive at a settlement on the matter, it was reported to the Department, and Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was appointed to decide it.

In his award, dated 20th March, Mr. Mackenzie decided that girls under the age of 18 years shall have the option of operating, and shall not be required to operate, two machines in the particular processes in question.

COAL WORKERS, NORWICH.—A difference having arisen between the Coal Merchants and Dealers at Norwich and the National Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers in connection with a claim made by the latter for a minimum wage of 28s. per week and revised overtime conditions, the parties agreed to refer the matter to an arbitrator appointed by the Department.

Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 23rd March, deciding that the minimum rate of wages of the workers concerned shall be 25s. per week and determining the rate to be paid for overtime.

ENGINEERING LABOURERS, BIRMINGHAM.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Birmingham, and the Workers' Union, relative to an application made by the Union for an advance of wages on behalf of their members employed by the firm, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., to deal with it.

In his award, dated 1st April, Mr. Mackenzie decided that the claim had not been established.

CORRUGATED IRON WORKS, WARRINGTON.—Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to decide a difference that had arisen between the Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Company, Ltd., Ellesmere Port, and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union, regarding an application made by the latter for an increase of wages on behalf of their members in the firm's employ (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 113), issued his award on 22nd March, deciding that the claim had not been established.

LABOURERS, GOSPORT.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Canther & Nicholsons, Ltd., Gosport, and the Workers' Union respecting an application made by the latter for an advance of wages of 1d. per hour on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, it was agreed to refer the matter to the decision of an arbitrator appointed by the Department.

Mr. F. A. Greer, K.C., was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 23rd March, granting an increase of 4d. per hour, over and above the 4d. an hour already granted by the employers since the outbreak of war.

LEADBURNERS, CLYDACH.—A difference having arisen between

the Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., Clydach, and the leadburners in their employ, in connection with an application made by the latter for an advance of wages, and negotiations between the parties having failed to effect a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Charles Doughty to decide it.

Mr. Doughty heard the parties on 25th March, and issued his award fixing the rate of pay for leadburners employed by the firm.

COTTON-WASTE MERCHANTS, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—A difference having arisen between certain firms of cotton-waste merchants in the Ashton-under-Lynde district and the Workers' Union in connection with an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members in the employ of the firms, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, and Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Doughty issued his award on 23rd March, granting certain increases of wages.

TAR AND AMMONIA DISTILLERS, KNOTTINGLEY.—A dispute having arisen between Messrs. Robinson Bros., Ltd., West Bromwich, and the workpeople at their Knottingley works in connection with an application for an advance of wages, and the parties being unable to come to terms on the matter, it was reported to the Department, and Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed to decide it.

Mr. Doughty issued his award on 31st March, granting an increase in the rate of wages of 2s. per week, in addition to the war bonus of 2s. 6d. per week presently paid by the firm.

LEATHER WAREHOUSE PORTERS, LIVERPOOL.—Messrs. Angus and Co., Ltd., and the National Warehouse and General Workers' Union being unable to agree upon a claim made by the latter for a minimum wage of 30s. per week on behalf of their members in the firm's employ, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Charles Doughty to decide it.

Mr. Doughty met the parties on 11th March, and succeeded in effecting a settlement of the points in dispute.

IRONMOULDERS, MORPETH.—A difference arose between Messrs. Swinney Bros., Ltd., Morpeth, and the ironmoulders in their employ relative to an application made by the latter for an advance of wages, and the parties being unable to come to terms on the matter, it was reported to the Department, and Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed to decide it.

Mr. Doughty issued his award on 13th March granting certain increases of wages and determining other matters in dispute.

FOUNDRY WORKERS, WEST BROMWICH.—A dispute having arisen between Messrs. Izons and Co., Ltd., West Bromwich, and the Amalgamated Society of Gas, Municipal and General Workers respecting a claim made by the latter for the reinstatement of one of their members, who has been dismissed by the firm, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Charles Doughty to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Doughty issued his award on 8th March, deciding that no sufficient reason existed at the date of the dismissal of the employee concerned for such dismissal.

PLUMBERS, WIGAN.—On 1st March joint application was made to the Department for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide certain matters in dispute between the master and operative plumbers at Wigan. Mr. Charles Doughty was accordingly appointed, and issued his award on 17th March increasing the rate of wages from 9½d. per hour to 10½d. per hour, and determining certain other matters relating to the working rules.

BULLET-MAKERS, LONDON.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. Walkers, Parker & Co., Ltd., Lambeth, S.E., and the Workers' Union, respecting an application made by the latter for an advance of wages on behalf of their members in the firm's employ engaged in moulding shrapnel bullets, etc., and no settlement of the matter having been arrived at between the parties, the matter was reported to the Department, who appointed Mr. Charles Doughty to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Doughty accordingly met the parties on 23rd March, when an amicable settlement was arrived at.

IRON DRESSERS, MIDDLESBROUGH.—A dispute having arisen between Messrs. Wilson & Copley & Co., Middlesbrough, and the iron dressers in their employ respecting an application for an advance of their time rate of wages, the matter was reported to the Department, and Mr. W. A. Willis was appointed to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Willis issued his award on 27th March, deciding that the time rate of wages of the workpeople concerned should be increased by 6d. per week.

PLUMBERS, INVERNESS.—A difference having arisen between Messrs. The Rose Street Foundry and Engineering Company, Ltd., Inverness, and the plumbers in their employ, in connection with an application made by the latter for an advance of wages, and negotiations between the parties having failed to result in a settlement, the matter was reported to the Department, and Sheriff A. J. Louttit Laing was appointed to decide it.

Sheriff Laing issued his award on 13th March, granting an increase of wages of 1½d. per hour—i.e. from 8d. to 9½d. per hour—to the workpeople concerned.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, DUNDEE.—Sheriff Laing, the arbiter

appointed to deal with a difference that had arisen between the Dundee Electrical Contractors' Association and the Electrical Trades Union respecting a claim made by the latter for an advance of wages of 2d. per hour on behalf of their members (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 113), issued his award on 3rd April granting an increase of 4d. per hour, making the new rate 9½d. per hour.

GAS WORKERS, LEITH.—Sheriff A. J. Louttit Laing, the arbiter appointed to deal with a difference that had arisen between the Edinburgh and Leith Corporations' Gas Commissioners and the firemen who attend to the Stirling Boilers at Granton Gas Works, regarding an application for an advance of wages (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 113), issued his award on 28th March, deciding that the claim had not been established.

MINERS, FALKIRK.—Professor Daniel Burns, the arbiter appointed to deal with a dispute that had arisen between the Carron Company, Falkirk, and the men employed in the soft coal seams at Craighill Colliery, Polmont, in connection with an application for an advance on tonnage rates (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 113), issued his award on 27th March, deciding that the claim had not been established.

RATES OF WAGES OF WOMEN EMPLOYED ON MUNITIONS WORK AND OF SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED LABOUR IN CONTROLLED ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Minister of Munitions, in accordance with Section 8 of the Munitions of War (Amendment) Act, 1916, has appointed special arbitration tribunals to deal with the above questions. The tribunal for women's cases consists of Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C. (chairman), Mr. Ernest Aves, Mr. F. S. Button, Miss Susan Lawrence, Mr. Allan Smith and Mrs. Streatfield. The tribunal for cases of semi-skilled and unskilled labour consists of Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C. (chairman), Mr. Charles Duncan, M.P., Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Allan Smith and Mr. J. C. Ward. The secretary of both tribunals is Mr. C. H. G. Campbell, 6, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W.

The Board of Trade have referred to the former tribunal seventeen cases affecting women workers, which had been reported to them as differences under the Munitions of War Acts.

The tribunal have now issued awards on a number of the cases so referred to them.

COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION.

The Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments, and whose reference was subsequently extended to deal with the avoidance of stoppages on work for Government purposes (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1915, page 83, and August, 1915, page 230), have issued decisions on further cases referred to them. Full particulars of these cannot be given, owing to lack of space, but the following are summaries of the findings issued during March:—

IRONFOUNDERS, GLOUCESTER AND STROUD (ISSUED 1ST MARCH).—The men concerned received an advance of wages of 2s. per week in March and April, 1915, making the rate in Gloucester 38s. per week and in Stroud 36s. per week; in addition a "war bonus" of 2s. per week was granted in both towns. The application before the Committee was for an advance of wages. The Committee decided that the existing "war bonus" should be converted into an advance on the time rate of wages.

ENGINEERS AND ALLIED TRADES, CLYDE DISTRICT (ISSUED 3RD MARCH).—This finding relates to a collective application for an advance of wages of 2d. per hour on time rates and an equivalent advance on piece rates made to certain employers' associations in the Clyde district by the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (Clyde District Committee) representing seventeen trade unions. In connection with findings of the Committee, dated 23rd March, 1915, the members of eight of the unions received in February, 1915, an advance of wages of 1d. per hour, or 4s. per week, on time rates, and 10 per cent. on piece rates, and an advance of a similar amount was given to other skilled trades. The employers at the same time advanced the wages of the semi-skilled and unskilled grades by 3d. per hour, or 3s. per week. The Committee's finding is that the claim for a further advance of wages has not been established, except in the case of those grades who, in February, 1915, received the advance of 3d. per hour, or 3s. per week. In their cases an increase of 4d. per hour, or 1s. per week, is given. The advance is not to affect piece rates except in cases where the men concerned received 7½ per cent. increase on piece rates as a result of the February, 1915, advance; in such cases the 7½ per cent. is to be increased to 10 per cent.

PIG IRON TRADE, SCOTLAND (ISSUED 3RD MARCH).—Since April, 1900, there has been in existence a Board of Conciliation for the regulation of wages in the Pig Iron Trade of Scotland, established between the owners of blastfurnaces in Scotland and the Scottish blastfurnacemen, and at a meeting of that Board in January, 1907, a wages scale was adopted to regulate wages, the basis of the scale being the average price of Scotch pig iron warrants in the Glasgow market. In 1915 notice to terminate the Sliding Scale Agreement was given on behalf of the workpeople, the notice expiring on 31st January, 1916.

Negotiations for a revised scale took place, but no settlement was arrived at, and the matter was duly referred to the Committee on Production. Certain clauses of the men's claim put before the Committee related to the formation of a new sliding scale on the basis of the average market selling price of Scottish hematite iron in the Glasgow market. The opinion of the Committee on these clauses was that the suggested revision of the sliding scale should not be proceeded with, having regard to the present abnormal conditions of the iron markets. In settlement of the operatives' claims as regards wages, the Committee decided that, on the conclusion of peace, arrangements should at once be proceeded with for the settlement of a new sliding scale, that the present minimum should be extended 10 per cent., that a supplemental advance of 5 per cent. should be given as from 1st February, 1916. The Committee also fixed the minimum shift rates for furnacemen when labouring and for general labourers.

PATTERNMAKERS, IRONFITTERS, BLACKSMITHS AND LABOURERS, LIGHT CASTINGS TRADE, SCOTLAND (ISSUED 3RD MARCH).—In April, 1915, the employers agreed to pay the men concerned a "war bonus" calculated on the basis of 6d. per day or 3s. for a full week. In December, 1915, application was made on behalf of the men for an advance of wages of 2d. per hour to time-workers and 20 per cent. to piece-workers. The matter being referred to the decision of the Committee on Production, it was decided that the bonus of 6d. per day should be increased to 9d. per day.

IRONMOULDERS, SCOTLAND (ISSUED 3RD MARCH).—The men concerned, by a finding of the Committee and an award of a Court of Arbitration, received in March, 1915, an advance of wages 1d. per hour where wages are paid by the hour, 4s. per week where wages are paid by the week, and 10 per cent. on piece rates. In November, 1915, application was made on behalf of the operatives for a further advance of wages of 2d. per hour, 9s. per week, or 20 per cent. on piece rates. The finding of the Committee was that the claim had not been established.

ENGINEERS, FIREMEN, CRANEMEN, &C., SHEFFIELD (ISSUED 3RD MARCH).—The application referred to the Committee was one for an advance of wages made by the National Amalgamated Union of Engineers, etc., on behalf of their members employed by firms belonging to the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association. The men concerned, with certain other grades, received an advance of wages of 3s. per week in March, 1915; the skilled men at the same time received an advance of 4s. per week. The Committee decided that the existing war wage of 3s. per week should be advanced to 4s. per week.

ENGINEERS AND ALLIED TRADES, SHEFFIELD (ISSUED 3RD MARCH).—In March, 1915, the skilled men concerned received an advance of wages of 4s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates. The claim referred to the Committee was for an advance of 10s. per week on time rates and 25 per cent. on piece rates (and an advance of 5s. per week to youths), the claim being based to some extent upon the fact that semi-skilled and unskilled workers at Sheffield engaged in the production of shells are at present making very high earnings, much in excess of the earnings of the skilled men concerned in the claim. The Committee, while appreciating the point of view of the skilled men, felt that the claim advanced by the Unions is not a proper means of remedying the position, and decided that the claim for a further advance of wages had not been established.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVE WORKS (ISSUED 3RD MARCH).—This finding related to a difference that had arisen between the Great Western Railway Company and the Joint Committee of the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society and of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers relative to the adequacy of an advance on piecework prices given at the Company's locomotive works. The Committee decided that the action of the Company had been fair and equitable.

ENGINEERS, MESSRS. CREED, BILLE & COMPANY, LTD., CROYDON (ISSUED 6TH MARCH).—The claim before the Committee was for an advance of wages of 4s. per week and for the payment of "time and a half" for night shifts. As regards wages, the men were given a general advance of 1d. per hour in January, 1915, and individual advances were given both before and after the general advance; in the case of toolmakers, who were not able to work on piecework or premium bonus system, a special war bonus of 4s. per week was given subsequently. As regards payment for night shift, since establishing a regular night shift the firm have been paying time and a quarter. The Committee decided that the claims advanced had not been established.

BOILERMAKERS, MESSRS. NORTH BRITISH LOCOMOTIVE CO., LTD. (ISSUED 7TH MARCH).—This finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages of 1½d. per hour on time rates and 12½ per cent. on piece rates made to Messrs. North British Locomotive Company, Ltd., by the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society. The claim was based to some extent upon the fact that the wages paid to boiler-makers in the marine boilershops in the Clyde area. The contention of the firm was that the conditions of the two trades are dissimilar, and that if there were a levelling up of wages it would be necessary to consider a rearrangement of other con-

ditions in the establishment which could not properly be made at the present time. The men concerned had been given in March, 1915, the same advance as was given to other grades of skilled men in the Clyde district, i.e. 1d. per hour on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates, and the Committee decided that the claim for a further advance had not been established.

COPPERSMITHS, CLYDE DISTRICT (ISSUED 7TH MARCH).—In February, 1915, an agreement was arrived at between the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the Scottish Coppersmiths Employers' Association on the one hand and the National Society of Coppersmiths, Braziers and Metal Workers for the payment of an advance of wages of 3d. per hour or 3s. per week (according to the practice in the various shops) and 7½ per cent. on piece rates. In March, 1915, the Committee on Production awarded advances of 1d. per hour, 4s. per week, and 10 per cent. respectively to the engineers and certain other skilled men in the district, and the employers thereupon increased the advance to the coppersmiths to that amount. Subsequently the Society made application for a further advance to a general rate of 1d. per hour, having regard to the fact that "under the qualification of good time-keeping, merit or contract money, quite a number of employers in this district have for some time been paying extras to our members beyond the rates contained in wage agreements with employers' associations." The Committee found that the coppersmiths had had the same general advance since the outbreak of war as the other trades of the district, and that the advances referred to, given under special circumstances, did not constitute an adequate reason for the payment of a further advance.

JOINERS, MESSRS. NORTH BRITISH LOCOMOTIVE CO., LTD. (ISSUED 8TH MARCH).—A claim made by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners in 1913 that the wages of joiners employed by members of the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association should be the same as the rates in the shipyards was discussed between the parties but not agreed to. An agreement was, however, arrived at between the parties in June of that year, providing that general fluctuations in the wages of joiners employed by members of the Association should be of equal amount to, and take effect simultaneously with, the general fluctuations in the wages of joiners employed by members of the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association. In conformity with this agreement the North British Locomotive Company gave their joiners in March, 1915, an advance of wages of 1d. per hour, or 10 per cent. This was the same advance given to other skilled men on the Clyde. The present claim was that the firm should pay their joiners what was claimed to be the recognised rate for joiners in engineering establishments in the district, or alternatively the rate agreed upon for joiners in the building trade. This claim the Committee found had not been established.

ENGINEERS, SHIP-REPAIRING FIRMS, TILBURY (ISSUED 10TH MARCH).—The firms concerned, in common with members of the River Thames Dry Dock Proprietors and Repairers' Association, awarded to their men shortly after the outbreak of war a "bonus" of 1½d. per hour on Government work, and subsequently in March, 1915, a bonus of 4s. per week on commercial work. The claim referred to the Committee was an application of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers for an advance of 15 per cent. on existing rates. The Committee decided that this claim had not been established, but that the wages of the men concerned, both in the shops and on the ships, should be 48s. per week of 48 hours, plus war "bonus," and that overtime rates should be calculated on a basis of a 48-hours week, this following an agreement between the Society and the Dry Dock Proprietors and Repairers' Association.

SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED LABOURERS, SHEFFIELD (ISSUED 15TH MARCH).—This finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made on behalf of labourers and semi-skilled men employed by members of the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association. Following the issue of the Committee's finding of 3rd March for engineers, &c., at Sheffield (see above), the Employers' Association and the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers came to an agreement that the men who had not since the outbreak of war had advances amounting to 4s. per week should be advanced to that sum. The Committee record the foregoing arrangement as their finding in the matter.

OXY-ACETYLENE WELDERS, DERBY (ISSUED 16TH MARCH).—This finding is in respect of a claim made by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (Derby District) that oxy-acetylene welding should be done by coppersmiths and paid for at coppersmiths' rates. The Committee find that this work has not exclusively or generally been performed by coppersmiths in the Derby district or in other districts; that the work has been in the past and is now claimed by other trades—e.g. sheet-metal workers and plumbers; that a separate class of operatives known and described as welders exists, including men from various trades. The Committee accordingly find that the claim has not been established.

MESSRS. GOODALL & Co., LTD., HALIFAX (ISSUED 16TH MARCH).—The claim referred to the Committee was an application for an advance of wages made to the above firm by the Workers' Union. Advances of wages had been given by the firm to various classes of employees during 1915, and further advances in January, 1916. At the hearing the firm

agreed to revise their rates of payment for week-end work. The Committee decided that the claim of the Union had been reasonably met by the advances which the firm had already given.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE IRON AND STEEL TRADE (ISSUED 17TH MARCH).—The claim referred to the Committee was an application made to the South Wales and Monmouthshire Iron and Steel Makers' Association by the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers and Mechanics of South Wales and Monmouthshire for the abolition of the maximum in the Sliding Scale Agreement existing between the parties. Under the present sliding scale agreement wages had reached their maximum in January, 1916. A later ascertainment of selling prices showed a figure which would have entitled the men to a further advance had there been no wages maximum in the sliding scale. The Committee decided that there should be no alteration of the sliding scale, but that they increased the war bonus of the men earning between 28s. and 50s. per week to 5s. per week.

HYDRAULIC FITTERS, IMMINGHAM DOCK (ISSUED 20TH MARCH).—In February, 1915, the fitters employed by the Great Central Railway Company in the Hydraulic Department at Immingham Dock received an advance of wages, making their rate 41s. 6d. per week of 54 hours. In January, 1916, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, on behalf of the men, made application for such increases of wages and of overtime rates as would place the men on the same level as the engineers employed in the engineering establishments of the district where the rate is 45s. 6d. per week of 53 hours. The Committee decided that the wages of the men concerned should be advanced by a further 1s. per week.

IRONFOUNDERS, OLDHAM (ISSUED 20TH MARCH).—In respect of an application for an advance of wages made to the Oldham District Engineering Trades Employers' Association by the local branch of the Friendly Society of Ironfounders, the Committee decided that the wages of the men concerned should be advanced by 1s. per week.

BOILERMAKERS, COWES (ISSUED 21ST MARCH).—This matter was a claim made by the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Association on behalf of certain squads of riveters engaged by Messrs. J. Samuel White & Co., Ltd., East Cowes, that the rate of payment for night shift shall be time-and-a-half on the rates of pay ordinarily received for day work. The rates of pay which the men are receiving for their ordinary day work are special rates, and the Committee decided that the claim had not been established.

DOCK LABOURERS, LIVERPOOL (ISSUED 28TH MARCH).—In February, 1915, the National Union of Dock Labourers and Riverside Workers applied to the Employers' Association of the Port of Liverpool for an advance on the rates of pay embodied in the "White Book." After negotiations, an agreement was arrived at providing for certain changes in wages, hours and working conditions, the application for an advance of wages being settled by the following clause: "Wages for dock labourers and coalheavers to be advanced 1s. all round on day rates and on present Sunday rates, but no change to be made in night rates or hour rates." The present claim was for 2s. per night and 2d. per hour on night rates; the Committee awarded 1s. per night and 1d. per hour on night rates, with an equivalent advance to men working piece rates or tonnage rates.

ENGINEERS, JOHNSTONE AND PAISLEY (ISSUED 29TH MARCH).—The Amalgamated Society of Engineers having made application to the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association for payment to be made on an hourly instead of a weekly basis by firms in the Paisley and Johnstone districts, and the matter being referred to the Committee on Production, it was decided that without prejudice to the settlement of the question between the parties on the conclusion of the war, the war wage advance granted by the Committee in March, 1915, should be calculated on an hourly basis at the rate of 1d. per hour for a week of 54 hours.

PLUMBERS, MESSRS. SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH & Co., LTD., OPENSHAW (ISSUED 29TH MARCH).—The United Operative Plumbers and Domestic Engineers' Association claimed that the firm should pay their plumbers the district rate of wages agreed upon between their Association and the Master Plumbers' Association. The Committee decided this claim had not been established, but that the men should be given an advance of 3d. per hour.

SHOPMEN, MIDLAND RAILWAY Co. (ISSUED 29TH MARCH).—This finding is in respect of applications for advances of wages to men employed in the shops of the Midland Railway Company made by (1) the Railway Shops Organisation Committee of Craft Unions (representing 28 Craft Unions), and (2) the National Union of Railwaymen. An application for an advance made by the Workers' Union was also heard. The Committee decided that the advance of wages previously given of 3s. per week on time rates and 7½ per cent. on piece rates should be increased by an advance of 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates.

ENGINEERS, MESSRS. G. & J. WEIR, LTD., CATHCART (ISSUED 31ST MARCH).—Certain turners employed on piecework as shell turners were transferred by the firm under the Government Dilution Scheme to time-work operations in other shops in the firm's establishment. The contention of the men was that they should receive in such time-work shops, not the rates paid to the remainder of the men in those shops, but the average of the piecework earnings which they had received

when employed upon shells. The Committee decided that the claim had not been established under Schedule II. of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, or under the circumstances of the case.

SEMI-SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORKERS, SHROPSHIRE (ISSUED 31ST MARCH).—This finding is in respect of applications for advances of wages made by the Workers' Union to five firms in Shropshire. The Committee's finding fixes for each firm the minimum rate for unskilled workmen and awards various increases of wages.

CARTERS, STOCKPORT (ISSUED 30TH MARCH).—The United Carters and Motormen's Association made application to the Stockport and District Team Drivers' Association in January, 1916, for an advance of wages of 5s. per week, and the owners offered an additional war bonus of 2s. per week to all carters working full time. The men had previously had a bonus of 2s. per week. The Committee decided that the men shall be paid an additional bonus of 2s. per week, payable at the rate of 4d. per day worked.

TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

TAILORING TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

PROPOSAL TO VARY MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

In view of circumstances arising out of the war which are resulting in the employment to some extent of women on work usually performed by men, the Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain) have resolved to give notice that they propose to vary the minimum rates of wages fixed by them on 19th August, 1912, and 19th July, 1915, and made obligatory by order of the Board of Trade on 20th February, 1913, and 20th January, 1916, in so far as they apply to women engaged in cutting, trimming and fitting-up.

The minimum rate at present in force for female workers, other than learners, is 3½d. per hour, and the Trade Board propose to vary this rate to 6d. per hour for women over 20 years of age who are employed in cutting, trimming and fitting-up. A minimum rate of 5½d. per hour is proposed for women between 19 and 20 years of age engaged in these branches of work, and a minimum rate of 4d. per hour for those under 19. In the case of women of 19 years of age and over, who have had no previous experience of such work, two months' service is allowed at 1d. per hour less than the rate otherwise payable.

Notices giving full particulars of the proposed variations will shortly be issued by the Trade Board for the information of employers and workers affected.

FILLING OF ANNUAL VACANCIES ON THE TRADE BOARD.

In accordance with the Regulations with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain), eight representatives of employers and eight representatives of workers retired on 23rd March. After considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade selected the following persons to be members of the Trade Board for the period commencing 23rd March, 1916:—

Representatives of Employers.—*Mr. F. H. Bassett, *Mr. J. A. Crerar, *Mr. R. H. Glanfield, *Mr. W. Gunn, *Mr. P. Hips, Mr. H. Lee, *Mr. H. M. Lipman, *Mr. T. B. Turner.

Representatives of Workers.—Mr. G. Banham, Mr. A. Conley, Mr. A. C. Craig, Miss A. Dow, Miss J. Farrow, *Miss C. Morley, Miss M. Somerville, *Mrs. G. Spurway.

* Retiring member reappointed.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 TO 1915.

PART II.—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS TO THE UMPIRE.

In pursuance of Regulations made by the Board of Trade and dated 26th day of March, 1912, notice is hereby given that the Umpire (Unemployment Insurance) has received applications for decisions as to whether contributions are payable or not in respect of the following classes of persons:—

358. Workmen engaged in manufacture of steel helmets.
359. Workmen employed by a firm of hosiery manufacturers and described as needle casters.

DECISIONS BY THE UMPIRE.

Pursuant to paragraph (5) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations, the Board of Trade hereby give notice of the following decisions by the Umpire on questions whether contributions are payable:—

- A. The Umpire has decided that contributions are payable in respect of:—
1540. Workmen employed wholly or mainly by way of manual labour and engaged in assisting testers of electrical machinery.
1543. Workmen (including women) engaged in packing shrapnel shells with bullets, resin, &c. (Application 357.)
- B. The Umpire has decided that contributions are not payable in respect of:—
1541. Testers of electrical machinery who are not employed wholly or mainly by way of manual labour.

1542. Workmen engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of reed ribs and heald staves for textile machinery.

Note.—Where no reference is given to an application, the question has been decided by the Umpire without notice, as a matter not admitting of reasonable doubt, in accordance with paragraph (2) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations.

Decisions relating to individual workmen which raise no question of general interest, or which merely apply a principle laid down in a previous decision, are not published.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1916.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (SUPPLEMENTARY) REGULATIONS, 1916, DATED 15TH MARCH, 1916, MADE BY THE BOARD OF TRADE UNDER PART II. OF THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT, 1911 (1 & 2 GEO. 5, C. 55) AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE (PART II. AMENDMENT) ACT, 1914 (4 & 5 GEO. 5, C. 57).

The Board of Trade in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by the National Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1915, hereby make the following Regulations:—

(1) In Regulation 8 (1) (d) of the Unemployment Insurance Regulations, 1912, as amended by Regulation 6 of the Unemployment Insurance (Supplementary) Regulations, 1913, the following words shall be substituted for the words "three months" wherever those words occur, viz.: "fourteen weeks."
(2) These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Supplementary) Regulations, 1916, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

Signed by Order of the Board of Trade this fifteenth day of March, 1916.

(Signed) H. Llewellyn Smith,
Secretary to the Board of Trade.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

MARCH, 1916.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.*
Abercrave (Brecknockshire)	S. J. Watson, Plas y ddol, Abercrave.	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Aghadowey (Co. Derry)	S. J. Bolton, Agivey House, Aghadowey.	(1) Residence, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m. (2) Surgery, at Drumcroon, Friday, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Ballindalloch (Banff)	H. S. W. Roberts, The Falls, Glenlivet.	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Brighouse (Yorks)	R. T. Farrer, Church Street, Brighouse.	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Clackmannan (Clackmannan)	J. H. Mains, Clackmannan.	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Lyndhurst (Hants)	S. B. White, Hill Rise, Lyndhurst.	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Sedburgh (Yorks, W.R.)	E. A. Wadeson, South View, Sedburgh.	Wednesday, 9-9.30 a.m.
Wolston (Warwickshire)	R. M. Liddell, Marton, near Rugby.	Surgery at Wolston, Thursday, 9.15-10.15 a.m.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.
* Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

[All the United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any bookseller from Wymann & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4, and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H.M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsonby, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

Health of Munition Workers' Committee. Memorandum No. 7. Industrial Fatigue and its Causes. [Cd. 8213: price 1½d.] *No. 8. Special Industrial Diseases.* [Cd. 8214: price 1d.] *No. 9. Ventilation and Lighting of Munition Factories and Works.* [Cd. 8215: price 1½d.] *No. 10. Sickness and Injury.* [Cd. 8216: price 1½d.]

Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1914-15. Part I. Administration of the Poor Law, the Unemployed Workmen Act, the Old Age Pensions Act, &c. [Cd. 8195: price 5d.] *Part II. Housing and Town Planning.* [Cd. 8196: price 2½d.]

School Attendance and Employment in Agriculture. Summary of Returns supplied by County Local Education Authorities of Children excused from School for Employment in Agriculture on 31st January, 1916. Board of Education. [Cd. 8202: price 3d.]

Load Lines of Merchant Ships and the Carriage of Deck Cargoes of Wood Goods. Report of Committee appointed by the Board of Trade. [Cd. 8204: price 2s. 2d.]

Street Accidents caused by Vehicles. Return for the year ended 31st December, 1915. Home Office. [H.C. 39: price 2d.] *Police (Counties and Boroughs, England and Wales).* Report of H.M. Inspectors of Constabulary for the year ended 29th September, 1915. [H.C. 35: price 1d.]

Report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office, 1914-15. Old age pensions, staff, war bonus, &c. [Cd. 7955: price 1s. 1d.]

Food Production in Scotland. Departmental Committee. Report and Minutes of Evidence. [S.O. Publication: Report, price 2d.; Evidence, price 5s.]

Public Works, Ireland. Eighty-third Annual Report of the Commissioners, 1914-15. Labour Exchanges, loans for housing, acquisition of small dwellings, &c. [Cd. 8119: price 7d.]

BRITISH DOMINIONS.

CANADA.—*The Labour Gazette, February, 1916.* Industrial and labour conditions during January, proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, trade disputes during 1915 and in January, 1916, changes in wages and hours in last quarter of 1915, accidents, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—*Census and Statistics Monthly, December, 1915, and January, 1916.* World's production of potatoes, field crops, prices of agricultural produce, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—*Labour Bulletin, No. 11. July-September, 1915.* Prices, wages, disputes, accidents, arbitration proceedings, State employment bureau, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co., Printers.]

—*Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, November, 1915.* Trade unions, prices, wages, disputes, unemployment, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co., Printers.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Industrial Gazette, December, 1915.* Cost of living and the minimum wage, arbitration proceedings, labour exchanges, dislocations in industries, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

QUEENSLAND.—*Industrial Peace Act Awards, 1915,* showing in brackets the dates of those cancelled thereby. *Brick Making and Pottery Industry, South Eastern Division, 29th November [8th September, 1914]. Tanning, Currying, &c., South Eastern Division, 13th December [24th October, 1912].*

VICTORIA.—*Wages Board Determinations, 1916,* showing in brackets the dates of those cancelled thereby. *Furniture (Wire Mattress), 19th January [19th November, 1915]. Sewer Builders, 17th January. Furniture (Planning Carpets, &c.), 21st January. Chaff Cutters, 21st January [9th September, 1914]. Nightwatchmen, 20th January [6th June, 1912]. Pastry-cooks, 25th January [30th October, 1911]. Painters, 18th January [16th August, 1912]. Carters, 20th January [24th June, 1914]. Aerated Water Trade, 18th January [28th December, 1912]. Wholesale Grocers, 3rd February [26th June, 1914]. Carpenters, 1st February [7th February, 1913]. Bread Carters, 9th February [26th May, 1914]. Aerated Water Carters, 10th February [15th September, 1913].*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—*Report of Proceedings by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. Year ended 30th June, 1915.* [Perth: F. W. Simpson, Government Printer.]

NEW ZEALAND.—*Journal of the Department of Labour, January, 1916.* Condition of employment and trade in December, current retail prices, persons assisted to employment, co-operative works, accidents, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—*Bulletin des Internationales Arbeitsamtes, Nos. 11 and 12, 1915, and 1 and 2, 1916.* [Jena: Gustav Fischer.]

—*International Co-operative Bulletin, February, 1916.* International Co-operative Alliance. [London: H. J. May.]

—(1) *International Crop Report and Agricultural Statistics, March, 1916.* (2) *International Review of Agricultural Economics, March, 1916.* International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

UNITED STATES.—*Bulletins of the United States Department of Labour Statistics, No. 183, October, 1915.* Regularity of Employment in the Women's Ready-to-Wear Garment Industries. No. 184, November, 1915. Retail Prices, 1907, to June, 1915. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, March, 1916.* Strikes and lock-outs, retail prices, employment, workmen's compensation and industrial accidents, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*New York. The Bulletin, February, 1916.* Proceedings of Bureaus of Employment, Compensation, Mediation and Arbitration, &c. New York State Industrial Commission. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., Printers.]

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