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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

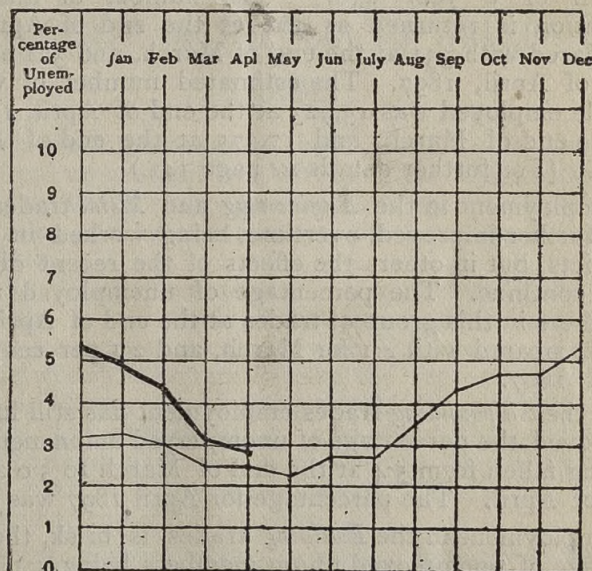
[Based on 2,339 returns, viz.: 1,652 from Employers, 528 from Trade Unions, and 159 from other sources.]

THE state of employment is generally good, except in industries affected by the stoppage in the South Wales Coal Trade. Increases of wages, affecting over 100,000 coal miners in other districts, have taken place during the month.

In the 116 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 466,405, 13,546 (or 2·9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, compared with 3·1 per cent. at the end of March, and with 2·5 per cent. in the 114 unions, with a membership of 455,157, from which returns were received for April, 1897.

The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1897 and 1898. [The thick line applies to 1898, the thin line to 1897.]



The table below classifies the membership of the 116 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of April, 1898.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Under 1 per cent. ...	32	159,009	34·1	24·3
1 and under 2 per cent. ...	22	55,262	11·9	38·0
2 " 3 " ...	13	18,801	4·0	5·6
3 " 5 " ...	24	164,497	35·3	16·2
5 " 7 " ...	8	39,312	8·4	14·6
7 " 10 " ...	9	19,738	4·2	0·2
10 per cent. and upwards	8	9,786	2·1	1·1
Total	116	466,405	100·0	100·0

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—The majority of collieries in South Wales and Monmouth have been idle during a large portion of the month. In other districts employment was better than a year ago, although, owing to the Easter holidays in England, and short disputes in Scotland, less time was worked than during March. At collieries in districts not affected by the dispute in South Wales, at which 377,627 persons were employed, the pits worked an average of 4.98 days per week in the four weeks ending April 23rd, as compared with an average of 4.75 days in the corresponding period of 1897, and 5.24 days in March last. (For further details see page 139.)

Iron Mining.—Employment was not quite so good in April, 1898, as in April, 1897. At mines giving employment to 17,566 persons, 5.62 days per week were worked on the average during the four weeks ended 23rd April, as compared with 5.66 days per week a year ago. (For further details see page 140.)

Pig Iron Industry.—The ironworks to which the returns relate had 339 furnaces in blast at the end of April, or 12 less than at the end of March, and 11 less than a year ago, the decrease in each case being chiefly attributable to the coal dispute in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The number employed is estimated at 22,440, or 1,121 less than a month ago, but 324 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 140.)

Employment at **Iron and Steel Works** was better in April than in March, although not so good as a year ago. At the works covered by the returns, 75,907 workpeople were employed at the end of April, as compared with 74,445 at the end of March, and 76,241 at the end of April, 1897. The estimated aggregate number of shifts worked by these workpeople amounted to 418,481 in the last week of April, 407,214 in March, and 422,673 in April, 1897. (For further details see page 141.)

Tinplate Trade.—Largely owing to the dearth of fuel caused by the dispute in the Welsh coal trade, employment was not so good at the end of April as it was a month or a year ago. The number of mills in operation is returned as 306 at the end of April, as compared with 331 at the end of March, and 321 at the end of April, 1897. The estimated number of workpeople employed was 15,923 at the end of April, 17,072 at the end of March, and 17,375 at the end of April, 1897. (For further details see page 141.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal trades** has still further improved, overtime being worked in some districts, but in others the effects of the recent dispute still continue. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of April was 3.6, compared with 4.1 for March, and 2.1 per cent. for April, 1897.

In the **Shipbuilding trades** employment has still further improved, the percentage of unemployed union members having fallen from 5.4 at the end of March to 5.0 at the end of April. The percentage for April 1897 was 4.9.

Employment in the **Building trades** is brisk, the percentage of unemployed union members being 1.1, compared with 1.6 in March and 1.0 per cent. in April, 1897.

The **Furnishing trades** remain busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 1.2, compared with 1.3 in March and 0.5 in April last year.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding trades** remains steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 3.1, compared with 3.0 in March and 3.7 per cent. in April, 1897.

In the **Paper trade** employment has improved, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April being 2.8, compared with 3.7 in March. The percentage for April, 1897 was 4.8.

In the **Glass trade** the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 10.8, compared with 11.3 in March, and 11.6 per cent. in April of last year.

Employment in the **Leather trades** has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the

end of April was 3.8, compared with 4.8 in March. The percentage for April, 1897, was 2.9.

Employment in the **Bespoke branch of the Boot and Shoe trade** is fair; in the ready-made branch it is still only moderate.

Employment in both the **Bespoke and ready-made branches of the Tailoring trade** is fairly good.

Employment in the **Spinning and Weaving branches of the Cotton trade** continues fair, with a further slight improvement.

Employment in the **Woollen trade** is fair generally but slack in the heavy-trade centres; in the **Worsted trade** employment is only moderate. Employment in the **Hosiery trade** continues unsatisfactory; it has improved in some branches and declined in others.

As regards the employment of **women in the Textile trades**, information respecting 500 mills employing 83,000 women and girls, shows that 74 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with the same percentage in March, and 81 per cent. in April, 1897. (For further details see page 143.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment at the docks and wharves was, on the whole, slightly better during April than during March, or a year ago. The average daily number employed at the docks and principal wharves was 14,553 in April, 14,340 in March, and 14,426 in April, 1897. (For further details see page 143.)

Agricultural employment was generally regular throughout the country during the month of April. Changes in wages took place in certain districts, chiefly in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Wiltshire, the effect of these alterations being to make wages 1s. a week higher, compared with the corresponding month last year. Farm work is said to be in a forward condition. (For further details see page 141.)

Trade Disputes.—Forty-four fresh disputes began in April, 1898, involving 130,528 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for March was 27, involving 2,888 workpeople, and for April, 1897, 78 disputes, involving 7,404 workpeople. Twenty disputes took place in the building trades, 7 in mining and quarrying, 8 in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 5 in the textile and clothing trades, and 4 in other industries. Of the 30 new and old disputes, involving 28,889 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 15, involving 27,708 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 625 persons, in favour of the employers; while 6, involving 556 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 156.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 132,400 workpeople were reported during April, of which number 131,500 received advances, and 900 sustained decreases. The increases were mainly in mining (113,832) and the building trades (14,797). The net result was an increase estimated at about 3s. 2d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. Changes affecting 25,150 workpeople, or about 19 per cent. of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes, of which one, affecting 640 workpeople, was settled by arbitration. One change, affecting about 600 persons was arranged under a sliding scale: the other changes, affecting about 106,650 workpeople, were effected after negotiation between the employers and their workpeople or their representatives. (For further details see page 152.)

Pauperism.—In the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom 332,517 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of April. This number corresponds to a rate of 210 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, an increase of 3 per 10,000 as compared with a year ago. (For further details see page 158.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during April was 16,857, as compared with 16,116 in April, 1897. (For further details see page 160.)

THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD AND WHEAT.

In continuation of the statistics, which appeared in the **LABOUR GAZETTE** for November, 1896, and September, 1897, dealing with the rise in the price of bread at about those dates, returns have now been collected from 74 of the most important co-operative societies, with a weekly output of about 906,000 quarter loaves, showing the price of bread on April 5th last, May 3rd, and May 10th.

The returns show that the average price of bread sold (excluding fancy bread) on April 5th was 5.81d. the 4 lb. loaf, and that by May 10th this had risen to 6.70d. The price at the beginning of April was somewhat higher than in September, 1897, when prices were considerably above those of 1896. The continuous character of the rise in price since 1896 up to the present time will be seen in the following summary, showing the average price of a 4 lb. loaf at the various dates in 1896-8 for which returns have been collected. The average price in 1893 is also given for comparison:—

Ia.—Average price of 4 lb. Loaf—Summary Table.

Average for 1893	1896.			1897.			1898.		
	12 Sep.	10 Oct.	7 Nov.	9 Aug.	6 Sep.	5 Apl.	3 May.	10 May.	
d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	
4.79	4.22	4.45	4.85	4.97	5.68	5.81	6.15	6.70	

The table shows that between 1893 and September, 1896, the price per 4 lb. loaf fell about 1d. The aggregate rise, as between September, 1896, and the present time, is, roughly, 2½d. per quarter loaf. The greater part of this rise occurred between September, 1896, and September, 1897, when bread rose nearly 1½d. per quarter (1.46d.), the remaining 1.02d. being accounted for by the rise between September, 1897, and the present time. The details for the different districts are shown in the following table for April 5th, May 3rd, and May 10th of 1898.

Ib.—Average price of 4 lb. Loaf—District Table.

District.	1898.				Increase per 4 lb. loaf over April prices at	
	April 5th.	May 3rd.	May 10th.	May 3rd.	May 10th.	
North of England	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	
Midland and Eastern Counties ...	5.82	6.44	6.78	0.62	0.93	
Home Counties	5.37	6.29	6.46	0.92	1.09	
Southern and South-Western Counties	5.06	6.48	6.89	0.52	0.93	
England	5.48	6.18	6.48	0.70	1.00	
Scotland	5.65	6.29	6.65	0.64	1.00	
Great Britain	5.97	6.01	6.77	0.04	0.80	
...	5.81	6.16	6.70	0.35	0.89.	

A noticeable feature in this table is the smallness of the advance in prices in Scotland up to 3rd of May.

II.—Average Price of British Wheat per Quarter.

The most recent return of the price of British wheat is up to the 7th of May only, since when there has been some further advance. The following figures show the average prices of British wheat at and about the various dates covered by the returns of bread prices.

—	1st week.	2nd week.	3rd week.	4th week.	Mean Price
1896. September ...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
October	23 1	23 9	24 0	24 4	23 9
November	25 2	26 7	27 10	28 11	27 10
1897. August	31 6	31 9	32 11	33 4	32 4
September	29 5	29 8	30 4	31 5	30 3
1898. April	33 7	33 1	33 10	33 11	33 7
May	35 2	35 3	36 1	38 4	36 2

The above figures relate exclusively to British wheat.

III.—Imports of Foreign and Colonial Wheat, Wheat Meal and Flour.

The imports of wheat and flour from foreign countries and the Colonies since the 1st of September last are

* Fifth week.

shown in the following table, in which are included for comparative purposes the imports for the corresponding periods of 1895-6 and 1896-7. On the whole there has been a decline of 1,080,000 quarters as compared with the corresponding eight months of 1896-7, and of 220,000 quarters as compared with a similar period in 1895-6. This decline is much more than accounted for by the shrinkage in the imports from Europe. The imports from the United States show a very large increase, while the quantities sent from the East Indies and the Argentine Republic are still below the level of 1895-6, though far above that of 1896-7.

Countries from which imported.	Total quantity imported in the eight months from 1st September to 30th April.		
	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.
Wheat:—	qrs.	qrs.	qrs.
European Countries	3,830,000	4,163,000	2,246,000
United States	4,333,000	5,329,000	5,993,000
British North America	156,000	364,000	744,000
Argentine Republic	212,000	246,000	467,000
Chili	98,000	231,000	53,000
British East Indies	876,000	80,000	338,000
Australasia	104,000	—	35,000
Other Countries	115,000	416,000	—
Total Wheat	10,264,000	10,849,000	9,870,000
Wheat Meal and Flour:—			
European Countries	679,000	953,000	284,000
United States	3,408,000	3,520,000	4,133,000
British North America	513,000	466,000	341,000
Other Countries	35,000	31,000	49,000
Total Wheat Meal and Flour	4,635,000	4,910,000	4,809,000
Total Wheat and Wheat Meal and Flour:—			
European Countries	4,509,000	5,116,000	2,530,000
United States	7,741,000	8,849,000	10,128,000
British North America	709,000	770,000	1,085,000
Other Countries	1,940,000	1,024,000	936,000
Grand Total Imports of Wheat and Wheat Meal and Flour, between 1st Sept. and 30th Apl.	14,899,000	15,759,000	14,679,000

THE DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE.

In the last two numbers of the **LABOUR GAZETTE** (pp. 67 and 99) an account was given of the circumstances leading up to the stoppage of work in the South Wales coal trade, and of the position of the dispute up to April 12th.

On April 14th a conference of workmen's delegates was held. It was resolved that the report of the provisional committee dealing with the recent negotiations between the committee and the representatives of the Coal Owners' Association should be sent on to the collieries for consideration, and that the collieries should be requested to appoint delegates duly instructed to take part in a future conference. The points to be submitted to the collieries were:—

- (1) That the workmen be asked to consider the recommendations of the committee to grant to them, or to some other body, authority to discuss and settle with the coalowners.
- (2) That if the workmen granted this authority they should say whether negotiations were to be carried on on the basis of a sliding scale or no sliding scale.
- (3) If there was to be no sliding scale, what was to be the amount of advance asked for.

The result of the voting on the first two points was made known at a conference held on April 18th, as follows:—(1) Against plenary powers, 74,648; for plenary powers, 20,538. (2) Against a sliding scale, 62,714; for a sliding scale, 29,094.

The conference thereupon resolved:—
That we demand an advance of 22½ per cent. upon the standard of 1897, or equal to 10 per cent. immediate advance upon the wages paid under the late sliding scale agreement; that this basis be allowed to remain in force for three months, and during this time the Provisional Committee shall meet the

* The numbers of quarters given here represent, in addition to the weight of flour, 28 per cent. of offal, &c., the result of the process of converting grain into flour.

employers, if the employers so desire, with the view of coming to some agreement to regulate the wages from the expiration of the three months, such a scheme to be submitted to the workmen, for their approval or otherwise, the three months referred to, to date from April 1st.

The conference refused to consider a proposal to call out those who had received an advance of wages. On the following day the above resolution was conveyed to the secretary of the Coal Owners' Association with an intimation that the workmen's Provisional Committee was willing to meet the representatives of the Association to discuss the proposals now put forward by the men. As, however, it appeared that the Provisional Committee had no powers to settle, except on the terms of the delegates' resolution, the Coal Owners replied that no useful purpose could be served by a discussion of the question. On the same date the Coal Owners informed the Committee that the audit of the books of members of their Association showed that wages payable as from April 1st under the new scale proposed by the employers, were 15.66 per cent. above the standard of 1879, and under the old scale 15 per cent. above the standard.

On April 25th, in answer to a question in the House of Commons, the President of the Board of Trade said:—

As I have already indicated in answer to a previous question on this subject, I think it desirable, if possible, that both parties to a conference should have the same powers. It seems to me that the difficulty which stands in the way of negotiation might, perhaps, be overcome if the colliers were to choose a body of delegates with powers to settle on their behalf who should be in attendance for consultation during the negotiations between the committees of employers and employed. Under such an arrangement, though the workmen's committee would not be actually empowered to effect a settlement, the general body of delegates who would be so empowered would be immediately available for consultation and decision.

On May 9th a deputation, representing the County Councils of Monmouth and the County Boroughs of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea, waited upon the President of the Board of Trade to urge him to do all in his power to promote a settlement of the dispute. In the course of his reply, the President emphasised the importance of powers to settle being conferred by the men, either on their committee or on some body of delegates.

Meetings of miners having been held in various localities, at which resolutions were passed in favour of the above suggestion, on May 10th the Provisional Committee resolved:—

That having received requests from a few collieries to convene a conference, this committee is anxious to know whether there is a general desire for such a conference, and therefore asks all collieries to declare whether a conference shall be held or not, the resolutions arrived at to be sent to the Provisional Committee not later than Friday, the 13th inst.

On May 14th it was announced that the replies received to this resolution were thoroughly representative, and that a large majority of votes were in favour of a Conference. This Conference will, therefore, be held in Cardiff, on Monday, May 16th. Collieries representing a large proportion of the men are reported to have voted in favour of empowering their representatives to effect a settlement.

In the meantime, great distress prevails in the districts affected by the dispute, not only among the miners and their families, but in the mineral trades and among those engaged in shipping and transport labour.

The effect of the dispute on allied trades has already become marked. During April, 11 blast furnaces in the South Wales district have been damped down, and 25 fewer tinplate mills were working at the end than at the beginning of the month. Meanwhile rises of wages have taken place among coal miners in several other districts, notably Scotland and Northumberland. These changes are noted in detail in the table on page 152. Altogether they affected 113,800 men, who gained an average advance of 3s. 5d. per head per week.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS IN FRANCE.

By a law, passed on April 9th, 1898, and coming into operation three months after the official publication of the regulations for its administration, provision is made for compensation for accidents to workmen in France. The law applies to workmen employed in the building trades, factories, workshops, and shipbuilding &c. yards, in transport by land or water, loading and unloading goods, public warehouses, &c., mines and quarries, and in all establishments in which explosives are manufactured or used, or in which machinery is run by motor power (power other than that of men or animals), and provides compensation in the case of every accident, occurring in the trades coming under the law, which causes disablement lasting more than four days. But if the yearly wages of the workman injured exceed £96, he is to be entitled under the law to full compensation in respect of his earnings up to £96 only, every £1 of earnings over £96 counting, for the purpose of reckoning his claim for compensation, as 5s. only. Subject to this limitation, the employer is bound to provide compensation upon the following scale:—

If the accident results in (1) permanent complete disablement, the compensation is to be an allowance (paid quarterly) equal to two-thirds of the man's yearly wages; if in (2) permanent disablement of a partial nature, a similar allowance equal to one-half of the diminution in the man's earnings due to the accident; if in (3) temporary disablement, a daily allowance equal to one-half of the wages which the man was earning at the time of the accident, provided that the disablement lasts more than four days, such allowance beginning on the fifth day.

The compensation payable in respect of a fatal accident takes three forms, viz.: (a) The surviving wife (or husband) of the deceased will receive an annuity equal to one-fifth of the yearly wages of the deceased payable during life or until re-marriage, in which event such survivor is to receive in place of the annuity a lump sum equal to three times the annuity; (b) the children of the deceased (including illegitimate children recognised before the accident) under 16 years of age receive an allowance (payable quarterly) equal to 15 per cent. of the yearly earnings of the deceased, if one such child only is left; 25 per cent., if two; 35 per cent., if three; 40 per cent., if more than three; but if the children have neither father nor mother alive, then they each get one-fifth of the yearly earnings of the deceased but so that they shall not between them receive more than 60 per cent. of such earnings; (c) if no wife (or husband) and no child survive, but other relations dependent on the deceased are left, each such person shall receive an allowance (as specified in the law), the aggregate amount of such allowances not to exceed 30 per cent. of the yearly earnings of the deceased. The employer is required to defray the cost of medical attendance and of medicines, and funeral expenses (up to £4).

An employer may claim exemption from the payment of the temporary allowances provided by the law and the cost of medical attendance and medicines during a period not exceeding ninety days from the date of the accident, if he can show that he has caused his workmen to join a friendly society which provides for its members (if they meet with injury) free medical attendance and medicines and a daily allowance; but the employer must pay not less than one-third of the total contributions required from members of the society. If the daily allowance paid by the society is less than one-half of the daily wage of the workman, the employer must make up the difference.

An employer can claim a similar exemption, if he contribute an annual sum to a benefit fund for his workmen, established under the law of June 29th, 1894 (relating to provident and pension funds for mines and quarries), or upon lines similar to those laid down by that law. In either case the amount and the conditions of payment of the contribution shall be agreed upon with the members of the fund and approved by the Government.

An injured person, entitled under this law to receive a life annuity, may, with the consent of the competent court, require that a part not exceeding one-fourth of the present value of the annuity be paid over to him (or her) as a lump sum in cash, or that such present value be employed in providing an annuity payable during the joint lives of himself (or herself) and his (or her) surviving wife (or husband), but so that the annual payments after his (or her) death shall not be more than one-half of those payable in his (or her) lifetime. But the total sum, for which the employer is liable, shall not be increased by any such arrangement.

Notice of every accident by which a workman is disabled, must, within 48 hours of its occurrence, be given by the employer or his representatives to the mayor of the locality, who has to notify the factory or mines inspector. If the doctor's certificate (which must be sent with the notice of accident) shows that the injury is likely to result in death or in permanent disablement (whether complete or partial), the mayor must inform the magistrate, who will hold an inquiry as to the accident, the persons entitled to claim compensation, and the daily and annual earnings of the injured workman.

Legal proceedings for the recovery of compensation must be taken within one year after the accident. If the injured workman is shown to have caused the accident by his culpable negligence, the court may reduce the allowance payable in his case below the scale fixed by the Act; the court may also award him compensation on a higher scale if the accident be shown to be due to the culpable negligence of the employer or his representatives.

The claims of an injured workman or his representatives against an employer by virtue of this law are accorded special priority. In the case of claims arising from an accident resulting in permanent injury or death, such claims, if not duly met by the employer or by some insurance society or fund, are to be paid by the National Old Age Pension Fund. For the purpose of enabling this Fund to meet claims of this nature the ordinary industrial licence tax is to be increased, and there is to be levied on mines a special tax, the sums thus raised being paid over to the Fund. The National Fund, however, will have the right to recover all monies paid in respect of any such claim from the employer concerned, or from any society or fund with which such employer may have effected an insurance against his liability in respect thereof.

All societies or funds undertaking insurance against employers' liability for compensation for accidents are to be supervised by Government and are bound to form reserve funds or give security as shall be fixed by official order.

Any agreement in conflict with this law is absolutely void.

SUNDAY LABOUR IN BELGIUM.

A REPORT* recently issued by the Belgian Labour Department on Sunday labour in Belgian mines and quarries makes the fourth of the series of five volumes, in which that Department has arranged to publish the results of the inquiry into Sunday labour which it carried out in 1895, and the third of the volumes dealing with this question as it affects the industries of Belgium itself. (See LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1896, p. 242, and May, 1897, p. 133.)

The inquiry as to Belgian mines and quarries covered 320 establishments, employing 133,428 workpeople on week days. Of these 320 establishments, 127, employing 116,080 workpeople, belonged to the coal mining industry. As the mean number of workpeople employed in the coal mines of Belgium in 1895 was 118,957, it appears that some 97½ per cent. of Belgium coal-miners were covered by the inquiry. The mean number of workpeople employed in all mines and quarries in Belgium in 1895 was 155,089.

Of the 320 establishments investigated, 186, employing 122,526 workpeople,* were found to carry on some

* Travail du Dimanche. Volume III. Belgique. Mines, Minières et Carrières. Tableaux Statistiques et Monographies. Office du Travail, Bruxelles, 1896. Société Belge de Librairie. Rue Treurenberg, 16.

work on every Sunday in the year; in 48 establishments, employing 4,736 workpeople, Sunday labour was performed on occasional Sundays only, whilst 86 establishments, employing 6,166 workpeople, never worked on Sundays. It must be understood that only a fraction of the persons employed by the above establishments usually participate in the Sunday work.

In 141 out of the 234 establishments in which Sunday work was found to be carried on, such labour was performed regularly in some branches and irregularly in others. In 45 of the 234 establishments only regular, and in 48 only irregular Sunday work was done. It is stated that the labour done on Sundays consists for the most part mainly of repairs, cleaning up, &c., and partly of watchmen's duties or transport work, and only to a comparatively small extent in actual production.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1897.*

THE returns with regard to the passenger movement between the United Kingdom and other countries for 1897, compared with those for 1896, show a diminished passenger traffic with countries out of Europe, but a considerable increase in the Continental traffic. The net effect of the whole traffic was an outward movement from this country of about 40,300 persons, a decrease of nearly 2,800 as compared with the corresponding figures for 1896.

This excess of about 40,300 in the number of persons leaving the United Kingdom over the number of persons arriving here from all parts, is shown to be the result of a net balance outwards of 52,800 natives, and a net balance inwards of 12,500 foreigners. Among the latter, however, are included 10,800 foreign sailors, who, coming to the United Kingdom as passengers, are reckoned among the immigrants, but of whom no corresponding record is made when they leave as members of the crews of outgoing ships.

The number of emigrants to places out of Europe was less in 1897 than in any preceding year since 1878. Among native emigrants, English were fewer than in 1896 by over 8,000, Scotch by a few hundreds only, and Irish by about 6,500. The English proportion of the total native emigration in 1897 was 65 per cent., the Scotch 11, and the Irish 24 per cent.

As compared with the figures for 1896, emigrants to the United States were fewer by over 22,000, and those to South Africa by 7,000. Emigration to British North America was practically at the same level in the two years, while there was an increase of nearly 1,700 persons among emigrants to Australasia.

It may be noted that the number of emigrants coming under the description of "miners and quarrymen" who left in 1897 for "places other than North America or Australasia" (mainly, therefore, no doubt, for South Africa) was only 3,508, as against 6,866 in 1896.

With regard to the class of Russian and Polish immigrants (other than seamen) among whom the "destitute aliens" are principally found, it appears that 14,775 of these, not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries, arrived from European ports in 1897, as compared with 12,773 in 1896, and 10,204 in 1895. Of these nearly 83 per cent. came to London. A considerable number of these immigrants, although not so stated on the Alien Lists, were ascertained by the Customs officers to be proceeding forthwith to other countries, in addition to those who left the country subsequently, either without assistance, or through the aid of the Jewish Board of Guardians, or the "Conjoint Committee" of that body and of the Russo-Jewish Committee, who, together, assisted about 2,000 Jews (mostly Russians and Poles) to emigrate during 1897.

From information obtained through the Local Government Board it appears that relief (chiefly medical aid) was granted to aliens by poor law authorities in the metropolis and the provinces to a slightly increased extent in 1897 (compared with 1896) in London, Leeds and Cardiff, but to a diminished extent in the rest of the country.

* Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration in 1897. [P.P. 154 of 1898.] Price 6d.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN AUSTRIA IN 1896.*

The following particulars, based on the Report of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce on the strikes and lock-outs of 1896, relate to Austria as distinct from Hungary, and do not include disputes in agriculture or the mining and cognate industries, or in blast furnaces, &c., closely connected with mines, and licensed by the Mining Authorities.

Two hundred and ninety-four strikes, in which 36,114 workpeople took part, and which entailed a loss to these workpeople of 595,768 working days, were reported in 1896. A comparison of these figures with those of each of the five preceding years for which official statistics have been published, is afforded by the following table:—

Years.	Strikes.	Strikers.	Days of Work Lost.
	No.	No.	No.
1891	104	14,025	247,086
1892	101	14,123	159,992
1893	172	28,120	518,511
1894	159	44,075	566,463†
1895	205	28,026	297,845‡
1896	294	36,114	595,768†

In addition to the 36,114 workpeople who took part in the strikes of 1896, there were 2,372 (compared with 2,005 in 1895, and 4,299 in 1894) indirectly concerned and subjected to the loss of 24,233 working days (compared with 29,118 in 1895, and 81,217 in 1894).

The table which follows shows to what extent various groups of trades were affected by strikes in 1896 (compared with 1895):—

Groups of Trades§	1895.				1896.			
	Strikers.		Days lost by Strikers.		Strikers.		Days lost by Strikers.	
	Total.	Proportion per cent. of all Strikers	Total.	Proportion per cent. of all days lost by Strikers	Total.	Proportion per cent. of all Strikers	Total.	Proportion per cent. of all days lost by Strikers
Building Trades	5,375	19.2	28,558	9.6	5,471	15.2	24,837	4.2
Metal & Engineering, &c., Trades	3,947	14.1	56,345	18.9	5,031	13.9	88,729	14.9
Textile Trades ...	4,085	14.6	33,836	11.4	9,791	27.1	234,943	39.4
Clothing Trades	976	3.6	17,327	5.8	2,563	7.1	19,031	3.2
Transport Trades	—	—	—	—	65	0.2	195	—
Wood working, India-rubber, and Furnishing Trades ...	2,336	8.3	54,319	18.2	5,972	16.5	151,398	25.4
Miscellaneous Trades ...	11,307	40.3	107,160	36.1	7,221	20.0	76,635	12.9
Total	28,026	100.0	297,845	100.0	36,114	100.0	595,768	100.0

The following statement classifies the strikers in 1895 and 1896 according to the results of the strikes in which they took part:—

Results.	1895.			1896.		
	Strikes.	Strikers.		Strikes.	Strikers.	
		No.	Per cent.		No.	Per cent.
Entirely Successful ...	55	3,489	12.4	64	3,046	8.4
Partially Successful ...	51	17,310	61.8	107	22,314	61.8
Unsuccessful ...	99	7,227	25.8	123	10,754	29.8
Total ...	205	28,026	100.0	294	36,114	100.0

In the Austrian reports, lock-outs are shown separately from strikes. The number of lock-outs in 1896 is stated to have been 10, the number of establishments affected being 211, and the number of workpeople 5,445 (out of 6,847 employed in the establishments affected). In 1895 there were 8 lock-outs, affecting 17 establishments, in which 2,317 workpeople were locked-out. Four out of the 10 lock-outs of 1896 arose out of the absence of

* Die Arbeitseinstellungen und Aussperrungen im Gewerbebetriebe in Oesterreich während des Jahres 1896. Herausgegeben vom Statistischen Departement im K. K. Handelsministerium. Vienna, 1898. Alfred Hölder, I. Rothenturmstrasse, 15.

† Excluding Sundays and holidays, which were included in previous years.

‡ These particulars are not stated for the years 1891-3.

§ Excluding agriculture, mining and cognate industries, also blast furnaces closely connected with mines, and licensed by the Mining Authorities.

workpeople on May-day. In 76 out of the 294 strikes, which occurred in 1896, the factory inspectors acted as mediators, being assisted in 32 cases by the local authorities for dealing with industrial matters. In 26 cases these authorities were the sole mediators, and in 4 cases, the mayors.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN FLAX AND JUTE CENTRES.*

A REPORT on Changes in the Employment of Women and Girls in Flax and Jute Centres has been published by the Department in continuation of the Report on the Statistics of Employment of Women published in 1895. The aim has been to bring together in a convenient form the most important information regarding the conditions of labour of women and girls at various periods of the present century, which is contained in official reports, and to supplement this information by fresh inquiry with reference to special points.

The report reviews the conditions of employment prevailing in the flax trade in the East of Scotland, the North of Ireland, and Yorkshire, during the period of transition from the domestic to the factory system of employment, and then proceeds to the examination of the changes in employment since that period in Dundee and Belfast, the two most important centres of the jute and flax trades at the present time.

The principal changes dealt with in the report are (1) changes in organisation, with special reference to the different ways in which men and women were affected; (2) changes in wages; (3) changes in relative numbers of men and women in the trade and in the district; (4) changes in extent of employment of married women; and (5) changes in occupation.

From the evidence quoted in the report it appears that women's wages in the textile trades in Dundee and Belfast have risen much more in proportion than men's wages in the same trades. Women's work has improved when compared with girls' work, and there is a greater difference in efficiency between one woman textile worker and another at the present time than was observable in the early part of the century when the maximum wage was earned at a very early age.

Children working half time now earn more than when working full time in 1833. The wages of girls under 18 in spinning mills have increased by about 50 per cent. in Dundee, and 100 per cent. in Belfast, where, however, they are still lower than in Dundee. The wages of adult women in spinning mills have risen about 70 per cent. in Dundee, and 90 per cent. in Belfast. The wages of women weavers and winders in 1833 cannot be exactly estimated, but, roughly speaking, the wages earned by women in the weaving factories in Dundee and Belfast are more than 50 per cent. higher than those of men weavers in 1833.

Rates of wages were at their maximum in Dundee and in Belfast in 1873, and at their minimum (since that period) in 1886 when the Board of Trade wages census was taken, the results of which are given.

Certain special circumstances with regard to Dundee are noted: (1) an increasing immigration of girls into Dundee; and an emigration of men from Dundee, resulting in an abnormal disproportion of the sexes over 20 years of age, women being to men in the ratio of 3 to 2; (2) a high proportion of married women in the mills as compared with other industrial towns of Scotland; (3) an increase in the percentage of married women returned as occupied in 1891 as compared with the percentage in 1881.

In Belfast the percentage of adult women returned as occupied is much lower than in Dundee, and is not increasing; the disproportion between the sexes is not so great, and is diminishing; there is greater variety of employment for women, and there are more openings for skilled workmen; the rate of infant mortality is lower than in Dundee. Wages in Dundee are higher than in Belfast.

* Employment of Women—C. 8,794.—Price 6d.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN ITALY.

SIR F. C. FORD, H.M. Ambassador in Rome, under date of April 5th, has forwarded through the Foreign Office copies and translation of an Italian law relating to workmen's accident insurance. The new law, which was passed on March 17th, 1898, comes into operation six months after its publication in the official Gazette, and requires all employers to give notice to the police of every accident occurring to any of their workmen within two days of its occurrence. It also contains provisions with respect to the prevention of, and compensation for, accidents. These provisions apply to mines and quarries, to building operations, gasworks and electricity generation stations, telephone installations, industries in which explosives are handled or used, and shipbuilding yards, irrespective of the numbers employed. The provisions also apply, in cases in which more than five workmen are employed, to the construction and working of railways, to inland waterways, and to tramways on which mechanical traction is employed, to land-draining, and similar works, to the construction and repair of dock and river, &c. embankments, to bridge and road making, and to all factories in which motor power (including that of animals) is used, if over five persons are employed.

With respect to the prevention of accidents, regulations prescribing the measures to be taken by employers coming under the Act are to be issued, after inquiry, by the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. This Ministry is to organise the necessary inspection, and to see that the requirements of the law are fulfilled.

So far as concerns compensation for accidents, the Act requires that every employer to whom the law applies shall, at his own cost, provide for his workmen compensation for all accidents the consequences of which last more than five days. The compensation under the law is as follows:—If there shall result from the accident disablement of a complete and permanent nature, the compensation will be an amount equivalent to five times the man's yearly wages, but in any case not less than £120; this amount is, as a rule, to be invested in a life annuity for the benefit of the injured workman. For permanent partial disablement, the compensation is to be an amount equivalent to five times the difference between the man's previous annual wages and those lower wages which he may earn after the accident; for temporary complete disablement a daily sum, equal to one-half of the man's previous average daily earnings, payable from the expiration of five days from the date of accident until the entire disappearance of the consequent disablement; for temporary partial disablement, one-half of the difference between the man's previous earnings and his earnings after the accident, so far as such diminution in earnings may be caused by such disablement, this sum being payable from the expiration of five days from the accident until the entire disappearance of the disablement. In the case of a fatal accident the compensation will be five times the annual wages of the deceased, and will be paid to his legatees or other representatives. The employer has in all cases of accident to defray the cost of first aid (including doctor's fees and medicines).

Any agreement, by which it is attempted to evade, wholly or in part, the liability of an employer for compensation under this law, is declared of no effect.

Legal proceedings for the recovery of compensation must be taken within one year after the accident.

The manner in which employers are to provide the compensation payable under the law is as follows. As a rule, the compensation must be provided by effecting an insurance either with the National Workmen's Accident Insurance Fund (created by the law of 1883), or with an insurance company authorised to carry on business in Italy, subject to special regulations to be issued in relation to such insurance. But workmen employed on Government or other public works* (whether carried out directly, or by contractors) must be insured with the National Workmen's Accident

* The workmen employed in Government establishments will not be insured under the new law, provision being made with regard to them in prior enactments.

Insurance Fund. Railway companies, however, are to be exempt from the obligation to insure their workmen, if they modify the provisions already obtaining in regard to their Pension and Accident Funds so as to bring these provisions into conformity with the new law. Other employers are to be exempt from this obligation if they establish at their own cost private accident funds, on condition that (1) every such fund shall provide for the insurance of more than 500 workmen, that (2) it receive official recognition, that (3) the benefits provided by it be at least as great as those provided under the new law, and that (4) there shall have been deposited on behalf of the fund with the Treasury securities issued or guaranteed by the State, to the value of not less than five times the annual premium which would have been payable to the National Accident Insurance Fund in respect of the insurance of the workmen concerned, had they been insured in that fund. Should any private fund fail to meet its obligations, the employer remains responsible.

The Act also exempts from the ordinary obligation of insurance those employers who may form a mutual insurance fund, if (1) the number of the workmen to which such fund relates shall be not less than 4,000, if (2) the constitution of the fund be officially approved, and (3) security be deposited of a value equivalent to 8s. for each workman employed by the members of the fund, but not exceeding £20,000. On the formation of a mutual fund its members have to pay in to its credit at the beginning of the first year an amount equal to one-half of the premiums which would have been payable, had the workmen concerned been insured with the National Accident Insurance Fund; and at the commencement of every subsequent year these employers have to pay in advance annual premiums, the amount of which is to be determined on the basis of the claims paid by the fund in the preceding year. The members of a Mutual Fund are jointly and severally liable for all sums payable by virtue of the Act; and all contributions due from them will be recoverable by the same means as taxes.

POPULATION OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE, FEBRUARY, 1897.

The Central Statistical Committee of the Russian Ministry of the Interior has published provisional figures* summarising the results of the first general census of the Russian Empire, which took place on February 9, 1897 (N.S.)

The figures show the population of the whole Empire on that date to have been 126,411,736, viz.: 63,253,131 males and 63,158,605 females. The urban population was 16,289,181, or a little over one-eighth of the whole. Finland is not included, except as to Russians resident in that country.

The population was thus divided:—

	Total.	Urban.
Russia in Europe ...	94,215,415	11,830,546
Poland ...	9,455,943	2,059,340
Caucasus ...	9,248,695	998,248
Siberia ...	5,727,090	462,182
Central Asia ...	7,721,684	932,662
Total ...	126,368,827	16,289,978
Russian population in Finland ...	14,018	—
Russian colonies in Bokhara ...	12,150	8,203
Russian subjects in Khiva ...	3,937	—
Russian subjects on ships of Imperial Navy in foreign parts	12,804	—
General total ...	126,411,736	16,289,181

Mineral Statistics, 1897.—The Home Office reports relating to statistics of mines and quarries, hitherto published in three separate volumes, will in future appear as a single work in four parts. Part I.† has now been issued, containing statistics of persons employed, accidents, and output, with maps of the inspection districts, and names and addresses of inspectors.

Dangerous Trades.—By a certificate of the Home Secretary dated April 2, 1898, the process of sorting foreign hides and skins and dry East Indian hides and skins and the processes incidental thereto are included among the trades dangerous or injurious to health under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891.

* Premier Recensement général de la Population de l'Empire de Russie, 1897, Publication du Comité Central de Statistique au Ministère de l'Intérieur. Livraison I., St. Petersburg, 1897.

† C. 8836. Eyre and Spottiswoode. Price 7d.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Carpenters and Joiners at Leicester.

NOTICE was given in November, 1897, by the carpenters and joiners at Leicester for the adoption, on and after April 1st, 1898, of a new code of working rules. The principal alterations asked for were an advance in the standard rate of wages from 8^{d.} to 9^{d.} per hour, a reduction of hours by 3⁴ per week during the period March to October inclusive, and by one per week during the remainder of the year, and a limitation of apprentices. The employers made a counter-proposal in the form of a suggested code of rules. Conferences were held between representatives of the parties, with Mr. T. Smith, local correspondent of the Board of Trade, in the chair, but no settlement was arrived at, and on April 2nd, about 350 men came out on strike. Subsequently the parties agreed to accept the arbitration of an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade, and on April 13th, identically worded applications were made to the Board by the parties to appoint an arbitrator. The Board appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, who heard the parties on April 19th, and issued his award on the same day.

The clauses governing the rate of wages and hours of labour are as follows:—

I award and declare that Rule 1 of the working rules binding the employers of carpenters and joiners and the operative carpenters and joiners, aforesaid, in Leicester district, as published in the year 1895, and annexed hereto, shall read as follows:—"The standard rate of wages of efficient workmen shall be ninepence per hour."

That Rule 2 shall read as follows:—"The hours of work shall be for the 1st day of March to October 31st (both dates inclusive), for the first five days, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., with half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner; Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. with half an hour for breakfast. During the first two weeks of November and the last two weeks of February from 7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and during the remaining part of November, the first two weeks of December, the last two weeks of January, and the first two weeks of February, from 7.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and during the remainder of December and the remainder of January from 7.30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with one hour for dinner; Saturdays from 7.30 a.m. to 12 a.m."

Among other alterations made by the award are the following:—The starting point for work was extended and fixed at the boundaries of the municipal borough, instead of at arbitrary fixed points. The necessary notice for the termination of service is fixed at one hour in all cases. The rule limiting apprentices and improvers to one to every three journeymen is altered by the addition of the words, "on the average number of men employed during the preceding year." Increased payment for overtime is not to commence in the period from March 1st to October 31st until half an hour after leaving-off time, and during the rest of the year at leaving-off time, and on Saturdays at 1 p.m. An arrangement has been introduced for counter-proposals being submitted before December 7th, in the event of proposals for alteration of the rules having been made during November by either party. A new clause has been added to the original Conciliation Rule establishing the procedure to be taken in case of an alleged violation of the rules, and fixing limits of time within which each step must be taken.

The award came into operation at once, the men returning to work on the following day.

At the request of both parties, the question of the use of ready-made joinery was discussed before Mr. Askwith, and it was agreed that a committee of the employers and men should prepare a list of firms from whom ready-made joinery might be for the present purchased, and that in the event of any difficulty arising, the matter should be discussed by the presidents of the two associations, with power to call in an umpire.

Stafford Boot and Shoe Trade.

At the request of representatives of the employers' and operatives' arbitrators of the Board of Conciliation and

Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Stafford, the Board of Trade, on April 25th, appointed Mr. W. B. Hoffman to act as umpire to the Board.

Bricklayers in the Potteries.

Notice having been given by the bricklayers in the Potteries district for an advance in wages, a joint application was addressed to the Board of Trade, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator. The Board appointed Mr. Talbot Baines as arbitrator, and it was agreed that the men should remain at work pending the arbitration. Mr. Talbot Baines heard the parties on May 6th, and issued his award on May 13th.

The award gives no change in the rate of wages, which will therefore continue at the previous figure, 8^{d.} per hour. In the award the arbitrator notes that the employers expressed their intention, if no advance was awarded, of not attempting to reduce the rate of wages for three years.

(b) OTHER CASES.

Repairs in Liverpool Graving Docks.

The following new bye-laws were agreed to by representatives of the Liverpool Shipbuilders' Association and the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society on April 21st. The new rules apply to the Graving Docks of Liverpool, Birkenhead, Ellesmere Port and Galston, and came into force on May 1st.

1st.—That all work done at a height of 4 feet and under to 3 feet, be paid for at the rate of time and quarter for all time worked.

2nd.—That all work done at a height of 3 feet and under, be paid for at time and half for all time worked. The height to be measured from the bottom of the Dock to the place where the work is being done.

3rd.—Rivets in keel (bar keel) are not included in this allowance, but will be paid at the ordinary rates. Also chipping and caulking the bottom edge of garboard strake does not come under the extra allowance if the height of the shell to the bottom of the dock exceeds 4 feet.

4th.—All work to frames connecting to floors when tank top plates are on, and frame space is 2 feet or under, to be paid at Tank rates, namely time and quarter. This not to apply to vessels with no tank, except when under the limit of the 4 feet arrangement.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

A NEW edition* has been issued of the Guide Book of the Friendly Societies' Registry Office. Annual Edition for 1898. Price 6d.

Societies' Registry Office, containing information for the use of officers and members of friendly societies, benevolent societies, working men's clubs, co-operative societies, building societies, trades unions and workmen's compensation funds.

The volume contains full details as to the duties, obligations and privileges of members of registered societies, and of the various proceedings of the Registry Office under the Acts relating to the above-named societies.

It contains notes on, and model rules for, the establishment of societies under the Friendly Societies Acts and the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, together with tables of sickness and mortality based upon the returns made by Friendly Societies for the years 1856 to 1880 inclusive.

Information is also given as to certified loan societies, savings banks, government annuities and insurances, industrial assurance companies and unregistered friendly societies, and as to fees payable by societies, under certain circumstances, to the Registry Office.

NIGHT WORK OF WOMEN AND GIRLS. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT INQUIRY.*

THE Belgian Labour Department has just published the result of an inquiry undertaken, at the request of the Minister of Industry and Labour, by M. Maurice Ansiaux, LL.D., into the industrial employment of women and girls at night in certain countries. The report is divided into five parts, one each for France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Austria and Germany. The information given for each of these countries is treated under four heads: (1) Analysis of enactments bearing on the subject under investigation; (2) In what manner and to what extent these enactments are enforced; (3) Their effects upon society as a whole, upon industry, morality and domestic life; and (4) Proposals for extending or restricting these regulations.

The Netherlands Law of May 5th, 1880, regulating the employment of women and children, and the New Zealand Act of October, 18th, 1894, to consolidate and amend the law for supervising and regulating factories and work-rooms, are analysed in appendices to the report.

* Travail de Nuit des ouvrières de l'industrie dans les pays étrangers. Office du Travail, Brussels, 1898. Société Belge de Librairie, Rue Treurenberg, 16.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases reported in April, specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

(1) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

Unfenced Machinery.—Accident through Carelessness and Disobedience.—Liability of Employer.—This was an appeal from a decision of a magistrate on the hearing of an information preferred by an inspector of factories, under Section 82 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878. The magistrate stated a case for the opinion of the Court. The section referred to provides that "if any person is killed, or suffers any bodily injury in consequence of the occupier of a factory having neglected to fence any machinery required by or in pursuance of this Act to be securely fenced . . . the occupier of the factory . . . shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £100, the whole or any part of which may be applied for the benefit of the injured person or his family, or otherwise as a Secretary of State determines."

The facts of the case were that a boy employed at the factory of the respondents, who were letterpress printers, had caught his hand in the wheels of a printing machine, at which he was working, which resulted in the loss of two fingers. It was the boy's duty, and he was so directed by the foreman, to stand on a stool at the side of the machine and to keep the papers straight; but the accident happened when he was standing at the back of the machine, contrary to the instructions of the machine-minder, under whose orders the boy was working. Although the back-gear of the printing-machine, where the boy's hand was caught in the wheels and injured, was a dangerous part of the machinery within the Factory Acts, such back gear was not sufficiently fenced.

It was contended on behalf of the appellants that it was immaterial whether the injury to the boy was caused by his own negligence, and that, the machine not having been fenced, the respondents were guilty of the offence charged. The respondents' case was that the injury was caused by the negligence of the boy, and by his disobedience to the orders of the machine-minder; and that, therefore, the respondents were not liable, although the machine ought to have been fenced. The magistrate found that the machine was not securely fenced; but that the injury to the boy was caused by his own carelessness and wilful disobedience to orders, and that if he had done as he was told the accident would not have happened. He, therefore, held that as the injury was caused by the boy's own carelessness and wilful disobedience to orders, the respondents were not liable under the section, and he dismissed the summons, subject to the case stated. The Divisional Court allowed the appeal, holding that where injury resulted from a neglect to fence machinery, the injury was a consequence of the neglect, though there might have been negligence on the part of the person injured. They expressed the opinion that the object of the section was to punish persons who neglect to fence machinery, where injury or death ensues, and that there was no reason for adopting the narrow construction suggested.—*Divisional Court, reported April 25th.*

Oiling Machinery During Meal Times Without Orders or Consent of Employer.—Liability of Employer.—This came before the Divisional Court in a case stated by the magistrates who had dismissed an information preferred against the respondents for employing "a young person" at their textile factory during a time specified in a notice affixed in the factory as a time allowed for meals contrary to the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878.

The facts of the case were as follows:—The boy in question, who was a piecer, had his dinner inside the mill during the interval for dinner. After he had finished he set to work to oil the spindles to pass the time, though it was not his business to do so. The Bench dismissed the information on the ground that there was no evidence of employment of the boy by the respondents in contravention of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878. Section 17 (2), provides that "a child, young person, or woman shall not during any part of the times allowed for meals in the factory or workshop be employed in the factory or the workshop."

The Divisional Court allowed the appeal, and sent the case back to the magistrates to convict. The Court expressed the opinion that the policy of the Statute was to ensure that certain classes of persons employed in factories should have the hours for their meals preserved intact, and that its provisions should be construed rigorously so as to ensure the fulfilment of its object. In the present case the boy was oiling spindles within the prohibited hours, and, though his object in so doing was to amuse himself, it did not prevent what he did being work. The magistrates, the Court stated, did not find that the boy did not work, but all they found was that he was not employed by the respondents. The Court, therefore, held that the respondents were not entitled to the benefit of the exemption under Section 87, because there was no information before the magistrates by which any other person was charged with the offence. Section 87 was intended to meet cases where the occupier was in no way to blame, but the relief afforded by the section was conditional on another person being suspected and brought before the magistrates. Still, even where nobody could be brought to book, the magistrate who administered the Act had a discretion as to the amount of the fine, and could meet a case of hardship by imposing a moderate one. Section 87 of the Act provides that "where the occupier of a factory or workshop is charged with an offence against the Act, he shall be entitled upon information duly laid by him to have any other person whom he charges as the actual offender brought before the Court at the time appointed for hearing the charge, and

if, after the commission of the offence has been proved, the occupier of the factory or workshop proves to the satisfaction of the Court that he used due diligence to enforce the execution of the Act, and that the said other person had committed the offence in question without his knowledge, consent, or connivance, the said other person shall be summarily convicted of such offence, and the occupier shall be exempt from any fine."—*Divisional Court, April 30th.*

Sweeping Potters' Shops.—Young Persons.—Two operative potters were each fined £2 and 13s. costs for failure to observe special rules by allowing young persons to sweep potters' shops (Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, S. 9).—*Hanley Borough Court, April 4th.*

Regulations.—Grinding.—A firm of tenement factory owners were fined £3 and 7s. costs, for neglect to observe the regulations as to grinding set forth in the First Schedule to the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.—*Sheffield City Court House, April 25th.*

(2) TRUCK ACT (1896).

Deductions.—Failure to Affix Terms of Contract or to Obtain Written Contract.—A firm of saddle and harness makers were fined 5s. and 18s. costs for failure to affix notice of terms of contract with respect to deductions from wages for shop-room and gas, or to obtain contract in writing signed by workmen; and a firm of hair-seating manufacturers were fined £1 10s. and £1 14s. 6d. for making deductions from wages of three employees for damaged material, &c., without a written contract or affixing of notice.—*Walsall Borough Police Court, April 6th, and Long Melford County Police Court, April 7th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers &c., mostly dated March and April last.)†

Canada.—A considerable amount of railway construction and railway repairing work is going on in the western districts. Any deficiency in the labour supply is mostly met by the engagement of men from Ontario; the wages offered are 5s. to 7s. a day. There is a good demand for experienced farm labourers at this season of the year. Outdoor trades—such as the building and shipping trades—have also now begun to be busy, but there is no special demand for more men. Female servants are as usual in demand, and will have no difficulty in procuring situations.

Miners going to the Klondike gold fields should have at least £300 for outfit, journey and food, and should take through tickets as far as the railway extends. Only the strongest have any chance of succeeding at the gold fields, and it is very risky to throw up any assured occupation in order to go there.

New South Wales.—There is no great demand for more labour at the present time, but it is stated that at Sydney tailoresses can always get work, and a few first-class lithographers would find employment at £3 to £4 a week; men in the metal trades are fairly well employed. There is no opening for railway men from outside the colony. The total acreage under cultivation this year is considerably more than it was in 1897.

Victoria.—There is no general demand for more labour. A report from Horsham states that there is an excellent opening for a man who takes up a few acres for apricot growing, if he can afford to wait for a few years. At Sale in Gippsland, excellent agricultural land can be bought for £6 to £14 an acre. There is no demand there for more mechanics, but miners do fairly well prospecting new country, experienced men earning on an average 25s. to 60s. a week. The yield of gold in the Colony continues to increase.

South Australia.—A report from the Renmark Irrigation Colony states that there is no opening there for employment of any kind, and similar reports come from other parts of South Australia.

Queensland.—Reports from Brisbane, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Mackay, and other parts show that there is practically no demand for more mechanics; there is, however, a good demand for farm labourers in sugar districts during the crushing season, but it must be remembered that this only lasts from June to December.

Western Australia.—A report from Coolgardie states that the labour market there is congested; a large

* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

† Handbooks, with maps, on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office at a penny each, post free.

number of miners and other workmen are out of employment.

Tasmania.—Mining on the West Coast continues to progress, and good miners can always be sure of employment there. Extensive smelters are being put up at Zeehan, and brickfields have recently been opened; the demand for most kinds of ordinary labour (except compositors) is increasing, as the mines develop round Zeehan, Queenstown and other places.

New Zealand.—A report from Wellington states that there has been a good demand for plumbers, brick-makers, ironmoulders, cabinet-makers and upholsterers, and a fair demand for bricklayers, painters, blacksmiths, coppersmiths, fitters, and insmiths; there is no demand for hand tailors, or female shirtmakers. At Auckland there has been a good demand for bricklayers, but other trades are well supplied with men.

Cape Colony.—There is little or no demand for more labour. The Cape Colonisation Company, which was started to effect settlement on its land at Tulbagh, is now in liquidation.

Natal.—Business at Durban has improved, but the supply of local labour is sufficient.

Transvaal.—Trade generally at Johannesburg, and especially the building trade, is in a state of stagnation, and there are no signs of any improvement. A large number of persons continue to leave the city, and it is estimated that several hundreds of houses are empty. Work has been found for about 300 men out of the unemployed on the construction of a new road; the wages are 5s. a day, and the hours are about 42 a week. There is an ample supply of female domestic servants.

LABOUR ABROAD.
FRANCE.

Employment in April.*—The trades in which employment was most favourably influenced by the spring revival of business are quarrying, the preparation of hides and skins, and especially the boot and shoe trade, tailoring, dressmaking, millinery, hatmaking, woodworking, the metal trades (smelting and manufacture), engineering, etc., and building. Some improvement took place in the flax trade, especially in flax spinning. Employment has been good in the printing trades also, owing to increased orders during election time. The wool and cotton spinning and weaving trades continued slack. Silk operatives continued well employed.

Employment is considered less plentiful than it was last year, partly owing to the Spanish-American war, which is stated to have caused a diminution, and in some cases a cancelling of the orders from American houses. The reports of trade unions, however, point to a falling off, compared with March, in the proportion of members unemployed on April 15th.

Full time is now being worked in most trades, especially in the seasonal trades.

Coal Mining in March.†—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in March was 5.99, as compared with 5.84 in the previous month. In March full time (six days and over) was worked by 98 per cent., and from five to six days by 1 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 57 and 42 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 men, or three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

Labour Disputes in April.*—Twenty-nine new labour disputes were reported to the French Labour Department in April. A cessation of work by licensed porters at Bône, in Algeria, owing to the alleged severity of the police regulations, was also reported. The number of workpeople taking part in 26 of the 29 industrial disputes was 2,058. Eleven of the 29 disputes occurred in the building trades, 5 among leather-workers, 4 among metal-workers, 3 in the textile trades, and one each among brickmakers, miners, porcelain painters, saw-

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, April, 1898.

mill workers, coopers and glassworkers. Wages questions figured among the causes of disputes 19 times (including 15 cases where a demand was made for increased wages); demands for reduction of hours of labour, 5 times; questions as to working arrangements, rules and discipline, 4 times; and demands for the reinstatement of dismissed workers or overseers, twice.

The workpeople succeeded in 2, compromised in 8, and failed in 9 out of 19 ordinary labour disputes terminated in April.

Conciliation and Arbitration in April.*—The Conciliation and Arbitration Law was put in operation in connection with four of the April disputes. Agreements were effected in two cases. In one of these cases 100 masons, bricklayers and labourers at Gisors (Rhône department) struck on April 4th in order to enforce certain demands pertaining to working hours and wages. Owing to the initiative of the *juge de paix* meetings of representatives of both sides took place on April 4th and 6th, an agreement was arrived at, and the men returned to work on the 7th. The second case in which the conciliation proceedings were successful was a strike of 94 female operatives at a hosiery factory in Mazamet (Tarn department) for an increase of 20 per cent. on the existing wages scale. The operatives accepted an increase of 10 per cent., which they had refused before the strike.

In one of the remaining two cases the result of the proceedings has not yet been reported; in the other (a strike of 12 labourers at a boiler works for an advance in wages) the employer refused the mediation proposed by the *juge de paix* at the request of the men, and stated that he had discharged them.

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes in April.—The labour disputes reported as having begun in April, and summarised in *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, numbered 74, as compared with 58 in March. Thirty-five of these disputes occurred in the building trades, 9 in the woodworking trades,* 8 in the metal, engineering and allied trades, 7 in trades involving work in stone, clay, &c., † 6 in the clothing trades, 3 each in the textile and food preparation trades, and 3 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups. The number of workpeople stated to have taken part in 28 disputes was 5,229.

So far as could be gathered from reports published in the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger*, the disputes affecting the largest numbers of workpeople were as follows:—(1) a dispute in the building trades in Magdeburg, where some 300 carpenters who had struck on April 26, refused to resume work when requested to do so by the associated employers, who thereupon declared a lock-out. The number locked-out is stated to be 1,751. (2) A strike of 1,040 zinc and lead miners near Beuthen, in Prussian Silesia, for 8 hours shifts. The men resumed work unconditionally, 25 of their number being discharged. (3) A strike of some 800 quarrymen at Striegau in Prussian Silesia for an increase of 20 per cent. in wages.

Operations of Public Labour Registries in April.—The total number of situations offered by employers in April at 44 of the municipal and other public labour registries which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* was 30,776 as compared with 30,322 in the preceding month, and 26,044 in April, 1897. The number of situations sought during the month was 35,358 compared with 39,933 in the previous month, and 33,431 in April, 1897. The number of situations found was 20,891 compared with 19,327 in the previous month, and 18,952 in April, 1897.

A Federation of German Labour Registries.—In response to invitations sent out by the Berlin Central Association for Procuring Employment (see GAZETTE, July, 1897, p. 222), representatives of a number of public labour registries attended a conference in Berlin, on February 4th to discuss certain points in connection with the formation of a federation of the labour registries of the whole of Germany. From an account of the meeting published as a supplement to the current number of *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, it appears that one of the chief aims of the federation will be to bring about the adoption, by the various registries, of a uniform basis for their statistics.

It was agreed that membership of the federation should be open to any registry which was not in the nature of a private enterprise carried on as a means of livelihood.

A further meeting of the committee of the federation took place on May 13th.

* In the German statistics this group includes work in bone, ivory and similar materials which may be carved (*Schnitzstoffe*). † Includes quarrying, brick, tile, pottery, porcelain, glass working, &c.

SWITZERLAND.

Labour Dispute.—The general strike of smiths, cartwrights, and saddlers in Chaux-de-Fonds, alluded to in last month's GAZETTE (p. 107) has terminated. The conditions of settlement include a working day of 11 hours (the men asked for a 10 hours day) and a delay of 6 months before the question of boarding and lodging with employers is finally settled. The men are to be insured against accidents, the employers paying half of the premiums.—*Der Grütliener*.

The General Distributive Society of Bâle.—The returns of business done in 1897, by the General Distributive Society of Bâle (stated to be the largest co-operative distributive society in Switzerland), as summarised in *Der Grütliener*, show the following results:—Sales in 1897, amounting to £337,621, compared with £290,778 in 1896 (increase 16 per cent.); profit in 1897, amounting to £34,063, of which £30,469 was employed in paying members a 10 per cent. bonus on purchases, £1,683 in increasing the reserve fund (now amounting to £13,837), a similar sum in paying bonuses to employees (numbering 256), the remainder being carried over to the 1898 account. The Society had a membership of 16,777, or 1,186 more members than in 1896.

Trade Unions and Labour Movements.—A report, recently issued by the Committee of the Swiss Federation of Trade Unions, (*Gewerkschaften*), and summarised by *Schweizerische Blätter für Wirtschaft und Sozialpolitik* states the total number of affiliated unions to have been 322 in 1897 compared with 56 in 1887. The metal-workers' union, with 64 branches, and the wood-workers' union, with 33 branches, are the most important unions belonging to the Federation. In 1896, the Federation was concerned in 36 wages movements, 14 strikes, and 2 boycotts. In 1897, it was concerned in 51 wages movements, and 21 strikes. From the point of view of the workpeople the results are stated to have been as follows:—

	Entirely Successful.	Partially Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Total.
1896.				
Wages Movements ...	9	10	17	36
Strikes ...	7	4	3	14
Boycotts ...	1	—	1	2
1897.				
Wages Movements ...	18	25	8	51
Strikes ...	9	6	6	21

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes in April.—The most serious of the new disputes reported in April appears to have been a strike of some 900 coal miners at one mine in Schatzlar (Bohemia), owing to the dismissal of certain men who had been delegated by their fellow-workers to ask for increased wages. The strike lasted three days and was unsuccessful.

The whole of the metal founders of Trieste are stated to have struck to prevent their employers from carrying out orders for Lloyd's arsenal at Trieste, where a founders' strike is in progress. A general strike of the journeyman smiths of Carlsbad and Fischern was begun on April 18th, owing, it is stated, to the failure of the master smiths to fulfil the conditions of an agreement recently made with the men.

ITALY.

New Co-operative Societies formed in 1897.—The total number of co-operative societies in Italy at the end of 1896 was 3,698. (See GAZETTE, Oct. 1897, p. 298) In the course of 1897, 453 new societies were formed, and 61 societies were dissolved. The newly-formed societies included 200 rural banks and other credit societies with unlimited liability; 16 people's banks or credit societies with limited liability; 100 distributive societies; and 97 productive societies (including 81 "Labour Societies" and 7 co-operative dairies).—*Credito e Cooperazione*.

RUSSIA.

Workpeople employed in Mining, Smelting, &c.—From a statement published in the current issue of the official *Bulletin Russe de Statistique Financière et de Législation*, it appears that the total number of workpeople employed in mining, quarrying, smelting, and kindred occupations in the Russian Empire in 1895 was 498,351. Of these, 234,010 worked at blast furnaces, including 147,463 workpeople employed in this way in the Ural provinces and 33,546 in Central Russia. There were 82,325 gold miners, of

whom 36,182 worked in the Ural provinces, 35,438 in Eastern, and 10,632 in Western, Siberia. Next in order of commercial importance were the coalminers, numbering 51,215 (the majority in Southern and South-Western Russia), iron-miners, numbering 34,997, including 23,590 in the Ural provinces; quarrymen, numbering 26,094; and saltworkers, numbering 24,259. The production of coal and pig-iron in each of the years 1891-5, was as follows:—

Years.	Coal.	Pig-iron.
1891	Tons. 6,115,666	Tons. 985,817
1892	6,815,144	1,031,582
1893	7,470,294	1,137,250
1894	8,597,273	1,307,364
1895	8,927,077	1,424,977

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN APRIL.

[NOTE.—The following tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

In South Wales and Monmouthshire the majority of collieries have been idle during the greater part of the month. In districts not affected by the dispute employment was generally better than a year ago, although, owing to the Easter holidays in England, and short disputes in Scotland, the average number of days worked at the pits was less than during March. In all the following tables the Monmouthshire and South Wales district has been excluded, both as regards last month and the previous months with which comparisons are made. Particulars, however, regarding employment in South Wales Collieries, which are unaffected by the dispute, are given separately below.

At pits in other districts at which 377,627 were employed, respecting which returns have been received, the average time worked amounted to 4.98 per week in the four weeks ended April 23rd, as compared with 4.75 days in the corresponding weeks of 1897, and 5.24 days in March last. The following table gives the average number of days worked in these periods in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Apr., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		23rd Apl. 1898.	24th Apl. 1897.	26th Mar. 1898.
England and N. Wales ...	342,202	4.95	4.67	5.23
Scotland ...	34,790	5.33	5.48	5.39
Ireland ...	655	4.63	4.73	4.81
United Kingdom ...	377,627	4.98	4.75	5.24

In the next table the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. Although in each class of coal shorter time was worked in April than in March, the falling off is very much less in the case of steam coal than in other classes.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Apr., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		April, 1898.	April, 1897.	March, 1898.
Coking Coal ...	23,609	5.37	5.26	5.67
Gas " ...	34,594	4.83	4.74	5.10
House " ...	73,744	4.89	4.51	5.27
Manufacturing Coal ...	21,211	5.09	4.93	5.49
Steam " ...	84,912	5.04	4.79	5.08
Mixed " ...	139,557	4.95	4.74	5.25
All Classes of Coal ...	377,627	4.98	4.75	5.24

The table below shows the workpeople grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 58.6 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at pits which worked 5 or more days per week, as compared with 44.6 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1897.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG IRON.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	April, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	April, 1897.	March, 1898.
24 days (full time) ...	9,550	2'5	2'1	19'0
20 and under 24 days ...	211,767	56'1	55'2	19'6
16 " " " ...	136,888	36'2	40'5	5'4
12 " " " ...	15,559	4'1	13'1	0'5
8 " " " ...	2,327	0'6	1'5	0'5
Under 8 days ...	1,736	0'5	0'3	0'4
Total ...	377,627	100'0	100'0	100'0

Comparison by Districts.—In the Lothians and in Fife over 5½ days per week were worked on an average (5'58 days and 5'54 days respectively). Less than 5 days per week were worked in Nottingham and Leicester, Ireland, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, and Northumberland. In the remaining districts the average was between 5 and 5½ days per week. In West Scotland the average fell below that of a year ago to the extent of about a third of a day owing to disputes, but in all the other districts, with the exception of the small Irish district, the average was higher than a year ago by varying amounts, the greatest improvements being those of about two-thirds of a day in Derbyshire, and in Gloucester and Somerset.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN APRIL, 1898 AND 1897, AND IN MARCH, 1898.

District.	No. employed in Apr., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr. 1898 as compared with	
		23rd April, 1898.	24th April, 1897.	26th March, 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & N. WALES.						
Northumberland ...	34,535	4'95	4'83	4'81	+ '12	+ '14
Durham ...	91,376	5'04	4'98	5'34	+ '06	- '30
Cumberland ...	5,596	5'41	5'30	5'62	+ '11	- '21
Yorkshire ...	51,739	4'99	4'96	5'24	+ '25	+ '28
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,563	5'03	4'76	5'44	+ '41	- '27
Nottingham and Leicester	24,300	4'23	3'79	4'50	+ '68	- '37
Derbyshire ...	35,893	5'00	4'34	5'37	+ '07	- '48
Staffordshire ...	24,845	4'75	4'68	5'23	+ '48	- '28
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	8,157	5'10	4'73	5'65	+ '55	- '10
Gloucester and Somerset	8,372	5'34	4'66	5'44	+ '10	+ '08
North Wales ...	10,635	5'24	4'78	5'16	+ '46	+ '08
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	80,613	5'18	5'53	5'49	- '35	- '31
The Lothians ...	3,572	5'58	5'56	5'61	+ '02	- '03
Fife ...	10,605	5'54	5'38	5'13	+ '16	+ '41
IRELAND.	635	4'63	4'73	4'81	- '10	- '18
Grand Total & Averages	377,627	4'98	4'78	5'24	+ '23	- '26

Returns with regard to pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire at which 57,956 persons were employed, show that only 9,749 of these persons were employed at pits not affected by the dispute, and that these pits worked on an average 5'48 days per week in the four weeks ending April 23rd.

Percentage of Unemployed.—The miners in trade unions in Durham had 0'6 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of April, as compared with 0'5 per cent. in March, and 0'9 per cent. in April, 1897.

Exports of Coal.—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during April amounted to 2,601,256 tons, as compared with 3,079,982 tons in March, and 2,825,593 tons in April, 1897.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

Owing to the Easter Holidays the number of days worked per week in April was less than in March. Employment was about the same as a year ago.

Returns have been received with regard to 138 iron mines and openworks, at which 17,566 persons were employed, or 62 more than a year ago. These returns

show that the mines worked on an average 5'62 days per week during the four weeks ended 23rd April, as compared with 5'66 days per week in the corresponding weeks of 1897. Of the total number employed 83'9 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 87'5 per cent. a year ago.

The following tables summarise the returns received:—

(i) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—

District.	No. employed in April, 1898, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1898, as compared with	
		23rd April, 1898.	24th April, 1897.	26th March, 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	6,297	5'66	5'79	5'96	- '13	- '30
Cleveland ...	6,634	5'73	5'72	5'88	+ '01	- '15
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	975	5'63	5'74	5'81	- '11	- '18
Northamptonshire	535	5'46	5'17	5'93	+ '29	- '47
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,504	5'12	5'09	5'59	+ '03	- '47
Other places in England ...	309	5'22	5'23	5'72	- '01	- '50
SCOTLAND ...	1,131	5'58	5'59	6'00	- '01	- '42
IRELAND ...	181	5'95	5'89	5'95	+ '06	...
Total ...	17,566	5'62	5'66	5'89	- '04	- '27

(ii) Classification of workpeople according to days worked by the mines:—

Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	April, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	Apr. 18.	March 1898.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
24 days (full time) ...	1,213	6'9	11'1	69'4
22 and under 24 days ...	13,516	77'0	76'4	24'7
20 " " " ...	2,200	12'5	4'6	6'8
Under 20 days ...	637	3'6	7'9	0'1
Total ...	17,566	100'0	100'0	100'0

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

Owing to the dispute in the coal trade in South Wales and Monmouthshire, a large number of furnaces were damped down in that district during April, and the number of persons employed at the end of the month was, in consequence, considerably less than at the end of March.

The returns received relate to the furnaces of 110 ironmasters, and show that they had 339 furnaces in blast at the end of April, or 12 less than at the end of March (the decrease in Glamorgan and Monmouth alone amounting to 11), and 11 less than a year ago. The number of persons employed is estimated at 22,440, or 1,121 less than a month ago, but 324 more than a year ago.

The subjoined table gives in detail the number of furnaces in blast in each district so far as covered by the returns received:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	April, 1898.	April, 1897.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1898.	April, 1898.	Mar. 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1898.
	Furnaces	Furnaces	Furnaces	Furnaces	Furnaces	Furnaces
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	95	94*	+ 1	95	96	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs. ...	46	44	+ 2	46	47	- 1
S. and S.W. Yorks. ...	16	13.	+ 3	16	15	+ 1
Lincolnshire ...	14	15	- 1	14	14	...
Midlands ...	93	92	+ 1	93	93	...
Glamorgan and Mon. ...	3	16	- 13	3	14	- 11
Other districts ...	9	7	+ 2	9	9	...
Total England and Wales...	276	286	- 10	276	288	- 12
SCOTLAND ...	63	64	- 1	63	63	...
Total furnaces included in returns ...	339	350	- 11	339	351	- 12

* Amended figure.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—IRON AND STEEL TRADES; TINPLATE INDUSTRY; AGRICULTURE.

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during April amounted to 87,267 tons, as compared with 78,562 tons in March, and 107,135 tons in April, 1897.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND IRON WORKS IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT in these industries was better at the end of April than at the end of March, although not so good as a year ago.

Returns received from 213 employers show that they were employing 75,907 workpeople in the last week of April, or 1,462 more than at the end of March, but 334 less than a year ago. The following table summarises the returns of the 213 employers for the three periods:—

Numbers Employed.

District.	Numbers employed in last week of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1898, as compared with	
	April, 1898.	April, 1897.	March, 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
England and Wales ...	63,172	63,561	61,844	- 389	+ 1,328
Scotland ...	12,735	12,680	12,601	+ 55	+ 134
Total ...	75,907	76,241	74,445	- 334	+ 1,462

Information with regard to the number of shifts worked has also been obtained with regard to 88 per cent. of the total number of workpeople employed, and is summarised in the following table. The average number of shifts worked was 5'51 in the last week of April, as compared with 5'47 in the last week of March and 5'54 a year ago.

Average Weekly Number of Shifts worked per Man.

Number of Shifts worked per man.	Number employed in April, 1898 so far as returned.	Percentage Proportion to Total.	Corresponding Percentage in April, 1897.
Under 5 per week ...	3,454	5'2	6'9
5 " " ...	22,535	33'7	29'7
6 " " ...	2,953	4'4	4'2
6 " " ...	36,644	54'8	57'6
Above 6 " " ...	1,231	1'9	1'6
Total ...	66,817	100'0	100'0

If it be assumed that the workpeople not included here worked the same average number of shifts as those included, it appears that the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople employed by the 213 employers amounted to 418,481 in the last week of April, 407,214 in the last week of March, and 422,673 a year ago.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT in the tin-plate industry was not so good at the end of April as at the end of the previous month or a year ago. The falling off is largely due to a dearth of fuel caused by the dispute in the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coal Trade.

At 39 works all the mills, to the number of 205, were running, and at 21 works, giving partial employment, 101 mills, out of 142, were at work. The remaining works were idle. The total number of mills at work was, therefore, 306, as compared with 331 at the end of the previous month and 321 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed is estimated at 15,923 at the end of April, 17,072 at the end of March, and 17,375 at the end of April, 1897.

The following table shows the number of mills and workpeople employed at the establishments which were fully or partially working in the periods named. The

works at which all the mills were idle are excluded from the table:—

Works giving full employment Works giving partial employment	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.			Estimated No. of Workpeople employed.
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.	
		Mills	Mills	Mills	
Works giving full employment	39	205	—	205	10,259
Works giving partial employment	21	101	41	142	5,664
Total at end of April, 1898	60	306	41	347	15,923
<i>Corresponding Total for Mar., 1898</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>331</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>372</i>	<i>17,072</i>
<i>Corresponding Total for April, 1897</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>321</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>372</i>	<i>17,375</i>

It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures given in the table are believed to state approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during April amounted to 20,668 tons, as compared with 24,454 tons in March, and 25,489 tons in April, 1897. Of these quantities the United States took 5,221 tons in April, 7,233 tons in March, and 8,146 tons in April, 1897.

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN APRIL.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department on the basis of 250 returns from various parts of the country, reports as follows:—Generally speaking there was plenty of employment for agricultural labourers during the month of April, and reports frequently refer to a scarcity of labour. In a few districts some slight irregularity of work is reported in the last week of the month owing to wet weather. Farmwork is said to be in a very forward state and a number of farmers say that the crops are looking well.

In a number of districts labourers are said to be asking for higher wages on account of the rise in the prices of bread and flour. Several correspondents in the Eastern, and South and South-Western Counties state that in their districts most of the farmers sold their corn before the rise in prices, and nevertheless have to comply with the demand for a rise in wages. A farmer in Northamptonshire writes thus:—“Unfortunately, most of the producers of wheat had sold before the boom, consequently, those farmers are in an unfortunate position, being called upon to pay enhanced prices for feeding stuffs, &c. Probably they may endeavour to resist paying higher wages until they themselves reap some benefit from the increased prices.”

Seasonal rises in the weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers took place either in the whole or in parts of the Poor Law Unions named in the following counties, amounting to 1s. a week. In these cases the wages are now 1s. a week higher than at the corresponding period in 1897. In Norfolk in the Unions of Blofield, Erpingham, East and West Flegg, Forehoe, Guiltcross, Henstead, St. Faiths, and Walsingham. In the Guiltcross and Henstead Unions the changes took place in some districts in March, as well as in certain other Poor Law Unions in the county referred to in the March number of the GAZETTE. In Suffolk in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Plomesgate, and Risbridge. (See also March number of GAZETTE.) In Essex in the Unions of Dunmow and Maldon. In Northamptonshire in the Unions of Potterspury, and Wellingborough. In Bedfordshire in the Bedford Union, and also in the Luton Union (a rise of 1s. to 2s.) In Huntingdonshire in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Ives. In Lincolnshire

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—AGRICULTURE.

in the Unions of Spilsby, and Louth (1s. 6d. a week rise in both cases). In Warwickshire in the Alcester Union. In Worcestershire in the Evesham Union. In Sussex in the Rye Union (1s. to 1s. 6d. a week rise). In Kent in the Blean, and Faversham Unions, in the Tenterden Union (1s. 6d. a week rise), and in the Hoo Union (3s. a week rise). In Surrey in the Farnham Union (Surrey and Hants). In Dorsetshire in the Unions of Dorchester, and Wimborne. In Wiltshire in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, (1s. to 1s. 6d. a week rise), Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, and Devizes. In Devonshire in a few cases in the Tavistock Union.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland and Westmorland reports state that employment was regular throughout the month, and also in Cumberland in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Penrith, and Whitehaven. A report from the Carlisle Union states that there has been a slight advance in wages, owing to there being a good demand for masons' labourers. In North Lancashire, in the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, and Ulverston, reports state that farm hands are fully employed, and that day labourers are somewhat scarce. In the Lancaster district, and in the northern part of the Fylde Union, a rise of 1s. 6d. a week in wages of day men is reported in some cases. From Durham, a favourable report comes from the Chesterfield Union, and from the Darlington Union (Durham and Yorks W.R.) Reports from Yorkshire state that employment was generally satisfactory in the Unions of Beverley, Driffield, Easingwold, Guisborough, Howden, Knaresborough, Ouseburn, Pocklington, Ripon and Thirsk.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Macclesfield, Nantwich, and Tarvin. A report from the last-named Union states that there are not sufficient local men to do the work, and that Irishmen can get their own terms. Favourable reports also come from Derbyshire from the Union of Hayfield, and from the Derbyshire portion of the Mansfield Union (Notts and Derby), and of the Worksop Union (Notts, Derby, and Yorks, W.R.) Reports from Shropshire state that labourers are fully employed in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Ellesmere (Salop and Flint), Market Drayton (Staffs and Salop), Oswestry, Whitchurch, Wellington, and Wem. Reports of a favourable character also come from Staffordshire from the Unions of Leek, and Tamworth (Staffs and Warwick). A report from the last-named Union states that good agricultural labour is very scarce, and that if it were not for Irishmen the work could not all be accomplished. In Warwickshire the labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon. A report from the Alcester Union refers to a scarcity of labour. Reports of a favourable character come from Leicestershire from the Unions of Blaby, Loughborough, Lutterworth (Leicester and Warwick), and Market Bosworth; from Nottinghamshire from the Unions of Southwell, and Retford, and from Rutland from the Oakham Union, and from Worcestershire from the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Tenbury, and from certain parishes in the Worcester and Warwick portions of the Shipston-on-Stour Union.

In Oxfordshire the state of employment is said to be generally satisfactory in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, in certain parishes in the Woodstock Union, and in the Oxfordshire portions of the Abingdon and Wallingford Unions (Oxon and Berks), and in the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick). In certain parishes in the last-named union there was some irregularity of work during the last week of the month, owing to wet weather. A report from the Thame Union states that labour is scarce, and that men for doing piecework are difficult to obtain. Reports from Northamptonshire state that there is no lack of employment in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Wellingborough, Thrapstone, and Towcester, and in the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants and Warwick). In the Towcester Union a few men at the brickyards are reported to be in irregular work. Reports from the Kettering Union, and from the Northants portion of the Banbury Union refer to a scarcity of work. In Huntingdonshire favourable reports come from the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots (Hunts and Beds portions). Labour is said to be generally scarce in the county. Reports from Bedfordshire state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, and Leighton Buzzard, and in a district in the Luton Union. In the two last named Unions labour is said to be scarce.

Eastern Counties.—In Essex the labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester,

Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring. Labour is said to be scarce in the Unions of Billericay, and Tendring. The state of employment in Norfolk is said to be generally satisfactory in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Docking, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guilfordcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham.

Favourable reports come from Suffolk from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. Some slight irregularity is referred to in the Hoxne Union during the last week of the month, owing to wet weather. A large farmer writes from the Bosmere and Claydon Union as follows:—"The state of employment in this district is still good, and it would be difficult to find unemployed hands. Farmwork is generally well in hand, and if hoeing gets expensive through scarcity of hands, much of the corn will probably be allowed to take its chance. There is but little wheat left to thresh in this district, and the higher price of labour and other commodities will make employment of labour a careful consideration. Still, on the whole, the general prospect is certainly hopeful." In Cambridgeshire favourable reports come from the Unions of North Witchford, and Wisbech, the Cambridgeshire portion of the Royston Union (Herts and Cambs), and the Cambridgeshire portion of the Peterborough Union (Northants, Cambs, Hunts and Lincoln). In Lincolnshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Gainsborough, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and in the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Notts and Lincoln).

Home Counties.—Reports from Buckinghamshire state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, and Buckingham; from Berkshire in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage, and from Surrey in the Unions of Farnham (Surrey and Hants), Godstone, and Hambledon. Favourable reports come from Kent from the Unions of Blean, Elham, Faversham, Hoo, Hollingbourne, and Tenterden, and from Hertfordshire from the Unions of Barnet, Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, and St. Alban's, and from a district in the Hemel Hempstead Union. A report from the Hitchin Union states that all agricultural labourers are in demand, and that in many parishes labourers are very scarce owing to migration of younger men to the towns.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Sussex reports state that agricultural labourers are generally fully employed in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, and Rye, and in a district in the Union of Uckfield. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Newhaven, and Rye. An employer in the Chailey Union writes that most of the corn in the district was threshed before Christmas, and also that the growing crops are looking well. Reports of a favourable character come from Hampshire from the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Doxford, Fareham, Havant, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, Stockbridge, and Whitchurch, and from the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Surrey and Hants). There was some slight irregularity in the Petersfield Union in the last week in April owing to wet weather. In Dorsetshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne; in Wiltshire in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Warminster, Westbury and Whorwellsdown, and Wilton. Labour is said to be very scarce in the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Highworth and Swindon, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. This is attributed in certain districts to the construction of new railways.

Favourable reports come from Gloucestershire from the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, and Wheatonhurst. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Cirencester, and Thornbury Unions. In Herefordshire, agricultural employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (both Hereford and Monmouth portions), Ledbury, and Ross; in Somersetshire in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wincanton, and Yeovil. In the Taunton Union labour is said to be scarce. An employer in the Yeovil Union writes that on farms where cottages are not good it is difficult to get men to come. The state of employment in Devonshire is said to be satisfactory in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, Tavistock, Torrington, and Totnes; and in Cornwall in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; TEXTILE; SEAMEN.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves was, on the whole, slightly better during April than during March, or a year ago.

At all the docks, and at 115 of the principal wharves, the daily average number of labourers employed during the four weeks ended April 23rd was 14,553, as compared with 14,340 in the previous four weeks, and 14,426 in the corresponding period of 1897. The estimated number employed on any one day ranged from 13,196 on April 2nd to 15,701 on the 18th.

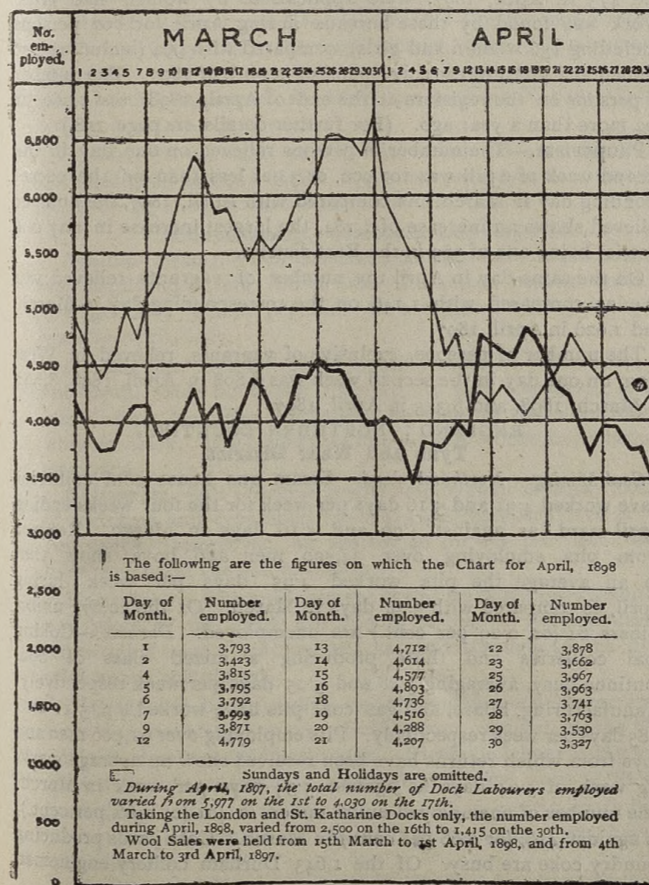
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Table showing daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month. Columns include Period, By Dock Companies or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, &c., Total, Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns, and Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during March and April is shown on the chart below. The numbers in April ranged from 4,803 on the 16th to 3,327 on the 30th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of March and April, 1898. The corresponding curve for March and April, 1897, is also given for comparison.

(The thick curve applies to 1898, and the thin curve to 1897.)



The following are the figures on which the Chart for April, 1898 is based:—

Table showing figures for April 1898: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed.

Sundays and Holidays are omitted. During April, 1897, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 5,077 on the 1st to 4,030 on the 17th. Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during April, 1898, varied from 2,600 on the 16th to 1,415 on the 30th. Wool Sales were held from 15th March to 24th April, 1898, and from 4th March to 3rd April, 1897.

* Amended figures.

Work in midstream was only moderate. Deal porters have been slack, corn porters slack in the Surrey Docks, rather slack in the Millwall Docks, and fairly well employed in the Albert and Victoria Docks. Employment has been moderately good with lightermen, coal porters, and winchmen, moderate with stevedores and lumpers.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have had fairly good employment except during the last week of the period, the daily average number of men employed being 388 in the first three weeks and 279 in the fourth week, or an average of 361 for the month compared with 394 for March.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN APRIL.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women showed practically no change in the cotton or woollen and worsted trades during April. Information has been received with regard to 500 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, employing about 82,720 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Table showing employment of women in textile trades in April. Columns include Trade and Month, Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were, Working full Time, With Full Employment, With Partial Employment, Working Short Time, and Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 59,700; of these 74 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 75 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in March, and with 82 per cent. in April, 1897); 25 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 1 per cent. in mills running short time.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,860; of these 72 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 73 per cent. in March, and 77 per cent. in April, 1897); 15 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 13 per cent. in mills running short time.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

THE number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 31,347 in April, being 1,299 less than in April, 1897. The supply of seamen and firemen during April was reported as equal to or greater than the demand at most of the ports. At Newport and Cardiff, the large decrease in the number of men shipped, is reported to be due to the Colliery Dispute in South Wales. Particulars of

* Exclusive of silk trade.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SEAMEN; LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

changes in the rates of wages of seamen at Cardiff will be found on page 153.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in April 1898 and 1897 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the four months ended April in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in April, 1898.			Total in April 1897.	Total number shipped in four months ended April	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April, 1898.		1898.	1897.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	134	3,986	4,120	3,366	12,519	12,787
Sunderland ...	—	632	632	586	2,378	2,331
Middlesbrough ...	40	247	287	457	1,128	1,755
Hull ...	66	1,300	1,366	1,154	4,737	4,240
Grimsby ...	—	95	95	33	294	215
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	5	248	253	131	806	810
Newport, Mon. ...	35	296	331	1,715	4,041	4,814
Cardiff ...	143	1,941	2,084	6,650	19,014	23,498
Swansea ...	128	437	565	531	2,258	2,528
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	248	10,331	10,579	9,806	39,039	35,966
London ...	351	5,439	5,790	6,374	23,421	23,818
Southampton ...	—	1,407	1,407	1,392	5,729	5,344
SCOTLAND.						
Leth. Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	—	895	895	597	2,887	2,452
Glasgow ...	70	2,473	2,543	2,127	8,948	8,630
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	3	111	114	69	388	339
Belfast ...	16	270	286	217	1,033	880
Total, April, 1898 ...	1,239	30,108	31,347	—	128,617	—
Ditto, April, 1897 ...	2,339	30,307	—	32,646	—	129,387

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—In all the more important industries a continued improvement was observed during the month. Returns from 418 branches of 111 unions, having an aggregate membership of 73,247, show that 1,838 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 3.1 in March, and 2.3 per cent. in April, 1897.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades has continued to improve steadily. Reports from 121 branches of 26 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,731, show that 629 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.4 in March. The percentage for April, 1897, was 2.2. Sailmakers remain slack.

The *Building* trades continue well employed. Returns from 179 branches of 6 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 10,979, show that 107 (or 1.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.1 in March and 1.0 per cent. in April, 1897. The bricklayers, stonemasons, painters and decorators, and mill-sawyers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, plasterers and stonemasons as fair; the plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades remains steady. Reports from 42 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,501, show that 110 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 in March and 0.5 per cent. in April, 1897.

Coopers are scarcely so busy. Two societies, with a membership of 980, report 16 (or 1.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1.2 in March, and 2.1 per cent. in April of last year.

Coachbuilders and *Wheelwrights* are well employed. Returns from 13 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,346, show that 16 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.7 in March, and 0.9 in April, 1897.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades have still further improved, the former continuing brisk in most branches. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 22,229, show that 425 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.3 per cent. in March and 2.8 in April of last year.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades improved in most branches. The West End bespoke tailoring trade was fair; the East End bespoke trade good; the contract trade good; the military and uniform trade fair; the ladies tailors and mantle-makers' trade good. Employment with hatters was dull; with capmakers

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

moderate. The fur skin dressers were slack; the furriers describe employment as bad. The silk weavers were fairly employed.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the West End hand-sewn branch considerably improved and was fairly good at the close of the month; in the East End sew-round trade it remained bad for time of year; with boot and shoe operatives it continued fair.

Employment in the *Leather* trades improved. Returns from 6 unions, having a membership of 1,725, show that 51 (or 3.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.6 in March, and 2.8 per cent. in April, 1897.

In the *Glass* and *Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,461, show that 78 (or 5.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.1 in March and 5.9 in April of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 876, show that 11 (or 1.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.3 per cent. in March. The percentage for April, 1897, was 1.0.

Gold and Silver Workers were not so well employed. Returns from 8 unions with a membership of 1,117, show that 33 (or 3.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.0 per cent. in March. The percentage for April, 1897, was 1.9.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades was unsettled and bad. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,453, show that 258 (or 10.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 8.4 in March. The percentage in April, 1897, was 5.4.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—At the docks and principal wharves the average daily number employed was 14,553, as compared with 14,340 in March, and 14,426 a year ago. Work in mid-stream was only moderate. Deal porters have been slack; corn porters slack in the Surrey Docks, rather slack in the Millwall Docks, fairly well employed in the Albert and Victoria Docks. Employment has been moderately good with lightermen, coal porters and winchmen; moderate with stevedores and lumpers; fairly good with fruit porters. (For further details, see page 143.)

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Only one dispute of grain porters and labourers was reported as taking place during the month. (See page 157.) 261 labourers and cranesmen employed in the Royal Naval Ordnance Department, Woolwich, received an advance in wages of 1s. per week. (See page 153.)

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from 8 labour bureaux, furnishing returns for both April, 1898, and April, 1897, show that 1,309 fresh applications for work were registered during April, 1898, as compared with 1,365 in April, 1897. Of these, 516 in April 1898, and 473 in April, 1897, were applications by women and girls. Work was found by these bureaux during April for 702 persons (including 156 women and girls), compared with 994 (including 156 women and girls) in the corresponding month of 1897. The number of persons on the registers at the end of April, 1898, was 1,960, or 102 more than a year ago. (For further details, see page 158.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of April was 101,906, or 3,921 less than on the corresponding day in March. As compared with April, 1897, the number relieved shows an increase of 1,184, the largest increase in any one district being one of 369 in the East district.

On the same day in April the number of vagrants relieved was 874, as compared with 1,146 on the corresponding day in March, and 1,026 in April, 1897.

The number of persons, exclusive of vagrants, relieved in West Ham on one day in the second week was 8,808 in April, 1898, 8,397 in March, 1898, and 8,315 in April, 1897.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland.*—Steam and house coal collieries have worked 4.91 and 5.16 days per week for the four weeks ending April 23rd, as against 4.70 and 5.16 days in March. Returns from pits employing over 34,500 men and boys, show that on an average the pits worked 4.95 days per week during April, as compared with 5.34 days in March. Of the 20,677 union miners 61 (or 0.29 per cent.) are unemployed. *Durham.*—Coking coal collieries and those producing a mixed class of coal continue busy, averaging 5.28 and 5.05 days per week respectively. Manufacturing, house, and gas coal pits have worked 4.9, 5.11 and 4.85 days per week respectively. Pits employing over 91,000 men and boys from which returns have been received show an average working week of 5.04 days, as against 5.34 days per week in March. The number of unemployed union miners is 401 (or 0.66 per cent.), as against 419, (or 0.68 per cent.) in March. Coke yards producing foundry coke are busy. Of the 1,643 Durham colliery enginemens 8, or 0.5 per cent., are idle.

Metal Mining.—Ironstone miners have had fuller time; lead miners 5 shifts per week.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

Quarrying.—One or two limestone quarries have worked irregularly. At Frosterley employment is good. Whinstone quarries in Wear-dale and Stanhope have worked fuller time. Those in Gateshead and district and at Blyth show but little change.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne.*—Shipyards, engineering works, and boiler shops are busy. Repair work upon the whole continues quiet. Of the 12,741 members of these trades 329 (or 2.6 per cent.), are off work, as against 498, or 3.9 per cent., of their membership, in March. *On the Wear.*—Iron shipbuilders are all employed. Work in the boiler shops is brisk. Fitters are in active demand. In the principal engine shops double shifts prevail. Blacksmiths are fully employed. Branches of these trades, with a membership of 4,596, have 29 (or 0.6 per cent.) idle, as against 78 (or 1.7 per cent.) at the end of March. Of 708 joiners on the Wear only one is out of work.

Brass-finishers on both rivers are busy, with 1.2 per cent. off work. Iron and steel moulders have 1.6 per cent. unemployed. All shipwrights are at work. Of the 1,254 drillers and hole cutters 20 (or 1.6 per cent.), are idle.

Smelting shops, plate, and angle mills (steel) continue full time; in one case, however, 13.9 per cent. of smelters are unemployed. Ironplate mills have worked 5 shifts per week. Sailmakers are better employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The demand for sailors and firemen continues fairly good. Quayside labourers are well employed. Of the 1,230 union coal porters, teamers, and trimmers on the Tyne, and Wear, and at Blyth, none have been employed less than full time, shipments having been large. Employment on tug boats is brisk.

Building Trades.—Of house plumbers 7.8 per cent. are unemployed. Joiners have commenced overtime on some contracts. Stonemasons, slaters, and tilers are busy. The bricklayers in the Newcastle and Sunderland districts are all employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers are quiet on the Tyne; at Sunderland employment is good. Employment with bookbinders is fair. Out of 768 union members of these trades, 43, (or 5.6 per cent.) are off work. Paper-making continues bad; five mills have worked 125 shifts out of a possible 235; three other mills are slack; one is reported as busy.

Woodworking Trades.—Coopers are fully employed in breweries and white lead works; slack at chemical works. Millsawyers and woodcutters are steadily employed. Cabinet makers and upholsterers have 1.8 per cent. out of work.

Other Metal, Glass and Chemical Trades.—Copper and white lead works are fairly busy; cement factories slack. Employment in chemical works is somewhat better. Pressed glassmakers are slack. Bottle-makers on the Wear are busy at Seaham Harbour, 3.6 per cent. are out of work.

Fishing.—In the early part of the month line and trawl boats obtained good catches of fish, the latter part, however, was not so good, owing to unsettled weather. —*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners have continued fairly well employed during the month, the mines having worked an average of 5.73 days per week, as compared with 5.72 days per week in April, 1897.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The finished ironworks have been fairly employed. Steelworks are reported as well employed, some as busy. Pipe foundries are busy. At some of the other foundries work is slack. Blast furnaces and bridge works have been well employed.

Engineering.—All branches report employment as brisk. Branches of engineers and ironfounders with 3,428 members have 21 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 40 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipbuilding.—The improvement in this trade has been maintained, and most of the yards are said to be busy. Ship joiners and shipwrights report employment as good throughout the district, with none unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as quiet at both ports. Dock labour is quiet at the Hartlepool, moderate at Middlesbrough. Riverside labour is reported as brisk at Eston, moderate at Middlesbrough, and quiet at Stockton.

Building Trades.—Employment is good in nearly every branch. Branches of carpenters and joiners, with 1,109 members, have none unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as fairly good at Darlington and Stockton, slack at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool; woodworking machinists and sawyers as good. —*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended April 23rd, at pits from which returns have been received was 5.41 days per week, as compared with 5.30 in April, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 5,596, an increase of 111 as compared with the corresponding month of last year.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended April 23rd at the 48 mines from which returns have been received was 5.66 per week, as compared with 5.79 in April, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 6,297, as compared with 6,294 in the corresponding month of last year.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast at the end of April was 46, as against 47 in March, 1898, and 44 in April, 1897. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 3,656, a decrease of 4 compared with March, and an increase of 336 as compared with April, 1897.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—Employment shows little alteration and is reported as fair in Oldham and the surrounding districts, as well as in Mossley, Ashton, and Dukinfield, and as good in Rochdale and Stalybridge. Full time is being worked in all these districts. The cardroom operatives in Oldham and Mossley report employment as fair; ring frame spinners and twiners as good; reelers as fair; winders as moderate. *Weaving.*—The power loom overlookers and weavers report employment as slightly improved in calicoes, as moderate in velvets, and as slack in fustians. Ball warpers report employment as good; sectional warpers as moderate.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—Employment is reported as bad in Rochdale district, and as moderate in Milnrow district. The silk-dressers in Rochdale report employment as slack, only averaging three days work per week.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate in the engineering shops, and as good, with overtime, in the machine shops. The irongrinders, toolmakers, plate and machine moulders, and tin plate workers report employment as moderate; the patternmakers as good; the gas-meter makers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, and brassfounders as fair.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners, painters, plumbers, bricklayers, and plasterers report employment as moderate.

Coal Mining.—Returns received from two collieries show that six days per week have been worked during the month. —*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—Employment in Bolton district is more regular; with one exception all firms are working full time. In Bury employment continues moderately good; the improvement at Chorley has been maintained; in Wigan employment is moderately good. Cardroom operatives in Bolton are better employed, and in Wigan, Chorley, and Bury employment is fairly good. *Weaving.*—Employment in Bolton continues moderately steady; in Walkden, Little Hulton and Farnworth, a slight slackness is reported in some branches. Chorley and Bury continue fairly well employed, with few looms idle.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers are busy at three of the large firms in Bolton, one working night shifts, others working overtime. Employment generally in the iron trade continues fairly brisk; iron machine-making firms are busy in most departments. Steel-rolling mills at Wigan are only moderately employed. In Bury employment continues regular.

Building Trades.—Employment in Bolton is reported as moderately busy; in Chorley work is almost at a standstill; in Bury and Wigan improvement is reported.

Coal Mining.—Miners in Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Lever, Little Hulton, Radcliffe, and Walkden, are reported to be fairly well employed at most collieries; the principal collieries working an average of 5½ days per week. In Wigan and district, miners are busy, working an average of 5½ days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Leather-workers, tram-men and cabmen, carters, bakers and confectioners, harness-makers, coachbuilders, and outdoor labourers are well employed. —*R. Tootill.*

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trades.—Weaving.—Employment is good in the ordinary calico weaving trade. In Blackburn the looms are fully engaged; in Burnley none are now on short time; an improvement is reported from Darwen, only some 200 looms being now stopped; the improvement at Colne, Nelson, and Preston is still maintained, there being also fewer stoppages for warps in the Colne district. Employment in the coloured goods trade is only moderate. Hard-waste weavers continue slack. Twisters and drawers are well employed in both Burnley and Blackburn. Winders and warpers keep well employed throughout the district. **Spinning.**—Employment is reported as good in Blackburn; Preston and Darwen; fair in Accrington and Padham; slack in Burnley. Card-room workers are returned as fully employed in the several districts. Branches of twisters and drawers and spinners, with 3,253 members, have 124 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 177 (or 5·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Joiners, masons, and plumbers are only moderately employed; painters and decorators are busy.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment is reported as fairly good, especially in the machine and erecting shops.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners in Townley report employment as only moderate, most of the men working from four to five days per week. In Burnley employment is brisk, in Accrington good. Stone quarrymen are well employed throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with tailors is good. Boot, shoe and slipper makers in Rossendale are fairly busy.

Printing and Paper Trades.—Employment is moderately good with letterpress printers, good with paper-makers and paper-stainers in Darwen.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches with 20,988 members return 673 (or 3·2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 1,003 (or 4·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate in Manchester, bad in Northwich; the ironfounders as busy in Manchester; fairly good elsewhere; the machine workers as busy; boiler-makers, filesmiths, and smiths and strikers as moderate; the brassfounders, finishers, copper-smiths, and sheet metal workers as good; wire-drawers and wire-weavers as fully employed. The iron trades throughout Stockport, Macclesfield, and Warrington are fairly busy.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners in Manchester and doublers in Stockport report employment as moderate. In Macclesfield spinners, weavers, and cardroom workers are running full time. Both hand and power loom weavers in the silk trade have been more fully employed. Fustian cutters and "bleachers, dyers and finishers," report employment as moderate; the "dressers, dyers, finishers" as bad.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as good in Manchester; moderate in Stockport and Warrington; fairly good in Macclesfield; the Jewish tailors as slightly improved. Mantle-makers and cap-makers are well employed; shirt-makers but moderately so. Waterproof garment-makers and boot and shoe makers keep slack. Employment with felt hat-makers and trimmers is described as moderate; with umbrella-makers as unchanged.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers report employment as good in Manchester; moderate in Stockport; carpenters and joiners, stonemasons and plasterers as moderate throughout the district; plumbers as slack; painters as busy. In Macclesfield the building trades as a whole are fairly busy; in Northwich dull.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair, but slightly fallen off; lithographic printers and bookbinders as moderate. Lithographic artists are busy. Pattern card-makers are slack.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers, French polishers and upholsterers in Manchester, Stockport and Warrington are busy. Coachmakers in Manchester describe employment as good; in Stockport and Warrington as moderate. Coopers continue busy.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boiler-makers and iron ship builders report a slight improvement; brassfounders, whitesmiths, ironfounders, iron-dressers, drillers, hammermen, fitters, and shipwrights report employment as fair; ship-joiners and pattern-makers as good; ship-painters as moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Upholsterers, mill-sawyers, and machinemen report employment as fair; cabinet-makers and French polishers as moderate; coachmakers as good; coopers as

middling. Branches with 1,298 members return 41 (or 3·2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 30 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen, dock labourers, and flatmen report employment as fair; quay and railway carters as rather dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 1,296 members return 71 (or 5·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 65 (or 5·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke, and other branches of the tailoring trade report employment as good; boot and shoe makers as fair.

Building Trades.—Painters report employment as improved; plumbers as moderate; other branches as good.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report employment as good generally. St. Helen's miners are working five days per week. Quarrymen continue well employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as moderate; chemical workers as dull.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade continues dull. It is good in the building trades at Winsford and Middlewich, and fair with moulders at Winsford. The fustian cutters are busy.

YORKSHIRE.**Hull and District.**

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, steam-engine makers, smiths and strikers, machine-workers, pattern-makers, ironfounders, iron and steeldressers, brassfounders and finishers, boiler-makers, drillers and hole-cutters, and shipwrights report employment as good, with many working overtime; the brassworkers and sailmakers as moderate; general labourers in the shipyards, engine and boiler shops as good; boiler-makers, engineers and smiths at Grimsby and Goole as good; engineers, boiler-makers, brassworkers and smiths at Doncaster as moderate.

Building Trades.—The plumbers report employment as moderate other branches as either good or fair. Employment is good generally at Beverley, Bridlington, Doncaster, Driffield, Grimsby and Selby; good with joiners at Goole; moderate with bricklayers.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and firemen report employment as good for shorter, and moderate for longer, voyages. At Goole employment is fair; at Grimsby moderate. At the docks work is slack, except in coal shipping. The railway workers at Hull and Selby report employment as good.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen report employment as moderate; the steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull as good; at Grimsby as fair. Employment for fish market labourers and curing house-workers has been fair.

Woodworking Trades.—The coachbuilders at Hull report employment as good, at Doncaster as moderate; the cabinet-makers at Hull as good; the mill-sawyers as fair; the coopers and lath-riders as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers at Doncaster report employment as good; at Hull as moderate; the bookbinders and machine rulers at Hull as fair; the lithographic printers as moderate.

Seed Crushing, Paint, Oil and Colour Works.—Employment in the paint, oil and colour works at Hull is reported as fairly good.

Leather Trades.—The curriers and leather-dressers at Doncaster report employment as good; the tanners, lace and leather belt-makers at Hull and Beverley as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors at Doncaster report employment as good; the bakers and confectioners at Hull as fair; the brush-makers, gasworkers and general labourers at Hull as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineering industry in Leeds continues brisk, with much overtime. Ironfounders report employment as good at Leeds and Stanningley; boiler-makers and steelworkers as fair; machine-workers, stove-grate workers and brassworkers as busy; spindle and flyer makers as moderate. At Wakefield employment is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe industry continues bad in Leeds, a number being out of employment, and short time being general at the factories; at Bramley employment is quiet, at Heckmondwike slack. Employment in the ready-made tailoring branch has improved; bespoke tailors are well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Leeds mills continues quiet. Blanket raisers report employment as bad; flax and linen workers

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

as fair; willeys and fettlers as quiet, but slightly improved. At Wakefield employment is fair; at Yeadon slack.

Building Trades.—Employment is brisk in Leeds, except with plumbers who are slack; good at Harrogate, Castleford and Wakefield.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the pits in the Leeds district has been good, full time having been worked in most cases; at South Kirkby good; at Castleford quiet.

Leather Trades.—Tanners report employment as improving in all classes; fancy leather shavers as moderate; kid calf-shavers as quiet. Saddlers and harness makers are busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment is good with letterpress printers; fair with lithographers and with bookbinders and machine rulers; moderate with paper mill workers.

Glass Trades.—Employment in the glass bottle trade at Leeds and Wakefield is reported as good; at Castleford as quiet; with flint-glassmakers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with cabinet-makers and coachmakers, moderate with brushmakers. Owing to the usual discharges at the gasworks many labourers are unemployed.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsted Trade.—Little improvement is reported in the Bradford weaving trade, and employment is slack. The improvement among woollorters and woolcombers has been maintained. In the Worth Valley and in Halifax employment remains moderate. In Huddersfield it is fair.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield and in the Colne Valley is still fairly good, several firms working double shifts requiring night hands, and others working overtime. Not many are out of work now in this district. Employment in the heavy woollen trade of Dewsbury, Batley, &c., is still poor.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade seems fairly good at Manningham and Halifax, moderate in Brighouse. Cotton operatives are fairly busy at Brighouse and other centres in the district. Employment in the carpet trade has improved in Halifax, but is not much better in the Spen Valley or Brighouse.

Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as good in Keighley, Halifax and Dewsbury, moderate in Bradford and Huddersfield; the ironfounders as good in Keighley and Halifax; the wire-workers as moderate.

Building Trades.—All sections of the building trades are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—The dyers, cabinet-makers and glassworkers report employment as quiet; the printers as fair; the tailors as good; rag-sorters as quiet.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Blastfurnacemen, iron rollers, armour-plate pressers and drillers, forgemen, steam engine makers, and malleable iron casters are well employed; engineers report employment as good, with a large amount of overtime; ironfounders are well employed; Bessemer and Siemens steelworkers are very busy. Iron and steel dressers report employment as good; railway spring makers as fair; boiler-makers as moderate; wire-workers as improved. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders are well employed; at Parkgate and Eccles steelworkers are busy, ironworkers are only moderately employed. The stove-grate workers and bath-makers are busy. Branches with 5,025 members return 57 (or 1·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 82 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Cutlery and Tools.—The engineers' and joiners' toolmakers report employment as fairly good; edge toolmakers as good; filemakers as fair. All branches of the pen and pocket-knife trades are slack, especially on American goods; the razor-makers are slack; the sword and bayonet-makers are all on short time. Mining and agricultural toolmakers are busy. Sawmakers and saw-handle-makers are quiet.

Other Metal Trades.—Silversmiths, silver and electro platers and hollow-ware buffers report employment as moderate; silver and metal stampers as busy; brassworkers at Sheffield as moderate; at Rotherham as good.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 65 of the principal collieries show an average of 5·48 days per week worked during the month. Surfacedmen and screenmen throughout the district report an improvement.

Building Trades.—The plumbers in Sheffield report employment as quiet; otherwise employment generally is good in Sheffield, Rotherham and Castleford.

Glass Trade.—The bottle-makers throughout the district are fairly busy; employment in the flint-glass department is good at Barnsley, where more workmen are being employed; moderate at Castleford.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors in Sheffield are busy. At Barnsley employment is reported as good in the bespoke branch; moderate in the ready-made branch. Boot and shoe workers continue slack.

Linen Trade.—Employment in this trade is only moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as fair; bookbinders as good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Coachmakers report employment as good; cabinet-makers in all branches as fair; railway-carriage and wagon builders as fair in Sheffield, rather quiet in Rotherham.

Miscellaneous.—Saddlers and harness-makers are busy; paper-makers and box and bobbin makers are well employed. Employment in the pottery trade is improving; and with down quilt makers it is moderate.—*S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.**Derbyshire District.**

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,537 members have 43 (or 0·6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 100 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,470 members have 27 (or 1·1 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 48 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Employment continues good at the locomotive works and full and regular in the bridge, girder and boiler yards. Ironfounders in Derby, Butterley, Somercotes, and Chesterfield report employment as moderate; brassmoulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent, and stove-grate workers in Derby, Belper and Langley Mill as good; wire-drawers in Ambergate as fair; pipe moulders in Ilkeston as brisk; lace machine builders in Long Eaton as moderate. Cycle-workers in Long Eaton and Draycott are busy.

Coal Mining.—At collieries employing upwards of 35,000 men, an average of 5 days per week was worked, as compared with 5·37 days in March.

Quarrying.—Employment in limestone quarries continues fair; chert quarrymen are still busy in Bakewell.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton weavers and spinners in Belper, Milford, Borrowash, Glossop, and Hadfield continues good generally. With hosiery workers in Heanor and Ilkeston it is still dull. Laceworkers in Ilkeston report employment as bad, with most workpeople on short time, in Long Eaton as fair. Calico printers and engravers in Dinting, Hayfield, and New Mills report a slight improvement. Surgical bandage makers and elastic web weavers in Derby report employment as good. Dyers and bleachers in Belper district are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment with bricklayers, joiners, plasterers, and plumbers is reported as fair; with painters and decorators as good.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield are fully employed; tailors and dress and mantle makers report employment as good.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton, and moderate with carriage-builders in private shops. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as improving.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate with letterpress and lithographic printers, and with bookbinders and machine-rulers.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with gasworkers and general labourers and with all grades of railway-workers is moderate; with brick-makers fair.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment in the plain net branch continues good, the curtain and levers branches report a decline. The warp lace-workers and warpers, the curtain-readers, and designers and draughtsmen report employment as bad; the auxiliary laceworkers as slack; and the female laceworkers as irregular. Dyers and bleachers report a decline. Employment is irregular at Beeston, Stapleford and Bulwell.

Hosiery Trade.—Framework-knitters report one-half on short time, with a large number unemployed. Circular hosiery workers report employment as slack; handframe workers as good; hand ribbed-top workers as slack; elastic bandage weavers as not so good;

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

shawl-makers at Hucknall Torkard as good; handframe workers at Carlton and Arnold as moderate; power-frame workers at Mansfield as fairly regular; hosiery-trimmers at Bulwell and Basford as rather slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Lace-machine and hosiery-machine builders and engineers are fairly well employed. In the cycle trade some hundreds have been discharged or suspended; employment is bad at Beeston, moderate at Newark and Grantham, fair at Mansfield. Ironfounders report employment as good at Retford, Grantham and Mansfield, moderate at Nottingham; toolmachinists as moderate at Beeston, fair at Nottingham and Grantham; brass-workers as rather quiet; bobbin and carriage makers and carriage straighteners as busy; steam-engine makers as moderate; boiler-makers as fair at Newark and Nottingham. Branches with 2,859 members have 122 (or 4·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 150 (or 5·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Plumbers are slack; carpenters and joiners report employment as dull and declining; stonemasons as quiet; painters as improving; bricklayers, slaters, plasterers, and brick-makers as good. Employment is brisk in all branches at Mansfield, Grantham, Colwick, Newark, Ruddington, Beeston, and outside districts.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 35 pits employing about 17,000 men, show a slight decline, chiefly owing to the Easter holidays, the average worked being under 4½ days per week, as against 4½ in March. Pits in North Notts. are making much better time than those in South Notts.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as fair; lithographic printers and artists as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe makers report employment as not full, but improving. Employment is good in the bespoke and ready-made tailoring departments; regular with mantle-makers.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers and cabinet-makers are well employed. Employment with sawmillers is moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Silk dressers are on short time. Bakers report employment as slack; female cigar makers as fair; brushmakers, box-makers, basket-makers as good; enginemen, cranimen and stationary engine drivers as busy; cab and hackney carriage drivers as improving; gas stokers as declining.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—Lasters and finishers are more regularly employed at Leicester and Hinckley. At Northampton, Kettering, Higham and Rusden, work is not quite so good. It is generally slack in the clicking and fitting branches.

Other Clothing Trades.—Operatives in the ready-made clothing trade are still busy; bespoke tailors are well employed. Corset-makers, milliners, and dressmakers, are in full work. Employment is improving with silk hatters.

Hosiery, Yarn and Woolspinning Trades.—At Leicester the improvement continues in most branches of the hosiery trade, but employment at Hinckley and Loughborough is still unsatisfactory. Work is more regular with trimmers, dyers, and woolspinning operatives.

Elastic Web Trade.—Most departments of this trade report a decline in employment.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—All the principal branches of the general and electrical engineering trades report work as exceptionally good. With shoe machinery builders it is only moderate. In the cycle trade skilled labour is in demand.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in the South Leicestershire coal mines has been brisker during the month. Work continues regular with stone quarrymen, and also with limestone and iron-stone workers.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders continue fully employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with bricklayers, plasterers, stonemasons, and builders' labourers at Leicester, Northampton, and Kettering; moderate with carpenters and joiners, and more regular with painters and plumbers.

Coachmaking and Furnishing Trades.—Carriage and tramcar builders are fully employed, and railway carriage makers and repairers moderately so. There is an improvement in the cabinet and upholstering trades.

Leather Trades.—Tanners and curriers are working full time.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with basket-makers, tile and terra-cotta workers, and all grades of railway-workers; moderate with cigar-makers, boxmakers, and farriers; less regular with bakers and gas-stokers and labourers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Hollow-ware pressers report a decline, many working less than 4 days per week. Sanitary pressers continue busy. Flat pressers report employment as scarce. Printers and transferers report a sudden decline towards the end of the month. Women gilders and decorators are moderately busy. Men artists are fairly employed. Throwers and turners, designers, modellers, mouldmakers, ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggarmakers report a decline. Encaustic tile makers and stilt and spur makers are well employed. Packers and crate makers are slack.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Puddlers are busy, averaging 5 days per week. Rollers in the plate and merchant mills are averaging 4½ days per week. At the steelworks full time is general. Blast-furnacemen are busy.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and boiler-makers are well employed in the Potteries; moulders have a number still out of work. At Crewe and Stafford the engineers are busy, fully one-half working overtime. Copperworkers at Oakmoor and Froggall report a further improvement, and overtime is general. Agricultural engineers are working overtime in most departments. The anchor and chain makers at Ford Green are working full time.

Coal Mining.—At Kildgrove and Talk o'-th'-Hill miners are busy. At Audley and Halmerend a number are out of work, owing to the closing of a seam and to an explosion. In the Potteries miners are averaging about 5 days per week. An improvement is reported at Rugeley.

Textile Trades.—At Leek all classes of silk operatives are more regularly employed. At Congleton trimming weavers report employment as scarce, and short time is general; silk dressers and throwsters are working better; fustian cutters report a general improvement, full time being the rule. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are working full time.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is good. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford are busy. At Stone employment is slack. Corset makers at Uttoxeter continue busy.

Building Trades.—Throughout the district all branches are busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as slightly improved in the Potteries; as busy at Stafford. Lithographic artists and printers in the Potteries are busy; bookbinders and machine-rulers fairly so.

Miscellaneous.—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are busy. Railway workers continue fairly busy.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, employment in the steel smelting and angle and hoop trades is good. An improvement is reported in the sheet trade. In South Shropshire the mills and forges are steadily employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with engineers, boiler-makers, moulders, bridge, girder and tank makers is good; with cycle-makers moderate. Employment generally is not so good at Coalbrook Dale. The malleable iron workers at Walsall report a slight improvement.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of nuts, bolts, iron fences, hurdles, axles, springs, coach ironwork, wrought-iron odd work, hinges, wrought nails, malleable, cycle, and electrical castings, gunlocks, builders' ironmongery, and also with stampers and piercers. Tube-makers are not so well employed. Brass-workers, grinders, filesmiths and galvanisers, and makers of tips, cut nails, tacks, spectacle frames, malleable nails and protectors, hollow-ware, locks and black castings are moderately employed. Employment in the ironplate trade is bad at Wolverhampton, Bilston, and the Lye district. In Dudley and district the anvil and vicemakers report no improvement. With the anchor makers, chain-makers, and strikers employment has improved. The edgetool makers are slack at Wednesbury, busy at Cannock.

Coal Mining.—The pits in Shropshire and the Cannock district are fully employed. In the Old Hill, Oldbury and Tipton districts the pits are working on an average 5 days per week. The Tamworth collieries are still making good time.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Glass Trade.—At Wordsley and Stourbridge employment continues good.

Leather Trades.—Employment has improved generally in the leather trades at Walsall.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth is fair. Spinners are working full time; woolstaplers report a slight improvement.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND, EASTERN, AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades is reported as good. In the boot and shoe trade it shows a further improvement.—*C. Anthony.*

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,563 members have 326 (or 1·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 392 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers and pattern-makers is moderate; smiths and strikers are fully employed. In general toolmaking, employment is good. In Coventry and Redditch the men continue well employed, and in West Bromwich overtime is being worked. In the cycle industry in Birmingham, Coventry and Redditch employment continues quiet; cycle component-makers are not busy. In the motor-car industry in Coventry employment is a little brisker.

Brass and Copper Trades.—In the brass trades employment continues good. In the tube trades workmen are busier, and the metal-rollers are fairly occupied. In the fender trade employment is quiet at Birmingham, fair at Dudley. The fire-brasses section is slack.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—In the jewellery trade employment continues fair. Silversmiths, electro-platers, and Britannia metal-workers are quiet.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment is rather quiet in the tinplate trade; moderate with ironfounders and filecutters; good in the bedstead trade; fair in the ironplate trade; bad in the military branch of the gun trade, and quiet in the sporting section. In the larger type of military work and in the ammunition trade employment is good. In Coventry watchmakers are quiet. In Redditch employment in the staple trades is good.

Building Trades.—In these trades employment continues good in Birmingham and the district generally.

Glass Trades.—The flint-glass makers report employment as falling off; the glass bevellers and silverers as good; the flint-glass cutters as fair. In the West Bromwich district the glassworkers are fully employed.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—In the railway and wagon shops employment continues good. Coachmakers and coopers report employment as fair; cabinet-makers and mill-sawyers as good.

Clothing Trades.—The bootmakers are quiet, the tailors busy.

Miscellaneous.—In the printing trades employment is fair; brush-makers continue quiet; enginemen and cranimen report employment as good; saddlers and harness-makers are quiet; gasworkers and general labourers are fully employed. Employment with ribbon-weavers at Coventry has improved.—*A. R. Jephcott.*

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.**Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

Clothing Trades.—Readymade tailoring factories are running full time at Norwich. Bespoke tailors report employment as fair. Boot and shoemakers at Cambridge are fairly busy. In Norwich employment is dull.

Building Trades.—Throughout the district all branches of these trades are well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers throughout the district are well employed; shipwrights at Lowestoft are busy; at Yarmouth employment is not so brisk. Electrical workers are well employed. Wire-weavers are not so busy.

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting weavers are fairly busy; silk and crape factories are on full time.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Letterpress printers at Norwich report employment as good; lithographic printers and bookbinders as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with horticultural builders is good; with brushmakers moderate; with corset-makers fair. Throughout the district navvies and general labourers are well employed. *G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering trades is good generally throughout the district. Boiler-makers at Ipswich report employment as fairly good; moulders and shipwrights as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is reported as moderate at Colchester; slack at Ipswich. In wholesale tailoring, stock work is reported as dull at Ipswich, measure order work as moderate; at Colchester employment is fairly good. Corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury are fairly employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the mat and matting industry is reported as good at Lavenham; fair at Long Melford; moderate at Sudbury, Glemsford, and Hadleigh; employment is good with horsehair weavers at Lavenham. Employment with silk weavers is reported as fair.

Building Trades.—From most districts employment is reported as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment is still dull with letterpress printers at Ipswich, moderate at Beccles and Colchester, good at Southend. Bookbinders are busy at Ipswich, lithographers steady.

Miscellaneous.—At Ipswich shipping and dock labour has improved. Maltsters are well employed. Employment with gasworkers is good; with horticultural builders moderate.—*R. W. Mather.*

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol and District.**

General.—Societies and branches, with 8,648 members, have 119 (or 1·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 135 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good. Branches with 3,138 members have 21 (or 0·7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—Employment is exceptionally brisk, the dispute and consequent restriction of the output in South Wales causing an abnormal demand for coal from this district.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Branches with 3,092 members have 27 (or 0·9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 54 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The shipwrights report employment as improving; the other branches as good or fair.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as good; the wholesale garment makers and silk hatters as improving. Employment in the boot and shoe industry is not so good as last month.

Textile Trades.—Employment in Trowbridge and district is reported as fair on heavy woollens and covert coatings, and slack on fancy woollens and worsteds. The mills in the West Somerset district are busy, particularly in the worsted spinning department.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers report a slight improvement in some branches of the trade; coopers are slack; wood-cutting machinists are busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers and the bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as good; the lithographic printers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The curriers and leather-dressers report employment as slack; the saddle and harness-makers as fair; the brush-makers and basket-makers as good; the bakers as dull; the dock labourers as bad.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—Employment in the tin mining industry shows no improvement. In granite, slate, and limestone quarries, and with china clay workers employment is good.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as moderate in the Three Towns, fair at Hayle, bad at Exeter, and good at Newton; brass and tinplate workers as good in Exeter; moderate in Plymouth; shipwrights, boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, and ironfounders as good. In the Government yards overtime is being worked in most departments. Branches with 2,122 members have 19 unemployed as against 15 at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Employment has improved considerably at Torquay and slightly at Tavistock. It is fairly good at Exeter, and good in the Three Towns. Branches with 2,039 members have 6 unemployed, as against 13 at the end of March.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—In the readymade tailoring department the improvement previously reported has been maintained, and in the bespoke department employment is now good. Boot and shoe makers report employment as fair. Lacemakers are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers continues dull in Torquay and in the Three Towns, and fair in Exeter; lithographic printers are fairly employed. Bookbinders continue quiet.

Dock Labour.—Work has been fairly good on the quays, good at the docks.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—S.W. COUNTIES, WALES, AND SCOTLAND.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with cabinet-makers is moderate; with upholsterers fair; with mill-sawyers good.

Fishing Industry.—Fishermen report a successful month's work all round the coast.

Miscellaneous.—Brickyard workers and general labourers are well employed. In the market and fruit gardens work is plentiful.

W. Hedge.

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.—Employment has been exceedingly brisk at the steam coal mines, and fair at the house and gas coal mines. Employment at the lead and blende mines is good.

Quarrying.—Employment is still brisk at the slate quarries of North Wales and at the granite sett quarries at Pwllheli and Penmaenmawr. Full time has been worked at the freestone, limestone, and roadstone quarries.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is good with steel-workers and ironfounders. The engineers at Oswestry report employment as moderate; at Ruabon as brisk. Employment at the spelter works is reported as good.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers at Wrexham report employment as still moderate, at Oswestry as good; the plasterers at Llandudno and Colwyn Bay as moderate; the carpenters and joiners at Oswestry as moderate; at Wrexham as fair, at Colwyn Bay and Llandudno as good; the painters at Wrexham as good. Employment is reported as continuing fair in the Ruabon, Rhos, and Cefn districts.

Brick and Terra-cotta Industries.—Employment continues good at the brick and terra-cotta works in the district, except at one firm, which has closed its works.

Chemical Industries.—Employment continues moderately good.

Clothing and Textile Industries.—Employment in the flannel and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire is reported as fair. Bespoke tailors are well employed.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Owing to the dispute in this district (see page 131), the majority of the collieries have been idle throughout the month, and great distress prevails.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns from Blaenavon, Blaina, Ebbw Vale, Cardiff, and Tredegar state that the mills and furnaces have been stopped the greater part of April through want of coal. The works at Briton Ferry and Neath are going in proportion as fuel is obtainable.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—All branches have been seriously affected by the coal dispute. Branches of engineers and iron-moulders, with 2,865 members, have 323 (or 11·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 137 (or 4·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Branches of boiler-makers in Cardiff, Barry, Newport, and Swansea return 26·6 per cent. as unemployed; shipwrights 70 per cent.; ship carpenters 20 per cent. Fitters' and boiler-makers' helpers and general labourers have been idle in large numbers. Several ship-repairing yards have been closed since the early part of April. Sailmakers report employment as quiet.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been only nominal, especially at Cardiff, Barry and Penarth; general cargo, quiet; iron-ore and pit-wood imports moderate. The cornporters and dock-hoblers have had very scanty employment. There has been hardly any business in the shipment of crews.

Building Trades.—The majority of branches report employment as quiet throughout the district. Branches of carpenters and joiners with 1,354 members have 54 (or 4·0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 31 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Miscellaneous.—Fuel-workers are very quiet for want of coal. Spring makers and wagon builders and repairers have worked full time. Metallurgic and chemical works have only part of plant going; letterpress printers report employment as quiet.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—Employment at the end of April was not so good as at the end of the previous month or a year ago, the falling off being largely due to a dearth of fuel. 306 mills, giving employment to 15,923 persons, were reported as at work, as compared with 331 mills and 17,072 persons at the end of March, and 321 mills and 17,375 persons at the end of April, 1897.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 15,706 members have 272 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the coal industry in the Lothians is good, and the miners are working full time.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 38 pits employing 3,855 workpeople (as compared with 4,158 in April, 1897), show that 3,479 workpeople were employed at pits at which full time was worked, curing the four weeks ended April 23rd, while 376 were at pits which worked 23 days.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,410 members have 50 (or 2·1 per cent.) idle, as against 93 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. In Falkirk, branches with 2,905 members have 58 (or 2·0 per cent.) unemployed. For the corresponding period of March, none were idle.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in the ship yards in Leith continues to improve. Branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 580 members, have 5 (or 0·9 per cent.) idle, as against 40 (or 6·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the woollen industry on the Borders continues to improve. In Selkirk both spinners and weavers are working full time. In Galashiels spinners are fully employed, and weavers nearly so. In Hawick both spinners and weavers are fairly well employed. Employment in the hosiery trade is good in Selkirk and Hawick, except in the hand-made department at Hawick, which is not so busy. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,456 members have 17 (or 0·3 per cent.) idle, as against 12 (or 0·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,072 members have 11 (or 1·0 per cent.) idle, as against 26 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as good; the coal porters and dock labourers have been fairly well employed during the month.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,302 members have 105 (or 4·6 per cent.) idle, as against 76 (or 3·3 per cent.) of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—The set-makers, tailors, saddlers, carriers, glass-makers and shoemakers report employment as good; the glass-cutters as fair; the bakers as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Work has been good during the month. Branches with 10,916 members have 158 (or 1·4 per cent.) idle, as against 173 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment on the Clyde and in the surrounding districts is still improving. Branches with 27,365 members return 514 (or 1·9 per cent.) as idle, as against 700 (or 2·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Mining.—Returns from pits employing 20,613 workpeople show that an average of 5·18 days per week was worked during the four weeks ended 23rd April, as against 5·53 in April, 1897. (For particulars of the advance in wages conceded in these districts see page 152.)

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches of these trades in Glasgow and surrounding districts has been good. Branches with 12,063 members return 63 (or 0·5 per cent.) as idle, as against 77 (or 0·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Glasgow weaving trade is fair on silks and harness; dull on plain work, gingham and coloured work. In Kilbirnie it is good all round. In Paisley the thread mills have started full time. Carpet-weavers and calendermen are busy. Rope and twine spinners and hempdressers are better employed. Dyers are rather quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as improved, clothiers' operatives as good, especially with bespoke work; knee shoemakers as good; boot and shoe operatives as improved.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as dull; dock labourers as slightly improved; carters, tramway men, railway-workers, and hackney carriage-drivers are all well employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as hardly so good.

Glass Trades.—Flint-glass makers and cutters and decorative glassworkers report employment as good; bottle-makers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Saddlers, potters, setmakers, basket-makers, and paviors report employment as brisk; carriers, calico engravers, marquee and tent makers, tobacco pipe-makers and finishers as dull. Sailmakers report employment as good.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry is not so good, owing to a stoppage of machinery. In the linen trade employment is quiet, and short time prevails in a number of factories.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the pits has been brisk. Returns from collieries employing nearly 11,000 workpeople, shows that an average of 5·54 days per week was worked during the four weeks ending April 23rd, as compared with 5·13 days per week in the month of March.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The various branches of the engineering trade report employment as good, and work at the shipbuilding yards has also continued busy. Branches of societies with 2,410 members return 43 (or 1·8 per cent.) as idle, as against 71 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Sailmakers report employment as fair.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—In the building trade branches of societies with 1,345 members, have only three unemployed. Employment in the cabinet and upholstery trades is practically at a standstill in consequence of a dispute.

Fishing Industry.—In the fishing industry, owing to the stormy weather, the takes have been unremunerative. The salmon fishing shows no improvement.

Dock Labour.—Arrivals have been numerous at the port during the month, and employment at the docks and jetties has been good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is steady in the printing and allied trades; good in the tailoring trade; fair in the boot and shoe trade. Floorcloth and linoleum makers are fully employed.

P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches with 6,921 members, return 34 (or 0·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 47 (or 0·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Quarrying.—Borers, blockers, cranemen, labourers, setmakers and stonecutters report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Masons, builders, and hewers, carpenters and joiners, painters, slaters, and plasterers report employment as good; plumbers as moderate.

Transport Trades.—Railway workers, carters, dock labourers, and seamen and firemen report employment as good.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights, blacksmiths, patternmakers, engineers, brass moulders and finishers, tinplate workers, tool-smiths and horse-shoers report employment as good, the iron-moulders as unsettled. Branches with 1,601 members have 19 (or 1·2 per cent.) idle, as against 31 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Mill and factory workers report employment as good; tailors as improving; boot and shoe makers (hand sewn) as good; boot and shoe riveters and finishers as quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers and the bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as good.

Fishing.—In April at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 64,817 cwts. of fish, realising £43,434, a slight decrease in quantity, but a large increase in value as compared with March.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers, wood carvers and turners, saw-millers and wood-cutting machinemen, upholsterers, saddlers, and bakers report employment as good; combmakers as fair.

W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with plasterers, painters, bricklayers, and whiteners; fair with carpenters and joiners, glaziers, and slaters.

Metal Trades.—Employment is bad with whitesmiths; dull with gasfitters; fair with engineers, boiler-makers, smiths, and brass-

finishers. Branches with 842 members have 25 (or 3·0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 21 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers, cart and wagon builders, coachmakers, organ-builders, and upholsterers report employment as fair.

Clothing Trades.—In the tailoring trade employment has improved; in the boot industry it is reported as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers, lithographers, bookfolders, stereotypers, and machine assistants report employment as fair; the bookbinders and paper-rulers as dull. Branches with 1,287 members have 50 (or 3·9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 71 (or 5·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—Dock and grain labourers and railway workers report employment as fair; general labourers as good. Saddlers and brushmakers report an improvement. Employment with bottlemakers is good. In the provision trades it is brisk.

J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches with 10,581 members have 245 (or 2·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 324 (or 3·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Employment in all branches is reported as either fair or good. Sailmakers report employment as slack.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 4,046 members have 91 (or 2·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 92 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The flaxroughers and yarddressers report employment as dull; the flaxdressers as moderate; the power loom tenters and women workers as quiet; the yarnbundlers and yarnbeavers as fair; the beetling enginemen, hackle and gill makers and linen lappers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with a membership of 2,290 have 36 (or 1·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 78 (or 3·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Bricklayers report employment as slack; plumbers as bad; carpenters and joiners as quiet; bricklayers' labourers and hodsmen as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 813 members return 25 (or 3·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 32 (or 4·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Packing-case makers report employment as moderate; cabinet-makers and coopers as fair; upholsterers, French polishers, and coachbuilders as good; mill-sawyers as dull.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Societies with 917 members have 53 (or 5·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 56 (or 6·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The letterpress printers and the lithographic artists report employment as fair, the lithographic printers as dull, the bookbinders as good.

Clothing Trades.—Branches with 838 members have 12 unemployed, employment being fair with the tailors and slack with the boot and shoe operatives.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with 1,505 members have 41 (or 2·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 2·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Bakers report employment as dull; butchers, carters, glass decorators, and paviors as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good in Limerick, Cork and Passage West; shipwrights and shipjoiners as fair; engineering in all its branches is dull throughout the district.

Building Trades.—The several branches of these trades report employment as good in Cork, Waterford and Limerick; dull in Killarney and Tralee.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair; flax and tweed operatives in Millfield, Blarney, and Douglas as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers and mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists report employment as good; cabinet-makers, coopers, and cork-cutters are dull.

Fishing.—Mackerel fishing around the South and South-West Coasts has improved; salmon fishing throughout the district is poor.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers report employment as good in Cork and Limerick; fair in Waterford and Tralee. Corporation and quay labourers, stationary engine men, gasworkers, and tramway employees are well employed.—P. O'Shea.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.)

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during April affected about 132,400 workpeople, and the net effect on the weekly wages of these workpeople was an increase of about 3s. 2d. per head.

Increases.—The increases affecting the largest number of persons were 7½ per cent. to coal miners and banksmen, and 6 per cent. to other surface workers (together 30,000), in Northumberland; 1s. per day to coal-miners, and a proportionate increase to surface workers in Scotland (together over 76,000); and 5 per cent. to 5,000 Forest of Dean, and to 2,500 Cumberland coal miners.

Decreases.—The only decrease of importance was that of 1½ per cent. under the sliding scale to 577 steel workers at Middlesbro'.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 107,250, or 81 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, were settled without cessation of work, the wages of 577 being changed under sliding scale.

Totals for First Four Months of 1898.—For the four months, January to March, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 259,800, compared with 303,500 for the corresponding period of 1897.

Note.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c. are not recorded here.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL—(continued.)

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Changes in Rates of Wages in the South Wales Coal Trade.—It is reported that a considerable number of coal miners in South Wales have obtained an advance in wages, but full particulars have not yet been obtained.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Liverpool District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on June 14th.

North Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Cheshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on the 29th and 30th June.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE.

This office has re-issued a volume containing handbooks upon ten of the most important colonies. Each handbook is accompanied by a map, and contains useful information for emigrants as to the climate, constitution, cost of living, rates of wages and other matters of interest respecting each colony.

A further publication is a summary of Consular reports of 1897 from North and South America (price 2d.), containing extracts likely to be useful to intending emigrants.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL, 1898.

The changes in hours of labour in April affected 7,492 workpeople, their working hours being reduced on the average by nearly two hours (1.82) per week. The principal changes were those affecting 1,800 painters at Liverpool, 2,500 carpenters and joiners at Birmingham, 1,086 boot and shoe operatives at Shieldhall, Glasgow, and 550 glass-bottle makers at Sunderland and Seaham Harbour. The changes were all decreases, and were brought about without cessation in work, except those of the carpenters and joiners at Leicester, and the painters at Dudley.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect.	Approximate number of work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		Extent of decrease per week.
				Before change.	After change.	
DECREASES.						
Bolton*	Building Trades—Painters	1 May	320	54†	51††	1.61
Liverpool*	Slaters	2 May	80	47‡	49‡†	0.50
Liverpool*	Painters	2 May	1,800	50†	49‡†	0.50
Birmingham*	Stonemasons	1 April	250	54†	51††	2.18
Birmingham*	Carpenters and Joiners	1 Oct.	2,500	54†	51††	2.18
Dudley*	Painters	1 April	72	54†	51††	3.42
Leicester*	Carpenters and Joiners	19 April	640	54†	51††	3.17
Leicester*	Plasterers	1 May	100	54†	51††	1.71
Pontypool*	Carpenters and Joiners	1 May	45	54†	51††	1
Buckie	Stonemasons	1 June	24	56	51	3.57
Miscellaneous Trades.						
Sunderland and Seaham Harbour	Glass Bottle Makers	25 April	250 men (260 boys)	51‡	48‡	2.5
Coventry*	Farriers	1 April	25	61	59	2
Shieldhall, Glasgow	Boot and Shoe Operatives	9 April	1,086	53	51	2

[In the LABOUR GAZETTE for September 1897, a reduction in the hours of labour from 51 to 45 per week in summer, of stonemasons' labourers in Edinburgh and Leith, to take effect from 15th February 1898, was reported. It is now stated that this change has not been consummated.]
* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.
† Summer hours. †† Winter hours.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

DURING April one new productive society and three new distributive societies were registered in England, a co-operative laundry association in Scotland, and seven new agricultural and dairy societies, and two new poultry societies in Ireland.

A distributive society at Lowick Green, in the county of Lancashire, has been removed from the register on amalgamation with a society at Pennybridge. A builders' society—which had not commenced business—has given notice of winding-up, and a bread-baking society at Glasgow—which states that it has been converted into a company—is reported to have been wound up as an industrial and provident society.

Returns collected by the Co-operative Union show that during 1897 264 new branches for distribution were opened by 146 previously existing societies, and that 56 new productive departments had been opened by distributive societies.

The annual congress of co-operative societies will be held at Peterborough in Whit week. The special subjects for discussion, in addition to matters arising out of the annual report of the Co-operative Union, are "Co-operative Agriculture," and "Co-operative Credit Banks." The membership of the Union is stated in its annual report to comprise 87 per cent. of the total membership of co-operative societies in the United Kingdom.

The fifteenth annual report of the English Co-operative Women's Guild shows that at the end of February, 1898, it consisted of 237 branches, with 12,103 members, compared with 223 branches, with 10,555 members in February, 1897.

The sixth annual report of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild shows that it has 42 branches, with 3,100 members, compared with 33 branches and 2,500 members last year.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN FRANCE.

THE results of the decennial inquiry of 1892 respecting the position of agriculture in France have now been published.* It is stated that the total number of persons actively engaged in agriculture in France in 1892 was 6,663,135, of whom 3,058,346 were employees. According to the census of 1891, the total agricultural population of France (including, in addition to the persons actively engaged in agricultural operations, the families of such persons, and old people past work) was 17,435,888, which was equivalent to 45.47 per cent. of the whole population of France. Of the 3,058,346 persons engaged in agriculture otherwise than as employees, 2,199,220 were persons cultivating land of their own, either working by themselves, or assisted by other persons, 1,061,401 were persons who farmed land on ordinary terms, and 344,168 persons farming on shares (métayers). The 3,058,346 employees were made up of 16,091 stewards, 1,210,081 day labourers, and 1,832,174 farm servants.

With regard to the wages of day labourers and of farm servants, the volume under review gives the details set forth in the tables which follow.†

Day Labourers and Market Gardeners.

Class of Labourer.	1882.		1892.	
	Average Daily Wages in Summer	in Winter.	in Summer	in Winter
Labourers to whom food is furnished by employers—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Men ...	1 7 0	1 0 6	1 5 8	1 0 5
Women ...	0 10 9	0 7 6	0 10 4	0 7 6
Children ...	0 7 1	0 5 0	0 6 6	0 4 5
Labourers to whom food is not furnished by employers—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Men ...	2 5 9	1 9 3	2 4 2	1 7 6
Women ...	1 6 0	1 1 6	1 5 1	1 1 0
Children ...	1 0 6	0 9 0	0 11 8	0 9 1
Market Gardeners—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Men ...	2 5 8	1 10 8	2 4 0	1 9 2
Women ...	1 5 3	1 1 3	1 4 4	1 0 7
Children ...	0 11 7	0 8 5	0 11 1	0 9 0

Farm Servants.

Class of Servant.	1882			1892		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Farm Bailiffs (working)	18	12	0	19	14	5
Male Servants over 16 years of age—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ploughmen and Wagoners	12	19	2	14	8	0
Stockmen	11	11	2	12	17	7
Shepherds	11	12	0	12	7	2
Cheesemakers	17	4	10	19	11	2
Others	11	16	0	12	3	2
Female Servants under 16 years of age	5	12	0	6	0	10
Female Servants...	9	8	0	8	1	7

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during April, classified by industries [M.=Males, F.=Females]:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.	Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Lead Poisoning—								
China, Earthenware, and Glass	13	15	5	—	—	—	15	20
Lead and Colour Works	14	19	—	—	—	—	14	19
Smelting	8	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron and other metals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	9	2	—	—	—	—	9	2
Total Lead Poisoning	44	36	2	5	—	—	46	41
Corresponding Total for April, 1897	42	30	5	3	—	—	47	33
Phosphorus Poisoning...								
Diitto April, 1897	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Anthrax								
Diitto April, 1897	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2

* Statistique Agricole de la France. Résultats Généraux de l'Enquête Décennale de 1892. Published by the Ministry of Agriculture. Paris; Imprimerie Nationale.
† The average figures given in the tables appear to be arrived at by dividing the sum of the average yearly wages paid in each of the Departments of France by the total number of such Departments.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

(Based on information furnished by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)

THE following tables of industrial accidents reported during April are arranged on the new plan first adopted three months ago. In the Summary Table the classes of industries for which the number employed is approximately known are given first, followed by certain classes of accidents for which the corresponding number employed cannot be stated. In the first group of industries including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,093,394 persons were returned as killed, and 4,847 as injured in April by accidents, compared with 332 reported killed and 4,693 injured in April, 1897. During the first four months of 1898, 1,319 were reported killed and 20,232 injured, compared with 1,427 killed and 19,764 injured in the corresponding period of 1897. In the remaining occupations referred to above, 12 persons were reported as killed, and 577 injured last month, compared with 19 killed and 412 injured in April, 1897.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Apl. 1898	Apl. 1897	Apl. 1898	Apl. 1897	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	40	27	271	327	465,112
Other Accidents	4	1	629	819	
Total Railway Service	44	28	900	1,146	
Mines	88	65	317	364	725,803
Quarries	8	12	80	60	112,829
Shipping	159	191	238	208	233,780*
Factories	45	36	3,312	2,915	3,555,870
Total of above	344	332	4,847	4,693	5,093,394
Workshops					
Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23	5	14	471	314	Cannot be stated.
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	7	4	99	93	

DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on Companies' Premises.	Killed.	Injured.	
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods	2	49	—	8	2
Engine Drivers	—	20	—	25	—
Firemen	—	36	—	28	—
Guards (Passenger)	—	11	—	3	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	13	12	—	68	13
Porters	—	3	—	34	—
Shunters	—	6	—	49	—
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	—	16	—	60	—
Total for April, 1898	40	271	4	629	44
Total for April, 1897	27	327	1	819	28
Mines—					
Explosions of Firedamp	—	19	—	—	—
Falls of ground	26	128	—	—	26
In-shafts	5	5	—	—	5
Miscellaneous	50	123	7	37	57
Total for April, 1898	81	280	7	37	88
Total for April, 1897	61	322	4	48	65
Quarries over 20 feet deep					
Explosives or Blasting	—	5	—	—	—
Falls of ground	3	9	—	—	3
During Ascent or Descent	—	1	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	3	21	2	44	5
Total for April, 1898	6	36	2	44	8
Total for April, 1897	10	65	2	5	12

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.	
Shipping—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	47	6	24	67	71
Steam	—	—	—	—	—
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	45	3	29	151	74
Steam	—	—	—	—	—
Total for April, 1898	101	13	58	225	159
Total for 3 months Feb., 1898, to April, 1898	297	19	178	648	475
Total for 3 months Feb., 1897, to April, 1897	337	50	213	690	550

Factories—	Males.		Females.		Total.
	(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—	Adults	Young Persons	Children	
Adults	29	733	—	85	29
Young Persons	15	321	1	72	16
Children	—	14	—	3	—
Total	44	1,068	1	160	45
(b) Other Accidents—					
Adults	—	1,753	—	27	—
Young Persons	—	283	—	16	—
Children	—	3	—	2	—
Total	44	3,107	1	205	45
Total Factories—					
April, 1898	44	3,107	1	205	45
April, 1897	33	2,695	3	220	36

Workshops—	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Adults	Young Persons	Children	Children	
Adults	—	5	—	—	—
Young Persons	—	2	—	—	—
Children	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	7	—	—	7
Total April, 1898	—	7	—	—	7
April, 1897	1	4	—	1	5

Factories & Workshops (classified by trades).	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Textiles—	Other Textiles	Non-Textiles—	Other Non-Textile Industries	
Cotton	3	146	—	82	3
Wool and Worsted	1	47	—	24	1
Other Textiles	2	33	—	19	2
Extraction of Metals	1	52	—	—	1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	7	380	—	2	7
Machines, Engines and Engineering	7	752	—	—	7
Ship and Boat Building	7	561	—	—	7
Chemicals, &c.	2	84	—	2	2
Other Non-Textile Industries	1	119	—	2	1
Total April, 1898	44	3,114	1	205	45
Total April 1897	34	2,699	3	221	37

Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on Companies' Premises.	Killed.	Injured.	
Docks, Wharves and Quays	2	275	—	—	2
Warehouses	1	135	—	—	1
Buildings to which Act applies	2	47	—	—	2
Laundries	—	2	—	12	—
Total for April, 1898	5	459	—	12	5

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.)
Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100.

Number and Magnitude.—Forty-four fresh disputes were reported as beginning in April, 1898, compared with 27 in March, and 78 in April, 1897. In these 44 disputes 129,312 workpeople were directly, and 1,216 indirectly affected, a total of 130,528, which compares with 2,888 in March, and 7,404 in April, 1897. The great increase is due to the general dispute of coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and the short stoppage by miners in parts of the West of Scotland coal district.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 20 disputes took place, involving 3,536 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 7 disputes, involving 124,773 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 8 disputes, involving 1,538 workpeople; textile trades, 3 disputes, involving 200 workpeople; clothing trades, 2 disputes, involving 214 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 4 disputes, involving 267 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 44 new disputes, 34 were chiefly on wages questions, 5 on questions of working arrangements, 2 arose upon the employment of non-unionists, 2 in defence of fellow unionists, and 1 was a demarcation of work dispute.

Results.—Twenty-four new disputes, involving 28,574 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, involving 315 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 30 new and old disputes terminated, 15, involving 27,708 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 625 persons, in favour of the employers; and 6, involving 556 persons, resulted in a compromise.

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in April, owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 2,332,000, compared with 19,100 in March, and 360,000 in April, 1897.

Total Disputes for First Four Months of 1898.—For the four completed months of 1898 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 156 disputes which commenced in those months was 145,339, as compared with 80,000 in the 323 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1897. The number of working days lost was about 4,000,000, as compared with 1,360,000 for the same period of 1897. The engineering trade dispute and the present coal mining dispute in South Wales largely account for the preponderance of working days lost in the first four months of 1898 over those of 1897.

Locality.	Occupation.*	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
				Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.		
I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL, 1898.							
BUILDING TRADES. 3,536 Workpeople affected.							
South Shields	Stonemasons, Bricklayers, Plasterers, and Labourers	1 April	For advance in wages from 9d. to 10d. per hour to stonemasons and bricklayers, 8d. per hour to plasterers, and from 6d. to 7d. to labourers, with certain other alterations in working rules	168	...	...	The bricklayers and plasterers are reported to have obtained their demands; the other trades are still unsettled.
Sunderland	Stonemasons ...	18	For advance in wages from 9d. to 10d. per hour...	40	...	...	No settlement reported.
Bradford	Carpenters and Joiners	30	For advance in wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour, with other alterations in working rules	450	...	...	No settlement reported.
Hull	Painters ...	4	For advance in wages from 7d. to 8d. per hour, with certain other alterations in working rules	240	...	...	Still unsettled, but most of the men are stated to have found employment elsewhere.
York	Painters ...	1	For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour, with revised code of working rules	80	...	7	Advance from 6d. to 7d. per hour granted. A revised code of working rules agreed to by men and the majority of employers.
Burton-on-Trent	Painters ...	1	For a revised code of working rules, including advance in wages from 7d. to 7½d. per hour	80	...	...	No settlement reported.
Coalville	Carpenters and Joiners	1	For advance in wages from 7d. to 8d. per hour	22	...	2	Advance from 7d. to 7½d. per hour granted
Dudley	Painters and other workpeople	1	For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour, with a code of working rules	72	28	2	Immediate advance of 3d. per hour conceded, with promise of further 3d. on 1st April, 1899. Working rules also agreed to.
Leicester	Joiners and Wood Cutting Machinists	2	For advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, reduction in hours of labour, and other alterations in working rules	342	8	12	Settled by arbitrator appointed under the Conciliation Act. (For award see page 136.)
Stroud	Bricklayers & Labourers	4	For a new code of working rules, including advance in wages of 1d. per hour	31	20	...	No settlement reported.
Lynn	Bricklayers ...	2	For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour, with a code of working rules	60	...	...	No settlement reported.
Exeter	Plasterers ...	1	For advance in wages from 6½d. to 7d. per hour, which had been granted by other employers	14	...	4	Advance granted, and working rules signed by the employers struck against.
Newport, Mon.	Carpenters and Joiners	8	One shop blocked by union in 1897 because of refusal to pay an extra rate for overtime. The Employers' Association (April, 1898) ordered a general lock-out to compel withdrawal of block	200	...	...	No settlement reported.
Arbroath	Carpenters and Joiners	1	For overtime payment at rate of time and a quarter beyond 8 hours per day in winter, and increase of 1s. on country work	35	...	6	Demands conceded.
Dunblane	Stonemasons ...	4	For weekly payment of wages, provision of shed accommodation in wet weather, and allowance of walking time to country jobs	20	...	4	Employers agreed to the code of rules embodying the demands.
Edinburgh and Leith	Carpenters and Joiners	15	Against proposed reduction in the extra rates paid for overtime	1,445	...	2	Employers withdrew their proposal and agreed to continue the existing rules for another year.
Falkirk	Slaters ...	1	For advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour	40	...	...	No settlement reported.
Greenock	Plumbers ...	4	For advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. in summer and 10d. in winter, with other alterations in working rules	80	...	...	No settlement reported.
Montrose	Plumbers ...	4	For advance in wages from 7d. to 7½d. per hour	21	...	9	Work resumed at previous rates, the question of an advance to be considered after two months.
Paisley	Stonemasons ...	4	Alleged infringement of working conditions by employer	20	...	...	No settlement reported.
MINING AND QUARRYING. 124,773 Workpeople affected.							
Tamworth	Coal Miners, Engine-men and Boys	21	Coal miners desired reinstatement of three discharged men; enginemmen an advance in wages; boys alleged that they were not paid according to the price list	400	...	2	Three miners reinstated; enginemmen received advance of 2s. 4d. per week each; boys to be paid according to price list.
Bristol	Coal Miners ...	14	For advance in wages ...	90	...	1	Work resumed without advance.
South Wales and Mon.	Coal Miners, Hauliers, &c.	1	Disagreement as to revision of sliding scale and other matters. (See pp. 67 of March GAZETTE, 99 of April, and 131 of May.)	100,000	...	...	Still unsettled.
Treharris (Glam.)	Coal Miners ...	8	For advance in wages ...	63	...	1	Advance of 20 per cent. conceded.
Treharris (Glam.)	Daywagemen and other Coal Miners	16	Against proposed reduction in daymen's wages to rates obtaining under the late sliding scale	7	63	...	No settlement reported.
West of Scotland District	Coal Miners ...	14	Refusal to continue work unless an advance in wages of 1s. per day was granted	24,000	...	From 1 to 4 days.	Advance granted.
Kilbirnie	Ironstone Miners ...	30	For advance in wages of 1s. per day	150	...	...	No settlement reported.

* The occupations in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected." The statement of cause and result does not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL—(continued).

Locality.	Occupation.*	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Number of Workpeople affected		Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
				Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.		
I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL, 1898—(continued).							
METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 1,538 Workpeople affected.							
Hartlepool	Fitters, Turners, Erectors, &c.	26 April	Against the discharge of a fellow unionist	166	...	2	Work resumed by order of union officials, satisfactory assurances having been given as to cause of discharge.
Stockton-on-Tees	Iron & Steel Workers	4	Against proposed reduction of 2s. per ton on part of the cargo of oats	50	30	—	Question referred to the arbitration of Sir B. Hingley.
Workington	Enginemmen, Cranemen, and Steelworkers generally	4	Refusal to work with an enginemman who declined to join their union on religious grounds	90	1,000	5	Question to be settled by the secretaries of three specified unions, the man to be employed on other work.
Sheffield	Haft & Scale Pressers	23	Refusal of an employer to agree to a revised statement of prices accepted by other firms	40	—	—	No settlement reported.
Bury	Ironfounders ...	20	Against discharge of union men, and replacement by non-unionists	13	...	—	No settlement reported.
Dundee	Platers' Helpers ...	18	Refusal by platers to grant an increase in wages from 6½ to 7d. per hour	104	—	—	No settlement reported.
Grangemouth	Shipwrights ...	1	Shipwrights objected to cabin floors being laid by joiners	30	—	2	Settled at interview between representatives of unions and employers that this work should be done by shipwrights.
Belfast	Ironfounders ...	14	Against introduction of piecework and bonus system	15	...	—	No settlement reported.
TEXTILE TRADES. 200 Workpeople affected.							
Heckmondwike	Rug Weavers ...	26	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1½d. on certain rugs	120	...	1	A satisfactory price list arranged.
Hyde	Cotton Winders ...	4	Objection to changed conditions of working	50	...	3	Work resumed on conditions offered previous to stoppage.
Padiham	Cotton Weavers, ...	25	Alleged bad material ...	30	...	1	Advance of 5 per cent. granted until the material is woven out.
CLOTHING TRADES. 214 Workpeople affected.							
Glasgow	Boot & Shoe Operatives	25	Against employment of a non-unionist clicker	34	...	8	Work resumed unconditionally by order of union, the strike being a breach of terms of settlement.
Lurgan	Handkerchief Makers (Velvets, Folders, &c.)	13	Against proposed reduction in wages to alleged district level	180	...	...	A conference resulted in acceptance of modified reduction.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 267 Workpeople affected.							
Wombwell	Pottery Workers ...	10	Against notice of reduction in wages of 3s. per week to 2 men, and of 15 per cent. on piece rates to 5 men	33	...	—	No settlement reported.
Victoria Docks	Grain Porters and Labourers	12	For 1d. per quarter "dust money" when unloading a cargo of oats	63	75	4	Work resumed without any increase in rate.
Dunfermline	Cabinet Makers ...	4	For advance in wages from 7d. to 8d. per hour, and rate of time-and-quarter for overtime	16	...	11	Demands conceded.
Glasgow	Cartwrights ...	11	For advance in wages to a minimum rate of 6½d. per hour	80	...	—	No settlement reported.
II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE APRIL, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.							
BUILDING TRADES.							
Dewsbury and District	Builders' Labourers ...	28 Mar. 1898	Against notice of reduction in summer wages from 6d. to 5½d. per hour	100	...	9	Notice of reduction withdrawn.
Preston	Plumbers ...	18 Dec. 1897	For withdrawal of a black list of men engaged in a previous strike in four shops on the question of painters being employed on glazing work	40	...	112	Work resumed on understanding that painters should have an equal right to glazing work; also agreed to work with non-unionists.
Ayr	Painters ...	14 Mar. 1898	For advance in wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour, and re-arrangement of allowances for country work	74	...	32	Advance conceded, and compromise effected on question of country wages.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.							
River Tyne	Steamboat Men (Ferry)	31 Nov. 1898	Objection to work with a man who refused to continue his union contributions	71	...	13	Places filled by other men.
Chesterfield	Boot and Shoe Clickers, Finishers, Riveters, &c.	29 Jan. 1898	Against employment of apprentices in alleged excess of the proportion fixed by the award of an arbitrator	15	...	65	Men obtained employment elsewhere.
Perth	Tailors ...	23 Mar. 1898	Members of the Scottish Tailors' Union refused to work with those of the English Union	15	...	20	Employers, with one exception, and Scottish Union agreed that the former should only employ members of the Scottish Society, and the latter should not seek any alterations in their conditions of employment before Aug. 1899.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE APRIL, 1898, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 14 disputes which have been previously reported were still unsettled at the end of April. The number of workpeople then involved was about 5,000. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in brackets.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, joiners, &c., Leeds (Feb. 1898).
Coal Mining.—Miners, Castleford (July); Normanton (Sep.); Abernant—2 disputes (Oct.); Castleford (Jan., 1898); Swansea and Neath Valleys (Feb., 1898).
Other Trades.—Boilermakers, Ebbw Vale (July); cabinet-makers, London—2 disputes (Dec.); cabinet-makers, London (Feb. 1898); warp dressers, Colne (Feb., 1898); cabinet-makers, Glasgow, Beith, Dundee, and Dalry (March, 1898); tailors, Stranraer (March, 1898).

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected." The statement of cause and result does not apply to these persons.

State of New York—Bureau of Statistics of Labour—Annual Report.—The fourteenth annual report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour of the State of New York for 1896 contains detailed results of an inquiry as to maximum, minimum and average rates of wages and working time prevailing in the productive industries of the State for five years ending June 1st, 1895, returns from 3,843 industrial establishments being utilised. An account is given of the working of the Free Employment Bureau at New York, from the date of its commencement on July 20th, 1896, to January 1st, 1897. During this period 6,458 males and 1,582 females applied for employment; 332 employers applied for workmen and 616 for women; 218 male and 265 female applicants obtained situations. Of the male applicants 35 per cent. were under 25 years of age; of the female applicants only 25 per cent.

Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation.—The twelfth annual report of this Board for the year ending December 31st, 1897, has been received. It gives an account of all cases in which the Board took action or was asked to take action during the year. In all there were 34 new cases, in four of which, however, the application was withdrawn or action was refused. Of the 34 cases, no less than 24 were concerned with questions affecting operatives in the boot and shoe trade. In 12 cases, by request of the parties, the Board fixed piece rates to be paid for certain operations, and in 5 other cases a settlement was arrived at through the action of the Board. In the remaining cases the Board did not succeed in directly effecting a settlement.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April, the 13 bureaux furnishing returns for April, 1898, and also for April, 1897, registered 1,969 fresh applications for work, as compared with 2,017 in April, 1897, a decrease of 48. Work was found for 988 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 1,166 in April, 1897. The number remaining on the registers of the 13 bureaux at the end of April, 1898, was 2,547, compared with 2,730 a year ago.

(I.) Work Done in April.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities. Includes London, Provincial, and Mile End, Old Town (Bancroft Road) sections.

(II.) Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of April.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Build-ing, En-gineer-ing, Car-men, etc.), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, etc.), Grand Total. Includes London, Provincial, and Mile End, Old Town sections.

* Permanent employment. † Temporary employment. ‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. § New Bureau. || Women and Girls are not registered.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland. THE number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of April in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom was 332,517. This corresponds to a rate of 210 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1898.

Compared with March, 1898, a decrease is shown of 9,285 in the number relieved, and of 6 in the rate per 10,000. The falling off was general over the selected districts, only two districts showing an increase, viz., Stockton and Tees district and Aberdeen. The districts with the largest decreases were Central London (19 per 10,000), Galway (18), Bristol (16), Dublin (14), Leicester (12), and North Staffordshire (10).

Compared with April, 1897, the number relieved has increased by 7,493, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 3. Increases are shown in 23 districts, the most marked being in the Galway district (187 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees (25), Dublin (17), Central London (16), Leicester (13), Manchester (12), Cardiff and Swansea (11), and Belfast (10). The rate was unaltered in two districts, while in the remaining ten districts decreases are shown, the largest decreases being in the North Staffordshire district (16 per 10,000), Paisley and Greenock (12), and Bristol (10).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of April, 1898, Rate per 10,000 of estimated population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with. Includes ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND sections.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox 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.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN APRIL.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*†

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Informations laid, Convictions, Amount of Penalties, Amount of Costs. Includes categories like By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; By Parents; Total for April, 1898 and 1897.

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.*†

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs. Includes categories like By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; Total for April, 1898 and 1897.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Penalties, Costs. Includes categories like By Owners or Masters of Ships; By Boarding-house Keepers; Total for April, 1898 and 1897.

IV.—Under the Friendly Societies Act.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Withdrawn compliance with Act, Fines and Costs. Includes Failure to send Annual Returns; Total for April, 1898 and 1897.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † The figures relating to Prosecutions under the Mines and Quarries Acts for April, 1898, include prosecutions by H.M. Inspectors of Mines under the Factory and Workshop Acts in factories and workshops connected with Metalliferous Mines and Quarries. In the figures for April, 1897, given in the above tables, such prosecutions are included in the Table of Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts. The difference owing to the change of tabulation is not, however, very material. ‡ In this case the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice being in Scotland to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with. § Sentence in one of these cases was 10 day's imprisonment without the option of a fine. ¶ Six of these convictions were for the offence of travelling on an inclined plane against orders and before signals had been given. †† On one month's imprisonment. ** Defendant went to prison for one month. ††† Exclusive of costs in three cases.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The monthly accounts of trade and navigation show that the value of the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions for the month ended 30th April, 1898, was £40,246,716, as compared with £35,136,555 for April, 1897, showing an increase of £5,110,161, or 14.5 per cent.

The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for April, 1898, amounted in value to £17,496,011, as against £19,700,122 for April, 1897, a decrease of £2,204,111, or 11.1 per cent.; and the exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise for April, 1898, were valued at £6,139,253, or a decrease of £1,168,928, or 16.0 per cent.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for April, 1898, as compared with April, 1897:—

Table with columns: Description of Goods, Month ended Apr. 30th (1897, 1898), Increase, Decrease. Includes Food, Drink and Tobacco; Metals; Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances; Oils; Raw Materials for Manufactures; Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles.

The principal increase in the value of the imports for April, 1898, as compared with April, 1897, is under the category of articles of food and drink, corn of all kinds showing the large net increase of £1,575,981; potatoes have increased by £234,663; fish, cured or salted, by £199,088; and bacon by £153,652; and all other kinds of meat, fresh or salted (except poultry), show increases amounting together to £246,155. On the other hand the imports of coffee have decreased by £137,211. Under the heading of raw materials for textile manufactures, wool of all kinds shows a net increase of £1,324,558, and raw cotton of £944,943. In other raw materials, caoutchouc shows an increase of £132,584, and tallow and stearine of £104,460, but wood and timber of all kinds shows a decrease of £236,228.

Exports.—With regard to the exports for the month, the following table shows the values for April, 1897, and April, 1898:—

Table with columns: Description of Goods, Month ended April 30th (1897, 1898), Increase, Decrease. Includes Animals, Living; Articles of Food and Drink; Raw Materials; Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz.—Yarns and Textile Fabrics; Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery); Machinery and Millwork; Miscellaneous.

Among raw materials there is a decrease of £239,460 in the export of sheep and lambs' wool. The decrease in the value of yarns and textile fabrics exported in April, 1898, as compared with April, 1897, is accounted for chiefly by the decline in the exports of linen yarn and piece goods (decrease of £302,518), woollen tissues £219,320, and worsted tissues £492,957.

The chief decrease in textiles of all kinds has been to the United States of America, as will be seen by the following table:—

Table with columns: Description of Textile Goods, Exports to the United States (April, 1897, April, 1898). Includes Cotton piece goods of all kinds; Lute; Linen; Woollen Tissues; Worsteds; Carpets (not being rugs).

The large decrease shown in the above table may, however, be partly accounted for by the increased exports in 1897 before the coming into operation of the Dingley Tariff.

The exports of machinery last month showed a recovery from the effects of the late engineers' dispute, but the exports of most kinds of metals, including hardwares and cutlery, showed a decrease. Taking the trade for the first four months of 1898, as compared with the corresponding period of 1897, the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions amounted to £159,317,623, as compared with £152,764,781, showing an increase of £6,552,842. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures were valued at £75,203,129, as against £78,998,309, a decrease of £3,795,180, and the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise at £21,250,025, as against £21,958,157, a decrease of £708,132.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports of the United Kingdom from *Foreign Countries* and *British Possessions* during April amounted to 2,759,483 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,030,555 tons, as compared with 2,651,091 tons entered and 3,263,634 tons cleared in April, 1897. The tonnage of vessels entered *coastwise* amounted to 2,459,541 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,425,207 tons, as against 2,618,205 tons and 2,464,013 tons respectively in April, 1897.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during April show a considerable increase as compared with April of both 1897 and 1896, chiefly due, in both cases, to increased imports of American cotton. The imports for the four months ended April 30th, are also much greater than for the corresponding periods of 1897 and 1896. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns in April was greater than in either April 1897 or April 1896.

The following are the figures for the different periods:—

	Imports. Bales.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales.	Exports Bales.
April, 1898	395,046	272,226	42,183
" 1897	213,750	263,615	31,419
" 1896	297,407	245,805	29,877
Four Months ended			
April, 1898	1,828,107	1,187,566	156,718
" 1897	1,533,851	1,147,527	140,024
" 1896	1,403,184	1,091,440	133,203

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended April 30th, amounted to £6,312,714, an increase of £129,981 (or 2.1 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1897. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,933,483, an increase of £76,345, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,379,231, an increase of £53,636.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during April was £718,169, an increase of £9,210 as compared with April, 1897. In England and Wales there was an increase of £12,068, in Ireland of £3,597, while in Scotland there was a decrease of £6,455.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during April, 1898, numbered 325, being 8 less than in April, 1897, 57 more than in April, 1896, and 53 less than in April, 1895.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during April was 23,750, as compared with 21,820 in April, 1897.

British and Irish.—Of the 23,750 passengers, 16,857 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 741 as compared with a year ago, chiefly due to an increase in the numbers bound for British North America. The number *en route* to the United States, shows on the other hand, a decline. The total number of British and Irish passengers for the first four months also shows an increase when compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The figures for the different periods are shown in the following table:—

Destination.	April, 1898.	April, 1897.	Total for four months ending—	
			April, 1898.	April, 1897.
United States	11,373	11,454	23,021	22,433
British North America	2,264	1,641	4,888	3,726
Australasia	790	746	3,071	3,128
South Africa	1,706	1,605	6,366	6,542
Other places	724	670	3,360	3,672
Total	16,857	16,116	40,706	39,501

Foreign.—The remainder of the 23,750 passengers, viz., 6,893, were foreigners, and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 1,189 more than in April, 1897.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during April was 8,357. Of

these 4,446 were stated to be *en route* to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 4,139 so stated in April, 1897. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,911 (including 1,032 sailors), the corresponding figure for April, 1897, being 4,093 (including 1,204 sailors). The figures for April, 1898 and 1897, and also for the four months ended 30th April in each year, are as follows:—

	April, 1898.	April, 1897.	Total for 4 months ending	
			Apr., 1898.	Apr., 1897.
Aliens not stated to be <i>en route</i> to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	3,911*	4,093*	14,592*	13,645*
Aliens <i>en route</i> to America or other places out of the United Kingdom...	4,446	4,139	11,138	10,101
Total	8,357	8,232	25,730	23,746

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN APRIL.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in April it will be seen that 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 11 Co-operative Associations for Production (mostly Agricultural and Dairy Societies in Ireland), 1 Co-operative Loan Society, 21 new Friendly Societies, 35 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 1 Building Society have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Fourteen Building Societies, 37 Friendly Societies, and 2 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registry cancelled, while 2 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having amalgamated.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—England and Wales.—Willenhall Industrial Co-op. Society, Ltd., 96, Lower Lichfield Street, Willenhall; Melton Constable Co-op. Society, Ltd., 5, Victoria Terrace, Melton Road, Briston, Norfolk; Pickering and District Co-op. Society, Ltd., The Stores, Pickering, Yorks. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—England and Wales.—Forward Painters and Decorators, Ltd., 77, Rotherfield Street, Essex Road, N. Scotland.—Scottish Co-op. Laundry Association, Ltd., 72, Main Street, Barrhead, Renfrew. Ireland.—Nine Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Societies at Brackey, Co. Tyrone; Ballyronan, Londonderry; Albany, Co. Tyrone; Five Mile Town, Co. Tyrone; Mossgrove, Co. Cork; Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh; Tattykeeran, Coolranelly, Co. Fermanagh; Mallow Co-op. Poultry Soc., Co. Cork; Kinvara Co-op. Poultry Soc., Co. Galway.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—England and Wales.—Harrow Hotel Loan Soc., Ltd., Harrow Hotel, Ilkeston. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 3; Dividing, 3; Juvenile, 5; Specially authorised, 3; Working Men's Clubs, 3. Scotland.—Benevolent, 1. Ireland.—Specially authorised, 3.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—England and Wales.—35. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—1.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Resolution to wind-up received:—Battersea Total Abstinence Builders' Society, Limited, 1, Birley Street, Shaftesbury Park. Amalgamation:—Lowick Green Industrial and Provident Society, Limited, with Pennybridge Equitable Co-operative and Industrial Society, Limited. Scotland.—Notice of termination of winding-up:—Glasgow Friendly Bread Society. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 12; registration cancelled, 6; dissolved otherwise, 15. Scotland.—By instrument of dissolution, 1; otherwise dissolved, 2. Ireland.—By instrument of dissolution, 1.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 2; notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; notice of termination of dissolution, 8; Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,032 in April, 1898; 1,204 in April, 1897; and 3,972 and 3,747 respectively for the four months ended April in each year.