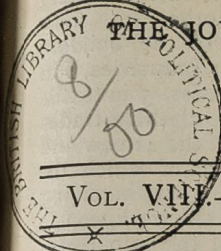


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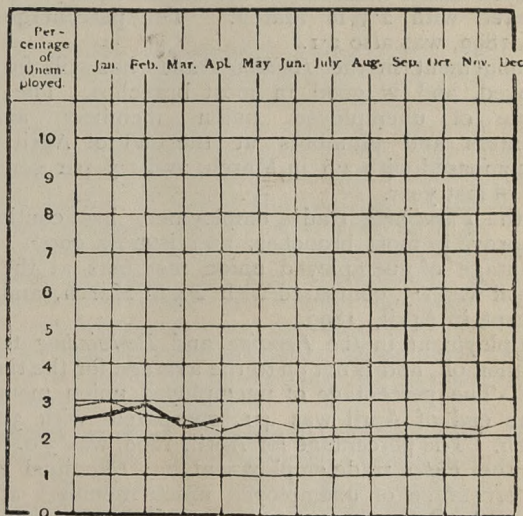
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EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1899-1900.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the Trade Unions making returns at the close of each complete month of 1899 and 1900.

[The thick line applies to 1900, the thin line to 1899.]



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

[Based on 2,597 returns, viz.: 1,782 from Employers, 653 from Trade Unions, and 162 from other sources.]

The general state of employment during April has remained good in most of the important industries, though some show a slight downward tendency.

In the 137 Trade Unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 525,865, 13,075 (or 2.5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.3 per cent. in March, and with 2.2 per cent. in the 123 unions, with a membership of 495,496, from which returns were received for April, 1899.

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in April has continued good, although the average time worked has been lowered through the Easter holidays. At collieries at which 449,372 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 5.19 days per week in the four weeks ended April 21st, as compared with 5.24 days a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good and the number of days worked has been greater than a year ago. The average number of days worked by iron mines and open works, at which 16,805 workpeople were employed, in the four weeks ended April 21st, was 5.64 per week, compared with 5.59 days in April 1899.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment continues good, and has improved. At the works of 116 iron-masters, 383 furnaces were in blast at the end of April, employing about 26,073 workpeople, as compared with 377 furnaces with 25,841 workpeople employed at the end of March, and 380 furnaces with 25,039 workpeople employed a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment continues good, showing a slight decline as compared with March, but continuing noticeably better than a year ago. At 208 works covered by the returns, employing 82,780

workpeople at the end of April, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the numbers employed and the number of shifts worked) has diminished by 1.2 per cent. as compared with March, but has increased by 4.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Template Trade.—Employment shows a decline as compared with March, but is still much better than a year ago. At the end of April 411 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black-plates), compared with 420 mills at the end of March, and 354 mills at the end of April, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the end of April, 1900, is estimated to be about 23,900.

Employment in the *Engineering* and *Metal* trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of April was 2.4, compared with 2.2 per cent. in March, and also in April, 1899.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades, employment remains good, and has somewhat improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 2.1, compared with 2.5 in March. The percentage for April, 1899, was also 2.1.

Employment in the *Building* trades has still further improved, and is good in most branches. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of April was 2.2, compared with 2.6 in March, and 1.3 per cent. in April of last year.

In the *Furnishing* trades employment has continued to improve in most branches, and is now good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 1.3, compared with 2.4 in March, and 0.8 per cent. in April, 1899.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has fallen off, and is not up to the average for the time of year. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 4.1, compared with 3.6 in March. The percentage for April, 1899, was 3.0.

In the *Paper* trade employment has remained good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April being 2.1, compared with 2.2 in March and 2.4 per cent. in April of last year.

In the *Glass* trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 9.0, compared with 9.8 in April, 1899.

Employment in the *Leather* trades is good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 1.7, compared with 1.3 in March and 2.6 per cent. in April of last year.

Employment in the *Boot* and *Shoe* trade continues fairly good on the whole.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade has improved, and is fairly good; in the ready-made branch it continues good, and shows a further improvement.

Employment continues good in the *Spinning* and *Weaving* branches of the *Cotton* trade. Information respecting *Cotton* factories employing about 81,700 women and girls shows that 97 per cent. of those in *Spinning* mills, and 94 per cent. of those in *Weaving* factories, were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 100 and 96 per cent. respectively in March, and with 95 and 88 per cent. respectively a year ago.

Employment in the *Woollen* and *Worsted* trades, although still good, shows a slight decline. In the *Hosiery* trade it remains very good.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment at the docks and wharves has improved as compared with a year ago, but has declined as compared with March. During the four weeks ended April 28th, an average number of 14,176 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 14,937 in March and 13,972 in April, 1899.

Agricultural Labourers were well employed in the month of April. The weather was generally very favourable for outdoor employment, and there were arrears of work to overtake owing to unfavourable weather in the earlier part of the year.

Trade Disputes.—Fifty-two fresh disputes occurred in

April, 1900, involving 31,181 workpeople, of whom 29,838 were directly and 1,343 indirectly affected. The corresponding number of disputes in March was 40, involving 10,049 workpeople, and in April, 1899, 63, involving 13,741 workpeople. The principal dispute of the month was that affecting about 20,000 pottery workers in Staffordshire. Of the other 51 fresh disputes in April, 1900, 21 occurred in the building trades, 4 in the mining and quarrying industries, 6 in metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 5 in textile trades, 5 in transport trades, 5 in the clothing trades and 5 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 41 new and old disputes, involving 8,538 workpeople, of which the termination is reported at time of writing, 14, involving 3,194 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 8, involving 2,002 persons, in favour of the employers; and 14, involving 2,422 workpeople, were compromised. With regard to the remaining 5 disputes, involving 920 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 273,400 workpeople were reported during April, of which number 270,100 obtained advances, averaging 1s. 6d. weekly per head, and about 3,300 sustained decreases, averaging 2s. 0½d. weekly per head. The net result was an increase of about 1s. 5½d. per head in the weekly wages of the 273,400 workpeople affected. The principal increases were in the mining, textile, and building industries. The decreases affected building trade operatives in certain towns in Scotland. Changes affecting about 3,200 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 2,700 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and changes affecting 132,500 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 135,000 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

The following table shows the number of cases* of lead and arsenic poisoning, and of anthrax reported during April, as having occurred in factories and workshops. Of the 79 cases of lead poisoning reported during the month 22 (8 males and 14 females) occurred in the china and earthenware industry, and 19 (16 males and 3 females) in white lead works, the number of cases in these industries in April, 1899, being 42 and 23 respectively.

Three deaths from lead poisoning (1 male and 2 females) were reported during the month. One of these deaths (included under white lead works) in which lead poisoning is stated to have been a contributory cause occurred fourteen months after cessation from work in lead.

In addition to the cases included in the table, 12 cases, with 2 deaths, were reported among journeymen painters.

Disease and Industry.	April, 1900.				Total Apr. 1899.
	Adults.		Young Persons.		
	M.†	F.†	M.†	F.†	
Lead Poisoning—					
White Lead Works	16	3	—	—	19
China and Earthenware	6	13	2	1	22
Litho-Transfer Works,	—	—	—	1	1
Red and Yellow Lead Works, Glass Cutting, Enamelling Iron Plates, Elec- trical Accumulator Works	2	1	—	—	3
Manufacture of Paints and Colours	2	—	—	—	2
Smelting Metals, Tinning and Enamelling of Hollow-ware, Brass Works	1	—	—	1	2
Plumbing, Soldering, Printing, File Cutting Coach Making, Shipbuilding, &c.	7	—	—	—	7
Other Industries	13	—	1	—	14
	5	1	—	3	9
Total Lead Poisoning	52	18	3	6	79
Arsenic Poisoning	1	2	—	—	3
Anthrax	1	1	1	—	3

* Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. † M.=Males. F.=Females.

ABSTRACT OF LABOUR STATISTICS *

THE Sixth Abstract of Labour Statistics, recently issued by the Board of Trade, brings together statistics of labour in the United Kingdom for a number of years. In forty-six of the tables the information is given for 1899 (though in some cases it is preliminary only and subject to correction), but in others the latest available figures are for 1898. Some of the more important figures for 1898 and 1899 have already been published in recent issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE, e.g., those relating to employment, changes in wages and prices, trade unions, trade disputes and industrial accidents, and in such cases a reference will be given below.

In the first section of the Abstract are Tables showing the number and membership of all trade unions for each year from 1892 to 1898, and the income, expenditure and funds of 100 of the principal unions for the same period. The number of superannuated members and the amounts expended on superannuation for 100 of the principal unions are shown in a separate Table. Particulars are also given of trades councils, federations of trade unions and of trades councils, and trade union congresses. The latest figures were published in the LABOUR GAZETTE for January last (p. 6) in the review of the eleventh report on trade unions.

Another Table shows associations of employers grouped by trades, federations and national associations being distinguished from local associations. In all 735 such associations are known to the Department, of which 368 are connected with the building trades, 28 with mining and quarrying, 93 with the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 42 with the textile trades, 64 with the clothing trades, and the remainder with various miscellaneous trades.

In the next section are 18 Tables dealing with co-operative societies and workmen's clubs. Details are given for each year from 1883 to 1898 of the membership, capital, sales, etc., of the retail and wholesale distributive societies, of the corn milling and other societies for production, and for 1897 and 1898 of the productive departments of the societies established primarily for distribution. The value and nature of the productions, the number of persons employed in production, and the mode of distribution of profit are shown for 1897 and 1898, and the rates of dividend paid by distributive societies in 1896, 1897 and 1898. The total number of all classes of societies making returns has increased from 1083 in 1883 to 1767 in 1898, the membership from 647,176 to 1,593,279, capital (share and loan) from £8,395,983 to £24,254,866, and sales (exclusive of the value of goods transferred from productive to distributive departments) from £25,696,547 to £63,399,842. The value of the goods produced by co-operative societies in 1898 is estimated at £10,200,598.

Under Friendly Societies the number, membership, income, expenditure, and funds of all registered Friendly Societies are shown for 1897, and similar particulars are given for fourteen of the principal societies for each year from 1886 to 1898.

The trade disputes of 1896 to 1899 are next dealt with, and are grouped by trades, causes, results, districts and methods of settlement. The percentage proportion of the working population involved in disputes in various groups of trades is also shown. The figures given were noticed in the LABOUR GAZETTE of January last (p. 3). Other Tables show the work done by trade and district Conciliation and Arbitration Boards in settling disputes, whether involving a stoppage of work or not.

Another important section brings together statistics of employment in various industries or on matters intimately connected with fluctuations in employment. The percentages of trade unionists returned as unemployed at the end of each month since 1888 are given

for various groups of trades; the number of days worked per week in coal and iron mines from 1896; the daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in London; and the proportion of women and girls employed full time in textile mills. (See "The Labour Market in 1899," p. 35 of LABOUR GAZETTE for February last.) The better to indicate the state of employment in the textile and clothing trades, for which complete returns of employment are not available, the exports of textiles and clothing have been given, and there are also tables showing the production of coal, iron ore and other minerals, pig-iron, merchant and war ships, corn and other crops. Tables are given showing the average ascertained prices of coal, pig-iron, and manufactured iron in those districts in which prices are ascertained periodically by accountants and used in regulating wages under sliding scales, wages boards, etc. Another Table shows the average prices of British wheat, barley, and oats from 1858 to 1899. (See also last month's LABOUR GAZETTE, p. 99.)

The section dealing with wages covers the changes which have occurred during each of the years 1894-99, with special tables for railway servants, seamen, and agricultural labourers; the standard rates of wages in various occupations recognised at the beginning of the present year in 38 towns by the trade unions concerned; and a number of Tables summarising the results of the Census of wages in 1886 and (in part) in 1891. Tables are included for the first time of the percentage changes in rates of wages of cotton operatives in Lancashire reported to have taken place under the Bolton and Oldham lists for spinners, and the Blackburn and Uniform lists for weavers since the date of adoption of each list, and of similar changes affecting the Dundee flax and jute workers since 1873.

Tables relating to profit-sharing schemes give the number of such schemes known to exist at June 30th, 1899, the trades in which profit-sharing has been started, the causes of certain schemes being abandoned, and the ratio of bonuses paid to the amount of wages. The figures for 1898 relate to 75 schemes, the number employed being 23,932, and the number of participants 14,738. The mean bonus paid (including all cases) amounted to 5.5 per cent. on wages, and the average bonus (including only the cases in which bonus was paid) to 11.8 per cent. on wages, the corresponding percentages in 1897 being 7.2 per cent. and 11.4 per cent. respectively.

In regard to industrial accidents, statistics are given of the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment in factories and workshops, on railways, in mines, and at sea in each year since 1885, and in quarries since the Quarries Act came into operation in 1895, the cause and nature of the accident being shown in most cases. Particulars are also given of the non-fatal accidents reported, and of the cases of lead, phosphorus, and mercurial poisoning, and of anthrax, which have been reported to the Home Office as occurring to workpeople in factories or workshops. Some of the figures for 1899 and recent years were dealt with in the March number of the LABOUR GAZETTE, p. 67.

The number and results of actions under the Employers' Liability Act and of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines and Quarries Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts are summarised for 1898.

Another set of Tables shows the number of persons employed in 1897 in factories and workshops grouped according to age, sex, and industry, separate tables being given for half-timers. The employments to which 131,500 children first went on leaving school in 1893-4 and the proportion married and unmarried amongst 167,220 women textile workers in 1894 are also shown.

Other Tables are devoted to labour bureaux, pauperism, the growth and movement of population, savings banks, building societies, and the housing and occupations of the people as set forth in the Census Reports for 1891.

* [Cd.—119.] Price 1½d. ex-postage. Eyre and Spottiswoode.

ACCIDENT, OLD-AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN GERMANY IN 1898.

The following figures are based on statistics contained in the first number of the issue of the *Amtliche Nachrichten des Reichs-Versicherungsamts* (the official journal of the German Imperial Insurance Department) for the year 1900:—

1.—Accident Insurance.*

The mean number of persons insured under the Accident Insurance Laws in 1898 (exclusive of certain classes employed in the building trades, whose number is not known) was 18,246,013, as compared with 17,947,447 in 1897. As in previous years, allowance must be made for the fact that some million-and-a-half persons employed both in industry and agriculture are counted twice over. The figures also include from four to five millions of persons engaged in agriculture on their own account as farmers, proprietors, &c.

The number of new accidents compensated in each year from 1886 to 1898 (again excluding certain classes of workmen employed in the building trades) and the nature of their results are shown by the following table:—

Year.	Persons who met with Accidents resulting in				Total New Accidents Compensated.
	Death.	Permanent Disablement.		Temporary Disablement.	
		Total.	Partial.		
NUMBER.					
1886	2,716	1,778	3,561	2,085	10,540
1887	3,270	3,166	3,462	2,204	17,102
1888	3,645	2,203	11,023	4,186	21,057
1889	5,185	2,832	16,337	6,615	31,019
1890	5,958	2,631	22,615	10,166	41,420
1891	6,346	2,861	27,788	13,812	50,307
1892	5,811	2,640	30,569	15,007	54,847
1893	6,245	2,487	36,236	16,906	61,874
1894	6,250	1,752	38,952	21,723	68,677
1895	6,335	1,668	40,527	25,937	74,467
1896	6,989	1,524	44,373	32,386	85,272
1897	7,287	1,452	46,489	35,945	91,171
1898	7,848	1,109	47,794	40,053	96,774
PER 1,000 INSURED.					
1886	0.73	0.48	1.06	0.56	2.83
1887	0.79	0.77	2.05	0.54	4.15
1888	0.35	0.21	1.07	0.41	2.04
1889	0.39	0.22	1.22	0.40	2.32
1890	0.44	0.20	1.66	0.74	3.04
1891	0.35	0.14	1.54	0.77	2.80
1892	0.32	0.15	1.69	0.88	3.04
1893	0.34	0.14	2.00	0.93	3.41
1894	0.34	0.10	2.14	1.20	3.78
1895	0.35	0.09	2.20	1.41	4.05
1896	0.39	0.08	2.52	1.84	4.84
1897	0.41	0.08	2.59	2.08	5.08
1898	0.43	0.06	2.62	2.19	5.30

So far as concerns the special insurance offices connected with certain branches of the building trades (not included in the above table), the total new accidents compensated in 1898 were 1,249 in number (resulting in death 136, total permanent disablement 30, partial permanent disablement 592, temporary disablement 491).

The number of persons, the amount of compensation due to whom under claims in respect to fatal accidents was fixed in 1898, was 16,004 (14,644 in 1897), of whom 5,096 were widows, 10,601 children, and 307 parents of the deceased.

The total expense incurred in 1898 in compensating new and old accidents was £3,555,436, as compared with £3,198,677 in 1897. (The expenses of the first 13 weeks after the accident have to be borne by the Sickness Insurance Institutions, and are not included in these figures.) The greater part of this sum, viz., £2,570,726, consisted of pensions to persons injured by accidents. The number of persons drawing such pensions in 1898 was 428,171 (as compared with 377,495 in 1897). Each, therefore, received on an average £6 os. 1d. (£6 1s. 6d. in 1897). The sum of £654,497 was spent in paying pensions to the families of deceased workpeople. There were 40,925 widows drawing on an average £6 15s. 6d. per annum each, 71,963 children drawing £5 per annum, and 2,501 parents, &c., drawing

* The figures relating to the year 1898, published in the GAZETTE for April, 1899 (p. 100), were provisional.

£6 18s. per annum each. Capital sums amounting to £24,776 were paid to 1,038 widows who re-married—£23 17s. 5d. each on an average.

2.—Old Age and Invalidity Insurance.

The number of new pensions granted in 1898 under the Old-Age and Invalidity Insurance Laws by the 31 district insurance institutions was 99,662 (18,826 for old age and 80,836 for invalidity). The number granted in the previous year was 93,421 (of which 21,688 were for old age and 71,733 for invalidity). Pensions granted by the 9 special institutions, in which persons employed on railways and in the mining and cognate industries are insured, are not included in the foregoing figures, their number not being given in the Official Report.

During 1898 the number of persons drawing old-age pensions from all the insurance institutions was about 222,500, and the number drawing invalidity pensions about 294,000. Altogether, since the passage of the law, 337,929 pensions for old age and 381,275 for invalidity have been granted. In the early years the great bulk of the pensions were for old age, but gradually the proportions have been reversed, and, as seen from the above figures, the proportion of invalidity to old-age pensions granted during 1898 by the 31 district insurance institutions was more than three to one.

The following statement shows the total amount expended upon pensions in each year since the law came into effect, by the whole of the insurance institutions established under the law:—

Year.	Expenditure on Pensions.		
	From money contributed by Employers and Workpeople.	State Subvention (£2 10s. per annum per pension).	Total.
Old Age—			
1891	£ 462,843	£ 302,492	£ 765,335
1892	633,077	420,503	1,053,580
1893	685,535	452,632	1,138,167
1894	739,613	484,109	1,223,722
1895	804,639	524,179	1,328,818
1896	834,931	535,716	1,370,647
1897	844,073	537,142	1,381,215
1898	845,164	529,780	1,375,944
Invalidity—			
1891	3	—	3
1892	30,621	28,051	67,672
1893	153,692	110,451	264,143
1894	300,023	208,636	508,659
1895	459,798	316,484	776,282
1896	634,808	420,251	1,055,059
1897	826,635	542,681	1,369,316
1898	1,056,518	681,976	1,738,494
Total—			
1891	462,846	302,492	765,338
1892	672,698	448,554	1,121,252
1893	839,227	563,083	1,402,310
1894	1,039,636	692,745	1,732,381
1895	1,264,437	840,663	2,105,100
1896	1,469,739	955,967	2,425,706
1897	1,670,708	1,079,823	2,750,531
1898	1,902,682	1,211,756	3,114,438

The law provides for the repayment in certain cases of contributions that have been paid for at least five years by persons who do not ultimately become entitled to benefits. Sums repaid in this way are not included in the above table. Their total amount in 1898 was £224,886 (£173,069 to women on their marriage and £51,817 to the families of persons who died before receiving a pension).

The average value of the old-age pensions granted in 1898 by the 31 district insurance offices was £6 19s. 9d., compared with £6 16s. 1d., the average value of old-age pensions dating from 1897. The average value of an invalidity pension dating from 1898 was £6 10s., compared with £6 8s. 8d. in the case of an invalidity pension dating from 1897.

These figures may be regarded as representing the average value of pensions granted under the law, since the bulk of the insured belong to the district institutions (11,075,000 out of a total of 11,585,000 who were insured under the law in 1895).

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Arbitration in the North Staffordshire Building Trades.

In this case the Board of Trade, on the application of the parties under the Conciliation Act, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson (Barrister-at-law) to act as arbitrator (see *Gazette* for April, page 102). Mr. Hudson's award is dated April 26th, and decides that wages are to remain unchanged. Overtime made between 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. is to be paid time and a quarter instead of at the standard rate, as was previously the case.

Arbitration in the Potteries and Newcastle Building Trades.

Proposals and counter-proposals having been made by the carpenters and joiners and the master builders in the Potteries and Newcastle district for certain changes in the working rules, the parties applied on April 11th to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator under the Conciliation Act. The employers' proposals included the reduction of the rate of wages from 8½d. to 8d. per hour, the operatives asking for an advance from 8½d. to 9d. In addition both parties made suggestions for the alteration of working hours during the period March to October inclusive. The Board appointed Sir John Taylor, K.C.B., late chief surveyor of the London District of H.M. Office of Works. Sir John Taylor heard the parties on April 24th, and his award is dated April 28th. He decides that wages are to remain unchanged, and alters the hour of beginning work on Mondays from 6.30 to 7, and of ceasing work on Saturdays from 12.30 to 12 during summer.

Arbitration in the House Painting Trade at Tamworth.

On April 2nd the painters and decorators at Tamworth, to the number of 37, struck work for an advance of wages of ½d. per hour. Work was resumed on an agreement to refer the matter to arbitration, and application was made by the parties on May 2nd and 7th to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator. The Board appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith (Barrister-at-law), to act in that capacity, and the arbitration has been arranged for May 14th.

Conciliation in a Demarcation Dispute at Leicester.

A dispute having arisen between the plumbers and engineers at Leicester with regard to the demarcation of work, identical applications to the Board of Trade for the appointment of a conciliator under the Conciliation Act were signed on April 23rd and 24th by representatives of the two sides of the Leicester Master and Operative Plumbers' Conciliation Board, of the Heating and General Engineers' Association, of the Leicester branch of the Fitters and Smiths' Union, and of the Ironmongers' Association. The question in dispute (which had culminated in one case in a strike of the plumbers) was with regard to the point at which heating apparatus engineers' work should cease and plumbers' work commence in reference to hot-water domestic services. The Board appointed Sir William Markby, K.C.I.E., to act as conciliator, and a conference was held under his presidency on April 28th. The conference was adjourned.

Arbitration in the Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Trade.

Notice having been given to the Newcastle and Gateshead Gas Company by the men employed at the Elswick and Redheugh Gasworks for certain advances in wages and alterations in conditions of employment, the parties agreed to a general advance of 2½ per cent. from February 1st, 1900, the remainder of the claims to be dealt with by arbitration. Mr. Alexander Newbigging and Mr. Alexander Wilkie were appointed arbitrators by the company and the men respectively, and on April 11th these gentlemen applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire under the Conciliation Act.

The Board have appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith (Barrister-at-law) to act as umpire, and the arbitration will take place on May 17th and following days.

Proposed Arbitration in the Brass Trade.

The National Society of Amalgamated Brassworkers having put forward certain proposals, including a minimum rate of 6d. per hour in addition to the recognised bonus, limitation of the number of boys, and limitation of the numbers employed by journeymen, these proposals were considered by meetings of the three principal Conciliation Boards in the trade sitting together as one body. The three Boards in question, which are all registered under the Conciliation Act, deal with the brassfoundry trade, gas and electric light fittings, and water, steam and beer fittings.

Counter proposals were made by the employers, and no agreement being arrived at, the secretaries of the Boards on April 26th applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator under the Conciliation Act. The Board of Trade have promised to make an appointment accordingly.

Conciliation in the London Building Trades.

New working rules for carpenters and joiners in the London district have been agreed to, and were signed on April 19th by representatives of the London Master Builders' Association and the carpenters and joiners. The rules include a conciliation rule, similar in general character to that agreed upon for the plastering trade, which was printed in the last issue of the GAZETTE, and providing like that rule for an appeal to the Board of Trade in case the Conciliation Board cannot agree.

The following is the full text of the rule. It should be stated that the rules provide that "Employer" means a member of the London Master Builders' Association, and "Workman" means a member of a Carpenters' and Joiners' Trade Society:—

RULE 10.—(a) For the adjustment of all disputes and to avoid stoppage of work, it is agreed that upon a difference arising between an employer or upon the works of an employer and any of his workmen from any cause whatever, notice shall be given by the association or society of the complaining party to the association or party representing the other side, and the subject matter of dispute shall thereupon be referred to the Board of Conciliation who shall be summoned within seven days, and if practicable, shall give their decision within the next six working days, proceeding in the following manner:—

(b) For all purposes of the foregoing rules the Board of Conciliation shall consist of three members nominated by the employers and three by the workmen. Each party shall send to the other within one week from the date of signing these rules, and within one week from January 1st in each year, the names of six persons from whom three shall be selected to act as their representatives on the Board of Conciliation for the current year ending December 31st, and in the event of the death or resignation of any member, either party shall appoint another member within one week, notice being given thereof. The number of representatives of the employers and of the workmen on the Conciliation Board shall always be equal, and shall be so maintained during the sitting.

(c) The Board of Conciliation so constituted, if unable to agree, shall make application to the Board of Trade under the "Conciliation Act, 1896," or apply for the appointment of a person to act as a conciliator. The Board of Conciliation shall have power to decide all questions arising between the employer and the workman, including any questions between one trade and another as regards demarcation of labour or other matters, provided that for the decision of any question involving claims or rights of other sections of the building trades a Joint Conciliation Board shall be constituted of the three representatives nominated by each trade involved, and by a similar number of representatives of the employers, so that members on the Joint Conciliation Board may be specially represented on such board, and so that the number of representatives of the employers and the workmen on such Joint Conciliation Board shall be equal and be so maintained during the sitting.

(d) A Joint Conciliation Board shall have the like powers as a Conciliation Board and be regulated in the same manner.

(e) The Conciliation Board or a Joint Conciliation Board shall have power to make such rules and regulations for the transaction of business as they may approve.

(f) In the event of an application being made to the Board of Trade or a person being appointed as Conciliator, the decision of such person or the Conciliation Board shall be final and binding on both parties.

(b) OTHER.

Conciliation in the Dundee Building Trade.

A dispute affecting about 420 masons at Dundee commenced on February 17th, the men declining to accept a proposed reduction of ½d. per hour. Owing to the intervention of the Lord Provost, work was resumed on Monday, April 16th, both parties agreeing that wages should be reduced from May 15th by ½d. per hour, and then remain stationary for 6 months.

Conciliation in the Dunfermline Building Trade.

A strike commenced on April 2nd of about 30 house painters at Dunfermline for an advance in wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour, and certain alterations in working rules. At a conference on April 27th arranged and presided over by Mr. A. S. Cunningham it was agreed that the advance should be granted, and other alterations withdrawn. The notice of intended alterations required was altered from two to three months.

Arbitration in the Aberdeen Building Trade.

On March 1st the joiners of Aberdeen struck work against a proposal of the employers to reduce wages from 8½d. to 8d. per hour, and to introduce certain modifications in the working rules. About 650 men were affected. On April 24th it was agreed between the parties that work should be resumed, the question of wages being referred to arbitration. Other questions were settled between the parties. Work was resumed on April 26th, and on the same day the arbitrators representing the two parties being unable to agree decided to call in ex-Lord Provost Mearns as umpire. On April 28th the umpire issued his award, by which wages will be reduced by ½d. per hour.

Wages in the Cotton Spinning Trade.**THE BROOKLANDS AGREEMENT AMENDED.**

A MEETING of the General Committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations and representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners, the Card and Blowing Room Operatives' Amalgamation, and the Northern Counties Amalgamated Associations of Weavers (representing reelers, winders and beam warpers) was held on April 19th to discuss the applications of the operatives for an advance of 10 per cent. to male datal hands engaged in card and blowing rooms, and 5 per cent. to other classes. The employers offered to grant a general advance of 5 per cent. to the operatives engaged in the cotton spinning industry. This offer was accepted by the workpeople, except by the card and blowing room representatives, and these operatives decided to stop work on April 28th unless the extra 5 per cent. were granted to male datal hands. At a conference held on April 26th, between the Employers' Federation and the Card and Blowing Room Operatives' Association, arranged by the efforts of the Mayor of Oldham, it was agreed that this advance should be given, but that as a condition of this advance the following paragraph should be deleted from Clause 4 of the Brooklands Agreement:—

Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained in this Clause, whenever a general demand for an advance or decrease in wages shall be made, the wages of the male card and blowing room operatives may be increased or decreased to such an extent as may be mutually agreed to.

These decisions govern the wages of about 86,500 operatives employed in cotton spinning mills in Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire. Operatives paid according to the Bolton list are not affected.

Standard Wages of Miners in Durham.

An agreement entered into on 31st March between the Durham Coal Owners' Association and the Durham Miners' Association provides:—

1. That when hewers are taken from hewing temporarily to do other work, they shall be paid the hewer's county average wage, and
2. That the basis wage of bona-fide screenmen and labourers on and about the pit-heap and on the colliery branches shall be 2s. 10d. per day.

The agreement, which came into operation on the pays commencing 2nd and 9th April, is stated to secure a uniform rate of payment for the hewers when working datal work, and to increase the basis wages of the screenmen and labourers by 2½d. per day.

Liverpool and Birkenhead Shipwrights' and Joiners' Demarcation Agreement.

An agreement for the demarcation of shipwrights' and shipjoiners' work in the Liverpool and Birkenhead districts came into operation on April 19th. It contains lists of shipwrights' and shipjoiners' work, arranged by a joint committee of shipwrights and joiners, with referees, and was signed on behalf of the operatives and by the umpire and referees, and the representatives of the Liverpool and Birkenhead employers.

Overtime in the London Printing Trade.

The following agreement relating to the working of overtime has been signed by the representatives of the London Master Printers and Allied Trades Association and the London Society of Compositors:—

"Any member of the London Society of Compositors working overtime must be absent from the office eight hours before resuming work, and, except in cases of emergency, no member should work longer than a day and a night consecutively, or be called upon to repeat the same in one week."

It is provided however, that if the work necessitating the overtime is not finished by 8 a.m., the men may remain to finish it, providing that it can be completed by 1 p.m., the night rate to be paid throughout.

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) Workmen's Compensation Act.**"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT."**

The Act provides, that if in any employment to which the Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as therein mentioned, be liable to pay compensation. A bricklayer's labourer claimed compensation from his employers for injury sustained under the following circumstances. He was engaged, under a foreman, in the bricklaying department of his employers' business, but was often put to do other jobs, and occasionally helped a man who attended to the mortar mill. During the week preceding the accident he had been engaged in unloading bricks and assisting this man at the mortar mill. On a certain morning he arrived at the works before the foreman from whom he took his orders, and was waiting about, when he was asked by the man in charge of the mortar mill to assist him to place the leather band on the fly-wheel of the machinery used to work the mortar mill. While he was doing this, the fly-wheel suddenly commenced to revolve, with the result that he sustained severe injury to the heel of his foot. The judge of the County Court declined to award him compensation, on the ground that, since what he was doing at the time of the accident was not a matter of emergency, and he had not received express authority from anyone in authority to assist the man in charge of the mortar mill, the injury was not sustained by him by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. He appealed, contending that there was no evidence to support the finding of the County Court judge. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that there was ample evidence to justify the finding that the terms of this man's employment did not embrace any right in him to interfere with the machinery.—*Hubball v. Allen, Everitt & Sons, Court of Appeal, April 6th.*

In another case a workman, employed by a firm of coopers, was engaged in making a tub a little larger than usual. It was the custom of the employees of the firm to provide their own tools, and for the purpose of making a groove in the tub this workman used a certain tool which it was necessary to enlarge. For this purpose he went to a circular saw on the premises intending to shape a piece of wood—a thing which other workmen had previously done without any objection being raised by their employers. While carrying out this work he lost the top of a thumb and a finger. He claimed compensation from his employers; and the County Court judge held that the accident arose out of and in the course of his employment, and made an award in his favour. The employers appealed; and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, on the ground that it was impossible to hold that there was no evidence to support the conclusion of fact to which the County Court judge came. It was admitted that the employers raised no objection to the workmen using the circular saw, and in this case the workman clearly used it for the purpose of his work.—*Fenton Shaw v. Airey & Blackburn, Court of Appeal, April 7th.*

TIME FOR TAKING PROCEEDINGS.

The Act provides that "Proceedings for the recovery under this Act of compensation for an injury shall not be maintainable . . . unless the claim for compensation with respect to such accident has been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident causing the injury, or, in case of death, within six months from the time of death. Provided always that the want of or any defect or inaccuracy in such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings, if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the want, defect, or inaccuracy, or that such want, defect, or inaccuracy was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause."

A wagoner, in the employment of a firm of iron manufacturers, received personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, his wages at the time (November 23rd, 1898) being 21s. a week. From three weeks after the accident up to September 6th, 1899, he received either from the firm or from the insurance company with which they were insured, as compensation for his injury, a weekly sum of 10s. 6d. About Easter, 1899, the firm's manager offered him a lump sum (in lieu of further weekly payments) as compensation, but he asked for a much larger sum; and the manager told him that, if he talked about such a sum, the firm would go to the Court. At Whitsuntide the manager offered him double the amount previously named by him, but the workman did not accept the offer, and in October, 1899, he filed a request for arbitration in the County Court, having previously taken no steps to initiate proceedings under the Act. The deputy County Court judge held that the application was out of time, the claim not having been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident; and on this ground he gave judgment in favour of the employers without any finding as to other facts in the case. The wagoner appealed; and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal. The Court held that there had been evidence before the deputy judge that the parties had agreed absolutely that there was a liability under the Act on the part of the employers to pay compensation, that the amount alone was not agreed upon, and that the workman had the right to go to arbitration for the purpose of having the amount settled. During the negotiations as to the amount of compensation payable the six months' limit of time expired. The Court held that under the circumstances the employers were not in a position to take the objection that the six months had expired. By treating the matter as still open to negotiation, and leading the workman to act on that view, they had debarred themselves from taking the objection. There was ample evidence upon which the deputy judge might find that the employers were not entitled to raise the defence, and there was nothing in point of law to prevent the judge from so finding. For these reasons the Court remitted the case to the deputy County Court judge. The employers' counsel, however, said that, instead of the case being sent back, they would agree to pay the wagoner 10s. 6d. a week.—*Wright v. John Bagnall and Sons, Limited, Court of Appeal, April 5th.*

CONTRACTS ANCILLARY OR INCIDENTAL TO BUSINESS.

Section 4 of the Act provides that "where, in an employment to which this Act applies, the undertakers as hereinafter defined contract with any person for the execution by or under such contractor of any work, and the undertakers would, if such work were executed by workmen immediately employed by them, be liable to pay compensation under this Act to those workmen in respect of any accident arising out of and in the course of their employment, the undertakers shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in the execution of the work any compensation which is payable to the workman (whether under this Act or in respect of personal negligence or wilful act independently of this Act) by such contractor, or would be so payable if such contractor were an employer to whom this Act applies. Provided that the undertakers shall be entitled to be indemnified by any other person who would have been liable independently of this section. This section shall not apply to any contract with any person for the execution by or under such contractor of any work which is merely ancillary or incidental to, and is no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by such undertakers respectively."

In the Act "Undertakers" in the case of a railway means the railway company."

A painter, employed by a firm of builders and contractors, claimed from a railway company, with whom his employers had entered into a contract to do general repairs in connection with their stations, compensation for injury by an engine belonging to the company sustained by him while working for his employers on the reconstruction of one of the company's stations. He claimed that the company, though not his employers, were liable to pay him compensation under Section 4 of the Act. The County Court judge held that the company were not liable, because the reconstruction of a station was "no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by" the company, but was "merely ancillary or incidental to" such business, and refused to award the painter compensation. The painter appealed; and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, on the ground that the erection of a station was not part of the main work of the company, but was merely ancillary or incidental to it.—*Pearce v. London and South-Western Railway Company, Court of Appeal, April 6th.*

UNDERTAKERS: SUB-CONTRACTORS.

The Act applies "only to employment by the undertakers as hereinafter defined on or in or about a railway, mine, quarry, or engineering work, and to employment by the undertakers as hereinafter defined on or in or about any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding, or being demolished, or on which machinery, driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power, is being used for

the purpose of the construction, repair, or demolition thereof." In the Act "undertakers" in the case of a building "means the persons undertaking the construction, repair, or demolition."

The building owners of certain premises decided to reconstruct the interior of the building, and for this purpose, instead of placing the whole work in the hands of one contractor, they gave out the various classes of work to different firms. A workman employed by one of these firms (which had undertaken to cut away the old plaster and to carry out the work of re-plastering) while at work on the scaffolding, fell into a well, and was seriously injured. He claimed compensation from the firm by which he was employed, contending that, inasmuch as there was no building contractor for the whole work, that firm were not sub-contractors but undertakers, within the meaning of the Act, and as such liable to pay him compensation. The firm, however, submitted that, as they had entered into the contract with the architect of the building owners, they were sub-contractors and not undertakers. The deputy-judge of the City of London Court found that there was an "undertaker" for the whole work, and that the workman's employers were simply sub-contractors of that undertaker, and made an award in their favour. The workman appealed, on the ground that there was no evidence to justify the finding of the deputy-judge; but the Court of Appeal held that there was ample evidence that there was somebody other than the workman's employers who had undertaken the whole work—the work of demolishing and constructing—and dismissed the appeal.—*Farmer v. The Danville Asbestos Plastering Company, Court of Appeal, reported April 15th.*

"ABOUT" A MINE.

A collier claimed compensation from a company, by which he was employed, in respect of personal injury by accident received under the following circumstances. The company owned a short line of railway from their colliery, and ran a train to take the colliers from their work in the colliery to their homes. They were not bound to carry the men, who had the option whether they used the train, and did not pay for using it. The men got off the train at points nearest to their homes, the train stopping for that purpose. The collier in question was going home by the train, and, when alighting from it at a point about three-quarters of a mile from the colliery, he fell, and was injured. The County Court judge found (1) that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the collier's employment. He found as a fact that it was not a condition of the collier's employment that he should be carried to and from his work by the train, and that the company provided the train as a convenience only for their workmen, and that they were not under any contract, duty, or obligation to provide it. He also found (2) that the accident did not happen to the collier on or in or about the mine, the accident having happened at a distance of three-quarters of a mile from the pit's mouth. He accordingly made an award in favour of the company. The collier appealed, contending that the accident arose out of and in the course of his employment, and that the employment at the time of the accident was "about" a mine, within the meaning of the Act, a coal mine being for the purposes of the Act defined to mean "a mine to which the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, applies," and that Act providing that "In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, 'mine' includes every shaft in the course of being sunk, and every level and inclined plane in the course of being driven, and all the shafts, levels, planes, works, tramways, and sidings, both below ground and above ground, in and adjacent to and belonging to the mine." The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that, upon the findings of the County Court judge, the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the collier's employment. The collier had left his place of work and had availed himself of the facilities given by the company to go home. He went home by a route which he was not bound to take. He was under no duty to the company at the time of the accident, and in no sense could the accident be said to have been connected with his employment.—*Davies v. Rhymney Iron Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, April 5th.*

"AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS": EMPLOYMENT FOR LESS THAN TWO WEEKS.

The compensation provided by the Act, where death results from the injury, is, "If the workman leaves any dependants wholly dependent upon his earnings at the time of his death, a sum equal to his earnings in the employment of the same employer during the three years next preceding the injury, or the sum of £150, whichever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case £300. . . . and if the period of the workman's employment by the said employer has been less than the said three years, then the amount of his earnings during the said three years shall be deemed to be 156 times his average weekly earnings during the period of his actual employment under the said employer." The widow of a stevedore's labourer, who had been killed by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, claimed compensation from his employers. The deceased workman had been employed by these employers for five days continuously at daily wages; on the fifth day he met with this accident. The County Court judge held that the widow was not entitled to compensation because her husband had not been in the employment of these employers for at least two weeks, and refused to make an award in her favour. The widow appealed, contending that she was entitled to the minimum compensation of £150. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that the Act ought to be construed upon the basis that workmen, who were not in the employment of the same employer for at least two weeks, did not come within the purview of the Act. It might not be necessary that the workman should have been employed every day during those two weeks, but the employment must be such as to form the basis for the calculation of average weekly earnings.—*Stuart v. Nixon & Bruce, Court of Appeal, April 6th.*

REFUSAL OF WORKMAN TO SUBMIT TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

The Act provides that "Where a workman has given notice of an accident, he shall, if so required by the employer, submit himself for examination by a duly qualified medical practitioner provided and paid by the employer, and if he refuses to submit himself to such examination, or in any way obstructs the same, his right to compensation, and any proceeding under this Act in relation to compensation, shall be suspended until such examination takes place."

An iron planer was injured on March 20th, 1899, by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. His average weekly earnings had amounted to £2. The doctor attached to the firm by which this man was employed (who was employed and paid by the firm) attended him. The employers paid the workman £1 a week from the first fortnight after the accident. In August another doctor was called in to examine him in consultation with the firm's medical man. On October 21st the firm's doctor reported that the workman was completely recovered from the accident; and the firm thereupon discontinued paying him the £1 a week. On December 5th the workman filed with the registrar of the County Court a request for arbitration to assess the compensation payable to him under the Act. No notice of the accident had been given. The employers in their answer did not take the objection that no notice of the accident had been given, nor that the claim for compensation was not made within six months from the occurrence of the accident, but denied their liability on the ground that the workman was not then suffering from the effects of the accident. The employers thereupon desired to have the workman examined by a medical practitioner under the provision of the Act above cited; but his solicitor refused to consent unless the employers paid the fee for the attendance of the workman's own medical man at the examination. On December 27th the employers filed a supplemental answer stating the refusal of the workman to submit himself to a medical examination as required by them. The hearing of the arbitration was fixed for January 5th, 1900; and upon that day the employers applied for a stay of proceedings, upon the ground that the workman had refused to submit himself to a medical examination as required. The County Court judge ordered that there should be no stay of proceedings, but that the workman should submit himself for examination by a duly qualified medical practitioner on the employers' behalf, they paying him £1 is. for the attendance of a medical practitioner on his behalf, on such examination; and he adjourned the hearing of the arbitration. The employers appealed, contending that the County Court judge had no power to impose the condition that they should pay for the attendance of the workman's medical man at the examination. On behalf of the workman it was contended that the provision above cited did not apply, as no notice of the accident had been given. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that the workman, having started these proceedings without giving notice of action, and after the six months had expired, could not now turn round and allege that it was a condition precedent to his examination by a medical man that he should have given notice of the accident, and that the County Court judge had no power to impose the condition which he did when making the order. It had been said that the workman had already been medically examined by a doctor in August last on behalf of the employers. But the doctor was then called in for the benefit of the workman himself to consult with the doctor who was attending him as to his treatment.—*Osborn v. Vickers, Sons & Maxim, Limited, Court of Appeal, April 7th.*

AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION: REVIEW.

On August 21st, 1899, a machinist, employed by a joiner, met with an accident while working a circular saw (which it was part of his duty to do), and this caused the loss of one finger and the injury of two others. His average weekly earnings were 36s. An agreement was arrived at, by which his employer agreed to pay him 18s. a week. A memorandum of this agreement was registered in the County Court under the Act, stating that the employer was to pay to the workman a weekly payment of 18s. as compensation, such payment to continue during the incapacity of the workman, or until such time as the same should have been ended, diminished, or increased according to the provisions of the Act. In November, 1899, the joiner offered to take the workman back into his employment to do the same work and at the same wages as before the accident, but the workman refused the offer. The joiner thereupon filed a request to review the weekly payment under the provisions of the Act. At this time the workman was earning about 10s. a week at boot repairing and selling newspapers. At the hearing medical evidence was given as to whether the workman was fit to work at the same employment as before the accident. The County Court judge said that, in his opinion, the workman could not work at the same employment at which he worked before the accident, or earn at that employment the wages which he then earned; and that, in his opinion, he ought not to compel a man to go back to the employment to which he objected to go, even though the employer offered to make things easy and pay him his full wages. He further said that the sums which the joiner now earned were, in his opinion, no justification for reducing his allowance. He accordingly made an award refusing to reduce the weekly allowance. The employer appealed; but the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal. The Court considered that the judgment of the County Court, coming immediately after the evidence was given, was capable of no reasonable doubt. The finding of the judge was that the man was no longer capable of earning the same wages at the same work at which he was employed before the accident. That work was, upon the evidence, the only work at which he could as a mechanic earn wages of that amount. Having lost one of his

fingers, and two other fingers being injured, the man was not fit to work at the circular saw. That was the only work offered to him by his employer. The finding of the judge was, therefore, a finding that the man's earning capacity had been diminished. Having arrived at that fact, everything else followed, and the amount of the weekly payment was for the judge to determine, after giving effect to all proper considerations. The judge had considered the amount which the respondent had been able to earn since the accident.—*Ellis v. Knott, Court of Appeal, April 7th.*

(2) Employers and Workmen Act. Truck Acts. PENALTY FOR ABSENCE FROM WORK.

On January 2nd, 1899, a workman entered into the service of a company, and was employed by them under an agreement, by the terms of which he agreed to serve the company exclusively for twelve calendar months from January 1st, 1899, until December 31st, subject to a fine, or penalty, or drawback of 2s. 6d. for each and every working day on which he was absent without leave, except in case of sickness. The company agreed to pay the workman, on the usual fortnightly pay-days, the sum of 7½d. for every 2,240 lb. of limestone got and properly loaded, and the agreement provided that "in the event of the breach of any of the conditions of this agreement on the part of the workman then, and in every such case it shall be lawful for the company to dismiss the workman without any notice or without being liable to make any payment by way of damages or otherwise for dismissal without notice, but all wages earned shall be paid up to the time of such dismissal, less any amount then due for fines, penalties or drawbacks for absence as aforesaid, should the company insist thereon." A notice setting out the agreement was posted up in the cabin where the workman had his meals. On September 13th, 1899, the workman applied for leave of absence from his work on September 14th, 15th, and 16th, and leave was granted for the first and refused for the other two days; but he absented himself on September 15th and 16th without permission. The actual loss to the company in consequence was a larger sum than 2s. 6d. for each day on which the workman was absent. The workman continued in the employment of the company, and received wages from them, but no demand was made upon him for any penalties under the agreement for absents himself without permission from his employment, or for damages consequent thereon, until he received the particulars of claim attached to the summons to appear before the justices to answer a complaint preferred under the Employers and Workmen Act, 1875, claiming 5s. as a fine or penalty or alternatively by way of damages from the workman for having wrongfully absented himself on September 15th and 16th, 1899, being 2s. 6d. for each day. The justices were of opinion that the company by their agreement with the workman had the remedy for the offence in their own hands, and that their proper course was to have deducted the penalty from the next payment of wages, as they had done in similar cases, that the agreement was within the Truck Act, 1896, and that the proceedings to recover a penalty under it could only be brought after a strict compliance with the terms of that Act; that the provision of that Act, which forbids an employer to make any deduction from the sum contracted to be paid by him to a workman or to receive any payment from the workman for or in respect of a fine unless "particulars in writing showing the acts or omissions in respect of which the fine is imposed and the amount thereof are supplied to the workman on each occasion when a deduction or payment is made," had not been complied with; and that the particulars of claim attached to the summons was not a compliance with that Act, and they therefore dismissed the summons. The matter came before the Queen's Bench Division on a special case stated by the justices, the question for the Court being whether the justices were right in dismissing the summons on the grounds just mentioned; if they were wrong, their order was to be quashed, and the case was to be remitted to them. The Court reversed the decision of the justices, holding that there was nothing in the Truck Act, 1896, to prevent the employers from proceeding under the Employers and Workmen Act, 1875.—*The Buxton Lime Firms Company, Limited v. James Howe, Queen's Bench Division, April 2nd.*

(3) Friendly Societies Act.

DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY: POWERS OF CHIEF REGISTRAR.

The Friendly Societies Act, 1896, provides that, upon application made as therein mentioned, the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies may investigate the affairs of a registered friendly society; that, if upon the investigation it appears that the funds of the society are insufficient to meet the existing claims thereon, the Chief Registrar may, if he considers it expedient so to do, award that the society be dissolved, and its affairs wound up, and shall direct in what manner the assets of the society shall be divided or appropriated; and that every award, whether for dissolution or distribution of funds, shall be final and conclusive on the society and on all members of the society and on all other persons having any claim on the funds of the society, without appeal, and shall be enforced in the same manner as a decision on a dispute under this Act. Proceedings were being taken before the Chief Registrar for the dissolution of a friendly society. The managing director of the society, who had certain claims against the society, while the society had certain claims against him, applied to a Divisional Court for a rule nisi for a writ of prohibition to the Chief Registrar to restrain him from adjudicating on these claims. The Divisional Court refused to grant the rule; and he renewed his application, by way of appeal, to the Court of Appeal, and obtained a rule nisi. The Chief Registrar then showed cause against the rule, which the Court discharged, holding that the Registrar was not proposing to do anything except what he had jurisdiction to do.—*The Queen v. the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, ex parte Evans, Court of Appeal, April 24th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—Emigrants to Canada should start at once. There is a good demand for farm and general labourers, miners, and domestic servants. Mining in British Columbia is active, and there are good openings for skilled men. Mechanics who have a little money and can combine small farming with their trade succeed well in country districts in Canada; the best openings are for carpenters, and others connected with the building trades, and for blacksmiths.

New South Wales.—Carpenters and joiners have been on strike in Sydney for a uniform wage of 10s. a day. Owing to the continued influx of men to Broken Hill during the last few months there is said to be an over supply of labour there, and that even some skilled miners have been out of employment.

Victoria.—There has been a strike at one of the Korumburra coal mines on the question of wages. Concessions have been made to the tramway employees at Melbourne both with regard to hours and to pay; first class gripmen will now receive £2 4s. 6d. a week and conductors £2 3s. 6d. The Government is taking steps to establish a Department of Labour, with the hope of regulating the labour market by bringing labour into the districts where it is required.

South Australia.—The labour market is well supplied with both skilled and unskilled labour, and the demand is not large.

Queensland.—There is a good demand for farm labourers and ploughmen, for female domestic servants, and, to a less extent, for certain classes of mechanics, as carpenters, stone-masons, and bricklayers.

New Zealand.—The last monthly reports to the journal of the New Zealand Department of Labour show that work was plentiful in the Colony. Plumbers, painters, bricklayers, stonemasons, blacksmiths, and especially carpenters have been busy in almost all parts; men in the engineering trades have been fully employed except in Auckland; employees in boot factories have been fairly busy, but not in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin or Wellington; the flax and saw mills and coal mines have been busy, and the clothing factories have been generally well employed. General labourers have had no difficulty in finding employment in road and railway making, harvesting, fencing, grass-seeding, etc.; one or two of the reports remark that it is very rare to see any men on the roads seeking work.

South Africa.—Persons are warned against going to South Africa in search of work, as long as the war lasts.

LABOUR ABROAD.
FRANCE.

Employment in April.—Employment continued plentiful in April in the building, mining, quarrying, metal (smelting and manufacture), engineering (including electrical engineering), watch and clock-making, jewellery, flax and cotton spinning and weaving, dyeing, finishing, garment-making, boot and shoemaking, glovemaking, printing and bookbinding, food preparation, carpentry, joinery and cabinetmaking, coach-building, coopering, glass, pottery and lime-burning, etc., trades, the preparation of hides and skins, and warehousing and transport.

Employment was quiet in the silk and ribbon manufacture, in the woollen industry and in hatmaking.

Seven per cent. of the 118,000 members of 740 trade unions (not including the trade unions of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais districts), which made returns as to the state of employment on April 15th, were out of work on that date. The corresponding proportion for March was slightly over 8 per cent., and for April, 1899, slightly over 10 per cent.

Owing to the more favourable weather and the increased number of orders, the length of the working day has been increased by one hour, chiefly in the

building and accessory trades. The number of hours worked per diem is nearly everywhere that usually in force during the summer months.

Coal Mining in March.—The average number of days per week worked by those employed underground in coal mines in March was 6.06 (compared with 5.89 in the previous month, and 5.98 in March, 1899). During the month, full time (six days and over per week) was worked by 96 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 4 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines, the percentages in the previous month being 65 and 33 respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines).

Labour Disputes in March.—Eighty fresh disputes (including one lock-out) were reported to the French Labour Department in March, the number of workpeople known to have taken part in 79 of these disputes being 11,723. The corresponding number of disputes in February was 87, in 81 of which 16,918 workpeople were known to have taken part, while in March, 1899, there were only 45 disputes, in which 4,160 workpeople took part. Of the new disputes in March the most important was a strike of 1,450 weavers (flax, hemp, and jute) at a single establishment in Berteaucourt-les-Dames, in the Department of Somme, for increased wages. The strike, which began on March 13th, lasted until April 18th, and ended in favour of the employer. Of the remaining disputes 12 occurred in the building trades, 5 in the mining and quarrying trades, 8 in the metal and engineering trades, 29 in the textile trades, 6 in the clothing trades, 5 in the transport trades, 2 in food preparation trades, 2 in the glass, pottery, etc., trades, and 10 in miscellaneous trades. Of the 78 new and old disputes, of which the termination is reported, 12 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 45 in favour of the employers, and 21 were compromised. One of these latter was a strike of 6,000 hosiery workers belonging to 50 establishments in and about Troyes, in the Department of Aube, for increased wages and the abolition of charges for light, and of fines and premiums. The strike ended on April 19th, having lasted since February 16th. Another was a strike of 2,400 weavers at 12 establishments in Saint-Quentin (Aisne Department) for increased wages, which lasted from January 23rd till March 24th.

Conciliation and Arbitration in March.—Seventeen cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in March, the workpeople having taken the initiative in 11 cases, the justice of the peace in 5 cases, and the employers and workpeople jointly in one case. Conciliation proceedings took place in 7 cases, and resulted in the termination of 5 strikes (including one settled by arbitration). Offers of mediation made by the justices of the peace were rejected in 7 cases by the employers, and ignored by both parties in one case. With reference to 2 cases, information was wanting as to whether the action of the justices of the peace had led to conciliation proceedings or not. The total number of workpeople engaged in the 5 disputes terminated was 667.

Fourth Congress of International Cooperative Alliance.—Printed notices have been received at the Board of Trade from the Foreign Office with reference to the Fourth Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance, to take place in Paris from July 18th to 22nd. Persons desirous of attending, and societies wishing to be represented at the Congress should communicate with *M. le Secrétaire-Trésorier de la Commission d'Organisation du Quatrième Congrès de l'Alliance Coopérative Internationale* (5, rue Las-Casas, Paris). The right of voting at the Congress will belong exclusively to co-operative societies which shall have become members of the Alliance, such membership involving an annual subscription of 12fr. 50c. (10s.). Co-operators not representing societies,

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

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

‡ *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department), March and April, 1900, and April, 1899.

§ *Ibid.*, April, 1900.

who are members of the Alliance (paying an annual subscription of 6fr. 25c., or 5s.), can, however, attend and speak at the Congress. Co-operative societies not members of the Alliance, societies for the study of social questions, and persons in sympathy with the co-operative movement may be invited to attend (without the right to vote or speak); they will subscribe such amounts as they think fit; those who subscribe not less than 5fr. (4s.) will receive a copy of the official report of the Congress.

GERMANY.

Hours of Labour of Government Workmen in Bavaria.—*Sociale Praxis* reports that the length of the working-day for workpeople employed in the Government Ordnance Factory of Bavaria has been fixed at 9½ hours.

Association of Employers of Elberfeld for the Prevention of Strikes.—The same journal reports that an Association of Employers belonging to a great variety of industries in Elberfeld has been formed with the object of preventing strikes and of indemnifying members whose workpeople have struck without just cause. It has been agreed that no member shall employ any workman who has taken part in such a strike, either pending the duration, or for three months after the termination of the strike.

Prohibition of Picketing at Lübeck.—The same journal also reports that the following decree has been issued by the Senate of the City of Lübeck:—"Persons who systematically station themselves in public places with the object of watching or influencing workpeople employed at any place of work, or the approach of workpeople to any such place, shall be punished by fine up to 150 marks (£7 10s.) or imprisonment.

BELGIUM.*

Employment in March.—A seasonal improvement took place in the building trades, but not of great extent so far as painters were concerned. The coalmining, metal (smelting and manufacture) and engineering trades continued extremely active, and in the manufacture of arms employment was plentiful. It became very plentiful for quarrymen, of whom there was even a certain insufficiency in some places. Employment was plentiful in the textile trades, the cotton-spinning industry having apparently recovered from the effects of over-production noticeable some months ago. Seasonal activity was resumed in the boot and shoe trades and by garment-makers, although not quite general among the latter. Plate-glass works continued active, but the other branches of the glass trade were still passing through a crisis, and several furnaces were idle. There was renewed activity in the tanning trade. The crisis in the diamond-working trade continued, but was somewhat less acute. Employment was plentiful in the wood-working, printing, hide and skin-working, and chemical trades.

Labour Disputes in March.—Twenty-two fresh disputes were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in March, involving about 9,200 workpeople. The corresponding number of fresh disputes in February was 11, involving 3,408 workpeople, and in March, 1899, 7, involving 723 workpeople. Of the 22 fresh disputes in March, 1900, the most important was a strike of 2,482 rope-makers of Hamme (East Flanders) for increased wages, which lasted from March 15th to 26th. Of the remaining fresh disputes, 4 were in the mining and quarrying group of trades, 6 in the metal and engineering trades, 4 in the textile trades, 2 each in the printing and the hide and skin-working trades, and 3 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups.

Of 19 disputes, involving about 7,675 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 3, involving some 3,000 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 7, involving about 1,425 persons, in favour of the employers; and 9, involving about 3,250 workpeople, were compromised.

Provincial Grant in aid of Trade Union Unemployed Benefit.—The Provincial Council of Liège has voted a sum of £60 for distribution among trade unions paying unemployed benefit. Of this sum £20 8s. has already been paid to the Liège Typographical Union, £14 1s. 7d. to

*Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department), March and April, 1900, and April, 1899.

the Liège Engineers' Union, and £9 4s. 10d. to the Herstal Iron Moulders' Union.

Additions to List of Trades Classed as Dangerous, etc.—By Royal Decree, dated March 26th, the manufacture of ferrous chloride by the action of hydrochloric acid on iron, and the manufacture of ferric nitrate by the action of nitric acid on iron have been added to the list of trades classed as dangerous, unhealthy or unpleasant, and accordingly subject to inspection.

AUSTRIA.*

Employment in February.—For every 100 offers of situations at labour registries (public and private) furnishing returns of their operations to the Austrian Labour Department, there were, on an average, 132 applications for work in February, as compared with 130 in January. The number of registries, from which returns were received, was 751 in the latter, as compared with 754 in the former month, a large proportion of these registries (576 in January and 590 in February) being attached to the relief stations for unemployed wayfarers existing throughout the country.

Seamen's Relief Funds.—There are in Austria two funds for the relief of disabled seamen and of the families of deceased seamen. On October 31st, 1898, these institutions possessed property of the value of £75,250. Their combined receipts for the 10 months ended with that date were £5,303, and included £2,303 accruing under a law of February 27th, 1897, assigning 8½ per cent. of all harbour dues to the funds. The bulk of the other receipts of the funds consisted of £2,459 dividend on Government Stock and £334 forfeited wages of seamen deserters and fines. The number of persons receiving relief from the funds was 1,201, of whom 303 were ordinary sailors and 463 widows of ordinary sailors.

Increase of Wages in Government Printing Establishment.—The compositors, pressmen, machine-minders, type-founders, and stereotypers employed in the Government printing works in Vienna have had their wages increased, as a result of the action of the Ministry of Finance in applying to them the rates of the new Standard Wages List for the Printing Trade which has been in operation in private printing works since January 1st, 1900 (see last month's GAZETTE, p. 107). The increase amounts to 7·7 per cent. in the case of those working on time-wage, and to 4·3 per cent. in the case of a considerable number of the piece-wage rates.

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike of Italian Workmen.—In despatches dated April 17th, 20th, and 24th, Sir Percy Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, reports concerning a strike of Italian workmen employed on the new Croton Dam, which is being constructed in connection with the works for securing an increased supply of water for the City of New York. This place is situated about forty miles from New York; the work has now been in progress for some years, and there are from 700 to 800 Italians employed, many of whom own the houses in which they reside. From 100 to 120 of these workmen are ordinary labourers, who have been receiving 5s. 2½d. per day of 10 hours. They demanded 6s. 3d. for a day of 8 hours. Being refused this advance, they struck work, and the other Italians employed on the same works, though satisfied with their own rate of wages, struck in sympathy with their fellow-workmen. The men appeared to be willing to work 10 hours for a wage of 6s. 3d. per day, but they declared that they would not continue to work for 5s. 2½d. per day, nor would they allow other men to take their places. Deputy-sheriffs were sent to the spot, the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration attempted to settle the dispute, and the Italian Consul-General also went to the locality and endeavoured to effect a compromise; but the contractors refused to grant any advance of wages, and the men persisted in their attitude. On April 19th, 26 men were arrested on charges of rioting,

*Based on information contained in *Sociale Rundschau* (the journal of the Austrian Labour Department) for March, 1900.

inciting to riot, drilling under arms with intent to inflict grievous bodily injury, etc. It was stated that the contractors had given the men warning that, unless they had resumed work by April 20th, their places would be taken by others.

On April 23rd fully two-thirds of the men were stated to have been at work again.

BALTIMORE CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strikes of Coal Miners.—In despatches to the Foreign Office, dated April 12th and 17th, Mr. G. Fraser, H.M. Consul at Baltimore, reports the commencement of two strikes of coal miners; one, on April 11th, in the George's Creek coal fields in Cumberland, Maryland; and the other, on April 14th, in the Elk Garden coal mines near Piedmont, West Virginia. In both cases the miners (about 4,000 in the former case, 700 in the latter) demanded an increase of wages from 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 6d. per ton.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT in April showed a slight decline in the number of days worked compared with a year ago. Owing to Easter holidays the returns for England and Wales for this month are not comparable with those for March. In Scotland, where Easter is not observed as a holiday, employment improved during the month, and also as compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,269 pits, at which 449,372 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5·19 days per week was worked by these pits in the four weeks ended April 21st, as compared with 5·24 days per week in April, 1899.

The following Table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified:—

District.	No. employed in Apr., 1900, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		21st Apr., 1900.	22nd Apr., 1899.	24th Mar., 1900.
England and Wales	409,820	5·16	5·22	5·68
Scotland	38,974	5·36	5·44	5·53
Ireland	578	5·55	5·64	4·89
United Kingdom	449,372	5·19	5·24	5·67

The number employed at the pits from which returns have been received for both periods was about 1·8 per cent. higher than in April, 1899.

In the following table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 83·8 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in April compared with 81·6 per cent. in April, 1899.

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, 1900.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	April, 1899.	March, 1900.
24 days (full time)	7,716	1·7	9·6	41·9
20 and under 24 days	365,883	82·7	79·0	59·0
16 " " 20 " "	65,759	14·7	17·4	4·8
12 " " 16 " "	5,913	1·3	0·8	1·3
8 " " 12 " "	995	0·2	0·0	0·0
Under 8 days	106	0·0	0·2	0·0
Total	449,372	100·0	100·0	100·0

From the Table below, which gives detailed particulars for the different mining districts, it will be seen that there was a falling off of about ¼ day in Wales and Monmouth, and of ½ day in the Nottingham and Leicester district, as compared with a year ago. The changes in other districts were of minor importance.

The highest average during the month was worked in the Lothians (5·68 days). The average was over 5½ days in the Scottish districts, Ireland and Cumberland. The Nottingham and Leicester district was the only one in which the average was less than 5 days a week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN APRIL, 1900 AND 1899, AND IN MARCH, 1900.

District.	No. employed in April, 1900, 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 April, 1900, as compared with	
		21st Apr., 1900.	22nd Apr., 1899.	24th Mar., 1900.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland	35,543	5·07	4·95	5·51	+·12	−·44
Durham	89,044	5·25	5·19	5·64	+·06	−·39
Cumberland	5,792	5·54	5·37	5·89	+·17	−·35
Yorkshire	63,078	5·19	5·22	5·83	+·03	−·64
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,864	5·25	5·21	5·75	+·04	−·50
Derbyshire	34,714	5·07	5·24	5·66	−·17	−·59
Nottingham and Leicester	25,827	4·47	4·80	5·04	−·33	−·57
Staffordshire	23,919	5·13	5·23	5·78	−·10	−·65
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	7,823	5·03	5·14	5·70	−·11	−·67
Gloucester and Somerset	8,521	5·41	5·43	5·56	−·02	−·15
North Wales	11,250	5·14	5·37	5·64	−·23	−·50
South Wales & Mon.	58,545	5·25	5·51	5·89	−·26	−·64
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	21,862	5·53	5·36	5·49	+·17	+·04
The Lothians	3,791	5·68	5·62	5·60	+·06	+·08
Fife	13,321	5·59	5·52	5·58	+·07	+·01
IRELAND.						
	578	5·55	5·05	4·89	+·50	+·66
Grand Total & Averages	449,372	5·19	5·24	5·67	−·05	−·48

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during April amounted to 3,448,517 tons, as compared with 3,853,549 tons in March, and 3,455,109 tons in April, 1899.

(b) IRON MINING IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT in April showed an improvement in the number of days worked as compared with a year ago, but, owing to the Easter holidays, the average number of days worked per week showed a decline as compared with the previous month. The number employed so far as shown by the returns was less by about 2½ per cent. than in April, 1899.

Returns relating to 128 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended April 21st was 5·64 per week, as compared with 5·71 in March and 5·59 in April, 1899. The number of workpeople employed in April at these mines was 16,805, of whom 78·9 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 days or more in the four weeks, as compared with 78·5 per cent. in March and 73 per cent. in April, 1899.

The following table summarises the returns received

District.	No. employed in Apr., 1900, 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 Mar., 1900, as compared with	
		21st Apr., 1900.	22nd Apr., 1899.	24th Mar., 1900.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,815	5·72	5·63	5·93	+·09	−·21
Cleveland	6,808	5·61	5·59	5·46	+·02	+·15
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire	727	5·79	5·89	5·83	−·10	−·04
Northamptonshire and Staffordshire	732	5·85	5·64	5·97	+·21	−·12
Shropshire	1,568	5·32	5·35	5·67	−·03	−·35
Other places in						
England	153	5·16	5·41	5·38	−·25	−·22
SCOTLAND						
	886	6·00	5·57	6·00	+·43	...
IRELAND						
	116	5·92	5·85	5·94	+·07	−·02
Total	16,805	5·64	5·59	5·71	+·05	−·07

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT in April showed an improvement as compared with the previous month and with the corresponding period a year ago.

During the month, at the works of 116 ironmasters covered by the returns, three furnaces were re-lit, and two damped down or blown out in England, and five were re-lit in Scotland. Thus at the end of April there were six more furnaces in blast than at the end of March. The estimated number of workpeople employed was 26,073, or 232 more than at the end of the previous month. As compared with a year ago, three more furnaces were in blast and 1,034 more workpeople employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—PIG IRON, IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES; SEAMEN.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast in the different districts of the United Kingdom at the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Apr., 1900.	Apr., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr., 1900.	Apr., 1900.	Mar., 1900.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr., 1900.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	96	99	- 3	96	94	+ 2
Cumberland & Lanos.	52	48	+ 4	52	52	...
S. and S.W. Yorks...	19	19	...	19	19	...
Lincolnshire ...	16	16	...	16	16	...
Midlands ...	103	100	+ 3	103	103	...
Glamorgan and Mon.	22	23	- 1	22	22	...
Other districts ...	8	9	- 1	8	9	- 1
Total England and Wales...	316	314	+ 2	316	315	+ 1
SCOTLAND ...	67	66	+ 1	67	62	+ 5
Total furnaces included in returns ...	383	380	+ 3	383	377	+ 6

The shipments of pig-iron to Foreign Countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during April amounted to 147,179 tons, as compared with 159,959 tons in March and 104,279 tons in April, 1899.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these industries shows a slight decline as compared with March, but continues better than a year ago.

Numbers Employed.

At 208 works covered by the returns 82,780 work-people were employed in the week ended April 28th, as compared with 83,168 in the week ended March 24th, and 79,364 a year ago.

The following Table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ending			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1900, as compared with	
	April 28th, 1900.	April 29th, 1899.	Mar. 24th, 1900.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales ...	69,431	66,647	69,770	+ 2,784	- 339
Scotland ...	13,349	12,717	13,398	+ 632	- 49
Total ...	82,780	79,364	83,168	+ 3,416	- 388

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing about 89 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5·58 in the week ended April 28th, as compared with 5·62 in the week ended March 24th, and 5·59 in the corresponding week a year ago.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in April, 1900, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in April, 1899.
Under 5 per week ...	2,977	4·0	2·5
5 per week ...	24,693	33·4	35·1
5½ per week ...	1,390	1·9	2·3
6 per week ...	43,532	59·0	58·3
Above 6 per week ...	1,262	1·7	1·8
Total ...	73,854	100·0	100·0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this Table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first Table may be estimated at 461,736 in the week ended April 28th, 467,402 in the week ended March 24th, and 443,937 in the

* Including iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling.

corresponding week a year ago. Thus the volume of employment at the works included in the returns was 1·2 per cent. less than in the week ended March 24th, and 4·0 per cent. greater than a year ago.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT shows a decline during April as compared with March, although it continues much better than in April, 1899.

At the end of April 54 works with 267 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 30 others, with 211 mills were giving partial employment with 144 of their mills at work. Thus in all 411 mills were working, compared with 420 mills at the end of March, and 354 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of April, 1900, is estimated to be about 23,900.

The following Table shows the number of mills at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,† at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	54	267	—	267
Works giving partial employment ...	30	144	67	211
Total at end of April, 1900† ...	84	411	67	478
Corresponding Total for March, 1900†	84	420	57	477
Corresponding Total for April, 1899†	78	354	66	420

The exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above table are summarised below:—

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	April 1900.	March, 1900.	April 1899.	April 1900.	March, 1900.	April 1899.
To United States ...	Tons. 3,594	Tons. 5,137	Tons. 5,181	Tons. 14	Tons. 214	Tons. 35
„ Other Countries ...	19,998	16,865	14,955	5,210	4,680	5,962
Total ...	23,592	21,942	20,136	5,224	4,894	5,997

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN APRIL.

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

THE number of seamen shipped during April as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 28,523, or 2,966 less than during April 1899. At most of the ports the supply of seamen and firemen is reported to have been equal to or in excess of the demand. At Southampton, however, there continues to be some scarcity of seamen and firemen.

During the four months ended April 30th, the number of men shipped was 121,105, as compared with 126,571 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Of the total number shipped during the first four months of 1900, 18,002 (or 14·9 per cent.) were foreigners, the same percentage as in the corresponding period of last year. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

The predominant rates of wages of seamen and firemen at the various ports show no change as compared with those prevailing in March.

* The figures relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates but also to the manufacture of blackplates.

† 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 quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

‡ Revised figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SEAMEN; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

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, 1900 and 1899 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, 1900.*			Total in April, 1899.*	Total number shipped in 4 months ended April†	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April, 1900.		1900.	1899.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	30	2,048	2,078	2,952	9,519	10,702
Sunderland ...	—	446	446	348	1,400	1,736
Middlesbrough ...	42	272	314	251	1,078	1,036
Hull ...	27	861	888	1,003	4,103	4,268
Grimsby ...	21	46	67	53	263	282
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	—	357	357	344	1,451	1,566
Newport, Mon. ...	4	765	769	849	3,195	4,299
Cardiff ...	374	3,108	3,482	5,022	17,428	21,763
Swansea ...	35	494	529	562	2,219	2,277
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	235	8,910	9,145	10,344	31,402	39,407
London ...	393	5,487	5,880	5,429	24,280	21,807
Southampton ...	—	1,562	1,562	1,365	9,436	5,677
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	14	337	351	367	2,096	2,123
Glasgow ...	87	2,166	2,253	2,359	8,497	8,246
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	139	139	118	455	440
Belfast ...	16	247	263	222	1,280	1,102
Total, April, 1900 ...	1,278	27,245	28,523	—	121,105	—
„ Ditto, April, 1899 ...	1,128	30,361	—	31,489	—	126,571

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN APRIL.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 196 returns from various parts of England, reports as follows:—The month of April was a busy one for agricultural labourers. The weather was generally favourable for outdoor work, and employers in most districts were able to overtake arrears of work, which had got behindhand owing to unfavourable weather in the earlier months of the year. Spring corn and grass sowing, and potato planting was finished, and a good deal of mangold sowing done. Owing to the backward state of vegetation, due to the dry and cold weather, there was not so much hoeing as usual for the time of year, but towards the end of the month there was employment hoeing beans and wheat. A number of employers in all parts of the country complain of a difficulty in getting labourers.

Changes in the wages of ordinary agricultural labourers took place in April, amounting to a rise of 1s. a week, in certain districts in the following counties:—Berks, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Gloucester, Hampshire, Herts, Hunts, Leicester, Norfolk, Oxford, Sussex, Suffolk, Somerset, Warwick, and Wiltshire. In each case the wages are now 1s. a week higher than at the corresponding period of last year. A rise of 1s. 6d. a week took place in certain districts in Durham, Kent, Lincoln and Sussex.

Northern Counties.—In the Northern Counties the weather in April was generally favourable for outdoor work, agricultural labourers were well employed, and arrears of work were overtaken. Employment is said to have been regular in Northumberland, and also in Cumberland in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, and Whitehaven. A report from the Cockermouth Union states that "the weather during the past week has been very favourable for outdoor work, and rapid progress has been made. All farm hands have been fully employed; extra men are very difficult to get at increased wages, and all but really necessary work has to be left over." An employer of labour in the Carlisle Union writes as follows:—"The weather has been most favourable for putting in seed, giving full employment to all hands. The ground is in exceptionally good order." Reports of a similar character come from Westmorland, and from Lancashire from the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, Luneside, and Ulverston. In Durham employment is said to be quite regular in the Unions of Chester-le-Street, and Darlington (Durham and Yorks, N.R.). A correspondent

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

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

in the Chester-le-Street Union states that there is great difficulty in getting extra hands. In Yorkshire employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Easingwold, Howden, Malton, Ouseburn, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. Several employers state that there is a scarcity of labour.

Midland Counties.—Agricultural labourers in Cheshire are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Nantwich, and Macclesfield, and in Derbyshire in the Unions of Chesterfield and Hayfield (Derby and Cheshire), and in the Derbyshire portions of the Workop Union (Notts, Derby, and Yorks W.R.), of the Burton-on-Trent Union (Staffs and Derby) and of the Mansfield Union (Notts and Derby). A report from the Workop Union states that "labourers are very scarce for threshing purposes. It is next to impossible to secure men." Reports from Shropshire state that employment is regular in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (Salop and Staffs), Ellesmere (Salop and Flint), Oswestry (Salop and Denbigh), Whitchurch (Cheshire and Salop), Wellington and Wem, and from Staffordshire in the Unions of Leek, and Tamworth (Staffs and Warwick). Most reports from Shropshire and Staffordshire state that labourers are scarce.

In Warwickshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Alcester (Warwick and Worcester), Atherstone (Warwick and Leicester), Coventry, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon (Warwick and Gloucester), and in the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick). Labour is said to be generally scarce in the county. In Leicestershire agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough (Leicester and Notts), Lutterworth (Leicester and Warwick), Market Bosworth, Market Harborough (Leicester and Northants), Melton Mowbray, and in Nottinghamshire in the Unions of Bingham, Southwell, and Retford. Most employers say that there is a scarcity of labour. An employer in the Retford Union writes as follows:—"Every man is taken up. Extra men not to be got. Wages would rise if prices of farmers' produce would afford it. Farmers are now obliged to watch the labour market and farm accordingly."

Reports from Worcestershire state that employment is regular in the Unions of Evesham (Worcester and Gloucester), Martley, Tenbury (Worcester and Salop), and Upton-on-Severn. An employer in the Evesham Union writes "very fine weather for agricultural work. Hoeing went well, but more hands wanted." In Oxfordshire there is said to be no lack of employment in the Unions of Thame (Oxon and Bucks) and Witney, and in the Oxfordshire portion of the Wallingford Union (Oxon and Berks). Extra men for hoeing were said to be most difficult to get. Employment in Northamptonshire is said to be regular in the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, and Potterspury (Northants and Bucks), and in the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick), and in Huntingdonshire in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neot's (Hunts and Beds). Labourers are said to be scarce in both Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. In Bedfordshire agricultural labourers are said to be well employed, and scarce in the Unions of Biggleswade, and Leighton Buzzard (Beds, and Bucks). A correspondent in the Leighton Buzzard Union writes as follows: "A fine and dry month. Everything wanted doing at once and labourers were scarce."

Eastern Counties.—Agricultural labourers in Essex are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Lexden and Winstree, Maldon, Orsett, Saffron Waldon, and Tendring. An employer in the Tendring Union writes as follows: "The weather during April has been favourable for finishing the spring sowing and getting on with root sowing. Altogether we are fairly forward with our work." Several employers of labour complain of a scarcity of labour. In Suffolk reports state that agricultural labourers were generally in full work in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge (Suffolk and Essex), Samford, Sudbury (Suffolk and Essex), and Thingoe. A large employer of labour in the neighbourhood of Ipswich writes as follows: "March was an unfavourable month and threatened arrears of work, but April has been quite the reverse and I consider we are now well in hand with everything."

Agricultural labourers in Norfolk are reported to be generally in full work in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Ferehoe, Guiltcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford (Norfolk and Suffolk), and Walsingham. Several reports refer to a scarcity of labour, and this is partly attributable to the calling up of the Militia and Reserves. An employer in the Swaffham Union

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; TEXTILE TRADES.

writes as follows:—"We are very short of good men and lads. The weather has been very fair for mangold sowing the last fortnight, and much work has been done." A correspondent in the Loddon and Clavering Union writes: "Sufficient labour has been obtained to keep up with the work, although none to spare. Weather has been fine and dry all April. Farmers have been busy preparing land for mangolds, and most of them are in. Hoeing wheat and beans has kept the other hands fully employed."

Reports from *Cambridgeshire* state that there was generally continuous employment for agricultural labourers in the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford, and Wisbech (*Camb* and *Norfolk*), and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants, Camb, Hunts, and Lincoln*). Regularity of work is also reported in *Lincolnshire* from the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Caistor, Gainsborough (*Notts and Lincoln*), Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, and Spilsby, and from the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Notts and Lincoln*). Employers state that April was a favourable month for outdoor work. Several reports refer to a difficulty in obtaining labourers.

Home Counties.—In *Buckinghamshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Henley (*Oxon. and Bucks.*), and Newport Pagnell; labourers are said to be generally scarce in these districts. A large employer of labour in the Buckingham Union writes as follows:—"I have plenty of men, but there is a general complaint of a shortness, especially of milkers. The young men object to Sunday work. Some people are giving up dairying in consequence of not being able to get milkers." Agricultural labourers in *Berkshire* are said to be well employed in the Unions of Bradfield, (*Berks and Oxon.*), and Wantage, and in *Surrey*, in the Unions of Godstone and Hambledon, and in the *Surrey* portion of the Farnham Union (*Surrey and Hants*). A correspondent in the Farnham Union writes as follows:—"In my visits to various parishes in the Union, I find employment plentiful and labourers very hard to obtain. The war has taken a great number of men from the agricultural districts." In *Kent* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Blean, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, and Tenterden. Reports of a similar character come from *Hertfordshire* from the Unions of Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin (*Herts. and Beds.*), Royston (*Herts. and Camb.*), and Watford, and from *Middlesex* from the Barnet Union (*Middlesex and Herts.*). A number of employers in *Kent, Hertfordshire* and *Middlesex* refer to a difficulty in getting men.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Agricultural labourers in *Sussex* are said to be well employed in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. Several reports state that labourers are scarce. A correspondent from the Chailey Union says that there is a difficulty in obtaining competent men to make faggots in the woodlands. A report referring to the Chailey and Uckfield Unions says that "April was favourable for all kinds of farm work, and gave farmers an opportunity to make up for the bad weather in February and early in March." Reports from *Hampshire* state that employment is regular in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants and Surrey*). An employer of labour in the Stockbridge Union writes that the arrears of work were nearly overtaken in April. Employment in *Dorsetshire* is reported to be regular in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne, and in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. A number of employers in *Dorsetshire* and *Wiltshire* state that men are scarce. An employer in the Amesbury Union writes as follows:—"There is no doubt that owing to the greater part of the Union adjoining the Camp on Salisbury Plain, employers have to give additional wages. Where cows are kept there is some difficulty in getting Sunday labour." A correspondent in the Highworth and Swindon Union says:—"Agricultural labourers, especially for milking, or work which entails labour on Sunday, are very difficult to obtain. Wages have risen generally."

Agricultural labourers in *Gloucestershire* are said to have continuous employment in the Unions of Barton Regis, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold (*Gloucester and Worcester*), Thornbury, and Wheatenhurst. Most employers state that men are scarce. A correspondent in the Stow-on-the-Wold Union writes as follows: "There are the usual complaints about

the difficulty of getting extra men for threshing. Everybody was hard at work all the month sowing the spring corn, as, owing to the heavy state of the land, it was impossible to do much in March." Reports from *Hertfordshire* state that employment was regular, and labourers scarce in the Unions of Bromyard (*Herts and Worcester*), and Dore. In these districts work is said to be still in arrears. A report from the Bromyard Union says that pole pitching for hop growing is sadly behind, and labourers are very badly wanted. Regularity of work is reported in *Somersetshire* in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Wellington (*Somerset and Devon*), and Yeovil. Several employers refer to a scarcity of labour; an employer in the Langport Union attributes this to the war. In *Devonshire* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Kingsbridge, Tavistock (*Devon and Cornwall*), and Torrington. An employer in the Barnstaple Union writes: "April has been favourable for outdoor work, which is well advanced." In *Cornwall* agricultural labourers are said to be regularly employed in the Unions of Bodmin and Camelford. An employer in the Bodmin Union says that there is a scarcity of good farm labourers. He adds that the weather in April was good for spring tillage, and that all labourers are well employed. An employer in the Camelford Union also refers to a scarcity of labour.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women continued good in all branches of the textile trades although showing a slight decline in the spinning and weaving branches of the cotton trade. Information has been received with regard to 602 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 103,250 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:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time		Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
April, 1900	97	1	2	—
March, 1900	100	—	—	—
April, 1899	95	4	1	—
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
April, 1900	94	4	1	1
March, 1900	95	3	—	1
April, 1899	88	11	1	—
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
April, 1900	97	2	—	1
March, 1900	97	2	—	1
April, 1899	86	7	6	1
Total of above Trades—				
April, 1900	96	3	1	—
March, 1900	97	2	—	1
April, 1899	90	8	2	—

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 27,500; of these 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 100 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in March, and with 95 per cent. in April, 1899.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 54,260; of these, 94 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 96 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in March, and with 88 per cent. in April, 1899.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 21,490; of these 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with the same percentage among those for whom returns were received in March, and with 86 per cent. in April, 1899.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SHIPBUILDING; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

(i) SHIPBUILDING.

Tonnage under Construction.*

RETURNS compiled by *Lloyd's Register* show that on March 31st, 1900, the number of vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom was 554, of 1,260,422 tons gross, a decrease of 46,329 tons compared with the previous quarter, and of 125,293 tons when compared with the figures for a year ago. There were 17 warships under construction at the Royal Dockyards at the end of March, with a displacement tonnage of 162,700 tons, and 64 at private yards, with 291,410 tons displacement, a total of 81 warships and 454,110 tons. This represents an increase of 30,355 tons, as compared with the quarter ended December 31st, 1899, and of 20,045 tons as compared with a year ago.

The following table summarises the above figures:—

Description of Vessels.	Tonnage under construction on			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) at end of Mar., 1900, as compared with	
	Mar. 31st, 1900.	Dec. 31st, 1899.	Mar. 31st, 1899.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Merchant Vessels—Tons gross	1,260,422	1,306,751	1,385,745	− 46,329	− 125,293
War Vessels—Tons displacement	454,110	423,755	434,065	+ 30,355	+ 20,045

The 554 merchant vessels include 511 steam vessels of 1,249,099 tons gross, and 43 sailing vessels of 11,323 tons gross, being a decrease as compared with a year ago in the case of steamers of 57 vessels, and 133,190 tons, and in the case of sailing vessels an increase of 14 in the number of vessels, and of 7,897 in the tonnage under construction.

The following table shows the gross tonnage of vessels, other than warships, under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts. The figures include 95 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction:—

District.	At			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with	
	Mar. 31st 1900.	Dec. 31st 1899.	Mar. 31st 1899.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Clyde	425,672	433,998	505,530	− 8,326	− 79,858
Tyne	232,168	241,861	257,739	− 9,693	− 25,571
Belfast	185,454	188,842	182,430	− 3,388	+ 3,024
Wear	162,763	173,545	169,022	− 10,782	− 5,229
Middlesbrough and Stockton	108,325	111,735	94,534	− 3,410	+ 13,791
Hartlepool and Whitby	84,160	90,851	85,278	− 6,691	− 1,118
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	2,690	1,920	15,400	+ 770	− 12,710

Thus the tonnage under construction has fallen off, as compared with the previous quarter, in all these districts except Barrow, Maryport and Workington, the largest decreases being in the Wear, Tyne and Clyde districts. As compared with a year ago the tonnage of ships building on the Clyde has fallen off by 16 per cent., and the only districts showing increases are Middlesbrough and Stockton, and Belfast.

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves shows a decline as compared with March, but an improvement as compared with a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended April 28th was 14,176, as compared with averages of 14,937 in the preceding five weeks, and 13,972 in the corresponding period of 1899.

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessel when completed. As at any given time the ships are at various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the amount of work remaining to be done.

(i) Weekly Averages.—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

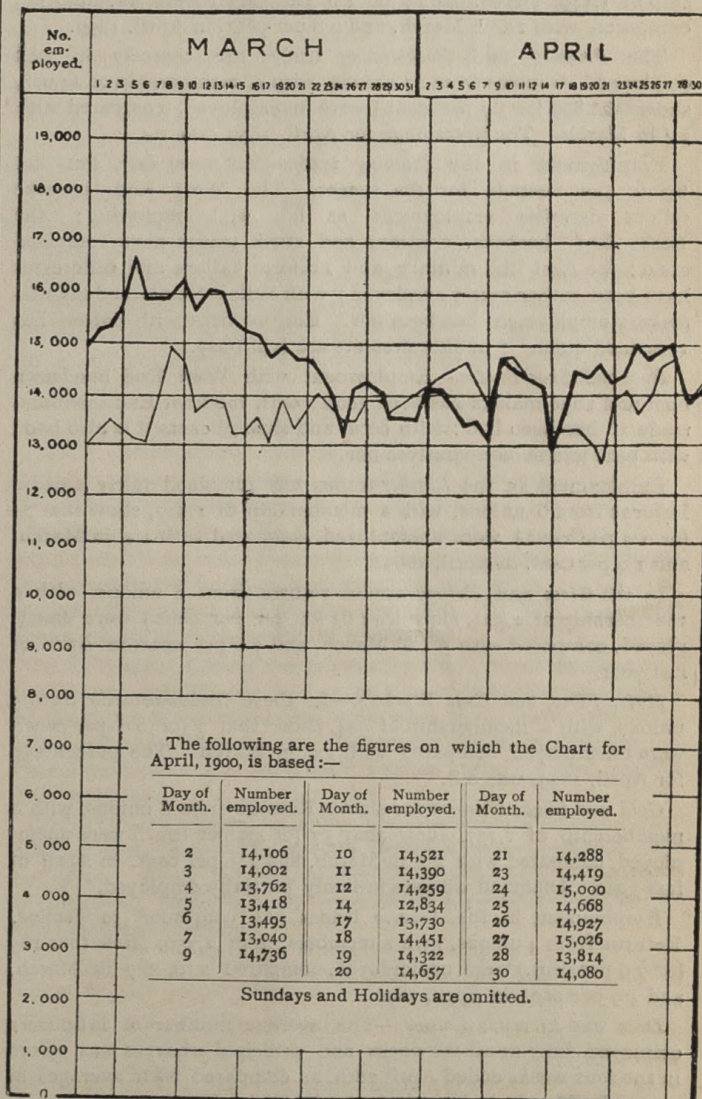
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Apr. 7	5,578	2,128	7,706	5,931	13,637
" " " 14	5,581	2,483	8,064	5,784	13,848
" " " 21	6,138	2,422	8,560	5,730	14,290
" " " 28	5,760	2,883	8,643	6,000	14,643
Average for 4 weeks ending April 28th, 1900	5,824	2,481	8,305	5,871	14,176
Average for Apr., 1899*	6,686	2,637	9,323	5,649	14,972
Average for Mar., 1900	6,399	2,397	8,796	6,141	14,937

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves during March and April is shown on the chart below. The numbers in April ranged from 12,834 on the 14th to 15,026 on the 27th.

During April, 1899, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 14,788 on the 11th to 15,026 on the 21st.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of March and April, 1900. The corresponding curve for March and April, 1899, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1900, and the thin curve to 1899.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on the following page.

* Revised figures.

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

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

General.—In most industries the state of employment during April was fairly good. Returns from 460 branches of 124 unions, having an aggregate membership of 77,596, show that 2,067 (or 2·7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 2·5 in March and 2·0 per cent. in April, 1899.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades has remained good. Reports from 149 branches of 29 unions, with an aggregate membership of 22,458, show that 484 (or 2·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·9 in March and 2·1 per cent. in April of last year. Employment with sailmakers has been good.

The *Building* trades continue well employed. Returns from 182 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 12,731, show that 159 (or 1·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·5 in March and 0·7 per cent. in April, 1899. The painters and decorators, and stonemasons describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair; the bricklayers, stonemasons, and plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has remained steady. Reports from 47 branches of 14 unions, with a membership of 6,290, show that 137 (or 2·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·1 per cent. in March and 0·6 per cent. in April, 1899.

The *Woodworking* trades continue well employed. Reports from 3 unions, with a membership of 717, show that 14 (or 2·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·2 per cent. in March.

Coopers still remain busy. Reports from 2 societies with a membership of 1,054, show that less than 1 per cent. were unemployed.

Employment with *Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights* has continued to improve. Reports from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,449, show that 15 (or 1·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·6 in March, and 0·8 per cent. in April, 1899.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades are scarcely so well employed. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,028, show that 897 (or 3·7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·4 in March. The percentage for April, 1899, was 2·4.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades has been fair, but not up to the average for the season. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as fair and improving; the East End bespoke, contract and stock trades have remained good; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been rather better employed; with ladies' tailors and mantlemakers employment has been fair. Employment with hatters has remained quiet. Fur skin dressers are still busy.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West End handsewn boot and shoe makers has been good; with the East End sewround trade it has been bad; with boot and shoe clickers it is also bad; with boot and shoe operatives fair.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained fairly steady. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,517, show that 22 (or 1·5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·2 in March, and 1·9 per cent. in April, 1899.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,521, show that 63 (or 4·1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5·1 in March, and 7·6 per cent. in April of last year.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 924, show that 7 (or 0·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·0 in March. The percentage for April, 1899, was 0·8.

Gold and Silver Workers are slack. Returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,157, show that 57 (or 4·9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·1 in March, and 1·3 per cent. in April of last year. Diamond workers are only partially employed.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades has continued to decline. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,350, show that 185 (or 7·9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6·7 in March, and 4·9 per cent. in April, 1899.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 14,176 in the four weeks ended April 28th, as compared with averages of 14,937 in March, and 13,972 in April, 1899. Employment in mid-stream continued fair; with corn porters generally it was moderate; with lightermen, stevedores, lumpers, coal porters and winchmen it was fair. The fruit porters in Thames-street had fair employment, the average daily number employed being 316, compared with 324 in March.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland.*—At the steam and house coal pits an average of 5·05 and 4·99 days per week has been worked for the four weeks ending April 21st, as compared with 4·96 and 5·00 days a year ago. Of the 24,192 union miners, colliery mechanics, and engine and firemen, 12 are out of work. *Durham.*—Collieries producing gas, house, manufacturing and coking coal have averaged 5·00, 5·17, 5·28, and 5·38 days per week respectively, as against 5·07, 5·03, 5·23, and 5·36 days in the corresponding period of last year. The 134 pits employing 65,902 men and boys from which returns have been received, show an average working week of 5·19 days, as against 5·20 days at 126 collieries a year ago. The number of unemployed union miners is 74 (or 0·11 per cent.) as against 84 (or 0·13 per cent.) in March. Cokeyard workers, colliery mechanics, deputies and enginemmen continue fully employed.

Metal Mining.—Iron ore miners in the Weardale district continue well employed; lead miners only moderately so.

Quarrying.—Allowing for holidays, full time has been worked at most limestone quarries. At Blyth employment is reported as better.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne.*—Most yards continue fairly busy. At two engine shops, night shifts and overtime working have re-commenced. Boiler shops are still working double shifts. Repair work has been brisk. The 12,817 members of these trades have 126 (or 1·0 per cent.) idle, as against 214 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) in March. *On the Wear.*—All shipsmiths are employed. The employment of riveters and caulkers has been scarcely so good. Outside fitters are busy. Coppersmiths continue quiet. Some engine shops are getting busier. Of the 5,176 members of these trades 81 (or 1·6 per cent.) are unemployed, as compared with 80 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) in March. Branches of drillers and hole cutters with 1,223 members have 53 (or 4·3 per cent.) idle. Employment with pattern-makers, iron and steel moulders, remains good. With brass finishers, shipwrights and joiners it is fair. On the Wear sailmakers are busy; on the north side of the Tyne slack. Steel smelting shops have worked full time. At Consett plate and angle mills have worked five shifts per week. Chain and anchor smiths on both rivers have been fully employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Shippers and coal porters report employment as good; trimmers and teamers as fair; with lumpers and riggers on the Tyne it has been more regular; with quayside labourers on both rivers fairly steady. The demand for seamen and firemen is still below the supply. Tugboat men on the Wear have been better employed.

Building Trades.—On the Tyne bricklayers are idle through a dispute. At Sunderland slaters and tilers are in good demand. Except the painters all other branches are quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment of letterpress printers on the Tyne remains unsettled through a dispute. Two paper mills have worked 32 shifts out of a possible 92; three have worked full time; one is stopped owing to a fire. Bookbinders are busy.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Upholsterers and cabinet-makers report employment as good, coopers as fair, lathrenders as improving. Millsawyers and machinists on the Wear are dull in shipyards and cabinet-shops, but brisk in merchant mills. On the Tyne employment is generally better.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Employment is reported as improved with pressed glassmakers and copperworkers; as brisk with cement and white lead workers; fair with chemical workers. Bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour have a few unemployed.

Fishing.—Both line and trawl fishing have been successful.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as continuing fairly good. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines furnishing returns was 5·61 per week during the 4 weeks ending April 21st, as compared with 5·46 days per week in March, and 5·59 during the four weeks ending April 22nd, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,808, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,764.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is good at finished iron works, steel works, blast furnaces, bridge works, metal expansion works, pipe and general foundries; moderate at chair foundries.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is good at Stockton, Middlesbrough and South Bank; fairly good at Hartlepool

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—Employment in Bolton is good. All mills are fairly busy, and fully employed in Bury, Chorley, and Farnworth. At Wigan, Hindley, and neighbourhood a slight falling off is reported. Cardroom operatives are moderately well employed throughout the district, except at Wigan. *Weaving.*—Employment on both coloured and white goods is moderately good.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers are reported as fully employed at most firms in Bolton, Moses Gate, Farnworth, and Horwich. Steam engine makers, plate and iron moulders, brass finishers, steel smelters, and forgemen are fairly well employed at Wigan, Chorley, and Bury. Machine-makers in Bolton, Wigan, and Bury are busy.

Coal Mining.—Coal miners in Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Hulton, Walkden and Radcliffe are working on an average 5 days per week. In Wigan, Hindley and West Houghton most collieries are busy and employment is good.

Building Trades.—Employment at Bolton, Bury, Wigan and Chorley has improved.

Miscellaneous.—Bleachers and finishers, tanners and leather-workers, cloggers and shoemakers, printers and general labourers are fairly busy.—R. Toothill.

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade—Weaving.—Employment in Blackburn, Preston, Burnley, Darwen, Nelson and Colne is good; in the coloured weaving trade in Colne it shows a decline. The hard waste weavers are not so well employed. Employment with warp dressers is moderate; with twisters and drawers, tape sizers and overlookers it continues good. *Spinning.*—Employment continues good at Preston, Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington; fair at Burnley. Ring spinners and doublers are well employed throughout the district. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers, and warp dressers with 4,032 members have 73 (or 1·8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 142 (or 3·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Painters in the Blackburn district report employment as moderate, at Burnley as good; joiners, bricklayers and masons throughout the district as fair; plumbers as moderate.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade is reported as moderate. In the machine shops it is fair.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report employment as good throughout the district. Stone quarrymen are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with tailors, woollen block printers and calico printers is fair; with boot, shoe and slipper makers, and cabinet-makers moderate; with letterpress printers good.

W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,772 members have 554 (or 2·4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 404 (or 1·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Manchester engineers, boiler makers, and sheet metal braziers report employment as moderate; brassfounders and finishers and machine makers as good. Ironfounders throughout the district are busy. In Warrington and Northwich all branches are fully employed.

Textile Trades.—Cotton operatives in general report employment as moderate. In Macclesfield in the silk trade hand loom weavers are slack, power loom weavers and other departments are fairly well employed. Dressers and dyers are busy in velvets, in other departments they are slack. Fustian cutters are moderately well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in both the bespoke and wholesale tailoring departments is fairly good. Felt hat makers and trimmers are quiet. Boot and shoe-makers, mantle-makers, cap-makers, shirt-makers, umbrella and waterproof garment-makers report employment as moderate.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers in Manchester report employment as bad; stonemasons as improving; carpenters and joiners and decorative glassworkers and bricklayers' labourers as moderate; painters, concreters and asphalters as busy. In Warrington, Northwich, Macclesfield, and Stockport employment generally is moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmaking in Manchester, Stockport and Warrington continues busy in all branches. French polishers and upholsterers report employment as good, cabinet makers on the better class of work as good, others as moderate. Wheelwrights are fully employed. Coopers are slack.

and moderate at Darlington and Bishop Auckland; with the ironfounders and pattern-makers it is good; with smiths and strikers moderate. Branches with 4,376 members have 71 (or 1·6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 67 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipbuilding.—All the yards are reported as having plenty of work in hand; shipwrights and shipjoiners report employment generally as fair; smiths and strikers as moderate.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool; dock labourers as slack at Hartlepool, good at Middlesbrough. Riverside labour is good generally.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Printers and millsawyers report employment as fairly good; pulp, cement and concrete workers and tailors as good; salt workers as moderate; cabinet makers as improved. 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 Industry.—Employment continues good in this industry in Cumberland, the average time worked per week being better than a year ago, although the numbers employed have fallen off. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 21st April, at the 20 pits from which returns were received was 5·54 per week as against 5·37 in April, 1899. In both these periods employment was interrupted by Easter holidays. The number employed at these pits during April was 5,756, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,167.

Iron Mining.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines is good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended April 21st at the 44 mines covered by the returns was 5·72 per week, as compared with 5·63 a year ago, the number of workpeople employed at these periods being 5,815 and 5,931 respectively.

Fig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces continues good. At the works of 17 ironmasters 52 furnaces were in blast at the end of April, employing about 4,360 workpeople. These figures show no change as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number of furnaces shows an increase of four, and the estimated number of workpeople employed an increase of 460.

Shipbuilding.—According to the returns compiled by Lloyd's Register, there were ten vessels, other than warships, under construction (see Note, page 143) in the Barrow, Maryport and Workington district at the end of March, with a gross tonnage of 2,690 tons, as compared with five vessels, with a gross tonnage of 1,920 tons at the end of December, and nine vessels and 15,400 tons a year ago. The tonnage of warships under construction at Barrow at the end of March was 66,571 tons displacement, as against 52,150 tons at the end of the previous quarter, and 24,950 tons a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—In Oldham and the surrounding district employment continues good. Several new mills have commenced working. Operative cotton spinners report employment as good in Mossley, Stockport, Rochdale, Milnrow, Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Heywood, Dukinfield and Droylsden. Twiners and card and blowing room operatives are well employed. Ring frame spinners, and throstle frame tenters report employment as good. *Weaving.*—Employment in calico weaving is reported as good; in velvet weaving as moderate; in fustian weaving as still slack. Beam and sectional warpers, twisters and drawers report employment as good; ball-warpers, winders and reelers as moderate.

Woollen and Silk Trades.—Workers engaged in the woollen trade in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport are reported as fully employed; the silk dressers at Rochdale as moderately so.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the textile machine making trade is reported as bad. Ironfounders, pattern-makers, boiler-makers, and brassfounders report employment as good; tool-makers, tinplate workers, and gas-meter makers as moderate; plate and machine moulders, iron grinders and glazers as slack.

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

Coal Mining.—Employment continues satisfactory, and colliers at the pits in Oldham, Royton, Chadderton, and Shaw have full work.—T. Ashton.

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

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers are not so well employed. Lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as moderate; lithographic artists as fair; pattern card makers as bad.—G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boilermakers and iron-shipbuilders, turners and fitters, ship joiners, drillers, hole cutters and hammermen report employment as moderate; shipwrights, brass and ironfounders, whitesmiths and ship painters as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers, stereotypers and bookbinders report employment as fair; lithographic printers as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment with carpenters and joiners has been affected by a dispute, and is rather dull; plumbers report employment as moderate; painters as improved; other branches as fair.

Clothing Trades.—All branches report employment as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinetmakers, French polishers, upholsterers, coachmakers, coopers, mill-sawyers and wood cutting machinists report employment as good.

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

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottlemakers report employment as good; glass decorators as quiet; other branches as moderate. Employment with chemical workers is dull.

Coalmining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report an average employment of five days per week. Quarrymen are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Saddlers and harness makers, flaggers, paviors and tramway constructors report employment as fair.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has been bad. In the chemical trade at Middlewich employment is reported as good; in the building trade as moderate at Middlewich, dull at Winsford. The moulders at Winsford report employment as fair; the shipwrights, boilermakers and brassworkers as regular. Fustian cutters are well employed.

YORKSHIRE.**Hull and District.**

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the shipbuilding yards is moderate. It is good in the engineering works, fair in the boilershops, and moderate on general repairs. The engineers and ironfounders report employment as good; brass founders and finishers, machinists, smiths and strikers, iron and steel dressers, braziers and sheet metal workers, drillers and hole-cutters, and general labourers as moderate; shipwrights as dull; pattern-makers, iron shipbuilders and sailmakers as bad. At Goole employment is reported as good; at Selby, Grimsby and Doncaster as moderate; at Beverley as slack.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers and stonemasons report employment as moderate; the plumbers as bad; other branches as good. At Selby, Goole and Grimsby employment is reported as good; at Beverley, Doncaster and Driffield as moderate.

Transport Trades.—The dock labourers report employment as good at Hull, moderate at Grimsby, fair at Goole; the seamen and firemen as moderate at Hull, good at Grimsby, fair at Goole; railway workers as good at Selby.

Fishing Industry.—Employment is reported as moderate at Hull, fair at Grimsby.

Seed-crushing, Oil Cake and Paint Trades.—Employment in the paint, colour, varnish and tar works and oil refineries continues good; in the seed crushing and oil cake mills it is fair.

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

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coach builders at Hull and Doncaster report employment as good; the coopers, lathrenders and cabinetmakers at Hull as moderate; the mill-sawyers and woodworking machinists as bad.

Miscellaneous.—The brushmakers, bakers and confectioners, Jewish tailors, machinists and pressers, report employment as good; the tanners, leather belt and lace makers as fair.

W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 7,896 members have 225 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 194 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Leeds employment in the engineering trade continues good. Ironmoulders are well employed. Boiler makers, steel workers and blast furnacemen are busy. Brassworkers report employment as moderate; machine workers as fair; tinplate-workers as quiet; boiler makers and ironfounders at Stanningley as steady. At Wakefield employment continues good.

Clothing Trades.—In the clothing factories employment has been fairly good; Jewish operatives are better employed. Bespoke tailors are busy. In Leeds boot and shoe operatives have been fairly employed; at Heckmondwike and Pudsey employment continues good.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Leeds mills has declined during the month, and some firms have resorted to short time. Blanket raisers and linen workers are fully employed. At Wakefield employment has been fairly good.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, masons and plasterers are well employed; joiners and plumbers are quiet; painters are busy. At Harrogate employment is good; at Castleford moderate.

Mining.—Full time is being worked at the coal pits in Leeds and district.

Leather Trades.—Tanners, saddlers, and belt and harness-makers report employment as fair; leather shavers and curriers as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment in the printing trade is quiet; lithographers are slack, and bookbinders only moderately employed. Paper mill workers continue busy.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle makers at Leeds and Wakefield report employment as good; flint glass makers as fair; decorative glass workers as moderate.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Coachmakers and brush-makers are well employed; cabinet makers fairly so, except in the cottage furniture branch which has been quiet.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—In the Bradford district and in the Worth Valley employment continues fairly busy; at Halifax it is a little quieter, at Huddersfield there is a distinct falling off. Woollsorters in Bradford report employment as indifferent, and woolcombers as bad.

Woolen Trade.—In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district looms are still waiting for warps, although some firms are working overtime, and one or two night and day. In the heavy woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley employment seems to be falling off a little, but is still fairly good.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham and Brighouse is reported as good; at Halifax as declining. Cotton operatives are fairly busy. Dyers at Bradford report employment as good, at Huddersfield as fair.

Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers and ironfounders is good throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Employment in Bradford continues good. In Huddersfield masons are still in demand; in Dewsbury and Batley employment remains fair.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with bespoke tailors is good; with ready-made tailoring operatives moderate; with printers and bookbinders fair. Miners and glass workers are well employed.

A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 14,474 members have 86 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 61 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Iron and Steel Industries.—All sections of the heavy metal trades continue well employed. Engineers and boiler and steel girder makers are making overtime. Branches with 6,424 members have 36 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 21 (or 0.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment is good in the razor and file trades, and with makers of tools. The table, pen, and pocket cutlery departments are fairly busy. Saw makers report employment as fair; haft and scale pressers as good; handle and scale cutters as quiet.

Other Metal Trades.—All branches of the silver and Britannia metal trades report employment as slack; brassworkers as moderate; platers and gilders as fairly good. At Rotherham brassworkers report an improvement.

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

Coal Mining.—Returns from 62 collieries employing upwards of 45,000 men show an average of 5.22 days per week worked during April, as against 5.91 in March, the decrease being accounted for by the Easter holidays.

Building Trades.—All sections in Sheffield and Rotherham continue fairly well employed. At Barnsley there is a steady improvement.

Printing and allied Trades.—All sections continue well employed.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Railway wagon and carriage builders, box and bobbin makers, coachmakers, and all classes of cabinet makers are fairly busy.

Linen Trade.—Employment is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report a slight improvement. Employment at Barnsley in the ready-made tailoring branch is good; in the boot and shoe trade slack.

Glass Trade.—Flint glass workers and bottle makers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers, quarrymen, brickmakers, chemical workers, paper-makers and general labourers are well employed. Potters are quiet.—S. Utley.

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

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,498 members have 31 (or 0.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 25 (or 0.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 66 collieries employing upwards of 28,300 men show an average of 5 days per week worked, as against 5.3 days in March, the decrease being caused by the Easter holidays. Employment continues good.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen continue fairly well employed. Chert quarrymen are busy.

Engineering and allied Trades.—All branches report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and masons report employment as either moderate or fair; carpenters and joiners as moderate; painters as good. Other branches are fairly well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives at Derby and Chesterfield report employment as moderate; bespoke tailors and factory tailoring operatives, and dress and mantle makers as good.

Textile Trades.—Employment is good with cotton weavers, surgical bandage makers, hard silk winders, drawers and doublers, lace workers, hosiery workers, dyers and bleachers and elastic web weavers; moderate with calico printers; fair with engravers.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton. With coopers it is moderate. Timber yards are fairly well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good.

C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment continues good on the whole. It has hardly been so full or regular with actual lacemakers as during last month. Other departments continue busy.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment on half hose is reported as moderate. In other branches it is good throughout the district.

Iron and Metal Trades.—Fitters, mechanics and smiths report employment as moderate on general work, but fairly good in lace and hosiery machine building. Tool machinists and ironfounders report employment as good; boiler-makers as moderate at Newark, good at Nottingham and Grantham; iron and steel fettlers as moderate; machine-workers, smiths and strikers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths as good; electrical workers as quiet; farriers as not so busy; brassfounders, carriage straighteners, bobbin and carriage makers, and blastfurnacemen report a satisfactory state of employment. Branches with 3,235 members have 54 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 52 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trade.—Carpenters and joiners report employment as dull at Nottingham; unsettled at Newark; improving at Hucknall; fair in most parts of the district; bricklayers as good; plumbers as bad; painters as improving; whitesmiths as slack; other branches as fair.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment is reported as good with cabinet makers, coachmakers, French polishers and boxmakers;

as moderate with packing-case makers; and as fair with mill-sawyers and upholsterers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair at Nottingham; lithographic artists and lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders as good.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report an improvement at Nottingham, Newark, and Grantham. Mantle makers and ready-made tailoring operatives are regularly employed. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as bad at Mansfield, moderate at Hucknall, Torkard, fair at Nottingham.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 28 collieries employing 16,000 men show an average of 4.3 days per week worked during the month, the decline being due to the holidays. Employment continues fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Stationary engine drivers, engine and cranimen, colliery enginemmen, female cigarmakers, cab and hackney carriage drivers report employment as good; bakers and confectioners as moderate; gas workers as fair at Nottingham, good at Newark.

W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—Employment is moderate at Leicester, Wellingborough and Melton; fair at Northampton, Hinckley and Kettering; improving at Daventry; good at Desborough and Sileby.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in both the wholesale and bespoke branches of the tailoring trades, and with corset-makers, milliners and dressmakers. It is fairly good with felt hatters; slack with silk hatters; brisk with cap-makers.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—Workpeople in the hosiery trade continue fully employed at Leicester, Loughborough and Market Harborough. Trimmers and dyers are generally working overtime. Employment is good in the woolspinning mills.

Elastic Web Trade.—In most branches of the elastic web trade employment is less regular.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is good with general engineers at Leicester, Loughborough and Rugby, moderate at Northampton. It is good with pattern-makers, boiler-makers, ironfounders and cycle-makers; fair with turners and toolmakers, slack with winders.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners are fully employed except at one or two pits; stone quarrymen are busy; iron, stone and cement workers continue well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is less brisk in the letterpress printing trade; it is moderate with lithographic printers and good with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Employment is moderate with bricklayers, builders' labourers, slaters, and tilers, carpenters and joiners and plumbers; good with painters and decorators.

Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment continues good with coach and road-car builders; it is moderate with upholsterers and cabinet makers.

Leather Trades.—Curriers continue fairly well employed at Northampton and Wellingborough. Tanners at Market Harborough are slacker.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with railway employees, basket-makers and bakers; moderate with farriers, saddlers and gas stokers; slacker with brick and tile makers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment in the general earthenware trade is almost at a standstill, owing to a dispute (see page 157). In the sanitary department, and the china branches, which are not affected by the dispute, all classes are well employed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment continues brisk in all branches.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good at Crewe, Oakamoor, Froggall, Rugeley, Uttoxeter, and the Pottery towns, except at Burslem, where a decline is reported.

Mining and Quarrying.—Throughout the district coal and ironstone miners are busy. Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Leek continues good. Silk dressers, throwsters and dyers at Congleton are well employed. Fustian cutters at Congleton and silk and tape workers at Cheadle and Tean continue busy.

Clothing Trade.—Tailors report a slight improvement. Boot and shoe-makers at Stafford are busy. At Stone a further improvement is reported.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND (contd.); E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Building Trades.—Employment in the Potteries is unsettled on account of an impending bricklayers' dispute. At Crewe all branches are busy. At Stafford an improvement is reported.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a further decline; at Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers are fairly busy. Bookbinders and machine rulers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants continue busy. Brushmakers are working well. Gasworkers report a decline.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire and Shropshire all branches continue fully employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate with engineers, good with moulders, boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers. Cycle makers are busier. At Walsall and Madeley employment is reported as good. At Coalbrook Dale it is busy in the engineering, and dull in the foundry department.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, electrical and gas fittings, horseshoes, spring traps, edge tools, Brazil and plantation hoes, gunlocks, malleable nails and protectors, stamped and light hollow-ware and builders' ironmongery, and also with stampers, piercers and galvanisers; moderate with makers of locks, keys, latches, tips, cut nails, and with filesmiths and tinplate workers; spectacle-frame makers and brassworkers are slack. Employment in the ironplate trade at Wolverhampton is reported as quiet; at Bilston and the Lye as moderate. The chainmakers and strikers at Old Hill and Cradley Heath report employment as fair; the block chainmakers and anchor smiths at Cradley are quiet; the wrought nail makers at Halesowen are not so busy; the anvil and vice makers at Dudley continue slack; at Wednesbury all branches continue well employed.

Coal Mining.—The pits throughout the district continue on full time.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and plumbers report employment as moderate, plasterers as good, bricklayers and painters as improving.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass cutters, engravers, bevellers and intaglio makers at Wordsley and Stourbridge continue quiet.

Leather Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with gig saddlers, and good with other branches.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth is very good. The Tamworth tape mills continue in full time.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments has been fair. In the boot and shoe trade it has been good.—*C. Anthony.*

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 20,944 members have 505 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 445 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering.—Seven branches of engineers return employment as moderate, and four as good. Tool makers report employment as moderate; smiths and strikers, ironfounders and pattern-makers as good. At West Bromwich and Coventry employment generally is reported as good; at Redditch as fairly good. At Coventry and Redditch employment in the cycle industry is returned as good. In the motor trade it is again reported as good.

Brass and Copper Trades.—In the brass trade employment is reported as falling off, with many on short time. Solid drawn copper and brass tubemakers and cartridge metal rollers are fully employed. Brass and copper wire drawers return employment as moderate; fender and fire brass makers as quiet. At Dudley employment in the fender trade is reported as improved.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electroplaters.—Jewellers, silversmiths, and electroplaters return employment as quiet; Britannia metal workers as moderate.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment with edge tool makers, grinders and finishers, nail and oddside casters, tinplate workers, wrought iron and steel tube makers is returned as good; with makers of scale beams, heavy and light steel toys, cut nails, coffee mills and wire nails, and with ironplate workers as fairly good; with file cutters as improving; with bedstead makers as bad. At Redditch and West Bromwich employment in the staple industries continues good.

Building Trades.—Employment is fair throughout the district.

Glass Trades.—The flint-glass makers again return employment as

bad; flint-glass cutters as unsatisfactory; glass bevellers and silverers as fair. At West Bromwich the glass-makers continue busy.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as good; Jewish tailors as improving; boot and shoemakers as bad.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Mill-sawyers and wood-working machinists and coachmakers report employment as good; coopers and carvers as fair; cabinet makers as quiet. In the railway and wagon shops employment continues fair.

Miscellaneous.—Gas workers and general labourers return employment as good; gasfitters as fairly good; saddlers as fair; harness-makers and bridle cutters as busy; letterpress printers as bad; brickmakers as moderate. At Coventry watchmakers are fairly employed; weavers are quiet. Fancy case makers at Redditch are slack.—*A. R. Jephcott.*

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

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are generally working full time. Tailoring factories are fairly busy in Norwich. Bespoke tailors in Cambridge, Lynn, Yarmouth, Norwich and Dereham report employment as fair.

Building Trades.—All branches are still in full swing.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical and general engineers, and shipwrights are fully employed. Boat and yacht builders are busy preparing for the season's trade.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing at Yarmouth and Lowestoft is not very good. Shell fishing at Lynn is fair.

Textile Trades.—Crape, silk, horsehair, mat and matting weavers are fully employed.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Letterpress printers are fully employed. Lithographic printers and bookbinders are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with flour mill and saw-mill workers, horticultural builders, coachbuilders, organ builders, motor and cycle makers, navvies, riverside workers, and dock labourers. Cocoa, confectionery, and mineral water workers are fully employed. Brushmakers are fairly well employed.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boiler-makers and moulders report employment as good; shipwrights as slack.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are fairly employed at Ipswich. Wholesale tailoring operatives and bespoke tailors, dressmakers and milliners generally are busy. Corset-makers report employment as fair.

Textile Trades.—In the mat and matting industry employment is good at Sudbury, Long Melford, Hadleigh, and Lavenham; at Glemsford it is good in mat weaving, dull in matting. Employment is reported as fair with silk and crape operatives at Halstead, Bocking and Braintree; quiet with furniture silk weavers at Braintree; good with silk weavers at Sudbury.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Colchester, Southend, and Chelmsford; dull at Ipswich, Beccles and Bungay; lithographers as slack; bookbinders as moderate.—*R. W. Mather.*

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

General.—Branches of societies with 9,901 members have 97 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 135 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—Hatters, bespoke tailors, and glovers report employment as good. In the wholesale tailoring trades there is a demand for labour in most branches. Employment with boot and shoe operatives is slack in Bristol; moderate in the Kingswood district.

Printing Trades.—Employment continues good.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Employment continues good throughout the district.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continues good.

Building Trades.—The stonemasons, bricklayers, and painters report employment as good; the plasterers as fair; the carpenters and joiners and plumbers as moderate.

Textile Trades.—In Trowbridge and district employment is fair on fancy worsteds and heavy woollens, good on covert coatings and ladies dress goods, and bad on fancy woollens. At Twerton-on-

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

Avon employment in all departments is brisk; in the silk industry at Tiverton it continues good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The French polishers report employment as good; the upholsterers as improving; the cabinet makers as fair; the mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists as moderate. Coopers and lathrenders are fully employed.

Transport Trades.—The sailors and firemen, and railway workers describe employment as fair; the dock and quayside labourers as improving.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with brush-makers, glass workers and saddlers; as quiet with basket makers and curriers, and steady with cocoa and tobacco workers.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Employment in the tin and copper mines is good. Reports from granite quarries state that employment continues good generally; limestone and slate quarrying operations are fair. China clay workers are well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment with engineers is moderate in Devonport and Plymouth; fair at Exeter and Newton; improving in Cornwall. Boiler-makers and ironfounders are well employed; brassworkers are dull. Shipwrights are well employed in the Government yards, but outside work is quiet. At Falmouth and Dartmouth work is moderate. Branches with 2,822 members have 26 unemployed, compared with 8 at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Painters, stonemasons and bricklayers are fairly well employed; carpenters and joiners and plumbers moderately so; plasterers are still quiet. In Exeter building work is fairly good; in Tavistock and Falmouth moderate; in Torquay quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Newspaper compositors are busy, but in the book work and general offices employment is dull; with lithographers employment is still bad; with bookbinders and paper-rulers it has improved.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring trade is better in both the bespoke and ready-made departments. Boot and shoe makers report work as fairly good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists are fairly employed. In the cabinet and furniture factories work is reported as good. French polishers and upholsterers are well employed.

Dock and Quayside Work.—On the quays work has been fair with timber carriers and coal lumpers; the fish packing has been quiet. In the docks grain carriers have been well employed.

Fishing Industry.—Trawlers and the larger hook and line boats have only obtained light catches as a rule. At the Western stations the smaller hook and line and mackerel boats have been more successful, but none have done well. Prices have been good.

Miscellaneous.—Navvies, excavators, and quarrymen are well employed. Artificial manure workers are busy. Brushmakers and bakers report work as fair. Employment in the market and fruit gardens is good.—*W. Hedge.*

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment has continued brisk at the coal and lead mines; the number of days worked shows a falling off owing to the Easter holidays.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good at all classes of quarries.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers at Wrexham report employment as good; at Oswestry as moderate. Carpenters and joiners at Wrexham, Colwyn Bay and Bangor report employment as fair; at Rhyl as moderate; at Llandudno as quiet. Employment with painters at Llandudno is brisk; at Wrexham fair.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues moderate with the engineers at Sandycroft and Oswestry, good at Cefn; it is quiet at Ruabon. Employment is good with iron and steel workers, and with coach and wagon makers.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The flannel and tweed factories of Montgomeryshire have worked full time. The bespoke tailors at Wrexham, Bangor, Carnarvon and Rhyl report employment as good; at Oswestry as fair.

Brick and Terra Cotta and Chemical Trades.—Employment continues good.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—The output of coal during the past month has been about the average, most collieries working fairly regularly.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Nearly all districts report employment as brisk.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have not been brisk. In the iron ore and pitwood trades and on general cargo shipments employment has been fair; in the corn and timber trades quiet;

general hoblors have been slack. The shipment of crews has been quiet.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Employment generally has been moderate. Nearly all engineering works and foundries in the colliery and inland districts have been busy. Branches of engineers and ironfounders with 3,045 members have 102 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 118 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is quiet. Branches of carpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,738 members have 90 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 98 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with fuel workers, except at Swansea, has been quiet. Wagon builders and lifters have been well employed. Metallurgical and chemical works are quiet; lithographic and letterpress printers report employment as moderate.—*T. Davies.*

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—Employment shows a decline, in some cases due to scarcity of material, and in some others to scarcity of labour caused by wages disputes. At the end of April 398 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), compared with 407 mills at the end of March, and 342 at the end of April, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the end of April, 1900, is estimated to be about 23,200.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches of societies with 13,886 members have 298 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 300 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 28 mines employing 3,171 workpeople show that 2,765 were employed in mines working full time during the four weeks ended April 21st.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,234 members have 42 (or 1.9 per cent.) idle, as against 61 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Branches in Falkirk with 3,622 members have 54 (or 1.5 per cent.) idle, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of March.

Shipbuilding.—Branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 638 members have none idle.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the woollen industry in Hawick is good with spinners, but slack with weavers; in Selkirk weavers are busy, spinners are not so busy as last month; in Galashiels spinners and weavers are fairly well employed. The carpet weavers in Midlothian are fully employed. The hosiery workers in Selkirk and Hawick are busy.

Building Trades.—The masons and plasterers report employment as dull; the joiners, bricklayers and plumbers as fair; the glaziers and painters as good.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,170 members have 48 (or 4.1 per cent.) idle, as against 76 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with the seamen, firemen, coal porters and dock labourers was slack at the beginning of the month, but improved towards the end.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,312 members have 70 (or 3.0 per cent.) idle, as against 57 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors, shoemakers, curriers, saddlers, and sett makers report employment as good; the bakers, glass makers and glass cutters as quiet.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment has been satisfactory. Branches with 14,591 members return 317 (or 2.2 per cent.) as idle, as against 308 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment has been fairly good. Branches with 30,175 members return 860 (or 2.8 per cent.) as idle, as against 753 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Employment has not improved, except with the painters, who are now fully employed.

Mining.—Employment in Stirlingshire, Dumbartonshire, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, and Renfrewshire is reported as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has been good in all branches of the tailoring trades and with mantle makers. It is better with boot and shoe operatives and slipper makers; good with knee shoe-makers; curriers remain busy.

Textile Trades.—In Kilmarnock and Greenock employment is quiet; elsewhere it is good throughout the district.

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

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers, lithographic artists and bookbinders report employment as dull; electrotypers and stereotypers as fair.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers and cutters are still quiet. Employment with decorative glassworkers has improved. Glass bottle makers continue busy.

Transport Trades.—Employment has been good with railwaymen and tramway men; dull with dock labourers; fair with carters and hackney carriage drivers; good with sailors and firemen.

Miscellaneous.—The saddlers, brushmakers, mattress makers, spindle and flyer makers, set makers, paviors, dyers, warpers, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, potters, shop assistants, scale beam makers, bakers, and general labourers report employment as good; gilders and cigarette makers as quiet.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry is good on the whole, though a number of weavers are unemployed. The condition of the linen trade continues favourable.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues steady in the Fifeshire collieries. Reports from pits employing 12,475 workpeople show an average of 5.5 days per week worked during the four weeks ended April 21st, the same average as in March.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment continues moderate in the foundries; at the shipbuilding yards it is good on the whole. Branches of societies with 2,241 members return 46 (or 2.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 45 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—Employment in the building trades shows continued improvement, except with masons, who are still affected by the recent dispute. In the furnishing trades there is also an improvement. Branches (excluding masons) with 1,188 members report 10 (or 0.8 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 26 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Dock Labour.—Employment has been moderate.

Fishing Industry.—The haddock fishing by the line boats has been prosecuted with poor success. The spring salmon fishing season now closed has been a poor one.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and allied trades remains good; with tailors and boot and shoe makers it is also good. Bleachfield workers and floorcloth and linoleum makers continue busy.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 5,418 members have 443 (or 8.2 per cent.) idle, as against 449 (or 7.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen, masons and settmakers report employment as fair; granite polishers as dull.

Building Trades.—The masons report employment as bad; carpenters and joiners and painters as fair; plumbers as moderate; plasterers as dull; slaters as good.

Transport Trades.—The railway servants report employment as good; carters as fair; dock labourers as moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,400 members have 39 (or 2.8 per cent.) idle, as against 43 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights, engineers, tinplate workers, brassfinishers, pattern-makers, and horse shoers report employment as good; blacksmiths and drillers and hole-cutters as fair; ironmoulders as dull.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The tailors and mill and factory workers report employment as good; boot and shoe makers as bad; boot and shoe operatives as quiet; carpet weavers as fair.

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

Fishing.—At the Port of Aberdeen in April trawl and line boats landed 96,512 cwt., the aggregate value being £57,381, an increase both in quantity and value as compared with the previous month.

Miscellaneous.—The combmakers, cabinet makers, sawmillers and saddlers report employment as good; bakers as bad; upholsterers, gasworkers and general labourers, and hackney carriage drivers as fair.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fair. Iron Trades.—The engineers, ironfounders and boiler-makers report work as good; the tinsmiths, whitesmiths, silver plate workers and electrical workers as fair; the brassfinishers and gasfitters as dull.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The coachmakers and cart and wagon builders return employment as fair; the carpet planners as good; the upholsterers as dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as quiet; the lithographers, bookbinders, and despatch hands as fair. Branches with 1,432 members have 95 (or 6.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 106 (or 7.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—Work is returned as good with the silk weavers and with the bottle-makers, dockers, paviors and corporation labourers; fair with the boot-makers, saddlers, brushmakers, stationary enginedrivers, and general labourers.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 8,497 members have 156 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 223 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The ironfounders and carpenters and joiners report employment as quiet; the blacksmiths and strikers as moderate; the brassfounders, engineers, furnishing trades, machine workers, pattern-makers, sheet metal workers, enginemen, crane-men, and firemen as fair; the boiler-makers, iron shipbuilders, drillers, hole cutters, shipwrights, general labourers, and platers' helpers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 3,899 members have 94 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 45 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The beetling enginemen, flax dressers, flax roughers, yarn bundlers, and women workers report employment as fair; the tenters as improving; the hackle and gill makers, linen lappers, and yarn dressers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies with 2,690 members have 155 (or 5.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 177 (or 6.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Employment generally remains dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 840 members have 22 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 35 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The cabinet-makers report employment as quiet; the upholsterers and coopers as fair; the French polishers, coach builders, and packing-case makers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies with 899 members have 52 (or 5.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 69 (or 7.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as quiet; the letterpress printers and lithographic artists, designers and engravers as fair; the lithographic printers as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring and boot and shoe trades is fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,981 members have 47 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 45 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The bakers, butchers, carters, and municipal employees report employment as fair; the paviors, locomotive engine drivers and railway servants as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment continues good with boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, and with all branches of the engineering trade; it is fair with shipwrights, sailmakers and riggers.

Building Trades.—Masons, plasterers and carpenters report employment as dull in Cork and Waterford, fair in Limerick and Tralee; painters and decorators, plumbers and gasfitters as fair throughout the district.

Furnishing and Woodworking.—Millsawyers and woodworking machinists, coopers and coachmakers report employment as moderate; cabinetmakers and upholsterers as dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers, machine rulers, and bookbinders report employment as fair in Cork and Limerick, as dull in Waterford and Tralee.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair.

Fishing.—The mackerel fishing round the south and south-west coasts has greatly improved.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with dock and quay labourers, coal porters, and gas workers is moderate; with hackney car-drivers dull.—P. O'Shea.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

The total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during April was 442, or 215 less than in March, and 64 less than in April, 1899.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,447,140 persons (according to the latest available figures), 411 were reported killed, and 6,706 injured by accidents in April, as compared with 484 reported killed and 6,202 injured in April, 1899. These figures give one death in April, 1900, for every 13,253 persons employed in those industries. During the four completed months of 1900, 1,753 persons were reported killed and 29,336 injured, as against 1,552 reported killed and 27,345 injured in the corresponding period of 1899.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 31 persons were reported killed, and 878 injured in April, as compared with 22 killed and 792 injured in April, 1899.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed (Apr. 1900, Apr. 1899), Injured (Apr. 1900, Apr. 1899), Number Employed according to latest Returns.

DETAILED TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed (By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises), Injured (By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises), Total.

Table with columns: Shipping (On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels), Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Factories, (a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, (b) Other Accidents, Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Workshops, Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Factories & Workshops (classified by trades), Textiles, Non-Textiles, Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23, Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, Construction or Repair, Use or Working, Total.

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1899, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL, 1900.

(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 273,400 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of 1s. 5½d. per head. About 270,100 received advances averaging 1s. 6d. weekly per head, and 3,300 sustained decreases averaging 2s. 0½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 130,000 coal miners in Northumberland and Durham; to 7,000 ironstone miners in Cleveland; to 1,500 quarrymen in Weardale; to 3,500 blastfurnacemen and labourers in the West of Scotland; to 86,500 cotton spinners, cardroom operatives, &c., in Lancashire and adjoining counties; and to 20,000 carpenters and joiners in London.

Decreases.—About 3,300 building trade operatives in certain Scottish towns sustained decreases.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 3,200 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 2,700 workpeople took effect under sliding scales; and changes affecting 132,500 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 135,000 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary for First Four Months of 1900.—For the four months, January-April, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 930,500. Of these 925,200 obtained a net average increase of 2s. 0½d. weekly per head, and 5,300 sustained a net average decrease of 2s. 1½d. weekly per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 2s. weekly per head in the wages of the 930,500 workpeople affected.

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. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES and MINING AND QUARRYING.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week. Includes sections for MINING AND QUARRYING, IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE, and METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.

* Exclusive of Overtime. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Agricultural Labour.—For recent advances in the cash rates of wages of agricultural labourers, see p. 141. * Exclusive of Overtime. † Average. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL, 1900.

THE changes in hours of labour were with one exception all decreases, and affected 1,369 workpeople, whose hours were reduced on an average by 0.54 per week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Extent of change per week.

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

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of April, and also during the four completed months of 1900, with comparative figures for 1899:—

Table with columns: Month of April, Four months ended April, Bales, 1900, Bales, 1899.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended May 5th, amounted to £8,522,536, an increase of £318,515 (or 3.9 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period of 1899.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during April was £738,981, an increase of £65,080, as compared with April, 1899.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during April numbered 303, being 14 less than in April, 1899, 22 less than in April, 1898, and 30 less than in April, 1897.

DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETURNS showing the amounts and rates of dividend paid to members on purchases for the fourth quarter of 1899, have been received from 1,108 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,504,194.

The returns from the 1,108 societies as grouped in Table I, show that 68.9 per cent. of the total members received dividends on their purchases ranging from 2s. 1d. to 3s. 6d. in the £, the average dividend for the United Kingdom being 2s. 7.61d. as compared with 2s. 7.52d., the average paid by the 1,114 societies which made returns for the corresponding period of 1898.

In Table II, the average dividend paid in the several districts is shown separately. From this it will be seen that in England and Wales the highest average dividend (3s. 0.51d) was paid in the northern counties, the bulk of the societies being in the mining districts of Durham and Northumberland, and the lowest average dividend (1s. 6.36d.) in the London district, the average for the 860 societies in England and Wales being 2s. 7.01d., compared with 2s. 6.97d., the average returned by 858 societies for the corresponding period of 1898.

In Scotland the highest average dividend was also in the northern counties, being 3s. 0.11d., compared with 2s. 9.82d. in the southern counties, the average for 241 societies in Scotland being 2s. 10.68d., compared with 2s. 10.25d. returned by the 250 societies making returns for the corresponding period of 1898.

I. Dividends classified by Rate per £.

Table with columns: Rates of dividend per £ of purchases, Number of Societies, Membership of Societies making returns for 4th quarter of 1899, Percentage for corresponding period of 1898.

II. Dividends classified by Districts.

Table with columns: Districts, No. of Societies, Membership, Average Dividend.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE.

The first annual Scottish National Co-operative Conference was held in Glasgow on the 28th ult., under the presidency of Mr. James Allan, who reported that during 1899 the Scottish co-operative societies had increased their membership by 13,670, their share capital by £258,943, and their trade by £917,082, the total sales in 1899 being £15,309,163.

FORTNIGHTLY v. WEEKLY PAYMENTS ON THE CLYDE.

IN the LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1898 (page 358), particulars were given of an agreement between the representatives of the engineering and shipbuilding employers and the federated workpeople on the Clyde, providing "that a trial be given to the payment of wages weekly for a period of twelve months."

The following notice, dated May 7th, has now been issued by the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association:—

The year's trial of the system of weekly payment of wages expired at the end of last month. During the period of trial the amount of time lost was not lessened, but was increased.

Notice is therefore given that weekly payments will, in terms of the Agreement entered into, be discontinued. The last weekly pay will be made during the week ending 12th inst., and wages will thereafter be paid fortnightly.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—During April 28,316 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, or 1,893 more than in April, 1899. Comparing the four completed months of 1900 with the corresponding period of 1899, there is an increase of 9,158, viz., from 61,395 in 1899 to 70,553 in 1900.

British and Irish.—Of the 28,316 passengers in April, 17,169 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 965 compared with a year ago, the most noticeable falling off being in the numbers bound to the United States and South Africa.

For the four months of 1900, the total number of passengers of British or Irish origin was 40,163, or almost the same number as during the corresponding period of last year.

The following Table gives the figures for the different periods:—

Table with columns: Destination, April 1900, April 1899, Total for four months ended— April 1900, April 1899.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 28,316 passengers in April, viz., 11,147, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 2,858 as compared with April, 1899.

The total number of foreigners, etc., who left the United Kingdom during the four completed months of 1900 was 30,390, as compared with 21,242 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during April was 15,330; of these 9,803 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 6,375 so stated in April, 1899.

Table with columns: April 1900, April 1899, Total for four months ended— April 1900, April 1899.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,312 in April, 1900; 1,259 in April, 1899; and 5,046 and 4,681 respectively for the four months ended April in each year.

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 duration exceeded 100 working days.)

Number and Magnitude.—Fifty-two fresh disputes were reported as having begun in April, 1900, compared with 40 in March, 1900, and 63 in April, 1899. In these 52 disputes 29,838 workpeople were directly and 1,343 indirectly affected, a total of 31,181, which compares with 10,049 in March, 1900, and 13,741 in April, 1899.

Trades Affected.—The most important dispute of the month was that affecting about 20,000 pottery workers in Staffordshire. In the building trades, 21 disputes took place, involving 3,256 workpeople; in the mining and quarrying industries, 4 disputes, involving 1,813 workpeople; in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 6 disputes, involving 1,501 workpeople; in the textile trades, 5 disputes, involving 1,448 workpeople; in the transport trades, 5 disputes, involving 1,839 workpeople; in the clothing trades, 5 disputes, involving 913 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades, 5 disputes, involving 411 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 52 disputes, 30 resulted from demands for advances and 4 from objections to reductions in wage-rates. Three disputes arose on other wages questions; 6 on questions of working arrangements; 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons; and 5 on miscellaneous questions.

Results.—Thirty-one new disputes, involving 6,366 workpeople, and 10 old disputes, involving 2,172 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 41 new and old disputes terminated, 14, involving 3,194 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 8, involving 2,002 persons, in favour of the employers; and 14, involving 2,422 persons, resulted in compromise. With regard to the remaining 5 disputes, involving 920 persons, certain points were still under consideration. At the end of April six old disputes were reported to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 5,000 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The aggregate duration in April of all the disputes, new and old, was about 210,000 days, compared with 140,000 in March, 1900, and 230,000 in April, 1899.

Summary for the First Four Months of 1900.—For the four completed months of 1900 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 174 disputes which commenced in this year, as compared with 37,577 in the 211 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1899. The aggregate duration in working days was about 530,000, as compared with 730,000 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Table with 7 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL, 1900.

Table for Building Trades (3,256 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Mining and Quarrying (1,813 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding Trades (1,501 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishment where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table with 7 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL, 1900—(continued).

Table for Cotton Trades (1,448 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Transport Trades (1,839 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Clothing Trades (913 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades (20,411 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE APRIL, 1900, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Building Trades (1,463 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Other Trades (720 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

EXAMINATIONS 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 13th, 1900. Intending candidates should communicate on or before June 9th, 1900, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King Street, Wigan.

North Staffordshire District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 27th, 28th, 1900. Intending candidates should communicate on or before June 16th, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Joseph Knight, Newcastle, Staffordshire.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.)

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of April was 324,433, corresponding to a rate of 200 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1900.

Compared with March, 1900, there is a decrease of 8,565 in the number relieved, and of 6 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. All the districts show decreased rates, the most noticeable falling-off being in the following districts:—Dublin (22 per 10,000), Central London (21), Leicester and the Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (12 each), and Hull (9).

Compared with April, 1899, the number relieved shows a decrease of 6,305, and the rate per 10,000 of 7. There is a decrease in the rate in 26 districts, the largest decreases being in the Stockton and Tees district (33 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (22), Leicester and Central London (18 each), and in the Wolverhampton, Bristol, and Belfast districts (17 each). In one district the rate remains unchanged, while in the remaining eight districts it has increased, the increase amounting in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district to 14 per 10,000, and in Glasgow to 8.

Table showing Pauperism in April, 1900. Columns include Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of April, 1900 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of estimated population (A month ago, A year ago), and Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with A month ago, A year ago. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES* (Metropolises, Other Districts), SCOTLAND*, and IRELAND†.

* 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.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April the 10 bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,562 applications for work, as compared with 1,552 in April, 1899. Work was found during the month for 1,000 persons, of whom 679 (459 males and 220 females) were engaged by private employers, 167 males by Local Authorities, and 154 males by the Salvation Army.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of April was 1,125, as against 1,245 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in April.

Table showing Work done in April. Columns include Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications offered by Employers during (Apr. 1900, Apr. 1899), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Apr. 1900, Apr. 1899), No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities) (Apr. 1900, Apr. 1899). Rows include London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, St. Martin, Hackney, Salvation Army), Provincial (Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Glasgow), and Total of 10 Bureaux.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during April, 1900.

Table showing Employments found for Workpeople during April, 1900. Columns include Category (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities), Gender (Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls), Occupation, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total. Rows include Men (Building Trades, Carmen, Stablenmen, Horsemen, &c., Porters and Messengers, Other Occupations), Lads and Boys, Women and Girls (Dressmakers and Sempstresses, Domestic Servants, Charwomen, daily work, &c., Other Occupations), and Grand Total for 10 Bureaux.

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month.

Table showing Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month. Columns include Occupation, No. on Register at end of (Apr. 1900, Apr. 1899). Rows include Men (Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stablenmen, Horsemen, &c., Clerks and Warehousemen, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations), Lads and Boys, Women and Girls (Charwomen, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Others), and Grand Total for 10 Bureaux.

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

Summary for April.

The trade returns for the month of April, 1900, show an increase, as compared with the corresponding period of 1899, in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, and in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, but a decrease in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The Imports for April, 1900, were valued at £42,621,876, as compared with £39,357,022 for April, 1899, an increase of £3,264,854, or 8·3 per cent., and the Exports amounted in value to £28,505,694, as against £25,426,211 in April, 1899—an increase of £3,079,483. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £22,645,147 in April, 1900, and £19,457,546 in April, 1899—an increase of £3,187,601, or 16·4 per cent. The value of foreign and colonial merchandise exported in April, 1900, shows a decrease as compared with April, 1899, of £108,118, or 1·9 per cent.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for April, 1900, as compared with April, 1899, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table showing Imports for April, 1900 vs 1899. Columns include Category, 1899, 1900, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco; Metals; Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances; Oils; Raw Materials for Manufactures Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles; and Total.

There is a net increase in the value of corn imported of £83,374. Wheat alone has increased 831,970 cwts. in quantity and £270,850 in value; wheat meal and flour 319,064 cwts. in quantity and £149,121 in value; barley 781,687 cwts. in quantity and £263,335 in value, and oats 782,120 cwts. in quantity and £185,019 in value. On the other hand the imports of maize or Indian corn show a decrease of 528,500 cwts. in quantity, but an increase of £5,427 in value. Among dutiable articles of food and drink, cocoa shows an increase of 1,090,915 lbs. in quantity and £50,820 in value, and tea of 1,806,612 lbs. in quantity and £76,696 in value, but the imports of coffee have decreased 54,419 cwts. in quantity and £185,139 in value.

With reference to raw materials for textile manufactures the imports of raw cotton in April, 1900, show an increase, compared with those for April, 1899, of 499,683 cwts. in quantity and £1,787,038 in value, chiefly due to much larger shipments from the United States, though the imports from Egypt and Brazil (especially the latter country) have also considerably increased. On the other hand, sheep or lambs' wool shows a decrease of 28,289,163 lbs. in quantity and £540,788 in value, as compared with the imports in April, 1899.

Exports.—The following table shows the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month ended 30th April, 1900, as compared with a like period of 1899, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table showing Exports for April, 1900 vs 1899. Columns include Category, 1899, 1900, Increase, Decrease. Rows include 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 and Millwork); Machinery and Millwork; Ships, new (not registered as British); Miscellaneous; and Total.

The exports of coal, coke and fuel show a decrease of 6,592 tons in quantity, but an increase of £917,034 in value. Wool

(sheep and lambs) has increased both in quantity and value, in the former by 930,200 lbs., and in the latter by £27,989.

The exports of cotton yarn in April, 1900, as compared with April, 1899, show a decrease in quantity of 3,883,800 lbs., but an increase in value of £22,092, and cotton piece-goods a decrease of 24,084,400 yards in quantity, but an increase of £203,597 in value. Other manufactures of cotton have increased £106,930. Jute yarn has decreased in quantity, but increased in value. On the other hand, the exports of linen piece-goods, woollen and worsted tissues and wool damasks, tapestry, and other furniture stuffs have increased both in quantity and value.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes during April, 1900, amounted to 2,905,690 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,437,723 tons, as against 2,847,108 tons entered, and 3,505,178 tons cleared in April, 1899. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes, during April, 1900, amounted to 2,476,700 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,398,372 tons, as against 2,519,712 tons entered and 2,450,003 tons cleared in April, 1899.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April 579 fresh applications for work were registered by eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns, and 853 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 181 persons, of whom 105 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency and the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during April. A return from the Dundee Labour Bureau is appended, but not included in the summaries.

WORK DONE IN APRIL.

Table showing Work Done in April. Columns include No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily). Rows include Summary by Bureaux (Central Bureau, Society for Promoting Training and Employment, Y. W. C. A., Other Bureaux), Summary by Occupations (Superintendents, Forewomen, etc., Shop Assistants, Dressmakers, etc., Secretaries, Clerks, Typists, etc., Apprentices and Learners, Domestic Servants, Miscellaneous), and Dundee Labour Bureau.

The number of applications for domestic servants fell from 599 to 553, and the number of servants applying from 356 to 323, the number permanently engaged falling from 87 to 79. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, &c., although still large, fell from 194 to 170, and the number applying from 68 to 29; the number engaged through the bureaux fell from 49 to 26.

Of the 37 situations offered at the Dundee Labour Bureau, 20 were for mill and factory operatives. Of the 127 wanting situations, 78 were charwomen, and 42 were mill and factory operatives. Of the 16 who obtained situations, 13 were charwomen.

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 4 Trade Unions, 1 Employers' Association, 10 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 11 Co-operative Associations for Production, 4 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 1 Building Society, 29 Friendly Societies, and 33 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during April. Four Trade Unions, 8 Industrial and Provident Societies, 12 Building Societies, and 38 Friendly Societies (including 23 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Wolverhampton and District Builders' Labourers Protective Accident and Burial Soc., Warwick Arms Hotel, Little's-lane, Wolverhampton; York and District Federated Builders' Labourers Trade Soc., Old Turk's Head Inn, King's-square, York; Nat. Assoc. of Grocers' Assistants, 39, Eastcheap, E.C.; Lancashire Cokemen's and Labourers Assoc., 26, Woodfield-street, New Springs, Wigan. (*Employers' Association.*)—Birmingham Tailors' Employers Assoc., White Lion Inn, Horse Fair, Birmingham. *Scotland*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution*—*England and Wales.* Aged Mine Workers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 2, Ede-street, Haswell Moor, Sunderland; East Lulworth Co-op. Soc., Ltd., East Lulworth, Wareham; Caerau and Spelter Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 20, Hermon-road, Spelter, Maesteg; Peckham and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 245, Rye-lane, Peckham, S.E.; Winchester and District Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 12, Eastgate-street, Winchester; Worksop Industrial Coal Supply Assoc., Ltd., 5, Ryton-street, Worksop. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Castle Bellingham Co-op. Home Industries, Castle Bellingham, co. Louth; Clogher Head Co-op. Home Industries, Clogher Head, co. Louth; St. Raphaels Co-op. Home Industries, Loughrea, co. Galway; Dunleer Co-op. Home Industries, Dunleer, co. Louth. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Leicester Basket Makers, Ltd., 49, Bolton-road, Leicester; Fountains Sterilized Milk and Cream Supply Soc., Ltd., Fountains Hall, near Ripon. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Societies, at Killeshil, co. Tyrone; Clongorey, Newbridge, co. Kildare; Rathnaveen, co. Tipperary; Ballyragget, co. Kilkenny; and Spink, Queen's co.; Dunboe Co-op. Flax, New-row, Coleraine, co. Londonderry; Castlehale Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Kilmoganny, co. Kilkenny; Dromara Co-op. Flax and Agric., Dromara, co. Down; Boghill Co-op. Flax, Boghill, co. Londonderry. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Yardley Co-op., Bank Ltd., Congregational School, Tysley, Birmingham; Ushaw Moor Workmen's Club and Institute, Ltd., Club House, Ushaw Moor, Durham; Sowerby Bridge Carlton Builders Soc., Ltd., 15, Carlton-street, Sowerby Bridge. *Scotland.*—Brunswick Club and Institute, Ltd., 20, Brunswick-street, Glasgow. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Orders, 2; Ordinary Friendly, 5; Specially Authorised, 4; Juvenile, 2; Collecting, 2; Dividing, 7; Working Men's Clubs, 6. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—25. *Scotland.*—8. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—One. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Portsmouth Dockyard Hand Drillers Assoc., 21, Eton-road, Southsea; Oldham and Rochdale Districts Pork Butchers' Employees Protection Assoc., 36, Union-street, Oldham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Dublin Silver Plate Workers Society, Dublin; Bleachers Trade Union of the United Kingdom, Antrim.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Dissolved by Instrument; Redditch Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Alcester-street, Redditch, Liquidators final return received. Lower Lydbrook Co-op. and Ind. Soc., Ltd., Lower Lydbrook, Glos.; Oak Mount Self-Help Mfg. Soc., Ltd., Oak Mount Mill, Wiseman-street, Burnley; International Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 33, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, W. Resolution to "wind-up" received. Churchtown Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Co-op. Hall, Botanic-road, Churchtown, Lancs.; Photographic Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 5, Albion-place, Maidstone; Lichfield Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 5, Bore-street, Lichfield. *Scotland.*—Dissolved by Instrument. Motherwell and Suburban Co-op. Building and Land Soc., Ltd. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 10; Female, 1; Branches, 3; Registration cancelled: Juvenile, 1; Specially authorised, 1; Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 1; Branches 20; *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 1.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 1; notice of commencement of dissolution, 2; notice of termination of dissolution, 6. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—By instrument of dissolution, 1; Notice of termination of "winding up," 2.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN APRIL.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:				
Neglecting to Limewash	8	7	£ s. d. 17 17 6	£ s. d. 2 17 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	13	13	86 18 0	5 18 0
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c.	1	1	1 0 0	0 14 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	54	54	47 6 0	29 6 1
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour	38	37	39 1 6	15 19 0
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	45	37	10 0 0	15 13 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	2	2	2 1 0	0 11 6
At night	13	13	18 1 6	7 9 5
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	2	2	1 10 0	1 2 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers	22	22	17 11 6	13 17 0
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	14	14	9 16 0	5 19 9
Not sending Notices required by Act	7	6	5 11 6	2 14 10
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules	4	4	2 10 0	3 5 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts	2	2	0 10 0	0 3 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts	2	2	0 10 0	0 11 0
By Workmen:				
Allowing children to clean machinery in motion, &c.	2	2	2 0 0	1 18 0
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules	3	3	0 10 0	0 16 0
Total for April, 1900	232	221	262 14 6	103 16 1
Total for April, 1899	258	251	226 6 0	100 7 6

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Shafts and Manholes	2	—	2*	—	£ s. d. 0 6 6
Miscellaneous	5	5	—	—	18 4 0
By Workmen:					
Safety Lamps	2	2	—	—	1 19 6
Shot-firing and Explosives	2	2	—	—	1 13 6
Timbering	3	3	—	—	4 6 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	5	5	—	—	5 14 6
Riding on Trams	2	2	—	—	1 14 0
Miscellaneous	24	24	—	—	21 0 0
Total for April, 1900	45	43	2	—	54 18 6
Total for April, 1899	45	40	2	3	43 7 8
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	4	4	—	—	£ s. d. 11 0 0
Fencing	2	2	—	—	5 15 0
Other Special Rules	2	2	—	—	2 18 0
Total for April, 1900	8	8	—	—	19 13 0
Total for April, 1899	18	15	2	1	30 15 2

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:				
Not provided with life saving appliances	1	1	£ s. d. 10 0 0	£ s. d. Court fees
Submersion of disc	1	1	25 0 0	—
For not having fishing boat properly marked	1	1	1 0 0	0 4 6
For not having sails lettered or numbered	1	1	0 5 0	0 4 6
Plying for passengers without a certificate	3	3	30 0 0	3 0 0†
By Seamen:				
False statement of name	1	1	1 0 0	—
By Boarding-House Keepers and others:				
Illegal Supply	1	1	10 0 0‡	—
Total for April, 1900	9	9	77 5 0	3 9 0
Total for April, 1899	8	8	84 5 0	18 15 0

* On payment of costs.
† These cases are under Appeal.
‡ Including costs. Defendant went to prison for one month's hard labour, in default of payment.