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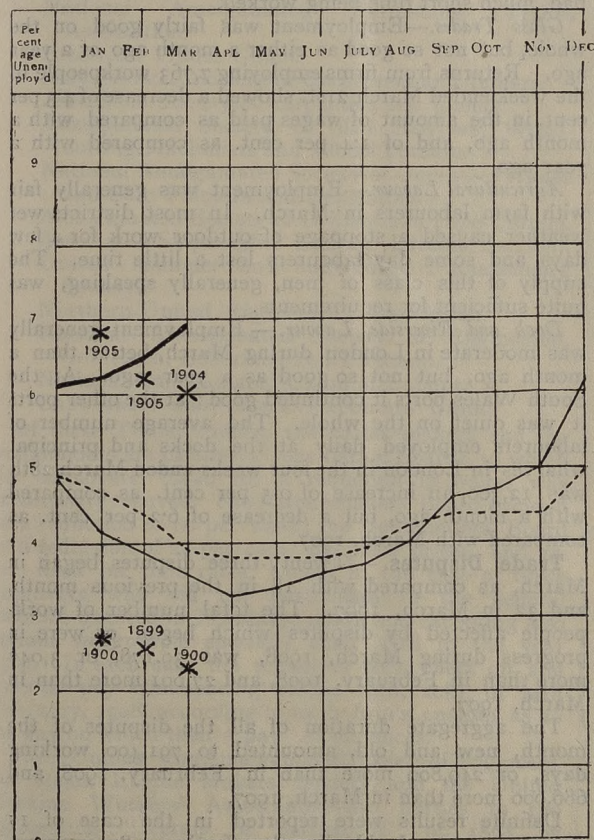
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1908. —— Thin Curve=1907.
..... Dotted Curve=Mean of 1898-1907.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For March, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 639,716 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 61,199	Printing & Bookbinding 56,459
Coal Mining 127,725	Woodworking and Fur-
Engineering 153,652	nishing 34,918
Shipbuilding 56,195	Miscellaneous 21,607
Other Metal Trades ... 31,476	Total 639,716
Textiles 96,485	

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[In addition to the 2,591 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,901 were received from employers relating to 1,084,392 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,492 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in March continued to show some decline. As in February, it was adversely affected by the strikes of engineers and shipwrights and joiners on the North-East Coast, which have rendered idle a large number of other workpeople not directly concerned in the disputes. There was a slight seasonal improvement in the building, furnishing and clothing trades.

As compared with a year ago there was a decline in most of the principal industries.

In the 268 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 639,716, making Returns, 43,853 (or 6.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, 1908, as compared with 6.4 per cent. at the end of February, 1908, and 3.6 per cent. at the end of March, 1907.

Coal Mining.—Employment was still good during March, but showed some decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended March 21st was 5.49 per week as compared with 5.56 in February, and 5.67 a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines and open works was 5.76, as compared with 5.78 days a month ago and 5.82 days in March, 1907.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during March, though still fair on the whole, showed a decline as compared with February. It was considerably worse than in March, 1907. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing over 22,000 workpeople showed 294 furnaces in blast at the end of March, as compared with 300 in February, 1908, and 348 in March, 1907.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended March 21st, 1908, at the 196 iron and steel works from which Returns were received was 1.5 per cent. less than in the week ended February 22nd, 1908, and 10.0 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during March was fairly good, though not so good as either a month ago or a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 430 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of March, as compared with 436 a month ago and 443 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment was dull on the

whole, and adversely affected by the dispute on the North-East Coast. It was worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 7.1, as compared with 5.9 a month ago and 2.9 a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment was bad, and continued to be greatly affected by the dispute on the North East Coast. It was worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 21.5, as compared with 20.0 per cent. at the end of February, and 7.1 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the *Spinning* branch was still good, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 123,957 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woolen Trade.—Employment continued fairly good, but showed a slight decline compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 30,044 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,920 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment continued quiet, and was much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,351 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed a decrease of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 15.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment on the whole continued good, and showed little change compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,693 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was fair generally; it showed an improvement compared with a month ago, but a decline compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,524 workpeople in the week ended March 21st, 1908, showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was moderate, slightly worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. Firms employing 9,075 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 18.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment continued fairly good, and showed little change compared with a year ago. Firms employing 17,551 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed the usual seasonal improvement, but was not so good as a year ago. In the Provinces it was moderate. In the *ready-made* branch it continued fairly good, but, on the whole, was slightly worse than a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the *Silk Hat* branch was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the *Felt Hat* branch it was fairly good, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment generally continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 63,732 workpeople

in the week ended March 21st showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment was quiet generally, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,601 had 6.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.6 per cent. in February, and 6.0 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was moderate with printers and slack with bookbinders. It was better on the whole than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 4.0, as compared with 4.8 at the end of February, and 3.4 in March, 1907. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 6.4, 5.8, and 4.4 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment in March continued slack. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in March continued bad. It was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 7.1 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 8.3 per cent. a month ago, and 3.4 per cent. a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued bad, much short time being worked.

Glass Trades.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, but not so good as either a month ago or a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,763 workpeople in the week ended March 21st, showed a decrease of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment was generally fair with farm labourers in March. In most districts wet weather caused a stoppage of outdoor work for a few days, and some day labourers lost a little time. The supply of this class of men, generally speaking, was quite sufficient for requirements.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment generally was moderate in London during March, better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At the South Wales ports it continued good; at the other ports it was quiet on the whole. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London in the four weeks ended March 28th was 12,300, an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 6.2 per cent. as compared with March, 1907.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-three disputes began in March, as compared with 18 in the previous month, and 32 in March, 1907. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during March, 1908, was 39,178, or 3,042 more than in February, 1908, and 27,001 more than in March, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 791,400 working days, or 249,800 more than in February, 1908, and 686,000 more than in March, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 17 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 3,877 persons. Of these 17 disputes, 1 was decided in favour of the workpeople, 8 in favour of the employers, and 8 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in March affected 22,700 workpeople, of whom 3,200 received advances and 19,500 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were decreased included 5,500 coal miners in the Forest of Dean, and 12,000 iron and steel workers in the North of England and the West of Scotland. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net decrease of about £700 per week.

ENGINEERING DISPUTE, NORTH-EAST COAST.

IN November, 1907, the North-East Coast Engineering Trades Employers' Association, which embraces the Tyne and Blyth, Wear, Tees, Hartlepool and Darlington districts, gave notice of a general reduction in wages, viz.:

Five per cent. off piece prices; 2s. per week off time rates of 30s. and over; 1s. 6d. per week off rates of 25s. and under 30s.; and 1s. per week off rates below 25s.

The following Trade Unions were affected by this notice:—

Amalgamated Society of Engineers.
Steam Engine Makers' Society.
United Machine Workers' Association.
National United Trades Society of Engineers.
United Patternmakers' Association.
Friendly Society of Ironfounders.
United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders.
Associated Blacksmiths' Society of Scotland.
Co-operative Smiths' Society.
United Kingdom Society of Amalgamated Smiths and Strikers.
North of England Brass Turners, Fitters and Finishers' Trade and Friendly Society.
North of England Brass, Aluminium, Bronze, and Kindred Alloys Moulders' Trade and Friendly Society.
General Union of Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers.
Amalgamated Union of Cabinetmakers.
National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association.
Electrical Trades Union.
Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.
Associated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.
Amalgamated Society of Mill Sawyers, Wood-cutting Machinists and Wood Turners.
National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators.
Amalgamated Society of Drillers and Hole Cutters.
Associated Shipwrights' Society (Drillers' Section).
United Hammermen's and Forge Furnacemen's Society.
Northern United Enginemen's Association.
National Amalgamated Society of Enginemen, Cranemen, Boilermen and Firemen.
National Amalgamated Union of Labour.
Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union.

Of these Trade Unions, the patternmakers and the ironfounders are parties to Conciliation Boards, to which the employers' claim for a reduction in wages was accordingly referred. The Patternmakers' Board decided on a reduction of 1s. per week; the Ironfounders' Board on a reduction of 2½ per cent. on piece prices, and 1s. per week on time rates, except in the case of those improvers who did not participate in the general advance granted in February, 1906; and excepting also certain workpeople specially dealt with in the year 1903. In each case the reduction took effect on and from the pay commencing on the 19th, 20th, or 24th February, 1908, according to each firm's custom as to the day on which their "pay" commences.

Three Unions—the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the United Machine Workers' Association—are parties to the engineering "Terms of Settlement" of 1898, as amended in 1907. The prescribed manner of dealing with disputes under the "Terms of Settlement" is as follows:—

"With a view to avoid disputes, deputations of workmen shall be received by their employers, by appointment, for mutual discussion of any question in the settlement of which both parties are directly concerned; or it shall be competent for an official of the Trade Union to approach the local secretary of the Employers' Association with regard to any such question; or it shall be competent for either

party to bring the question before a local conference to be held between the local Association of Employers and the local representatives of the Trade Unions.

In the event of either party desiring to raise any question a local conference for this purpose may be arranged by application to the secretary of the Employers' Association or of the Trade Union concerned, as the case may be.

Local conferences shall be held within twelve working days from the receipt of the application by the secretary of the Employers' Association or of the Trade Union or Trade Unions concerned.

Failing settlement at a local conference of any question brought before it, it shall be competent for either party to refer the matter to the Executive Board of the Federation and the Central Authority of the Trade Union or Trade Unions concerned.

Central conferences shall be held at the earliest date which can be conveniently arranged by the secretaries of the Federation and of the Trade Union or Trade Unions concerned.

There shall be no stoppage of work either of a partial or of a general character, but work shall proceed under the current conditions until the procedure provided for above has been carried through."

The remaining Trade Unions affected by the employers' claim for a reduction in wages, however, are neither parties to a Conciliation Board nor bound by the "Terms of Settlement." These Unions accordingly took concerted action to negotiate with the employers, and, after several conferences, agreed on January 13th to accept the following modified terms:—

2½ per cent. off piece rates.
1s. per week off time rates of 26s. and over.
6d. " " " " 22s. and under 26s.
Men under 22s. but over 20s., to be reduced if they were advanced in 1906.
No reduction on rates of 20s. and under.
These reductions to take effect on and from the first full pay in February.

It was also agreed that no general change in wages should be made for six months from the date of this reduction, and then two months' notice to be given.

The employers subsequently notified the Trade Unions concerned that the reductions would be postponed for a fortnight, so as to take effect on and from the pay commencing on the 19th, 20th, or 24th February, 1908, as the case might be.

The members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the United Machine Workers' Association were in the meantime negotiating with the employers, in accordance with the procedure above mentioned, as prescribed by the "Terms of Settlement." No settlement having been reached at the local conferences, it was arranged to discuss the question at a central conference in London on January 31st. At this conference the employers offered to modify their terms to those already accepted by the other engineering Trade Unions (*see above*). The representatives of the men declined to accept any reduction on their own responsibility, but undertook to submit the employers' proposals to a ballot of the men by February 17th.

In accordance with this agreement the following ballot paper was issued to the members:—

February 1st, 1908.

The proposal of the North-East Coast employers to reduce the wage rates on the coast has been discussed at central conference, duly following local conference, and we regret to say that both conferences have proved abortive as regards a settlement.

The Employers' Federation Executive, however, after discussion, submitted a modified proposal as a recommendation, namely:—

2½ per cent. off piece prices.
1s. per week off time rates 26s. and over; 6d. per week off time rates 22s. and above, but under 26s.
Men under 22s. but over 20s. to be reduced if they were advanced in February, 1906, and men at 20s. and under not to be reduced.

The reduction to take effect from the 20th to the 24th of February, according to start of the week in the various shops; the first pay on the reduced rate to be, of course, a week later, plus odd days to Saturday.

Your representatives refused to assent to any reduction of the wage rates at present ruling, and the Conference accordingly terminated in failure to agree.

We now leave the matter entirely in your hands. We have undertaken to intimate the decision to the employers by the 17th of February.

Please vote for or against acceptance of employers' offer at branch meetings regularly (or specially) summoned for the purpose, and return votes to the respective offices of the above-named societies on or before February 17th.

A vote against acceptance, of course, means a cessation of work.

Yours truly,

MATTHEW ARRANDALE.
W. F. DAWTRY.
G. N. BARNES.

The result of this ballot was as follows:—

	For Acceptance.	Against Acceptance.
Amalgamated Society of Engineers...	932	5,224
Steam Engine Makers' Society ...	249	448
United Machine Workers' Association	126	468
	<u>1,307</u>	<u>6,140</u>

In consequence of this decision the members of the three Trade Unions concerned ceased work on February 20th, and the numbers directly affected rapidly rose to a total of about 7,000; while, in addition, some thousands of other workpeople were laid idle.

The procedure for settling disputes under the "Terms of Settlement" had now been exhausted, and unless exceptional measures were taken, a long and disastrous struggle seemed inevitable. Having regard to the seriousness of the position, the dislocation to trade, and the distress which such a dispute would cause, the President of the Board of Trade felt it incumbent upon him to take measures to endeavour to bring the parties to an agreement. Accordingly he communicated with Sir Andrew Noble and Sir Benjamin Browne, who with great readiness placed themselves at his disposal, and came to London to confer with him. Mr. Lloyd George also put himself into communication with Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P., and Mr. D. Gardner, the General Secretary and the Chairman respectively of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

As a result of conferences which took place, certain provisional terms of agreement were adopted by the parties, who agreed to submit them to their respective associations and recommend their acceptance.

In fulfilment of the arrangement thus arrived at, Sir A. Noble submitted the terms of provisional agreement to the employers, by whom his action was endorsed, and Mr. Barnes, M.P., Mr. Dawtry and Mr. Arrandale issued the following ballot paper to the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the United Machine Workers' Association:—

February 26th, 1908.

In accordance with letter of Saturday last to District Committees, we now ask you to vote for or against acceptance of the terms which have been agreed to by the respective Executive Councils, and which are embodied in the following resolution:—

"That we submit to the men and recommend them to accept the terms which have emerged from the repeated conferences which have been held with the representatives of the employers through the intervention of the President of the Board of Trade, the effect of which is as follows:—

(1) That work be resumed forthwith in the event of acceptance.

(2) That the rate of wages hitherto paid should be continued up to Easter, and that reduction, if any, shall take effect only as from Easter.

(3) That the question of reduction, on employers' proposal, to reduce by 1s. per week, shall be submitted to a referee, to whom each side shall be free to state its case in the light of facts respecting trade and wages on the coast and elsewhere."

It will be noted that these give an opportunity of your case being put to an unbiassed arbiter, yet to be chosen, and, therefore, of such case being settled in the light of fact and reason. Full report has been made of all the circumstances arising from the intervention of Mr. Lloyd George to the representatives of the various Committees summoned to London for the purpose of consultation, and who, it is hoped, may be able, through the branch representatives, to give any further information required. Votes must be taken at branch meetings specially summoned for the purpose.

Council desire votes to be returned to the respective General Offices not later than Wednesday morning, the 4th of March.

Yours sincerely,

GEO. N. BARNES.
W. F. DAWTRY.
MATTHEW ARRANDALE.

The result of this ballot was as follows:—

	For Acceptance.	Against Acceptance.
Amalgamated Society of Engineers...	2,699	5,483
Steam Engine Makers' Society ...	500	332
United Machine Workers' Association	348	382
	<u>3,547</u>	<u>6,197</u>

While this vote was being taken, however, it appeared that some misapprehension existed in the minds of the men as to the precise nature of the proposals; and Mr. Lloyd George deemed it advisable to invite the local representatives of the men to see him before the vote was declared. Meetings were accordingly held in London, both Executive and local representatives of each of the Unions being present. The whole matter was exhaustively explained by the President and the Permanent Secretary of the Board of Trade, with the result that the following memorandum was unanimously agreed upon:—

Memorandum of Arrangement arrived at a Conference in London of Representatives of the Engineering Trade Unions on the North-East Coast with Representatives of the Board of Trade.

March 4th, 1908.

- The ballot paper to be amended so as to explain that the referee will be chosen from a list of impartial persons, not employers of labour, drawn up by Mr. Lloyd George, the name to be selected with the concurrence of Mr. Barnes acting on behalf of the three Trade Unions affected, and of Sir Andrew Noble acting on behalf of the employers.
- A second ballot to be taken on the above basis, the Board of Trade to use their good offices with the employers to persuade them to keep open their offer for a period not exceeding a fortnight for this purpose.
- Mr. Ratcliffe and all the district representatives of the three Unions present will report favourably to the acceptance of the terms as explained above.
- The Executive Committee of the three Unions will, as before, recommend the terms, and use their best endeavours to obtain their acceptance.

(Signed) DAVID GARDNER, Chairman,
GEORGE N. BARNES,
J. RATCLIFFE.

On behalf of the Board

of Trade:—
(Signed) H. LLEWELLYN SMITH.

This agreement was communicated to Sir Andrew Noble in the following telegram:—

March 5th.

"Understanding that Engineers' ballot was likely to be adverse, I invited representatives from each district to confer with me yesterday on situation. It appeared there had been some misunderstanding of terms, especially with regard to choice of referee. The Executives, with concurrence of District representatives, decided, therefore, to explain matter further to men, and take second vote, all present agreeing to report favourably to acceptance of terms as explained. Board of Trade undertook in view of this to use good offices with

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Pottery Trade, Glasgow.

In December, 1907, and January, 1908, about 350 pottery workers at Glasgow ceased work owing to a dispute as to the price to be paid for certain work. On March 2nd an agreement was arrived at between the Potters' Federation, Ltd., and the National Amalgamated Society of Male and Female Pottery Workers, to the effect that the workpeople should resume work on the old conditions for the time being, and that, failing a settlement between the parties themselves within thirty days, the Board of Trade should be requested to appoint an arbitrator to settle the questions in dispute.

On March 18th the secretary of the Potters' Federation, Ltd., informed the Board of Trade that a settlement had not been effected in regard to one of the questions in dispute, viz., the price for turning necked and fluted jam jars. He accordingly requested the Board, on behalf of both parties, to appoint an arbitrator to settle this dispute.

The Board of Trade, on March 24th, appointed W. B. Yates, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Slaters and Tilers, Wigan.

Notice and counter-notice as to an alteration in the working rules and in the rate of wages to be paid to slaters and tilers having been given by the Wigan and District Building Trades Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Slaters' and Tilers' Provident Society (Wigan Branch), an agreement on the matters in dispute was arrived at between representatives of the two Associations on January 7th. The members of the Employers' Federation, however, were unable as a body to ratify the agreement.

Accordingly on March 16th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle the questions in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on March 23rd, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Galvanizers, Pontardawe.

A dispute having arisen at the Pontardawe Steel, Tinplate and Galvanizing Works, as to the rate of pay of packers in the galvanizing department, application was made to the Board of Trade, on March 10th, by the firm and by representatives of the workpeople, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle the question in dispute.

On March 18th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. W. B. Yates, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

The terms of reference agreed upon by the parties were "to fix a rate for reckoning, weighing, branding, packing, and loading galvanized sheets, on the basis of the rates and conditions of the Neath Galvanizing Works."

The arbitrator issued his award on April 13th, deciding that the rate for the operations mentioned above (excluding sorting) should be 1s. 9½d. per ton.

Builders' Labourers, Coventry.

A dispute having arisen between the Coventry and District Master Builders' Association and the Coventry and District Builders' Labourers' Society, application was made to the Board of Trade by both parties on March 25th, asking for the appointment of an independent chairman to settle the matter.

The Board of Trade, on March 31st, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Carpenters and Joiners, Coventry.

On March 25th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the Coventry and District Master Builders' Association and the Coventry United Trades Committee of Carpenters and Joiners, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle a dispute on the question of overtime.

The Board of Trade, on March 31st, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Painters, Eccles.

A dispute having arisen between the Eccles Master Painters' Association and the operative painters in their employment as to a proposed alteration in working rules,

you to keep employers' offer open for period not exceeding fortnight to allow of explanations and ballot. Earnestly trust you can see your way to this course, which, in my opinion, offers only chance of early settlement.

(Signed) LLOYD GEORGE.

The following telegram was received in reply:—

Newcastle-on-Tyne,
March 9th, 1908.

The Right Hon. D. LLOYD GEORGE,
Board of Trade, London.

Following decision arrived at this afternoon. We agree to the extension of time to the 18th inst. in order to enable the men to take another ballot; the question to be left to the Arbitrator being as before, whether the engineering employers of the North-East Coast were justified in demanding a reduction of 1s. per week on time and 2½ per cent. on piece rates, it being distinctly agreed that this extension of time shall not interfere with the decision of the Arbitrator being given on or before Saturday, April 18th.

The employers further agree that the selection of the Arbitrator shall be left in the hands of Mr. Lloyd George.

(Signed) NOBLE.

During the ensuing fortnight, for which the notices had been extended, meetings were held in each district for the purpose of further explaining the employers' offer, and the local representatives of the Trade Union urged acceptance of the modified terms, as also did Mr. Barnes, M.P., who attended some of the meetings. Considerable opposition to the proposals was shown in some districts, particularly amongst the workmen on the Tyne, among whom a leaflet had been distributed urging that the proposals should be rejected, and the 36s. wage minimum maintained.

Subsequently the following ballot paper was issued:—

The recent ballot vote was on the following proposed Agreement:—

(1) That work be resumed forthwith in the event of acceptance.

(2) That the rate of wages hitherto paid should be continued up to Easter, and that reduction, if any, shall take effect only as from Easter.

(3) That the question of reduction, on employers' proposal to reduce by 1s. per week, shall be submitted to a referee, to whom each side shall be free to state its case in the light of facts respecting trade and wages on the coast and elsewhere."

Since voting on the above, a Conference between the local representatives of the Unions concerned and representatives of the Board of Trade on March 4th drew up the following Memorandum:—

[The terms of this memorandum are printed above.]

In accordance with Clause 2 and resolutions passed at your meetings the terms as embodied in the above Memorandum are now submitted to further ballot vote. A letter from the Board of Trade, dated March 6th, signifies the employers' agreement to their previous offer remaining open for a fortnight.

Councils desire votes to be returned to the respective General Offices not later than the first post on Wednesday morning, the 18th of March.

On March 18th the Board of Trade were notified of the result of the voting, viz:—

3,693 for, 4,356 against.*

This was communicated to Sir Andrew Noble through the Board of Trade on the same day.

Since that date the Board of Trade have not considered that any useful purpose could be served by further action on their part at present, inasmuch as they could only negotiate with the representatives of the parties, and the majority of the men on strike have in two successive ballots refused to follow their representatives' advice.

It is to be hoped that this refusal may not permanently prejudice the prospects of conciliation and arbitration in the engineering and other trades, but it is difficult to see how this deplorable result can be averted unless some adequate means can be found for establishing the position and influence of the men's responsible leaders in negotiating with employers.

* The members of the Steam Engine Makers' Society were not balloted on this occasion, having already accepted the employers' modified terms.

and the parties having been unable to agree, joint application was made to the Board of Trade, on March 27th, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle the question in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on April 2nd, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Painters, Farnworth.

Notice of proposed alterations in working rules having been given to their employers by the Farnworth Branch of the National Amalgamated Society of House and Ship Painters, and the parties having been unable to agree, applications were made to the Board of Trade on March 28th and 30th respectively, by the operatives and the employers, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the questions at issue.

On April 2nd the Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Coal Miners, Cwmamman.

In consequence of the substitution of safety lamps and high explosives for naked lights and gunpowder at the Cawdor Colliery, Cwmamman, the miners claimed an advance in piecework prices as compensation for alleged reduction in earnings. The colliery company could not admit the miners' contention, but on January 30th they entered into an agreement with them to refer the question to four arbitrators, two being chosen from each side, and failing a settlement to apply to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to decide the matter. On March 19th the arbitrators informed the Board of Trade that they had been unable to arrive at an agreement, and asked the Board to appoint an umpire, as arranged.

The Board of Trade, on April 6th, appointed Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity, with Mr. J. T. Robson, late H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines, Swansea District, to act as Technical Assessor.

Painters, Halifax.

The operative painters at Halifax gave the Halifax and District Master Painters' Association six months' notice, expiring March 31st, 1908, for an advance of 1d. per hour and certain alterations in working rules. These demands were brought before a joint committee, which was unable to settle the matter. Accordingly, on April 7th, joint application was made by the parties to the Board of Trade asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to adjudicate upon the questions in dispute.

On April 11th the Board of Trade appointed Sir Alfred E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., to act in that capacity.

Painters, Huddersfield.

A dispute having arisen between the Huddersfield and District Federated Master Painters' Association and the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators (Huddersfield branch) as to rates of wages and working rules, and the parties being unable to arrive at a settlement, application was made to the Board of Trade, by both parties, for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the matters in dispute.

On April 6th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Painters, Tyne and Wear.

Sir Alfred E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 70), issued his award on March 30th. The principal questions in dispute were the rate of wages to be paid (including the rate of payment for overtime), the date from which any alteration in rules should take effect, and the limit within which "walking time" should be allowed.

The arbitrator decided that the rate of wages should remain unchanged, and that the date from which alterations in working rules should take effect should be changed from February 1st to March 1st. The arbitrator also made a slight addition to the "walking time" rule. Several minor demands were either withdrawn by the operatives, or were settled by agreement between the operatives and the employers.

Coal Miners, Mansfield.

A dispute having arisen between the Cossall Colliery Co., Ltd., and the workpeople in their employment as to the price to be paid for getting coal in the Kilburn seam, where holing is done by machinery, it was mutually agreed to refer the dispute to a joint committee, and that in the event of the committee failing to effect a settlement, the Board of Trade should be asked to appoint an umpire. The committee were unable to agree upon the matter, and accordingly, on March 25th, joint application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire.

The Board of Trade, on April 13th, appointed Sir F. Forbes Adam, C.I.E., to act in that capacity.

Steel Workers, Workington.

Sir F. Forbes Adam, C.I.E., the arbitrator appointed in this dispute (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 70), issued his award on April 14th. The arbitrator was asked to decide upon the claim of the employers for a reduction of 10 per cent. in the wages of smelters, and he decided that the claim was justified, and that the reduction should become operative from April 4th, 1908.

GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1907.

The report on the work of the German labour colonies in 1907 has recently appeared in the journal* of the German Travellers' Homes Association. These colonies are institutions for the reception and employment of unemployed workpeople; thirty-three are situated in the German Empire, and one in the United Kingdom.

At the end of 1907 accommodation existed in the colonies for 4,703 persons, as compared with 4,482 in the previous year. The number of persons admitted in 1907 was 9,856, as compared with 9,113 in 1906. The months in which the greatest and least number of admissions occurred were November (1,252) and March (648) respectively; in 1906 the corresponding months were November (1,062) and June (575). In 1907 admission was refused to 1,366 persons, as compared with 1,417 in 1906. Of these, 361 were refused admission owing to want of room, 165 because they did not belong to the district, 46 because they were either too young or too old, 95 on account of illness, 64 on account of incapacity for work, 43 on account of intemperance, 172 because they were on the black list,† and 420 for other reasons. Of the 9,856 persons admitted in 1907, 3,967 had never entered a colony before; 1,775 had already been in a colony once; 1,152, twice; 796, three times; 532, four times; 374, five times; 307, six times; and 953, more than six times. Out of this total, 5,141, or 52.2 per cent., were between 30 and 50 years of age, inclusive; 2,252, or 22.8 per cent., were aged 30 years or under; and 2,463, or 25.0 per cent., were over 50.

The following Table groups the persons admitted in 1907 according to trade or occupation:—

Trade or Occupation.	Number of persons admitted in	
	1907.	1906.
"Workmen" (trades not distinguished)	3,108	2,722
Building Trades	949	804
Mining	56	42
Metal and Engineering Trades	796	760
Textile Trades	183	202
Clothing, &c., Trades	508	497
Agriculture and Fishing	1,050	875
Transport Trades	181	114
Chemical and Pottery Trades	253	242
Woodworking, &c., Trades	375	404
Food Preparation Trades and Hotels and Restaurant Service	665	699
Paper and Leather Trades	174	166
Hairdressers, &c.	134	115
Commerce	563	569
Officials, Surveyors, &c.	108	139
Other Trades	753	703
Total	9,856	9,113

* Der Wanderer. No. 1, 1908.

† As a disciplinary measure to meet the case of gross misconduct, recourse is had to the system of entering a man's name in a punishment book or "black list." A copy of this list is sent to all labour colonies throughout Germany, and a man whose name appears in it is not allowed to enter any colony for a period of five years.

The number of persons who left the colonies in 1907 was 9,376. Of these, 4,691 were stated to have been discharged at their own desire, no further particulars being given as to cause of leaving; 375 left without notice; 406 returned to their homes; 954 went to situations found by themselves; 762 to situations found by the colonies; 121 left owing to the expiration of their period of residence; 66 at the request of the authorities; 296 were discharged on account of illness; 47 on account of incapacity for work; 202 on account of laziness; 935 owing to refusal to work; 233 for intemperance; 252 for bad behaviour, and 4 for immoral conduct; while 32 died.

HOUSING CONDITIONS IN SCOTLAND.

THE Registrar-General for Scotland has issued a Return* showing the housing conditions of the population of Scotland. In an introductory memorandum it is stated that no standard of overcrowding has yet been fixed for Scotland. The standard adopted in the English Census Reports—i.e., more than two persons per room—cannot be applied without modification to Scottish conditions. The rooms in a typical working-class dwelling are considerably larger in Scotland than in England, and usually have a "bed-recess," or space sufficient to contain a large bedstead. Moreover, the expression "room" is used throughout the Return in a stricter sense than in the English census, meaning "an apartment with one or more windows, other than compartments with borrowed light, lobbies, closets, and sculleries."

The following Table, compiled from figures given in the Return, shows the percentage of the population of Scotland living in dwellings containing one room, two rooms, three rooms, and four or more rooms, respectively, at the census of 1901:—

	Population (1901).	Percentage Living in			
		1 room.	2 rooms.	3 rooms.	4 or more rooms.
Aberdeen	153,503	6.06	33.19	29.91	30.84
Dundee	161,173	11.33	51.72	20.14	16.81
Edinburgh	316,837	8.97	29.85	20.19	40.99
Glasgow	761,709	16.26	45.44	18.96	19.34
Other Towns	1,727,019	12.40	42.14	19.76	25.70
All Towns	3,120,241	12.63	41.75	20.13	25.49
Rural Districts	1,351,862	7.30	34.37	19.37	38.95
Total	4,472,103	11.02	39.52	19.90	29.56

It will be seen that the percentage of the population living in dwellings of two rooms or less at the last census was 50.54 in the whole of Scotland; 61.70 in Glasgow, and 63.05 in Dundee.

The following Table shows the percentages of the population living more than two in a room, more than three in a room, and more than four in a room, respectively, at the census of 1901:—

	Population (1901).	Percentage of Population Living—		
		More than 2 in a room.	More than 3 in a room.	More than 4 in a room.
Aberdeen	153,503	38.10	12.32	2.65
Dundee	161,173	49.44	21.91	7.41
Edinburgh	316,837	32.04	13.52	4.72
Glasgow	761,709	54.70	28.09	10.92
Govan	76,532	63.77	34.44	14.09
Greenock	68,142	54.17	28.26	11.15
Leith	77,489	43.60	19.25	6.71
Paisley	79,383	58.96	31.24	11.76
Partick	54,298	50.83	26.50	10.50
Towns with Populations between 10,000 and 50,000	62,709	51.64	27.29	12.32
Towns with Populations between 2,000 and 10,000	473,527	39.27	19.18	8.19
All Towns with Populations exceeding 2,000	2,843,232	47.82	23.60	9.43
Rest of Scotland	1,628,871	41.95	21.71	9.80
Total	4,472,103	45.68	22.91	9.56

* Cd. 4016: Wyman & Sons, London: or Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh: price 2d.

It will be seen that among the larger towns the congestion was greatest in Glasgow and neighbouring towns, and in Dundee. The percentage of the population living more than two in a room was still greater in some of the smaller towns in the neighbourhood of Glasgow; thus the Return shows that in Coatbridge, Motherwell, and Wishaw the number living more than two in a room exceeded 70 per cent.; more than three in a room exceeded 40 per cent.; and more than four in a room exceeded 20 per cent.

High as these percentages are shown to be, there has been a great improvement, in the country as a whole, as compared with previous censuses. This is shown in the following Table:—

	Census of				
	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.
Percentage of Population living in—					
1 room*	27.07	23.91	17.98	14.27	11.02
2 rooms	37.70	38.28	39.52	39.44	39.52
3 rooms	12.68	13.84	16.13	17.94	19.90
4 or more rooms	22.55	23.97	26.37	28.35	29.56
Percentage of Population living more than—					
2 in a room	56.57	53.90	50.75	48.17	45.68
3 in a room	31.53	31.44	27.68	27.32	21.91
4 in a room	18.67	16.30	13.21	11.31	9.56

THE CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVESTIGATION ACT, 1907.

THE Canadian "Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907," was passed on March 22nd, 1907. The Act is intended "to aid in the prevention and settlement of strikes and lock-outs in mines and industries connected with public utilities," which are defined as railways, steamships, telegraph and telephone lines, gas, electric light, water, and power works. Other industries may voluntarily come under the provisions of the Act.

The Act makes strikes and lock-outs in mines and public utilities unlawful "prior to or during a reference of such dispute to a Board of Conciliation," a provision which is enforced by heavy penalties; and any individual may lay information of an alleged breach of the Act. The Minister of Labour is required to establish a Board of Conciliation within 15 days from the date on which he receives an application; and the Board of Conciliation is to make "recommendations" for the settlement of the dispute. The Act does not make any provision for arbitration in cases where conciliation has failed; but the recommendations of the Boards of Conciliation may, by the consent of the parties, be made binding, and become enforceable like awards of a Court of Record. Failing such consent of the parties, the recommendations of the Boards are not legally binding; but several cases have occurred where a recommendation, though not formally accepted by one or both of the parties, has in fact provided a settlement of the dispute.

One of the provisions of the new Act requires employers and workpeople in the industries affected (public utilities) to give at least 30 days' notice of an intended change in wages or hours.

The Canadian Labour Gazette for March, 1908, contains a copy of a Return which has been issued by the Canadian Government, giving a statement of proceedings under the "Industrial Disputes Investigation Act," from March 22nd, 1907, to February 15th, 1908.

The number of applications for Conciliation Boards during the period was 30, of which 15 were in connection with disputes at coal mines, and 3 at other mines; 8 were in connection with disputes on railways, 2 in connection with shipping, and 1 in connection with tramways. There was also one application from an industry not classified as a "public utility," viz., a cotton factory. The majority of the applications were from the workpeople.

* Including persons living in dwellings without windows (i.e., without "rooms" as defined above); of whom there was 25,959 at the Census of 1861, but only 130 at the Census of 1901.

In seven cases (including the cotton trade dispute) a strike or lock-out preceded the application for the formation of a Board of Conciliation; but in five cases this occurred soon after the passing of the Act, and the persons involved were apparently unaware that the Act applied to them. In only one case did a strike follow a reference of the dispute to investigation under the Act.

In four cases an agreement was arrived at between the parties before the Board was constituted; and in 11 cases the differences were adjusted, and an agreement concluded, before the Board. In two cases, though proceedings were taken under the present Act, an agreement was reached under other Conciliation Acts.

The number of disputes in connection with which the Boards of Conciliation published "recommendations" was eight; two of the "recommendations" being accompanied by minority reports. Only one of these eight "recommendations" was formally accepted by both parties: no strike ensued, however, in the other cases, except in the one mentioned above; and in that case work was eventually resumed on the conditions recommended in the majority report. In four of the remaining cases the "recommendations" of the Boards, though not formally accepted by one or both parties, served as a basis for a settlement between the parties themselves; and in two other cases the investigation is believed to have contributed towards the settlement of the dispute.

It is noteworthy that two of the settlements provided permanent machinery for the arrangement of differences between the parties themselves.

The Boards of Conciliation consisted in all cases of three members, of whom one was nominated by the employers and one by the workpeople. (In two cases they were nominated by the Minister of Labour, in default of a recommendation from the employers and from the workpeople respectively.) The chairman was appointed by the Minister, in nine cases on the recommendation of the other two members, and in 14 cases in default of such recommendation.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1881-1905.

THE Annual Report* of the United States Commissioner of Labour for the year 1906 gives the results of an investigation into labour disputes in the United States for the years 1901 to 1905 inclusive, together with summaries covering the twenty-five-year period from 1881 to 1905. Detailed figures for the years 1881-1900 are to be found in the three previous reports on the subject.

In the 25 years there were 38,303 disputes (including both strikes and lock-outs), affecting 9,529,434 persons (7,444,279 directly and 2,085,155 indirectly). Thus the average annual number of disputes and of persons affected were respectively 1,532 and 381,177. The following Table shows the number of disputes and the number of persons affected for each year of the period:—

Year.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Employees affected by Disputes.	Year.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Employees affected by Disputes.
1881	477	130,176	1895	1,255	407,188
1882	476	158,802	1896	1,066	248,838
1883	506	170,275	1897	1,110	416,154
1884	485	165,175	1898	1,098	263,219
1885	695	238,129	1899	1,838	431,889
1886	1,372	610,044	1900	1,839	567,719
1887	1,503	439,306	1901	3,012	563,843
1888	946	162,880	1902	3,240	691,507
1889	1,111	260,290	1903	3,648	787,834
1890	1,897	373,499	1904	2,419	573,815
1891	1,786	380,953	1905	2,186	302,434
1892	1,359	238,685			
1893	1,375	287,756	Total		
1894	1,404	690,044	1881-1905	38,303	9,529,434

* Twenty-first Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1906. Strikes and Lock-outs. Washington, 1907. Government Printing Office.

The years in which the greatest number of disputes occurred were 1902 and 1903, with 3,240 and 3,648 respectively. The number of persons affected in these years, viz., 691,507 and 787,834, were likewise the highest of the period. In 1904 and 1905 the figures decreased considerably; in 1904 there were 2,419 disputes, affecting 573,815 persons, and in 1905 only 2,186 disputes, affecting 302,434 persons. Compared with 1903 the number of disputes in 1905 showed a decrease of 40.1 per cent., and the number of persons affected a decrease of 61.6 per cent.

With regard to the distribution of the 9,529,434 persons affected by disputes during the 25 years, most of these were found in the States of Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois. In Pennsylvania there were 2,327,308, or 24.4 per cent. of the total; in New York 1,943,705, or 20.4 per cent.; and in Illinois 1,425,285, or 15.0 per cent.

The following Table groups by trades the number of persons affected by disputes for each of the years 1901-5, and for the period 1881-1905:—

Group of Trades.	Number of workpeople affected either directly or indirectly by disputes in					
	25 years 1881-1905.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Building Trades	1,329,461	71,875	105,891	201,414	99,343	61,707
Mining (including Gas and Coke Making & Quarrying) (including Stone Cutting)	2,796,079	132,410	237,777	111,125	135,601	87,281
Metal Trades (including Shipbuilding)	1,082,369	146,593	78,066	88,969	49,386	27,451
Textile Trades	617,253	18,638	58,364	67,133	33,003	15,688
Clothing Trades (including Laundry Work)	1,108,592	47,770	59,949	68,786	85,890	28,822
Transport	685,903	44,361	47,146	48,668	26,126	20,333
Timber, Woodworking and Furnishing	423,945	25,293	22,403	38,266	27,268	19,182
Food and Tobacco Trades	577,347	25,920	21,757	27,496	60,163	10,816
Skin and Leather Trades...	52,081	2,404	3,534	11,860	1,652	1,287
Earthenware, Glass and China Trades	293,599	13,623	15,461	21,839	18,306	7,632
Agriculture	13,227	187	355	1,575	1,500	—
Printing and Paper Trades	102,883	7,505	12,293	14,891	17,361	8,306
Other	425,885	27,264	28,511	85,782	17,881	13,839
Total	9,529,434	563,843	691,507	787,834	573,815	302,434

The groups of trades in which most persons were affected by disputes during the 25 years were the mining, with 2,796,079 persons, or 29.3 per cent. of the total; the building, with 1,329,461, or 14.0 per cent.; the clothing, with 1,108,592, or 11.6 per cent.; and the metal, with 1,082,369, or 11.4 per cent. During each of the five years 1901-5 more persons were affected by disputes in these groups of trades than by disputes in any other group.

As regards the causes of the strikes, the Report points out that in the 25 years the relative importance of certain of these causes has undergone a material change. Thus, whereas in 1881 demands for increase in wages formed the predominant cause, accounting for 63.6 per cent. of the strikers, while those for the recognition of Unions and Union rules accounted for only 2.6 per cent. in 1905 the latter cause accounted for 17.2 per cent. of the strikers, while the former cause accounted for only 32.7 per cent. In fact, the percentage of strikers for increased wages and for the recognition of Unions and Union rules respectively, though fluctuating from year to year during the period, showed in the first case a general downward tendency, and in the second case a general upward tendency. As regards the lock-outs, the predominant cause was the recognition of Unions and Union rules and of employers' organisations.

The results of all the disputes occurring during the 25 years show that the percentages of establishments in which disputes terminated in favour of the workpeople, in favour of the employers, and in compromises were as follows:—

Results.	Strikes.	Lock-outs.
In Favour of Workpeople	47.9	32.1
In Favour of Employers	36.8	57.2
Compromised	15.3	10.7

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS. LIST OF MEMBERS ELECTED.

THE persons named below have been duly returned, on behalf of the employees, as members of the Conciliation Boards on the Great Eastern and Midland Railways.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

Superintendent's Department.

London District.—Payne, William, signalman, Bow Junction; Dear, Charles, shunter, Temple Mills.
Cambridge District.—Edwards, William, acting guard, Cambridge; Drew, Charles H., passenger guard, Bishop's Stortford.
Ipswich District.—Kerry, Edwin James, signalman, Colchester; Wood, Edward, passenger guard, Witham.
Norwich District.—Manthorpe, Marston, relief signalman, Norwich Thorpe; Jones, William, goods guard, Norwich Thorpe.

Goods Department.

London District.—Bloxham, Thomas George, capstanman, Goodman's Yard; Lingard, Edward, horse driver, Blackwall.
Cambridge District.—Ogden, Charles, foreman, Whitemoor (March); Jackson, David, carman, Ardwick (Manchester).
Ipswich District.—Garnham, Henry Thomas, checker, Ipswich Goods; Rudkin, George, checker, St. Botolph's (Colchester).
Norwich District.—Osborne, Robert E., goods foreman, Lowestoft Central; Wade, Walter, scalesman, Norwich Thorpe.

Locomotive Department.

London District.—Thirtle, Robert, driver, Stratford; Goodwin, John, fireman, Stratford.
Cambridge District.—Sissen, Samuel, engine driver, Cambridge; Allen, Alfred, acting driver, Peterborough.
Ipswich District.—Pulham, Edward, engine driver, Ipswich; Fenning, Richard, fireman, Ipswich.
Norwich District.—Stone, George, train examiner, Norwich Thorpe; Hammond, Walter, acting driver, Norwich Thorpe.

Way and Works Department.

London District.—Bird, William E., foreman platelayer, Woolwich; Williams, Sydney Frederick, telegraph lineman's assistant, Stratford.
Cambridge District.—Langford, Frederick John, platelayer, Whittlesea; Cracknell, Charles, permanent way labourer, Cambridge.
Ipswich District.—Bell, John W., foreman platelayer, Maldon West; Cutting, Spencer, platelayer, Haughley.
Norwich District.—Etheridge, Thomas J., point cleaner, Norwich Thorpe; Watts, Samuel James, platelayer, Norwich Thorpe.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

Sectional Board No. 1.

Northern District.—Scott, Edwin, driver, Carlisle; Reed, Robert Learmouth, passed fireman, Normanton.
East Central District.—White, John Thomas, passed fireman, Toton; Loxstone, Charles, driver Toton.
West Central District.—Beardsley, Charles William W., driver, Grimesthorpe; Thornley, John Thomas, fireman, Heaton Mersey.
South Eastern District.—Woodley, William George, fireman, Kentish Town; Charleton, Henry Charles, driver, Kentish Town.
South Western District.—Faulkner, Albert George, passed fireman, Gloucester; Colwill, David, driver, Gurnos.

Sectional Board No. 2.

Northern District.—Greenfield, Harry, signalman, Shipley; Thompson, Henry, signalman, Swinton.
East Central District.—Mills, Matthew, signalman, Nottingham; Cooper, James Henry, signalman, Leicester.
West Central District.—Beswick, Ernest, signalman, Dore and Totley; Hemming, Thomas, signalman, Brightside.
South Eastern District.—Lazenby, Samuel, signalman, Kentish Town; Smith, John Edward, signalman, Bedford.
South Western District.—Cinderey, John, signalman, Saltley; Lewis, Laurence, signalman, Gurnos.

Sectional Board No. 3.

Northern District.—Thaxton, George, goods guard, Leeds; Watson, Joseph, head shunter, Carlisle.
East Central District.—Archer, William, goods guard, Toton Sidings; Bywater, Thomas William, shunter, Beeston Sidings.
West Central District.—Skuse, Frederick Charles, goods guard, Cheadle Sidings; Smith, Alfred Richard, foreman shunter, Alexandra and Langton, Liverpool.
South Eastern District.—Andrews, Jabez, goods guard, Brent Sidings, Cricklewood; Coles, Benjamin, goods guard, Wellingborough.

South Western District.—Kimber, Frank, goods guard, Lawley Street, Birmingham; Matlock, George, goods guard, Worcester.

Sectional Board No. 4.

Northern District.—Moore, Emanuel, ticket collector, Shipley; Aldham, Maurice Francis, parcels porter, Skipton.
East Central District.—Bacon, John Thomas, station porter, Westhouses and Blackwell; Hall, Enoch M., passenger guard, Burton-on-Trent.
West Central District.—Cramp, Concemore Thomas, passenger guard, Sheffield; Alfin, Henry, passenger guard, Liverpool Exchange.
South Eastern District.—Carter, William, passenger guard, Kentish Town; Butt, Arthur, ticket collector, Wellingborough.
South Western District.—Clark, Horace, passenger guard, Gloucester; Potter, James, passenger guard, Birmingham.

Sectional Board No. 5.

Northern District.—Saville, Alfred, ganger, Hunslet; Titterton, James, platelayer, Morecambe.
East Central District.—Gilbert, Charles, platelayer, Langley Mill; Scott, Herbert, ballast guard, Nottingham.
West Central District.—Rowen, John, platelayer, Derby; Marsland, Arthur, ganger, Hazelgrove.
South Eastern District.—Bailey, Thomas James, platelayer, West Hampstead; Loveday, Alfred Robert, second ganger, Camden Road.
South Western District.—Wager, Thomas, ganger, Bristol; Rainbow, Edward, ganger, Castle Bromwich.

Sectional Board No. 6.

Northern District.—Brassington, Isaac, goods checker, Hunslet Lane, Leeds; Suley, Barnett, drayman, Hunslet Lane, Leeds.
East Central District.—Halls, Walter, goods checker, Leicester; Turburville, John Giles, goods foreman, Ilkeston.
West Central District.—Rourke, Francis, carter, Ancoats; Jones, Samuel, loader, Ancoats.
South Eastern District.—Bryan, Joseph W., carman, St. Pancras; Jackson, George Arthur, goods checker, Somers Town.
South Western District.—Williams, Thomas, carman, St. Philip's, Bristol; Robinson, William Henry, goods checker, Lawley Street, Birmingham.

NEW SCHEME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

The following additional Scheme for the establishment of Conciliation Boards has been arranged, in accordance with the Agreement of November 6th, 1907:—

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.

For electoral purposes this line is divided into three geographical divisions, corresponding with those now adopted for traffic purposes, viz.:—

- (1) Eastern Division,
- (2) Central Division, and
- (3) Western Division.

The employees engaged in the manipulation of traffic are to be classified into seven grade groups as follows:—

- Grade Group No. 1, to include locomotive drivers, firemen, cleaners, and carriage and waggon outdoor staff.
- Grade Group No. 2, to include signalmen, train bookers, pointsmen, and gatemen.
- Grade Group No. 3, to include goods guards, goods shunters, and passenger shunters.
- Grade Group No. 4, to include passenger guards, passenger porters, ticket collectors, ticket examiners, excessmen, parcel porters, lampmen, and point cleaners.
- Grade Group No. 5, to include goods checkers, goods porters (permanent), goods extra porters (of over six months' consecutive service), loaders, sheeters, scalesmen, tonnage recorders, and number takers.
- Grade Group No. 6, to include carters, cart boys, parcel van men, parcel van boys, assistant van men, shunt horse drivers, shunt horse boys, hookers-on, chain boys, crane drivers, horse-keepers, ostlers, busmen, capstan men and capstan youths.
- Grade Group No. 7, to include platelayers, relayers, ballastmen, flag signalmen, and signal maintenance staff.

The employees in each of these seven grade groups will elect from amongst their number two representatives in each of the three geographical divisions for the purpose of serving upon seven Sectional Conciliation Boards, along with representatives of the company.

A Central Conciliation Board will be formed, consisting of 14 employees' representatives chosen from the seven

Sectional Conciliation Boards (two from each Board), and a number of representatives appointed by the company (not exceeding 14).

EARNINGS OF IRISH MIGRATORY LABOURERS IN 1907.

In the Second Report on the Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom, published by the Board of Trade (Cd. 2,376 of 1905), an account is given of Irish migratory labourers, a large number of whom go every year from Ireland to work on farms in certain counties of England and Scotland.* Some of these labourers "start as early as February, and take part in the ordinary work on farms, not returning until late in the autumn; but the majority do not start until June. They find employment during the summer and autumn at hoeing, haymaking, harvesting, and taking up potatoes and roots, and on dairy farms in parts of Cheshire they are engaged at milking. In this county Irishmen begin to come in February, and some stay until November or even December."

In the autumn of last year the Department addressed an inquiry to certain employers in England and Scotland respecting the earnings of Irish labourers of the class referred to, employed on their farms during the season of 1907. It has not been found practicable to summarise the information obtained owing to the variety in the periods of employment, conditions of work, and allowances of food, &c., on the different farms. The examples given below of amounts earned on certain farms may, however, prove interesting as illustrating the conditions under which the Irish labourers work in different counties.†

Northumberland.—An employer in Northumberland gives particulars respecting the employment of 5 Irishmen from the County of Mayo. These men worked from June 17th to August 15th, and together earned £65 2s. 10d. They were provided with sleeping accommodation in an outhouse and were given 12 cwts. of coal. During the season they worked for 2 days on a neighbouring farm, and there earned about £2 10s. between them. Including this amount, the average weekly cash earnings per man for the whole period was about 31s. 3d. On completing their engagement they returned direct to Ireland.

Durham.—On a farm near Chester-le-Street 4 men from the County of Mayo were employed from June 24th to July 18th. Their total cash earnings amounted to £13 5s. 4d., or an average of 18s. 1d. each per week, and in addition they were provided with sleeping accommodation in a granary and were given milk. They also had an allowance of beer when working hay. These men came direct from Ireland and sought other work in England after completing their engagements.

On a farm near Birtley 4 men from Mayo were employed, and their cash earnings amounted to £7 2s. 3d. each. They were provided with sleeping accommodation in a granary and were given tea. One man who had been working in a coal mine remained on the farm for harvest, but the other three who had come over direct from Ireland returned at the end of their engagement.

Lancashire.—An employer near Widnes gives particulars respecting 2 men from Mayo who were employed from June 24th to November 10th. Their total cash earnings amounted to £18 18s. each (or an average of 18s. 11d. per week). They were provided with sleeping accommodation, coals, &c., but found their own food. During hay and harvest time they were allowed 5 pints of ale per day. On completing their engagements one obtained employment at a copper works, while the other returned direct to Ireland.

Yorkshire.—On a farm near Hull 7 Irishmen from

* The Report on Irish Migratory Labourers issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland (Cd. 3,171 of 1907) states that "From the evidence obtained at various sources it appears that the number of migratory labourers who went to England and Scotland in 1906 was very similar to that of the preceding year, and may be estimated at approximately 23,000." The figures for 1907 are not yet available.

† It may be of interest to note that Irish labourers travelling from Westport to Liverpool via Dublin pay 12s. or 13s. for the single journey. The fare by b. at from Westport or Ballina to Glasgow is 5s. for the single journey.

Mayo were engaged. They were provided with sleeping accommodation in a corn granary, and were allowed beer. Their cash earnings while employed on this farm were as follows:—

	Total Cash Earnings.	Period of Employment.	Average Weekly Earnings.
1.	£ s. d. 11 1 0	August 6th to October 6th ...	£ s. d. 1 5 0
2.	11 1 0	" 6th to " 6th ...	1 5 0
3.	10 12 0	" 8th to " 5th ...	1 4 11
4.	10 6 0	" 11th to " 1st ...	1 8 1
5.	9 10 0	" 11th to " 5th ...	1 3 9
6.	9 14 0	" 11th to " 6th ...	1 4 3
7.	10 6 0	" 15th to " 6th ...	1 8 1

All these men worked at haymaking before commencing work on this farm, and on leaving they went to other farms in England for potato digging.

Another employer in Yorkshire gives particulars respecting the employment on 3 farms of 9 Irishmen from Mayo. Their total cash earnings amounted to £68 15s., or an average of 25s. 9d. per week for each man, and in addition they were all provided with sleeping accommodation in an outhouse or barn, and given lunch and beer. Each of them worked at hay harvesting in Lancashire before commencing work on these farms, and on terminating their engagements 2 returned to Ireland, while the others sought further employment in England.

Derbyshire.—On a farm near Derby 5 Irishmen from Mayo were employed for the hay harvest. Four of them received from 15s. to 16s. per week, and were provided with beds and food and drink. The other received 18s. per week and 10s. extra at harvest, but he received no allowances other than beer.

Cheshire.—One man from County Roscommon was employed on a farm in Cheshire from 24th June to 31st October. His total cash earnings amounted to £14 10s., or an average of 15s. 6d. per week, and in addition he received beer, and about half his food during the harvest, which lasted about 10 weeks.

Another employer in Cheshire had 6 labourers from County Sligo, to each of whom he paid 16s. per week till the end of June, and then 19s. per week and 6d. per hour for whatever overtime they made. All were given food at harvest time, and those who were engaged in milking were provided with dinners on Sundays.

Staffordshire.—On a farm in Staffordshire two men from Galway were employed from 24th June to 15th August. Their total cash earnings amounted to £6 each (or 15s. 8d. per week), and in addition they were provided with sleeping accommodation and food and drink. They afterwards went into Lincolnshire for the corn harvest.

Lincolnshire.—An employer in the Spilsby Union furnished particulars of the earnings of 20 Irish labourers who worked from August to October on his farm. Most of the men came from Sligo, and all of them had been haymaking in Yorkshire, Durham, or Lancashire before coming to him. The aggregate cash earnings of the 20 men amounted to £263 18s. 4d., which yields an average of £13 3s. 11d. per man, or, taking into account the aggregate number of days worked, 30s. per week per man. Nearly all of these returned direct to Ireland. They slept in a barn on straw, and were allowed fuel and about 18 gallons of beer each during the period referred to.

Another employer in Lincolnshire had 12 men from Roscommon working at potato picking on his farm from October 7th to 31st. Their total cash earnings amounted to £87 15s. 1½d., giving an average of 41s. 9d. each per week. These men were provided with sleeping accommodation and coal and potatoes.

Worcestershire.—On a farm near Evesham 5 Irishmen from Mayo were employed from June to October, and their cash earnings averaged about £1 per week. They were provided with sleeping accommodation in a small house and were given fuel free. The employer states that these men have come to him every summer—"some of them for 20 years." He remarks that "the men live

very cheaply and send most of their earnings home—as soon as they arrive they borrow money to send home and it is very rarely a man goes away without paying the money we advance to him."

Warwickshire.—Information respecting 7 men from County Mayo was received from 2 employers in Warwickshire. On one farm 6 men were employed and were paid at the rate of £1 per week with sleeping accommodation and fuel. On the other farm a man was paid 18s. a week for about 24 weeks with an extra allowance of £2 10s. He was also provided with sleeping accommodation and fuel and beer.

Scotland.—Returns have been received relating to 162 Irish labourers employed on 21 farms in Scotland. The majority of these men were from Donegal. The employers generally lodged them in a bothy or other building free of charge, and provided porridge and milk night and morning as well as some bread and beer during the day; also fuel. On a farm in the county of Wigtown 4 men were employed during the harvest of 5 weeks, their cash earnings amounting to £4 15s. each, or an average of 19s. per week.

An employer in Dumbartonshire gives particulars of the earnings of 10 men from County Donegal. Their aggregate cash earnings amounted to £197 2s., or an average of 16s. per man per week. These men came direct from Ireland and returned to their homes in October.

Seven men who had been working all the summer in Fife and Midlothian were employed on a farm in Berwickshire from September 9th. Four of them returned to Ireland on the 19th October, their cash earnings on this farm amounting to £6 18s. each (23s. per week). The other 3 men left on 26th October, and went to other employment in Scotland, their cash earnings amounting to £8 2s. 4d. each (23s. 2d. per week).

On another farm in Berwickshire 19 men were employed. Their cash earnings amounted to £90 12s., or an average of 18s. 8d. per man per week. Employment continued from September 11th to October 29th, during which time 10 of the men left to seek employment elsewhere; those who remained returned direct to Ireland.

Information has been received from 9 potato merchants in Scotland as to the employment of Irish labourers for potato lifting. These merchants employed about 592 persons (238 males and 354 females) in the season of 1907, and their total cash earnings are estimated at £10,570. Most of the parties of labourers arrived in Scotland about the middle of June and remained until the end of November. In addition to daily wages of 5s. per "grape" (two persons), they were provided with sleeping accommodation, and as many potatoes as they required for their own use. The potato merchants give voluntary testimony to the character of the Irish people in their employment. In one of the reports it is stated that the labourers have "done good work, always cheerful and ready to work." Another employer remarks that his squad were "extremely well behaved, no drunkenness or rioting," and that "earning money to send home is their principal object," while another states that "the class of labourers was fully up to the average, and gave us every satisfaction."

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

All emigrants sent out after April 15th, 1908, by British charitable societies, or by public funds, must obtain certificates from the Canadian emigration authorities, Charing Cross, London, that they are suitable settlers for Canada. All emigrants landing in Canada till the end of 1908 must possess 25 dols. at the time of landing (unless they have purchased tickets to Canada before March 28th last and are otherwise suitable), and must, in addition, in every

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

case, have money for their inland railway fares—unless they can satisfy the emigration officers at the time of landing that they are going to already assured employment immediately on arrival, or will be cared for by friends. Children, however, who are emigrated by Societies and sent to a receiving home in Canada, need not possess the 25 dols. Hundreds of miles of railway are under construction, and there is a large demand during the season for workers, such as permanent way men, trackmen, platelayers, pick and shovel men, navvies, &c.; but they must have £4 to pay their fares inland, at least as far as Winnipeg. No one, moreover, should emigrate before the middle of May in expectation of getting work on railway construction, and even then only strong adaptable men of the navy type are likely to be selected. There have been considerable numbers of men out of work during the winter at Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Berlin, Brantford, Winnipeg, and in British Columbia at Nelson, Vancouver, Victoria, and Nanaimo, and wages in the lumbering and some other trades were reduced. As the open season is now commencing, work is expected to be much more plentiful, but building and the manufacturing industries will probably be less busy than during last year, and the main demand is for farm labourers, railway navvies, and female servants. The steel and iron works at Sydney (Nova Scotia), and at Sault Ste. Marie have been busy, and employ hundreds of hands.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Free, assisted, or nominated passages are now being granted—mainly to farmers, farm labourers, and female servants—by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia. There is an excellent demand for members of these classes, and considerable numbers have already emigrated, especially to New South Wales. There is not much demand for miners, and no general demand for mechanics; though bricklayers, masons, carpenters, blacksmiths and wheelwrights have been wanted in South Australia and in a few country places in some other States. In New South Wales disputes as to wages in the timber mills affected many hundreds of workmen.

New Zealand.

Reduced passages from £10 a head are given to approved farmers, farm labourers and female servants, for whom there is a good demand. At Auckland the building, engineering, boot and clothing trades and carriage builders are busy. At New Plymouth there are openings for carpenters, painters and coach builders, and saddlers and blacksmiths are busy. At Wanganui all kinds of skilled and unskilled labour are in steady demand. At Palmerston North there is a demand for first-class navvies at 9s. a day, and for milkers at 20s. to 30s. a week with board. At Wellington competent workers are wanted in the building, boot, dressmaking, tailoring and furniture trades, and in the woollen mills. At Greymouth there are vacancies for boilermakers. At Christchurch the motor business is growing rapidly; female machinists are wanted in tailoring factories and woollen mills, and plasterers are scarce.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one should go to Cape Colony now in search of work. There is an excess of men in the building, engineering and other trades at Cape Town; but as some railway construction is being recommenced, there is a chance of some of the old hands being taken on again. At East London all branches of trade are dull. At Kimberley a considerable number of carpenters, bricklayers, painters and others are unable to obtain employment. There is no demand anywhere for white unskilled labourers.

Natal and Orange River Colony.—The supply of labour in Natal and the Orange River Colony is in excess of the demand.

Transvaal.—All assisted and reduced passages for emigrants to the Transvaal have been stopped. All persons are warned against going there in search of work. There is a large amount of distress and privation.

in Johannesburg, and many men have been out of employment for months. The Town Council is providing work—mostly for married men with families—on the Ferreira district drainage works, instead of employing Kaffirs. Kaffir labour is being supplanted as far as possible on the railways also, where several hundreds of white men (mostly married) are now being employed at the reduced wages of about £5 a month.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 97 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

FRANCE.

*Employment in February.**—Owing to an improvement in the weather conditions employment in the building trades was better. In the metal trades there was no change. Employment among carriage builders at Paris and porcelain workers at Limoges improved to some extent. In the textile trades there was a marked decline in most of the Nord centres, and in the Roanne district, the smaller centres of Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres; but employment continued satisfactory in the Vosges, the Ardennes and the Marne. Among silk-weavers in the Loire and the Lyons district there was considerable unemployment. Employment in the printing and bookbinding trades was satisfactory, especially in the provinces. There was much unemployment among diamond workers, tin box makers, and leather dressers. Employment improved for vineyard workers in the South of France and for woodcutters in the Centre.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in February were received by the French Labour Department from 1,101 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 233,804. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 10.6 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 10.9 per cent. in the previous month, and 9.3 per cent. in February, 1907.

*Coal Mining in February.**—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during February was 6.01, as compared with 5.84 in January, 1908, and 5.94 in February, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 97.17 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 2.66 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 9.11 and 90.86, and in February, 1907, 70.44 and 29.56.

*Labour Disputes in February.**—One hundred and eighteen disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in February, compared with 67 in the previous month and 69 in February, 1907. In 113 of the new disputes 7,452 workpeople took part, as compared with 3,776 workpeople who took part in 61 of the January disputes and 6,331 who took part in 55 of the disputes in February, 1907. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (54), textile (17), metal (13), and mining and quarrying (6). Of 110 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 16 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 65 in favour of the employers, while 29 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in February.—Ten instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred in February. In five cases Conciliation Committees were formed, and these succeeded in settling three disputes. In four cases the employers, and in one case both parties, declined to take part in conciliation proceedings.

* *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department).

*Regulation of Labour of Children, Young Persons and Women: New Decree as to Movement of Loads.**—In accordance with the French Factory Act of November 2nd, 1892, the maximum loads which might be carried, pulled or pushed by children, young persons or women were laid down in a decree of May 13th, 1893. The article of this decree which specified these maxima has now been repealed, and replaced by a decree dated March 7th, 1908. The following tabular statement gives a summary of the main provisions of the decree, and shows the maximum loads which may be moved either inside or outside a factory, workshop, or yard.

How Moved.	Maximum Loads which may be carried, pulled or pushed by children, young persons or women.						
	Lads or Boys.			Women or Girls.			
	Under 14.	14 or 15.	16 to 18.	Under 14.	14 or 15.	16 or 17.	18 or over.
	Kilogs.	Kilogs.	Kilogs.	Kilogs.	Kilogs.	Kilogs.	Kilogs.
Carried ...	10	15	20	5	8	10	25
Wheeled on railst... Barrows† ... 3 or 4-wheeled cartst 2-wheeled cartst ... Tricycles† ...	300 40 35 130 50	500 40 60 130 50	500 40 60 130 75	150 5 35 130 75	150 5 35 130 75	300 5 60 130 75	600 40 60 130 75

NOTE.—Kilogr.=2.2 lbs.

The movement of covered hand-wagons (*cabrouets*) is prohibited to women and girls of all ages, and to lads and boys under 18. No weight whatsoever is allowed to be transported by a woman within three weeks after her confinement.

Dispute in the Building Trades at Paris.§—A lock-out of masons in Paris commenced on April 5th, in which it is estimated that some 20,000 out of a total of 30,000 employed in the city were involved. A count taken by the Prefecture of Police showed that on April 6th work was suspended in 552 out of 746 yards. The principal reasons for the lock-out, as stated by the employers, were the waste and destruction of material by dissatisfied workmen, and the unwillingness of the Union men to work ten hours a day, or allow others to do so.

Permanent Commission on Unemployment.—A despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Paris, dated April 3rd, 1908, forwards the text of a Decree of March 31st, 1908, appointing a Commission to study means for attenuating unemployment arising from periodic economic depressions, more especially with reference to the possibility of public authorities arranging such a distribution of their work as might, at periods of acute industrial depression, neutralise to some extent the scarcity of work caused by those depressions in private industry. The Commission, which is a permanent advisory body attached to the Ministry of Labour, will meet at regular intervals, and consists of representatives of the various ministries concerned, members of Parliament, representatives of employers and workpeople engaged in private industry, and other persons "specially competent to deal with the matter."

GERMANY.‡

Employment in February.—The state of the labour market in February showed variable symptoms. On the one hand might be observed a further tendency to decline, especially in some of the greater industries, and on the other hand a certain revival of business incidental to the season, and arising out of the resumption of work in such trades as building, ready-made clothing, printing, &c. The situation was adversely affected by the fact that the Rhineland-Westphalian coal industry began to show signs of decline, which resulted in the working of short time. This was due on the one hand to the blowing-out of a number of blast furnaces and a certain restriction of output in iron and steel works, whereby the demand for industrial coal was greatly

* Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at Paris.

† Including weight of the carriage, barrow, cart, &c.

‡ Prohibited.

§ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 7th, from H.M. Ambassador at Paris.

|| *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department).

reduced, and on the other hand to the weakness of the demand for domestic coals owing to mild weather and high prices. Lignite mines, however, were well employed. Little change—and certainly no improvement—was observable in iron and steel works as compared with January, while in most branches of the engineering trades employment was still satisfactory, though not so good as a year ago. The electrical industry was still adequately supplied with orders, and on the whole the chemical trades showed no signs of decline. Employment was dull in the weaving industry of North and East Germany, but many of the South German weaving establishments were still fully occupied with old orders. Employment in the toymaking industry was unsatisfactory, and the same was true as regards the Elbe navigation and part of the brewing industry.

HOLLAND.*

Employment in February.—The slackness in employment in the building trades continued nearly everywhere, although with the approach of spring some slight recovery was noticeable. In the larger metal and engineering establishments and in ship-building employment continued satisfactory. The slackness in the textile trades continued, but in the garment-making trades it was less general than in January; in the boot and shoe trades, however, with local exceptions, there was no improvement. In the majority of branches of the woodworking trades employment was slack. In the printing trades employment continued satisfactory on the whole. In bulb culture the mild weather of February allowed field work to be commenced. Margarine makers were busy, owing to the high price of butter. Seasonal slackness continued in the brewing industry, and almost all distilleries were short of work.

Labour Disputes in February.—Eight strikes, 5 of which directly affected 231 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in February. Thirteen strikes came to an end during the same period, including 8 which had begun in previous months. The results were known in 10 cases. Three of these resulted in favour of the employers and 2 were compromised, while the results of 5 were indefinite. No lock-out commenced in February, but one which started in January was compromised during the month.

BELGIUM.†

Employment in February.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 7.3 per cent. of the 46,114 members of 219 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 12.0 per cent. in the previous month and 2.2 per cent. in February, 1907. Both in February, 1908, and in February, 1907, the percentage was increased by the exceptional degree of unemployment in the diamond industry. The comparison with a year ago is affected by the fact that a greater proportion of workpeople employed in the building trades are now included in the statistics than in 1907.

Labour Disputes in 1907.—The total number of disputes reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having terminated in 1907 was 224, of which 221 are described as strikes and 3 as lock-outs. By the strikes 45,001 workpeople were directly, and 18,250 indirectly, affected, while those locked-out numbered 16,224, giving a total of 79,475 workpeople affected by the disputes of the year. The groups of trades in which the greatest number of strikes took place and in which the largest number of strikers were involved were the textile (60 disputes, 7,961 strikers), metal (36 and 4,613), mining (26 and 9,626), building (18 and 3,024), quarrying (14 and 4,394), and transport (9 and 10,660). One of the three lock-outs of 1907 occurred in the transport trades, 16,000 persons being affected. Over 60 per cent. of the

* *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

disputes were caused by questions relating to wages, chiefly demands for an increase. In 123 cases the disputes terminated in favour of the employers 15,494 persons being directly involved in these; 51 disputes, involving 7,000 workpeople, terminated in favour of the workpeople; and 50 disputes, involving 38,731 workpeople, were compromised.

Labour Disputes in February.—Six strikes, affecting 206 workpeople, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in February. In addition to these, 2 strikes, commenced in previous months, and affecting 1,500 strikers, were also in progress during the month. The termination of 5 strikes was reported. Of these 2 (involving 147 strikers) ended in favour of the employers and 3 (involving 1,530 strikers) were compromised. A lock-out of 228 workpeople engaged in arms manufacture also commenced in February.

UNITED STATES.

Employment in Chicago Consular District.—H.M. Consul-General at Chicago, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated February 25th, stated that there had been little improvement in employment during the past month. Many firms had started work again, but with reduced staffs of workpeople; in nearly all establishments the question of a reduction of wages was discussed as a condition precedent to the resumption of work. Work in the building trades was slack, and from 40 to 60 per cent. of the carpenters in Chicago were unemployed. One smelting works was to be shut down, and notices of a reduction in wages were posted at another. A number of railways had also given notice of a reduction in wages.

Strike of Granite Cutters in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.—The British Acting-Consul at Boston, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated March 3rd, reports a strike of over 5,000 granite cutters, quarrymen and others employed in the granite industry in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, due to the failure of employers and trade unions to agree upon the provisions of a new wages scale and working agreement to replace that which terminated on February 29th. The Vermont Unions demanded a one-year's agreement at the present rate, viz., 1s. 6½d. per hour, but the employers insisted on a three years' contract. At Rhode Island the unions demanded a minimum rate of 1s. 8d. per hour in place of 1s. 6½d. received under the old agreement.

*Strike of Coal Miners in Central States.**—A conference of mineowners and workpeople was held at Indianapolis for the purpose of settling upon a new scale of wages to come into effect on April 1st, at the bituminous coal mines in the Central States of the United States. The employers demanded a reduction, but offered to continue the present scale pending a settlement, an offer which the miners' representatives refused. This has resulted in a strike of some 200,000 miners, and the closing of all the bituminous coal mines in Indiana and Illinois until a settlement can be reached.

Reduction in Wages in Cotton Trade, New England States.—H.M. Consul-General at New York, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated March 31st, reports that a 10 per cent. reduction in the wages of cotton operatives took place on that date in Lowell and other cities of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, and that a similar reduction in all mills of Rhode Island and in the remaining mills of New Hampshire was to take place on April 6th. It was estimated that these reductions would affect about 120,000 persons in all. The cause of the reductions is stated to be the dull state of the cotton goods market, which forced many mills to curtail production during the winter. It is estimated that since January 1st New England mills with some 10,000,000 spindles, out of a total of 15,000,000, have curtailed their production by an average of 20 to 25 per cent.

* Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Chicago, dated February 29th and 8th April.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN MARCH.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 535 Returns—462 from Employers, 67 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry was still good during March, but showed some decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,367 pits employing 639,545 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended March 21st, 1908, was 5.49 per week as compared with 5.56 in February, and 5.67 a year ago.

Of the 639,545 workpeople covered by the Returns 551,545 (86.2 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended March 21st, 1908, while 442,810 (69.2 per cent. of the whole) employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in March was in South Yorkshire (5.73), and the lowest in Fife (4.73).

The following Table shows the average number of days per week worked by the pits during the four weeks ended March 21st, 1908, together with the figures for similar periods in February, 1908, and March, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Mar., 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with	
		Mar. 21st, 1908.	Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Mar. 23rd, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	45,596	5.47	5.39	5.48	+ .08	- .01
Durham ...	135,474	5.45	5.47	5.38	- .02	- .13
Cumberland ...	7,956	5.49	5.62	5.71	- .13	- .22
South Yorkshire ...	66,658	5.73	5.80	5.90	- .07	- .17
West Yorkshire ...	24,188	5.42	5.47	5.67	- .05	- .25
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	57,478	5.47	5.60	5.66	- .13	- .19
Derbyshire ...	40,780	5.67	5.71	5.47	- .04	+ .20
Nottingham and Leicester ...	33,367	4.75	4.93	5.30	- .18	- .55
Staffordshire ...	28,146	5.65	5.73	5.77	- .08	- .12
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	10,408	5.56	5.66	5.74	- .10	- .18
Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,213	5.29	5.64	5.49	- .35	- .20
North Wales ...	11,206	5.57	5.71	5.84	- .14	- .27
South Wales and Mon. ...	138,956	5.72	5.83	5.92	- .11	- .20
ENGLAND AND WALES	588,316	5.33	5.61	5.69	- .08	- .16
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	27,345	5.04	5.05	5.47	- .02	- .43
The Lothians ...	4,589	4.92	5.25	5.71	- .33	- .79
Fife ...	18,800	4.73	4.83	5.43	- .10	- .70
SCOTLAND	50,734	4.91	4.99	5.48	- .08	- .47
IRELAND						
... ..	495	5.23	4.63	5.14	+ .54	+ .09
United Kingdom	639,545	5.49	5.66	5.67	- .07	- .18

Compared with a month ago there was a slight improvement in Northumberland, while all other districts in England and Wales showed decreases ranging from 0.02 of a day per week in Durham to 0.35 in Gloucester and Somerset. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in every district except Derbyshire, where there was an improvement amounting to 0.20 of a day per week. The decline was slightest in Northumberland (0.01 of a day per week), and greatest in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire (0.55 of a day per week) where a dispute affected employment. Employment in Scotland was fair. Compared with a month ago it showed a decline, which was greatest in the Lothians, where there was a decrease of 0.33 of a day per week. As compared with a year ago there was a more marked decline, the number of days worked per

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (short days being counted as fractions of days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

week showing decreases of 0.43, 0.79, and 0.70 in West Scotland, the Lothians, and Fife respectively.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 206,960 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the description "mixed." It will be seen that there was a decline of employment at pits producing all classes of coal compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Mar., 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with	
		Mar. 21st, 1908.	Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Mar. 23rd, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Anthracite ...	7,581	5.72	5.74	5.85	- .12	- .13
Coking ...	33,558	5.47	5.58	5.75	- .11	- .28
Gas ...	40,399	5.46	5.51	5.53	- .06	- .07
House ...	32,717	5.36	5.49	5.44	- .13	- .08
Manufacturing and Steam ...	268,333	5.53	5.60	5.76	- .07	- .23
Mixed ...	206,960	5.48	5.53	5.67	- .05	- .19
All Descriptions	639,545	5.49	5.66	5.67	- .07	- .18

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in March, 1908, amounted to 5,059,222 tons, or 166,347 tons more than in February, 1908, and 147,869 tons more than in March, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 88 Returns—73 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines. It was about the same as a year ago. In shale mines it continued good.

Employment was fair in tin and copper mines, and good in lead mines. It continued dull at quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended March 21st, 1908, the average number of days per week worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.76, as compared with 5.78 days a month ago, and 5.82 days a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Mar., 1908, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with	
		Mar. 21st, 1908.	Feb. 22nd, 1908.	Mar. 23rd, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland...	7,177	5.80	5.84	5.96	- .04	- .16
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,031	5.70	5.72	5.77	- .02	- .07
Scotland ...	709	5.68	5.60	5.63	+ .08	+ .05
Other Districts ...	2,481	5.80	5.77	5.61	+ .03	+ .19
All Districts	14,998	5.76	5.78	5.82	- .02	- .06

Of the total number of workpeople included in the Returns 85.1 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended March 21st, as compared with 87.0 per cent. a month ago, and 95.2 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,349 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended March 21st, as compared with 3,269 a month ago, and 3,244 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 21st, was 5.77, as compared with 5.83 days a month ago, and 5.75 days a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment was fair in Cornwall, but was not so good as a month ago.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in North Wales and in Derbyshire. In Weardale it had improved and was good.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment in North Wales continued slack, and much short time was worked: in the Ballachulish (Argyll) quarries it was fair.

Granite.—Employment on Dartmoor was moderate, and worse on the whole than a month ago; in Leicestershire it was good. In Aberdeenshire it continued dull, with short time.

Limestone.—In Cumberland employment was bad; in Weardale it was good. In Cleveland employment continued fairly good; in the Buxton district it was quiet generally, but improved towards the end of the month. In North Wales employment was fair. In the Plymouth district it was bad.

Other Stone.—With sandstone quarrymen in the North Wales district employment was fair. In the Forfarshire quarries it was bad, and worse than a month ago. It continued good in the road-material quarries at Cle Hill. With grindstone makers in the Rowsley district it was moderate. In the Gateshead district employment was fairly good. In the Bakewell chert quarries it continued good, and overtime was worked.

Settling.—In Scotland employment was dull generally and worse than a month ago. In North Wales it was bad; in Leicestershire it continued dull, with much short time. In the Cle Hill district it continued very quiet.

China Clay.—Employment in the St. Austell district, though still good, showed a decline as compared with a month ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during March, 1908, though still fair on the whole, showed a decline as compared with February. It was considerably worse than in March, 1907.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing over 22,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1908, was 294, as compared with 300 in February, 1908, and 348 in March, 1907. During March, 5 furnaces were blown out (1 each in Cumberland, Lancashire, Derbyshire, North Wales, and South Wales), and 1 was damped down (in Staffordshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with	
	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	78	78	89	...	- 11
Cumberland & Lancs.	26	28	38	- 2	- 12
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	15	15	17	...	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	36	37	43	- 1	- 7
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	27	...	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	34	35	36	- 1	- 2
S. Wales & Monmouth	12	13	17	- 1	- 5
Other districts ...	6	7	5	- 1	...
England & Wales	233	239	273	- 6	- 40
Scotland	61	61	75	...	- 14
Total	294	300	348	- 6	- 54

The Imports of iron ore in March, 1908, amounted to 497,835 tons, or 58,819 tons more than in February, 1908, but 112,574 tons less than in March, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in March, 1908, amounted to 115,601 tons, or 19,207 tons more than in February, 1908, but 51,813 tons less than in March, 1907.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 210 Returns—196 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 4 from Trade Unions; and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended March 21st, 1908, at the 196 iron and steel works from which Returns were received was 1.5 per cent. less than in the week ended February 22nd, 1908, and 10.0 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended March 21st, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 482,300, as compared with 489,500 a month ago, and 535,600 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.	
	In week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	In week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.
IRON:				
Puddling Forges ...	9,958	- 144	4,52	- 0.22
Rolling Mills ...	4,334	+ 165	4.21	- 0.37
Forging ...	7	- 88	5.99	- 0.02
Founding ...	1,944	+ 61	5.89	- 0.01
Other Departments ...	668	+ 16	5.92	- 0.01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,666	+ 34	5.41	- 0.11
Total, Iron ...	19,024	+ 125	4.74	- 0.24
STEEL:				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,381	- 205	5.81	- 0.02
Crucible Furnaces ...	550	- 28	4.62	+ 0.03
Bessemer Converters ...	1,451	- 127	5.10	+ 0.07
Rolling Mills ...	14,672	+ 197	5.11	+ 0.23
Forging and Pressing ...	2,986	+ 7	5.42	- 0.19
Founding ...	7,454	- 218	5.90	+ 0.01
Other Departments ...	6,857	+ 352	5.84	+ 0.03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,534	- 227	5.93	- 0.02
Total, Steel ...	49,885	- 239	5.58	+ 0.06
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):				
Rolling Mills ...	10,669	- 488	4.93	- 0.14
Forging and Pressing ...	791	+ 30	5.40	+ 0.02
Founding ...	744	+ 5	5.88	- 0.02
Other Departments ...	2,853	- 115	5.82	- 0.03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,259	- 54	5.72	...
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,316	- 621	5.33	- 0.07
Grand Total	90,225	- 746	5.35	- 0.03
Districts.				
Northumberland & Durham	10,504	- 723	5.08	- 0.01
Cleveland ...	7,917	+ 32	5.64	- 0.02
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	16,571	- 67	5.58	...
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,542	+ 7	5.39	- 0.01
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	8,595	- 983	5.00	- 0.07
Staffordshire ...	10,232	+ 290	5.32	- 0.04
Other Midland Counties ...	4,815	- 321	5.40	+ 0.07
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,249	+ 1,280	5.40	- 0.01
Total, England and Wales	73,426	- 485	5.36	- 0.01
Scotland	16,799	- 261	5.26	- 0.16
Total	90,225	- 746	5.35	- 0.03

The number of workpeople employed was greater than a month ago in the Wales and Monmouth and Staffordshire districts; in most other districts there was a decrease, which was greatest in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, and in the Northumberland and Durham districts. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease in the number of workpeople employed, amounting to 5.4 per cent., the decreases being most marked in the Northumberland and Durham, and Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire districts. In the

Staffordshire district, on the other hand, there was a considerable increase. As regards the departments, the steel rolling mills showed the greatest decrease as compared with March, 1907.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.35, as compared with 5.38 a month ago, and 5.61 a year ago. As compared with a month ago the decline was greatest in the iron rolling mills, and in the steel forging and pressing department; while there was an improvement in the Bessemer converting department, and in steel rolling mills. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in all districts and in nearly all departments, amounting on the whole to 0.26 of a shift. The districts most affected by the decline were Northumberland and Durham, and Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during March, 1908, amounted to 106,870 tons, or 33,639 tons more than in February, 1908, and 42,753 tons more than in March, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during March, 1908, amounted to 192,601 tons, or 8,239 tons more than in February, 1908, but 42,428 tons less than in March, 1907.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 57 Returns—55 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during March was fairly good, but not so good as either a month ago or a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 385 tinplate and 45 sheet mills were working at the end of March as compared with 385 and 51 respectively in February, 1908, and 386 and 57 in March, 1907.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working at the end of March, 1908, February, 1908, and March, 1907. The works to which these Returns relate are chiefly in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople.

	March, 1908.		February, 1908.		March, 1907.	
	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	75	385	75	385	75	386
Sheet Mills ...	7	45	8	51	9	57
Total ...	82	430	83	436	84	443

Exports.—The Table below shows the quantity of tinned plates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, exported during the months stated:—

	March, 1908.			February, 1908.			March, 1907.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
To United States ...	4,883	5,018	4,727	—	135	+	156	—	
British East Indies ...	3,816	4,223	6,146	—	407	—	2,330	—	
Germany ...	3,170	2,513	3,435	—	657	+	265	—	
France ...	2,429	2,434	2,114	—	5	+	315	—	
Netherlands ...	2,152	2,071	1,541	—	81	+	611	—	
Other Countries ...	20,940	13,375	14,677	—	7,565	+	5,963	—	
Total ...	37,390	29,624	32,940	—	7,766	+	4,450	—	

	March, 1908.			February, 1908.			March, 1907.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Total ...	4,526	5,013	5,886	—	487	—	1,060	—	

* It will be understood that in addition to the works returned as open, i.e., 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.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 957 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 906 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 43 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was dull on the whole, and adversely affected by the dispute on the North-East Coast. It was worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 153,652 show that at the end of March the percentage unemployed was 7.1, as compared with 5.9 a month ago, and 2.9 a year ago. As compared with a month ago nearly all districts showed an increase in the percentage unemployed, the principal change being on the North-East Coast, where the increase amounted to 7.4 per cent. Compared with a year ago the decline in employment affected every district. Apart from the North-East Coast, it was most marked in Scotland, especially amongst ironmoulders. In Yorkshire also the decline was very considerable.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Mar., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	4,944†	23.4†	16.0†	4.5	+ 7.4	+ 18.9
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,605	5.8	5.1	3.0	+ 0.7	+ 2.6
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,550	4.7	3.9	2.5	+ 0.8	+ 2.2
West Riding Towns ...	13,295	7.9	7.3	2.9	+ 0.6	+ 5.0
Hull and Lincolnshire District	4,032	7.2	4.6	1.5	+ 2.6	+ 5.7
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,453	6.2	4.9	1.6	+ 1.3	+ 4.6
Nottingham and Leicester District	4,293	5.6	5.5	3.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
London and Neighbouring District	12,301	5.8	6.1	4.8	- 0.3	+ 1.0
South Coast ...	4,295	3.5	2.5	2.2	+ 1.0	+ 1.3
South Wales and Bristol District	7,175	2.9	3.4	1.8	- 0.5	+ 1.1
Glasgow and District ...	16,183	14.3	12.3	3.8	+ 2.0	+ 10.5
East of Scotland ...	4,042	12.9	10.9	4.0	+ 2.0	+ 8.9
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,303	8.9	7.3	3.2	+ 1.6	+ 5.7
Other Districts ...	6,078	4.8	3.6	2.4	+ 1.2	+ 2.4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	153,652	7.1	5.9	2.9	+ 1.2	+ 4.2

On the North-East Coast employment was greatly affected by the strike of turners, fitters, and machinemen. In some of the railway plant, bridge, carriage, and motor works, however, employment was fairly good.

In Lancashire employment with textile machinery engineers continued good, with overtime. At general engineering shops it was moderate. With ironfounders employment was fair; with patternmakers, brassfounders, and boilermakers it was dull. Railway coachmakers at Manchester reported it as slack. At Barrow employment was fair, and better than a year ago.

In Yorkshire employment was dull generally, and considerably worse than a year ago. At Leeds the men at some works were on overtime, but short time was in operation at other works. Employment was fair at Lincoln, and good at Grantham.

Employment was dull on the whole at Birmingham and Coventry, and moderate in the Wolverhampton district. In the motor and cycle industries it was reported as fair. In the Potteries employment was dull. At Derby it was moderate generally, but good in railway works. At Nottingham it was good with lace machine makers, quiet with general engineers, and slack with ironfounders. At Leicester it was good with boot machinery makers, and moderate with general engineers. At Colchester and Ipswich employment was fair.

Employment continued dull generally in London; fair in the Royal Dockyards and at Southampton. With engineers at Plymouth it was bad. At Swindon it continued good with railway coachmakers, while engineers and boilermakers were still on short time. At Bristol employment was moderate. In South Wales it was fair on the whole.

In the Glasgow district employment was slack generally, worse than a month ago and much worse

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † Excluding members on strike.

than a year ago. At Renfrew and Dumbarton, however, employment was fair. At Edinburgh, Falkirk, and Aberdeen employment remained slack. At Dundee it was fair on the whole. It was dull at Belfast, Dublin and Cork.

The Imports of machinery in March, 1908, amounted to £527,858 as compared with £423,300 in February, 1908, and £445,168 in March, 1907; and the Exports for the same months to £2,754,475, £2,337,887, and £2,507,740 respectively.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 318 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 296 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was bad and continued to be greatly affected by the dispute on the North East Coast. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,195 members had 12,065 (or 21.5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 20.0 per cent. at the end of February, and 7.1 per cent. at the end of March 1907.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago there was a large increase in the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed on the Tyne and Tees and the Humber. Compared with a year ago there was also a considerable increase in the percentage unemployed on the Clyde. In the Mersey district there was an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Mar., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	7,188†	37.7†	31.4†	5.1	+ 6.3	+ 32.6
Tees ...	5,788†	40.2†	48.8†	5.6	- 8.6	+ 34.6
Wear and Hartlepool ...	4,434†	50.5†	44.4†	9.4	+ 6.1	+ 41.1
Humber ...	2,877	20.8	12.4	4.7	+ 8.4	+ 16.1
Thames and Medway ...	4,194	11.7	6.3	9.5	+ 5.4	+ 2.2
South Coast ...	4,183	4.2	2.9	3.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.8
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,633	16.6	10.8	10.0	+ 5.8	+ 6.6
Mersey ...	3,702	5.3	8.0	12.0	- 2.7	- 6.7
Clyde ...	13,370	18.1	18.9	7.3	- 0.8	+ 10.8
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	2,475	14.2	11.4	7.3	+ 2.8	+ 6.9
Belfast ...	1,861	6.8	6.5	4.4	+ 0.3	+ 2.4
Other Districts ...	3,030	5.3	5.6	9.1	- 0.3	- 3.9
United Kingdom ...	56,195	21.5	20.0	7.1	+ 1.5	+ 14.4

Employment on the Tyne and Tees was very bad, owing to the dispute. On the Wear it was also very bad. On the Humber it was bad with shipwrights and very bad with iron and steel shipbuilders.

On the Thames employment was moderate with shipwrights and slack with iron and steel shipbuilders. At the Royal Dockyards employment was fairly good. At Southampton it was moderate on yacht-work and fairly good on ship-work. At the Bristol Channel ports it was reported as fair, but a large proportion of Trade Union members were out of employment at the end of the month. On the Mersey employment was moderate.

In Scotland employment was slack, except with shipwrights at Dundee, who were fairly well employed. At Belfast employment was moderate on the whole. At Barrow it was moderate, and better than a year ago. At Lowestoft and Yarmouth it was fairly good.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's Returns for the quarter ended March, 1908, there was a decrease in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 101,329 tons gross (or 10.7 per cent.) as compared with December, 1907, and of 458,586 tons gross (or 35.1 per cent.) as compared with March, 1907. The figures relating to war vessels show an increase of 13,306 tons displacement as compared with the December quarter, and of 33,503 tons as compared with a year ago.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † Members on strike are excluded from these figures.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	Mar., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Mar., 1908.	Dec., 1907.	Mar., 1907.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde ...	295,827	311,157	455,278	37,697	37,935	51,000
Belfast ...	172,530	194,507	220,135	...	...	...
Tyne ...	174,037	201,871	242,170	82,680	82,759	88,018
Wear ...	61,993	61,075	193,158	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby	36,350	37,939	57,220	...	...	...
Middlesbro' and Stockton	43,165	61,263	80,375	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	10,190	12,880	3,950	44,870	37,200	18,920
Other Districts...	53,499	65,147	56,801	9,946	6,893	8,952
Royal Dockyards	...	...	...	108,830	103,930	81,650
Total ...	847,501	948,830	1,306,087	282,023	268,717	248,520

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with December, 1907, all the principal districts showed decreases, with the exception of the Wear, which showed little change.

As compared with a year ago, all the districts except the Barrow, Maryport and Workington district showed decreases. The decrease on the Wear amounted to nearly 70 per cent.

War Vessels.—Compared with both December, 1907, and March, 1907, there were increases at the Royal Dockyards, and in the Barrow, Maryport and Workington district. On the Clyde and the Tyne little change was shown as compared with last quarter, but as compared with March, 1907, there were decreases in both districts.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 89 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 62 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March remained slack on the whole, and was not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,978 had 3.6 per cent. out of work at the end of March, as compared with 3.7 per cent. at the end of February, and 3.2 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers at Birmingham, Manchester, London, Leeds and Exeter was bad; at Wolverhampton it was quiet; at Nottingham it continued fair. With bedstead makers at Birmingham employment continued bad.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment at Blackheath and Halesowen was generally fair; with nut and bolt makers at Darlaston it was good, at Birmingham it was moderate. With cut nail, wire nail, and shoe rivet makers at Birmingham it was fair.

Wire.—Employment was fairly good generally, but some short time was reported, and a decline was shown compared with last month.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trade was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It continued slack in the hollow-ware trade at Wolverhampton; at West Bromwich it was moderate. With hollow-ware stampers at Sheffield employment was bad.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—At Rotherham, Edinburgh, and Glasgow employment was fair.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield was on the whole fairly good, though it was still slack in the pen and pocket knife and razor trades. At Birmingham employment with edge tool makers was moderate; at Wednesbury it was slack. At Redditch employment in the needle trade, though still quiet, was better than a month ago, and with fishhook makers it was good.

Tubes.—Employment in South Wales continued good; in South Staffordshire it was slack, and worse than a month ago; at Birmingham it was quiet.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was slack. At Sheffield it was slack with railway spring fitters and vicemen; at Wednesbury it improved with railway axle, wheel, and spring makers. It was fair with spring makers at West Bromwich. With anvil and vice makers at Dudley employment continued slack.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was good at Sheffield, and fair, but not so good as a month ago, at Manchester. At Leeds it was fair with sheet metal workers. At Bolton it was fair, but not so good as a month ago; at Bury it continued quiet. With tinplate workers it was bad at Wolverhampton and Nottingham; quiet at Birmingham; fair at Edinburgh and Exeter. With ironplate workers at Dudley, Bilston and Wolverhampton it was slack, and worse than a month ago; it continued slack in the Lye district, and was very quiet at Birmingham. In London employment was bad, and worse than a year ago.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment in London remained bad. At Birmingham employment was bad with jewellers; with silversmiths and electroplaters it was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago; with Britannia metal workers it continued bad. At Sheffield employment with silversmiths was bad, and worse than a month ago, much short time being worked. At Coventry the watch trade continued quiet.

Farmers.—Employment continued fair generally, but was dull, and worse than a month ago, at Glasgow.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the value of cutlery and hardware imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cutlery	£ 11,074	£ 12,495	£ 15,444	+ 479	- 2,470
Hardware	92,094	89,227	77,200	+ 2,867	+ 14,894
Exports:—					
Cutlery	59,753	48,048	57,787	+ 2,705	- 7,934
Hardware	188,288	191,381	206,985	- 3,093	- 18,697
Implements and Tools...	178,383	159,188	187,056	+ 19,195	- 8,673

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 486 Returns—389 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 88 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning branch was still good, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the Weaving branch it was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Preparing	14,020	+ 1.4	- 0.3	12,787	+ 3.0	+ 0.6		
Spinning	25,177	- 1.4	- 0.8	24,368	- 3.8	- 1.3		
Weaving	58,108	+ 1.1	- 3.3	49,098	+ 2.2	- 9.8		
Other	10,640	+ 1.6	+ 0.4	12,145	+ 0.5	+ 1.5		
Departments not specified	16,012	+ 0.9	- 1.5	16,628	+ 0.6	- 2.7		
Total	123,957	- 0.7	- 1.9	115,026	- 2.0	- 5.1		

Districts.	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Ashton District	8,373	- 2.4	- 2.8	7,778	- 5.5	- 7.7		
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,238	- 0.9	+ 0.2	5,951	- 0.2	+ 3.0		
Oldham District	13,722	+ 0.7	- 2.0	14,891	+ 0.3	+ 2.6		
Bolton and Leigh	13,674	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	12,470	- 0.2	- 0.1		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	10,333	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	9,613	- 1.4	- 3.9		
Manchester District	8,859	- 0.3	- 1.9	6,471	+ 2.6	- 5.5		
Preson and Chorley	13,028	+ 0.2	- 1.6	10,338	- 0.9	- 12.4		
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	17,084	+ 3.1	+ 0.1	16,533	+ 4.0	- 2.3		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	15,107	- 0.4	- 2.1	16,138	- 0.6	- 9.4		
Other Lancashire Towns and Nelson	5,603	- 2.5	- 3.7	4,737	- 1.7	- 3.2		
Yorkshire Towns	5,418	- 0.1	- 0.4	4,877	- 3.4	- 5.9		
Other Districts	6,498	- 14.7	- 14.6	5,318	- 19.6	- 20.0		
Total	123,957	- 0.7	- 1.9	115,026	- 2.0	- 5.1		

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended March 21st was 123,957, being 0.7 per cent. less than a month ago and 1.9 per cent. less than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 5.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the preparing and spinning departments employment showed a decline as compared with a month ago, but was still good on the whole, although some short time was reported; there was a slight decline in the spinning branch compared with a year ago. In the weaving branch employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, short time or playing for warps being reported in most of the principal districts.

Compared with a month ago and a year ago, ten of the districts covered by the Returns showed a decline in the amount of wages paid, the decrease in the case of both periods being most marked in the miscellaneous group and in the Preston district.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of March the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.92 l. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.14 d. per lb. and the lowest 5.66 d. The price for February, 1908, was 6.20 l. per lb., and for March, 1907, 6.07 d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of April, 1908, the average price of "middling American" was 5.73 d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during March averaged 7.70 d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.18 d., and the lowest 7.16 d., per lb. The price for February, 1908, was 8.45 d. per lb., and for March, 1907, 11.10 d. per lb. For the period from April 1st to 10th, 1908, the average selling price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.42 d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 10th April, 1908, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 927,470 bales, as compared with 1,327,390 bales on 12th April, 1907.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns are given below for the months stated:—

Description of Cotton.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American	Bales. 261,359	Bales. 279,435	Bales. 285,139	Bales. - 18,095	Bales. - 23,800
Brazilian	2,601	3,778	11,677	- 1,177	- 9,076
East Indian	2,977	5,366	5,521	- 2,389	- 2,544
Egyptian	23,225	28,261	36,473	- 5,046	- 13,248
Miscellaneous	2,937	4,572	5,149	- 1,635	- 2,212
Total	291,079	321,412	343,959	- 23,333	- 50,880

Exports of Cotton Goods.

The Table below shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey	1,000 lbs. 16,795	1,000 lbs. 17,251	1,000 lbs. 15,802	+ 455	+ 991
Bleached and Dyed	3,225	2,553	2,705	+ 675	+ 523
Total	208,024	19,804	18,507	+ 220	+ 1,517
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached	1,000 yds. 156,254	1,000 yds. 166,359	1,000 yds. 183,057	- 10,105	- 31,803
Bleached	145,016	155,430	158,901	- 10,420	- 13,865
Printed	81,542	89,191	107,578	- 4,649	- 23,096
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	87,819	95,139	102,105	- 7,289	- 14,216
Total	473,701	506,125	556,641	- 32,424	- 82,940

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 442 Returns—395 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 30 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good, and was slightly worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 30,044 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Huddersfield district employment was fairly good; some mills were reported as working short time, and night work was not so frequent. In the Leeds district employment was fair, but not so good as a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district it continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. At Hawick and Galashiels employment showed little change; at Selkirk an improvement was reported.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting	661	- 0.5	+ 0.6	606	+ 4.8	- 4.3		
Spinning	6,194	+ 0.4	- 0.4	5,494	+ 0.7	- 1.9		
Weaving	12,764	+ 0.4	- 0.8	11,037	+ 3.3	+ 0.4		
Other Departments	8,652	+ 0.3	+ 1.5	8,930	+ 3.5	+ 0.9		
Unspecified	1,773	- 0.8	- 2.3	1,514	- 3.0	- 8.1		
Total	30,044	+ 0.3	- 0.1	27,599	+ 2.5	- 0.5		

Districts.	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Huddersfield District	5,366	+ 1.3	+ 1.3	5,679	+ 1.8	- 2.0		
Leeds District	3,725	- 0.2	- 2.7	3,409	+ 1.4	- 2.6		
Dewsbury & Batley District	5,264	- 0.7	- 3.9	5,126	+ 2.9	- 1.3		
Other Parts of West Riding	2,474	+ 1.5	+ 5.9	2,296	+ 2.6	+ 3.0		
Total, West Riding	16,829	+ 0.4	- 0.6	16,510	+ 2.2	- 1.2		
Scotland	7,591	- 0.4	- 0.7	6,876	+ 2.6	- 1.3		
Other Districts	5,624	+ 0.9	+ 2.2	4,513	+ 3.6	+ 3.4		
Total, Woollen	30,044	+ 0.3	- 0.1	27,599	+ 2.5	- 0.5		

Worsted Trade.

Employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 49,920 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting & Combing	5,615	+ 1.3	- 4.4	5,490	- 2.5	- 6.2		
Spinning	27,201	- 0.4	- 0.4	14,805	- 0.9	- 0.4		
Weaving	10,177	- 1.4	- 2.9	8,516	- 1.9	- 7.9		
Other Departments	5,845	+ 0.3	+ 2.2	5,694	+ 0.6	- 1.8		
Unspecified	1,081	- 1.5	+ 0.9	797	- 1.2	- 4.4		
Total	49,920	- 0.7	- 1.1	35,302	- 1.3	- 3.5		

Districts.	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Bradford District	25,227	- 1.2	- 2.5	17,689	- 2.1	- 4.9		
Keighley District	7,004	- 0.4	+ 2.5	4,953	- 1.8	- 1.2		
Halifax District	4,797	+ 0.3	- 1.6	3,100	+ 0.4	+ 1.1		
Huddersfield District	6,197	+ 1.0	- 2.1	5,550	+ 0.2	- 5.0		
Other Parts of West Riding	3,368	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	2,048	+ 0.2	- 2.5		
Total, West Riding	46,693	- 0.5	- 1.4	33,340	- 1.3	- 3.7		
Other Districts	3,227	- 2.2	+ 4.0	1,962	- 2.1	+ 0.2		
Total, Worsted	49,920	- 0.7	- 1.1	35,302	- 1.3	- 3.5		

In Bradford employment showed a decline in each branch, and was worse than a year ago. In the Keighley and Halifax districts employment was fair. In the Huddersfield district it was fairly good.

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

Prices of Raw Material.

	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogg	Pence per lb. 163	Pence per lb. 161	Pence per lb. 159
40's Crossbred tops	92	111	121
60's Super Botany tops	24	26	27
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogg	103-101	11-103	132-131
40's Crossbred tops	112-84	128-112	172
60's Super Botany tops	252-213	262-252	272

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of woollen and worsted yarns and piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS').					
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	58,133	51,295	75,977	+ 6,838	- 17,774
British Exports	1,554	1,457	2,792	+ 97	- 1,238
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	215	142	239	+ 73	- 14
Worsted	4,258	3,877	4,505	+ 381	- 248
Alpaca & Mohair	1,125	1,123	1,449	+ 2	- 324
Total, Yarn	5,598	5,142	6,193	+ 456	- 586
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	5,418				

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Belfast ...	16,665	+ 0.7	- 2.2	£ 8,346	- 7.0	- 22.1
Other Places in Ireland	15,758	- 1.0	- 2.7	7,452	- 3.9	- 15.8
Total, Ireland...	32,423	- 0.2	- 2.4	15,798	- 5.6	- 19.3
Fifehire ...	6,386	+ 0.3	- 6.3	3,647	+ 2.5	- 15.1
Other Places in Scotland	6,518	+ 1.1	- 2.5	4,461	+ 0.4	- 5.9
Total, Scotland	12,904	+ 0.7	- 4.4	8,108	+ 1.4	- 10.3
England ...	2,024	+ 1.5	- 0.4	1,236	+ 2.7	- 4.2
United Kingdom	47,351	+ 0.1	- 2.9	25,142	- 3.1	- 15.9

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	7,166	9,239	10,549	- 2,073	- 3,383
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	11,441	11,427	14,059	+ 14	- 2,618
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	115,358	122,735	186,753	- 7,377	- 71,395

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 37 Returns—35 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 18,693 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,693 workpeople covered by the Returns, 16,097 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with a month ago the spinning department showed a decline. Compared with a year ago the preparing and spinning departments showed an improvement, but the weaving department showed a decline.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing ...	4,378	- 0.1	+ 2.1	2,931	- 0.3	+ 3.8
Spinning ...	5,170	- 1.9	+ 0.4	3,211	- 2.9	+ 1.1
Weaving ...	6,183	- 0.6	+ 0.7	4,439	- 0.8	- 2.2
Other ...	2,012	- 1.2	+ 2.8	2,037	+ 0.6	+ 0.9
Not specified ...	950	+ 1.7	+ 2.7	689	+ 1.6	- 0.4
Total ...	18,693	- 0.8	+ 1.3	13,327	- 0.9	+ 0.4

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	27,289	18,593	40,796	+ 8,696	- 13,507
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	49,633	44,458	60,733	+ 5,175	- 11,100
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	99,639	108,368	131,641	- 8,679	- 31,912

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 104 Returns—97 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, slightly worse than a month ago and considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,075 workpeople in the week ended March 21st, and paying £8,002 in wages, showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 18.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was fair in the curtain branch and in the plain net branch; in the levers branch it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the Long Eaton district and in the West of England employment was bad, and much worse than a year ago. In Scotland employment on the whole was moderate, and slightly worse than a year ago.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Levers ...	2,362	- 4.0	- 14.0	2,283	- 3.2	- 41.5
Curtain ...	2,812	+ 0.8	+ 0.5	2,764	+ 0.4	+ 0.9
Plain Net ...	2,988	+ 0.7	+ 3.3	2,340	- 1.8	- 3.1
Others ...	911	- 1.0	- 8.8	515	- 3.3	- 18.1
Total ...	9,075	- 0.7	- 3.9	8,002	- 1.6	- 18.4

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of lace imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Silk Lace ...	£ 27,778	£ 23,860	£ 20,533	+ 3,918	+ 7,245
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	£ 366,900	£ 385,412	£ 444,904	- 18,512	- 78,004
Silk Lace ...	£ 8,370	£ 6,914	£ 8,250	+ 1,456	+ 620

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 108 Returns—101 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 17,551 workpeople, and paying £13,175 in wages in the week ended March 21st, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment on the whole was fair, at Hinckley and Loughborough it was moderate. At Nottingham employment with power frame knitters was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In Derbyshire it showed an improvement as compared with a month ago. With hand frame knitters generally it was fair. At Hawick and Selkirk it continued good, and was about the same as a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester ...	7,921	+ 0.1	+ 3.7	£ 6,226	+ 0.5	+ 2.1
Leicester Country District ...	2,433	+ 0.1	+ 0.7	1,888	+ 0.8	+ 2.8
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	4,082	- 0.1	- 0.3	2,969	+ 1.4	- 4.1
Scotland ...	2,183	+ 0.8	+ 1.4	1,549	+ 3.1	+ 1.3
Other Districts ...	932	+ 1.4	- 1.1	573	+ 1.6	- 0.3
Total, United Kingdom	17,551	+ 0.2	+ 2.5	13,175	+ 1.1	+ 0.5

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in March 1908, amounted to £41,006 and £143,296 respectively, as compared with £47,434 and £144,240 in February, 1908, and £38,063 and £115,069, in March 1907.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in March, 1908, amounted to £122,368 and £39,744, as compared with £139,370 and £41,591 in February, 1908, and £121,280 and £41,852 in March, 1907.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 56 Returns—53 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair generally; it showed an improvement compared with a month ago, but a decline compared with a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,524 workpeople, and paying £5,528 in wages on pay-day in the week ended March 21st, 1908, showed that, compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended March 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended March 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing ...	1,074	- 0.9	- 4.4	431	+ 10.2	- 2.5
Spinning ...	2,422	- 0.9	+ 0.4	1,773	+ 0.6	+ 2.4
Weaving ...	3,634	- 0.2	+ 0.9	2,307	+ 3.0	- 6.0
Other ...	1,073	+ 1.1	+ 1.7	816	+ 0.9	+ 5.8
Not specified ...	319	- 0.9	- 1.1	201	+ 4.7	+ 6.4
Total ...	8,524	- 0.2	- 0.7	5,528	+ 2.5	- 2.7

With spinners and throwsters employment was good at Macclesfield, and fair at Congleton and Leek. At Macclesfield it continued fair with powerloom weavers, bad with outside handloom weavers, and good with handloom weavers in factories. With trimming weavers it was fair at Leek, moderate at Congleton. At Congleton employment with dressers was fairly good. In the Bradford district it was fair on the whole. In the Eastern Counties employment, though still dull, showed some improvement as compared with a month ago.

Imports and Exports.—The table below shows the quantities of raw and manufactured silk imported and exported for the months stated.

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... Lbs	66,478	52,073	68,171	+ 14,405	- 1,693
Thrown Silk ... "	31,262	52,461	34,870	- 1,199	- 3,608
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	18,296	21,551	35,604	- 3,256	- 17,308
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	7,917,455	6,832,886	7,624,929	+ 1,084,569	+ 224,526
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs	4,518	3,481	1,486	+ 1,037	+ 3,032
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	96,202	69,610	117,944	+ 26,553	- 21,742
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	427,486	379,188	759,347	+ 48,298	- 332,361

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 35 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 24 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. About one half of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one quarter worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield and Leek.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; with calico printers' engravers it was good. In Glasgow it was bad with calico printers and engravers, and good with block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester employment was reported as fair for the season, although the majority of firms worked some short time. At Hinckley a decline was shown; at Loughborough employment showed an improvement and was fair. With dyers at Nottingham employment was fair; at Basford and Bulwell it was dull with bleachers, and fair with hosiery trimmers; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was not so good as a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago or a year ago. In Dundee it was quiet with bleachfield workers, fair with calender workers.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 134 Returns—97 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 33 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch was on the whole moderate. In the ready-made branch it continued fairly good, but, on the whole, was slightly worse than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during March showed the usual seasonal improvement, but was not so good as a year ago.

Firms paying £9,999 in wages to their workpeople during the four weeks ended March 21st showed an increase of 13.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as fair at Edinburgh and Belfast, improving at Liverpool and Dublin, bad at Glasgow.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment continued fairly good, but was slightly worse than a year ago. Firms employing 7,929 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended March 21st showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester was fair, and better than a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago. At Norwich it was fairly good. At Bristol it continued fair, and was slightly worse than a year ago. At Glasgow it was good, and better than a year ago.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in March, 1908, were valued at £264,336, as compared with £234,364 in February, 1908, and £321,120 in March, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same months at £389,354, £430,207 and £431,842 respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 514 Returns—496 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 7 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 63,732 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was good, and better than a year ago. At Northampton it continued good, and was better than a year ago; with army bootmakers in the country districts there was a further slight decline. At Bristol employment was fairly good, but slightly worse than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood it was slack, but better than a year ago. At Leeds it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed during week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
ENGLAND & WALES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
London	2,110	+ 2.1	- 1.6	2,447	+ 3.7	- 5.4		
Leicester	14,079	+ 0.9	+ 1.6	15,064	+ 2.5	+ 1.5		
Leicester Country District	2,795	...	- 3.9	2,688	- 1.2	- 6.5		
Northampton	9,417	- 0.7	+ 6.2	8,957	- 1.2	+ 5.7		
Northampton Country District	9,052	...	+ 3.2	8,282	- 3.3	+ 1.4		
Kettering	3,830	+ 1.3	- 1.0	3,906	+ 3.4	- 0.5		
Stafford & District...	2,614	+ 1.3	+ 1.6	2,392	+ 4.5	+ 7.1		
Norwich & District...	3,496	+ 0.6	- 2.7	2,935	- 0.7	- 3.5		
Bristol & District ...	2,081	+ 5.1	- 3.8	1,862	+ 1.6	+ 2.4		
Kingswood	1,789	- 1.3	+ 5.2	1,540	+ 0.2	+ 9.5		
Leeds & District ...	2,205	- 2.1	- 1.8	1,772	- 7.3	- 1.6		
Manchester & District	2,472	- 1.4	- 8.0	2,071	+ 0.6	- 18.2		
Birmingham & District	1,014	+ 0.9	- 3.0	799	...	- 4.5		
Other parts of England and Wales	2,589	- 0.7	...	2,218	- 1.5	+ 1.7		
ENGLAND & WALES	59,543	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	57,833	+ 0.2	+ 0.2		
SCOTLAND	3,031	+ 0.6	+ 7.9	3,747	+ 1.3	+ 9.4		
IRELAND	258	- 0.8	- 4.4	162	- 10.5	+ 8.5		
UNITED KINGDOM	63,732	+ 0.3	+ 1.3	61,742	+ 0.3	+ 0.7		

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported and exported for the months stated:—

Imports (less Re-Exports)	Quantity	Value	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
						Month ago.	Year ago.
						Dozen pairs	£
Imports (less Re-Exports)	Quantity	Value	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	Dozen pairs	£	24,516	23,370	25,183	+ 1,146	- 667
			80,207	72,875	91,012	+ 7,332	- 10,805
Exports (British and Irish)	Quantity	Value	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	Dozen pairs	£	87,938	89,241	84,410	- 1,303	+ 3,518
			195,295	195,832	190,127	+ 3,463	+ 9,668

NOTE.—For imports of hides and leather see under "Other Leather Trades," p. 119.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 15 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 11 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during March in the *Silk* hat branch was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the *Felt* hat branch it was fairly good, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 14.2, compared with 10.9 a month ago, and 6.0 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 1.7, compared with 2.1 a month ago and 2.0 a year ago. Employment at Denton and Stockport was good; in Warwickshire a good deal of short time was reported; on the whole, employment was slightly better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Dozens.	Dozens.
Imports:					
All kinds	33,362	30,242	44,652	+ 3,120	- 11,290
Exports:					
Felt	57,088	50,873	53,329	+ 6,215	+ 3,750
Straw	47,042	48,876	46,312	- 1,834	+ 750
Other Sorts	6,341	7,789	4,050	- 1,448	+ 2,291
Total	110,471	107,538	103,691	- 2,933	+ 6,780

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 195 Returns—190 from Employers, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London showed the usual seasonal improvement in the dressmaking trades, but was not so good as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades in London, and in the shirt and collar trade generally it was fair; in the corset trade it was good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,826 dressmakers in the week ended March 21st, showed an increase of 5.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 8.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. Court dressmakers, employing 1,403 workpeople in the week ended March 21st, showed an increase of 13.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Employment with milliners in the West-End showed a seasonal improvement, but was not so good as a year ago.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,926 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed a decrease in the demand for, and an increase in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was good; firms employing 1,849 workpeople in the week ended March 21st showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade continued fairly good.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers employing 6,748 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended March 21st, and paying £4,675 in wages, showed no change in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,164 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended March 21st, showed an increase of 6.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 46 Returns—31 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was quiet generally, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,601 had 6.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.6 per cent. in February, and 6.0 per cent. a year ago.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—Employment with skinners was bad in London and at Birmingham, quiet at Leeds. With curriers it was quiet generally, and bad in London and at Walsall. With leather workers generally it was quiet at Manchester, fair at Bolton, good at Bury and Wigan.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago, in London and at Walsall; with saddlers in Glasgow and Dublin it was fair.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment continued bad generally, but with fancy leather and morocco finishers in London it was fair. With portmanteau and trunk makers it was moderate in London, and bad at Manchester.

Imports and Exports.

The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, for the months stated:—

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				cwts.	cwts.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	21,053	25,957	40,410	- 4,904	- 19,357
Ditto, wet	49,932	78,407	39,199	- 28,475	+ 10,733
Total, hides, dry and wet	70,985	104,364	79,609	- 33,379	- 8,624
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	737,432	884,109	1,558,973	- 146,677	- 821,541
Sheep skins, (value) £	214,002	203,129	255,316	+ 10,873	- 41,314
Leather*	cwts. 87,770	cwts. 85,577	cwts. 84,726	+ 2,193	+ 3,044
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	38,181	37,238	46,762	+ 943	- 8,581

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 439 Returns—132 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 288 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good. Returns received from firms employing 21,780 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

* Includes hides tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheep skins tanned or dressed as leather.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

—	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of March, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
	
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,350	- 0.2	+ 3.2
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	2,002	+ 0.6	+ 5.9
Southern Counties	6,917	+ 0.8	+ 3.8
Scotland	5,774	+ 0.3	+ 2.1
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	20,943	+ 0.3	+ 3.3
Hand-made Paper	837	...	+ 0.1
Total	21,780	+ 0.3	+ 3.2

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade, with 1,908 members, had 1.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, the same percentage as at the end of February. The percentage unemployed a year ago was 2.3.

The **Imports** of paper in March, 1908, amounted to £540,591, as compared with £524,584 in February, 1908, and £499,771 in March, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same periods amounted to £205,580, £198,053, and £185,074, respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment with letterpress printers was fair, and better than a month ago, the improvement being most marked in London. With lithographic printers employment was dull, and worse than a month ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	
London	20,534	3.7	5.2	3.1	- 1.5	+ 0.6
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,279	4.1	4.4	3.3	- 0.3	+ 0.8
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,610	4.1	5.0	5.0	+ 0.9	- 0.9
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,437	3.0	2.7	2.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
West Midlands	2,498	4.4	4.5	3.5	- 0.1	+ 0.9
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,970	3.0	2.7	2.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
Scotland	5,636	3.9	3.9	2.8	...	+ 1.1
Ireland	2,479	8.9	8.3	5.2	+ 0.6	+ 3.7
United Kingdom	49,443	4.0	4.8	3.4	- 0.8	+ 0.6

London.—Employment was fair with letterpress printers, but slack with lithographic printers. It was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At the end of the month 3.7 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 5.2 per cent. at the end of February and 3.1 per cent. at the end of March, 1907.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers was fairly good, and rather better than a month ago, but at Glasgow, Aberdeen, Newcastle, Bristol and Cardiff it was dull. Lithographic artists were fairly well employed. With lithographic printers employment was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Electrotypers and stereotypers reported a decline in employment.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, and in London short time was commonly worked.

—	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	
London	3,603	7.4	7.4	5.9	...	+ 1.5
Other Districts	3,443	5.5	4.1	2.8	+ 1.4	+ 2.7
United Kingdom	7,046	6.4	5.8	4.4	+ 0.6	+ 2.0

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,728 Returns—816 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 857 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in March continued slack. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Returns from 754 firms employing 46,628 workpeople at the end of March are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 16.9 per cent. in London, and of 6.7 per cent. in the provinces.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London	9,232	8,837	11,143	6,283	6,037	7,555
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,352	2,405	2,831	2,024	1,903	2,579
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,555	3,394	3,823	3,378	2,864	3,147
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,526	2,559	2,508	1,904	1,952	2,074
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	3,261	3,043	3,109	1,770	1,797	2,230
England and Wales ...	20,926	20,238	23,474	13,359	14,553	17,584
Scotland	3,118	3,050	3,350	1,830	1,591	1,796
Ireland	712	730	881	974	1,156	879
United Kingdom ...	24,756	24,018	27,675	18,163	17,300	20,259
	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
London	566	576	642	16,081	15,460	19,340
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	542	545	632	4,918	4,833	6,041
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	880	870	939	7,813	7,128	7,909
Midland & Eastern Counties	320	320	350	4,780	4,831	4,932
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	530	525	595	8,861	8,365	9,934
England and Wales ...	2,838	2,836	3,158	39,123	37,627	44,166
Scotland	777	777	881	8,728	8,418	6,057
Ireland	94	90	93	1,780	1,976	1,833
United Kingdom ...	3,709	3,703	4,132	48,628	45,021	52,066

Employment was fair with painters. It was moderate with slaters, who reported a slight improvement compared with a year ago. In other branches employment was worse than a year ago.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of March was 8.8, as compared with 9.7 a month ago and 5.6 a year ago; and for plumbers, for the same dates, 12.8, 12.4, and 7.8 respectively.

London.—Employment remained slack generally. It was about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 10.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 10.5 per cent. a month ago and 5.5 per cent. in March, 1907. The percentages for plumbers were 17.5, 15.8, and 12.8 respectively.

Other Districts.—Employment remained slack in nearly all districts. It was better on the whole than a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

Masons and labourers at Hull, and bricklayers at Middlesbrough, were moderately well employed. At Sheffield employment was reported as worse than a month ago; and at Manchester bricklayers and carpenters reported a decline. Employment was moderate at Oldham and Burnley. Masons continued fairly well employed at Derby, Burton, Northampton and Cambridge. Bricklayers and carpenters at Nottingham reported a decline. At Cardiff employment was worse than a month ago. Masons at Glasgow and Aberdeen reported a decline. At Edinburgh bricklayers reported an improvement, and carpenters a decline, compared with both a month ago and a year ago. At Dundee employment was fair on the whole.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 186 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 151 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades continued bad. It was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,918 reported 7.1 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1908, as compared with 8.3 per cent. a month ago, and 3.4 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades continued bad. There was some improvement as compared with a month ago, but it was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.9 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1908, as compared with 11.4 per cent. a month ago, and 3.4 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in March, 1908, were valued at £53,279, as compared with £50,061 in February, 1908, and £42,985 in March, 1907, and the Exports for the same periods at £42,050, £51,210, and £67,130, respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodworking machinists continued bad generally. It was rather worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 7.8 per cent. a month ago and 4.2 per cent. a year ago.

Imports.—The Table below shows the quantities of hewn and sawn timber, and the values of house frames, &c., imported for the months stated.

Description.	Quantity.					Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.	£	£
Timber, hewn	43,528	25,009	27,667	+ 18,519	+ 13,861	134,695	210,544
" sawn	134,695	126,771	136,749	+ 7,924	- 2,054		
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	20,916	13,977	19,847	+ 6,939	+ 1,069		

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was quiet generally. It was, however, fair at Hull, Liverpool and Dublin.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachbuilders was moderate. It was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. At Coventry it was fair; at Belfast fairly good; at Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham there was some improvement as compared with the previous month. Trade Unions reported 6.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.9 per cent. a month ago and 2.4 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was fair, but showed a decline as compared both with a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 4.0 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 3.4 per cent. a month ago and 3.2 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was bad generally, but fair at Belfast. With basket-makers it was bad.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in March, 1908, were valued at £31,280, as compared with £29,000 in February, 1908, and £30,826 in March, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £15,187, £15,502, and £15,156 respectively.

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 31 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued bad, much short time being worked.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was moderate; it was also moderate at Swadlincote and in Scotland; in Devonshire and at Newcastle-on-Tyne it was fair. With earthenware makers in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district employment showed a decline. With insulator turners and throwers in the Potteries it continued bad; packers worked only five days per week; and engravers also reported employment as bad. Some improvement was shown in the sanitary, rockingham, and jet trades. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was good at Manchester and Gateshead; and dull at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was good at Oldham and in South Wales and Monmouthshire; fairly good at Wrexham and Bedford; moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district; quiet at Ruabon and in Devonshire; slack at Sheffield and in the Eastern Counties; bad at Birmingham, Peterborough, and Nottingham; dull in Staffordshire and Shropshire.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in March, 1908, were valued at £82,076, as compared with £78,534 in February, 1908, and £85,111 in March, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £209,680, £211,010 and £218,140, respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 94 Returns—64 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 19 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the glass trades was fairly good on the whole, but not so good as either a month ago or a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 7,763 workpeople in the week ended March 21st, and paying £9,250 in wages, showed a decrease of 2.4 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. The decline was entirely in the glass bottle branch.

Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 1.9 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the decline being almost entirely in Lancashire and the North of England.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Mar. 21st, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
Glass Bottle	5,317	- 3.8	- 1.4	6,586	- 7.0	- 1.0		
Plate Glass	191	+ 6.1	+ 4.4	196	+ 2.1	- 1.0		
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,885	+ 0.3	- 2.1	2,057	+ 3.3	- 1.6		
Other Branches ...	370	- 0.5	- 9.5	411	+ 4.8	- 7.4		
Total	7,763	- 2.4	- 1.9	9,250	- 4.3	- 1.4		
Districts.								
North of England	907	- 1.9	- 7.4	947	+ 4.5	- 10.8		
Yorkshire	4,438	- 1.7	+ 0.2	5,476	- 2.5	- 0.5		
Lancashire	654	- 13.8	- 18.8	722	- 8.4	- 18.0		
Worcester and Warwick	656	+ 0.5	+ 3.5	820	+ 3.3	+ 8.2		
Scotland	787	+ 0.8	+ 6.9	971	+ 2.3	+ 13.8		
Other parts of the United Kingdom	321	+ 0.3	- 2.4	314	+ 2.3	- 3.7		
Total	7,763	- 2.4	- 1.9	9,250	- 4.3	- 1.4		

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Bristol and fairly good at Leeds; fair at Wakefield, at Barnsley, and in Scotland; moderate in Lancashire and the North of England; dull at Castleford and Dublin. With medical glass bottle makers employment was good at Sheffield and Rotherham and fair at Leeds. Employment with flint glass makers was good in Scotland, and

fairly good on the whole in England. With cutters it was fair; at Stourbridge and Wordsley it was fairly good. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was bad; with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it was fair. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment continued bad, short time being general.

Imports and Exports

Description.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	100,485	124,033	105,174	- 23,548	- 4,689
Plate	25,070	35,275	39,567	- 9,305	- 13,597
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	56,866	57,370	62,538	- 504	- 5,972
Manufactures, other sorts...	445	873	975	- 428	- 550
Bottles	148,944	131,748	148,143	+ 17,196	+ 801
Exports:					
Plate	13,784	10,045	9,831	+ 3,759	+ 3,953
Flint	4,151	4,195	6,481	- 44	- 2,330
Manufactures, other sorts ...	39,613	28,470	31,652	+ 11,153	+ 7,971
Bottles	64,085	65,808	60,184	- 1,723	+ 3,901

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 215 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

EMPLOYMENT was generally fair with farm labourers in March. In most districts wet weather caused a stoppage of outdoor work for a few days, and some day labourers lost a little time. The supply of this class of men generally speaking was quite sufficient for requirements.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Northumberland report that farm labourers were in regular employment during March, and that the supply of day labourers was equal to the demand. In Durham stormy weather hindered sowing at the commencement of the month. A correspondent states that at the Newcastle hirings men for permanent situations, to be entered at May-day, were in good demand. In Cumberland and Westmorland some time was lost owing to storms of snow and rain, but work was plentiful, turnip cutting, threshing, draining, and fence repairing affording ample occupation for day labourers. A correspondent in the Cocker mouth Union (Cumberland) reports that men for permanent situations were plentiful. Employment was fairly regular in Lancashire and Yorkshire, but the inclement weather somewhat affected outdoor work at the commencement of March. Day labourers were employed in threshing, potato sorting, hedging, and assisting to feed stock. In the Bridlington Union (Yorkshire) day labourers were scarce owing to public works in the district.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire and Derbyshire rain interfered with outdoor work to some extent, but employment was plentiful. In Nottinghamshire threshing, hedging, and ditching afforded fair employment to day labourers, and the supply of this class of men was equal to the demand. In the Basford Union a scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported. Employment was fair generally in Leicestershire, but wet weather in the latter part of the month caused some day labourers to lose time. In the Melton Mowbray Union the supply of men for permanent situations was reported to be short of the demand. In Staffordshire and Shropshire work was plentiful, but wet weather caused some loss of time. The supply of day labourers was equal to requirements. In Worcestershire and Warwickshire little time was lost, and day labourers were fairly well employed in threshing, hedging and ditching and feeding stock. A scarcity of men to attend on stock was reported from the Shipston Union (Worcestershire). In Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire the wet weather adversely affected employment, and some time was lost on outdoor work. Generally speaking there was not much demand for day labourers. The

same conditions were reported with regard to *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire*.

Eastern Counties.—In *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire* wet weather hindered the sowing of spring corn and other outdoor work. The supply of day labourers was generally adequate. Work was plentiful in *Lincolnshire*, and in some Unions a scarcity of day labourers was reported. A full supply of men engaging for permanent situations at May-day was reported from the Grimsby Union. In *Norfolk* the supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand, and employment was not greatly interfered with by wet weather. In *Suffolk* and *Essex* outdoor work was somewhat hindered by the stormy weather, and day labourers were not in much demand. The supply of men for permanent situations was generally sufficient.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Correspondents in *Kent* report that regular men were in fairly constant employment, but that day labourers lost a little time owing to rain. The supply of the latter class of labour was in excess of requirements. In *Surrey* and *Sussex* similar conditions were reported. A scarcity of men for situations as carters and stockmen was reported from certain Unions. The unsettled weather caused some loss of time in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire*, where extra men were not much in demand. A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported in the Andover Union (*Hampshire*). Employment in *Wiltshire* was fair on the whole, and day labourers were employed in threshing, ground dressing, hedging, and ditching. A scarcity of men for tending stock was reported in the Mere and Chippenham Unions. In *Dorsetshire* wet weather delayed threshing and spring sowings to some extent, but day labourers were fairly well employed. In *Somersetshire* employment was fairly regular, and the supply of day labourers was adequate. In *Herefordshire* and *Gloucestershire* some little time was lost through rain, and the demand for day labourers was moderate. Some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from *Devonshire*. Day labourers were fairly well employed, and the supply was rather better than a year ago. In *Cornwall* the supply of labour was generally equal to requirements. In both counties some time was lost through wet weather.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 136 Returns—116 from Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was moderate in London during March, better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At the South Wales ports it continued good; at other ports it was quiet on the whole.

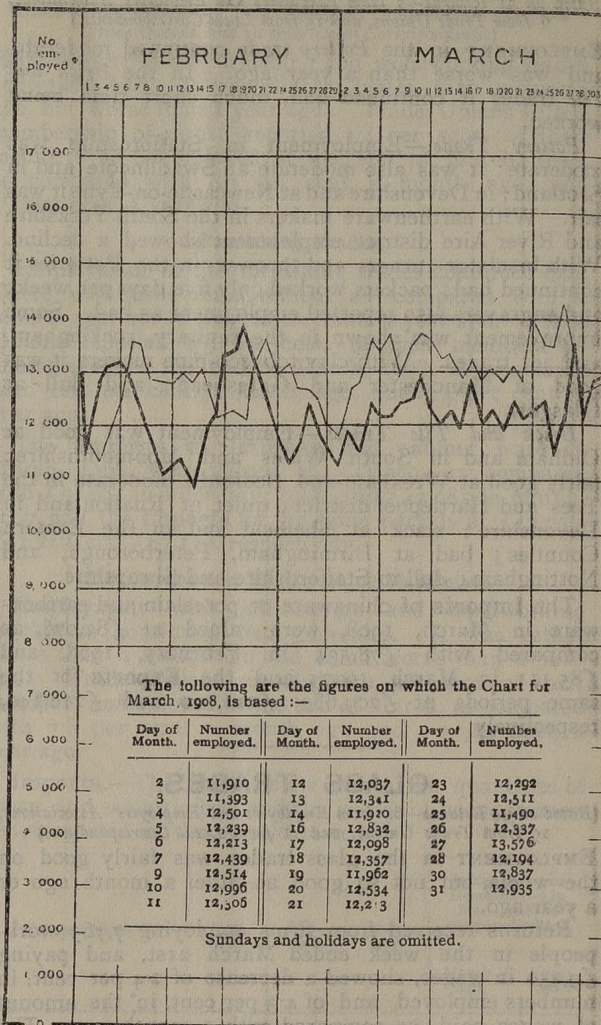
London.*—Employment generally was moderate during March, better than a month ago, but not so good as in March, 1907. During the last two weeks an improvement took place due to the wool sales. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended March 28th was 12,300, an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 6.2 per cent. compared with March, 1907. The daily numbers in March ranged from 11,393 on the 3rd to 13,576 on the 27th. During the corresponding month of 1907 the numbers ranged from 11,811 on the 2nd to 14,312 on the 28th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Mar. 7th	4,070	2,309	6,379	5,737	12,116
" " 14th	4,179	2,234	6,413	5,939	12,352
" " 21st	4,220	2,340	6,560	5,767	12,327
" " 28th	4,518	2,133	6,653	5,747	12,400
Average for 4 weeks ended Mar. 28th, 1908	4,247	2,256	6,503	5,797	12,300
Average for Feb., 1908	3,988	2,468	6,456	5,784	12,240
Average for Mar., 1907	4,122	2,749	6,871	6,239	13,110

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 111 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of February and March, 1908. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1907, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1908, and the thin curve to 1907.]



The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,100 during March, 1908, as compared with 1,007 in the previous month, and 1,222 in March, 1907.

At *Liverpool* employment at the South Docks was slack; at the North Docks it was bad, and worse than a month ago. Quay and railway carters, however, continued fairly well employed.*

Other Ports.—With dock and quay labourers on both the Tyne and the Wear employment was fair, and better than a month ago. With trimmers and teamers on the Tyne it was moderate; with watermen it was quiet; at the Hartlepoons it continued slack, and at Middlesbrough moderate. It was also moderate with riverside labourers in the Tees and Hartlepool district. At *Hull*, *Grimsby* and *Goole* employment was bad with dock labourers, and worse than a month ago; it was also bad with coal porters. Employment was good at *Harwich* and *Lynn*, fair at *Ipswich*, and dull at *Yarmouth* and *Lowestoft*. General dock labour was quiet at *Plymouth*, bad at *Bristol*, good at the South Wales ports, and moderate at *Manchester*. At *Leith* dock labourers and coal porters were fairly well employed, but there was a decline as compared with a month ago. An improvement was reported at *Dundee*. At *Aberdeen* employment was dull. It was also dull at *Dublin* and *Belfast*.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 15 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in March, 1908, showed a decrease in both quantity and value as compared with March, 1907.

Employment at the principal ports during March continued moderate generally. At *Yarmouth* employment was fair with fishermen, moderate with fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. At *Grimsby* employment was good generally, and better than a month ago; it was moderate at *Lowestoft*, and fair at *Hull*. At *Aberdeen* and *Peterhead* employment was good on the whole; at *Fraserburgh* it was moderate with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers; at *Macduff* it was moderate, but rather better than in February. Off the south-west coasts of England and Ireland fishing was much interrupted by stormy weather.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed during March, 1908 and 1907:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Mar., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Mar., 1908.	Mar., 1907.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 793,204	Cwts. 771,861	£ 560,961	£ 654,737
Scotland	345,635	335,476	141,510	154,069
Ireland	20,428	16,553	13,189	12,490
Total	1,159,267	1,123,890	715,660	821,296
Shell Fish	—	—	29,584	32,354
Total Value	—	—	745,244	853,650

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in March, 1908, were valued at £49,720, as compared with £101,947 in February, 1908, and £61,920 in March, 1907.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MARCH.

(Based on 27 Returns received through the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during March 38,236 seamen*, of whom 4,197 (or 11.0 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with March, 1907, there was a net decrease of 1,029, the greatest increase occurring at *Southampton*, and the greatest decreases at *Liverpool* and at *Glasgow*.

For the three months ended March, 1908, the total number of seamen* shipped was 112,626, a decrease of 300 as compared with the corresponding period of 1907. The greatest increase was again at *Southampton*, and the greatest decreases at *Cardiff* and at *Glasgow*.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	March,			January-March,		
	1907.	1908.	Incr. (+) or Decr. (-) in 1908.	1907.	1908.	Incr. (+) or Decr. (-) in 1908.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,388	2,113	- 275	7,103	7,069	- 34
Sunderland	278	502	+ 224	1,154	1,223	+ 69
Middlesbrough	316	191	- 125	1,099	838	- 261
Hull	1,249	954	- 295	3,824	3,123	- 701
Grimsby	23	51	+ 28	136	188	+ 52
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	651	551	- 100	1,895	1,791	- 104
Newport, Mon.	794	1,234	+ 440	2,538	2,905	+ 367
Cardiff	5,083	4,929	- 154	16,210	14,252	- 1,958
Swansea	375	278	- 97	1,365	1,050	- 315
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	15,124	13,424	- 1,700	40,682	39,922	- 760
London	6,028	6,359	+ 331	17,204	17,632	+ 428
Southampton	2,397	4,108	+ 1,711	7,410	12,333	+ 4,923
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	325	368	+ 43	1,276	950	- 326
Kirkcaldy, Methil	221	172	- 49	616	385	- 231
Grangemouth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	3,751	2,654	- 1,097	9,632	7,921	- 1,711
IRELAND.						
Dublin	60	39	- 21	220	159	- 61
Belfast	202	299	+ 97	741	905	+ 164
Total	39,265	38,236	- 1,029	112,926	112,626	- 300

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

† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

§ Revised figure.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) **Workmen's Compensation Acts.**

WHAT IS A FACTORY? WET DOCK. WHO ARE UNDERTAKERS?

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, applied only to certain employments, amongst which is employment by the "undertakers," on, in, or about a "factory."

A "factory" is defined to include a "dock"; and an "undertaker" is defined in the case of a factory to mean the occupier thereof.

A foreman engineer was employed by a company which undertook repairs to ships. In February, 1905, he was employed in his ordinary duties upon a steamship lying afloat in a wet dock, when he met with an accident which incapacitated him for several months.

He claimed compensation under the Act, but his claim was disallowed by the County Court Judge on the ground that his employment was not one to which the Act applied. The claimant appealed against this decision to the Court of Appeal, but was unsuccessful. He appealed further to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords dismissed the appeal, holding that the employers were not in use or occupation of a "factory," and were not "undertakers."—*Morgan v. Tydvil Engineering and Ship Repairing Company, House of Lords, March 6th, 1908.*

AGREEMENT AS TO COMPENSATION: AGREEMENT TO EMPLOY: DISMISSAL OF WORKMAN: ACTION AT LAW.

When injury is caused by negligence, nothing in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, affects the civil liability of an employer, but the workman has an option either to claim compensation under the Act or to pursue his remedy at law; but the employer is not liable to pay compensation both independently of and also under the Act.

A fireman in the employment of a manufacturing company received injuries to his eyes while examining a boiler. He agreed with his employers that he should be paid a lump sum of £90 in full satisfaction of his claim under the Act, and that the employers were to give him regular work at the weekly wage of 23s. per week. This agreement was duly recorded under the provisions of the Act. Under this agreement the injured man worked for some time, but ultimately the company dismissed him for refusing to obey orders.

The injured workman then brought an action at Common Law for damages in respect of his injuries, against the company. It was held however that the workman had elected to take his remedy under the Act; and that having done so, he could not be allowed to throw over the recorded agreement. As to the terms of the agreement, although the company bound themselves to give the workman employment, they did not bind themselves to continue that employment whatever might happen. The action therefore could not succeed.—*Laurie v. James Brown & Company, Ltd., Court of Session, March 6th, 1908.*

CONTRACTING OUT: SCHEME CERTIFIED UNDER THE ACT OF 1897 NOT RE-CERTIFIED.

Where the Registrar of Friendly Societies certifies that a scheme of compensation for the workmen of an employer provides scales of compensation not less favourable to the workmen and their dependants than the corresponding scales contained in the Act; and that where the scheme provides for contributions by the workmen, the benefits conferred are at least equivalent to those contributions, in addition to the benefits to which the workmen would have been entitled under the Act; and that a majority of the workmen are in favour of the scheme, the employer may, while the certificate is in force, contract with any of his workmen that the provisions of the scheme shall be substituted for the provisions of the Act; and thereupon the employer is only liable in accordance with the scheme. A scheme under the Act of 1897, in force at the commencement of the Act of 1906, if re-certified by the Registrar is effective as if it were a scheme under the Act of 1906. If any such scheme had not been so re-certified before the expiration of six months from the commencement of the Act of 1906 (i.e., January 1st, 1907), the old certificate became revoked.

A workman was employed by a shipbuilding company, and on entering the employment in August, 1907, he agreed to accept compensation under a scheme. The scale of compensation under this scheme had been certified under the Act of 1897, but not under the Act of 1906. Soon after entering upon the employment the man was injured and claimed compensation under the Act. The Sheriff-Substitute, however, held that he had validly contracted out of the Act and was not entitled to compensation under the Act.

On Appeal the Court of Session over-ruled this decision, on the ground that the scheme was no longer in operation after July 1st, 1907, as it had not been re-certified; and that a workman could not contract himself out of the Act after July 1st, 1907, except under a scheme which had been certified under the Act of 1906. The man was, therefore, entitled to compensation.—*Wallace v. Hawthorne, Leslie, & Co., Ltd., Court of Session, March 7th, 1908.*

WHO ARE DEPENDANTS? WOMAN LIVING APART FROM HUSBAND.

In the case of a fatal accident the dependants of a deceased workman are entitled to compensation under the Act where the accident was one which would have entitled the workman himself to compensation if he had been merely injured. "Dependants" means such of the members of the workman's family as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of his death.

A workman employed by a company carrying on business as sculptors was killed by an accident in circumstances which would entitle his dependants to compensation. Some twelve years previously the wife of the deceased had voluntarily left him, alleging that he had treated her with cruelty, and had gone with her one child to live with her mother. She never took any proceedings against her husband for the alleged cruelty or otherwise. She thenceforward supported herself and her child with the assistance of her mother and brother. She never at any time made any claim for support upon her husband nor received anything from him. After his death, however, she claimed compensation under the Act from his employers on behalf of herself and child. The Sheriff-Substitute decided that as she had voluntarily lived apart from her husband for eleven years before his death without making any claim upon him, she could not be said to be dependent upon his earnings in any reasonable sense, and as for the child, she was dependent upon her mother not upon her father. Compensation was not therefore payable to the widow. Against this decision the widow appealed, but the Court of Session upheld the finding of the Sheriff-Substitute.—*Lindsay v. Stewart, M'Glashan & Sons, Ltd., Court of Session, March 13th, 1908.*

(2) Trade Disputes Act.

TRADE DISPUTES ACT: PERSONAL LIABILITY OF OFFICIALS: MALICIOUS PROSECUTION.

It is provided by the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, that an action against a trade union, whether of workmen or masters, or against any members or officials thereof on behalf of themselves and all other members of the trade union in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the trade union, shall not be entertained by any Court.

An advertisement contractor had published a number of souvenirs of Trade Union Congresses; these souvenirs contained advertisements. In 1903 and 1904 he published such souvenirs for the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, but the arrangement was not continued in subsequent years. There is a charitable society called the Railway Women's Guild, formed of the female relations of railway men. In 1905 this contractor arranged to bring out a souvenir of the congress of this guild. He made no charge against the unions or societies for the souvenirs, but made his profit out of the advertisements. In 1906 there was another congress of this Women's Guild, of which he brought out a souvenir. It was alleged against him by the Amalgamated Society that he obtained money from advertisers by falsely pretending that the souvenir was an official publication of the society. The Amalgamated Society then authorised the prosecution of the contractor by their secretary. In pursuance of this authority the secretary prosecuted the contractor on behalf of the society. The contractor, however, was acquitted, and subsequently brought an action against the society and against the secretary for malicious prosecution.

In defence it was contended that the action could not succeed against either the society or the secretary, as the Act provided that such an action should not be entertained by any court. The judge decided that the action against the society could not be entertained and that the society were entitled to judgment in their favour. As for the secretary, however, the judge decided that the officials or members of a trade union are not liable to be sued "on behalf of themselves and all other members of the trade union"—that is, that they cannot be sued so as to make the trade union liable for their acts; but when officials commit wrongs or tortious acts they are personally liable for those acts, and cannot escape responsibility merely on the ground that they were acting on behalf of themselves and all other members of the trade union.

Evidence was heard in the case, and in the end the judge decided that the plaintiff had not proved that the secretary in prosecuting the plaintiff had acted without reasonable and probable cause, that the circumstances brought to the knowledge of the society were suspicious, and there was nothing improper in the institution of the prosecution; therefore the secretary also was entitled to judgment in the action.—*Bussey v. Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants and Bell, King's Bench Division, March 13th and 16th, 1908.*

(3) Miscellaneous.

THE DOCTRINE OF COMMON EMPLOYMENT.

Where a servant is injured by the negligence of a fellow servant in a common employment with him, the injured servant has no right of action under the Common Law against the master.

Two sisters were employed at a music-hall to give a performance consisting of "acrobatic dancing and upright contortions." One evening while they were on the stage, the curtain, which was of considerable weight, was suddenly let down and injured both the performers. They accordingly brought an action for damages in respect of their injuries, against the proprietors of the music-hall. It was held, however, that the defendant's servants, who prematurely dropped the curtain upon the plaintiffs and caused their injuries, were fellow servants with the plaintiffs, and therefore the plaintiffs were not entitled to employment applied, and therefore the plaintiffs were not entitled to succeed.—*Atkinson v. The Surrey Vaudeville Theatre, Limited, King's Bench Division, March 4th, 1908.*

SUNDAY WORK: ACT OF NECESSITY.

Under the Salmon Fishery Acts no person is allowed to catch salmon, except with a rod and line, in the fishing season during the weekly close time, which extends from noon on Saturday to 6 a.m. on Monday. And all fixed nets or other such means of capturing salmon must be removed during that time.

On a certain Saturday the men employed by the proprietor of a salmon fishery were unable to remove the nets set in the estuary

of a river, because of a gale making it dangerous for the men to go out to the nets. On the Sunday the men were ordered to go out and lift the nets. They, however, refused to do so from conscientious scruples as to working on a Sunday. The nets accordingly remained down contrary to law, during the whole of the weekly close time. The proprietor of the fishery was consequently prosecuted for breach of the law. The Sheriff Substitute, however, refused in the circumstances to convict, and the prosecutors appealed from such refusal to the Justiciary Appeal Court, consisting of seven judges. The Court held that the proprietor of the fishery ought to have been convicted, as it was clear that the law had been broken; and the fact that the men refused to do their duty in lifting the nets on a Sunday, was no defence, for the work they were required to do was an act of necessity which they should have done.—*Middleton v. Tough, Court of Session, March 18th, 1908.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of bread on April 1st, 1908, have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources. These Returns are summarised in the following Tables:—

District.	1st April, 1908.			28th Feb., 1908.			2nd April, 1907.		
	Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	5½	5	5½	5½	5½	5½	5	4	4½
E. & N.E. ...	5½	4½	5	5½	4½	5	5	4	4½
S.E. ...	6	5½	5½	6	5½	5½	5	4	4½
S.W. ...	6	5½	5½	6	5½	5½	5	4½	4½
W. & W.C. ...	5½	5½	5½	6	5½	5½	5	5	5½
N. Counties & Yorks.	7	5½	6½	7	5½	6½	6	4	5
Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4½	5½	6	5	5½	5½	4	5
Midlands ...	6	5	5½	6	5	5½	5	4½	5
Eastern Counties ...	6½	5	5½	6½	5	5½	6	5	5½
Southern Counties	6	5	5½	6	5	5½	5½	4	5
S. Western Counties and Wales	7	5½	6½	7	5½	6½	6	4½	5½
Scotland ...	7	5½	6½	7	5½	6½	6	4½	5½
Great Britain ...	7	4½	5½	7	4½	5½	6	4	4½

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices shows no change. As compared with a year ago, an increase of .8d. is shown. In Scotland the increase amounted to 1d. per 4 lbs.

Price of Bread in 28 Large Towns.

Place.	Predominant Price at April 1st, 1908	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs
		d.	d.		
London ...	5½	...	+ ½ to 1	Oct. '07	- ½
Birmingham ...	5½	...	+ ½	Nov. '07	- ½
Bolton ...	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Bristol ...	5½ & 6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Cardiff ...	5 & 5½	...	+ ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Derby ...	5½	...	+ 1	Nov. '07	+ ½
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	5½	...	+ ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Ipswich ...	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Leeds ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1
Leicester ...	5	...	+ ½	Feb. '08	- ½
Liverpool ...	5½	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Manchester ...	5½	...	+ 1	Jan. '08	- ½
Middlesbrough ...	6	...	+ 1	Mar. '08	- ½
Newcastle ...	5½	...	+ ½	Jan. '08	- ½
Norwich ...	5	...	+ ½	Feb. '08	- ½
Nottingham ...	5 & 5½	...	+ ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Oldham ...	5	...	+ ½	Nov. '07	+ ½
Plymouth ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Potteries ...	4½	...	...	Mar. '08	- ½
Wolverhampton ...	5	...	+ 1	Feb. '08	- ½
Aberdeen ...	6	...	+ 1½	Nov. '07	+ ½
Dundee ...	5½ & 6½	...	+ 1	Dec. '07	- ½
Edinburgh ...	6½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Belfast ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Dublin ...	6	...	+ ½	Mar. '08	- ½

The above Table shows that, compared with a month ago, the predominant price of the 4 lb. loaf has fallen ½d. in Hull, Middlesbrough, Dublin and the Potteries. In Cardiff and Nottingham the predominant prices are

now 5d. and 5½d. per 4 lb.; a month ago the predominant price was 5½d. in each town. As compared with a year ago, each of the towns except Huddersfield and the Potteries shows an increase. In Aberdeen and in Manchester the rise amounted to 1½d. per 4 lbs. In 12 of the towns the increase amounted to 1d., in 9 to ½d., and in 2 to ¼d. per 4 lbs. The price in London was from ½d. to 1d. higher.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
		Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	
March ... 1907.	6 4	6 10½	9 3½	8 9½
February ... 1908.	7 7	8 7½	11 2	11 9
March ... 1907.	7 3	8 2½	11 1	11 3½

The imports of wheat during September, 1907-March, 1908, amounted to 54,596,600 cwt., or 7,692,200 cwt. more than during the corresponding period of 1906-7. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1907-March, 1908, amounted to 9,283,332 cwt., or 1,208,262 cwt. more than in September, 1906-March, 1907.

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

The results of the latest ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron, being the prices upon which wages are regulated, are given in the Table below. The movements in wages which resulted from these ascertainment are shown in the paragraphs following the Table:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with		
		Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.				
Northumberland:— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth).	Dec. '07-Feb. '08	s. d. 9 0 8½	s. d. 9 0 3 7/8	s. d. + 1 5 3/32
Pig Iron.				
Cleveland ...	1908. Jan.-Mar.	50 2 5/2	- 4 1 8/11	- 4 11 7/11
Cumberland ...	Jan.-Mar.	61 1 3/33	- 8 4 1/27	- 13 0 9/93
Manufactured Iron.				
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	Jan.-Feb.	142 3 7/4	- 3 8 7/42	+ 3 3 7/42
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, etc.)	Jan.-Feb.	144 11 4/11	- 4 10 4/7	+ 2 2 5/55
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)	Jan.-Feb.	136 9 1/12	- 12 4 2/25	- 2 5 1/12

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board, on April 4th, that the wages of underground workers and "bankmen" should be reduced by 1¼ per cent., and of other surface workers by 1 per cent., leaving their wages 46½ per cent. and 37 per cent. respectively above the standard of 1879.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were reduced by 5 per cent. in the Cleveland district, and by 11½ per cent. in West Cumberland.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England and the Midlands the wages of puddlers were reduced by 3d. per ton and those of millmen by 2½ per cent., and in the West of Scotland by 9d. per ton and 7½ per cent., as a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for March.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE. NOTE.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

	March.				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, compared with 1906.
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 19,556,523	£ 19,670,840	£ 22,050,007	+ 2,379,167	+ 2,493,484
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	19,305,755	23,765,985	16,736,795	- 7,029,190	- 2,568,960
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	14,191,908	14,126,996	13,153,225	- 973,771	- 1,038,683
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	207,444	177,100	175,232	- 1,868	- 32,211
Total value of Imports	53,261,630	57,740,921	52,115,259	- 5,625,662	- 1,146,371

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

NOTE.—The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

	March.				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, compared with 1906.
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 1,471,372	£ 1,413,320	£ 1,476,802	+ 63,482	+ 5,430
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	3,637,904	4,134,370	4,210,684	+ 76,314	+ 572,780
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	26,087,588	28,713,610	26,806,591	- 1,907,019	+ 719,003
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	454,298	461,734	399,347	- 62,387	- 54,951
Total value of Exports of British produce.	31,651,162	34,723,034	32,893,424	- 1,829,610	+ 1,242,262

EXPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,276,397 in March, 1906; £8,110,260 in March, 1907, and £5,965,255 in March, 1908.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended March 28th, 1908, amounted to £4,366,310, a decrease of £170,155 (or 4.1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the thirteen weeks ended March 28th, 1908, the receipt amounted to £13,778,138, a decrease of £431,856 (or 3.2 per cent.) as compared with the first three months of 1907.

	4 weeks ended March 28th, 1908.		13 weeks ended March 28th, 1908.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.
English Lines:—				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London and N. Staffs.	£ 1,636,483	- 42,341	£ 5,259,847	- 169,783
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	478,415	- 10,638	1,521,162	- 48,226
Lancs. and Yorks., and N. Eastern	801,962	- 47,528	2,537,141	- 52,270
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	658,300	- 13,400	2,062,000	- 10,600
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	146,256	- 8,836	461,533	- 22,530
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	525,288	- 45,281	1,574,144	- 123,910
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G. W., and Gt. Northern	119,606	- 2,131	362,311	- 4,537
Total ...	4,366,310	- 170,155	13,778,138	- 431,856

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.
‡ Coal, wool, oil seeds, &c., hides and skins.
§ Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1908, was 293, an increase of 38 as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

The mean number for March in the years 1903-1907 was 254, the maximum year being 1905 with 276 deaths, and the minimum year 1904 with 233 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in March, 1908, was 145, as compared with 134 in February, and 117 a year ago. At factories and workshops the total number was 104 in March, as compared with 86 in the previous month, and 97 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 43, 33, and 39 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during March, 1908, was 117, as compared with 120 in February, and 94 in March, 1907.

During the three months ended March, 1908, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 842, as compared with 760 in 1907. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 353 in 1908, and 425 in 1907.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1908, as compared with a	
	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	8	3	...	+ 5	+ 8
Engine Drivers	3	...	2	+ 3	+ 1
Firemen	4	4	2	...	+ 2
Guards (Passenger)	...	...	...	...	...
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	8	4	7	+ 4	+ 1
Porters	1	6	4	- 5	- 3
Shunters	7	2	10	+ 5	- 3
Miscellaneous	1	13	14	- 2	- 3
Contractors' Servants	1	1	...	...	+ 1
Total, Railway Service	43	33	39	+ 10	+ 4
Mines—					
Underground	115	119	91	- 4	+ 24
Surface	20	13	18	+ 7	+ 2
Total, Mines	135	132	109	+ 8	+ 26
Quarries over 20 feet deep	10	2	8	+ 8	+ 2
Factories (including Workshops)					
Textile—					
Cotton	8	4	6	+ 4	+ 2
Wool and Worsted	1	3	1	- 2	...
Other Textiles	...	3	1	- 3	- 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	4	5	6	- 1	- 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	11	13	12	- 2	- 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	1	5	+ 2	- 2
Ship and Boat Building	13	13	13	...	...
Wood	1	3	3	- 2	- 2
Chemicals	4	7	1	- 3	+ 3
Laundries	1	...	...	+ 1	+ 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	41	22	25	+ 19	+ 16
Total, Factories	87	74	73	+ 13	+ 14
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	8	5	14	+ 3	- 6
Warehouses	2	2	4	...	- 2
Buildings to which Act applies	7	5	6	+ 2	+ 1
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	17	12	24	+ 6	- 7
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	1	2	2	- 1	- 1
Total, exclusive of Seamen	293	255	255	+ 38	+ 38
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	42	31	20	+ 11	+ 22
Steam	61	70	48	- 9	+ 13
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	3	2	1	+ 1	+ 2
Steam	11	17	25	- 6	- 14
Total, Seamen	117	120	94	- 3	+ 23
Total, including Seamen	410	375	349	+ 35	+ 61

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during March was 66, consisting of 55 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of mercurial poisoning, 6 of arsenic poisoning, and 4 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 17 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during March among house painters and plumbers.

During the three months ended March, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 174, as compared with 116 in 1907. The number of deaths during the same period was 7, as against 10 in 1907. In addition there were 49 cases of lead poisoning (including 9 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first three months of 1908, as compared with 37 cases (including 11 deaths) in the corresponding period of 1907.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Industry	CASES.		DEATHS.		
	Month of Mar., 1908.	Three Months ended Mar.,	Month of Mar., 1908.	Three Months ended Mar.,	
		1908.		1907.	1908.	1907.
		Lead Poisoning.			
Smelting of Metals	2	15	2	—	1
Brass Works	1	2	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	5	6	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	4	5	4	—	—
Printing	2	3	3	—	—
File Cutting	1	4	2	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	—	1	8	—	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works	9	19	12	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	2	5	1	—	—
China and Earthenware*	8	25	12	—	2
Litho-Transfer Works	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	1	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	2	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	2	7	1	1	1
Paint and Colour Works	1	3	4	—	—
Coach Making	6	18	12	—	—
Shipbuilding	1	3	8	—	—
Paint used in other Industries	3	9	8	—	—
Other Industries	8	20	15	—	1
Total in Factories and Workshops	55	150	92	1	4
House Painting and Plumbing	17	49	37	2	9
		Other Forms of Poisoning.			
Mercurial Poisoning—					
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes	—	—	1	—	—
Other Industries	1	1	—	—	—
Total	1	1	1	—	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—					
Lucifer Match Works	—	—	1	—	1
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	1	—	1
Arsenic Poisoning—					
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	6	7	2	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	7	2	—	—
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	7	8	4	—	1
		Anthrax.			
Wool	3	6	8	1	1
Handling of Horsehair	1	3	7	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	3	2	—	1
Other Industries	—	4	3	—	2
Total, Anthrax	4	16	20	1	3

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Board of Trade is issued by the Registrar-General of Seamen each month, and copies may be seen at all Free Libraries, Mercantile Marine Offices, and Sailors' Homes throughout the country.

* Of the 8 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 6 were females.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-three disputes began in March, 1908, as compared with 18 in February, 1908, and 32 in March, 1907. By the 23 disputes, 4,027 workpeople were directly and 1,097 indirectly affected; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before March, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 39,178 workpeople involved in trade disputes during March, 1908, compared with 36,136 in February, 1908, and 12,177 in March, 1907.

New Disputes in March, 1908.—In the following Table the new disputes in March are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	1	36	—	36
Coal Mining	4	448	—	450
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	3	180	—	180
Cotton Manufacture	4	1,800	849	2,649
Other Textile Trades	...	1,262	...	1,262
Clothing	4	198	205	404
Other Trades	3	103	40	143
Total, March, 1908	23	4,027	1,097	5,124
Total, February, 1908	18	11,193	2,678	13,771
Total, March, 1907	32	5,311	4,045	9,356

Causes.—Of the 23 new disputes, 6 arose on demands for increased wages, 3 on objections to reduction in wages, 4 on other wages questions, 3 on questions of hours of labour, 1 on details of working arrangements, 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 2 on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 10 new disputes, directly affecting 906 persons, and 7 old disputes, directly affecting 2,971 persons. Of these 17 new and old disputes, 1, directly involving 30 persons, was decided in favour of the workpeople; 8,

directly involving 709 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 8, directly involving 3,138 persons, were compromised. In the case of 6 other disputes, work has been resumed pending further consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in March of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 96,400 working days. In addition, 695,000 working days were lost during March owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the beginning of the month. Thus the total duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 791,400 working days, as compared with 541,600 in the previous month, and 105,400 in the corresponding month of 1907.

Summary for the First Three Months of 1907 and 1908.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the three months January—March, 1907 and 1908, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-Mar., 1907.			Jan.-Mar., 1908.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	5	117	3,600	2	1,036	30,400
Mining and Quarrying	23	9,447	129,800	19	9,247	364,200
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	19	4,295	104,400	17	31,115	1,175,600
Textile	66	19,446	155,900	23	7,557	151,300
Clothing	10	1,189	11,600	14	1,309	32,400
Transport	4	1,591	4,300	4	1,195	13,300
Other Trades	10	1,302	16,900	14	1,473	29,800
Total	137	37,388	426,500	93	52,932	1,797,000

Principal Disputes.—Particulars of the principal disputes which began, or were settled, in March are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during March are not separately stated in this Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.‡				
Coal Mining—							
Hewers, Daymen, Banksmen and Pit Lads, Daymen, Banksmen, Mechanics, Labourers, Pit Lads, &c.	Eastwood, Notts	2,175	1,482	1908 2 Jan.	50	For new price lists	New price lists arranged between employers and representatives of workpeople; lists accepted by workpeople at all pits except one.
Underground and Surface Workmen	Hamilton	950	250	1907 12 Feb.	30	Dispute as to rate to be paid in one section of the mine	Rate payable in that section to be settled by negotiation or arbitration.
Pig Iron Manufacture—							
Coke Fillers, Helpers, Chargers, Labourers, &c., & Enginemen, Jetty Labourers, &c.	Jarrow	215	215	1907 7 Dec.	88	Claim of senior workmen to preference of employment when discharging or re-engaging staff	Employers to retain the right to engage or discharge whom they please, without reference to seniority.
Textile—							
Weavers, Cardroom Operatives, Spinners, &c.	Hyde	1,374	741	1908 30 Mar.	...	Dispute as to prices to be paid for weaving on Northrop looms.	No settlement reported.
Weavers, Winders, Warpers, &c.	Westhoughton	843	...	1908 25 Mar.	...	For advance in wages	No settlement reported.
Clothing—							
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Bristol (near)	150	...	1908 13 Jan.	56	For re-instatement of five discharged workpeople, and for adoption of local statement of wages	Four of the discharged workpeople re-instated; local statement of wages adopted.
Clickers & other Boot & Shoe Operatives	Bristol (near)	32	150	1908 30 Mar.	6	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Work resumed on old conditions.
Pottery Trade—							
Pottery Workers	Glasgow	350	...	1908 6 Jan.	49	Dispute as to price for certain work	Referred to Arbitrator appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

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

STATE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour has published a report on the first year's working of the State free employment office at Boston. The principal statistics of this office may be summarised as follows:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
No. of separate applicants for employment	25,350	9,600	34,950
No. of applications for employment	34,937	11,973	44,910
No. of situations offered by employers	19,995	13,731	33,696
No. of situations filled	8,671	5,509	14,480

Only 750 members of Trade Unions applied for employment. The occupations in which employment was found for males included:—Cooks, kitchen servants, waiters, hotel servants, &c., 1,095; farm hands and teamsters, 1,123; general labourers, porters, &c., 1,717; apprentices, office boys, errand boys, 1,161.

The females provided with employment were nearly all waitresses, domestic servants, charwomen, laundresses, &c. There were also 458 factory workers.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in March.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in March, 1908, was a decrease of £731 per week, as compared with an increase of £942 per week in February, 1908, and an increase of £12,420 per week in March, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 22,650, of whom 3,174 received advances amounting to £396 per week, and 19,476 sustained decreases amounting to £1,127 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 146,762, and in March, 1907, 281,082.

One change, affecting 4,500 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board; and five changes, affecting 7,056 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 11,094 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, three of these changes, affecting 890 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the three completed months of 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in the three months ended 31st March, 1908, was 625,316, as compared with 964,704 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 516,783 workpeople a net increase of £21,878 per week, and 108,533 workpeople a net decrease of £6,609 per week. The net effect of the changes was thus an increase of £15,269 per week, as compared with an increase of £54,849 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople

affected by these reported changes, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Table showing Groups of Trades, No., and £ amounts for January-March 1907 and 1908. Total for 1907: 964,704 No., +54,849 £. Total for 1908: 625,316 No., +15,269 £.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in March, 1908, affected 2,748 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 4,056 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the three months ended March 31st, 1908, was 3,597, the net decrease in their working hours being 5,718 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in March.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages and hours of labour taking effect in March are given below. The details of the other changes reported are not separately stated in the Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN MARCH.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1908, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics).

I.—RATES OF WAGES.

Detailed table of wage changes for various trades like Coal Mining, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Printing, etc., including dates and descriptions of changes.

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Table showing hours of labour changes for Printing in London, with date and description of the change.

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—It is reported that a reduction of 1 1/2 per cent. in the rate of wages of miners in Northumberland was arranged on 4th April. Pig Iron Manufacture.—Early in April, reductions took place in the rates of wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland of 1 1/2 per cent., in Cleveland and Durham of 5 per cent., in South Staffordshire of 2 1/2 per cent., and in South Wales and Monmouthshire of 6 1/2 per cent. Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Reductions took effect at the beginning of April in the rates of wages of puddlers and millmen in the Midlands of 2 1/2 per cent., and of iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire of 6 1/2 per cent.

Full particulars will appear in the May GAZETTE. * Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c. † At a few of the collieries, wages are stated to be 35 per cent. above the standard. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. § See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in March, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 227 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with February, 1908, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 1,580 (0.4 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 1. The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 440 (0.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers a decrease of 1,140 (0.5 per cent.). There were increases in 12 districts, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (19 per 10,000). In 16 districts there were decreases, most marked in the Galway district and in the Leicester district (14 and 13 per 10,000 respectively). Seven districts showed no change.

Compared with March, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 3. The number of indoor paupers increased by 6,720 (3.8 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 3,185 (1.5 per cent.). Increases occurred in 18 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (72 per 10,000). In 17 districts there were decreases.

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of Mar., 1908, for Selected Urban Districts. Columns: In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

Table showing ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolis, and West Ham pauper statistics for March 1908.

Table showing Other Districts pauper statistics for March 1908, including Newcastle, Stockton & Tees, Bolton, Oldham, &c., and various other districts.

Table showing SCOTLAND pauper statistics for March 1908, including Glasgow, Paisley & Greenock, Edinburgh & Leith, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie.

Table showing IRELAND pauper statistics for March 1908, including Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford & Limerick, Galway.

Table showing IRELAND pauper statistics for March 1908, including Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford & Limerick, Galway.

* 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.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MARCH.

NOTE.—For particulars of Labour Bureaux (other than those which are identical with Distress Committees) see page 130.

THE various Distress Committees in the United Kingdom have made Returns showing the number of applicants on their books, and known to be out of work, at the end of March, 1908. The Committees were requested, in making up their Returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work, or to have left the neighbourhood, since registration; and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified.

The following Table shows the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of March, 1908:—

Table showing Distress Committees, No. returned as "known to be out of work" in March, 1908, and No. returned as "known to be out of work" in March, 1907. Lists various districts like London, Outer London, Barrow, Birkenhead, etc.

The great majority of the applicants were building trade labourers, general labourers, &c. Building trade artisans were numerous in some of the Outer London districts, and at Brighton, Hastings, and Bristol; other artisans at Newcastle, Sunderland, Sheffield, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Leicester, and Norwich.

The following Table shows the amount of employment-relief given by the various Committees in March:—

Table showing Distress Committees, No. given Employment-relief, Aggregate duration of Employment-relief, and Total Amount of Wages paid. Lists various districts like London (Central Body), Outer London, Barrow, Birmingham, etc.

It will be seen that the total number who received employment-relief was 20,336, of whom 8,345 were in London and "Outer London," 8,514 in the rest of England and Wales, and 3,477 in Scotland and Ireland. The average number of days' relief given was 11, and the average wage about 35s. per man, or 3s. 2d. per day.

* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper the number on the "unemployed register," however, was 891. † Including some not registered as unemployed by the Distress Committees. ‡ In addition to extra men employed by some of the Metropolitan Borough Councils, independently of the Central Body. § Estimated.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.*

NOTE.—Several labour bureaux whose registers are identical with those of the Distress Committees have been omitted from the Table. For statistics of the work of Distress Committees in March see page 129.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 46 Labour Bureaux during March; of these Bureaux 29 were in London (including West Ham), and 17 in the provinces. Of the 29 London Bureaux, 26 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 15,738, of which 12,524 were in London, and 3,214 in the provinces. The number of situations offered by employers was 4,749, and the number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 3,310, or 21.0 per cent. of the applications received, and 69.7 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 1,817 (or 54.9 per cent.), and temporary 1,493 (or 45.1 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 227; wood-working trades, 45; metal and engineering trades,

132; other skilled trades, 90; "transport and general," 376; other trades, men and boys, 401; women and girls, 508. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 116; metal and engineering trades, 77; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 324; general labourers, 22; bill distributors, 435; employees of local authorities, 16; charwomen and domestic servants, 177; other occupations, 143. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 221 men.

The number of applicants registered at the Bureaux for which figures for 1908 and 1907 can be given was 15,067 in March, 1908, as compared with 11,602 in March, 1907. Employers offered 4,428 situations during March, 1908, of which 3,131 were filled. In March, 1907, 4,515 situations were offered, and 3,017 filled. The number of workpeople on the registers of these same Bureaux at the end of March, 1908, was 14,556, as compared with 13,386 in March, 1907.

WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING MARCH, 1908.

Name of Bureau.	New Applicants.	Situations offered.	Situations Filled.						Applicants Remaining on the Registers.					Total											
			Building Trades.	Metal and Engineering Trades.	Transport and General.	Other Occupations, Men & Boys.	Women and Girls.	All Situations.	Building Trades.	Metal and Engineering Trades.	Transport and General.	Other Occupations, Men & Boys.	Women and Girls.												
															Perma- nent.	Tempo- rary.	Total								
London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange.																									
Battersea (332, Park Rd., S.W.)	507	53	...	...	14	16	17	34	13	47	10	16	58	26	37	147								
Bermondsey (3, Fort Buildings, Southwark Park Rd.)	423	78	6	...	2	23	19	50	...	50	19	18	99	75	47	258									
Bethnal Green (11, Green St., E.)	724	96	2	1	1	24	27	48	7	55	30	26	188	217	110	571									
Camberwell (13, Peckham Rd., S.E.)	580	149	12	1	19	26	44	82	20	102	59	38	149	169	81	496									
Chelsea (7, Church St., S.W.)	83	34	4	1	10	10	6	18	13	31	11	6	37	16	14	84									
City of London (28, Temple Chambers, Temple Aven., E.C.)	...	185	11	5	3	36	22	76	1	77	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Deptford (13, Deptford Bridge)	354	101	18	15	7	18	6	60	4	64	29	77	66	97	50	269									
Finchley and Holborn (48, Myddleton St.)	638	240	4	6	70	33	44	148	9	157	20	27	75	63	89	274									
Fulham (Effie Rd., Walham Green)	508	120	8	...	47	50	16	74	47	121	44	46	117	146	63	356									
Greenwich (12, Stockwell St.)	382	100	14	1	4	6	20	59	26	85	21	43	55	43	22	184									
Hackney & Stoke Newington (24, Amburst Rd.)	535	75	5	2	8	28	22	93	2	95	31	50	121	167	42	411									
Hammersmith (20, Queen St., W.)	401	61	16	4	19	9	11	33	26	59	46	24	56	56	33	215									
Hampstead (210, West End Lane)	159	79	14	...	24	16	12	44	22	66	23	8	38	35	12	116									
Islington (93, St. Paul's Rd., N.)	661	97	27	3	24	9	23	41	45	86	75	42	146	89	31	383									
Kensington (155, Clarendon Rd.)	364	84	2	...	6	33	22	29	34	63	20	13	53	60	27	173									
Lambeth (120A, Lambeth Rd.)	373	55	7	4	8	14	7	36	4	40	25	38	128	71	37	299									
Lewisham (17, Brownhill Road, Catford, S.E.)	350	81	35	1	15	10	3	52	12	64	61	12	86	35	22	216									
Paddington (303, Harrow Rd., W.)	383	117	9	1	3	26	34	55	18	73	28	19	76	95	56	314									
Poplar (127, East India Dock Rd.)	443	101	28	3	2	11	42	74	12	86	67	87	150	123	103	510									
St. Pancras (19, Crowndale Rd.)	464	35	1	...	1	9	6	15	2	17	27	21	122	95	40	305									
St. Marylebone (25, Paddington St., W.)	247	150	...	1	19	39	33	79	13	92	5	8	38	55	36	122									
Shoreditch (134F, Kingsland Rd.)	272	100	1	1	11	29	12	54	...	54	16	24	95	100	56	291									
Southwark (25, New Kent Rd.)	534	58	...	3	13	14	25	54	1	55	17	14	89	63	41	224									
Stepney (465, Commercial Rd., E.)	379	88	...	2	3	33	15	43	10	53	38	52	280	145	78	573									
Wandsworth (213, Garratt Lane)	293	42	1	7	2	7	12	29	...	29	8	21	41	40	22	138									
Woolwich (20, Albion Rd.)	372	122	2	70	1	7	8	88	...	88	14	55	61	40	27	195									
Central Exchange									
Total of above	10,231	2,544	227	132	376	508	1,438	341	1,779	744	763	2,404	2,107	1,176	7,194										
Other London Bureaux.																									
Salvation Army (20-22, Whitechapel Rd., E.)	1,896	862	12	6	186	658	...	4	838	862	73	24	135	179	...	411									
West Ham (29, Broadway, Stratford)	177	9	2	...	1	4	...	4	3	7	13	16	28	73	18	148									
Westminster (Caxton Hall, S.W.)	220	107	...	...	15	32	30	70	17	77	64	62	365	357	318	1,166								
Total, "Other London"	2,493	978	14	6	202	694	30	68	878	916	150	102	518	659	336	1,725									
Provincial Bureaux.																									
Birmingham (144, Gt. Charles St.)	264	17	2	2	2	10	...	7	9	16	79	303	200	165	...	747									
Coventry (3, Market Hall Arcade)	166	90	10	42	6	23	...	73	8	81	29	238	52	72	...	391									
Croydon (Town Hall)	69	70	19	3	...	6	...	46	22	68	205	17	196	125	9	1,052									
Dudley (Stone St.)	16	5	...	1	4	...	...	2	3	5	20	43	142	34	...	239								
Ipswich (135, Fore St.)	29	22	16	...	...	1	4	15	19	1	4	9	5	16	7	79								
Liverpool (Municipal Buildings, Dale Street)	64	9	2	...	...	1	3	4	2	6	2	...	5	8	42	65								
Manchester (King St., West Deansgate)	444	241	26	7	17	16	76	81	61	142	76	86	312	170	207	891									
Newcastle-on-Tyne (22, Royal Arcade)	919	39	3	2	6	...	12	10	13	23	33	141	1,435	196	47	1,852									
Nottingham (Shakespeare Villas)	77	13	8	1	...	5	1	12	3	15	19	42	149	67	8	285									
Reading (Abattoirs Rd.)	49	5	...	...	2	2	1	4	1	5	6	3	30	13	...	52								
Salford (Town Hall)	27	5	2	1	...	2	2	2	3	5	9	13	31	7	10	70									
Warrington (Bank House, Sankey St.)	181	48	2	...	8	13	13	51	3	56	25	45	28	51	101	250									
Aberdeen (41A, Castle St.)	170	22	2	...	15	...	5	...	20	20	81	33	263	46	24	447									
Dundee (Dunhope Park or Town Hall)	22	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	3	3	22	...	...	11	...	33								
Edinburgh (25, North Bridge St.)	47	43	5	...	7	19	12	2	41	43	185	101	204	155	13	658									
Glasgow (15-17, Duke St., F.)	509	605	4	3	24	11	56	33	65	95	26	63	199	91	205	587									
Govan (Town Hall)	101	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	148	203	12	...	376								
Total, Provincial Bureaux	3,214	1,227	102	61	88	152	182	311	274	585	1,331	1,280	3,498	1,239	676	8,024									
Grand Total	15,738	4,749	343	199	666	1,382	720	1,817	1,493	3,310	2,225	2,143	6,430	3,958	2,188	16,943									

* The figures for the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange relate to the 4 weeks ended March 27th, 1908; for the other Bureaux the particulars relate to work done during the calendar month.
† Glasgow Labour Exchange discontinued registration of domestic servants on March 1st, 1908. The Exchange has, on the other hand, commenced supplying labour for the Corporation departments.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March 976 fresh applications (538 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 9 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 887 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 307 persons, of whom 174 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 307 situations found for applicants, 232 were of a more or less permanent character, while 75 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids was greatly in excess of the supply; the supply of ladies' maids and companions was greatly in excess of the demand; supply and demand were fairly well balanced in the case of housemaids and children's nurses.

The work done by the Bureaux during March is shown in the following Table:—

	Applications by Work-people during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers			
	Mar., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Mar., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Perma- nently.	Tempo- rarily.		

Friendly Benefit Soc., Whitechapel, E.: Godiva Sick and Dividend Friendly Soc., Coventry; Cattels Grove Provident Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Wrexham Independent Tontine Soc., Wrexham; Pride of Broughton Sick and Burial Tontine Benefit Soc., Wrexham; London and Cardiff Collecting Soc., Cardiff. *Scotland*.—1, viz., Lochie Free Gardeners Friendly Soc., Lochie. *Ireland*.—5, viz., Mount Carmel Tontine Soc., Dublin; Knappage Credit Soc., Knappage; Ballycullane Credit Soc., Ballycullane; Clonroche Credit Soc., Clonroche; Tinahely Credit Soc., Tinahely.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in Mar. of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions	1	...
Industrial and Provident Societies	5	3
Friendly Societies...	18	5
Building " " " " " "	...	27	...
	2	5	...

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Departmental Committees on Checkweighing in Chalk Quarries and Cement Works, and Limestone Quarries and Lime Works, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. [Cd. 4002: pp. 37: price 4d.]

Departmental Committee on the Supply and Training of British Boy Scamen for the Mercantile Marine. Minutes of Evidence, with Appendices, Analysis and Index. [Cd. 3723: pp. v. + 479: price 3s. 9½d.]

Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. 1906, Part A, Appendix (N). *List of Friendly Societies with Branches*. Section IV. Lincolnshire, London, Middlesex and Monmouth. [H.C. 49-IV: pp. viii. + 108: price 1s.] Section V. Norfolk, Somersetshire. [H.C. 49 V: pp. viii. + 92: price 10d.]

Sugar. Return showing the Estimated Production of Cane and Beet Sugar for each of the years 1887 to 1906. [H.C. 334: pp. 49: price 5½d.]

Agricultural Statistics, 1907. Vol. XLII. Part II. Returns of Produce of Crops in Great Britain. [Cd. 3989: pp. 75: price 4d.]

Licensing Statistics. Statistics as to the Operation and Administration of the Laws relating to the Sale of Intoxicating Liquor in England and Wales for the year 1907. [Cd. 3951: pp. 237: price 2s. 2d.]

Trustee Savings Banks. Sixteenth Annual Report of the Inspection Committee for the year ended November 20th, 1907. [H.C. 76: pp. 14: price 2d.]

Emigration Statistics of Ireland for the year 1907. [Cd. 3987: pp. 15: price 2d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. Return relating to the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907, showing the Proceedings under the Act from March 22nd, 1907, to February 15th, 1908. [Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, King's Printer: pp. 14.]

The Labour Gazette, February, 1908. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during January; unemployment during winter season, 1907-08, &c.

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour. Persons assisted by the Department of Labour during January; co-operative works in New Zealand, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

New York. Seventh Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour for the twelve months ended September 30th, 1907. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Company, State Printers: pp. 272.]

Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, February, 1908. The unemployment situation in Massachusetts, &c.

Apprenticeship in American Trade Unions. J. M. Mottey, Ph.D. Studies of the Johns Hopkins University. Series XXV. Nos. 11-12, *The Finances of American Trade Unions*. A. M. Sakolski, Ph.D. Studies of the Johns Hopkins University. Series XXIV. Nos. 3-4.

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, February, 1908. Unemployment in France, 1900-1907. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: price 2d.]

Inquiry relating to Homework in the Underwear Trade. Part I, Paris. French Labour Department, 1907. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. xiv. + 768.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, March 1908. Wages, hours, &c. of carpenters. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: price 1d.]

Report for 1907 of the Berlin Labour Colony Association. [Berlin: Berlin N. 65, Reinickendorfer-Strasse Nr. 66: pp. 12.]

Statistics of German Co-operative Societies in 1906. Prussian Central Co-operative Bank, 1908. [Berlin: Buchdruckerei W. Koebke, Alexandrinenstrasse, 99: pp. 179.]

Proceedings of the Twenty-first Session of the Council for Labour Statistics, December 9th, 10th, and 11th, 1907. Discussion or amendment and extension of industrial insurance. [pp. 290.]

Quarterly Journal of Statistics of the German Empire, Part I, 1908. Wholesale prices of meat, cereals, &c., 1888-1907. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: price 2s.]

Statistical Yearbook of Baden for 1906 and 1907. Contains statistics of population, wages, prices, insurance, trade unions, labour registries, &c. Statistical Office of Baden. [Karlsruhe, Macklot'sche Druckerei: pp. xxi. + 699: price 6s.]

Statistical Journal of Baden, No. 4, 1905; No. 2, 1906; No. 1, 1908.

Sickness Insurance in Berlin in 1906. Statistical Office of Berlin, 1907. [Berlin: P. Stankiewicz: pp. 32.]

Inquiry relating to the effects of the Law on Handicrafts of July 26th, 1897; with supplementary inquiry relating to the work and results of the Chambers established by that Law. Imperial Statistical Office, 1908. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: pp. cxiv. + 257 + 31 + charts.]

Austria-Hungary.

Statistical Journal of Hungary, January and February, 1908. [Vienna: A. Hölder.]

Report of the Brünn Chamber of Commerce and Industry for 1907. [Brünn: Verlag der Brünn Handels und Gewerbekammer: pp. 254.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, February, 1908. Disputes in December. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

Journal of the Italian Emigration Department, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, 1908. Price 3d. each.

Wages and Hours of Labour in Building, Road-making, Land-Reclamation, &c., in 1906. Italian Labour Department, 1907. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana, v. della Guardiola, 22.]

Journal of the Italian Department of Credit and Thrift, October, 1907, and Appendix 1, 1907. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce.

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, February 29th and March 15th, 1908. Disputes in January and in 1907. [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price 1d. each.]

Wages and Hours of Labour in the Metal and Engineering Trades in Belgium in October, 1903. Also separate summary of same. Belgian Labour Department, 1907. [Brussels: Imprimerie A. Lesigne, rue de la Charité, 27: pp. 1103 + 541.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, February, 1908. Employment and disputes in January. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: price 2d.]

Second Preliminary Report of the White Lead Commission. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [The Hague: H. L. Smit: pp. 11.]

Switzerland.

Movement of population of Switzerland in 1906. Federal Statistical Office. [Berne, 1908: A. Francke: pp. 36.]

Norway.

Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office, First to Third Quarters, 1907. [Christiana, Steen'ske Bogtrykkeri.]

Sweden.

Quarterly Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, No. 2, 1908. Wages of agricultural labourers in 1906. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Soner: price 2d.]

Statistics of Post Office Savings Banks in Sweden, 1906. [Stockholm, 1907: K. L. Beckman: pp. xxxii. + 39.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, February, 1908. Disputes in 1906. Decree classifying occupations prohibited to males under 16 and females under 21. [Madrid: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: price 2½d.]

Labour Disputes in Spain in 1906. Spanish Labour Department. [Madrid, 1908: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: pp. 173: price 9½d.]

Bill to amend the Law of January 30th, 1900, on Industrial Accidents. Contains summary of Laws in force in Spain and other countries, 1908. [Madrid: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios, Miguel Servet, 13: pp. 173 + 758.]

Russia (Finland).

Journal of the Finnish Labour Department, No. 4, 1907; No. 1, 1908. Former contains statistics of industrial accidents, 1898-1906.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

(The Consular Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3963. *Economic Condition of Hungary for the years 1906-1907*. Statistics of harvest, industries, emigration, agricultural, and social legislation, &c. [Cd. 3727-46: pp. 19: price 1½d.]

No. 3964. *Trade of Amsterdam for the year 1907*. Condition of the labour market, strikes, &c. [Cd. 3727-47: pp. 32: price 2d.]

Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & CO., LTD., 31-37, Cursitor Street, London, E.C.; and to be purchased, either directly or through any Newsagent, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C., or OLIVER & BOYD, Edinburgh; or E. PONSOMBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.—Price 1d.—April, 1908.