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CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Summary of the State of Employment in April 129

Special Articles and Reports—

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT	131
SICKNESS INSURANCE IN HUNGARY	132
REPORT ON THE USE OF PHOSPHORUS IN THE MANU- FACTURE OF LUCIFER MATCHES	131
LEAD COMPOUNDS IN POTTERY MANUFACTURE	132
COMPULSORY SHOP CLUBS	133
WAGES SETTLEMENT IN THE COTTON WEAVING TRADE... ..	130
DISPUTE IN THE PLASTERING TRADE	159
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS	133
DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DIS- TRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES	134

Employment in Certain Industries and Districts— REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.

COAL MINING	138
IRON MINING	139
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	139
IRON AND STEEL WORKS	140
TINPLATE WORKS... ..	139
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	140
SEAMEN	142
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	142
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	143

DISTRICT REPORTS.

LONDON	143
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	144
Lancashire	144
Yorkshire	145
Midland Counties	146
Eastern Counties	148
South Western Counties	148
WALES	149
SCOTLAND	149
IRELAND	150

Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—

COLONIES... ..	136	AUSTRIA	138
FRANCE	137	NORWAY	138
GERMANY... ..	137	RUSSIA	138
BELGIUM... ..	137		

Miscellaneous Reports for April—

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION	154
LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	135
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	160
FOREIGN TRADE	159
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	155
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	159

Statistical Tables for April—

TRADE DISPUTES	156
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	152
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR	155
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	151
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	160
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX	155
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	158
PAUPERISM	158
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	155

Notes—

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES	160
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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

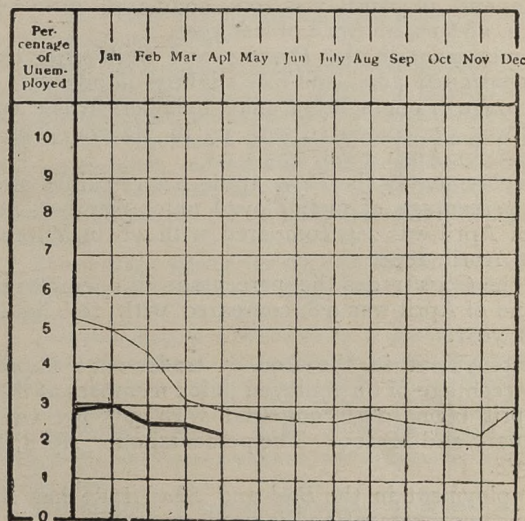
[Based on 2,494 returns, viz.: 1,681 from Employers, 642 from Trade Unions, and 171 from other sources.]

In all the important industries a further improvement in the state of employment has taken place during April, with the result that the percentage of unemployed members of trade unions is lower than that recorded in any month since June, 1890.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 495,496, 10,866 (or 2·2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2·5 per cent. a month before, and 2·9 per cent. in the 116 unions, with a membership of 466,213, from which returns were received for April, 1898.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1898 and 1899. [The thick line applies to 1899, the thin line to 1898.]



Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

Allowing for the Easter holidays, employment has continued good in April, and is better than a year ago. At collieries, at which 385,456 workpeople were employed, the average time worked during the four weeks ended April 22nd was 5·19 days per week, as compared with 4·98 days a year ago. The above statements do not include pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire where a dispute was in progress in April, 1898. (For further details see page 138.)

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good. At mines employing 17,006 workpeople the average time worked per week during the four weeks ended April 22nd was 5·59, as compared with 5·62 days in the corresponding period in April, 1898. (For further details see page 139.)

In the **Pig Iron Industry** employment remains good. Returns relating to the works of 113 iron masters show that they had 375 furnaces in blast at the end of April, or two less than at the end of March, but 35 more than a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople

employed was 24,630, being 104 more than at the end of March, and 2,146 more than in April, 1898. (For further details see page 139.)

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment has slightly improved, and continues considerably better than a year ago. At the 214 works from which returns have been received, 79,212 persons were employed in the last week of April, 79,036 in the last week of March, and 73,489 in the last week of April, 1898, the average number of shifts worked in these three weeks being 5.59, 5.56, and 5.51 respectively. (For further details see page 140.)

Tinplate Trade.—Employment in this industry has improved during the month, and continues better than a year ago. The number of mills working at the end of April was 349, employing an estimated number of 17,508 workpeople, compared with 343 mills at work, and 17,451 workpeople employed at the end of March, and 310 mills with 16,063 workpeople at the end of April, 1898, when the trade was indirectly affected by the South Wales coal dispute. (For further details see page 139.)

Employment in the *Engineering* and *Metal* trades has remained steady. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of April was 2.2, compared with 2.4 in February and March. The percentage for April, 1898, was 3.6.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades employment is now brisk, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April being 2.1, compared with 3.0 in March, and 5.0 per cent. in April, 1898.

Employment in the *Building* trades has continued good, though the plasterers' dispute remains unsettled. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of April was 1.3, compared with 1.6 in March. The percentage for April, 1898, was 1.1.

In the *Furnishing* trades employment has continued brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 0.8, compared with 1.0 in March, and 1.2 in April of last year.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has continued good and has slightly improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 3.0, compared with 3.3 in March. The percentage for April, 1898, was 3.1.

Employment in the *Paper* trade has remained steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 2.4, compared with 2.6 in March and 2.8 in April, 1898.

In the *Glass* trades the percentage of unemployed at the end of April was 9.8, compared with 10.8 in April of last year.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has improved, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April being 2.6, compared with 3.6 per cent. in February and March. The percentage for April, 1898, was 3.8.

Employment in the *Boot and Shoe* trade has shown further improvement and is good generally.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade has again improved, and is good. In the ready-made branch it continues good.

Employment continues good in both the *Spinning* and *Weaving* branches of the *Cotton* trade. Information respecting *Cotton* factories employing about 79,300 women and girls, shows that 95 per cent. of those in *Spinning* mills and 88 per cent. of those in *Weaving* factories, were working in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 96 and 87 per cent. respectively in March, and with 89 and 67 per cent. a year ago. (For further details see page 143.)

Employment in the *Woollen* trade has improved, and is good on the whole, although still only moderate in the heavy woollen branch. In the *Worsted* trade it has also improved, and is now fairly good. Employment in the *Hosiery* trade is good.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—During the four weeks ended April 22nd an average number of 13,890

labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with averages of 13,576 per day in the preceding four weeks and 14,553 in April, 1898. (For further details see page 142.)

Agricultural labourers were generally well employed during the month of April. The weather was frequently wet and stormy, and interfered to some extent with outdoor work. In districts where labourers were on weekly or daily engagements, it is said that employers generally found them work under cover on wet days. In many districts agricultural labourers are said to be scarce. (For further details see page 140.)

Trade Disputes.—No dispute of any great magnitude began in April 1899, the 63 fresh disputes in that month involving only 13,741 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes in March was 53, involving 13,827 workpeople, and in April, 1898, 44, involving 130,528 workpeople, 100,000 of whom were Welsh miners. Of the 63 fresh disputes in April, 1899, 21 occurred in the building trades, 10 in mining and quarrying, 5 in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, 4 in other metal trades, 9 in the textile trades, 5 in clothing trades, and 9 in other industries. Of the 61 new and old disputes, involving 10,343 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 23, involving 3,580 persons, were decided wholly in favour of the workpeople; 15, involving 2,362 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; 20, involving 2,925 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the three remaining disputes, the points involved are still under consideration. (For further details see page 156.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 155,850 workpeople were reported during April, of which number about 155,600 received advances averaging 10d. per head, and about 250 sustained decreases averaging 1s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per head. The net result was an increase estimated at about 10d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases were mainly in the mining industry (129,498), the building trades (16,292), and the glass bottle manufacture (4,484). Changes affecting about 5,000 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work; and changes affecting about 6,500 workpeople were arranged by conciliation or arbitration. Changes affecting about 144,300 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or were conceded voluntarily by the employers.* (For further details, see page 152.)

WAGES SETTLEMENT IN THE COTTON WEAVING TRADE.

A MEETING of the Joint Committee of the North and North-east Lancashire Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and of the Northern Counties Operative Weavers' Amalgamated Associations took place in Manchester, on Tuesday, April 25th, to consider the application of the weavers for an advance in wages of 10 per cent. After some discussion the meeting was adjourned to May 3rd in order that the matter might be laid before the local associations of employers. At the adjourned conference the following resolution was adopted:—

"That the representatives of the employers and operatives mutually agree to submit to their respective constituents an advance of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the wages of the weavers, winders, and warpers, to take effect from the first pay-day in July next, such pay-days being respectively July 6, 7, and 8."

At a meeting of delegates, held at Blackburn, on May 6th, the proposal was accepted on behalf of the operatives.

On Tuesday, May 9th, a meeting of the Central Committee of the Employers' Association was held at Manchester, and adopted the Joint Committee's recommendation as above stated. The meeting also passed a resolution in favour of the formation of a Conciliation Board, with an independent chairman, to act in cases of dispute in which the Joint Committee, as at present constituted, is unable to come to an agreement.

* The advance in the wages of cotton weavers, winders, and warpers which was agreed to on May 9th is not included in the above figures.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

A RETURN* has been presented to Parliament giving statistics of the proceedings in County Courts in England and Wales under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897,† and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during 1898.

The total number of arbitrations in County Courts under the **Workmen's Compensation Act** during the period from July 1st, 1898 (when this Act came into force), to December 31st, 1898, was 178. (It is pointed out that the right to compensation under the Act accrued with regard to accidents happening on and after July 1st, 1898, that it was only at an interval after that date that disputed cases would come before the County Court or arbitrators, and usually a further delay would occur before the case could be settled; so that the return, which gives the results of cases dealt with and settled, really relates to a much shorter period than 6 months, and the figures which it contains represent, in fact, about 3 months working of the Act). Of this total of 178 cases, 104 were heard by the judge and 8 by an arbitrator, while 18 were settled by acceptance of money paid into court, and 48 were otherwise disposed of. Out of 130 cases thus heard or settled, there were 101, in which the result was for the plaintiff, and 29, in which the result was for the defendant. The 101 cases resulting in favour of the plaintiff secured in 48 cases awards of lump sums amounting in the aggregate to £7,766 1s. 10d., and in 53 cases awards of compensation taking the form of weekly payments amounting in the aggregate to £32 18s. per week. Solicitors' costs, amounting in the aggregate to £663 3s. 8d., were awarded in a total of 60 cases.

The memoranda relating to cases settled by agreement or informal arbitration registered in County Courts under Schedule II. (8) of the Compensation Act numbered 163, 152 of these cases being settled by agreement, 9 (including one memorandum of a decision that the employer was not liable) by a committee representative of employers and workmen, and two by an agreed arbitrator. The total amount of compensation given in the form of lump sums in 18 of the cases, to which these memoranda related, was £2,443 8s. 7d., and that given in 144 cases in the form of weekly payments amounted in the aggregate to £87 6s. 10d. per week. It is observed that, since it is apparently not considered necessary in most cases to go to the trouble of registering memoranda, the figures stated as to agreements and informal arbitrations represent only a very small fraction of the cases so dealt with. (Nearly three-fourths of all the memoranda registered come from two adjoining districts.)

The total number of the actions in County Courts under the **Employers' Liability Act** in 1898 was 681 (as against 688 in 1897), of which 220 resulted in judgment for the plaintiff, and 126 in judgment for the defendant; while 3 of these cases were removed into the High Court, and 332 were otherwise disposed of. In the 220 successful actions just referred to damages to the aggregate amount of £16,853 5s. 2d. were awarded. In 208 cases solicitors' costs, to the total amount of £4,724 15s. 10d., were allowed. In 5 of the cases, in which judgment was given under the Employers' Liability Act against the plaintiffs, these suitors were awarded compensation amounting altogether to £68 4s. (less in one case £8 13s. 4d. costs) under section 1 (4) of the Compensation Act.

The average amount of damages in case of death awarded in actions under the Employers' Liability Act amounted to £85 6s. 4d., as compared with £200 2s. 7d. in arbitrations in County Courts under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Solicitors' costs under the latter Act in 60 cases averaged £11 1s. 10d. per case, as against £22 14s. 4d. in 208 cases under the former Act.

* [C.—9251.] Price 24d.

† It is pointed out that the cases, which come before the County Courts do not represent any considerable proportion of the cases in which compensation is claimed or paid under the Act. "There is a concurrence of testimony that in the great majority of cases the full compensation allowed by the Act is given without question."

REPORT ON THE USE OF PHOSPHORUS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF LUCIFER MATCHES.

The reports of Professor T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., Professor Thomas Oliver and Dr. George Cunningham to the Home Secretary on the use of phosphorus in the manufacture of lucifer matches have been issued [C.—9188. Price 4s. 11d.]. In the introductory memorandum the Chief Inspector of Factories gives a short summary of the main conclusions to be drawn from the reports, and states that their most practically important features are the description of labour-saving machinery, in use in America and on the Continent, obviating much of the exposure of workpeople to yellow phosphorus, and the conclusive evidence which is given of the necessity of attention to soundness of teeth.

As the result of his inquiries and observations Professor Thorpe concludes:—

1. That no satisfactory substitute for phosphorus in either the one form or the other in the manufacture of matches has yet been found.
2. That the only modification of phosphorus which confers complete immunity from phosphorus necrosis is the red or so-called amorphous variety.
3. That, as yet, no method of using this substance in a "strike-anywhere" match is commercially practicable. The risk in the manufacture of a paste in which red phosphorus and chlorate of potash are commingled, and the dangers attending the packing and transport of matches tipped with such a compound would enormously outweigh the evil caused by phosphorus necrosis.
4. The total prohibition of the use of ordinary phosphorus is probably impossible without international co-operation. But as regards many of the larger manufacturers abroad, general legislative action compelling the use of red phosphorus would be welcomed. Nevertheless, it is certain, judging from the experience of other countries in which the special rules have been made sufficiently stringent, and where they are effectively complied with, that the evils attending the use of ordinary phosphorus can be greatly minimised. The remedial measures are:—
 - (a) Proper medical supervision and inspection of the operatives.
 - (b) Periodical inspection of the teeth of all those who in any way come in contact with the fumes of phosphorus.
 - (c) Efficient ventilation of all workshops in which processes involving the use of ordinary phosphorus are carried on.
 - (d) Proper lavatory appliances and vestimentary accommodation under efficient control.

Professor Oliver reports that, as experience has shown that methods of manufacture exist which are capable of practically excluding phosphorus necrosis, and as the new "strike-anywhere" sesquisulphide match of the French Government is still passing through its period of probation, and inventors are busy at work, it is premature to recommend the total abolition of white phosphorus in Great Britain and Ireland. He therefore makes the following recommendations:—

1. The mixing, dipping, drying and boxing rooms should be separated from each other, and should each be thoroughly ventilated by fans.
2. That each dipping table should be so thoroughly ventilated by a fan that fumes cannot rise upwards towards the worker beyond an inch or two from the slab, but must be drawn towards the fan; that the boxing rooms should be lofty and ventilated by fans; that ventilating hoods or shafts should be placed above each bench, so that the fumes are drawn away from the worker as she fills the boxes.
3. The practice of cutting the splints by a hand-knife should cease.
4. Appliances and facilities for washing should be offered to the workpeople in a suitable room or shed.
5. Gargles should be provided, and each worker should have his own mug.
6. Overalls should be worn.
7. There should be dental and medical inspection of the workpeople on entering the factory, and at stated intervals afterwards.
8. There should be change of occupation for the workers; men and women should not be allowed to remain more than a few weeks at a time in any one department.
9. The mixing of the phosphorus paste should be done in closed vessels, and the paste kept until required in covered iron tanks.
10. Plans of new match factories and of proposed structural alterations in old factories should be submitted to the Home Office.
11. A medical and dental register should be kept in the factory.

Dr. Cunningham reports—

1. That the yellow phosphorus match trade does not appear to

him to present any exceptional dangers to the workpeople which cannot be met by proper precautions.

2. That he sees no necessity for any further restrictions upon the labour of women or young persons.

3. That the special rules affecting the trades should be strengthened so as to require:—

(a) A better and more thorough preliminary examination, both medical and dental, of all persons engaged in the industry, and the keeping of a register containing the results of the examination.

(b) The systematic periodical examination, both medical and dental, of all persons engaged in the industry, of whatever age or sex, and the recording of the results in a register.

(c) Proper provision for preventing persons from working whose teeth are in a bad condition and, as ancillary to this, arrangements for securing the services of a dentist for the workpeople and for sick pay allowance for them while temporarily incapacitated from work.

(d) A supply of mouth wash for the workpeople.

4. That he is opposed to the wholesale extraction of carious teeth, and believes the preservation of such teeth by filling to be not only the more economical treatment, but a more effectual one, as resulting in a better condition of general health.

LEAD COMPOUNDS IN POTTERY MANUFACTURE.

THE report of Professor T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., and Professor Thomas Oliver, who were requested by the Home Secretary to make certain inquiries with regard to the employment of compounds of lead in the manufacture of pottery has recently been issued.* Visits were made to a number of factories, both in England and on the Continent, and evidence collected, whilst a number of analytical questions were investigated, the results of these investigations being given in the report.

From returns specially obtained by one of H.M. Inspectors of Factories it appears that in July, 1898, there were 4,703 persons in the Potteries "working in the lead," viz., 516 males, and 256 females under 18 years of age, and 2,607 males and 1,324 females over 18 years. The majority of the male workers are either glost placers, dippers or dippers' assistants; the majority of the female workers are ware cleaners, ground-layers, majolica painters or colour dusters. The total number of cases of lead poisoning reported in 1898 was 152 among the male, and 196 among the female workers. It is stated that there is no room for doubt that young persons and women between the ages of 17 and 30 are especially susceptible to the influence of lead.

The final result of the inquiries and experiments conducted is embodied in the following conclusions:—

1. That by far the greater amount of earthenware of the class already specified can be glazed without the use of lead in any form. It has been demonstrated, without the slightest doubt, that the ware so made is in no respects inferior to that coated with lead-glaze. There seems no reason, therefore, why in the manufacture of this class of goods the operatives should still continue to be exposed to the evils which the use of lead-glaze entails.
2. There are, however, certain branches of the pottery industry in which it would be more difficult to dispense with the use of lead compounds. But there is no reason why, in these cases, the lead so employed should not be in the form of a fritted double silicate. Such a compound, if properly made, is but slightly attacked by even strong hydrochloric, acetic, or lactic acid. There can be little doubt that, if lead must be used, the employment of such a compound silicate—if its use could be ensured—would greatly diminish the evil of lead-poisoning.
3. The use of raw lead as an ingredient of glazing material, or as an ingredient of colours which have to be subsequently fired, should be absolutely prohibited.
4. As it would be very difficult to ensure that an innocuous lead-glaze shall be employed, we are of opinion that young persons and women should be excluded from employment as dippers, dippers' assistants, ware-cleaners after dippers, and glost-placers in factories where lead-glaze is used, and that the adult male dippers, dippers' assistants, ware-cleaners, and glost-placers should be subjected to systematic medical inspection.

* Report to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department on the Employment of Compounds of Lead in the Manufacture of Pottery. [C.—9207]. Price 5d.

The report gives the full text of the special rules established in 1894, of the rules proposed by the Home Office in 1898, (which have been adopted by the occupiers of about 470 factories), and of the rules settled by arbitration in 1898, (which are in force in about 100 factories). Summaries are also given of the regulations in force in certain foreign countries.

SICKNESS INSURANCE IN HUNGARY*

THE law making insurance against sickness compulsory in Hungary is dated April 14, 1891, more than three years later than the corresponding Austrian law, which is dated March 30, 1888.

Membership of a sick fund is obligatory in Hungary for every person employed at a daily wage not exceeding four florins (6s. 8d.) in any of the trades coming under the Industrial Law of 1884, or in any of the following trades or services:—Mining, quarrying, metal (smelting and manufacture) and cognate trades; in the railway, postal, telegraph and telephonic services; in engineering and shipbuilding works; on large construction works (e.g., road and railway construction); in internal navigation; and in the transport and storage of goods. Persons employed on temporary jobs lasting less than eight days are excepted, as also miners belonging to one of the special mining benefit funds (*Bruderladen*). Membership of a sick fund established in virtue of this law is not obligatory for persons in the regular employment of a public authority (State, Municipality, Commune or public institution) if the conditions of their employment give them the right to draw their salaries for at least twenty weeks from the date of falling ill. A similar exemption may be granted by the competent authorities to persons belonging to any of the trades or services enumerated above, if the terms of their employment give them the right to claim, during sickness, from their employers, either full maintenance or wages for at least twenty weeks.

The minimum benefits during sickness are, approximately, as follows: (1) Free medical attendance, medicine, and any necessary surgical appliances, for 20 weeks (but not more); (2) in case of sickness causing incapacity for work and lasting three days or more, a money allowance equal to half the sick person's wages, payable, if the incapacity lasts so long, for 20 weeks; (3) women in confinement receive an allowance on the same scale for at least four weeks from the date of confinement, besides free medical attendance, etc., as under (1); (4) in case of death, a funeral allowance equivalent to not less than 20 times the daily wage. (Any sick fund may, if its resources permit it, and within limits fixed by the law, pay benefits greater than the above minima.)

So long as no special law exists for regulating the insurance of workpeople against accidents, the above minimum benefits are payable not only in ordinary sickness, but also in case of illness or death caused by accidents.

For purposes of insurance under the law the sick funds are supported by contributions, proportionate to the wages of the workpeople insured, for the regular payment of which the employers are responsible, but of which they may deduct two-thirds from wages. Agreements intended to entail upon the workpeople the payment of more than two-thirds of the legal contributions are void.

So far as concerns funds which accord only minimum benefits, the contribution (of employer and workmen together) must not exceed 3 per cent. of wages, unless it should be found that that rate is insufficient to provide the minimum benefits, in which case the rate may be increased, by permission of the competent authorities, but not beyond 5 per cent. of wages. But at the commencement of its operations the fund must not exact contributions exceeding 2 per cent. of wages.

* Based on: (1) *La Législation Sociale en Hongrie*, par Joseph Szerényi; Buda-Pesth, Société Anonyme d'Imprimerie de Pest, 1897; (2) *Ungarisches Statistisches Jahrbuch*, Neue Folge, III. (1895) and IV. (1896), published by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office; (3) *Les Lois d'Assurance Ouvrière à l'Étranger*, I. par Maurice Bellon, Librairie Nouvelle de Droit et de Jurisprudence (Arthur Rousseau), 14, rue Soufflot et 13, rue Toullier, Paris, 1892.

The six classes of funds recognised for purposes of sickness insurance under the Hungarian law are district funds, guild funds, factory, etc., funds, friendly society funds, construction works funds, and mining funds.

The membership of four of the above classes of sick funds was, at the end of each of the years 1895 and 1896, as follows:—

Class of Funds.	1895		1896.	
	No. of Funds *	Membership.	No. of Funds.	Membership.
District Funds	97	262,848	111	274,247
Trade Guild Funds	80	73,749	90	69,598
Factory, etc., Funds	139	129,968	155	145,867
Friendly Society Funds	60	86,162	62	83,371
Total	376	552,727	418	573,083

The total receipts of the above classes of sick funds in 1896 amounted to £396,135 and the expenditure to £370,176. Of the latter sum, £261,382 was expended in sick and funeral benefits, £46,456 in administration, and £62,338 in other ways not specified.

Information as to the construction works funds is not available. The total amount expended in sick pay (exclusive of medical attendance and funeral allowances) by the special mining benefit societies in 1896 was £53,626. The total number of workpeople employed in the mining and cognate industries in Hungary in 1896 was 70,328.

COMPULSORY SHOP CLUBS.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

ON November 3rd, 1898, the Home Secretary appointed a Committee—

"to consider the complaints made by certain Friendly Societies that men are compelled by employers, as a condition of employment, to join shop clubs and to discontinue their membership of other Benefit Societies; and to ascertain if and to what extent the practices complained of exist, and whether any interference on the part of the Legislature is called for."

The Report of this Committee has recently been issued.† Shop clubs in connection with railway and other companies established or supported under statutory powers, and thrift funds created under statutory powers by Municipal Corporations were considered by the Committee to be outside the scope of the inquiry. Schemes certified under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, are not referred to, as compulsion is expressly excluded by the Act.

After hearing the case for the Friendly Societies as presented by three witnesses, together with witnesses representing certain existing shop clubs, the Committee find that the practices complained of do exist. As to the extent to which they exist very little evidence was received. They have, however, no reason to think that any widespread grievance can be proved.

On the question, whether any interference on the part of the Legislature is called for, they conclude that the Legislature may properly interfere by providing:—

1. That it shall not be lawful for any employer to make it a condition of employment that any workman shall join a shop club.
2. That the foregoing provision shall not apply where the shop club:—
 - (a) Is a society registered under the Friendly Societies Act, and is certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies to be one to which that provision should not apply; or
 - (b) Is established in conformity with a private or local Act of Parliament.
3. That it shall not be lawful for any employer to make it a condition of employment that any workman shall discontinue his membership of any Friendly Society to which he belongs or shall not become a member of any other Friendly Society.

As regards 2 (a) they suggest that the Chief Registrar should, before giving his certificate, consider how far the club complies with the following requirements:—

* Exclusive of Croatia-Slavonia.
† Report—Shop Clubs. [C.—9203]. Price 3d.

That it should be of a permanent character.

That it should afford to the workmen benefits of a substantial kind at the cost of the employer, in addition to those provided by the contributions of the workmen.

That the conditions of insurance, taken as a whole, should be satisfactory and calculated to be beneficial to the workmen.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Wigan Building Trades.

IN the last number of the GAZETTE (page 100) reference was made to the appointment of Mr. A. A. Hudson as arbitrator, to decide questions affecting two branches of the Wigan building trades. The awards of Mr. Hudson have now been issued, and are in substance as follows:—

(1) *Carpenters and Joiners*.—In this case the men had applied for an advance of wages, from 8½d. to 9½d. per hour, for an advance of overtime rates, and for a reduction of working hours to the extent of five per week. In their counter notice the master builders asked for modifications of the rules with regard to starting time, notice of discharge, alterations of working rules and arbitration. The award grants an advance of ½d. per hour on and after September 1st, but gives no alteration in hours or in overtime rates. It reduces the notice necessary for discharge in the case of men employed from the shop from one day to half a day, but leaves the hour's notice in the case of men employed at the shop unaffected. It also makes some modifications in the rules with regard to starting time, proposed alterations in working rules and arbitration.

(2) *Slaters and Tilers*.—In this case the men had applied for an advance in wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour. In their counter notice the master builders asked for the abolition of the limitation of apprentices to two, and for modification of the rules with regard to starting times, country jobs, proposed alterations in working rules and arbitration. The award gives the advance asked for on and after September 1st, and abolishes the limitation of apprentices. It also makes certain modifications in the rules with regard to country jobs, proposed alterations in the working rules and arbitration.

Painters at Barrow.

A joint application was made on April 15th to the Board of Trade, on behalf of the master painters and operative painters of Barrow-in-Furness, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to consider the application of the men for an advance in wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour. The Board appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, Barrister-at-law, who heard the parties on April 28th, and issued his award on May 5th. By the terms of this award wages are fixed at 8½d. per hour during the summer months, and 8½d. per hour during the short time or winter months.

Coal Miners at Polesworth.

Applications were sent to the Board of Trade on April 20th and 25th on behalf of Messrs. Morris & Shaw, Limited, colliery proprietors at Polesworth near Tamworth, and the men in their employment for the appointment of an arbitrator. The question at issue had reference to the firm's proposal to discharge a stallman for alleged bad loading. The Board of Trade appointed Sir William Markby, K.C.I.E., to act as arbitrator. Before the date fixed for the inquiry the Board of Trade were informed that a mutual agreement had been arrived at.

(b) OTHER CASES.

Painters at Ashton-under-Lyne.

The Operative Painters' Society of Ashton-under-Lyne and district having given notice for an advance in wages and alterations in working rules, the matters in dispute were referred, by agreement with the Master Painters' Association, to the arbitration of Mr. John Eaton, F.R.I.B.A.

The arbitrator's award, dated March 30th, gave an advance of ½d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.), beginning July 1st, 1899. It reduces the summer working hours by 2½

hours per week, and makes certain minor alterations in the rule dealing with starting and leaving off work. The following clause has been added to the rule dealing with apprentices:—

"And in all shops employing plumbers and painters, every apprentice, after being at work for the space of six calendar months, shall be called upon to decide which trade he has decided to follow."

About 120 painters in the district are affected by this award.

Carpenters and Joiners in the Potteries.

Judge Jordan, the arbitrator agreed upon by the Master Builders and the Carpenters and Joiners in the Potteries District, has awarded an advance of wages from 8½d. to 8¾d. per hour, the extra rate for overtime remaining as at present, and a reduction of hours in the summer months by 1½ hours per week. The award comes into operation on July 1st, and affects about 900 persons.

Jewish Tailors at Hull.

On April 5th about 100 Jewish tailors, machinists and pressers, employed by about 40 firms at Hull, struck work, demanding that the hours of labour should be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., instead of from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., as formerly. On April 16th six representatives of each side met in the presence of five other gentlemen, and a settlement was arrived at. It was agreed that 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. should constitute a day's work, with an hour off for dinner and half-an-hour for tea, except on Saturdays. If men are required to work at urgent orders on Saturdays, the question is to be dealt with by a joint committee of both sides.

Agreement in the Yorkshire Glass Bottle Trade.

On April 24th, an agreement regulating wages from February 4th last till the end of the present year was signed by representatives of the Yorkshire Manufacturers' Association, and of the Glass Bottlemakers' Society. The following is the text of the agreement:—

"That the normal or full Rates of Overwork, as printed in the List dated 3rd December, 1888, be paid from 4th February last till the end of this present year, 1899, or until such date afterwards, as may be fixed by the manufacturers' and workmen's Representatives before the expiration of this year—the advance being 7½ per cent. on the AVERAGE RATES of Overwork per AGREEMENT for 1898, which expired on February 4th last. And further that, in the event of an Alliance for the Glass Bottle Trade being formed during this year 1899, the said 7½ per cent. advance on Overwork Rates—equal to 2½ per cent. on the workmen's gross earnings—shall constitute a part of the FIRST BONUS agreed upon on its formation."

It was arranged that the amounts due under this agreement should be paid on April 27th and 28th.

It was also agreed that certain questions as to various articles, bad metal, apprentices, and machines amongst the bottle hands, should be referred to a joint sub-committee of employers' and workmen's representatives for consideration and adjustment.

The total number of workpeople affected is about 3,500.

Piece Price-Lists for Auxiliary Laceworkers.

For some time past negotiations have been in progress between the Nottingham Lace Manufacturers' Association and the representatives of the Auxiliary Society of Male Laceworkers for the adoption of a uniform piece price-list. On March 14th a list was agreed to, which came into operation on the first payday after April 15th. It provides for the prices to be paid in the levers branch for winding, threading, pressing, jacking off and general assistance. The list will affect about 600 operatives.

Birmingham Basket-making Trade.

The employers and journeymen engaged in the basket-making trade at Birmingham agreed, on April 17th, to a revised list of prices. The list covers all kinds of basket and hamper making and basket work in connection with chairs, perambulators, and carriages. The new list is stated to involve an increase in the earnings of the workpeople, and came into operation on May 1st.

DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETURNS showing the amounts and rates of dividend paid to members on purchases for the fourth quarter of 1898, have been received from 1,114 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,432,058.

The returns from the 1,114 societies as grouped in Table I, show that 68·7 per cent. of the total members received dividends on their purchases ranging from 2s. 1d. to 3s. 6d. in the £, the average dividend for the United Kingdom being 2s. 7·52d., as compared with 2s. 7·58d., the average paid by the 882 societies which made returns for the corresponding period of 1897.

The total amount paid in dividend to members for the quarter was £1,076,141 in England and Wales, £324,415 in Scotland and £510 in Ireland, or a total for the United Kingdom of £1,401,066.

In Table II. the average dividend paid in the several districts is shown separately. From this it will be seen that in England and Wales the highest average dividend (3s. 1·30d.) was paid in the northern counties, the bulk of the societies being in the mining districts of Durham and Northumberland, and the lowest average dividend (1s. 3·80d) in the London district, the average for the 858 societies in England and Wales being 2s. 6·97d., compared with 2s. 7·27d. the average returned by 738 societies for the corresponding period of 1897.

In Scotland the highest average dividend was also in the northern counties, being 2s. 11·14d., compared with 2s. 9·70d. in the southern counties, the average for 250 societies in Scotland being 2s. 10½d. compared with 2s. 10·57d. returned by the 197 societies making returns for the corresponding period of 1897.

I. Dividends classified by Rate per £.

Rates of dividend per £1 of purchases.	Number of Societies.			Membership of Societies making returns for 4th quarter of 1898.	Percentage for corresponding period of 1897.
	England and Wales.	Scotland and Ireland.	Total.		
No dividend	31	3	34	12,269	0·9
Sixpence and under ...	14	2	16	5,906	0·4
Over 6d. but not exceeding 1s.	35	6	41	16,477	1·1
" 1s. od. " " 1s. 6d.	81	7	88	55,337	3·9
" 1 6 " " 2 0	162	26	186	222,802	15·6
" 2 0 " " 2 6	120	35	157	243,032	17·0
" 2 6 " " 3 0	185	76	259	544,754	38·0
" 3 0 " " 3 6	131	50	181	189,377	13·2
" 3 6 " " 4 0	79	35	114	127,993	8·9
" 4 0 " " 4 6	16	11	27	9,484	0·7
" 4 6 " " 5 0	6	3	9	4,280	0·3
" 5 0 " " " " "	—	—	2	537	0·0
Totals	858	256	1,114	1,432,058	100·0

II. Dividends classified by Districts.

Districts.	No. of Societies.	Membership.		Average Dividend.
		Number.	Percentage of total.	
ENGLAND AND WALES:—				
Northern Counties	116	187,798	13·1	s. d. 3 1·30
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	175	350,168	24·4	2 9·97
Yorkshire	167	285,116	19·8	2 9·90
N. and W. Midland	143	157,752	11·0	2 0·89
Southern and Western	46	45,229	3·2	2 0·40
Wales and Monmouth... ..	39	16,114	1·1	1 11·48
South Mid. and Eastern	98	70,407	4·9	1 11·07
South-Eastern	42	36,411	2·5	1 7·28
London (12 mile radius)	32	36,477	2·6	1 3·80
Totals: England and Wales...	858	1,182,472	82·6	2 6·97
NORTH SCOTLAND				
SOUTH " " " " " " " " " "	100	93,809	6·6	2 11·14
Totals: Scotland	150	153,453	10·7	2 9·70
Totals: Scotland	250	247,262	17·3	2 10·25
IRELAND				
Totals: United Kingdom	6	1,324	0·1	1 1·90
Totals: United Kingdom	1,114	1,432,058	100·0	2 7·52

The rates of dividend shown are those paid upon the main volume of trade. With few exceptions the societies paid a dividend to non-members at one-half the rates paid to members.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

"ON OR IN OR ABOUT" A FACTORY, ETC.

In a case mentioned (in regard to the question of security for costs of appeal) in the April GAZETTE (p. 103), in which a dependant of a workman, who was killed while in the employment of certain Harbour Commissioners, claimed from them compensation, the County Court judge gave judgment for the defendants on the ground that the deceased (1) was employed as a seaman and therefore the Act did not apply, and (2) was not at the time of the accident employed "on or in or about" an engineering work within the meaning of the Act. On appeal, the Court held that the judge was right on the latter, but not on the former ground. The defendants owned a steam dredger, used for dredging the harbour. A captain, an engineer, and six labourers, of whom the deceased was one, all in the employment of the defendants, were employed on the dredger. The defendants also owned some barges, into which the spoil dredged up was emptied; the barges were then towed out to sea and emptied. The deceased had gone out to sea in one of these barges, and, when a mile and a half or two miles distant from the dredging operations, fell from the barge into the sea, and was drowned. The Court of Appeal held that, to come within the Act, the deceased man must at the time of the accident be, but in this case was not, on or in or about the main locality of the engineering work; and accordingly dismissed the appeal.—*Chambers v. Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners, Court of Appeal, April 29th.*

WHAT IS A FACTORY?

In a case mentioned (in regard to the question of security for costs of appeal) in the April GAZETTE (p. 103), in which the son and only dependant of a deceased workman claimed compensation from the employers of his late father, and judgment against him having been given by the County Court judge, appealed against that decision, the Court dismissed the appeal. The workman in question was a carter employed by the occupiers of a wharf situate on the banks of a canal, and was killed by an accident while carting earth from the wharf which had been excavated from a trench made by contractors through the wharf for the purpose of laying pipes. The defendants had made a contract with the contractors for the removal of this earth. The accident occurred in the street just outside the wharf. The wharf was simply a yard, and no machinery of any kind was used upon it; it was used by the defendants for the purpose of loading liquid mud and street sweepings into barges on the canal. There was no evidence that any person was employed in the wharf. The County Court judge held that the accident arose out of and in the course of the employment, and that the employment was "about" the wharf, but that the wharf was not a "factory" within the meaning of section 7 of the Act. That section provides—by sub section (1)—that "this Act shall apply only to employment . . . on or in or about a railway, factory, etc.," and—by sub-section (2)—that "Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895." Among the provisions applied as here referred to are those made by the Factory Acts with respect to accidents and to the powers of inspectors, which (by section 23 of the Act of 1895) "shall have effect as if—(a.) every dock, wharf . . . were included in the word factory." But the provisions requiring notice of accidents apply only where an accident "occurs in a factory," and the provisions as to the powers of inspectors apply to a factory in which persons are or are believed to be employed. The Court of Appeal held that the wharf was not a "factory" within the meaning of section 7 of the Compensation Act, because no accident had occurred in the wharf and there was no evidence that any person was employed in the wharf.—*Hall v. Snowden and Others, Court of Appeal, April 22nd.*

"AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS."

In a case, in which a workman employed by a colliery company in South Wales, having met with an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, by which he was injured, claimed compensation from his employers, the question arose as to the period during which his average weekly earnings were to be calculated so as to arrive at the amount of compensation payable to him. The compensation under the Act in case of total or partial incapacity is "a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding 50 per cent. of" the workman's "average weekly earnings during the previous 12 months, if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer, such weekly payment not to exceed £1."

The accident occurred on October 3rd, 1898. The plaintiff had worked for the defendants for some months prior to March 31st, 1898, including the month of October, 1897, under an agreement dated January 1st, 1892. This agreement was terminated by six months' notice given by the workmen, and the individual contracts between the employers and the workmen were terminated by notice given by the employers, which notice expired on March 31st, 1898. The dispute in the South Wales coal trade then intervened, and shortly after its termination the plaintiff, on September 12th, 1898, resumed employment with the defendants under a new contract, containing different terms from the former contract. The County Court judge took the time at the beginning of the 12 months pre-

ceding the date of the accident, during which the plaintiff was at work with the defendants, and the time at the end of the 12 months after the dispute was over during which he was at work for them, and divided the total earnings during that time by the number of weeks the appellant was at work, and awarded compensation at 8s. 6d. a week. The plaintiff, who contended that the period of employment should be taken from September 12th to October 3rd, 1898, upon which footing the compensation payable would be 15s. 9d. a week, appealed. The Court of Appeal held that the period of employment referred to in the section quoted related to continuous employment. In order that employment may be continuous, it is not necessary that no break in time occur, but the relation of master and servant must substantially exist during the whole of the period. That was not the case here. During the dispute the plaintiff was not in the employment of the defendants. The average weekly earnings must be taken from September 12th to October 3rd, 1898, and the award must be amended by inserting 15s. 9d. instead of 8s. 6d.—*Jones v. Ocean Coal Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, April 29th.*

SECURITY FOR COSTS OF APPEAL: PRACTICE IN IRELAND.

A rivetter having died from injuries received while in the employment of a firm of shipbuilders, his father claimed compensation from his employers, as a dependant of the deceased. The defendants paid into Court the sum of £10 (the maximum compensation payable where the deceased leaves no dependants either wholly or in part dependent upon his earnings at the time of his death), and resisted the father's claim; and the Recorder decided in their favour. The plaintiff appealed from this decision; but the defendants applied that the plaintiff, whom they alleged to have no means to pay costs, should give security for costs before the appeal was proceeded with. This application, however, was not granted. The Lord Chancellor (of Ireland) said he could count on his fingers the occasions on which the Court had made orders to give security for costs, and counsel was now asking the Court to lay down a rule to make it a common practice instead of leaving it an entirely exceptional and unusual procedure.—*Stormont v. Workman, Clark & Company, Court of Appeal (Ireland), April 17th.*

(2) Employers and Workmen Act.

CONTRACT NOT TO LEAVE EMPLOYMENT: RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

In the case, noticed in the GAZETTE for November, 1898 (p. 328), in which a firm of glassmakers recovered damages against a workman who had signed an agreement under seal, whereby he contracted to work for the plaintiffs at a specified kind of work for 4s. 6d. per day, or such altered sum as mutually agreed, and not to leave their employ or to work for anyone else without their consent in writing, also not to give any information relative to the business or manner of work to anyone, the plaintiffs agreeing to find the defendant an equal share of the work as the other men employed at the same class of work, but had left the employ of the plaintiffs, and entered the service of another firm, the decision of the magistrate was upheld on appeal. The Court held that the agreement was not bad as being in general restraint of trade. The agreement did not go any further than was necessary for the protection of a secret process, and the plaintiffs had not gone beyond their rights in making it. The agreement was that the defendant would not work at the specified kind of work for anyone else than the plaintiffs. This did not appear to prevent him from working for himself. There was, therefore, only a partial limitation.—*Phillips v. Stevens, Queen's Bench Division, April 20th.*

(3) Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act.

WATCHING AND BESETTING.

The master joiners of Halifax brought an action against three persons who were respectively the president, the secretary, and a member of the executive committee of the carpenters and joiners' trade union at that place, claiming an injunction restraining the defendants from watching or besetting, or causing to be watched or beset, certain places, and from other interference with workmen employed by, or proposing to work for the plaintiffs. The joiners at Halifax having been called out by their trade union, the masters took steps to import men from other parts to take the places of those who had gone out on strike. A number of men were accordingly sent by an agent of the employers from Ireland to Halifax by way of Fleetwood, on landing at which port two men, who, it was alleged, were sent by the union, met certain of these workmen, and entered into conversation with them, and the large majority of these workmen did not go on to Halifax.

An application for an interlocutory injunction having been made, the judge arrived at the conclusion that the defendants had sanctioned the acts of the two men who went to Fleetwood, that their attending at that place was for the purpose of depriving the employers of the assistance of the workmen brought over from Ireland, and was not "in order merely to obtain or communicate information." These two men were provided with money, which was used to send the Irish workmen to places other than Halifax. An inducement was held out by these men to the Irish workmen not to proceed to Halifax, and it was shown that they were authorised by the defendants to hold out such inducement. The evidence as to certain other alleged acts of the defendants was conflicting, and his lordship did not feel justified in granting an interlocutory injunction relating thereto. With regard to the acts which the judge held to have been proved, these were in contravention of the provision in the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875 (sec. 7), which makes it an offence for a person, with a view to compel any other person to abstain from doing, or to do any act which such other person has a legal right to do, or abstain from

doing, wrongfully and without legal authority, to watch or beset the house or other place where such other person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such house or place and did not come within the proviso that "attending at or near the house or place where, a person resides, or works, or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such house or place in order merely to obtain or communicate information, shall not be deemed a watching or besetting within the meaning of this section."

Accordingly his lordship granted an injunction restraining the defendants from watching or besetting the landing stage at Fleetwood or any other place where any person employed or about to be employed by the plaintiffs or any of them might be brought for the purpose of inducing such persons not to work for the plaintiffs, or any of them, or for any purpose except merely to obtain or communicate information.—*Charnock v. Court, Chancery Division, March 30th and April 12th.*

(4) Merchant Shipping Act.

SEAMAN'S WAGES: ADVANCE NOTE.

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, requires the master of every ship, except small coasting vessels, to enter into an agreement, in a form approved by the Board of Trade, with every seaman whom he carries to sea as one of his crew from any port in the United Kingdom, and provides that such agreement "may contain a stipulation for payment to or on behalf of the seaman, conditionally on his going to sea in pursuance of the agreement, of a sum not exceeding the amount of one month's wages payable to the seaman under the agreement; and (b.) Stipulations for the allotment of a seaman's wages may be made in accordance with this Act. (2) Save as aforesaid an agreement by or on behalf of the employer of a seaman for the payment of money to or on behalf of the seaman conditionally on his going to sea from any port in the United Kingdom shall be void, and any money paid in satisfaction or in respect of any such agreement shall not be deducted from the seaman's wages." The Act further provides that, in the case of seamen engaged abroad, where the master of a ship engages a seaman at a port in which there is a British consular officer, the provisions of the Act respecting agreements with the crew made in the United Kingdom shall apply with certain modifications. (The seaman is to be engaged before the consular officer, and with his sanction; and the agreement is to be endorsed accordingly.)

A seaman, who had entered into an agreement in writing before the British Consul at a port in Peru to serve on a British ship on her voyage thence to Swansea, at £3 per month, and who had received an advance note for £4 10s. (in the form of a promise to pay, signed by the ship's master), was offered his wages less that sum, but refused the offer and claimed the amount of his wages less £3 only, on the ground that by virtue of the Act no more than one month's wages could be deducted in respect of an advance note. The Queen's Bench Division held (reversing the decision of the magistrates who had made an order in favour of the plaintiff) that the provision in the Act limiting the amount to be deducted in respect of an advance note did not extend to cases where the seaman was going to sea from any port not in the United Kingdom, and that the deduction in respect of the advance note received by the plaintiff could not be limited to one month's wages as contended.—*Ritchie v. Larsen, Queen's Bench Division, January 26th, reported April 22nd.*

In another case the circumstances were generally similar to those just described, except that the advance note (for two months' wages) was not in the form of a promise to pay by the ship's master and was not signed by him, but was in the form of an acknowledgment by the seaman of his having shipped and received the money, and of his assigning the same "for value received" to a person therein named. The magistrates having decided that one month's wages only could be deducted in respect of the advance note, the master of the ship appealed, insisting that he had the right to deduct the whole two months' wages. On behalf of the plaintiff reliance was placed upon section 163 of the Merchant Shipping Act, which had not been referred to in the previous case, and to an Act of Parliament (8 Geo. I, c. 24, s. 7), to which also attention had not been directed on that occasion.

The Act of Geo. I. provides that "for prevention of seamen or mariners deserting merchant-ships or vessels abroad in the plantations, or in any other parts beyond the seas, which is the chief occasion of their turning pirates, and of great detriment to trade and navigation, and is chiefly occasioned by the owner or owners of ships or vessels, paying wages to the seamen or mariners when abroad; be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no master or owner of any merchant ship or vessel shall pay or advance, or cause to be paid or advanced to any seaman or mariner, during the time he shall be in parts beyond the seas, any money or effects upon account of wages, exceeding one moiety of the wages which shall be due at the time of such payment, until such ship or vessel shall return to Great Britain or Ireland, or the plantations or to some other of His Majesty's dominions whereto they belong, and from whence they were first fitted out; and if any such master or owner of such merchant-ship or vessel shall pay or advance, or cause to be paid or advanced, any wages to any seaman or mariner above the said moiety, such master or owner shall forfeit and pay double the money he shall so pay or advance, to be recovered in the High Court of Admiralty, by any person who shall first discover and inform of the same."

Section 163 of the Merchant Shipping Act is as follows: "(1.) As respects wages due or accruing to a seaman or apprentice to the sea service—(a) they shall not be subject to attachment or arrestment from any court; (b) an assignment or sale thereof made

prior to the accruing thereof shall not bind the person making the same; (c) a power of attorney or authority for the receipt thereof shall not be irrevocable; and (d) a payment of wages to the seaman or apprentice shall be valid in law, notwithstanding any previous sale or assignment of those wages, or any attachment, incumbrance, or arrestment thereof. (2.) Nothing in this section shall affect the provisions of this Act with respect to allotment notes."

The Queen's Bench Division was of opinion that the Act of Geo. I. applied to seamen already on the ship on its touching at the foreign port, but did not prevent a master from engaging a man in a foreign port, on the terms that he should be paid so much money down on joining the ship and the balance at the end of the voyage, and held that the magistrates were not right in allowing a deduction of one month only; that section 163 does not prohibit advances at all; and that there is no limit to advances made abroad, and in this case on the facts agreed the payment was by the plaintiff's authority and was binding on him. Judgment was accordingly given that the defendant was entitled to deduct the second (as well as the first) month's wages.—*Rowlands v. Miller, Queen's Bench Division, February 11th and 17th, reported April 29th.*

SUPPLYING SEAMEN: NECESSITY OF LICENCE IN CASE OF FOREIGN SHIPS.

A shipping agent, not holding a licence to engage seamen or apprentices for merchant ships in the United Kingdom, was convicted by a magistrate of having unlawfully engaged two seamen to be entered on board a certain foreign ship lying at Port Glasgow, contrary to section 111 of the Merchant Shipping Act, and was sentenced to pay (in respect of each seaman) a fine and costs, and in default of payment to be imprisoned. By the section in question it is made an offence for any person to "engage or supply a seaman or apprentice to be entered on board any ship in the United Kingdom, unless that person either holds a licence from the Board of Trade for the purpose, or is the owner or master or mate of the ship, or is *bond fide* the servant and in the constant employment of the owner, or is a superintendent," and any person committing this offence is liable to be punished by a fine for each seaman or apprentice illegally engaged or supplied not exceeding £20. Section 680 (b) of the Act provides that an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding £100 shall be prosecuted summarily in manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.

The defendant appealed from the decision of the magistrate on the grounds that the Court had no jurisdiction, the offence being charged in respect of a foreign ship, and that the convictions were bad on the face of them as imposing imprisonment in default of payment. The Queen's Bench Division dismissed the appeal, holding that section 111 applied to foreign, as well as to British, ships, and that the offence was committed by supplying seamen to any ship, whether foreign or British; and, secondly, that the magistrate had power to award imprisonment, as he had done.—*Reg. v. Stewart and Others, Queen's Bench Division, April 11th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.—Emigrants to Canada should start now. Competent farm hands will have no difficulty in procuring work at good wages, and there is a special demand for female servants, both in towns and on farms. Good country carpenters and other mechanics should do well, if they could combine a little farming with their trade. The routes to the Klondike goldfields are now open, and will close about September; only miners with considerable means of their own should go there, as both journey and provisions are very expensive.

Victoria.—The population of Melbourne increased by 11,000 in 1898, mainly owing to the return of those who had left during the worst periods of the depression. In spite, therefore, of the increase of prosperity in the city, there was not sufficient work for all the new arrivals, with the exception of plumbers, and some of the less skilled have been unable to find employment. There appears to be a good opening for a few competent women, who are both typewriters and shorthand writers; the wages begin at £1, and advance to £3 a week. The minimum wages payable on some new municipal works at South Melbourne have been fixed as follows: bricklayers, carpenters, and plumbers, 9s. a day; masons, painters, and plasterers, 8s.; and labourers, 6s. 8d. At Castlemaine there are reported to be sufficient gold miners, mechanics and other labourers, but there is a scarcity of good domestic servants.

* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

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

South Australia.—There has been a good demand for experienced station and farm married couples, without children, at £40 to £80 per year, with board and lodging. Otherwise the labour market is fully supplied.

Western Australia.—A serious strike of lumpers at Fremantle has just been settled, after lasting a month. The principal matter in dispute was that of freedom of contract, but questions of pay and hours were also involved. The men have agreed to freedom of contract, and to a working week of 48 hours, and the employers have advanced wages in some cases. A report from Coolgardie states that there is no demand in that district for any class of labour. Owing to the decreased demand for labour in the colony many workmen have returned to their homes in other parts of Australia.

New Zealand.—The building and engineering trades have been busy almost everywhere, and all hands have been fully employed. The boot and clothing trades have been busy in parts: at Wellington, however, full time is not being worked. Unskilled labourers have been well employed throughout the Colony, and several reports state that any man can obtain work who wants it; it must, however, be remembered that the busy summer season is now over. The usual demand for female domestic servants continues.

Cape Colony and Natal.—There is no demand for more hands in these Colonies, except occasionally for a few experienced mechanics. At the same time a large amount of labour is being constantly employed especially in the mining and manufacturing industries.

Transvaal.—The building and other trades have improved in Johannesburg, and the number of the unemployed has decreased, but there is no demand for outside labour. House-rent is much lower than it was, and wages have somewhat declined. The local supply of women in domestic service and other occupations is sufficient.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in April.*—The state of employment continued favourable during April in the mining industry, hide and skin-working trades (including boot and shoe-making and glove-making), and in the woollen and cotton, garment-making, coachbuilding, metal (smelting and manufacture), engineering and building and accessory trades. In other industries there was no change in the state of employment.

Slightly over 10 per cent. of the 75,000 members of 530 trades unions (exclusive of the trades unions of miners in the Nord and Pas de Calais departments) furnishing reports were out of employment on April 15th.

There has been a decrease in the price of certain necessaries, e.g., butter, eggs, and bread.

Coal Mining in March.†—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in March was 5.98, compared with 5.88 in February, and 5.99 a year ago. In March full time (6 days and over) was worked by 92 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 7 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous month being 62 and 38 respectively.

Foreign Workmen and the Workmen's Compensation (for Accidents) Law of April 9th, 1898.—According to despatches to the Foreign Office from Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Paris, dated May 2nd and 3rd, the above law, of which an account appeared in the GAZETTE of May, 1898 (p. 132), is to come into operation on June 1st next. The rates of compensation under the law may be claimed by foreign workmen and their families, who must, however, in order to benefit by them, continue to reside in France. Should they leave French territory, the total indemnity to be paid will be a capital sum equal to three times the annuity allowed by the law. In cases of fatal accidents to foreign work-

* Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

† Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, April, 1899.

men no indemnity will be allowed to the wife or family residing abroad.

On May 2nd, on the re-assembling of the Chamber of Deputies, an unsuccessful attempt was made to postpone the date on which the law is to take effect.

GERMANY.

Employment in April.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the satisfactory state of employment reported in the previous month continued in April. It is, however, noted that the proportion which applications for work bore to offers of situations at the 68 public employment registries from which returns were received, was somewhat higher in April than in March (95.5 per cent., as compared with 89.3 per cent.). Strikes and wages movements were frequent.

Labour Disputes in April.—According to the same journal, 84 fresh labour disputes occurred in Germany in April (compared with 54 in March). Of the April 38 disputes were in the building trades, 11 in the textile trades, 11 in the metal and engineering trades, 9 in the woodworking, etc., trades; 5 in the glass, pottery, and brick, etc., group; 2 each in the mining and food-preparing groups, and 6 in trades not coming within any of the foregoing groups.

Slag-grinding and Storing: Special Rules.—The *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* of April 28th, 1899, contains the text of a set of special rules, prepared by the Federal Council for observance in establishments in which slag obtained from "Thomas" furnaces is ground, or stored when ground. The rules are dated April 25th, 1899, and take effect from July 1st following. They prescribe measures for securing freedom from slag-dust, and for preventing injury therefrom to persons employed in the establishments in question. Women and children must not be employed or permitted to remain in any of the rooms into which ground or unground slag is introduced. For persons employed in breaking or grinding slag from "Thomas" furnaces, or in emptying, loading, or storing the same when ground, the hours of labour must not exceed 10 per day, divided by intervals of at least two hours in the aggregate, one of these intervals to be of at least an hour's duration. For the performance of work of any of the kinds just specified the employer must only engage persons whom he knows not to be addicted to intemperance and who shall have obtained, from a doctor duly authorised in that behalf, a certificate showing freedom from disease of the respiratory organs.

Special Rules for Corn Mills.—July 1st, 1899, has also been fixed for the coming into operation of a set of rules, dated April 26, and prepared by the Federal Council, with reference to employment in corn-mills. Under these rules, journeymen and apprentices working in corn-mills must be allowed at least eight, and, when steam power alone is used, at least 10 consecutive hours of rest in 24. In respect to corn-mills working regularly with day and night shifts, provision is made for such a shortening of the hours of rest on certain Sundays as may be necessary in connection with the changing of the shifts. These rules do not apply to corn-mills in which wind is the sole motive power, and mills driven entirely by irregular water-power may be granted exemptions on 15 days (but not more) in the year in respect to the duration of the period of rest in 24 hours. The employment in any corn-mill of apprentices of less than 16 years of age between half past 8 in the evening and half past 5 in the morning is forbidden.

BELGIUM.

Strike in the Coal Mining Industry.—Reporting to the Foreign Office under date of April 18th, Sir F. R. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, stated that, at a meeting of the National Miners' Federation, held at Charleroi on the previous day, it had been decided to demand an increase of 20 per cent. in wages in all the four mining districts of Belgium. The claim was based on the recent advance in the price of coal at Liège and Charleroi. In both of these districts the coal owners showed a disposition to make concessions, but their offers, amounting in the former case to an increase of 5 per cent., were refused. On the evening of the same day, on which the meeting at Charleroi decided to make the above demand, a general strike was decided upon in the Centre district, at a meeting held in La Louvière. On April 23rd, Mr. G. R. de Courcy Perry, H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp, reported that in Charleroi 22,000 men had struck, while 10,500 remained at work, and that in the Liège district 5,000 men were estimated to be out, demanding from 10 to 15 per cent. increase of wages. A report, dated April 29th, from the same source, stated that an improvement had taken

place in the situation in the Liège district, some 900 coalminers having returned to work.

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes: April 5th to May 2nd.—Exclusive of the great dispute in the woollen industry in Brünn, briefly described below, there were, according to *Die Gewerkschaft* (the organ of the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee), 25 new disputes begun in Austria between April 5th and May 2nd. Of these, 9 were in the textile trades, 7 in the building trades, 3 among metal workers, 2 among woodworkers, and 4 in other or unspecified trades. The most serious of the disputes were as follows:—(1) A strike of 3,000 building-trade operatives in Carlsbad, which lasted from the 10th to the 18th of April, and is stated to have been primarily due to the proposed introduction of new working rules by the employers. It is stated that the terms of settlement provide for the drawing up of a new set of rules, before October 1st, by employers and workpeople jointly. (2) A strike involving some 1,500 building operatives and 500 brickmakers (who struck in sympathy) lasting from April 5th to May 2nd. The brickmakers resumed work on April 6th. The building operatives are stated to have obtained a 10 hours' day (as demanded) and increases in wages amounting to from 5 to 15 per cent. (compared with 30 per cent. demanded).

Strike in the Woollen Industry in Brünn.—A general strike of the workpeople employed in the woollen industry in Brünn was begun on May 2nd. According to *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), the workpeople, at a meeting held three weeks previously, had formulated the following demands: (1) Introduction of a 10-hours' day (the legal maximum for factories in Austria is 11 hours); (2) the workpeople to assist in drawing up a new model code of factory rules; and (3) the abolition of nightwork from Saturday to Sunday in spinning-mills. Two conferences were held between representatives of the workpeople and the Association of Woollen Manufacturers of Moravia. At the second of these conferences, which was brought about through the intervention of the District Factory Inspector, the employers agreed (1) to examine the question of a 10-hours' day; (2) to discuss the model factory rules with the workpeople and (3) to abolish night work from Saturday to Sunday in the spinning-mills. The dispute now turned on the question of the 10 hours day, on which no agreement could be arrived at. As a result, some 10,000 out of a total of 12,000 workpeople employed in the woollen industry in Brünn went on strike on May 2nd. The dispute is still in progress.

NORWAY.

Strike of Dock Labourers in Christiania.—According to a telegram, dated May 2nd, to the Foreign Office from the Hon. C. S. Dundas, H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, a strike of dock labourers began on that day in the port, and work on board vessels was being carried out with great difficulty in consequence. A telegram from the same source, dated May 6th, announced that precautions were being considered for preventing a collision between the strikers and a supply of labourers, who, as the Consul-General had been informed, were being sent to Christiania by a British steamship company for the use of its steamers.

RUSSIA.

Operations of the Peasants' Land Bank in 1897.—The report on the operations of the Peasants' Land Bank in 1897, summarised in the Journal of the Ministry of Finance (*Viestnik Financoff*), shows that the number and amount of the loans granted in that year to enable the peasantry to purchase land were much greater than in any previous year since the establishment of the Bank (in 1883). The loans advanced in 1897 numbered 2,230, the amount advanced being £2,089,500, out of a total sum of £2,544,300 required for the purchase of 962,048 acres of land. For the 14 years 1883-96 the average annual loans numbered 1,193, and amounted to £640,100.

Most of the money is borrowed by peasants collectively. Thus in 1897, in the case of 1,441 loans to the amount of £1,606,100, the borrowers were co-operative associations, and in the case of 247 loans, to the amount of £456,000, they were whole villages. Individual peasants obtained 542 loans to the amount of £27,400. The land thus acquired by villages is in most cases needed for purposes of common pasture.

From the date of its establishment in 1883 up to January 1st, 1898, (O.S.) the Bank had granted 18,941 loans, amounting in all to £11,054,604 towards the purchase of 8,037,676 acres of land, for which the sum of £14,359,882 was paid by individuals, co-operative societies, and village communities representing 424,338 peasant householders.

The Peasants' Land Bank is a State institution, under the supervision of the Minister of Finance. It obtains the means of advancing loans by the issue of mortgage bonds at 4½ and 4 per cent., secured upon the estates mortgaged and by the general resources of the Government.

Co-operative Loan and Deposit Societies at the end of 1897.—The same journal summarises the returns for the year 1897 received in the Petty Credit Chancellery of the Ministry of Finance from co-operative loan and deposit societies up to February 1st, 1899 (O.S.) The number of these societies existing on January 1st, 1898 (O.S.), is stated to have been 628 (compared with 655 the year before), and their membership, 222,652 (compared with 209,219 of the year before). Their financial position on January 1st (O.S.), of each of those years is shown to have been, approximately, as follows:—

	January 1st, 1897.	January 1st, 1898.
	£	£
Assets:—		
New Loans granted	1,918,169	1,945,188
Renewals of Loans	211,200	256,685
Cash in Hand	93,217	99,546
Interest-bearing Bonds	333,790	278,098
In hands of Credit Institutions	54,399	50,768
Other Assets	44,576	51,161
Loss Balances	2,161	2,254
Total	2,577,512	2,683,680
Liabilities:—		
Share Capital	679,598	705,966
Reserve Capital	211,192	222,182
Deposits	1,065,859	1,142,173
Loans contracted by Societies	467,815	457,898
Other Liabilities	79,985	77,008
Profit Balances	75,085	78,453
Total	2,577,512	2,683,680

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN APRIL.

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

ALLOWING for the Easter Holidays, employment has continued good in April, and is better than a year ago.*

Returns relating to 1,143 pits, at which 385,456 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5.19 days per week was worked by these pits during the four weeks ended 22nd April, as compared with 4.98 days per week in April, 1898. In both of these periods employment was affected by the Easter Holidays.

The following table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified. In Scotland, where Easter Holidays are not observed, employment was interrupted in April of last year by short disputes.

District.	No. employed in April, 1899, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		22nd April 1899.	23rd April 1898.	25th Mar., 1899.
England and N. Wales	347,078	5.17	4.95	5.60
Scotland	37,802	5.44	5.33	5.46
Ireland	576	5.05	4.63	5.08
United Kingdom*	385,456	5.19	4.98	5.58

With the exception of Northumberland, Cumberland and Fife, the average time worked was greater in every district than a year ago, the improvement amounting to about half a day per week in the Notts and Leicester and Staffordshire districts, one-third of a day in Yorkshire, and a quarter of a day in Derbyshire.

The highest averages worked during the month were in Scotland where the Easter Holidays were not observed, viz., the Lothians (5.62 days per week), Fife (5.52 days), and West Scotland (5.36 days). In England and North Wales the highest averages were in Gloucester and Somerset (5.43 days), and North Wales

* In April of last year the dispute in the South Wales and Monmouthshire coal trade was in progress, and as this circumstance would disturb the general comparison with April, 1899, this district has been excluded from the general remarks and tables. A separate account is, however, given at the end of the report as to employment in this district.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—IRON MINING, PIG IRON AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES.

and Cumberland (5.37 days each), while the lowest averages were worked in Notts and Leicester (4.80 days) and Northumberland (4.95 days). In the remaining districts the average time worked was between 5 and 5½ days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN APRIL, 1899 AND 1898, AND IN MARCH 1899.

District.	No. employed in Apr., 1899, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in April, 1899 as compared with	
		22nd April, 1899.	23rd April, 1898.	25th Mar., 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & N. WALES						
Northumberland	35,076	4.95	4.95	5.37	−.42	−.42
Derham	92,778	5.19	5.04	5.58	+ .15	−.39
Cumberland	6,213	5.37	5.41	5.92	−.04	−.55
Yorkshire	50,542	5.22	4.90	5.78	+ .32	−.56
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,882	5.21	5.03	5.61	+ .18	−.40
Derbyshire	38,353	5.24	5.00	5.76	+ .24	−.52
Nottingham and Leicester	23,647	4.80	4.23	4.93	+ .57	−.13
Staffordshire	24,382	5.23	4.75	5.72	+ .48	−.49
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	8,829	5.14	5.10	5.67	+ .04	−.53
Gloucester and Somerset	8,405	5.43	5.34	5.82	+ .09	−.39
North Wales	11,971	5.37	5.24	5.79	+ .13	−.42
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	22,068	5.36	5.18	5.40	+ .18	−.04
The Lothians	3,620	5.62	5.58	5.70	+ .04	−.08
Fife	12,114	5.32	5.54	5.50	−.02	+ .02
IRELAND.						
... ..	576	5.05	4.63	5.08	+ .42	−.03
Grand Total & Averages*	385,456	5.19	4.98	5.58	+ .21	−.39

Returns received relating to 114 pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire at which 60,730 workpeople were employed show that the average number of days worked at these pits in the four weeks ended 22nd April was 5.51 per week, the average in March being 5.87 days.

In the next table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 80.9 per cent. were employed at pits working five or more days per week in April as compared with 58.6 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	April 1899.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	April, 1898.	March, 1899
24 days (full time)	11,547	3.0	2.5	31.4
20 and under 24 days	300,083	77.9	66.1	61.7
16 " " 20 " "	69,813	18.1	18.2	5.8
12 " " 16 " "	3,211	0.8	4.1	0.8
8 " " 12 " "	132	0.0	0.6	0.1
Under 8 days	670	0.2	0.5	0.2
Total	385,456	100.0	100.0	100.0

Exports of Coal.—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during April amounted to 3,455,109 tons as against 3,462,405 tons in March, and 2,601,256 tons in April, 1898.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT continues good, although the average number of days worked per week during April was less than in March, owing to the Easter holidays. As compared with a year ago a slight falling off in employment is perceptible.

Returns received relating to 131 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked per week by these mines in the four weeks ended 22nd April was 5.59, as compared with 5.62 days in April, 1898. The Easter holidays occurred in both of these periods. The number of workpeople employed at the 131 mines, was 17,006 in April, 1899, and 17,323 in April, 1898. Of the 17,006 workpeople 73.0 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks as against 83.9 per cent. a year ago.

* See footnote (*) on page 138.

The following table summarises the returns received:

District.	No. employed in Apr., 1899, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Apr., 1899, as compared with	
		22nd Apr., 1899.	23rd Apr., 1898.	25th Mar., 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire	6,085	5.63	5.66	5.90	−.03	−.27
Cleveland	6,763	5.59	5.73	5.86	−.14	−.27
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire	680	5.89	5.63	5.99	+ .26	−.10
Northamptonshire	665	5.64	5.46	5.95	+ .18	−.31
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,371	5.35	5.12	5.82	+ .23	−.47
Other places in						
England	291	5.41	5.22	5.59	+ .19	−.18
SCOTLAND	1,047	5.57	5.58	6.00	−.01	−.43
IRELAND	104	5.85	5.95	5.88	−.10	−.03
Total	17,006	5.59	5.62	5.89	−.03	−.30

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT continues good in this industry. Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 375 furnaces were in blast at these works at the end of April, employing an estimated number of 24,630 workpeople, being 35 more furnaces and 2,146 more workpeople than a year ago, at which time employment in this industry was affected to some extent by the dispute in the South Wales coal trade. During the month 5 furnaces have been re-lit, viz.: 1 in Cleveland and 2 each in the Midlands and Lanarkshire; while 7 furnaces have been damped down or blown out, of which number 4 were in the Cumberland and Lancashire district. The estimated number employed has increased by 104.

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	April, 1899.	April, 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in April, 1899.	April, 1899.	Mar., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in April, 1899.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	99	95	+ 4	99	98	+ 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	48	46	+ 2	48	52	− 4
S. and S.W. Yorks...	19	17	+ 2	19	19	...
Lincolnshire	16	14	+ 2	16	16	...
Midlands	100	93	+ 7	100	99	+ 1
Glamorgan and Mon.	18	3	+ 15	18	18	...
Other districts	9	9	...	9	9	...
Total England and Wales...)	309	277	+ 32	309	311	− 2
SCOTLAND	66	63	+ 3	66	65	...
Total furnaces included in returns ...)	375	340	+ 35	375	377	− 2

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during April amounted to 104,279 tons, as compared with 98,676 tons in March and 87,267 tons in April, 1898.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry has improved during the month, and continues better than a year ago. Several mills are reported to be idle owing to a scarcity of millmen.

At the end of April, 45 works with 222 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 25 others with 189 mills were giving partial employment, 127 of these mills being at work. Thus in all, 349 mills were working and giving employment to an estimated number of 17,508 workpeople, as compared with 343* mills employing 17,451* workpeople at the end of March, and 310 mills employing 16,063 workpeople a year ago, when employment was affected by the scarcity of fuel caused by the dispute in the South Wales coal trade.

The following table shows the number of mills and

* Amended figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—IRON AND STEEL WORKS; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

workpeople employed at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,* at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.			Estimated No. of Work-people employed.
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.	
Works giving full employment	45	222	—	222	10,833
Works giving partial employment	25	127	62	189	6,675
Total at end of April, 1899†	70	349	62	411	17,508
Corresponding Total for March, 1899*	70	343†	67	410†	17,451†
Corresponding Total for April, 1898*	62	310	43	353	16,068

The exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above table were as follows:—

	Tinplates. Tons.	Blackplates Tons.
April, 1899 ...	20,136	5,997
March, 1899 ...	20,547	10,447
April, 1898 ...	20,668	4,920

(c) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS† IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT in these industries was slightly better at the end of April than at the end of March, and considerably better than a year ago.

Returns received from 214 works show that they were employing 79,212 workpeople in the last week of April, or 176 more than in the last week of March and 5,723 more than a year ago. The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers Employed.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1899, as compared with	
	Numbers employed in week ending			a year ago.	a month ago.
	April 29th, 1899.	April 30th, 1898.	Mar. 25th, 1899.		
England and Wales ...	66,330	61,541	66,132	+4,789	+198
Scotland ...	12,882	11,948	12,904	+934	-22
Total ...	79,212	73,489	79,036	+5,723	+176

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to about 88 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.59 in the last week of April, 5.56 in the last week of March, and 5.51 in the last week of April, 1898.

Average Weekly Number of Shifts worked per Man.

Number of Shifts worked per man.	Number employed in April, 1899, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in April, 1898.
Under 5 per week ...	1,796	2.6	5.0
5 " ...	24,874	35.5	35.2
5½ " ...	1,493	2.1	2.5
6 " ...	40,709	58.1	55.6
Above 6 " ...	1,183	1.7	1.7
Total ...	70,055	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first table may be estimated at 442,711 in the last week of April, 439,540 in the last week of March, and 404,948 in the last week of April, 1898.

* The figures in the table relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates but also to the manufacture of blackplates. It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures in the table are believed to give approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.

† Amended figures.

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

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN APRIL.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department on the basis of 235 returns from all parts of the country reports as follows:—Notwithstanding that there were a number of wet and stormy days in April, which interfered with outdoor spring work, agricultural labourers were generally well employed. In the Northern Counties where outdoor work appears to have been a good deal interrupted, the great majority of the farm servants are hired by the year or half-year, and so wet weather does not affect their employment, but in districts where weekly or daily engagements are the rule, it is now frequently said that, owing to the difficulty of getting and retaining men on the farms, employers have to find their men regular work and employ them "wet and dry."

Changes in the wages of ordinary agricultural labourers, amounting to a rise of 1s. a week, took place in April in certain districts in the counties of Cambridge, Essex, Herts (in some parishes 2s.), Hants, Leicester, Norfolk, Oxford, Somerset and Suffolk. In a good many districts in East Yorkshire a rise of 1s. 6d. a week took place. In a few districts there was a rise of 1s., and in some of 2s. or even 3s. Rises of 1s. to 1s. 6d. a week are also reported in districts in Devonshire, Lancashire, and Kent. In one district in the last named county the rise was from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. A rise of 1s. 6d. a week is reported in a district in Sussex, and of 2s. in a district in Bedfordshire. The changes in wages in most of these districts represent actual increases, as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Northern Counties.—In *Northumberland* employment is said to be generally regular, and in *Cumberland* in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Penrith, and Whitehaven. Reports from the Carlisle, and Penrith, Unions state that the seeding time has been much interfered with owing to bad weather. A large employer of labour in the Carlisle Union writes:—"Labour is very scarce and becoming difficult to get. Men prefer to work as masons, labourers, or upon the roads, rather than the farms, having more spare time at the former employment." In *South Westmorland* and *North Lancashire* labour is said to be scarce. In *Durham* all hands are said to be fully employed in the *Darlington* Union (*Durham* and *Yorks*), labour being very scarce. Favourable reports come from *Yorkshire*, from the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Driffield, Guisborough, Great Ouseburn, Howden, Knaresborough, Malton, Pocklington, Ripon, Scarborough, Selby, Thirsk, and Whitby. Reports from *Yorkshire* generally state that the wet weather in April retarded sowing a good deal. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports in the Unions of Beverley, Guisborough, Howden, Knaresborough, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. Some Irish labourers have arrived in the Howden Union. A report from the Guisborough Union states that at the local hirings in April the supply of labourers was less than last year and the wages were higher.

Midland Counties.—Reports from *Cheshire* state that employment is regular in the Unions of Macclesfield, Nantwich, and Tarvin. The season is said to be late, so there is no great pressure of work. Generally in the county labour is said to be scarce. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Derbyshire* in the Unions of Ashbourne, and Hayfield, and in the *Derbyshire* portion of the Mansfield Union (*Notts* and *Derby*); in the *Derbyshire* portion of the Worksop Union (*Notts* and *Derby*), and in the *Derbyshire* portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs* and *Derby*). Reports from several of these districts state that labour is scarce, and also that outdoor work was interfered with owing to wet and cold weather in April. Labourers in these districts, however, are generally employed regularly, whether wet or fine. In *Shropshire* employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (*Salop* and *Staffs*) and Wellington. In the Drayton Union the supply of labour is said not to be equal to the demand, and in the Wellington Union it is described as rather scarce. In *Staffordshire* there is said to be regularity of work in the Unions of Leek, Lichfield, Tamworth, and Uttoxeter. The season is said to be somewhat late. In the Tamworth Union Irishmen have begun to arrive. In the Leek Union some scarcity of labour is reported.

Reports from *Warwickshire* state that agricultural labourers are generally well employed in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and in the *Warwickshire*

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants* and *Warwick*). A report from the Alcester Union states that, owing to the stormy weather in April, which retarded outdoor work, labour was rather more plentiful. In some parts of the Union the increased activity in the bicycle trade has made farm hands scarce. In the Atherstone Union labour is said to be very scarce owing to the making of a new railway line. Favourable reports as to employment also come from *Leicestershire* from the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, Market Harborough, Market Bosworth, Melton Mowbray, and Lutterworth (*Leicester* and *Warwick*). A report from the Market Bosworth Union states that the men did not lose any time during the bad weather in April as the work generally had got into arrears owing to shortness of labour. In *Nottinghamshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Mansfield, Retford, and Southwell; extra men are said to be difficult to obtain. In the Retford Union a few extra hands were irregularly employed owing to wet weather. In *Rutland* in the Oakham Union "every able-bodied man and boy" is said to be fully employed. A large employer of labour writes that the state of the weather does not affect regularity of employment now, for if farmers did not give regular employment they would not be able to get men. Regularity of employment is also reported in *Worcestershire* in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Tenbury, Shipston-on-Stour, and Upton-on-Severn. Generally labourers are said to be scarce. In the Martley Union "odd hands for odd jobs" are said to be scarcely obtainable. In the Shipston-on-Stour Union milkers are said to be scarcely obtainable.

Reports from *Oxfordshire* state that there is regularity of work in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and in the *Oxfordshire* portions of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions (*Oxon* and *Berks*). A correspondent in the Thame Union writes that "men have been well employed. Cowmen and milkers continue scarce. Hedgers and ditchers are difficult to obtain. 'All round men' have wholly disappeared." In *Northamptonshire* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Brackley, Hardingstone, Kettering, Pottersbury, Towcester, and Wellingborough, and in the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants* and *Warwick*). In the Kettering, Pottersbury, and Wellingborough Unions there is said to be a short supply of labourers. Generally the wet weather interfered with outdoor work. There is said to be regularity of work in *Huntingdonshire* in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neot's (*Hunts* and *Beds*). A report from the Huntingdon Union states that "work proceeds very slowly owing to the want of hands." Another report from this Union, and also one from the St. Neot's Union, attributes the scarcity of men to railway extension, brickmaking and generally the attraction of town life to the younger men. In *Bedfordshire* work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton. A scarcity of men is referred to in reports from the Unions of Bedford, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton. In the last-named Union it is said that it is very difficult to get sufficient labour for the ordinary work of the farms. In the Biggleswade Union it is stated that work was somewhat more irregular during April as "in consequence of sharp frosts and showery weather, it was inadvisable, if possible, to hoe corn." A correspondent in the Luton Union states that hoeing has been hindered by the stormy weather, but that the labourers have been fully employed.

Eastern Counties.—Agricultural labourers in *Essex* are said to be generally regularly employed in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Lenden and Winsree, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, and Tendring. Outdoor work, such as hoeing and weeding, was somewhat interfered with by the wet weather, though usually the labourers did not lose time. A few were in irregular work from this cause in the Braintree Union for a few days. Labourers are said to be in great demand in the Ongar Union, especially horsemen and stockmen. In the Orsett and Tendring Unions the supply of men is somewhat scarce. Favourable reports come from *Suffolk*, from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hoxne, and Risbridge. A large farmer in the Cosford Union writes: "Employment has been regular in consequence of the scarcity of labour; otherwise the showery weather in April would have prevented some being employed." A report of a similar character comes from the Samford Union. A large employer of labour in the Bosmere and Claydon Unions writes, "April has been more or less a wet month and prevented hoeing a good deal, but previously,

work was in a forward state, so that the check is not serious.

In *Norfolk* agricultural labourers are said to be generally in regular work in the Unions of Aylsham, Elofield, Depwade, Docking, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. In the following Unions there is said to be some scarcity of labour, namely, Aylsham, Blofield, Docking, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Smallburgh, and Thetford. Generally speaking, outdoor work was somewhat interrupted by wet days, but all reports state that farmers usually found their men employment under cover.

In *Cambridgeshire* employment is said to be usually regular in the Unions of Caxton and Arrington, Chesterton, Linton, North Witchford, Royston, and Wisbech, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants*, *Camb*s, *Hunts*, and *Lincoln*). In most of the districts referred to labour is said to be scarce. In the Royston Union this is said to be due to many young men having gone either to neighbouring cement works or to London. A report from the Isle of Ely states that more potatoes have been planted this year, which has given a good deal of employment, Agricultural labourers in *Lincolnshire* are said to be well employed in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Caistor, Gainsborough, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Lincoln* and *Notts*). It is said that employment is usually found for the men on wet days. Men are said to be scarce in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Caistor, Lincoln, Newark, and Spilsby.

Home Counties.—Employment in *Buckinghamshire* is said to be regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. It is said that employers find suitable work in wet weather. In all these districts labour is said to be scarce. In the Aylesbury Union cattlemen and milkers "are very bad to get." In the Buckingham Union "no extra labour can be got for hoeing," and in the Newport Pagnell and Winslow Unions it is said that there is "a very short supply indeed." In *Berkshire* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage, and in both these districts labour is said to be scarce. Regularity of work is reported from *Surrey* in the Unions of Godstone, and Hambleton, and in the *Surrey* portion of the Farnham Union (*Surrey* and *Hants*). All reports from this county refer to a scarcity of men. An employer of labour in the Farnham Union writes: "The supply of labour is very scarce. Hands cannot be obtained for farm work even at the high wages paid in this parish (18s. a week); carters are at a premium. At Reading Fair, on the 1st inst., I was informed by many friends that the same state of things existed all over Berkshire." Reports from *Kent* state that employment is regular in the Unions of Bridge, Blean, Cranbrook, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. Labourers are said to be difficult to obtain in the Unions of Cranbrook, Eastry, Faversham, Hoo, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. It is generally stated that when too wet to work on the land, other employment is found for the men. In *Hertfordshire* work is said to be regular in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, and Hertford. In the Hitchin Union men engaged on piece work were not always able to work full time owing to the wet. In the Buntingford, and Hitchin Unions men are said to be scarce.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Reports from *Sussex* state that employment is regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. A number of employers in this county refer to a short supply of labour, and in many districts the men have gone into brickyards. A report from the Chailey Union says: "A great scarcity of men and boys; carters and cowmen are not to be obtained." Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Hampshire* in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Fareham, Droxford, Havant, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants* and *Surrey*). A number of employers refer to a scarcity of labour. A correspondent in the Fareham Union writes, "Labourers are very scarce, particularly carters. I have advertised in different papers for two months without receiving one genuine application."

In *Dorsetshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wimborne and Cranborne, Sherborne, and Wareham and Purbeck. In the last-named Union the supply of labour is said to be very short. Reports from *Wiltshire* state that farm labourers are well employed in the Unions of

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

Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. It is generally stated that the men are found work in wet weather. Reports from nearly all these districts refer to a scarcity of labourers. An employer writes from the Amesbury Union as follows:—"Owing to the frequent works going on in the Manœuvre grounds, it has drained the labourers from the farms, causing great inconvenience to the farmers. . . . The consequence has been there has been an abnormal rise in wages of one to three shillings." A correspondent in the Bradford-on-Avon Union writes that "I never in my experience remember labour being so scarce, even for odd and piecework. As regards milkers, farmers have to put up with an indifferent supply of what they can get, and be grateful." Another correspondent in the Chippenham Union writes as follows:—"One of the difficulties in this district is to get the cows milked. There are several in this part selling their cows on that account. The men do not like Sunday work."

Agricultural labourers in Gloucestershire are said to be regularly employed in Unions of Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Thornbury, and Stow-on-the-Wold. In several reports from this county a scarcity of labour is referred to. A correspondent in the Thornbury Union writes that, "Hoing wheat and beans could not be done owing to the wet. Likewise potato planting and mangold sowing was stopped." There is said to be no irregularity of employment in Herefordshire in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (Hereford and Monmouth), and Ross. Some scarcity of labour exists in the Dore, and Ross Unions. Spring corn sowing was somewhat hindered by rain. Labourers are said to be well employed in Somersetshire in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, and Wells, and in Devonshire in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, Totnes, and Torrington. Several reports refer to a scarcity of labour. One employer states that it is almost impossible to get boys to assist at milking. In some districts spring tillage has been delayed by the wet. In Cornwall labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Bodmin, Stratton, and Camelford. In the Bodmin Union labour is said to be very scarce. This is attributed to briskness in the granite and china clay industries, and also in tin and copper mining; also many young men go to South Africa. Female farm servants are also said to be very scarce. In the Stratton Union farm servants are likewise said to be very scarce.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves was, on the whole, better in April than in March, but not so good as in April, 1898.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended April 22nd was 13,890, as compared with an average of 13,576 in the preceding four weeks and with 14,553 in the corresponding period of last year.

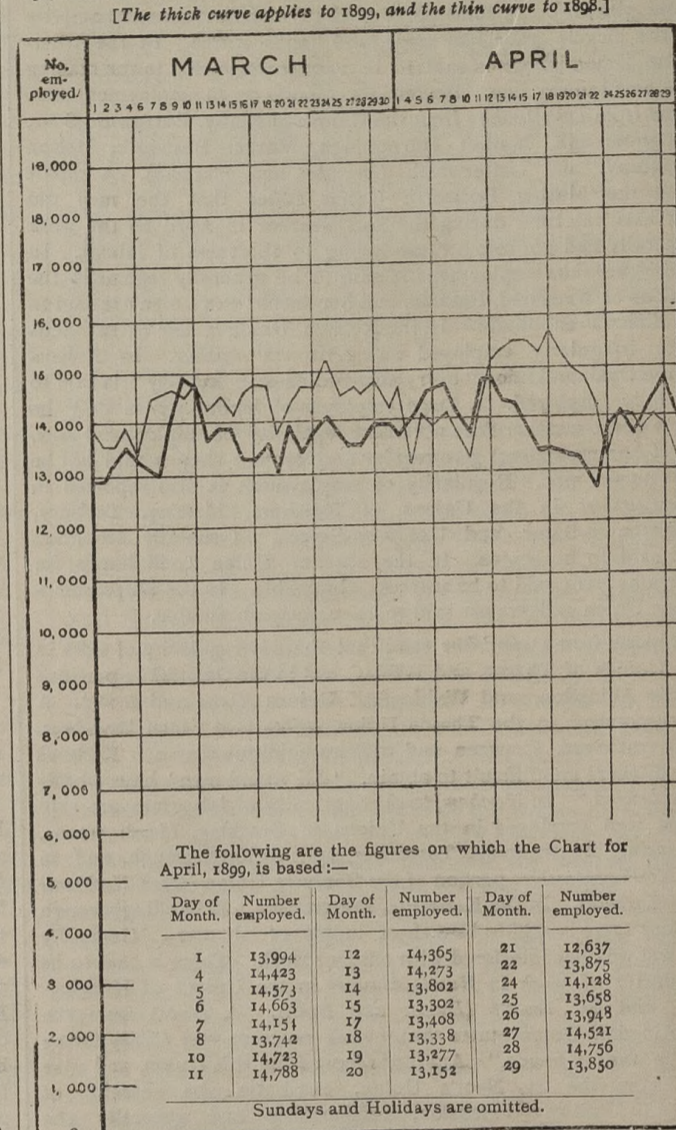
(1) Weekly Averages.—The following table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.	
Week ending April 1	5,366	2,622	8,058	13,819
" " " 8	5,763	2,928	8,691	14,311
" " " 15	5,637	2,760	8,397	14,209
" " " 22	5,632	2,191	7,823	13,281
Average for 4 weeks ending April 22nd, 1899	5,602	2,628	8,230	13,890
Average for April, 1898	6,125	2,606	8,731	14,553
Average for Mar., 1899	5,570	2,803	7,776	13,576

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and the principal wharves during March and April is shown on the chart below. The numbers in April ranged from 12,637 on the 21st to 14,788 on the 11th.

During April, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 13,196 on the 2nd to 15,701 on the 18th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of March, and April, 1899. The corresponding curve for March and April 1898, is also given for comparison.



In mid-stream employment has been only moderate, though it improved in the last week of the month. With deal and coal porters, winchmen, lumpers and stevedores, employment has been moderate; with lightermen, fair; with corn porters, slack in the Surrey and Millwall Docks, but fair in the Victoria and Albert Docks. The fruit porters have been fairly well employed during the month, the average daily number employed during the month being 340, as compared with 300 in the last week of March after the dispute with the orange gang.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN APRIL.

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

THE number of seamen shipped as the crews of foreign going vessels from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 31,265 during April, 1899, or 111 less than in April, 1898. The supply of seamen is generally reported as equal to the demand, and at some of the ports the supply exceeds the demand. Particulars of changes in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen at Middlesbrough, and firemen at Liverpool and Swansea, will be found in the table on page 154.

Lascars (who are engaged in Asia) are not included in these figures. Of the 31,265 seamen shipped in the four months ending April 30th, 18,809, or 15 per cent., were foreigners, compared with 14.7 per cent. during the corresponding months of 1898.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SEAMEN; TEXTILE TRADES; LONDON.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in April, 1899, and 1898 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the four months ended April in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in April, 1899.*			Total in April, 1898.*	Total number shipped in 4 months ended April†	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April, 1899.		1899.	1898.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	46	2,606	2,652	4,180	10,702	12,519
Sunderland ...	5	343	348	632	1,726	2,378
Middlesbrough ...	19	232	251	287	1,036	1,125
Hull ...	20	983	1,003	1,366	4,268	4,737
Grimsby ...	4	54	58	124	281	323
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	—	120	120	253	640	806
Newport, Mon. ...	—	842	842	381	4,299	4,041
Cardiff ...	221	4,781	5,002	2,084	21,763	23,014
Swansea ...	119	443	562	665	2,217	2,258
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	266	9,978	10,244	10,679	39,407	39,041
London ...	261	5,168	5,429	5,790	21,807	23,414
Southampton ...	—	1,368	1,368	1,407	5,577	5,729
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth Glasgow ...	135	2,224	2,359	2,543	8,246	8,948
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	118	118	114	440	388
Belfast ...	12	210	222	286	1,102	1,033
Total, April, 1899	1,128	30,137	31,265	—	128,684	—
Idto, April, 1898	1,239	30,137	—	31,976	—	128,642

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month showed practically no change in the spinning and weaving branches of the cotton trade, and a marked improvement in the woollen and worsted trades, compared with the previous month. Information has been received with regard to 586 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 102,470 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time.		Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
April, 1899 ...	95	4	1	—
March, 1899 ...	96	2	1	1
April, 1898 ...	89	10	1	—
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
April, 1899 ...	88	11	1	—
March, 1899 ...	87	11	1	1
April, 1898 ...	67	29	4	—
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
April, 1899 ...	86	7	6	1
March, 1899 ...	75	16	7	2
April, 1898 ...	72	15	13	—
Total of above Trades—				
April, 1899 ...	90	8	2	—
March, 1899 ...	87	10	2	1
April, 1898 ...	74	20	6	—

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 26,340; of these, 95 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month (to be compared with 96 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in March, and with 89 per cent. in April, 1898).

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 53,040; of these, 88 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the

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

whole month (to be compared with 87 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in March, and with 67 per cent. in April, 1898).

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 23,090; of these, 86 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month (to be compared with 75 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in March, and 72 per cent. in April, 1898).

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—In nearly every group of trades the condition of employment improved during April. Returns from 447 branches of 109 unions, having an aggregate membership of 73,976, show that 1,473 (or 2.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.6 in March and 2.5 per cent. in April, 1898.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades has continued to improve. Reports from 148 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,338, show that 457 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.3 in March and 2.9 in April of last year. Employment with sailmakers has been fairly good.

The Building trades continue brisk. Returns from 180 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,608, show that 80 (or 0.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.8 in March and 1.0 per cent. in April, 1898. The bricklayers and painters and decorators describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, stonemasons and plasterers, as fair (the latter being still unsettled owing to a dispute); the plumbers as moderate; the stonecarvers as dull.

Employment in the Furnishing trades remains brisk. Reports from 48 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,351, show that 43 (or 0.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.2 in March and 1.7 per cent. in April of last year.

Coopers are busy. Reports from two societies, with a membership of 1,000, show that 2 (or 0.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.3 in March and 1.6 per cent. in April, 1898.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights are briskly employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,413, show that 12 (or 0.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.2 last month and also in April, 1898.

The Printing and Bookbinding trades have improved. Returns from 22 unions with a membership of 23,189, show that 551 (or 2.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.9 in March and 1.9 per cent. in April of last year.

Employment in the Clothing trades has been good. The West End bespoke tailors have been busy; the East End bespoke, contract and export trades good; the military and uniform tailors and tailoresses fairly busy; the ladies' tailors and mantle-makers busy. The hatters report employment as brisk; the fur skin dressers as fair; the silk weavers as bad.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the West End hand-sewn trade has been busy; in the East End sew-round trade quiet; with boot and shoe operatives it has improved and is now fair.

Employment in the Leather trades has improved. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,644, show that 32 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.9 in March, and 3.0 per cent. in April, 1898.

In the Glass and Pottery trades, returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,494, show that 113 (or 7.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.0 in March, and 5.3 per cent. in April of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 898, show that 7 (or 0.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.1 last month. The percentage for April, 1898, was 1.3.

Gold and Silver Workers have been better employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,118, show that 15 (or 1.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.1 last month and 3.0 per cent. in April, 1898.

Employment in the Tobacco trades is rather better. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,496, show that 122 (or 4.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.7 in March and 10.5 per cent. in April of last year.

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

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 13,890, compared with 13,576 in the preceding month, and with 14,553 in April, 1898. In mid-stream employment has been only moderate though it improved in the last week of the month. With deal and coal porters, winchmen, lumpers and stevedores, employment has been moderate; with lightermen, fair; with corn porters slack in the Surrey and Millwall Docks, but fair in the Victoria and Albert Docks. The fruit porters have been fairly well employed during the month. (For further details, see page 142.)

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland.*—Pits have been idle two days owing to Easter holidays. Steam and house coal collieries have worked 4.96 and 5.00 days per week. The 21,351 union miners have only one, and the 2,173 colliery mechanics, deputies, and engine and firemen, have none unemployed. *Durham.*—Most of the collieries have been affected by the holidays. Gas, house, coking, and manufacturing coal producing pits, have averaged 5.07, 5.03, 5.36 and 5.23 days per week. Returns from 126 collieries, employing close on 60,000 men and boys, show an average of 5.20 days worked per week. The number of union miners idle through depression is 164 (or 0.26 per cent.) as against 221 (or 0.4 per cent.) at the end of March. Of the 4,875 colliery deputies, mechanics, and engine and firemen, 10 are unemployed. Coke yards continue brisk.

Metal Mining.—Employment at the iron ore mines has been fairly good. At the lead mines full time is worked.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen are well employed. In Gateshead and district quarries are working steadily.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne.*—In the yards, frame benders, platers and riveters have worked much more regularly. Boiler shops are still well employed. At a few engine shops employment is slightly easier. Electrical engineers are not so busy. Locomotive builders and the ordnance works continue fairly brisk. These trades with 12,682 members have 265 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 390 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. *On the Wear.*—At several engine building firms want of material has interfered with employment. Platers and riveters are busier. Forgemens and shipsmiths are fully employed. Branches of these trades with 4,857 members have 59 (or 1.2 per cent.) off work, as against 130 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Wear shipwrights and Tyne joiners are all employed. Of the 555 union pattern makers on both rivers, 4 are idle. Iron and steel moulders are still busy. Employment with brass finishers is not so good. Drillers and hole cutters on old work are slack. Steel plate and angle mills at Consett have worked 5 shifts per week; at Spenny-mocr, Newburn, and Jarrow full time. All steel smelting shops are busy. Sailmakers are nearly all employed. Of the 1,380 enginemen 8 are unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Tyne watermen have had fair employment. Trimmers and teamers report a slight falling off in shipments. Union coal porters and shippers are averaging 5 days per week. Quayside labour has been fairly good. The demand for sailors and firemen continues good.

Building Trades.—At Sunderland 100 bricklayers are idle owing to the labourers' dispute. On both rivers masons are busy, but report a scarcity of building stone. With the exception of plumbers, other branches continue to improve.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers on the Tyne report employment as quiet; at Sunderland as moderate. On both rivers bookbinders and machine rulers are busy. Three paper mills have worked 147 shifts out of a possible 225; three others are fully employed.

Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers and upholsterers are well employed. Millsawyers on both rivers report employment as good; coopers and lathrenders as fairly steady.

Other Metal, Chemical and Glass Trades.—Pressed glassmakers have slightly improved. An advance of wages has been conceded to bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour (see p. 154). Copper and white lead works continue briskly employed. Chemical and cement factories have worked full time.

Fishing.—Trawl and line boats landed good catches during the second fortnight in the month; bad weather interrupted fishing in the earlier part. Prices have, however, been lower.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Employment continues fairly good with the Cleveland miners. The average number of days worked by 21

mines reported on was 5.59 per week during the four weeks ending April 22nd, as compared with 5.73 days per week in April, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,763, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,713.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment has been good at the finished ironworks, steelworks, blastfurnaces, bridge works, metal expansion works, and pipe foundries. General foundry work is good, but chair foundries continue moderately employed.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is good at Stockton fairly good at Hartlepool, moderate at Darlington, South Bank and Bishop Auckland; quiet at Middlesbrough. With the ironfounders and patternmakers it is good throughout the district. Branches of these trades, with 3,738 members, have 74 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 51 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipbuilding.—All the yards are reported as having plenty of work in hand, but in some cases men have been stopped through the backwardness of other departments. In parts of the district platers are reported as scarce. Shipwrights report employment as good throughout the district, shipjoiners as quieter at Hartlepool, fairly good elsewhere.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as good at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool. Dock labour has been good at Middlesbrough, slack at Hartlepool. Riverside labour has been good all down the river.

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as moderate at Middlesbrough and Stockton; otherwise employment generally is satisfactory throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as fairly good; cement-workers and pulp-workers are busy; cabinet-makers, French polishers, and sawyers report employment as good; saltworkers as steady.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry is good, the number of workpeople employed showing an increase as compared with a year ago, while the average number of days worked was about the same. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended April 22nd, 1899, at the 20 pits, from which returns have been received, was 5.37 per week, as against 5.41 in April, 1898. In both of these periods employment was interrupted by the Easter holidays. The number of workpeople employed in April, 1899, at the pits was 6,213; the corresponding number a year ago being 6,107.

Iron Mining.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines shows a slight falling off as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended April 22nd at the 44 mines covered by the returns was 5.63 per week as compared with 5.66 days in April, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at these mines in April, 1899, was 6,085, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,219.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces at the end of April shows a falling-off as compared with the end of March, but is slightly better than at the end of April, 1898. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of April was 48, as compared with 52 at the end of March, and 46 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces at the end of April was 3,886 or 119 less than at the end of March, and 230 more than at the end of April, 1898.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—In Oldham and the surrounding districts employment remains generally good. It is also reported as good in Mossley, Stockport, Rochdale, Stalybridge, and Ashton-under-Lyne, and as fair in Dukinfield and Droylsden. Employment in the twining trade shows little or no improvement, a quantity of the machinery being stopped. The cardroom workers in Oldham and Mossley report employment as good; ring frame spinners and throstle-frame tenters as fair. *Weaving.*—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as moderate in velvets, as good in calicoes and as bad in fustians. Employment is good with ball warpers, moderate with sectional warpers and winders, and slack with reelers.

Woollen and Silk Trades.—Employment in the woollen industry is reported as good in Rochdale, bad in Stockport. With silk dressers in Rochdale it is slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, plate and machine-moulders, tinplate workers, and iron grinders report employment

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

as moderate; pattern makers, toolmakers, and brassfounders as good; and boiler-makers, iron-founders and gas meter makers as fair.

Building Trades.—Painters and plasterers report employment as fair; bricklayers, plumbers, and carpenters and joiners as moderate.

Coal Mining.—Employment with the coal miners continues good, full time being worked at the pits in Oldham, Shaw and Crompton, Royton, and Chadderton.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—Employment is reported as exceptionally good at Bolton and Farnworth, moderately good at Wigan, very good at Leigh, and fairly brisk at Chorley, Bury and Heywood. *Weaving.*—Employment is reported as improved in Bolton and Farnworth, good at Wigan and Leigh, and very good in Chorley, Bury and Heywood.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers are well employed at most firms in Bolton and immediate district; steam engine makers, pattern-makers and brass finishers are also busy. In Bury and Wigan iron and machine making firms are active. In Chorley, Moses Gate, Farnworth, Leigh and Bedford, iron-workers are well employed.

Building Trades.—The improvement in Bolton and vicinity has been fairly well maintained. In Wigan and Chorley, most branches are somewhat irregularly employed, owing to the plasterers' dispute.

Coal Mining.—At Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Lever and Hulton, most collieries are active. In Wigan, Leigh, Hindley, and West-houghton miners are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Leather workers, carters, general labourers, shoemakers and printers are reported to be on the whole well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Weaving.*—Employment remains good in the Blackburn, Burnley, and Darwen districts. The improvement in Colne has been maintained. Employment in Preston is moderate. In Nelson further improvement is reported. Employment with hard waste weavers is fair; winders and warpers, and twisters and drawers are fully employed; warp dressers in Nelson, Colne, and Brierfield are fairly well employed. *Spinning.*—Employment with spinners is reported as good in Blackburn and Darwen; moderate in Preston; brisk in Accrington; still moderate in Burnley. With ring frame spinners it is good. Card room workers are fully employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warp dressers, with 4,397 members, have 122 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 134 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Employment has improved with joiners, masons, and bricklayers. It is good with painters; moderate with plumbers.

Engineering Trades.—Employment is good with engineers, ironfounders, fitters, and erectors.

Mining and Quarrying.—Miners at Burnley, Townley and Accrington report employment as good. Stone quarrymen are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers in the Burnley district report employment as good; felt carpet-printers as fair; calico-printers and dyers as moderate; letterpress printers as good; tailors as good.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,422 members have 577 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 505 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Ironfounders report employment as good throughout the district; boiler-makers, machine workers, and brassfounders as good; engineers and smiths and strikers at Northwich and Manchester as moderate; engineers at Warrington as good; braziers and sheet metal workers as fair. Wire drawers and wire weavers are fully employed; filesmiths moderately so.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and carpenters report employment as moderate; painters as busy; plumbers at Warrington as fair, in Manchester as slack; decorative glass workers and bricklayers' labourers as good; concreters and asphalters as improving. In Macclesfield employment is good.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners report employment as moderate in Manchester and Stockport. In Macclesfield all cotton operatives are working full time; fustian cutters are moderately well

employed; power loom silk weavers are rather busier, but hand loom weaving shows no change; silk dressers and silk dyers are busy, several working overtime; silk finishers are fairly well employed, and other branches moderately so. The "dressers, dyers and finishers" are busy; the "bleachers, dyers and finishers" moderately so.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are busy, and Hebrew tailors report employment as good. Boot and shoe makers are moderately well employed. Felt-hat makers and trimmers, wholesale tailoring operatives, mantle makers, cap makers, shirt makers and umbrella makers are busy; the waterproof garment makers are slack.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers, French polishers and upholsterers are fairly busy; coach-makers in Stockport, Warrington and Manchester report employment as good. Coopers are busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as not so good; lithographic artists, lithographic printers and stereotypers as fairly good; bookbinders as moderate, and pattern card makers as bad.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, brass and iron founders, fitters and turners, drillers and hole-cutters, whitesmiths, hammermen, shipwrights, shipjoiners, and shipbuilding labourers report employment as good.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen, flatmen, quay and railway carters report employment as fair; dock labourers as fairly good; coal and salt heavers as moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers, coachbuilders and woodworking machinists report employment as good; coopers as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—All branches of the tailoring and boot and shoe trades report employment as good.

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

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as moderate; joiners as fair. All other branches are fully employed.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coalminers report an average employment of five days per week. Quarrymen continue busy.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Employment continues good with glass bottle makers; with glass-makers and flatteners it is fair; with decorative glass workers good; with chemical workers moderate.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment continues slack in the salt trade. It is moderate with iron-moulders; dull in the building trades at Winsford; moderate at Middlewich. Boat-builders and boiler-smiths at Winsford and Middlewich are fully employed; fustian cutters fairly so.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.—The engineers, machine workers, brassfounders and finishers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, general smiths, and sailmakers report employment as good; the steam engine-makers, pattern-makers, smiths and strikers, boiler-makers, drillers and hole cutters, shipwrights and general labourers as moderate; boiler-makers, engineers, ironfounders, and smiths at Beverley, Goole, Grimsby and Selby as good; boiler-makers, smiths, and ironfounders at Doncaster as good; turners and fitters as moderate; shipwrights at Selby as good; at Beverley and Grimsby as slack; at Goole as bad.

Building Trades.—The slaters and tilers and plumbers report employment as bad; otherwise employment generally is good, although somewhat disturbed by disputes.

Transport Trades.—Railway workers report employment as good; the seamen and firemen at Hull as fair; at Goole and Grimsby as moderate; general dock labourers at Grimsby as good; at Goole as moderate; at Hull in all departments as bad.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen at Hull and line fishermen at Grimsby report employment as good; the steam fishing vessel engineers at Hull as fair, and at Grimsby as moderate. The fish market and pontoon labourers and curing-house workers report employment as good; the Grimsby trawl fishermen as moderate.

Seed-crushing, Paint, Oil and Colour Trades.—Employment in paint and colour works is reported as good, and with the seed-crushing workers as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic

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

printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as quiet.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The brushmakers and coachbuilders at Hull report employment as good. The mill-sawyers and wood machinists, coopers, and cabinetmakers at Hull, and the coachbuilders at Doncaster as moderate.

Leather Trades.—The tanners, leather belt makers, and lace cutters at Hull report employment as fair; the journey men curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The Jewish tailors, pressers, and machinists at Hull report employment as fair; the gasworkers and general labourers as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,731 members, have 206 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 197 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Leeds the engineers, boiler-makers, steel workers, spindle and flyer makers, machine workers stove grate workers, and brass workers report employment as good; ironfounders are busy. At Wakefield engineers and ironfounders are well employed; at Stanningley and Rodley fairly so.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has improved with bespoke tailors and has been good in readymade tailoring factories, and with Jewish operatives. In the boot and shoe trade it has continued fairly satisfactory.

Textile Trades.—Employment has improved in some of the Leeds mills and at Bramley. Willeyers and fettlers and linen-workers report employment as fair; blanket-raisers as moderate; woollen spinners as improving; dyers as quiet. At Yeadon and Guiseley employment has slightly improved. At Wakefield the worsted and cloth mills, with one exception, are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with bricklayers and masons; fair with painters; moderate with plumbers; joiners and labourers are slightly affected by the plasterers' dispute.

Mining.—All pits in Leeds continue busy, full time being worked, and some putting more men on. Employment also continues good at Pontefract, Castleford and Wakefield.

Leather Trades.—Employment is good with tanners, belt makers, and lace cutters; moderate with curriers; fair with saddlers and harness makers.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers, lithographers and paper mill workers are well employed; bookbinders fairly so.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle-makers in Leeds and Wakefield report employment as good, at Castleford as moderate; flint-glass makers as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers are well employed; coach-makers busy; mill-sawyers fair.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsteds Trade.—Employment in Bradford is improving. Weavers are being asked for; woolsorters report employment as good; woolcombers as fairly good, although a fair percentage are unemployed. In Halifax employment is slightly better. In Huddersfield it is good, one or two firms working overtime. In Keighley all operatives are steadily employed.

Woolen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield continues good, some firms working overtime, and few working less than the regular hours. One or two are still working night and day. In the heavy woollen trade of Dewsbury and Batley employment continues quiet.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade continues good at Manningham, and is fairly brisk at Halifax. Employment in the cotton trade continues good at Halifax, Huddersfield and Brighouse. In the carpet trade at Halifax it has improved.

Metal Trades.—The engineers and ironfounders at Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, Huddersfield and Dewsbury are well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good.

Miscellaneous.—Dyers report employment as good at Bradford and moderately good in Huddersfield; printers as fair; glass-bottle makers as good; rag and shoddy workers as quiet; tailors as good.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—The boiler-makers and railway spring-makers report employment as fair; in nearly all other trades in this group employment is reported as good or very good. At Parkgate and Eccles steel workers are very busy, and ironworkers at

Masbro' and Parkgate are better employed. At Rotherham stove-grate and bath-moulders are busy. At Barnsley both engineers and ironfounders are busy. Branches with 4,659 members have 49 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 31 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Cutlery and Tool Trades.—Engineers' and joiners' tool makers, makers of agricultural and horticultural implements and tools, makers of edged tools, wool shears and saws, and file hand forgers report employment as good; all other sections of the file trade are fairly well employed; haft and scale pressers and handle and scale cutters report work as slack but improving; the pen and pocket knife makers in some branches are slack; and the table and butcher knife makers show a decline. The razor makers are fairly well employed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 57 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.77 days worked per week during the month of April. (For changes in rates of wages see page 153, and for disputes see page 156.)

Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the silver and Britannia metal industry is rather quieter on the whole, and moderate employment is the rule, except with the platers and gilders, who report themselves as busy. The Rotherham brass workers in all branches are well employed.

Building Trades.—In Sheffield all branches are busy.

Woodworking Industries.—Coachbuilders, wheelwrights, cabinet-makers, box and bobbin makers, railway carriage and wagon builders all through the district are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as only moderate on high-class goods, but good in other branches. Employment in the boot and shoe trade at Barnsley is slack; in the ready made tailoring trade it is only moderate.

Linen Trade.—Employment has improved and is moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Harness-makers and saddlers, farriers and blacksmiths and all grades of railway servants report employment as good; colliery surface-men and general labourers are fairly well employed.—*S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,825 members have 67 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 99 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 78 collieries employing nearly 30,000 men show an average of 5.2 days per week during the month, the average being affected by the Easter holidays.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Employment is good at the locomotive works, and in bridge girder and boiler yards. Ironfounders, brass moulders and finishers, stovegrate-workers, wire drawers, merchant iron-rollers, makers of railway materials, malleable iron-workers, farriers, iron and steel dressers, blast furnacemen, pipe moulders, lace machine builders, and cycle-workers, report employment as good.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen have been fairly well employed, though hindered somewhat by bad weather. Chert quarrymen are busy.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good throughout the district.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in Derby and Long Eaton continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders; fair with carriage builders in private shops. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as fair. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good with cotton spinners and weavers in Hayfield, Glossop, Draycott and Belper; moderate with hosiery-workers in Ilkeston and Belper. Surgical bandage-makers report employment as good; elastic web weavers, as bad; lace workers in Long Eaton as good, in Ilkeston as dull in the levers branch, better in the curtain branch; calico printers as moderate; engravers in Dinting, Hayfield and New Mills as good; merino and silk workers at Lea and Holloway, dyers and bleachers, silk throwsters, and winders and trimming workers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair; corset-makers, dress and mantle-makers, wholesale garment-makers and bespoke tailors as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers, lithographic printers, bookbinders, and machine-rulers report employment as fair.—*C. White-Deacon.*

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

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The improvement reported in March has been maintained. Employment in the levers branch is slack, and in a few branches it is only moderate, but on the whole it is fairly good.

Hosiery.—A further improvement is reported and employment generally is fairly good.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Cycle workers report an improvement. Lace machine and hosiery machine builders report employment as good; fitters and mechanics on general work report employment as bad. Other branches of these trades at Nottingham, Mansfield, Grantham and Retford, report employment as good. Branches with 2,778 members have 89 (or 3.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 105 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—The improvement has been well maintained; with a holiday week included in the return, an average of over four and three-quarter days per week has been worked at 30 pits, employing 17,000 men.

Building Trades.—Plumbers at Nottingham and bricklayers at Newark report employment as slack; all other branches throughout the district report employment as good.

Woodworking Trades.—Coach makers report employment as good at Nottingham and Newark; upholsterers, cabinet-makers and picture frame makers as fair; boxmakers as good; mill sawyers as quiet; coopers as well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as good; lithographic printers and artists and printers' cutters and labourers as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as good; ready-made tailoring operatives and mantle makers as regular. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair at Nottingham and Hucknall Torkard; good at Mansfield.

Miscellaneous.—Silkdressers are making short time; maltsters at Newark are well employed; gas-workers at Basford and Nottingham report employment as quiet; enginemen and cranimen, and stationary engine drivers as good; basket and brushmakers as fair; bakers and confectioners as slack; female cigar-makers as well employed; cab and hackney carriage-drivers as improving; leather-workers as rather slack.—*W. L. Hardsstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—Employment in all branches continues good.

Other Clothing Trades.—Felt and silk hatters, cap-makers and corset makers report employment as good; bespoke tailors, dress-makers and milliners at Leicester, Rugby and Northampton as moderate; ready-made tailoring operatives at Leicester and Kettering as good.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—Woolspinners report employment as active for the time of the year; hosiery operatives at Leicester, Hinckley, Loughborough and Market Harborough as good; dyers and trimmers as fairly good.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment in cord and braid and boot web factories has fallen off.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Ironfounders, cycle-makers, pattern-makers, boiler-makers, machine builders, turners and winders at Leicester, Northampton and Loughborough, and engineers at Rugby and Loughborough report employment as good; engineers and tool makers at Leicester as moderate; needle-makers at Loughborough as fair.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coalminers, stone quarrymen, lime and cement workers in Leicestershire, and ironstone workers in Kettering district are well employed.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment is moderate with lithographic and letterpress printers at Leicester; fair at Rugby, Northampton, and Loughborough; good with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and labourers at Leicester report employment as bad, owing to a dispute; other branches as quiet. Carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, labourers, and painters at Loughborough, Northampton, and Rugby report employment as fair; plumbers and carpenters at Hinckley as moderate; plasterers at Rugby as bad.

Furnishing and Coachmaking.—Employment continues good with cabinet-makers and upholsterers at Northampton and Leicester. At Loughborough cabinet-makers and car-builders are working overtime.

Leather Trades.—At Northampton, Market Harborough, and Leicester tanners and curriers are still working full time.

Miscellaneous.—Brick and tile-makers, cigar-makers, bakers, basket-makers, and railway servants report employment as good.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—A further improvement is reported in most branches. Hollow-ware pressers in most cases are working full time. Sanitary pressers again report full time in some branches, short time in others. Flat pressers average fully five days per week. Printers and transferrers are well employed. Women gilders and decorators, men artists, and throwers and turners continue busy. Designers, modellers, and mouldmakers are working full time. Encaustic tilemakers, packers and cratemakers, women stilt and spurmakes, ovenmen and kilnmen, and saggarmakers report a further improvement.

Iron and Steel Trades.—All classes of iron and steel workers throughout the district continue busy, and there is a scarcity of puddlers.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boiler-makers, and ironfounders in North Staffordshire are busy, and working overtime. At Crewe employment continues good, and at Stafford an improvement is reported. At Oakamoor and Froghall copper-workers continue busy, and brass-workers report improvement. Brassfinishers at Longport and Milton, and agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter are busy.

Mining and Quarrying.—Full time continues general with colliers and ironstone workers throughout the district. Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue busy, and overtime is general.

Textile Trades.—At Leek silk workers report employment as good in all branches. At Congleton silk dressers and spinners are fully employed; fustian cutters report an improvement, full time being almost general. At Cheadle and Tean employment continues good.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report a further improvement. With boot and shoemakers at Stafford overtime is almost general; and at Stone full time is being worked. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne are well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is good throughout the district in all branches.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report an improvement. At Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers continue fairly busy. Bookbinders and machine-rulers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway-workers are fully employed; gasworkers report a seasonal decline; brick and tilemakers are busy.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is good with steel smelters; and is better in all branches of the iron and steel trades, except in the sheet trade, which is not so good. Mills and forges are working well throughout the district.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with engineers and moulders, boiler, bridge, girder, tank, and gasometer makers is good. The electrical and locomotive works are running overtime. Employment in the bicycle trade has improved. In the malleable iron trade at Walsall it is fair. At Madeley and Coalbrook Dale employment continues good.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, axles, springs, coach iron work, iron fences, hurdles, builders' ironmongery, tips and tacks, gunlocks, light hollow ware, black castings and hinges, and with stampers and piercers; it is moderate with makers of cut nails, malleable nails, and protectors, electrical castings, and spectacle frames, and with brassworkers, tinplate workers, galvanisers, and filesmiths; quiet with makers of edge-tools, hoes, locks, keys, and latches and traps. Employment in the iron-plate trade is quiet at Lye and Wolverhampton, moderate at Bilston. The wrought nail makers at Halesowen report employment as quiet; the spike and rivet-makers at Blackheath as fair; the chainmakers and strikers at Old Hill, and the block chain-makers at Cradley Heath as good; the anchor smiths at Cradley as fair. At Dudley several anvil and vice works are on short time. At Wednesbury the iron and steel forgers are busy.

Coal Mining.—Employment on Cannock Chase continues good, and at Oldbury, Dudley, Tipton, Old Hill and districts the average worked is 5.2 days per week. The Tamworth collieries are busy, but one colliery is closed owing to "faults." The Shropshire collieries are working full time.

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

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is good.

Glass Trade.—Employment is reported as good with the flint glass-makers, cutters, etchers, bevellers and intaglio-workers in Wordsley and district, and as moderate with the engravers. The glass bottle-makers at Brierley Hill report employment as moderate.

Leather Trades.—Employment with harness makers and gig saddlers is fairly good. With brown saddlers it has slightly improved. With buckle, chain, cart gear, and case hame makers it is fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth keeps steady, with overtime at both places. The Tamworth tape mills are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trade and in the boot and shoe trade is reported as good.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,815 members have 378 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 380 (or 1·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering.—Seven branches of the Engineers report employment as moderate, two as bad, and one as good; the toolmakers as moderate; the ironfounders and pattern-makers as good. In Coventry and West Bromwich employment is good; at Redditch improving. Employment in the cycle industry throughout the district is good, with much overtime, and in the motor industry it is also good at Coventry and Redditch.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment with the brassworkers and fender and fire brassmakers continues fair. Metal-workers including wire drawers (brass and copper), rollers, casters, and annealers are only partially employed. At Dudley the fender-makers are fairly well employed.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Jewellers and Britannia metal-workers report employment as fairly good; electro-platers as quiet; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as good.

Other Metal Trades.—Bedstead-makers report employment as fair, with some men on short time; ironplate workers and tinplate workers as fair; file-cutters as quiet. Iron tube makers in most branches are fully employed. Cycle tube makers are well employed. Edge tool makers, grinders and finishers are busier, but many are still working short time. Matchette-makers report employment as fair. Heavy and light steel toy-makers continue well employed. File grinders report employment as slack; nail and oddside casters as brisk; the scale beam weighing machine, and steel yard makers as busier; wrought iron and steel hinge makers as quiet; wire nail makers as improving; cut nail makers as fair. At West Bromwich the nut and bolt makers and spring makers are fairly well employed. Employment in the iron trade in the district is good. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish-hook trades continues good.

Building Trades.—Employment is fairly good throughout the district. All the plasterers who were locked out have obtained situations in non-association yards.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers and flint glass cutters return employment as fairly good.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and machinists and coach-builders return employment as good; cabinetmakers and coopers as improving. In the railway and wagon shops employment is quieter.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors are busy; the shoemakers continue quiet.

Miscellaneous.—The brickmakers return employment as fairly good; gasworkers and gasfitters as good; letterpress printers as moderate; bakers and confectioners as slack; saddlers as fair; harness and bridle cutters, bagmakers, and cycle saddlers as busy. At Redditch employment in the fancy case trade is improving. At Coventry, in the watch trade it is fair, and in the ribbon weaving trade it continues satisfactory.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Clothing Trades.—Ready-made tailoring factories are running full time; bespoke tailors are fairly busy. Employment in the boot and shoe trade in Norwich is better than it has been since 1895; in other parts of the district it is good. Corset-makers are fairly busy in Norwich, Diss, and Lynn. Shirt, dress, and blouse makers are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—Throughout the district work is in full swing in all branches.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers and boiler-makers are well employed throughout the district. Shipwrights at Yarmouth and Lowestoft are fully employed.

Fishing Industry.—Trawl fishing at Yarmouth and Lowestoft has been dull. At Lynn every kind of shell fishing is improving.

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

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting-weavers are fully employed. Silk and crape factories are on full time. Horsehair weavers are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Steam flour, oil cake and saw mills are busy, and in some cases running day and night. Steam joinery works and paper factories are on full time. Manure-workers are well employed. Organ-builders at Norwich are busy. Electrical workers are fully employed. Riverside labour generally has been good at Lynn, fair at Lowestoft.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment with engineers is reported as good throughout the district, several firms working overtime. Boiler-makers are busy. Shipwrights report employment as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment continues to improve with boot and shoe operatives at Ipswich. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment has improved at Ipswich and Colchester, operatives being fully employed. The improvement with corset-makers at Ipswich is maintained; at Sudbury employment is moderate.

Textile Trades.—Mat weavers report employment as good at Sudbury, Long Melford, Hadleigh, and Lavenham; fair at Glemsford. Employment with silk weavers is quiet at Braintree, good at Sudbury.

Building Trades.—Employment is good generally.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers are well employed at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, and Southend; dull at Ipswich. Lithographers report employment as fair; bookbinders as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour at Ipswich has improved; at Harwich and Parkeston it is good. Employment is good with brickmakers, general labourers, and horticultural builders.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 9,280 members have 130 (or 1·4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 149 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade has improved, and the bespoke tailors, hatters and glove makers are in full employment. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as good at Bristol, quiet at Kingswood.

Engineering Trades.—The ironfounders, boiler-makers, pattern-makers, smiths and toolmakers report employment as good; the tin-plate workers as improving. The engineers report some unsteadiness in Bristol, but otherwise employment is good.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Employment is good at Gloucester, Stroud, Cheltenham, Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare, and Taunton. At Bath, Bridgwater and Bristol employment in some branches is not so brisk.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The turners and wood-cutting machinists report employment as improving; railway coachmakers, cabinet-makers and French polishers as good; upholsterers as moderate; coopers and lathrenders as slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The bookbinders are reported as quiet. In other branches employment is good.

Textile Trades.—Employment with the textile operatives at Stroud and district is reported as slack on heavy woollens, and fair on worsted coating goods. The West Somerset mills are working full time. The silk mills at Tiverton continue working to their utmost capacity.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—A steady demand is reported for sailors and marine firemen; dock employment is described as dull in Bristol and fair at Gloucester.

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

Miscellaneous.—The floorcloth and linoleum makers report employment as moderate; the brush and basket makers and glass workers as good; the cocoa and chocolate makers as steady; the bakers and confectioners as slack; the tobacco and cigar makers as fair.—J. Curie.

Plymouth and South Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and China Clay Industries.—Among tin miners work is plentiful, and experienced miners are wanted in St. Agnes and Camborne districts. Quarrying continues good, especially with the granite workers. Among china clay workers employment is regular, and has improved.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate in Plymouth, Devonport and Exeter; good at Newton and Redruth; boiler-makers and iron foundries as good; shipwrights as good in Plymouth and Devonport, fair at Falmouth, Dartmouth, and Brixham. In Government yards all branches continue busy. Brassworkers and moulders at Exeter are busy. Branches with 2,148 members have 15 (or 0·7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of March.

Building Trades.—In Plymouth and Devonport employment is moderate with plumbers and plasterers, good in other branches. In Exeter it is fair generally; in Barnstaple and Torquay dull; in Camborne and Redruth improving. Branches, with 3,044 members, have 8 unemployed, compared with 6 at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are busy; with ready-made tailoring operatives and out-workers, employment is good. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report work as fair and improved; in Exeter as slightly improved; in Torquay as still quiet. Lithographic printers continue fairly employed. Bookbinders are busy; paper rulers moderately so.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Machinists and mill-sawyers continue steadily employed; cabinet-makers and upholsterers are moderately so; in cabinet-making factories work is reported as good.

Dock and Quayside Work.—Quay work has improved and is about average. Dock work is reported as moderate with grain and coal.

Fishing Industry.—Many boats lost their nets and nearly all were damaged in a storm. Since refitting, catches have been light.

Miscellaneous.—With Government labourers work continues good; excavators, brickyard workers and general labourers are fairly employed. Work is moderate with gasworkers and in the artificial manure works. In the market and fruit gardens work continues good.—W. Hodge.

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.—Employment at the coal mines of North Wales and at the lead and blende mines of Flintshire and Denbighshire continues good.

Quarrying.—Employment is good at the slate, freestone, lime and road stone quarries, brisk at the granite setts quarries.

Building Trades.—The plasterers at Llandudno report employment as declining. Otherwise employment is fairly good throughout the district.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers at Oswestry and Sandycroft report employment as moderate, at Ruabon as fair, at Cefn as good. Iron and steel workers and coach and wagon builders continue well employed.

Clothing and Textile Industries.—Employment in the flannel and tweed industry of Montgomeryshire continues fair. The bespoke tailors at Rhyl and Oswestry report employment as good; at Wrexham as fair.

Brick and Terra Cotta Industry.—Employment at brick and terra cotta works continues good.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, New Tredegar, Dowlais, and Cyfarthfa collieries have been working to their utmost capacity. Twenty-nine collieries in the Aberdare, Merthyr, and Rhondda Valleys had one day's stoppage in the month, and two had three days' stoppage through a dispute.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Mills and furnaces at steel works are working to their fullest capacity, with much overtime.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Most firms have worked with more than ordinary regularity during April. Branches of the engineers and ironfounders with 2,748 members have 40 (or 1·5 per

cent.) unemployed, compared with 82 (or 3·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Boiler-makers return 20 per cent., and the shipwrights 30 per cent. as unemployed. Ship-cleaners and painters, and boiler-scruffers have been well employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—General cargo shipments have been quiet; coal shipments, and iron ore and pitwood importations have been moderate; corn-porters and dock-hoblers have had a quiet month. The shipment of crews has not been brisk.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as bad, and disputes have been unusually prevalent. Branches of carpenters and joiners, and plumbers with 1,639 members have 87 (or 5·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 72 (or 4·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the patent fuel trade is good. Chemical and metallurgical works are quiet. Wagon builders and lifters have been well employed. Lithographers and letterpress printers report employment as bad.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—Employment has improved during the month. Several mills are reported to be idle owing to a scarcity of millmen. At the end of April 337 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), giving employment to an estimated number of 17,014 workpeople, as compared with 331 mills at work employing 16,943 workpeople at the end of March, and 296 mills, employing 15,516 workpeople at the end of April, 1898.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 14,813 members have 251 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 187 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good. The miners are generally working full time.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 30 mines employing 3,087 workpeople (as compared with 3,078 in April, 1898) show that these mines worked full time during the four weeks ended April 22nd.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,276 members have 21 (or 1·0 per cent.) idle, as against 27 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Branches in Falkirk with 3,379 members have 12 (or 0·4 per cent.) idle, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of March.

Shipbuilding.—Branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 580 members, have 22 (or 3·8 per cent.) idle, as against 44 (or 7·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Textile Trades.—Employment with woollen spinners and weavers continues to improve in Galashiels. In Hawick and Selkirk both spinners and weavers are fully employed. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good. Employment in the hosiery industry continues good in both Selkirk and Hawick.

Building Trades.—Employment is disturbed by the dispute with the carpenters and joiners.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,258 members have 38 (or 3·0 per cent.) idle, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of March.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as quiet. The dock labourers and coal porters have not been so well employed as in March.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,257 members have 54 (or 2·4 per cent.) idle, as against 34 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—The settmakers, shoemakers, saddlers, glass cutters and glassmakers report employment as good; the tailors as fair; the curriers and bakers as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues good. Branches with 13,609 members return 236 (or 1·7 per cent.) as idle, as against 162 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good. Branches with 28,752 members return 471 (or 1·6 per cent.) as idle, as against 508 (or 1·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire and Renfrewshire full time is still being obtained. In Dumbartonshire miners are fairly busy. In Ayrshire employment continues good. In Lanarkshire it is fairly good, with some want of wagons.

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

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors and ready-made tailoring operatives are busy; mantle-makers fairly so. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as still improving; the knee boot and shoemakers and curriers as good.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow weavers are fairly well employed; calendermen, rope spinners and warpers are busy; beamers and dyers not so busy. At Darvel and Port Glasgow textile workers are busy. At New Mills, Galston and Kilbirnie they are well employed.

Transport Trades.—Sailors and firemen and dock labourers report employment as improved. Carters, hackney carriage drivers, railway men and tramway men are all well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as improved; lithographic printers, electrotypers and stereotypers as good; bookbinders as still dull.

Glass Trades.—Decorative glass workers, flint-glass cutters, flint-glass makers and bottle-makers are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Sett makers, scale beam makers, gilders, calico engravers, brush makers, cork cutters, paviors, spindle and flyer makers, and tobacco-pipe makers and finishers report employment as good; labourers, potters and saddlers as fairly good.

A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry remains satisfactory; in the linen trade looms continue well employed.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the Fifeshire coal mines continues brisk. Returns from 36 pits, employing 11,306 workpeople, show an average of 5.5 days per week worked during the four weeks ending April 22nd, as compared with 5.4 days per week during March.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in engineering shows a further decline. In the shipbuilding yards work continues plentiful. Branches of societies with a membership of 2,362 report 103 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 86 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the building trade continues brisk; in the furniture and upholstery trades it has further improved. Branches with 1,752 members return 10 (or 0.6 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 17 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Fishing Industry.—The takes of haddocks have been small. The salmon fishing continues to be prosecuted with poor success.

Dock Labour.—On the whole shore labour has been well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and kindred trades continues good. Tailors are busy; boot and shoe makers moderately so. Employment with floor cloth and linoleum makers is brisk; with bleachers fair.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,529 members have 15 (or 0.2 per cent.) idle, as against 59 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen, masons, setmakers, and granite polishers report employment as good.

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

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

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,473 members have 8 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 18 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The tinplate workers report employment as fair; other branches as good.

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

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

Fishing.—In April at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 67,303 cwt., with a value of £49,010, a decrease in quantity as compared with March, the value being practically the same.

Miscellaneous.—The upholsterers, saddlers, comb makers, saw millers, and cabinetmakers report employment as good.

W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment has improved with painters, and is fair generally.

Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as bad; the ironfounders, smiths, tinsmiths, silver plate workers, and white-smiths as fair; the boiler-makers as good.

Woodworking Trades.—The cabinetmakers report employment as good; the coachmakers as fair; the upholsterers as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is returned as fair with the tailors and bootmakers.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as fair; the lithographers and bookbinders as moderate. Branches with 1,357 members have 85 (or 6.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 94 (or 6.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with saddlers and brush-makers; fair in the provision trades, and with dock, coal, and corporation labourers, and with bottle-makers.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches with 8,602 members have 105 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 163 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The blacksmiths report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners, the furnishing trades, engineers, pattern makers, brass founders, spindle and flyer makers as fair; steam engine makers as brisk; smiths' helpers, boiler-makers and iron ship builders, iron founders, drillers and hole cutters, machine workers, sheet metal workers, shipwrights, enginemen, cranemen and firemen, general labourers, and platers' helpers, as good.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 3,964 members, return 98 (or 2.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 136 (or 3.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The flax roughers report employment as dull; tenters as bad; flax-dressers and yarn bundlers as fair; beetling enginemen, hackle and gill makers, linen-lappers, yarn-dressers and women workers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 2,180 members, have 43 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 72 (or 3.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Plumbers report employment as dull, bricklayers and hodsmen as improving, carpenters and joiners as fair, painters as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 771 members have 15 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 24 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The woodcutting machinists as dull; the coopers report employment as quiet; cabinetmakers, upholsterers. French-polishers, coachbuilders and packing-case makers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 962 members have 68 (or 7.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 55 (or 5.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The letterpress printers report employment as moderate; lithographic artists, designers and engravers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as good; the boot and shoe operatives as fair; hand-sewn boot and shoe makers as improving.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with 1,773 members have 47 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 34 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The bakers, butchers, carters, &c. report employment as fair; the locomotive engine-drivers, railway servants and municipal workers as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good in Cork, Haulbowline, and Passage West; engineers as good in Cork, Tralee, and Limerick; fair in Waterford; shipwrights, shipjoiners, riggers, and sailmakers as dull throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Stonecutters, masons, plasterers, and carpenters report employment in Cork, Skibbereen, Bantry, and Waterford as dull; painters, plumbers, and gasfitters as moderate.

Woodworking.—Millsawyers and woodcutting machinists, coachmakers and packing-case makers report employment as moderate in Cork and Limerick; coopers as quiet.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment with flax, tweed, and leather operatives continues good throughout the district; with tailors and boot and shoe operatives it is fair.

Miscellaneous.—The mackerel fishery has been unsuccessful, chiefly owing to bad weather. Railway servants, tramway employees, stationary engine men, general quay and coal porters, and corporation labourers report employment as fair.—P. O'Shea.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during April was 506, or 203 more than in March, and 150 more than in April, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,304,410 persons (according to the latest available figures), 484 persons were killed, and 6,202 reported injured by accidents in April, as compared with 344 killed and 4,847 reported injured in April, 1898. These figures give one death in April, 1899, for every 10,960 persons employed in those industries. During the four completed months of 1899, 1,552 persons were reported killed and 27,345 injured, as against 1,319 reported killed and 20,254 injured in the corresponding period of 1898.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 22 persons were reported killed, and 791 injured, in April, as compared with 12 reported killed and 577 injured in April, 1898.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	April, 1899.	April, 1898.	April, 1899.	April, 1898.	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	41	40	306	271	465,112
Other Accidents	1	4	757	629	
Total Railway Service	42	44	1,063	900	465,112
Mines	56	88	343	317	741,125
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	7	8	73	80	123,370
Shipping	315	159	219	238	231,385*
Factories	64	45	4,504	3,312	3,743,418
Total of above	484	344	6,502	4,847	5,304,410
Workshops	—	—	10	7	Cannot be stated.
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23	16	5	623	471	
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	6	7	158	99	

DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	Killed.	Injured.
Railway Service—						
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	52	—	14	2	66
Engine Drivers	—	29	1	41	1	70
Firemen	1	38	—	51	1	89
Guards (Passenger)	1	8	—	7	1	15
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	12	14	—	69	12	83
Porters	9	43	—	170	9	233
Shunters	3	49	—	16	3	65
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	13	73	—	389	13	462
Total for April, 1899	41	306	1	757	42	1,063
Total for April, 1898	40	271	4	629	44	900

Mines—	Underground.		Surface.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Explosions of Firedamp	1	13	—	—	1	13
Falls of ground	32	151	—	—	32	151
In shafts	5	13	—	—	5	13
Miscellaneous	13	122	5	44	18	166
Total for April, 1899	51	299	5	44	56	343
Total for April, 1898	81	280	7	37	88	317

Quarries over 20 feet deep	Inside.		Outside.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Explosives or Blasting	2	3	—	—	2	3
Falls of ground	1	19	—	—	1	19
During ascent or descent	1	—	—	—	1	—
Miscellaneous	3	34	1	17	4	51
Total for April, 1899	6	56	1	17	7	73
Total for April, 1898	6	36	2	44	8	80

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.
Shipping—						
On Trading Vessels—						
Sailing	69	—	13	50	82	50
Steam	189	2	33†	161	222	163
On Fishing Vessels—						
Sailing	2	—	1	1	3	1
Steam	1	—	7	5	8	5
Total for April, 1899	261	2	54	217	315	219
Total for 3 months Feb., 1899, to April, 1899	415	4	188	668	603	672
Total for 3 months Feb., 1898, to April, 1898	297	19	178	648	475	667

Factories—	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—						
Adults	51	948	—	109	51	1,057
Young Persons	12	413	1	98	13	511
Children	—	14	—	4	—	18
Total	63	1,375	1	211	64	1,586
(b) Other Accidents—						
Adults	—	2,473	—	31	—	2,504
Young Persons	—	372	—	34	—	406
Children	—	6	—	2	—	8
Total	—	2,851	—	67	—	2,918
Total Factories—						
April, 1899	63	4,226	1	278	64	4,504
April, 1898	44	3,107	1	205	45	3,312
Workshops—						
Adults	—	8	—	—	—	8
Young Persons	—	2	—	—	—	2
Children	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Workshops—						
April, 1899	—	10	—	—	—	10
April, 1898	—	7	—	—	—	7

Factories & Workshops (classified by trades).	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Textiles—						
Cotton	2	177	—	91	2	268
Wool and Worsted	1	71	—	40	1	111
Other Textiles	1	39	—	24	1	63
Non-Textiles—						
Extraction of Metals	1	65	—	—	1	65
Founding and Conversion of Metals	13	528	—	—	13	528
Machines, Engines and Engineering	7	1,089	—	2	7	1,091
Ship and Boat Building	7	727	—	—	7	727
Wood	1	99	—	—	1	99
Chemicals, &c.	4	146	—	1	4	147
Other Non-Textile Industries	26	1,295	1	120	27	1,415
Total April, 1899	63	4,236	1	278	64	4,514
Total April, 1898	44	3,114	1	205	45	3,319

Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Docks, Wharves and Quays	13	321	—	—	13	321
Warehouses	—	230	—	—	—	230
Buildings to which Act applies	3	51	—	1	3	52
Laundries	—	1	—	19	—	20
Total for April, 1899	16	603	—	20	16	623
Total for April, 1898	5	459	—	12	5	471

Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	Construction or repair.		Use or Working.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Bridge	—	1	—	—	—	1
Canal	—	1	—	5	—	6
Railway	4	42	—	—	4	42
Tramroad	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tramway	—	2	—	23	—	25
Tunnel	—	14	—	—	—	14
Other Works	1	70	—	—	1	70
Traction Engine	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total for April, 1899	6	130	—	28	6	158
Total for April, 1898	6	79	—	20	7	99

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL, 1899.

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

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during April affected about 155,850 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of about 10d. per head. About 155,600 received advances averaging 10d. per head, and about 250 sustained decreases averaging 1s. 1 1/2d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those of 2 1/2 per cent. to 105,000 coal miners in Durham and the Forest of Dean, of 7 1/2 per cent. to about 2,400 coal miners in Somersetshire, of 5 per cent. to 10,000 surface workers at South Yorkshire collieries, of 2d. per day to 3,450 surface workers at Nottinghamshire collieries, of 15 per cent. to 3,000 blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland, and of 7 1/2 per cent. on "overwork" rates to 4,484 glass bottle makers in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Sunderland and Seaham Harbour.

Decreases.—About 190 tinplate workers in South Wales sustained a decrease of 5 per cent.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 5,000 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 6,500 workpeople were arranged by conciliation and arbitration. One change, affecting about 50 workpeople, was made under a sliding scale, and changes affecting about 144,300 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers.

Summary for First Four Months of 1899.—For the four months, January to April, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 777,000. The net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected is estimated at an increase of about 1s. 0 1/2d. per head.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES and MINING AND QUARRYING TRADES.

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

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING TRADES, and IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

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

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect in 1899.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*		Increase or Decrease in full week.*	
			Inc.	Dec.		Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
TEXTILE AND CLOTHING TRADES.†									
4 Increases.—274 Workpeople. 1 Decrease.—20 Workpeople.									
Batley Carr	Finishers, Pickers, Willeys rs, &c.	7 April	19	...	Advance of 2s. per week to 6 persons, and of 1s. per week to 13 others	—	—	—	—
Heckmondwike	Rug-weavers	25 April	...	20	<i>Decrease in prices of some classes of work, equal to a reduction of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week in earnings</i>	—	—	—	—
Manchester	Dressers, Dyers, and Finishers†	4 April	120	...	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	1 0	...
Falkirk	Tailors	17 April	55	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour on "log rates"	—	—	—	...
Glasgow	Tailors	15 April	80	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (5d. to 5½d.) on "log rates"	—	—	—	...
EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.									
4 Increases.—518 Workpeople. Decreases—Nil.									
Leeds	Workpeople at Gas Works	7 April	279	...	Advance of 2d. per shift to 243 men, and of 4d. per shift to 36 others	—	—	—	...
Derby	Carters	4 April	28	...	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	1 0	...
Dundee	Scavengers†	6 April	140	...	Advance of 1s. per week	21 0	22 0	1 0	...
Dublin	Carters	6 April	60	...	Advance of 1s. per week	24 0	25 0	1 0	...
Dublin	Mechanics	3 April	11	...	Average advance of 3s. 6½d. per week	—	—	3 6½	...
GLASS BOTTLE MANUFACTURE.									
3 Increases.—4,484 Workpeople. Decreases—Nil.									
Yorkshire‡	Glass Bottle Makers—Men	§	1,744	...	Advance to the full rates for "overwork" of Dec. 1888, being an average advance of 7½ per cent. on rates paid in 1898, and equal to an increase of 2½ per cent. on gross earnings	—	—	—	...
	Boys		1,380	...		—	—	—	...
	Apprentices		360	...		—	—	—	...
Sunderland and Seaham Harbour	Glass Bottle Makers (light Metal Workers only)	§	300	...	Advance to the full rates for "overwork" of Dec. 1888, being an average advance of 7½ per cent. on rates paid in 1898, and equal to an increase of 2½ per cent. on gross earnings	—	—	—	...
Lancashire...	Glass Bottle Makers	1 May	700	...	Advance of 7½ per cent. on "overwork" rates	—	—	—	...
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.									
8 Increases.—305 Workpeople. Decreases—Nil.									
Middlesbrough	Cabinetmakers and Polishers	1 May	30	...	Advance of ¼ per hour	—	—	2 2	...
Burnley	Cabinetmakers	April	30	...	Advance of 2s. per week	32 0	34 0	2 0	...
Blackburn	Letterpress Printers	1 May	100	...	Advance of 1s. per week	31 6	32 6	1 0	...
Preston	Letterpress Printers (jobbing)	1 May	75	...	Advance of 1s. per week	31 6	32 6	1 0	...
Southport	Cabinetmakers	4 May	12	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour	31 1½	34 0½	2 0½	...
London	Chairmakers	4 April	34	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.)	42 4½	43 9	1 4½	...
Ipswich	Cigarmakers	1 May	16	...	Advance of 5 per cent.	—	—	—	...
Castlebar	Letterpress Printers	1 April	8	...	Advance of 3s. per week and of 1d. per hour in overtime rates	18 0	21 0	3 0	...

Port.	Voyage.	Occupation.	No. shipped at new Rate during April.		Particulars of Change.	Monthly Rates.			
			Increase.	Decrease.		Mar.	Apr.	Increase.	Decrease.
Middlesbrough	Mediterranean	Able Seamen	...	10	<i>Decrease of 6s. per month</i>	95 0	90 0	...	5 0
Liverpool	East Indies and China	Firemen	...	12	<i>Decrease of 5s. per month</i>	95 0	90 0	...	5 0
Swansea	Mediterranean	Firemen	...	26	<i>Decrease of 6s. per month</i>	95 0	90 0	...	5 0

* Exclusive of overtime. † See p. 130 with regard to recent advance to cotton weavers, winders and warpers. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.
 § The numbers given include a few men at Blaydon, Newport and London, who are also affected.
 ¶ This advance was to date back to 4th Feb., and the amounts due were paid on the 27th and 28th April.
Correction:—COAL MINERS—WEST OF SCOTLAND.—In last month's table the advance to the surface workers was incorrectly stated as 2d. per day. The advance actually given was 1d. per day.
Wages of Agricultural Labourers.—Various increases have been reported of which particulars are given on p. 140.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS published in the Annual Report of the Co-operative Union show that during the year 1898, 158 retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom opened 238 new branches; 119 societies commenced 154 businesses not previously carried on by them, of which 37 were productive departments; 31 societies established building departments; 31 commenced savings or penny banks; and three acquired farms.
 Sixty-six distributive societies reported farming a total of 5,114 acres, resulting in a total profit of £2,238 after deducting losses amounting to £1,394 sustained by 12 of the societies. Three special farming associations working a total of 492½ acres, each made a profit, amounting to a total of £293.
 Returns from the Banking Department of the English Wholesale Society show that the receipts of the Department during 1898

amounted to £24,260,932 (compared with £21,975,553 in 1897), its payments to £24,100,325, and profits to £11,245. The returns of the Shipping Department of the same society show that the gross earnings in 1898 of its five vessels amounted to £154,905 compared with £145,323 in 1897, and its profit to £1,705 compared with a loss of £124 in 1897.
 The Annual Congress of Co-operative Societies will be held at Liverpool on Whit-Monday and following days.
 The sixteenth Annual Report of the English Women's Co-operative Guild shows that at the end of February, 1899, it consisted of 262 branches in England and Wales, with a total membership of 12,537.
 The seventh Annual Report of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild shows that at the same date it consisted of 56 branches, with a total membership of 3,620.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL, 1899.

The changes in hours of labour reported during April affected 2,677 workpeople whose hours were reduced on an average by 2.18 hours per week. The changes were all decreases.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect in 1899.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week.†		Extent of decrease per week.
				Before change.	After change.	
Building Trade—						
Bishop Auckland	Carpenters and Joiners†	5 April	75	53'00	49'43	3'57
Ashton-under-Lyne	Painters†	1 April	120	52'66	51'17	1'49
Barnsley	Carpenters and Joiners†	1 May	134	50'00	48'55	1'45
Radcliffe and District	Painters†	1 April	88	50'43	48'64	1'79
Stalybridge	Painters†	14 April	30	52'62	51'17	1'45
Cowenry	Masons†	1 April	38	51'15	50'23	0'92
Newark	Plumbers†	25 April	14	51'42	50'65	0'77
Potteries	Carpenters and Joiners†	1 July	900	51'53	50'52	1'01
Felixstowe	Bricklayers†	1 May	40	55'86	54'67	1'19
Merthyr	Carpenters and Joiners†	24 April	65	52'86	51'37	1'49
Galashiels and Hawick	Painters†	1 April	100	52'28	48'71	3'57
Miscellaneous Trades—						
Gosport	Engineers	May	50	56'50	54'00	2'50
Manchester	Dressers, Dyers, and Finishers†	4 April	180	60'00	59'00	1'00
Hull	Tailors, Machinists and Pressers (Jewish)	17 April	100	75'00	63'00	12'00
Ashton-under-Lyne	Litho. Artists	1 May	8	49'00	46'50	2'50
Blackburn	Letterpress Printers†	1 May	100	54'00	52'00	2'00
Preston	Letterpress Printers† (jobbing)	1 May	75	54'00	52'00	2'00
Bristol	Letterpress Printers	1 May	120	54'00	51'00	3'00
Liverpool	Sawmill Employees	19 April	260	57'00	54'50	2'50
London	Chairmakers†	4 April	34	53'50	52'50	1'00
Dundee	Scavengers†	6 April	140	63'00	60'00	3'00
West Bromwich	Furnacemen (in glass works)	1 May	6	84'00	56'00	28'00

* Exclusive of overtime.
 † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are the result of averaging the hours for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.
 ‡ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of April and the four completed months of the year, 1899, with comparative figures for 1898:—

	Month of April		Four months ended April	
	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.
Imported	186,165	395,046	1,673,037	1,828,107
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	233,973	272,226	1,090,813	1,187,566
Exported	34,785	42,183	198,235	156,718

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended May 6th, amounted to £8,189,827, an increase of £289,302 (or 3.7 per cent) over the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,524,562, a decrease of £95,317, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,665,265, an increase of £384,619.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during April was £673,901, a decrease of £44,268, as compared with April, 1898. In England and Wales there was a decrease of £34,896, in Scotland of £4,771, and in Ireland of £4,601.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during April numbered 317, being 8 less than in April, 1898, 16 less than in April, 1897, and 49 more than in April, 1896.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following table shows the number of cases of lead poisoning (classified by industries) and anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during April. It will be seen that of the 105 cases of lead poisoning reported in April, 1899, 27 affected females, as compared with 41 out of a total of 87 cases reported in April, 1898. The china and earthenware industry and lead works accounted for 66 cases in April, 1899, and for 67 a year ago.

The 105 cases of lead poisoning reported included 3 deaths, and the 4 cases of anthrax, one death. It should be understood that the fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Lead Poisoning—									
China and Earthenware	19	16	4	3	—	—	23	19	42
Glass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White, Red and Orange Lead Works	20	4	—	—	—	—	20	4	24
Paints and Colours	3	—	1	—	1	—	5	—	5
Smelting	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
File Making	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Coach Making, &c.	5	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	6
Other Industries	16	3	—	—	—	—	16	3	19
Total Lead Poisoning	71	23	6	4	1	—	78	27	105
Corresponding Total for April, 1898	44	36	2	5	—	—	46	41	87
Anthrax									
Corresponding Total for April, 1898	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April 602 fresh applications for work were registered by the eight bureaux (See LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns and 843 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 169 persons, of whom 93 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency (by correspondence only) and the Liverpool, Manchester and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during April:—

Bureau.	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.		No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.		No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
	Offered.	Engaged.	Offered.	Engaged.	Offered.	Engaged.
WORK DONE IN APRIL.						
Summary by Bureaux.						
Central Bureau 60, Chancery-lane	41	66	16	—	—	—
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—22, Berners-street	25	51	26	—	—	—
Y. W. C. A.—26, George-street (1)	523	320	84	—	—	—
Hanover-square (2)	217	64	29	—	—	—
Other Bureaux	37	101	14	—	—	—
Total of 8 Bureaux	843	602	169	—	—	—
Total in March	941	610	802	—	—	—
Summary by Occupations.						
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	32	63	7	—	—	—
Shop Assistants and Waitresses	9	22	7	—	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	187	31	26	—	—	—
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	18	60	17	—	—	—
Apprentices and Learners	24	9	8	—	—	—
Domestic servants	519	303	93	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	54	114	11	—	—	—
Total Number in April	843	602	169	—	—	—
Total Number in March	941	610	802	—	—	—

The demand for dressmakers and milliners was as great as in March, and the supply was less. In this group 187 situations were offered, compared with 190 in March; only 31 workpeople applied for such work, compared with 57 in March. At the Central Bureau 17 situations were offered to ladies as domestic servants (cooks, parlourmaids, etc.) and 20 ladies applied for such situations, 6 being eventually engaged; at the Manchester Gentlewomen's Employment Association 15 situations were offered to ladies as domestic servants and 31 ladies applied for such situations, 4 being engaged.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

Number and Magnitude.—Sixty-three fresh disputes were reported as having begun in April, 1899, compared with 53 in March, and 44 in April, 1898. In these 63 disputes, 12,311 workpeople were directly affected and 1,430 indirectly affected, a total of 13,741, which compares with 13,827 in March, and 130,528 in April, 1898, when the great coal-mining dispute in South Wales and Monmouth began.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 21 disputes took place, involving 6,044 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 10 disputes, involving 3,345 workpeople; engineering and shipbuilding trades, 5 disputes, involving 180 workpeople; other metal trades, 4 disputes, involving 1,640 workpeople; textile trades, 9 disputes, involving 1,226 workpeople; clothing trades, 5 disputes, involving 226 workpeople; and in other industries, 9 disputes, involving 1,080 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 63 new disputes, 44 arose chiefly on wages questions, 7 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 5 on matters of working arrangements, and 7 from other causes.

Results.—Forty-seven new disputes, involving 9,047 workpeople, and 14 old disputes, involving 1,296 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 61 new and old disputes terminated, 23, involving 3,580 persons, were decided wholly in favour of the workpeople, and 15, involving 2,362 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; 20, involving 2,925 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the remaining 3 disputes, involving 1,476 workpeople, the points in dispute were still under consideration. At the end of April, 21 old disputes were known to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 4,000 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total duration in April of all the disputes, new and old, was about 230,000 working days, compared with 207,700 in March, and 2,332,000 in April, 1898.

Summary for the First Four Months of 1899.—For the four completed months of 1899 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 211 disputes which commenced in those months was 37,577, as compared with 145,339 in the 156 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1898. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 730,000, as compared with 4,000,000 for the corresponding period of 1898, which included the South Wales dispute.

Table with 5 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly/Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL, 1899.

Table for Building Trades (6,044 Workpeople affected) and Mining and Quarrying (3,345 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Gateshead, Sunderland, Scarborough, Oldham, Stalybridge, Todmorden, Grimsby, Leicester, Loughborough, Newark, Walsall, Felixstowe, Exeter, Merthyr Tydvil, Neath, Arbroath, Edinburgh and Leith, Glasgow, Johnstone, Perth, Spennymoor, Pendlebury, Old Hill, Rowley Regis, Radstock, Ruabon, Blantyre, Bo'ness, Muirkirk, Paisley, etc.

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

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table for Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (180 Workpeople affected) and Textile Trades (1,226 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Todmorden, Birmingham, Durdee, Dundee, Paisley, Dowlais, Morriston, Pontardawe, Swansea, Dudley Hill, Heckmondwike, Melham, Bolton, Burnley, Farworth, Littleborough, Oswaldtwistle, Dundee, etc.

Table for Clothing Trades (226 Workpeople affected) and Miscellaneous Trades (1,080 Workpeople affected). Includes entries for Blyth, Newsham and Cramlington, Hull, Bristol, Nottingham, Falkirk and Grangemouth, Sunderland, Leeds, Birkenhead, Darwen, Liverpool, London, W., Dundee, Edinburgh, etc.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE APRIL, 1899, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Mining and Quarrying (108 disputes) and Other Trades (10 disputes). Includes entries for Weardale, Pendlebury, Blantyre, Dregghorn, Bishop Auckland, Leeds, Macclesfield, Oldham, Birmingham, Nottingham, Llangennech, Pert Talbot, Kilmarnock, etc.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April, 1,552 fresh applications for work were registered by the 10 bureaux furnishing returns, as compared with 1,544 in April, 1898. Work was found by the bureaux for 891 persons, an increase of 31 as compared with a year ago. Of these 891 persons, 531 (395 males and 136 females) were engaged by private employers, 167 (162 males and 5 females) by Local Authorities, and 193 men by the Salvation Army authorities.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of April, 1899, was 1,245, as compared with 1,443 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in April.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.			
	Apr. 1899.	Apr. 1898.	Apr. 1899.	Apr. 1898.	Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities.	
					Apr. 1899.	Apr. 1898.	Apr. 1899.	Apr. 1898.
London.								
St. Pancras ...	151	228	170	243	94	86	4	10
Battersea ...	147	166	39	26	38	26	1	2
Islington ...	368	212	79	108	71	88	34	72
St. Martin ...	105	104	128	97	53	31	—	—
Hackney ...	63	78	19	20	7	9	112	49
Salvation Army ...	200	183	34	28	28	26	—	—
Provincial.								
Ipswich ...	23	20	35	38	20	23	—	—
Plymouth ...	139	165	144	189	108	97	—	11
Liverpool ...	98	133	6	18	2	2	1	11
Glasgow ...	318	315	168	261	110	128	15	8
Total of 10 bureaux	1,552	1,544	822	1,028	724	697	167	163

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during April, 1899.

Engaged by Private Employers.	Men.	No. Permanently engaged.	No. Temporarily engaged.	Total.
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c. ...	24	17	41	
Porters and Messengers ...	32	20	52	
Labourers ...	30	38	68	
Board carrying and bill distributing ...	—	13	13	
Other Occupations ...	42	44	86	
Lads and Boys ...	85	20	105	
Total Males	228	167	395	
Women and Girls:				
Dressmakers and Sempstresses ...	—	—	—	
Domestic Servants ...	35	4	39	
Charwomen, daily work, &c. ...	25	64	89	
Other Occupations ...	8	—	8	
Total Females	68	68	136	
Total engaged by Private Employers	296	235	531	
Engaged by Local Authorities				
Men, Lads and Boys:				
Roadmen ...	—	85	85	
Dustmen ...	—	—	—	
Stone Breaking ...	—	36	36	
Other Occupations ...	15	26	41	
Women and Girls ...	5	—	5	
Total engaged by Local Authorities	20	147	167	
Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities				
Men ...	—	193	193	
Grand Total	316	875	891	

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

Occupation.	No. on Register at end of	
	April, 1899.	April, 1898.
Men.		
Building, Engineering and Metal Trades ...	84	120
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c. ...	119	183
Clerks and Warehousemen ...	53	61
Porters and Messengers ...	107	93
General Labourers ...	410	417
Other Occupations ...	115	122
Total Men	888	966
Lads and Boys	159	179
Women and Girls.		
Charwomen, Daily Work, &c. ...	141	168
Servants ...	45	46
Others ...	32	54
Total Women and Girls	218	268
Grand Total	1,245	1,443

* Engaged by Salvation Army authorities.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

The number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of April was 330,738. This corresponds to a rate of 207 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with March, 1899, there is a decrease in every district, both in the number of persons relieved, and in the rate per 10,000 of population. The total number relieved in the 35 districts has fallen off by 8,419, and the rate per 10,000 by 5, the most marked decreases occurring in the Central London district (14 per 10,000), Leicester (13), Bristol (11), Cork, Waterford and Limerick district, North Staffordshire, and Hull (9 each).

Compared with April, 1898, the number relieved has decreased by 1,779, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 3. Twenty-three districts show decreased rates, the most important decreases being in the Galway district (158 per 10,000), Bristol (38), Stockton and Tees (28), Coatbridge and Airdrie (22), Newcastle (18), and Hull (16). The rate was unaltered in two districts, while in the remaining 10 districts increases are shown, the largest increases being in the Dublin district (19 per 10,000), West Ham (16), and Birmingham (8).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of April, 1899.			Rate per 10,000 of estimated population.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.

ENGLAND & WALES*						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	11,114	2,656	13,770	172	- 5	+ 4
North District ...	14,566	7,914	22,480	210	- 6	+ 2
Central District ...	7,380	2,974	10,354	460	- 14	- 4
East District ...	13,303	3,598	17,301	239	- 4	+ 4
South District ...	21,085	18,424	39,509	231	- 6	+ 1
Total Metropolis	67,448	35,946	103,394	228	- 6	+ 1
West Ham	2,200	7,556	9,756	213	- 5	+ 16
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	1,629	3,994	5,623	147	- 4	- 18
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,186	4,216	5,402	250	- 5	- 28
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,399	7,867	11,266	181	- 3	- 10
Wigan District ...	1,749	7,046	8,795	221	- 5	- 3
Manchester District ...	8,309	7,200	15,509	178	- 4	- 6
Liverpool District ...	9,687	7,529	17,016	185	- 4	- 7
Bradford District ...	1,148	3,183	4,331	119	- 4	- 6
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,044	3,555	4,599	122	- 2	- 6
Leeds District ...	1,910	5,550	7,460	173	- 4	- 3
Barnsley District ...	613	3,114	3,727	177	- 3	- 12
Sheffield District ...	2,390	3,027	5,417	143	- 7	- 8
Hull District ...	1,195	4,963	6,158	254	- 9	- 16
North Staffordshire ...	1,736	5,992	7,728	226	- 9	- 6
Nottingham District ...	1,791	3,299	5,090	169	- 1	+ 1
Leicester District ...	1,110	2,860	3,970	194	- 13	-
Wolverhampton District ...	3,179	13,507	16,686	399	- 5	- 7
Birmingham District ...	4,501	2,292	6,593	121	- 4	+ 8
Bristol District ...	2,578	7,292	9,870	278	- 11	- 38
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,681	6,764	8,445	237	- 5	- 2
Total "Other Districts"	50,635	105,084	155,719	188	- 5	- 8

SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District ...	3,637	14,655	18,292	214	- 5	+ 1
Paisley & Greenock District ...	612	2,659	3,271	208	- 1	- 3
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,362	5,168	6,530	181	- 2	- 4
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	965	2,955	3,920	197	- 4	- 1
Aberdeen ...	505	2,577	3,082	225	- 1	- 5
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	305	1,135	1,440	162	- 7	- 22
Total for the above Scottish Districts	7,386	29,149	36,535	203	- 4	- 2

IRELAND.†						
Dublin District ...	6,515	3,866	10,381	294	- 8	+ 19
Belfast District ...	3,887	324	4,211	127	- 7	-
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,590	5,375	9,965	427	- 9	+ 7
Galway District ...	364	373	737	200	- 7	- 158
Total for the above Irish Districts	15,356	9,938	25,294	266	- 8	+ 2
Total for above 35 districts in April, 1899	143,025	187,713	330,738	207	- 5	- 3

* 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.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

The trade returns for the month of April last show a decrease as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British Possessions, but an increase in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures. In the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise there is a decrease.

The imports for April, 1899, were valued at £39,357,022, a decrease of £889,694, or 2.2 per cent.; and the exports amounted in value to £25,426,111, as against £23,635,264 in 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures in 1899 alone amounted to £19,457,446, an increase of £1,961,435, or 11.2 per cent. The latter increase, however, it should be observed, includes the value of new ships, viz., £492,365, this being the first year for which these exports are shown. Foreign and Colonial merchandise exported amounted in value to £5,968,665, a decrease of £170,588, or 2.8 per cent. as compared with April, 1898.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for April, 1899, as compared with April, 1898, according to the different categories of merchandise and the increase or decrease in each case.

	Month ended April 30th.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1898.	1899.		
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	£ 17,495,019	£ 16,213,917	—	£ 1,281,102
Metals ...	1,750,809	2,139,860	389,051	—
Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances ...	535,301	520,524	—	14,777
Oils ...	614,103	828,934	214,831	—
Raw Materials for Manufactures	11,051,712	10,268,839	—	782,873
Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles	8,799,772	9,384,948	585,176	—
Total	£ 40,246,716	39,357,022	—	889,694

The decrease in articles of food and drink is caused chiefly by a falling off among all descriptions of cereals, and in raw materials for manufactures, by a diminution in the value of raw cotton imported—the decrease in this article alone amounting to £1,520,288. In the case of metals the chief articles contributing to the increase were copper unwrought and partly wrought, and tin, while among manufactured articles leather alone shows an increase of £217,293, and machinery £62,468.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for April, 1899, as compared with April, 1898, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month ended April 30th.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1898.	1899.		
Animals living ...	£ 86,894	£ 65,224	—	£ 21,670
Articles of Food and Drink ...	771,876	826,252	54,376	—
Raw Materials ...	1,445,325	2,015,422	570,097	—
Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz.—				
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	6,644,070	7,269,609	625,539	—
Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery and Millwork) ...	2,670,392	2,863,743	193,351	—
Machinery and Millwork ...	1,521,434	1,532,722	11,288	—
Ships, new (not registered as British) ...	(not recorded)	492,365	492,365	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,356,020	4,392,109	36,089	—
Total	£ 17,496,011	19,457,446	1,961,435	—

The value of coal, coke, and fuel shipped in April, 1899, was £573,735 in excess of the corresponding month of the previous year, of cotton piece goods £541,735, of linen and jute piece goods £79,389, and of woollen and worsted tissues £62,672. The value of iron, wrought and unwrought, exported, increased by £142,489.

In the four months ended April 30, 1899, the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British Possessions were valued at £157,551,443 as compared with £159,317,623 for a similar period of 1898, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £81,511,487 (including £2,716,654, the value of new ships not registered as British and not included prior to 1899) as compared with £75,203,129 for the four months ended April 30, 1898. The exports of Foreign and Colonial merchandise for the four months amounted in value to £22,209,305, as compared with £21,250,025 in 1898.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British Possessions during April, 1899, amounted to 2,847,108 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,505,178 tons, as compared with 2,759,483 tons entered and 3,030,555 tons cleared in April, 1898. As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during April, 1899, was 2,519,712 tons and the tonnage cleared 2,450,003 tons as against 2,459,541 tons and 2,423,436 tons respectively in April, 1898.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during April was 26,409, as compared with 23,754 in April, 1898.

British and Irish.—Of the 26,409 passengers, 18,121 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 1,263 as compared with a year ago. This increase was confined to those bound for the United States (1,817 more than last year), the numbers bound for the other destinations named in the table below all showing decreases. For the four months ended April 30th there is a small decrease compared with the corresponding period of 1898. The following table gives the figures in detail:—

Destination.	April, 1899.	April, 1898.	Total for four months ending—	
			April, 1899.	April, 1898.
United States ...	13,189	11,372	23,517	23,011
British North America ...	2,064	2,269	4,686	4,864
Australasia ...	574	789	3,003	3,061
South Africa ...	1,646	1,705	5,491	6,351
Other places ...	648	723	3,499	3,368
Total	18,121	16,858	40,196	40,655

Foreign.—The remainder of the 26,409 passengers, viz., 8,288, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 1,392 as compared with April, 1898, almost entirely due to an increase in the number bound for the United States.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during April was 11,537. Of these, 6,373 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,927 as compared with April, 1898

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN APRIL.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:-				
Neglecting to Limewash	3	3	3 5 0	1 4 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	12	12	49 5 0	6 8 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	30	30	30 8 6	11 12 6
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour	85	84	67 19 6	34 13 0
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	29	29	17 12 6	12 6 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	18	13	1 15 0	4 10 0
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays... ..	3	3	1 10 0	1 10 6
At night	33	33	25 14 0	11 18 6
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—	3	3	2 0 0	0 18 0
Not keeping Registers	12	12	6 5 0	4 15 3
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	16	15	5 11 6	3 5 9
Not sending Notices required by Act	7	7	3 15 0	3 6 0
Other Offences	5	5	9 0 0	2 18 6
By Workmen:-				
Employment before or after the legal hour	1	1	2 0 0	0 15 6
Neglecting to fence machinery	1	1	0 5 0	0 5 0
Total for April, 1899	258	251	226 6 0	100 7 6
Total for April, 1898	324	307	210 10	8 117 19 7

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosec- utions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:-					
Fencing	6	2	2	2	4 12 0
Miscellaneous	1	1	—	—	2 0 0
By Workmen:-					
Safety Lamps	1	1	—	—	2 0 0
Shot-firing and Explosives	2	2	—	—	2 7 0
Timbering	2	1	—	1	1 8 0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c	4	4	—	—	4 7 6
Riding on Trams	7	7	—	—	7 4 6
Miscellaneous	22	22	—	—	19 8 8
Total for April, 1899	45	40	2	3	43 7 8
Total for April, 1898	40	40	—	—	60 8 0
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:-					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	10	9	1	—	20 11 2
Fencing	1	—	1*	—	0 5 0
Other Special Rules	5	4	—	1*	8 4 0
Miscellaneous	2	2	—	—	1 15 0
Total for April, 1899	18	15	2	1	30 15 2
Total for April, 1898	15	15	—	—	14 16 6

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosec- utions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:-				
Submerging Disc	1	1	40 0 0	4 16 0
Carrying excessive Deck Cargoes	2	2	20 0 0	0 16 0
By Seamen:-				
Acting as second hand without a certificate	2	2	3 0 0	2 13 6
Misconduct in endangering ship... ..	1	1	14 5 0	5 15 0
False representation to obtain a certificate	1	1	2 0 0	2 16 0
By Boarding House Keepers:-				
Illegal Boarding	1	1	5 0 0	1 18 6
Total for April, 1899	8	8	84 5 0	18 15 0
Total for April, 1898	8	8	34 1 0	12 4 10

IV.—Under the Friendly Societies and Building Societies Acts. (Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prose- cutions.	Withdrawn on compliance with Act.	Convic- tions.	Fines and Costs.
Failure to send Annual Return or Statement	7	5	2	6 6 0
Failure to comply with the order of the Registrar for payment of costs of inspection	5	2	3	11 4 10
Total for April, 1899	12	7	5	17 10 10
Total for April, 1898	10	10	—	6 6 0

* On payment of costs.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN APRIL

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in April, it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 2 Co-operative Societies for Distribution, 8 Co-operative Associations for Production, 2 Building Societies, 32 new Friendly Societies, and 45 branches of existing Friendly Societies, were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during April. One Trade Union, 4 Industrial and Provident Societies, 21 Building Societies, and 34 Friendly Societies (including 20 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registration cancelled. Three Co-operative Societies are reported as having amalgamated with others.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trades Unions.—*England and Wales.*—South Wales Miners Federation, The Rise, Beaufort; Plush Silk and Textile Workers' Union, No. 10 Branch, Bradford Coffee Tavern Co., Ltd., Carlisle-road, Manningham, Bradford; Society of Watchmen of the Port of London, 19, St. Mary-at-Hill, E.C. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Beverley and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 3 Trinity-terrace, Grove-hill-road, Beverley; Tollesbury and District Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Church-street, Tollesbury. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Lampeter Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Lampeter. R.S.O. Cardigan. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Ballycarney Co-op. Farmers' Soc., Ltd., Ballycarney, co. Wexford; Crossmolina Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Crossmolina, co. Mayo; Callan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., West-street, Callan, co. Kilkenny; Dunbreen Co-op. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Dunbreen, Mountjoy, Omagh; Beechmount Co-op. Home Industries Soc., Ltd., Beechmount, Ballymore, co. Sligo; Tamney Co-op. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Tamney, Letterkenny, co. Donegal; Fenror Co-op. Dairy Soc., Ltd., Gortnahoe, Thurles, co., Tipperary. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 6; Dividing, 9; New Order, 1; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 10. *Scotland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 2. *Ireland.*—Specially authorised, 2. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales,* 36. *Scotland.*—8. *Ireland.*—1.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—2. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—United Brickworkers and Brick Wharf Labourers Union, St. George's Coffee Tavern, Westminster Bridge-road, S.E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Dissolved by instrument: Hoar Cross Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Old Hall, Hoar Cross, Burton-on-Trent; Music Publishing Soc., Ltd., 34, South John-street, Liverpool. Liquidators Return of Final Meeting received:—Mutual Ind. and Prov. Land and Building Soc., Ltd., 97, Old-road, Middleton. Amalgamated with other Societies:—Whitfield (Northants) Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Whitfield, Brackley; Moreton-in-Marsh Co-op. and Ind. Soc., Ltd., 1, Oxford-street, Moreton-in-Marsh; Sheffield Table Blade Grinders Co-op. Prod. Soc., Ltd., 33, Cleveland-street, Sheffield. *Scotland.*—Dissolved by instrument:—Rawyards Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Rawyards, Lanark. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 5; Female, 1. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 2; Collecting, 1; Specially authorised, 4. Dissolved otherwise, Juvenile, 1; Branches, 20. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Instrument of dissolution, 5; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 10. *Scotland.*—Notice of commencement of dissolution, 1. Notice of termination of dissolution, 1. Notice of termination of winding up, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Liverpool District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on June 14th, 1899. Intending candidates should communicate on or before June 10th, 1899, with the secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. T. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King-street, Wigan.

North Staffordshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on June 28th and 29th, 1899. Intending candidates should communicate on or before June 18th, with the secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Joseph Knight, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

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