

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

Vol. XVI.—No. 5.]

MAY, 1908.

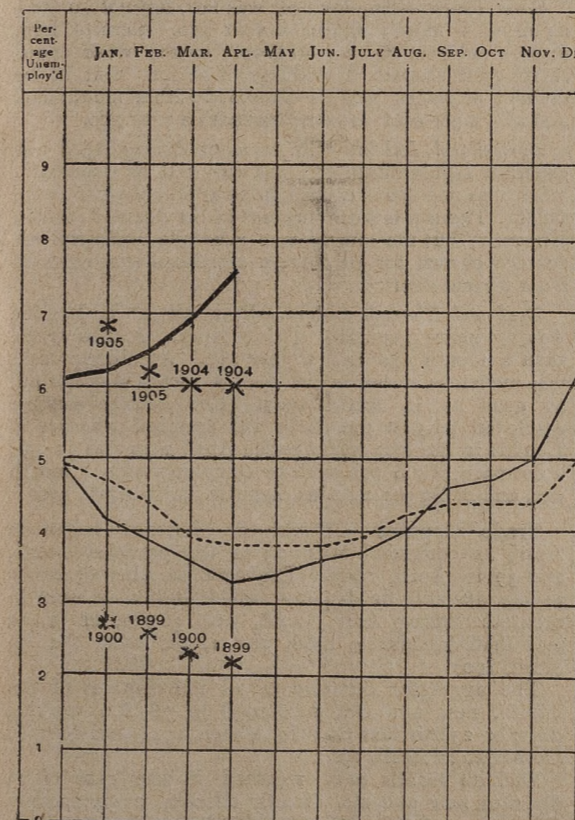
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For April, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 638,237 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 61,037	Printing & Bookbinding 56,301
Coal Mining 128,226	Woodworking and Fur-
Engineering 152,658	nishing 35,041
Shipbuilding 54,644	Miscellaneous 21,413
Other Metal Trades ... 31,912	Total 638,237
Textiles 97,005	

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

[In addition to the 2,639 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,801 were received from employers relating to 1,089,634 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,440 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in April showed some decline as compared with the previous month, and continued to be considerably affected by the disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, which have rendered idle an increasingly large number of workpeople not directly concerned.

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

In the 268 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 638,237, making Returns, 48,035 (or 7.5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, 1908, as compared with 6.9 per cent. at the end of March, 1908, and 3.3 per cent. at the end of April, 1907.

Coal Mining.—Employment continued good during April. It was about the same as a year ago. Comparison with a month ago is affected by holidays.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued fairly good, but was not so good as a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during April continued fair on the whole. It was slightly better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing over 22,000 workpeople showed 293 furnaces in blast at the end of April, as compared with 290* in March, 1908, and 349 in April, 1907.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended April 18th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received was 2.8 per cent. less than in the week ended March 21st, 1908, and 12.8 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during April was good. It was better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 437 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of April, as compared with 430 a month ago and 437 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment was slack on the whole, and continued to be adversely affected by the dispute on the North-East Coast. It was considerably worse than a month ago, and much worse than a

* Revised figure.

year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 8.6, as compared with 7.1 a month ago and 2.8 a year ago.*

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment was bad, and continued to be greatly affected by the dispute. It was worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 23.2, as compared with 21.5 per cent. at the end of March, and 6.6 per cent. a year ago.*

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the *Spinning* branch showed a decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it continued slack, and was worse than a year ago. A considerable amount of short time was worked, and at a large number of mills and sheds the Easter holiday stoppage was extended.

Woollen Trade.—Employment at the end of the month was moderate, and worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 30,428 workpeople in the week ended April 18th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.9 per cent. compared with the week ended April 27th, 1907.

Worsted Trade.—Employment at the end of the month was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,216 workpeople in the week ended April 18th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.8 per cent. compared with the week ended April 27th, 1907.

Linen Trade.—Employment continued quiet, and was considerably worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,400 workpeople in the week ended April 18th showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 15.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment was good on the whole, and showed but little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,307 workpeople in the week ended April 18th showed an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment continued fair on the whole. It showed a decline compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,204 workpeople in the week ended April 18th, 1908, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,889 workpeople in the week ended April 18th showed a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 19.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment at the end of the month was moderate, and worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,213 workpeople in the week ended April 18th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed a seasonal improvement, but was worse than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it was fair, and showed a decline as compared with a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the *Silk Hat* branch was bad, and worse than a year ago. In the *Felt Hat* branch it was fair, and showed a decline compared with a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,142 workpeople in the week

* Members on strike or locked-out are not included in the percentage unemployed.

ended April 18th showed an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment was bad, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,570 had 8.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6.8 per cent. in March, and 5.7 per cent. a year ago.

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

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 5.5, as compared with 4.0 at the end of March, and 3.8 in April, 1907. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 8.7, 6.4, and 5.4 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment in April continued slack. It showed little change compared with a month ago, and was worse than a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in April continued bad. It was slightly better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6.4 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 7.1 per cent. a month ago, and 2.9 per cent. a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the *Pottery* trade continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it was quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment was fair, but not so good as either a month ago or a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,910 workpeople in the week ended April 25th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 5.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment during April was generally regular until towards the end of the month, when rain and snow caused interruption of work in the fields. There was some increase in the demand for day labourers, but the supply was generally sufficient. A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from several districts.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment in London was moderate generally during April. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. At other ports it was moderate, rather better than a month ago, but not so good as in April, 1907. The average number employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London in the four weeks ended April 25th was 12,073, a decrease of 1.8 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 6.9 per cent. as compared with April, 1907.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-six disputes began in April, as compared with 23 in the previous month, and 39 in April, 1907. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during April, 1908, was 36,786, or 2,392 less than in March, 1908, and 21,200 more than in April, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 765,800 working days, or 25,600 less than in March, 1908, and 617,300 more than in April, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 23 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 2,794 persons. Of these 23 disputes, 6 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 11 in favour of the employers, and 6 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in April affected 204,000 workpeople, of whom 1,000 received advances and 203,000 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were decreased included 152,000 coal miners in Northumberland, Cumberland, and Scotland, and 11,000 blastfurnacemen and 30,000 iron and steel workers in various parts of England and Wales. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net decrease of about £10,600 per week.

RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

Painters, Eccles.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 101), met the parties on April 13th, and drew up a new code of working rules for Eccles, Patricroft, and district, which both the parties agreed to and signed.

The principal features of the new rules are an advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and an alteration in the rule as to country work.

Slaters and Tilers, Wigan.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 101), issued his award on April 15th.

The award is issued in the form of a code of working rules under which an advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour is given from May 1st; the hours of labour in winter are also to be shortened. The new working rules are substantially the same as those which the representatives of the parties had agreed to in January, but which were not accepted by the employers on account of a technical objection.

Painters, Huddersfield.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 102), issued his award on April 22nd.

The operatives had asked for an advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and alterations in other working rules; the employers offered an advance of ¾d. per hour, on condition that all other proposed alterations were withdrawn.

Mr. Hudson decided that wages should be advanced from 7½d. to 8d. per hour, and that the time for leaving off work on Saturday should be altered from 12.30 p.m. to 12 noon. He also modified the rule as to the formation of a Court of Arbitration for settling disputes.

Painters, Halifax.

Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G., the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 102), issued his award on May 11th.

The operatives had asked for an advance of 1d. per hour, and other alterations in the working rules. The arbitrator awarded an advance of ¾d. per hour (from 7½d. to 8d.), and fixed 7.30 a.m. instead of 6.30 a.m. as the starting time, with no later starting time on Monday or interval for breakfast as formerly. The arbitrator also made alterations in the rules relating to country work and to payment for overtime.

Painters, Farnworth.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 102), issued his award on April 16th.

The operatives had given notice of proposed alterations in the working rules. The employers, not being organised in an association at the time of receiving the notice, gave no counter notice; but at the hearing of the case before Mr. Hudson they offered the workpeople an advance in wages of ¾d. per hour (from 8½d. to 9d.) on condition that the men referred all the questions in dispute to the arbitrator for settlement. This offer was accepted.

Mr. Hudson's award was given in the form of a complete code of revised working rules, which came into operation on May 1st. The new rules are similar to those recently agreed upon between the employers and workpeople at Bolton.

Joiners, Glasgow.

Alterations in the working rules for joiners having been proposed by the Glasgow Master Wrights' Association, and by the Associated and Amalgamated Societies of Carpenters and Joiners (Glasgow District), the matter was referred for settlement to the Conciliation Board for the Carpenter and Joiner Trade in the Glasgow District.

No settlement was arrived at by the Conciliation Board; and in accordance with the rules of the Board, joint application was, on April 23rd, made to the Board of Trade by the secretaries of the Conciliation Board,

asking for the appointment of a "conciliator" to effect a settlement of the questions in dispute.

On April 29th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, to act in that capacity.

Pottery Trade, Glasgow.

Mr. W. B. Yates, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 101), issued his award on April 16th.

The arbitrator was requested to fix minimum prices per score for turning neck and fluted 1 lb. and 2 lb. jam jars, and was restricted by the terms of reference to a minimum of 2s. 3d. per score for neck jars and 1s. 1d. per score for fluted jars.

Mr. Yates decided that the minimum price to be paid to men for turning neck jars should be 2s. 3d. per score, and for fluted jars 1s. 1½d. per score. He also fixed the minimum prices to be paid to women at 1s. 6d. and 11d. per score for neck and fluted jars respectively. No deduction is to be made from these prices, nor any charge made for light, &c.

Carpenters and Joiners, Coventry.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case, (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 101), met the parties on April 22nd.

The operatives had given notice of a demand that overtime should commence at the end of the working day, instead of at 7 p.m. At the hearing of the case before Mr. Hudson, an agreement was arrived at between the parties that the rule as to overtime should remain in force, with the following addition:—

"Ten minutes to be allowed in the masters' time for tea if the operative works till 7 o'clock, but not otherwise."

Builders' Labourers, Coventry.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the independent chairman appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 101), issued his award on April 25th.

The men had given notice of demands for an advance in wages from 6d. to 6½d. per hour, for an extra ¼d. per hour to scaffolders, and for an alteration of the rule as to setting men on at the job.

Mr. Hudson decided that none of these alterations should be made.

Coal Miners, Cwmaman.

Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas, the umpire appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, page 102), issued his award on May 12th.

The dispute arose out of a claim on the part of the workpeople that they should receive an increase in their piecework rates on account of the substitution of safety lamps and permitted explosives for naked lights and compressed gunpowder. Mr. Thomas awarded an increase of 3½ per cent. on certain items of the standard list of piecework prices in respect of the substitution of safety lamps for naked lights. The award also provides that no collier is to be required to go more than 300 yards from his working place to re-light or change his lamp. (This last provision was settled by agreement arrived at between the arbitrators at the hearing before Mr. Thomas.)

In respect of the substitution of permitted explosives for gunpowder, Mr. Thomas awarded an increase in the price for cutting and filling large coal of 1½ per cent. from January 1st to June 30th, 1908, and of 1 per cent. for the next six months. No increase to be given after December 31st, 1908.

Makers of Army Boots, Northamptonshire.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C., the umpire appointed (with the approval of the Board of Trade) by the Standing Committee of Army Contractors and Representatives of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, issued an award on May 11th on certain matters which had been referred to him by the Joint Committee. Mr. Askwith decided as follows:—

(i) Admiralty Pattern Halfboot for 1907 (for seamen of the fleet) made throughout: putters up price to be 13s. per dozen pairs, the extra 1d. being distributed at ½d. on lasting, ½d. for opening channel, and ½d. for closing channel.

(ii) Admiralty (1908) shoes advanced ½d. per pair for lasting and ½d. for puff.

persons, or 1.4 per cent. The decrease was confined to male employees, who numbered 2,450,113 in 1904, as against 2,507,770 in 1901, a reduction of 57,657, or 2.3 per cent.; the number of female employees was 617,667, as against 604,424, showing an increase of 13,243, or 2.1 per cent. The reduction was confined to Great Britain, Ireland showing a slight increase.

The number of children employed (half-timers under 14) was only 3,301 (2,406 males and 895 females). The number of "young persons," *i.e.*, full-timers under 18, was 466,358 (301,309 males and 165,049 females).

The following Table shows the number of workpeople returned as employed in factories in the several industries in 1904:—

Industry and Process.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Printing, Bleaching, Dyeing...	89,461	30,777	120,238
Flax scutching; Rustian, rope and rag; lace warehouses	7,377	8,651	16,028
Gas	62,767	17	62,784
Wood (sawmills, carpenters, &c.)	128,575	2,580	131,155
Hides, skins, furs	27,008	2,317	29,325
Clay, stone, &c.	67,952	5,075	73,027
Bricks and plain tiles	44,174	28,272	72,446
China, earthenware and ornamental tiles	31,258	183	31,441
Lime and cement; masons, &c.	28,363	3,355	31,718
Glass	25,703	38	25,741
Metals, extraction of:—	10,178	107	10,285
Smelting of iron	110,556	1,663	112,219
Other metals	128,474	2,879	131,353
Metals, founding and conversion of:—	22,173	1,282	23,455
Iron founding	40,477	7,577	48,054
Iron mills	41,956	3	41,959
Other metals	54,672	150	54,822
Ship and boat building	134,117	394	134,511
Locomotives and auto-motors	70,557	267	70,824
Coaches, carriages, wagons, &c.	80,744	1,413	82,157
Engineering (agricultural machinery, textile machinery, electrical & general engineering)	301,842	7,891	309,733
Ordnance, small arms, swords, &c.	41,637	931	42,568
Other (plumbing; heating and sanitary appliances; cycles; machine accessories; cutlery and tools; nails, screws, chains, &c.)	120,434	29,629	150,063
Chemicals	82,920	15,280	98,200
Coopers; box, bag, and basket makers	9,994	3,932	13,926
Furniture trades; brush makers	67,396	17,654	85,050
Food and drink:—	34,369	24,134	58,503
Bread, biscuits, confectionery	31,933	394	32,327
Brewing, malting, distilling	102,530	45,552	148,082
Other food and drink trades	8,509	25,603	34,112
Tobacco, snuff, cigars	13,984	46,072	60,056
Clothing:—	71,012	31,467	102,479
Tailoring	74,931	119,781	194,712
Boots and shoes	24,831	25,804	50,635
Other clothing trades	41,442	25,804	67,246
Jewellery, plate, fine instruments, fancy goods	23,611	10,808	34,419
Paper, printing, stationery:—	17,258	27,652	44,910
Bookbinding; machine ruling	113,407	28,030	141,437
Letterpress and lithographic printing	20,801	29,945	50,746
Other paper trades	831,187	30,070	861,257
Other trades (electricity generation, &c.; india-rubber and gutta-percha; explosives; and miscellaneous)			
Total, Non-Textile Factories	2,450,113	617,667	3,067,780

REPORT OF CENTRAL (UNEMPLOYED) BODY FOR LONDON, 1906-7.

THE Central (Unemployed) Body for London have issued a Report upon their work during the period from May 12th, 1906, to June 30th, 1907.*

The total number of persons registered by Distress Committees in London (exclusive of Battersea) during the period was 27,570, of whom 26,155 were men and boys, and 1,415 women and girls. The corresponding numbers for 1905-6 were 36,448, 35,923 being males and 525 females. There was thus a reduction in 1906-7 as compared with 1905-6 of 8,878 persons: the reduction was principally in the building trades, in which the number of applicants was 8,549, as against 14,856 in the previous year; and there were also reductions in the "transport and general labour" group (12,350 against 13,912) and in the wood-working group (674 against 1,635).

Although 45 per cent. of the applicants were under 35 years of age, an analysis of the figures shows that the later ages supply a larger number of unemployed in proportion. Thus, while the number of applicants aged 20-24 represented a proportion of 14.8 per thousand of the occupied males between those ages in London at the census of 1901, the proportion rises to 22.4 per thousand for the age group 25-34, and to 27.0 per thousand for the age group 35-44.

* P. S. King & Son, Westminster. Price 1s. A Report for the period 1905-6 has also been published (same price and publishers).

Of the applicants registered during 1906-7, 7,160 had also registered during the previous season. Taking those who had been assisted in the previous year, it is found that 42.6 per cent. reapplied in 1906-7; the proportion among those who had not been assisted was 18.0 per cent. One Distress Committee reported that "a large number of applicants considered that, having once 'worked for the unemployed,' they were entitled to do so whenever such work was available."

The number of persons for whom employment was found was 5,740, of whom 5,432 were men, and 308 women.

Many of the Distress Committees call attention to the difficulty of giving preference to certain classes of applicants in accordance with the regulations of the Local Government Board and of the Central Body, *i.e.*, to those "usually in regular work, but temporarily unable to find employment," as distinguished from those in a "normal condition of chronic casual employment." Several Committees express the opinion that few of those registering were men of the type whom the Unemployed Workmen Act was primarily intended to assist, the majority of the applicants being casual workers. An analysis included in the Report indicates that about one-quarter of those who received relief work belong to the "preferential" class, and about three-quarters to the casual class.

Nearly all the Committees call attention to the improvement in health and physique brought about by a spell of regular work and food after a prolonged period of unemployment; and many also emphasise the advantage of enabling the men to keep their homes together, and of saving them from contact with the Poor Law. As to any permanent benefit being conferred on the men, however, a good deal of doubt is expressed by several Committees. Men after being discharged from relief work often failed to obtain permanent work elsewhere.

Non-Colony work was generally found more attractive to the applicants than Colony work, but several Committees consider that Colony work (*i.e.*, work at Hollesley Bay, Fambridge, &c.) was more advantageous, either as being more conducive to the physical and social well-being of the men, or as affording a better test of character and of the desire for work.

The total number of persons emigrated during the season 1906-7, *i.e.*, November, 1906—August, 1907, was 5,415, consisting of 958 married men, with their wives and 2,657 children; 27 widows and widowers; and 815 single men. Omitting the wives and children, the number of heads of families and single persons emigrated was 1,800; of whom 1,048, or nearly 60 per cent., were 30 years of age or under, and only 173 were over 40 years of age. 1,330 of the cases were town-born, and 470 country-born. It is reported that the proportion of failures among the Central Body's emigrants is very small.

The following are among the general conclusions at which the Central Body have arrived as the result of three years' work:—

Training on the land is useless from a permanent point of view unless there is some assured settlement for the men when trained. Londoners can be made fit for country life, but only a proportion of those placed under training would be suitable for small holdings.

The first results of emigration are encouraging, but there is a temptation to over-emphasise emigration as a remedy.

The Women's Work Department has possibilities of usefulness; but there is a danger of women becoming the principal wage-earners, and also of their leaving other employment to enter the workrooms because of their better rate of pay and conditions.

More technical education is desirable as a preparation for life. Boy labour, under present conditions, supplying as it does large numbers of unskilled and untrained labourers at the age of 18 to 20 years, is a difficulty which has to be met. The preponderance of casual labourers and the under-employment of such men is largely responsible for present difficulties.

The work of the Employment Exchanges is making steady progress, but there is still insufficient co-operation on the part of employers and local authorities.

It is impossible to deal adequately with unemployment by local authorities, and in any future legislation the question should be dealt with nationally.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

All emigrants sent out by British charitable societies, or by public funds, must obtain certificates from the Canadian emigration authorities, Charing Cross, London, that they are suitable settlers for Canada. All emigrants landing in Canada till the end of 1908 must possess 25 dols. at the time of landing (unless they have purchased tickets to Canada before March 28th last and are otherwise suitable), and must, in addition, in every case, have money for their inland railway fares—unless they can satisfy the emigration officers at the time of landing that they are going to already assured employment immediately on arrival, or will be cared for by friends. Children, however, who are emigrated by societies and sent to a receiving home in Canada, need not possess the 25 dols. There is a constant demand for female servants, and for farmers with a little capital. There is a large demand for farm labourers in the North-West; the demand in Ontario is not so great, but competent men can always obtain work. The supply of workers on railway construction is now sufficient, so that no one should now emigrate to Canada in the hope of obtaining this kind of work. Skilled coal miners have been wanted in parts of Nova Scotia, but not in British Columbia. During last March hundreds of mechanics and labourers were out of work in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Edmonton, and British Columbia; employment is better now, but persons of this class should not go out unless they go to assured work, or have ample means of their own.

Australia.

Free, assisted, or nominated passages are now being granted—mainly to farmers, farm labourers, and female servants—by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia. There is an excellent demand for members of these classes. The general demand for mechanics is not so good. In New South Wales, however, work has been brisk for men in nearly all trades with the exception of boiler makers, iron shipbuilders, and bootmakers. In this and the other States the best openings as a rule are for carpenters, bricklayers, masons, and blacksmiths. They will generally do better by going to the country towns than by staying in the capitals. Mechanics are often wanted on sheep and cattle stations also, but they would work there as general hands in the ordinary way, and as mechanics only when wanted.

New Zealand.

Reduced passages to New Zealand may be granted on certain conditions to farmers, farm labourers, and domestic servants. There is a good demand for these classes. The demand for mechanics is not so general; employment has been good, but the local supply of men has been mostly sufficient; but carriage builders, painters, carpenters, and cabinet makers have been wanted in places. Female machinists are wanted in the boot factories and woollen mills at Christchurch, Auckland, Dunedin, and elsewhere.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—The Annual Report of the Government Labour Bureau states: "It is impossible to describe the condition of the labour market otherwise than as deplorable. The year 1906 was spoken of as the worst experienced for many years, but the year 1907 has been worse." There is now an excess of mechanics in the building, engineering and other trades in all the principal towns of the Colony. In Cape Town work for artisans is almost unobtainable. In Kimberley the supply of artisans, clerks, shop assistants, labourers and miners is much in excess of the demand. In East London the building trade is very dull. Considerable distress prevails in consequence in these and other places.

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

The congestion amongst unskilled labourers has been somewhat relieved by the engagement of men for railway construction and municipal works.

Natal.—The supply of labour is more than sufficient.

Transvaal.—Persons are warned against going to the Transvaal in search of work. A large number of those now there cannot obtain employment, and considerable distress and privation prevail. The Railway Commission recommend reductions in the staffs of all departments. Various mines have offered to take on some of the unemployed as unskilled labourers in place of Kaffirs, but many of the men refused to accept such work; the wages of those that accepted it range from about 3s. 6d. to 5s. 10d. a shift (usually 10 hours).

Orange River Colony.—There are no openings for British emigrants, the local supply of labour being excessive. Those entering the colony require permits: the Permit Offices at Cape Town, Durban, and Laurence Marques, where such permits used to be obtained, have just been abolished; permits are now issued on application to the Colonial Secretary, Bloemfontein.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 133 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904.)]

FRANCE.

*Employment in March.**—Employment in the building trades continued to improve, but in the metal trades there was an accentuation of the decline previously noted. In the textile trades the decline continued in most of the Nord centres; in the Vosges and Ardennes employment continued fair; in the smaller centres of Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres it was only moderate. Among silk weavers in the St. Etienne and Lyons districts there was an increase in the number of looms standing idle. In the garment-making trades employment improved, and in the printing and bookbinding trades it continued satisfactory. There was still much unemployment among tin box makers in Brittany, and among leather dressers in the provinces. The proportion of coopers out of work increased; among carriage builders in Paris it was about the same as in February. Employment continued to improve for vineyard workers in the South of France, owing to the necessity of finishing work hindered by the bad weather. Forestry work terminated in most centres, but the workpeople discharged found employment in agriculture.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in March were received by the French Labour Department from 1,016 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 210,970. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 10.5 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 10.6 per cent. in the previous month, and 7.4 per cent. in March, 1907.

Coal Mining in March.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during March was 5.76, as compared with 6.01 in February, and 5.99 in March, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together 53.81 per cent. worked full time (6 days or over per week) and 45.91 per cent. from 5 to 6 days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 97.17 and 2.66, and in March, 1907, 95.53 and 4.43.

Labour Disputes in March.—One hundred and forty-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in March, compared with 118 in the previous month, and 128 in March, 1907.

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

In 139 of the new disputes 8,622 workpeople took part, as compared with 7,432 workpeople who took part in 113 of the February disputes, and 16,702 who took part in 105 of the disputes in March, 1907. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were building (85), textile (17), agriculture (11), metal (8), pottery and glass (8), and transport and warehousing (6). Of 129 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 17 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 79 in favour of the employers, while 33 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in March.—Six instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred in March. In four cases conciliation committees were formed, and these succeeded in settling one dispute. In the two other cases the employers declined to take part in conciliation proceedings.

Dispute in the Building Trades at Paris.—A despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Paris to the Foreign Office, dated April 22nd, states that the lock-out of 20,000 masons, which began at Paris on April 5th (see April GAZETTE, p. 108), terminated without any definite result being arrived at. The employers are said to have agreed to take back only those workmen who submitted to certain new conditions, but it appears that in many cases the men returned to work without doing so. The workmen's Union rejected these conditions on behalf of the men, but in some cases the latter have agreed to them.

Regulations for Lead Works: New Decree.*—A Presidential Decree, issued April 23rd, 1908, prescribes a number of rules for the health and safety of workpeople employed in certain occupations involving the use of lead. According to these the smelting of lead may only be carried on in a ventilated place detached from the other workshops, and there must be chimneys or other suitable means for carrying away the fumes given off. In all work with lead oxides or other lead compounds where there is a possibility of lead dust being formed, the materials must be in a moist state wherever possible. If the work cannot be done in contact with water or other liquid it must be carried on by mechanical means in tightly closed apparatus. Where neither of these methods is possible an apparatus with a strong suction must be installed, and so placed as to carry off noxious products. Where this also is impossible the workpeople must wear respiration masks. The handling of oxides and other lead compounds with bare hands is prohibited; suitable gloves or tools must be provided by the employer. The benches, floors and walls of workrooms must be regularly cleaned, and no article of food or drink must be brought into the workrooms. Employers must provide overalls and facilities for washing, and post notices in conspicuous places calling attention to the hygienic measures to be observed. The Decree is to come into force a year after the date of issue.

GERMANY.

Employment in March.—The usual spring revival in employment was experienced to a less degree than in previous years. This was especially so in the building and other seasonal trades, above all in the manufacture of ready-made clothing. In coalmining in the Ruhr district there was a further decline owing to the weakening demands of other industries. In lignite mining there was, in addition, a falling off in the demand for house fuel owing to the comparatively mild weather. In steel works and rolling mills, with the exception of the Saar district and Alsace-Lorraine, employment in many cases was worse than a year ago. In the engineering trades there was little change, but the branches engaged in the manufacture of agricultural machinery benefited by the resumption of

* Journal Officiel de la République Française, April 29th, 1908.
Reife Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).

agricultural work. In the electrical and chemical trades employment was still satisfactory on the whole, but in the latter there was a decline owing to the unfavourable condition of the American market. The toy-making trade was especially affected by this cause. In the textile industry the spinning branches in general continued busy on old orders; the weaving branches continued depressed. In inland navigation the improvement in the Elbe shipping experienced at this time in previous years was entirely absent, and on the Rhine, in general, employment was not satisfactory.

Unemployment in First Quarter of 1908.—Returns relating to unemployment during the first quarter of 1908 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership at the end of the quarter of 1,297,953. From certain branches of the Unions reporting, however, no returns as to the numbers out of work were available; omitting these, the membership covered was 1,292,695, of whom 31,733 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed on March 28th, as compared with 35,319 (or 2.7 per cent.) on February 22nd, and 38,058 (or 2.9 per cent.) on January 25th. The percentage at the end of March, 1907, was 1.3. It should be added that these figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentage for the United Kingdom given on page 133.

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal Unions for which figures are available, the membership at the end of the first quarter of 1908, the percentage of members returned as out of work on one day in each month of the quarter, and the corresponding percentage for the end of the first quarter of 1907.

Name of Union.	Membership on March 28th, 1908.	Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed on			
		Mar. 28, 1908.	Feb. 22, 1908.	Jan. 25, 1908.	Mar. 30, 1907.
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)...	568,436	2.7	2.8	2.6	1.1
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Duncker)	40,449	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.6
Woodworkers ...	148,799	4.6	4.9	5.8	2.5
Miners ...	111,687	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Printers ...	52,719	1.7	2.2	2.9	1.7
Transport Workers ...	89,611	1.5	2.1	2.2	0.6

HOLLAND.†

Employment in March.—In the building trades the usual spring revival of employment was experienced nearly everywhere, but to a less degree than in previous years. In the larger metal and engineering establishments employment continued satisfactory; in shipbuilding it was moderate. Employment in the textile trades was still slack, but the improvement in the garment making trades continued; in the boot and shoe trades, however, with local exceptions, there was still no improvement. In the majority of branches of the woodworking trades employment was slack. Printers were on the whole busier than last month. In bulb growing employment was regular, though in the case of seasonal workers somewhat interfered with by the unfavourable weather. There was general slackness in breweries and distilleries, but margarine makers were busier than in February.

Labour Disputes in March.—Fifteen strikes, 14 of which directly affected 389 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in March. Ten strikes came to an end during the month, including 4 which had begun in previous months. The results were known in 7 cases. One of these resulted in favour of the workpeople, and 5 in favour of the employers, while one was compromised. One lock-out began in March, and was still in progress at the end of the month.

† Less than 0.1 per cent.

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

BELGIUM.

Employment in March.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 6.0 per cent. of the 47,647 members of 226 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 7.3 per cent. in the previous month, and 0.9 per cent. a year ago. The depression in the diamond industry continued to affect the percentage. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 139).

Labour Disputes in March.—Fourteen strikes, affecting 1,989 workpeople, and one lock-out of 800 cigar makers, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in March. The termination of 9 strikes was reported. Two of these (involving 110 strikers) ended in favour of the workpeople and 5 (involving 1,051 strikers) in favour of the employers, while 2 (involving 85 strikers) were compromised.

NORWAY.*

Employment in March.—Of 10,497 members of Trade Unions making Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 3.9 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 139).

The following Table shows, for the same Unions, the membership and percentage unemployed in each group of trades at the end of March, as compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.	Mar., 1908.	Feb., 1908.	Mar., 1907.
Metal Workers and Moulders	6,159	5,999	6,054	1.3	1.3	1.3
Carpenters, &c.	768	753	793	10.7	18.3	6.3
Painters and Masons...	853	845	661	23.9	30.3	16.8
Boot and Shoe Makers	261	252	199	0.4	...	2.5
Printers ...	879	874	953	1.4	0.6	3.6
Cabinet Makers	395	385	344	0.5	0.9	...
Wood Pulp and Paper Makers	982	959	900	0.2	0.7	0.1
Bakers ...	200	185	164	14.0	11.4	13.4
Total ...	10,497	10,192	10,068	3.9	5.0	3.0

ITALY.

Law prohibiting Night Work in Bakeries and Confectionery works.—A law of March 22nd, 1908, prohibits night-work in bakeries and confectionery works in Italy. It is provided that no work shall be done between the hours of 9 p.m. and 4 a.m., except on Saturday evening, when work may be carried on up till 11 p.m.

The prohibition applies to all preparatory fermenting processes, heating of ovens, and kneading, mixing and baking of bread and confectionery.

The factory and sanitary inspectors and the police are responsible for the execution of the law, which is to come into force 15 days after publication of the regulations for its application.

UNITED STATES.

Employment and Wages in Textile Trade, New England and New York States.—Reductions in wages averaging 10 per cent. took place in cotton cloth, yarn and thread mills employing 43,500 workpeople in New England and in the State of New York on April 13th. Since the beginning of the general reduction (see April GAZETTE, p. 109) the wages of 153,500 mill hands in this district have been reduced—144,000 of these being employed in New England and 9,500 in New York State.

Four thread mills in Pawtucket and Central Falls (Rhode Island) employing 2,500 operatives, reduced their running time to 5 days per week from April 11th onwards.

* Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
† Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro (Journal of the Italian Labour Department), March, 1908.
‡ Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated April 13th and 16th respectively.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN APRIL.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 496 Returns—438 from Employers, 45 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued good during April. It was about the same as a year ago. Comparison with a month ago is affected by holidays.

Returns relating to 1,344 pits employing 630,763 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended April 25th, 1908, was 5.05 as compared with 5.49 in March (when no time was lost on account of holidays), and 5.17 in April, 1907. In April, 1908, holidays accounted for 0.65 of a day per week; and in April, 1907, for 0.57 of a day per week.

Of the 630,763 workpeople covered by the Returns 443,577 (70.3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended April 25th, 1908, while 58,975 (9.4 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in April was in Durham (5.21), and the lowest in Nottingham and Leicester (4.44).

The following Table shows the average number of days per week worked by the pits during the four weeks ended April 25th, 1908, together with the figures for similar periods in March, 1908, and April, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in April, 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1908, as compared with	
		April 25th, 1908.†	Mar. 21st, 1908.	April 20th, 1907.†	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	43,763	5.20	5.47	5.18	+ .27	+ .02
Durham ...	114,178	5.21	5.45	5.24	+ .24	+ .03
Cumberland ...	7,336	4.90	5.49	5.26	+ .59	+ .26
South Yorkshire ...	64,906	5.08	5.73	5.29	+ .65	+ .21
West Yorkshire ...	23,953	4.86	5.42	5.00	+ .56	+ .14
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,085	4.84	5.47	5.07	+ .63	+ .23
Derbyshire ...	41,223	4.86	5.67	4.72	+ .81	+ .14
Nottingham and Leicester	33,051	4.44	4.75	4.54	+ .31	+ .10
Staffordshire ...	28,042	4.96	5.65	4.94	+ .69	+ .02
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	11,149	4.91	5.56	4.84	+ .65	+ .07
Gloucester and Somerset	8,104	5.12	5.29	4.71	+ .17	+ .41
North Wales ...	11,195	5.03	5.57	5.24	+ .54	+ .21
South Wales and Mon. ...	139,270	5.18	5.72	5.42	+ .54	+ .24
ENGLAND AND WALES	883,286	5.04	5.83	5.18	+ .49	+ .11
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland ...	23,950	5.10	5.04	5.38	+ .06	+ .28
The Lothians ...	4,416	4.98	4.92	5.68	+ .06	+ .70
Fife ...	18,611	5.20	4.73	5.40	+ .47	+ .20
SCOTLAND ...	46,977	5.13	4.91	5.42	+ .22	+ .29
IRELAND ...	530	5.15	5.23	4.78	+ .08	+ .37
United Kingdom ...	630,763	5.05	5.49	5.17	+ .44	+ .12

Compared with a month ago (after making allowance for holidays), there was some improvement in all districts in England and Wales. In Nottingham and Leicester employment was better owing to the termination of a dispute. Employment in Scotland showed an improvement, which was greatest in Fife, where it amounted to about half-a-day per week. Compared with a year ago employment in the Northern Counties and in South Wales showed little change. There was some decline in Yorkshire and in Lancashire and Cheshire. Employment in Derbyshire and Staffordshire was better. In

* The figures in this article only show 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 reported. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.
† Easter holidays are included in these periods.

Scotland there was a decline, which was most marked in the Lothians.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged.

Table with columns: Description of Coal, No. of Workpeople employed in April, 1908, Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended (April 25th, Mar. 21st, April 20th, 1907), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr. 1908, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in April, 1908, amounted to 5,163,908 tons, or 104,686 tons more than in March, 1908, but 118,414 tons less than in April, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 88 Returns—72 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in iron mines continued fairly good, but was not so good as a year ago. It continued good in shale mines.

Employment continued fair in tin and copper mines, and good in lead mines. In quarries it was moderate on the whole.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended April 25th, 1908, the average number of days per week worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.54, as compared with 5.76 days a month ago, and 5.67 days a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Table with columns: Districts, No. employed in April, 1908, Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended (April 25th, Mar. 21st, April 20th, 1907), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1908, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 80.3 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended April 25th, as compared with 87.9 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,304 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended April 25th, as compared with 3,349 a month ago, and 3,210 a year ago.

* Easter Holidays are included in these periods.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued fairly good in Cornwall.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in North Wales, in Derbyshire, and in Weardale.

Quarrying.

Slate.—In North Wales employment was fairly good in Carnarvonshire, but was slack at Festiniog, with some short time. At Ballachulish (Argyllshire) it continued fair.

Granite.—Employment in Leicestershire was good. In Aberdeenshire it was reported as bad. It was bad in the Penryn district, but showed some improvement compared with a month ago on Dartmoor.

Limestone.—In Cumberland employment continued bad; in Weardale it was good. In Cleveland it continued fairly good. In North Wales employment was fair, but somewhat affected by the bad weather.

Other Stone.—In the Forfarshire quarries employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With sandstone quarries in North Wales it was on the whole fair.

Sett-making.—Employment was fair at Glasgow, Airdrie, and Aberdeen. In North Wales it was slack. It was bad in Leicestershire, and worse than a month ago. In the Clew Hill district it was dull.

China Clay.—Employment in the St. Austell district was fair, and better than a month ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during April, 1908, continued fair on the whole. It was slightly better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing over 22,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of April, 1908, was 293, as compared with 290* in March, 1908, and 349 in April, 1907.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of (April, 1908, Mar., 1908, April, 1907), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr. 1908, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

* Revised Figure.

The Imports of iron ore in April, 1908, amounted to 480,769 tons, or 17,066 tons less than in March, 1908, and 192,109 tons less than in April, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in April, 1908, amounted to 110,721 tons, or 4,880 tons less than in March, 1908, and 76,550 tons less than in April, 1907.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 213 Returns—106 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 6 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

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

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended April 18th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received was 2.8 per cent. less than in the week ended March 21st, 1908, and 12.8 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended April 18th, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 469,000, as compared with 482,700 a month ago, and 537,700 a year ago.

Table with columns: Departments, Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns (In week ended April 18th, 1908, A month ago, A year ago), Average Number of Shifts worked per man (In week ended April 18th, 1908, A month ago, A year ago).

Table with columns: Departments, Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns (In week ended April 18th, 1908, A month ago, A year ago), Average Number of Shifts worked per man (In week ended April 18th, 1908, A month ago, A year ago).

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns (In week ended April 18th, 1908, A month ago, A year ago), Average Number of Shifts worked per man (In week ended April 18th, 1908, A month ago, A year ago).

Compared with a month ago there were decreases in the number of workpeople employed in all districts except "Other Midland Counties"; the decreases were greatest in the Cumberland and Lancashire, Wales and Monmouth, and Northumberland and Durham districts.

The average number of shifts per man worked during the week ended April 18th, 1908, was 5.37, as compared with 5.35 a month ago, and 5.31 a year ago. Compared with a month ago the workpeople showed an increase in a majority of the departments, the most marked increase being in the Bessemer converting department (0.69 of a shift per week), but with this exception both the increases and the decreases were unimportant.

Compared with a year ago there was a decline in nearly all the departments, and in every district, amounting on the whole to 0.26 of a shift. The decline was greatest in the Cumberland and Lancashire, and in the Northumberland and Durham districts.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during April, 1908, amounted to 95,191 tons, or 11,679 tons less than in March, 1908, but 31,095 tons more than in April, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during April, 1908, amounted to 217,446 tons, or 24,845 tons more than in March, 1908, but 28,201 tons less than in April, 1907.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

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

EMPLOYMENT during April was good. It was better than a month ago, and the same as a year ago.

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

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

Table with columns: April, 1908, March, 1908, April, 1907, Number of Works open, Number of Mills in operation.

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

Table with columns: April, 1908, Mar., 1908, April, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1908, as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago).

Table with columns: Total, Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets, Black Plates for Tinning.

* It will be understood that in addition to the works returned as open, i.e., giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the Returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 14.6, compared with 14.2 a month ago, and 5.1 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 2.1, compared with 1.7 a month ago and 2.1 a year ago. Employment was fair at Denton, and fairly good at Stockport; in Warwickshire much short time was worked, and employment was quiet, and worse than a year ago.

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

Description.	April, 1908.	Mar., 1908.	April, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in April, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds	Dozens. 27,580	Dozens. 33,362	Dozens. 45,005	Dozens. — 5,782	Dozens. — 17,425
Exports:					
Felt	49,251	57,088	40,624	— 7,837	+ 8,627
Straw	37,227	47,042	34,614	— 9,815	+ 2,613
Other Sorts	5,835	6,341	3,317	— 506	+ 2,518
Total	92,313	110,471	78,555	— 18,158	+ 13,758

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 186 Returns—181 from Employers, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the West-End dressmaking trade and in the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades was worse than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the corset trade it was fairly good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,693 dressmakers in the week ended April 25th, showed an increase of 6.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers, employing 1,255 workpeople in the week ended April 25th, showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 11.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. Employment with milliners in the West-End showed a seasonal improvement, but was worse than a year ago.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,765 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed a decrease of 5.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 9.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair, and slightly worse than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 1,667 workpeople in the week ended April 25th showed very little change compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade continued fairly good.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers employing 6,702 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended April 18th, and paying £4,598 in wages, showed a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid

compared with a month ago, and of 7.5 per cent. compared with the week ended April 27th, 1907. Employment generally was moderate.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,082 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended April 25th, showed a decrease of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 41 Returns—25 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was bad, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,570 had 8.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6.8 per cent. in March, and 5.7 per cent. a year ago.

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

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was bad in London. At Walsall it was bad with brown saddlers, quiet with gig saddlers. With saddlers at Glasgow and Dublin it was fair.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment was bad, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago; but with fancy and morocco leather finishers in London it was good. With port-manteau and trunk makers it was fair in London; bad at Manchester.

Imports and Exports.

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

Description.	April, 1908.	Mar., 1908.	April, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in April, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	cwts. 22,039	cwts. 21,053	cwts. 39,793	cwts. + 986	cwts. — 17,754
Ditto, wet	52,446	49,932	41,966	+ 2,514	+ 10,480
Total, hides, dry and wet	74,485	70,985	81,759	+ 3,500	— 7,274
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	809,932	737,432	1,497,678	+ 72,500	— 687,746
Sheep skins " (value) £	193,744	214,002	341,943	— 20,258	— 148,199
Leather*	cwts. 99,041	cwts. 87,770	cwts. 86,990	cwts. + 11,271	cwts. + 12,051
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	35,317	38,181	45,540	— 2,864	— 10,223

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 440 Returns—138 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 282 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. Returns received from firms employing 22,474 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

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

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,738 Returns—785 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 896 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 57 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in April continued slack. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns received from 724 firms employing 47,055 workpeople at the end of April are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was an increase in the total number of workpeople employed of 0.1 per cent., while compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 9.1 per cent. The decrease compared with a year ago was chiefly in London, in the North Counties and Yorkshire district, and in the Southern and South Western district.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	April, 1908.	March, 1908.	April, 1907.	April, 1908.	March, 1908.	April, 1907.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London	8,015	7,947	9,640	5,703	5,749	6,809
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,401	2,352	2,794	2,005	1,969	2,599
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,881	3,748	4,066	3,348	3,332	3,123
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,829	2,767	2,775	3,508	3,485	3,329
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,999	3,193	3,442	1,704	1,765	2,056
England and Wales ...	20,126	20,007	22,717	16,268	16,300	17,826
Scotland	3,382	3,329	3,397	1,947	1,987	2,139
Ireland	623	642	880	936	1,031	705
United Kingdom ...	24,131	23,978	26,994	19,201	19,318	20,730
	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
London	539	506	574	14,287	14,202	17,028
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	545	541	642	4,982	4,882	5,948
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	967	984	998	8,196	8,084	8,187
Midland & Eastern Counties	335	340	365	6,672	6,692	6,469
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	491	494	547	5,194	5,452	6,048
England and Wales ...	2,877	2,865	3,126	39,271	39,172	43,669
Scotland	755	771	845	6,088	6,087	6,881
Ireland	90	94	89	1,699	1,767	1,734
United Kingdom ...	3,723	3,730	4,060	47,065	47,026	51,784

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade, with 1,895 members, had 2.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 1.8 per cent. a month ago, and 2.0 per cent. a year ago.

The **Imports** of paper in April, 1908, amounted to £493,792, as compared with £540,591 in March, 1908, and £494,267 in April, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same periods amounted to £189,068, £205,580, and £194,533, respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was dull generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apl. 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		April, 1908.	Mar., 1908.	April, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	20,441	6.3	3.7	3.2
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,278	4.9	4.1	4.9	+ 0.8	...
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	6,577	4.9	4.1	5.3	+ 0.8	— 0.4
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,442	4.5	3.0	3.9	+ 1.5	+ 0.6
West Midlands	2,516	5.2	4.4	4.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.4
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,949	3.2	3.0	2.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Scotland	5,616	4.6	3.9	2.5	+ 0.7	+ 2.1
Ireland	2,504	9.2	8.9	4.9	+ 0.3	+ 4.3
United Kingdom	49,323	5.5	4.0	3.8	+ 1.5	+ 1.7

London.—Employment with compositors was reported as bad for the time of year, worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Printing machine managers reported it as fair; correctors of the press, electrotypers and stereotypers as better than a month ago. With lithographic printers employment was slack; with lithographic artists it was fair. At the end of April, 1908, 6.3 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 3.7 per cent. at the end of March, 1908, and 3.2 per cent. at the end of April, 1907.

Other Centres.—Employment was dull on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With letterpress printers, however, it was good at Bolton, Derby, Oxford, and Dundee, and fair (except in the machine branch) at Edinburgh. It was fair also at Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Ipswich, and Plymouth. A considerable amount of short time was reported by lithographic printers. Lithographic artists, electrotypers and stereotypers were fairly well employed.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In London and Edinburgh short time was common. At Birmingham and Newcastle employment was fair.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apl. 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		April, 1908.	Mar., 1908.	April, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	3,594	10.4	7.4	7.8
Other Districts	3,384	6.9	5.3	2.9	+ 1.4	+ 4.0
United Kingdom ...	6,978	8.7	6.4	5.4	+ 2.3	+ 3.3

Employment with painters was fair, and better than in March. With slaters it was moderate, and rather better than a year ago. In other branches employment was slack, and worse than a year ago.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of April was 8.1, as compared with 8.8 a month ago and 4.3 a year ago; and for plumbers, for the same dates, 13.4, 12.8, and 7.1 respectively.

London.—Employment remained slack generally. It showed a slight improvement compared with March, but was much worse than a year ago. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 9.9 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 10.4 per cent. a month ago and 7.6 per cent. in April, 1907. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 14.8, 17.5, and 9.3 respectively.

Other Districts.—Employment remained slack in nearly all districts. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

Labourers at Hull and bricklayers at Middlesbrough were still moderately well employed, and an improvement was reported by bricklayers at Leeds, by carpenters at Hull, and by bricklayers at Salford, and carpenters at Manchester. Employment at Oldham continued moderate. Masons at Northampton, Burton, Wolverhampton, and Norwich, and bricklayers at Ipswich, were fairly well employed. At Plymouth a decline was reported by carpenters and plasterers. At Gloucester there was a general improvement. Labourers at Cheltenham, plumbers at Cardiff, and carpenters and

Painters at Swansea were fairly well employed. Bricklayers at Edinburgh, Paisley, and Motherwell, carpenters at Dundee, and masons at Aberdeen reported employment as fair, and an improvement was reported by carpenters at Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 188 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 156 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

Employment in the furnishing and woodworking trades continued bad. It was slightly better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,041 reported 6.4 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of April, 1908, as compared with 7.1 per cent. a month ago, and 2.9 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades continued bad. There was an improvement as compared with a month ago, but it was considerably worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 7.8 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 8.9 per cent. a month ago, and 2.7 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in April, 1908, were valued at £46,616, as compared with £53,279 in March, 1908, and £60,336 in April, 1907, and the Exports for the same periods at £43,686, £42,050, and £59,219, respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodworking machinists continued bad generally. It was about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 8.2 per cent. a month ago and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

Imports.

Description.	April, 1908.	Mar., 1908.	April, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Woods, hewn	71,008	43,528	77,811	+ 27,480	- 6,803
.. sawn	200,164	154,695	230,704	+ 65,469	- 30,540
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 17,147	£ 20,916	£ 23,199	- £ 3,769	- £ 6,052

Coopers.

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

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachbuilders was moderate on the whole. It was slightly better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. At Sheffield employment was fair; at Belfast dull; and at Dublin bad. Trade Unions reported 5.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6.1 per cent. a month ago, and 1.7 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers continued fair. It was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 3.3 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4.0 per cent. a month ago, and 2.2 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was bad generally, but fair at Belfast. With basket-makers it was bad generally; with skipmakers at Oldham it continued good.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in April, 1908, were valued at £32,423, as compared with £31,280 in March, 1908, and £30,748 in April, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £15,916, £15,187, and £16,281 respectively.

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 34 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 11 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was quiet.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was moderate, and was affected to some extent by holidays; it was also moderate in Scotland; in Devonshire and at Swadlincote and Newcastle-on-Tyne it was fair; at Bristol it declined. With earthenware makers employment was slack in the Potteries, and continued about the same as a month ago in the South Yorkshire and the River Aire district. With insulator turners and throwers in the Potteries it was fair, and better than a month ago. Employment with packers in the Potteries was very quiet. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was good at Manchester, dull at Gateshead, and bad at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was good at Oldham, at Chelmsford, in Bedfordshire and in South Wales and Monmouthshire; fair in North Wales; moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district; quiet in the Eastern Counties and Devonshire; slack at Peterborough and Birmingham; bad at Nottingham, at Glasgow, in South Staffordshire and in Leicestershire; some improvement was shown in Shropshire and at Stourbridge.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in April, 1908, were valued at £91,634, as compared with £82,076 in March, 1908, and £83,091 in April, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £213,186, £209,680 and £216,685, respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 95 Returns—65 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 19 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 8,910 workpeople in the week ended April 25th, and paying £10,424 in wages, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. The decline was principally in the North of England and Lancashire.

Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 5.4 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 5.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. The decline was common to all departments and to all the principal districts except Scotland, which showed an increase.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended April 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended April 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle ...	5,569	- 1.1	- 6.3	6,867	+ 0.5	- 4.5
Plate Glass ...	754	- 0.9	- 10.7	864	+ 5.0	- 8.6
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	2,162	- 0.7	- 0.5	2,215	- 5.3	- 6.1
Other Branches ...	425	+ 2.2	- 7.6	478	+ 0.4	- 6.1
Total ...	8,910	- 0.9	- 5.4	10,424	- 0.4	- 5.2
Districts.						
North of England	1,234	- 3.0	- 11.8	1,003	- 10.3	- 23.2
Yorkshire ...	4,540	- 0.6	- 2.4	5,793	+ 0.9	- 1.7
Lancashire ...	685	+ 2.6	- 2.9	760	- 3.2	- 24.9
Worcester and Warwick	1,244	+ 0.3	- 5.5	1,515	+ 3.6	- 0.5
Scotland ...	881	- 0.1	+ 4.8	1,127	- 0.9	+ 8.7
Other parts of the United Kingdom	326	+ 1.6	+ 0.6	316	+ 0.6	- 1.9
Total ...	8,910	- 0.9	- 5.4	10,424	- 0.4	- 5.2

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Bristol and at Portobello; moderate in the North of England and in Lancashire, and at Barnsley, Leeds, and Glasgow; slack at Wakefield, Castleford and Mexborough; improving at Dublin. With medical glass bottle makers employment was fair at Rotherham and

quiet at Leeds. Employment with flint glass makers continued good in Scotland and fairly good in England. With cutters it was fair; at Stourbridge and Worsley it was good. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was bad; with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it was fair. Employment with London glass blowers showed a decline. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was very bad, short time being general.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1908.	Mar., 1908.	April, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 96,569	cwts. 100,485	cwts. 105,128	cwts. - 3,916	cwts. - 8,559
Plate	23,727	25,070	43,249	- 2,243	- 19,522
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	57,485	56,866	62,046	+ 559	- 4,621
Manufactures, other sorts ...	298	445	1,369	- 147	- 1,071
Bottles	143,831	148,944	150,997	- 5,113	- 7,166
Exports:					
Plate	10,939	13,784	12,404	- 2,845	- 1,465
Flint	5,302	4,151	5,175	+ 1,151	+ 127
Manufactures, other sorts ...	45,947	39,623	35,361	+ 6,324	+ 12,586
Bottles	62,250	64,085	74,588	- 1,835	- 10,338

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 220 Returns from Correspondents in various districts)

EMPLOYMENT during April was generally regular until towards the end of the month, when rain and snow caused interruption of work in the fields. There was some increase in the demand for day labourers, but the supply was generally sufficient. A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from several districts.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmorland wet and stormy weather interfered with outdoor work, and employment was somewhat irregular. In some districts there was a fair demand for day labourers to assist in potato planting, manure carting, &c., and the supply of this class of labour was quite adequate. A correspondent in the Hexham Union states that at the annual hirings in the first week of April higher wages were given in some instances, and that boys were scarce. Employment in Lancashire was fair, and day labourers were generally fully employed in sowing corn, planting mangolds and potatoes, and making the land ready for turnip-sowing. In the Fylde Union a scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported. In Yorkshire employment was somewhat irregular, owing to wet and stormy weather. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient for requirements. A scarcity of men for permanent situations is reported from the Driffield and Skipton Unions.

Midland Counties.—According to correspondents in Cheshire and Derbyshire there was a good demand generally for day labourers, but the supply was sufficient. Outdoor work was but little hindered until the end of the month, when rain, snow and frost caused some time to be lost. Employment in Nottinghamshire was somewhat irregular, owing to the unfavourable weather. Day labourers were in demand in some Unions, particularly for threshing. In the Southwell Union the supply of men for permanent service was reported to be insufficient. In Leicestershire rain and snow caused some loss of time, but employment was fairly plentiful. In the Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough Unions a scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported. In Staffordshire and Shropshire day labourers lost time owing to inclement weather, but employment was plentiful in threshing, sowing spring corn, planting potatoes, and preparing the land for cereal and root crops. The supply of day labourers was generally adequate, and Irish labourers were said to be available in the Tamworth and Cannock Unions (Staffordshire). A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported

from certain Unions. Employment in Worcestershire and Warwickshire was affected by snow and rain in the latter part of the month, but work was plentiful, and the supply of day labourers was generally adequate. Men for permanent posts were in demand in some districts. Similar conditions prevailed in Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Day labourers lost time in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire in consequence of wet and stormy weather. The supply of this class of labour was generally equal to the demand.

Eastern Counties.—In Huntingdonshire and Cambridgehire employment was somewhat irregular owing to wet weather, but work was plentiful in sowing spring corn, preparing land for roots, threshing, &c. The supply of day labourers was adequate. Employment in Lincolnshire was plentiful, and little time was lost. Day labourers were in demand, and the supply was not always sufficient. In Norfolk farm work was in arrear, and day labourers found ample employment when the weather permitted. The supply of this class of labour was generally equal to the demand. Employment in Suffolk and Essex was regular in the early part of the month, but was interrupted by stormy weather in the last week. The supply of day labourers and of men for permanent situations was generally adequate.

Southern and South Western Counties.—The supply of day labourers in Kent was rather in excess of the demand, and work in the fields was interrupted by unsettled weather. Employment in Surrey and Sussex was somewhat irregular, owing to rain and snow and the backward state of the crops. Day labourers were not in much demand, and the supply was generally sufficient. In Hampshire and Berkshire employment was generally regular until the last week of the month, when rain and snow hindered outdoor work. The supply of day labourers was generally equal to the demand. Similar conditions were reported with regard to Wiltshire and Dorsetshire. Employment in Somersetshire was hindered by frost, rain and snow, and day labourers were not in demand. In Herefordshire and Gloucestershire day labourers were occupied in sowing barley and oats, hoeing, potato planting, &c. Some time was lost in consequence of inclement weather at the end of the month. The supply of day labourers in Devon and Cornwall was generally sufficient, and employment was not greatly affected by bad weather. A scarcity of men for permanent situations is reported from certain Unions.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 135 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

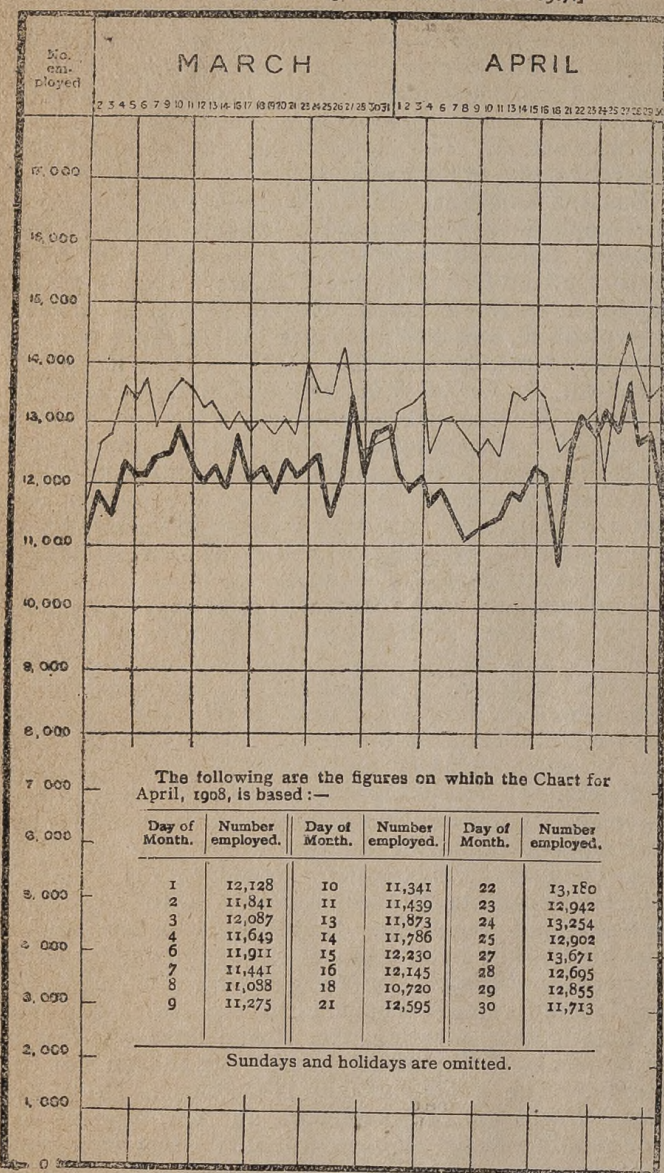
EMPLOYMENT in London was moderate generally. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. At other ports it was moderate, rather better than a month ago, but not so good as in April, 1907.

London.*—Employment was moderate generally during April, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The average number employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended April 25th was 12,073, a decrease of 1.8 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 6.9 per cent. as compared with April, 1907. The daily numbers in April, 1908, ranged from 10,720 on the 18th to 13,671 on the 27th. During April, 1907, the numbers ranged from 12,115 on the 26th to 14,591 on the 29th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks*			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended April 4th	4,239	2,394	6,633	5,614	12,247
" " " 11th	3,629	2,101	5,730	5,683	11,413
" " " 18th	3,777	2,378	6,155	5,526	11,681
" " " 25th	4,055	3,091	7,146	5,829	12,975
Average for 4 weeks ended April 25th, 1908	3,926	2,470	6,395	5,678	12,073
Average for Mar., 1908	4,247	2,856	6,503	5,797	12,300
Average for Apl., 1907	4,058	2,819	6,877	6,099	12,971

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

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



The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,120 during April, as compared with 1,100 a month ago, and 1,429 in April, 1907.

At Liverpool employment was slack generally with dock labourers; it was moderate with quay and railway carters.

Other Ports.—Employment on the Tyne and Wear with dock labourers was bad, and worse than a month ago. With trimmers and teamers it continued fairly good. Employment with dock labourers continued slack at Hartlepool; at Middlesbrough it was fairly good, and better than a month ago. Employment was bad with dock labourers at Hull, Grimsby and Goole; with coal porters at Hull it was moderate, and at Grimsby good; at both ports it was better than a month ago. At Goole it continued bad. At Yarmouth and Lynn employment was slack; at Lowestoft, fair; and at Ipswich, good. At Plymouth employment was moderate, and better than a month ago. At the South Wales ports it was fair, but not quite so good as in March. Employment was bad at Manchester. At Leith it was fairly good, and better than a month ago. At Dundee employment was fair; at Aberdeen, dull. It was dull also at Dublin and Belfast.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

The fish landed in April, 1908, showed an increase in both quantity and value as compared with April, 1907.

Employment at the principal ports during April was fair generally, and better than a month ago. At Yarmouth

it was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers, but bad with fish curers. At Grimsby it was good with all classes, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Lowestoft and Hull it was fair generally; with fish dock labourers at the latter port it was good. At Aberdeen it was good; at Peterhead it was bad with fishermen and fish curers and fair with fish dock labourers; at Fraserburgh it was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers and good with fish curers; at Macduff it was moderate generally and worse than a month ago. Off the south-west coast of England fishing operations, though slightly better than last month, were far from satisfactory; off the south-west coast of Ireland fairly good catches were made.

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

Table showing quantity and value of fish landed in April 1908 and 1907. Categories include Fish (other than Shell) and Shell Fish, with sub-categories for England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Columns show Quantity and Value in both years.

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in April, 1908, were valued at £30,996, as compared with £49,720 in March, 1908, and £26,375 in April, 1907.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN APRIL.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during April 41,743 seamen*, of whom 3,735 (or 8.9 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with April, 1907, there was a net increase of 1,334, the greatest increases occurring at Liverpool and Southampton, and the greatest decreases at London and at the Tyne Ports.

For the four months ended April, 1908, the total number of seamen* shipped was 154,369, an increase of 1,034 as compared with the corresponding period of 1907. The greatest increases were at Southampton and Liverpool, and the greatest decreases at Cardiff and at Glasgow.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number of seamen shipped in April and January-April for various ports in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Columns include Principal Ports, April 1907 and 1908, and January-April 1907 and 1908.

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

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

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

Table showing predominant prices of bread in 28 large towns for 1st May 1908, 1st April 1908, and 1st May 1907. Columns include District, Predominant Prices (High, Low, Mean), and Last Change.

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices remains almost unaltered. As compared with a year ago, an increase of 7d. is shown. In Scotland the increase amounted to 1d. per 4 lbs.

Price of Bread in 28 Large Towns.

Table showing the price of bread in 28 large towns, comparing predominant prices at May 1st, 1908 with prices a month ago and a year ago. Columns include Place, Predominant Price at May 1st, 1908, A Month ago, A Year ago, Date, and Amt per 4 lbs.

The above Table shows that, compared with a month ago, the predominant price of the 4 lb. loaf has fallen 1d. in Oldham, and 3/4d. in Derby, Manchester, and Middlesbrough. As compared with a year ago, each of the towns except Huddersfield and Oldham shows an increase. In Aberdeen the rise amounted to 1 1/4d. per 4 lbs. In 11 of the towns the increase amounted to 1d., in 11 to 1/2d., and in 2 to 1/4d. per 4 lbs. The price in London was from 1/4d. to 1d. higher.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September, 1907-April, 1908, amounted to 64,330,200 cwts., or 8,317,800 cwts. more than during the corresponding period of 1906-7. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1907-April, 1908, amounted to 10,366,861 cwts., or 987,256 cwts. more than in September, 1906-April, 1907.

Table showing British Wheat, Mean London Gazette Price, and Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) for April 1907, 1908, and March/April 1908. Columns include Month, Mean London Gazette Price, Imports (Wheat, Wheat-meal and Flour), and Average Monthly Price.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT.

Compensation to an injured workman, or in case of death to his dependants, is only payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, where the injury was caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of the workman's employment.

A man was employed as a steward on board a ship, and had signed articles to serve for a period of twelve months. While the ship was discharging cargo at a Canadian port the hours of duty for the stewards were from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., unless they had notice that their services were required at other times. In case no such notice were given a steward might dispose of his time in any way he chose after 5 p.m., and might leave the vessel provided he was ready to begin his work at 6 a.m. the next morning. If he remained on the ship he was always liable to be called upon to do any work that might be required. One evening in October, 1907, the steward, with a companion, left the ship and spent some hours on shore drinking in various public-houses. He proceeded to return to the ship about 10.15 p.m., when he appeared to be to some extent under the influence of drink, though able to walk straight and take care of himself. When he reached the ship, about 10.40 p.m., he went on board by means of the cargo staging used for the purpose of unloading. This way of going on board was forbidden, but the members of the crew frequently used it, especially when they wished to escape observation on their return to the ship. In stepping from the stage to the deck the man slipped and fell down into the hold, receiving injuries from the effects of which he died.

His dependants claimed compensation under the Act; but the employers resisted the claim on the grounds that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the employment of the deceased, as it had occurred during hours when he was not on duty, and at a place where he had no occasion to be, and that it was a result of a "spree" on his part. The County Court judge, however, held that although he had gone on board in an irregular manner, he was returning to the ship in pursuance of his obligation which arose out of his employment, that the accident occurred by reason of a risk naturally incident to his employment and while acting in accordance with one of the normal incidents arising out of his employment, and that therefore his dependants were entitled to compensation.

Against this decision the shipowners appealed, but the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the County Court judge and dismissed the appeal.—Robertson v. Allen Brothers & Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, April 1st, 1908.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES: LEAD POISONING: LEAD NOT USED WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS.

Where a certifying surgeon certifies that a workman is suffering from any one of certain diseases referred to in the Act of 1906, and is thereby disabled from earning full wages at his work, and the disease is due to the nature of the employment in which the workman was employed at any time within the twelve months previous to the date of his disablement, such workman is entitled to compensation as if the disease were a personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of that employment.

A workman who had been employed as a file-maker for many years by a firm of file-makers, was taken ill in 1907, and disabled from following his employment. His symptoms were certified to be more or less those of lead poisoning, and he accordingly claimed compensation under the Act. Medical evidence was given to the effect that the workman was suffering from lead poisoning, and that cases of lead poisoning were known to have followed the employment of hand-filing. There was, however, no evidence that any lead had been used in the course of the man's employment within twelve months before the date at which he was taken ill. The County Court judge accordingly refused to make an award in the claimant's favour on the ground that it had not been proved that lead had been used in the employment within twelve months before the date of the claimant's disablement, and that there was no evidence that the lead poisoning arose from the nature of the man's work.

The claimant appealed, but the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that the judge was right, inasmuch as there was no evidence of the use of lead within twelve months.—Houghton v. Peter Stubbs, Ltd., Court of Appeal, April 1st, 1908.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in April.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in April, 1908, was a decrease of £10,571 per week, as compared with a decrease of £731 per week in March, 1908, and an increase of £11,852 per week in April, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 204,255, of whom 1,102 received advances amounting to £82 per week, and 203,153 sustained decreases amounting to £10,653 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 22,650, and in April, 1907, 215,257.

Two changes, affecting 2,019 workpeople, were settled by arbitration; four changes, affecting 134,260 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; one change, affecting 400 workpeople, was settled by mediation; and nineteen changes, affecting 38,975 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 28,601 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In two of the above cases, affecting 1,919 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the four completed months of 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in the four months ended April 30th, 1908, was 804,487, as compared with 985,987 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 513,612 workpeople a net increase of £21,965 per week, and 284,875 workpeople a net decrease of £17,481 per week, whilst the remaining 6,000 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes was thus an increase of £4,484 per week, as compared

with an increase of £66,625 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, January-April, 1907, 1908. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron & Mining, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Printing, &c., Trades, Glass, &c., Trades, Other Trades, Employees of Local Authorities, and Total.

Hours.

The only change in hours of labour taking effect in April, 1908, affected 12 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 18 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the four months ended April 30th, 1908, was 3,641, the net decrease in their working hours being 5,854 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in April.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN APRIL.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1908, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Rows include Coal Mining, Iron Mining, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, and Boot and Shoe Manufacture.

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Early in May it was arranged that the rates of wages of miners in Durham should be reduced by 2½ per cent., and those of deputies, mechanics, and enginemen in Northumberland by 1d. per day, and of firemen by 1 per cent. Pig Iron Manufacture.—Reductions of 2½ per cent. took place early in May in the rates of wages of blastfurnacemen in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and in Scotland. Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Under the sliding scale arrangement, steel melters and pitmen in Great Britain sustained a reduction of 3½ per cent. early in May. It is also reported that steel millmen, &c., in Scotland sustained a reduction of 2½ per cent. on May 11th. Full particulars will appear in the June GAZETTE. * Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in April, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 221 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with March, 1908, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 10,904 (2·7 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 6. The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 5,230 (2·9 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers a decrease of 5,674 (2·6 per cent.). There were increases in 3 districts, the greatest being in the Galway district (21 per 10,000). In 32 districts there were decreases, most marked in the Leicester district and in the Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (26 and 14 per 10,000 respectively).

Compared with April, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 5. The number of indoor paupers increased by 8,836 (5·2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 4,800 (2·3 per cent.). Increases occurred in 21 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (83 per 10,000). In 14 districts there were decreases.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of April, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES*, METROPOLIS, Other Districts, SCOTLAND*, IRELAND, and Total for above 35 Districts in April, 1908.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN APRIL.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 162.

THE following Table shows the number of applications to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of April, by those Committees whose registers were still open at that date. The registers of the London Distress Committees were closed for the receipt of new applications on April 4th, except for emigration, special "colony" cases, and (for the present) women's work. Other Committees closed their registers for new applications on March 31st, or at various dates during the month of April. None of these Committees are included in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Distress Committees, No. returned as "known to be out of work" in April, 1908, Distress Committees, No. returned as "known to be out of work" in April, 1907. Rows include Outer London, South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland, Tynemouth (North Shields), Wolverhampton, Yarmouth, York, Other Towns (17), Barrow-in-Furness, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bolton, Devonport, Erith, Halifax, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Sheffield, Southampton, Total, England and Wales, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Govan, Other towns (4), Total, Scotland, Ireland (Dublin only), Total, United Kingdom.

The following Table shows the amount of employment-relief provided by all Committees, including those whose registers were not open for the receipt of new applications:—

Table with columns: Distress Committees, No. given Employment-relief, Aggregate duration of Employment-relief, Total Amount of Wages paid. Rows include London (Central Body), Outer London (8 Committees), Barrow, Bristol, Erith, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northampton, Norwich, Plymouth and Devonport, Reading, South Shields, Sunderland, Wolverhampton, Yarmouth, Other Towns (12), Total, England and Wales, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Govan, Greenock, Leith, Partick, Total, Scotland, Ireland (Dublin only), Total, United Kingdom.

The average number of days' relief given was between 11 and 12, and the average amount of wages paid was about 37s. 7d., or 3s. 4d. per day.

* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the number on the "unemployed register" was 636. † Number ascertained to be out of work at Census taken during April. ‡ Including some not registered by the Distress Committees. § Including 38 on piecework, the aggregate duration of whose employment cannot be stated. ¶ Including 12 on piecework, the aggregate duration of whose employment cannot be stated.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

† Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.*

NOTE.—Labour bureaux whose registers are identical with those of Distress Committees are excluded from this Table. For statistics of the work of Distress Committees in April see page 161.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 47 Labour Bureaux during April; of these Bureaux 29 were in London (including West Ham), and 18 in the provinces. Of the 29 London Bureaux, 26 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 14,604, of which 12,065 were in London, and 2,539 in the provinces. The number of situations offered by employers was 4,120, and the number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 2,973, or 20.4 per cent. of the applications received, and 72.2 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 1,624 (or 54.6 per cent.), and temporary 1,349 (or 45.4 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 324; wood-working trades, 47; metal and engineering trades,

100; other skilled trades, 79; "transport and general," 299; other trades, men and boys, 352; women and girls, 438. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 106; metal and engineering trades, 56; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 356; general labourers 35; bill distributors, 281; employees of local authorities, 35; charwomen and domestic servants, 164; other occupations, 189. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 112 men.

At 42 of the Bureaux mentioned below, figures for 1907 are available. The number of applicants registered at these Bureaux was 14,305 in April, 1908, as compared with 9,916 in April, 1907. Employers offered 3,954 situations during April, 1908, of which 2,854 were filled. In April, 1907, 4,485 situations were offered, and 2,932 filled. The number of workpeople on the registers at the end of April, 1908, was 12,049, as compared with 13,747 in April, 1907.

WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING APRIL, 1908.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, New Applicants, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, All Situations), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, Total).

* The figures for the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange relate to the 4 weeks ended April 24th, 1908; for the other Bureaux the particulars relate to work done during the calendar month.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April 762 fresh applications (399 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 9 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 780 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 255 persons, of whom 149 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 255 situations found for applicants, 177 were of a more or less permanent character, while 78 were temporary only.

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

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

Table with columns: Applications by Workpeople during, Situations offered by Employers during, Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanent, Temporary). Includes Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

In addition to the above registered applications, the returns show that in London 139 women were referred to other Agencies, and 25 were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

WORKMEN'S INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

A RETURN* has recently been issued, giving the latest available statistics with regard to workmen's insurance in Germany.

The total number of persons insured against sickness in 1905 was 11,903,000. The number of "cases" compensated during the same year (persons who received compensation more than once being counted as a separate "case" each time), was 4,848,000; the average amount of compensation per case was £2 11s. 11d. Employers contributed £4,595,000, and workpeople £3,806,000 during the year. No contribution was made by the State. The total receipts (including cash balances in hand at the beginning of the year, interest on investments accrued during the year, withdrawals from reserve fund, and sums realised from the sale of securities) amounted in the aggregate to £16,742,000. The total expenses were £14,029,000; and the accumulated funds amounted to £11,117,000 at the end of the year.

The figures for old age and invalidity insurance relate to the year 1906. The estimated number of persons insured in that year was 14,000,000. The number of new pensions granted was 134,056: 110,969 for old age, 12,421 for permanent invalidity, and 10,666 for "provisional invalidity." The total number of pensions in course of payment on January 1st, 1907, was 962,277: 125,603 for old age, 814,575 for permanent invalidity,

* H.C. 102 of Session 1908. Price 4d.

and 22,099 for "provisional invalidity." Employers and workpeople each contributed £4,182,500 during the year. In addition, the State granted £2,397,000 (being £2 10s. per annum for each pension) direct to the pensioners, this grant not being paid into the insurance funds. The total receipts (excluding the State grants) were £10,550,000; total expenses, £6,569,000; accumulated funds, £65,078,000. The average payment per case was £7 18s. 1d. for old age, £8 os. 2d. for permanent invalidity, and £8 os. 7d. for "provisional invalidity."

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING APRIL.

(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in April was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 32; under the Friendly Societies Act, 53 (including 35 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, nil; in all, 88.

Among the new Societies registered in April were the following:—

Trade Unions.—England.—2, viz., Liverpool and District Bricklayers Labourers Soc., 57, Hunter Street, Liverpool; Trade Movement Soc. of Carpenters and Joiners, 205, High Road, Tottenham, N. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—1, viz., Hand Loom Weavers Soc. of Ireland, Ballylough, Lurgan.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England.—24, viz., Co-operative Productive Society; (2) Leicester Ideal Basket Makers, Ltd., 56, Bedford Street, Leicester; Colne Valley Co-op. Bakery, Ltd., Market Street, Milnesbridge, Huddersfield; (1) Co-operative Distributive Society: Alton and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 21, Normanby Street, Alton. Co-operative Agricultural Society: (1) Clitheroe and Dist. Dairy, Ltd., 38, King Street, Clitheroe. Working Men's Clubs: (6) Togston Terrace Social Club, Ltd., 4, Togston Terrace, Broomhill, Ashington, Morpeth; Marsden Socialist Inst., Ltd., Warehouse Hill, Marsden, Huddersfield; Brislington and St. Anne's Constitutional Club, Ltd., Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol; Maldon and Dist. Constitutional Club, Ltd., 52, High Street, Maldon, Essex; Empire Workmen's Club and Inst., Ltd., Club House, Front Street, Stanley SO; Spittal Tongues and Dist. Working Men's Club and Inst., Ltd., Leazes View House, Spittal Tongues, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Miscellaneous: (14) (including 11 Small Holdings and Allotments Societies). Scotland.—(3) Co-operative Distributive Society: (1) Wishaw Independent Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Main Street, Wishaw. Miscellaneous (2). Ireland.—(5) Co-operative Productive Societies (3) Cloncannon Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Cloncannon, co. Tipperary; Tipperary Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Tipperary; Knock Brandon Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Knock Brandon, co. Wexford. Co-operative Agricultural Society: (1) Islandeady Co-op. Agric. Soc., Islandeady, Castlebar, co. Mayo. Miscellaneous: (1).

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—16, viz., West Street Social Club and Inst., Boston, Lincs.; Hungarian Working Men's Club and Inst., West Brompton, S.W.; Ossett Street Side Working Men's Club and Inst., Dewsbury; Bargoed Socialist Working Men's Club and Inst., Bargoed, Cardiff; High Wycombe Credit Soc., High Wycombe; Wellesley Provident Loan Soc., Gray's Inn Road, W.C.; Albion Friendly Soc. Credit Club, Batley; Wallasey Urban District Council Superannuation Fund Scheme, Birkenhead; Derby Cycling Club Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Prestwich Dist. Juvenile Odd-fellows, Prestwich, Manchester; Original Workmen's National Provident Benefit Soc., Limehouse, E.; Campsbourne Sick and Provident Soc., Hornsey, N.; South Norwood Tradesmen's Club, Croydon; Pride of Guildford Total Abstinence Sons of the Phoenix Friendly Soc., Guildford; Swan Sick and Dividend Soc., Washwood Heath, Birmingham; South Wales Celtic Friendly Collecting Soc., Cardiff. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—2, viz., Emmet Friendly Soc., Dublin; Saint Agatha's Loan Fund, Dublin.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table with columns: Notices Received in April of (Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up), Registry Cancelled.

**PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR
RECEIVED DURING APRIL.**

UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops. *Supplement to the Annual Report for 1906.* I. Returns of persons employed in 1904 in Non-Textile Factories. II. Summary of Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1906. Home Office. [Cd. 3986: pp. 19: price 2½d.]

Railway Accidents. *Returns of Accidents and Casualties during Three Months ended September 30th, 1907.* Part II. Reports on Accidents. [Cd. 3971: pp. 150: price 1s. 7d.] *During Three Months ended December 31st, 1907.* Part I. Returns of Accidents. Board of Trade. [Cd. 4009: pp. 35: price 3½d.]

Mercantile Marine. Returns showing the legal obligations of Owners of Merchant Vessels in certain Foreign Countries with regard to Old Age Pensions, Accident Compensation, &c. Board of Trade. [H.L. 14: pp. 94: price 9d.]

Coal Exports. Return for 1907 showing Export of Coal from each Port in the United Kingdom to each Country Abroad, &c. Board of Trade. [H.C. 100: pp. 37: price 4d.]

Prices of Exported Coal. Return giving the quantities of coal exported from each of the Ports of the United Kingdom in 1907 at various prices. Treasury. [H.C. 97: pp. 19: price 2½d.]

Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. Report for 1906. Part B. *Industrial and Provident Societies.* [H.C. 49-XIII: pp. 239: price 2s. 1d.]

List of Societies with Branches.

Part A. Appendix (N). Section VI.—Staffordshire to Wiltshire. [H.C. 49-vi: pp. viii. + 112: price 1s.] Section VII. Worcester-shire and Yorkshire. [H.C. 49-vii: pp. viii + 106: price 1s.]

Report from the Select Committee on Infant Life Protection, with Evidence and Appendix. [H.C. 99: pp. viii. + 99: price 10½d.]

General Abstract of the Marriages, Births and Deaths registered in England and Wales in the year 1907. Registrar-General. [Cd. 3975: pp. 5: price 1d.]

53rd Annual Report of the Registrar-General on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages registered in Scotland during 1907. [Cd. 4015: pp. xxiii + 65: price 5½d.]

Return showing the Housing Conditions of the People of Scotland. Registrar-General for Scotland. [Cd. 4016: pp. 12: price 2d.]

Report of the Crofters' Commission for 1907. Small holdings, fair rents fixed, &c. Secretary for Scotland. [Cd. 4021: pp. xxiii. + 64: price 8½d.]

Fiftieth Annual Report of H.M. Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, 1907. Strength of the forces, rates of pay, &c.; census of vagrants on June 25rd and December 22nd, 1907; analysis of the returns of census of vagrants, 1898-1907. [Cd. 4020: pp. ix. + 208: price, 1s. 9d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. *The Labour Gazette, March, 1908.* Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during February; Legislation with regard to Female and Child Labour in Canada, &c.

Report of the Department of Labour for the Fiscal Year 1906-07. Strikes and lock-outs and industrial accidents in Canada during 1906, conciliation and arbitration, fair wages on public contract work, the Alien Labour Law, &c. [Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, King's Printer: pp. 170.]

New South Wales. *Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records, 1907.* Vol. VI. Part III. Reports of 11 cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick: pp. viii. + 66 + xxxviii.]

New Zealand. *Journal of the Department of Labour, March, 1908.* Cases under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act; persons assisted by the Department of Labour during February, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

United States Department of Commerce and Labour. *Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour.* No. 73. November, 1907. Laws relating to the Employment of Women and Children. Factory Inspection Laws.

State of New York. Sixth General Report of the State Department of Labour for the year ended September 30th, 1906. 2 volumes. Comprising 6th Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour. Reports of certain Bureaus, Labour Laws in force at October 1st, 1906, &c. [pp. 280]. 21st Annual Report on Factory Inspection [pp. 275]. 20th Annual Report of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration [pp. 487]. 24th Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, Employment and wages in 1906, trade and labour unions, health conditions in the printing trades, &c. [pp. 894]. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., State Printers]

Massachusetts. *Labour Bulletin, March-April, 1908.* Labour Legislation in the United States, 1907; Massachusetts Labour Legislation, 1907; legal hours of labour in the United States, &c.

Twenty-First Annual Report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labour Statistics for the State of Maine, 1907. Trade Unions, strikes, women and children wage workers, factory inspection, labour laws of Maine, &c. [Augusta: Kennebec Journal Print: pp. 520.]

The Law of Labour in Wisconsin, by W. J. Hagenah. Compiled for the Wisconsin Bureau of Labour and Industrial Statistics. [Madison: Democrat Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 235.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, March, 1908. Statistics of friendly societies in 1903, and accidents in mines and quarries in 1906. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie.: price 2d.]

Germany.

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