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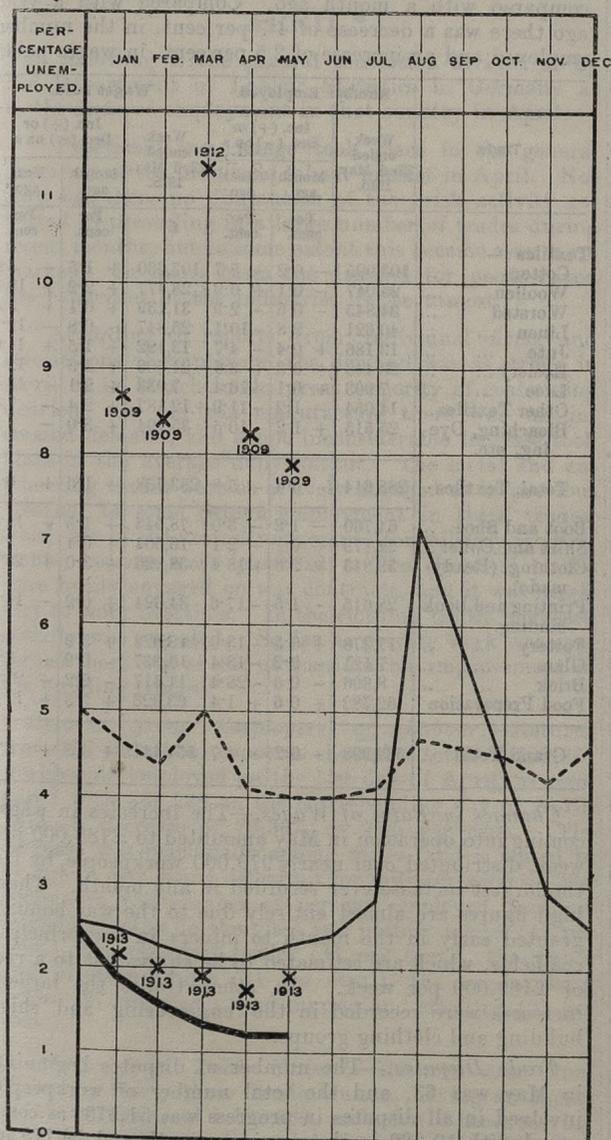
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1915. — Thin Curve = 1914.
 ----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1905-14

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1905-14.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics 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.

THE LABOUR MARKET IN MAY.

Employment.—The high level of employment in April was fully maintained in May, and a scarcity of male labour was reported by nearly all trades owing to the previously existing surplus in some having been absorbed by others or drawn off by enlistments. This shortage is now extending to female and boy labour in many occupations.

The coal mining industry was well employed, but was working under great difficulties owing to the large number of enlistments. Employment was good in iron, shale and lead mining. At tin mines in Cornwall it was only moderate. At slate quarries it continued depressed; at other quarries it was fair.

The pig-iron and iron and steel industries were active, while the engineering and shipbuilding trades continued to work at high pressure, with night shifts, Sunday work and much overtime. The tinplate trade showed some improvement, due to an increased demand in the home market. The other metal trades continued very busy, especially those engaged on Government orders.

The textile trades showed little change, on the whole, compared with the previous month. The woollen and hosiery trades continued to be fully employed, largely on work for the Allied Forces. In the worsted industry the ordinary home trade was good, and there was a further improvement in the cotton, silk, lace and dyeing trades. Employment in the linen trade was still only moderate, but in the jute trade it was good with a shortage of female labour.

The heavy boot trade was working at full pressure on Government contracts during the month, and the leather trades were also very active.

The ready-made clothing trade continued very busy, and employment was good on mantles, costumes, blouses and corsets. There was a seasonal improvement in the bespoke tailoring, dressmaking and millinery trades.

Men in the building trades have enlisted in large numbers, with the result that, although building operations have been much restricted, there was very little unemployment among those remaining in these trades. In the brickmaking trades there was a slight decline. There was an improvement in the furnishing trades, and the coachbuilding industry continued good, with some overtime; in the other woodworking trades there was little change.

Employment continued quiet with letterpress printers, but showed an improvement among lithographers. The paper trades continued to be fairly well employed.

There was a general improvement in the pottery trades, and employment in the glass trades was fairly good.

The food preparation trades were very active, but the fishing industry continued to be seriously affected by the war. In agriculture there was a general scarcity of labour, but the good weather during the month put the work forward and the shortage was not so acutely felt as might have been anticipated.

Employment with dock labourers continued good except on the East Coast, and there was a general shortage of seamen for merchant vessels.

Comparisons with a year ago are much affected by enlistments, the transfers from one trade to another, and, to some extent, the substitution of female for male labour. In the iron and steel, engineering, shipbuilding, woollen, hosiery, boot, saddlery, ready-made clothing and food preparation trades employment was very much better owing to war contracts. There was also an improvement in employment among those now engaged in the coal mining, building and woodworking trades. On the other hand, there was a decline in the linen, lace, printing, pottery and brick trades. Owing to the sharing of work there was no total unemployment in the tinplate trade, but the whole position was much worse than a year ago.

The following Tables give the usual statistics derived from various sources. Full reports on the various trades will be found on pages 206 to 220.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 925,655 reported 11,474 (or 1·2 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of May, 1915, compared with 1·2 per cent. at the end of April, 1915, and 2·3 per cent. at the end of May, 1914.

Trade.	Membership at end of May, 1915, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces.	Unemployed at end of May, 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building* ...	83,037	2,658	3·2	+ 0·4	+ 0·5
Coal Mining† ...	134,174	186	0·1	- 0·1	- 0·4
Iron and Steel ...	34,342	661	1·9	- 0·3	- 3·5
Engineering ...	239,036	1,370	0·6	+ 0·1	- 2·1
Shipbuilding ...	70,433	333	0·5	...	- 3·4
Miscellaneous Metal Trades†:—	33,391	125	0·4	...	- 0·9
Cotton ...	81,979	2,230	2·7	+ 0·2	+ 0·6
Woollen & Worsted ...	8,535	241	2·8	+ 1·7	+ 0·2
Other ...	50,993	385	0·8	- 0·1	- 1·0
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	60,451	2,168	3·6	+ 0·2	+ 0·4
Furnishing ...	17,591	530	3·0	- 0·9	+ 1·2
Woodworking ...	29,715	248	0·8	- 0·2	- 0·8
Clothing ...	69,343	229	0·3	...	- 1·3
Leather ...	4,023	33	0·8	+ 0·1	- 4·2
Glass ...	858	20	2·3	+ 0·1	+ 1·2
Pottery ...	5,481	3	0·1	- 0·1	- 0·6
Tobacco ...	2,273	54	2·4	- 0·4	- 1·7
Total ...	925,655	11,474	1·2	...	- 1·1

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of May, 1915, was 0·9, compared with 1·1 at the end of April, 1915, and 3·2 at the end of May, 1914.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces	Unemployed at end of May, 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed on a	
		Number	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building and Construction of Works.	825,073	11,862	1·4	- 0·3	- 2·1
Engineering and Iron-founding.	763,731	4,059	0·5	- 0·2	- 2·6
Shipbuilding ...	247,745	1,764	0·7	- 0·2	- 3·3
Construction of Vehicles ...	183,033	995	0·5	- 0·3	- 1·9
Sawmilling ...	10,246	124	1·2	- 0·2	- 2·5
Other Insured Workpeople.	47,897	205	0·4	...	- 1·2
All Insured Workpeople }	2,077,725	19,009	0·9	- 0·2	- 2·3

* The Trade Union Returns relate mainly to carpenters and plumbers.

† In the textile and mining industries a contraction in the demand for labour is usually met by short time working.

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: MINING AND METAL TRADES.

The following Table summarises the returns from firms employing 677,201 workpeople in May in the industries mentioned:—

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for May, 1915.	May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	508,260	5·64	- 0·05	+ 0·25
Iron ,, ...	13,464	5·88	- 0·07	+ 0·17
Shale ,, ...	3,208	6·00	...	+ 0·08
Pig Iron ...	24,082	Furnaces in Blast. 271	- 1	+ 3
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	25,056	Mills Working. 464	+ 23	- 143
Iron and Steel	103,131	Shifts Worked (One Week). 591,509	+ 0·3	+ 7·2

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 539,998 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May, 1915, showed a decrease of 0·2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and an increase of 1·8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4·7 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 2·5 per cent. in wages paid.

Trade.	Number Employed.			Wages Paid.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Textiles:—						
Cotton ...	103,995	- 0·2	- 5·7	107,660	+ 1·5	- 3·0
Woollen ...	25,047	- 0·1	+ 0·9	28,477	+ 2·2	+ 19·2
Worsted ...	34,845	- 0·6	- 2·9	31,139	+ 0·1	+ 5·5
Linen ...	40,621	- 2·8	- 10·1	25,847	- 0·8	- 12·7
Jute ...	13,186	+ 0·4	- 4·7	13,192	+ 1·5	+ 14·6
Hosiery ...	23,448	+ 0·3	+ 3·6	21,509	+ 4·3	+ 12·1
Lace ...	7,903	+ 0·1	- 16·4	7,933	+ 2·1	- 13·4
Other Textiles ...	14,064	- 1·2	- 11·9	12,187	+ 2·4	- 7·4
Bleaching, Dyeing, etc.	25,515	+ 1·2	- 10·5	35,794	+ 3·0	- 1·8
Total, Textiles ..	288,614	- 0·4	- 5·8	283,738	+ 1·6	+ 0·1
Boot and Shoe ...	64,760	- 1·2	- 3·0	78,543	+ 1·5	+ 11·8
Shirt and Collar ...	22,179	+ 0·1	- 2·1	16,504	+ 0·4	+ 1·3
Clothing (Ready-made).	39,843	+ 2·8	+ 18·4	38,226	+ 3·0	+ 29·2
Printing and Bookbinding.	28,615	- 1·5	- 17·6	34,024	+ 0·2	- 16·8
Pottery ...	17,278	+ 0·3	- 13·0	18,029	+ 5·9	- 6·0
Glass ...	7,121	- 2·2	- 13·4	10,337	- 0·9	- 8·1
Brick ...	8,806	- 0·6	- 28·4	11,417	- 2·2	- 27·4
Food Preparation	62,782	+ 0·6	+ 1·4	63,623	+ 3·3	+ 17·4
Grand Total ...	539,998	- 0·2	- 4·7	554,441	+ 1·8	+ 2·5

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The increases in wages coming into operation in May amounted to £188,000 per week, distributed over nearly 970,000 workpeople, by far the largest increase ever recorded in any month. These high figures are almost entirely due to the war bonuses granted early in the month to miners in the principal coalfields, which are estimated to be equivalent to a rise of £169,000 per week. In other trades the largest increases were recorded in the engineering and shipbuilding and clothing groups.

Trade Disputes.—The number of disputes beginning in May was 63, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 51,575, as compared with 10,222 in the previous month and 76,779 in May, 1914. The estimated number of working days lost by all disputes during the month was 246,700, as compared with 67,200 in April, 1915, and 1,040,900 in May, 1914.

* Comparisons are affected by the payment of war bonuses.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Cases dealt with during the month include steam, electrical and hydraulic workmen, gasmen and certain other workers, and bricklayers employed in steel works in the West of Scotland; light castings iron founders, England and Scotland; hosiery workers, and scourers, Leicester; electrical workers, London County Council; blacksmiths, Dundee; boot and shoe operatives, Desborough; painters, Manchester; building trade operatives, Bournemouth; navvies, Birmingham and district; plumbers, Paisley and district; carpenters and joiners, Cheltenham; tugboatmen, River Clyde; coachmakers, Luton; saddlers, Birmingham and Walsall districts; and joiners, Inverkeithing.

A number of findings were issued during the month by the Government Committee on Production.

Labour Exchanges.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended 14th May was 36,055, as compared with 34,418 in the previous five weeks and with 28,320 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914. The average weekly numbers of vacancies filled for the same periods were 25,016, 25,131 and 20,700.

EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY IN APRIL.*

The following is the general conclusion arrived at by the Department of Labour Statistics in Germany as to the state of employment in that country in April:—

"Practically no change took place in the general character of the industrial labour market in April. Not only was there no diminution of the brisk activity reported as prevailing in a large number of trades during recent months, but to some extent this became even more marked. In many cases the demand for goods taxed the capacities of the industries to the utmost.

"According to reports from individual firms and associations of employers, the demand was as strong in April as in March in the great majority of coalmining districts. In pig-iron manufacture there was an increased demand, and a not inconsiderable increase took place in the average daily output. The metal and engineering trades were as actively engaged as in previous months; to some extent employment in these trades, which are of the utmost importance for military requirements, became more plentiful. The electrical trades were busily engaged on war contracts, and it was necessary to work overtime. In the clothing trades increased activity was reported. So far as private work was concerned there was as yet no considerable improvement in the building trades."

Returns from Employers of Labour.—Returns from 337 industrial concerns showed a total of 289,861 workpeople employed on the last day of April, as compared with 369,228 on the corresponding day of April, 1914—a decrease of 79,367, or 21·5 per cent. The decrease was principally among males, and is stated to be due to men being called up for military service. The decline in the number of persons employed was relatively greatest in the glass and pottery trades (41 per cent.), the chemical trades (34 per cent.), the paper and printing trades (31 per cent.), the woodworking trades (27 per cent.), and mining and smelting (27 per cent.).

Returns from Trade Unions.—Returns were furnished by thirty-three Trade Unions, having an aggregate membership of 1,122,580, exclusive of those serving with the military and naval forces. Omitting branches which failed to make returns, the membership covered was 1,045,589, of whom 30,292, or 2·9 per cent., were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 3·3 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 2·8 per cent. at the end of April, 1914. The percentages unemployed

* *Rei arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Department of Labour Statistics), May 1915.

at the three dates mentioned in the principal Trade Unions were as follows:—

Unions.	Membership reported on at end of April, 1915.	Percentage of Membership reported as Unemployed at end of Month.		
		April, 1915.	March, 1915.	April, 1914.
All Unions making Returns	1,045,589	2·9	3·3	2·8
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building trade operatives	99,675	2·8	7·3	4·2
Metal workers (Soc. Dem.)	275,778	1·7	1·8	3·2
Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch-Duncker)	13,333	1·6	1·3	3·0
Metal workers (Christian)	20,717	1·6	1·6	1·3
Textile workers (Soc. Dem.)	83,526	4·8	4·1	1·1
Boot and shoe makers	23,400	3·5	2·5	1·4
Transport workers	103,471	1·3	1·4	2·1
Printers (book and job)	38,320	2·1	2·6	2·2
Lithographers	9,216	6·1	6·5	3·6
Bookbinders	20,635	10·0	8·2	2·9
Leather workers (Soc. Dem.)	9,086	5·0	4·4	2·2
Wood workers (Soc. Dem.)	93,571	5·6	6·5	4·1
Porcelain workers	8,868	12·8	12·8	2·0
Bakers	12,363	3·0	3·6	6·9
Brewery and corn mill workers	27,130	0·9	0·9	1·9
Tobacco workers	18,873	0·9	1·0	2·0
Factory workers (Soc. Dem.)	165,491	1·5	2·5	2·0
State and municipal workers	28,775	0·3	0·7	0·5

Amongst male members the proportion unemployed at the end of April was 1·9 per cent., as compared with 2·6 per cent. in the previous month, and 2·9 per cent. in April, 1914. Among women members the percentage unemployed in April was 9·1 and in March 8·3, showing a considerable rise as compared with April, 1914, when 1·7 per cent. were unemployed. The increase in unemployment among women members of Trade Unions as compared with April, 1914, was greatest in the textile, metalworking, bookbinding, boot and shoe making, hat-making, woodworking and porcelain trades.

Returns from Labour Exchanges.—Returns relating to April furnished by 890 Labour Exchanges showed the number of applicants for work to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been as follows:—

	April, 1915.	March, 1915.	April, 1914.
Males ...	100	98	161
Females ...	165	152	94

RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AT 1ST JUNE.

The upward movement of retail prices of food reported for April was accentuated in May, mainly owing to the sharp rise in the price of meat. The prices of British beef and mutton rose about 15 and 12 per cent. respectively, on the average; those of imported meat about 12 and 11 per cent. respectively.

For bacon, fish, flour, bread and cheese increases averaging 3 to 5 per cent. were recorded. Eggs averaged about 8 per cent. dearer at 1st June than a month earlier, but with the other articles included in the returns there was no substantial change in prices. The average percentage change between 1st May and 1st June in the prices of each of the articles included in the returns was as shown in the following Table:—

Article.	Average Percentage Change.	Article.	Average Percentage Change.
Beef, British	+ 15	Ten	+ 2
Chilled or Frozen	+ 12	Sugar (Granulated)	+ 1
Mutton, British	+ 12	Milk	Nil
Frozen	+ 11	Potatoes	+ 2
Bacon	+ 5	Margarine	Nil
Fish	+ 4	Butter	+ 1
Flour	+ 3	Cheese	+ 4
Bread	+ 4	Eggs	+ 8

Taking all the articles together and allowing for their relative importance in working-class household expenditure, the average change in the retail prices of food between 1st May and 1st June was an increase of about 5 per cent.

FOOD PRICES IN BERLIN IN APRIL.

Food prices in Berlin, which in March were 50.4* per cent. above those for July, 1914, rose in April to a level of 56.5 per cent. above that of last July. In order to eliminate the influence of seasonal causes on the prices of such articles as eggs, butter, and potatoes, a comparison is made in the Table below with April, 1914, also, from which it appears that the present price level is 57.7 per cent. above that of a year ago. The comparisons with last year are, however, complicated to some extent by the operation of various Orders made this year by the Federal Council, under which the quality of the flour to be used in making bread, whether from wheat or from rye, has been changed in various ways. Thus, since 15th January, millers were not to deliver wheat flour except in a blend of which 30 per cent. consisted of rye flour; and in the making of "wheat bread" from this blend 20 per cent. of the total weight was to be replaced by potato preparations. In the manufacture of rye bread, also, no wheat flour was to be used, and the "rye flour" used was to be a blend of mixed rye and other flour and of potato preparations. Under two Orders of the Federal Council issued in March a somewhat more liberal use of wheat flour is once more permitted in the manufacture of bread.

In April, increases as compared with the preceding month were recorded in the prices of fourteen articles, the rises being most marked in the prices of pork, rice, mutton, milk and veal. There were slight falls in the price of wheat bread (rolls) and of rye bread.

The Table given below shows the percentage increases in retail prices† of articles of food in Berlin during April, 1915, as compared with those of April and July, 1914, and of March, 1915:—

Article.	Increase in April, 1915, as compared with		
	April, 1914.	July, 1914.	March, 1915.
Rye bread	76.9	64.3	2.78
Wheat bread (rolls) .. .	44.7	44.7	2.98
Rye flour	60.0	60.0	No change.
Wheat flour	35.0	28.6	No change.
Butter	21.4	30.8	3.0
Lard	114.3	130.8	4.2
Sugar	10.0	10.0	1.9
Coffee	9.7	9.7	No change.
Eggs	71.4	71.4	No change.
Milk	18.2	18.2	8.3
Beef	17.3	19.4	6.8
Mutton	20.2	16.7	9.2
Veal	61.1	10.3	8.2
Pork	60.0	63.0	11.9
Bacon	71.3	86.7	6.6
Potatoes	150.0	87.5	7.1
Rice	146.0	146.0	11.8
Split peas	222.5	222.5	7.6
Haricot beans	160.0	160.0	3.2
Lentils	171.9	158.3	1.3
ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED NET PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	57.7	56.5	4.0

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN VIENNA IN APRIL.

IN the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for May (p. 158) particulars were given as to the retail prices of certain necessaries in Vienna on 17th April, and comparisons were made with prices for the same articles on a date in the previous month and also with prices at the end of July, 1914. Figures on the same basis are not available for a later date; but the following table, which relates to the retail prices of food in Vienna during the whole of the month of April, forms a continuation of tables given in the issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE for February and March last. The details have been compiled from information published in the *Sächsische Staatszeitung*, and the prices for April are compared with those for the previous month and for April, 1914.

* Revised figure.
† The prices are monthly averages, and are taken from the official *Statistische Korrespondenz*. For the purpose of weighting use has been made of consumption data derived from various German sources.
‡ Decrease.

In comparing with last year it should be noted with regard to bread that since February the quality of the loaf has been lowered in consequence of a decree which requires, *inter alia*, that, in the preparation of "War Bread," wheat flour and rye flour may only be used up to 50 per cent. of the weight of flour, the balance to be made up from the meal of barley, maize, oats, rice or potatoes, either singly or in combination.

It should further be noted that a decree dated 18th April fixed the maximum price of the standard loaf of "War Bread" at a price equivalent to 11½d. per 4 lb. The average retail price during April was less than this maximum price.

	Price.*			Increase per cent. in April, 1915, as compared with	
	April, 1915.	March, 1915.	April, 1914.	March, 1915.	April, 1914.
Beef per lb.	s. d. 1 4	s. d. 1 0½	s. d. 9½	25.5	68.4
Pork "	1 6½	1 4	10½	15.6	76.2
Lard "	1 8½	1 6½	8½	12.2	144.1
Bacon "	1 8	1 4½	8	19.4	150.0
Butter "	1 11½	1 9½	1 4½	8.0	44.6
Margarine (cooking) "	1 6½	1 5½	11½	7.2	64.4
Eggs per doz.	1 4½	1 2	8½	6.5†	111.8
Milk per quart	1 4	1 7½	3½	13.3	30.8
Wheat flour per 7 lb.	2 4½	2 4½	11½	No change	142.6
Bread per 4 lb.	10½	10½	6	2.4†	70.8
Potatoes per 7 lb.	7	6	3½	16.7	86.7
Sauerkraut per 7 lb.	1 1	11½	11½	13.0	10.6
Beans per lb.	4½	4½	2½	No change	100.0
Peas "	6½	6½	2½	13.0	188.9
Rice "	6½	6	5	12.5	125.0
Sugar "	4½	4½	3½	No change	13.3

As compared with the previous month there was no change in the prices of flour, beans, and sugar, while eggs and bread showed decreases of 6.5 and 2.4 per cent. respectively. All other articles showed advances, ranging from 7.2 per cent. for cooking butter to 25.5 per cent. for beef. Compared with April, 1914, all articles were dearer, peas by 189 per cent., bacon by 150 per cent., lard by 144 per cent., wheat flour by 143 per cent., rice by 125 per cent., eggs by 112 per cent., and beans by 100 per cent. The smallest advance was that shown for sugar, which was dearer by only 13 per cent.

RISE IN COST OF LIVING IN SWEDEN.

FOR several years the Swedish Department for Social Affairs has collected monthly returns of retail prices of articles of household consumption from a large number of towns. In a recent issue of *Sociala Meddelanden*, the official journal of the Department, particulars are given as to the rise in the cost of living throughout the kingdom caused by the European War. For this purpose the average prices of articles in forty-four towns in the first quarter of 1915 are compared with the average of the prices which ruled in the corresponding quarter of 1914.

The following Table shows the increases which have taken place in the prices of the various groups of articles during the period mentioned:—

Group of Articles.	Average Increase in prices in 1st quarter of 1915, as compared with 1st quarter of 1914.
Milk, Butter, Margarine, and Eggs ..	10
Bread, Flour, Oatmeal, and Rice ..	24
Meat	5
Fish	1
Other Articles of Food	31
Light and Fuel	10

It is pointed out, however, that if the comparison be based not (as above) on the average prices for the whole of the respective quarters, but on the prices at the end of

* Each price in the table is the mean of the range of prices given for the month in the *Staatszeitung*.
† Decrease.

each quarter, the percentage increase would be considerably higher in each group except that of fish.

It is stated to be difficult to indicate the effect of this general rise in the cost of necessaries on the expenditure of working-class families in Sweden as a whole, since it is not known in what proportion each article enters into the consumption of such families. Data for the construction of a standard household budget are available only in respect of Stockholm. Taking the case of a family of four persons in that city with an income of about £111 per annum, it is estimated that the advance in prices represents an increased household expenditure in comparison with the first quarter of 1914 of 14.1 per cent. for food, light and fuel. For the country as a whole it is stated that the percentage increase may be assumed to be somewhat less than that computed for Stockholm.

REGULATION OF FOOD PRICES IN SPAIN.

THE Spanish Official Gazette (*Gaceta de Madrid*) of 15th April, 1915, contains a decree, dated 10th April, having for its object the regulation of prices of certain articles of food. The decree provides that the National Food Committee shall inform the various district food committees of the prices at which it has made purchases of foreign wheat. The district food committees are required to take steps for ensuring that the price of flour shall bear a specified ratio to the price of the wheat from which it has been ground. It is also provided that in any locality the price of a kilogram of bread of the usual quality shall not exceed the local price of a kilogram of flour.

The district food committees are, furthermore, required to supervise the retail sale of other articles of food, such as rice, peas, potatoes, French beans, olive oil, butter and bacon, and to ensure that, after taking into account the cost of transport and wastage, the profits of the retail dealer shall not exceed 15 per cent.

ORGANISATION IN COAL MINES TO INCREASE OUTPUT.

ON the 23rd February the Home Secretary appointed a Departmental Committee* to inquire into the conditions prevailing in the coal-mining industry with a view to promoting such organisation of work and such co-operation between employers and workmen as, having regard to the large numbers of miners who were enlisting for naval and military service, would secure the necessary production of coal during the war. This Committee has now issued its report.†

The Committee found that the number of persons from coal mines who had joined H.M. forces up to the end of February was 191,170, or at the rate of 27,310 persons a month. The rate of enlistment has since declined somewhat, and the estimated number at the end of May was about 220,000. The number in February (191,170) was 17.1 per cent. of the total number of persons of all ages employed in coal mines at the beginning of the war (1,116,648); but the proportion of persons between the ages of 19 and 38, i.e., of those most physically fit to undertake arduous work, is estimated at approximately 40 per cent. Moreover, all the witnesses agreed that the recruits had, for the most part, been drawn from the underground labour, and very largely from those engaged in the actual work of getting and moving the coal. The withdrawal of labour has been especially heavy in Scotland (average of 21.3 per cent., rising to 25 or 30 per cent. in some counties), in South Wales and Monmouthshire (18.9 per cent.), in Northumberland and Durham (24.3 and 19.9 per cent. respectively), and in Lancashire (21.3 per cent.).

* This Committee is distinct from that appointed by the President of the Board of Trade to inquire into the causes of the rise in retail coal prices.
† Cd. 7939. Price 5½d.

There has been a certain amount of replenishment of labour in coal mines from outside sources; but the net reduction of labour at the end of February in mines representing 89 per cent. of the total labour employed was 134,186 persons, or 13½ per cent. of the number employed in July, 1914. The average fall in output during the seven months August-February, inclusive, as compared with the corresponding months of 1913-14, was also 13½ per cent. On this basis the total reduction in output for the year commencing from the outbreak of war would probably amount to 36 million tons, against which can be put a probable reduction in the quantity exported of 24 million tons, leaving a net shortage of 12 million tons. In these circumstances the Committee's conclusion is that, if labour is further withdrawn from the collieries, the output will be so reduced, notwithstanding all ameliorative measures, as seriously to affect the industrial position of the country.

One measure for increasing production recommended by the Committee was the reduction of voluntary absenteeism. Since the outbreak of war the average percentage of mine workers absent on the days when the mines were open for work was 9.8, as compared with 10.7 per cent. in the seven months immediately preceding the war; and the Committee consider that fully 4.8 per cent. of this is avoidable absence. Were there no avoidable absenteeism, the output would be increased to the extent of between 13 and 14 million tons. The Committee consider that the case has only to be put before the miners in order to secure a great response; and they recommend that this should be done by the executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, as the body best fitted for the purpose. They also suggest that the same body might give attention to the question of the curtailment of holidays and "stop-days" during the war.

As regards the Eight Hours Act, the Committee suggest that the owners and workmen should confer together and determine to what extent, if at all, the Act should be suspended in individual districts for certain classes of labour, and for what period of time such suspension should last. Any extension of hours should meet with special consideration in respect of remuneration. Some advantage has already been taken of the provision in Section 3 (1) of the Eight Hours Act enabling owners to extend the hours of work by one hour a day for 60 days in the calendar year; but the Committee consider that, generally speaking, there remains little advantage obtainable from this source.

The Committee suggest that additional men might be drawn into the coal-mining industry from trades that are working slack time, but not from agriculture, or from munition or engineering works, all of which are already extremely short of labour. Belgian refugees might also be employed to a larger extent under the conditions and safeguards arranged by the Home Office. The Committee do not recommend the more general employment of women, or the reduction of the age-limit for boys.

The Committee found that much had already been done in the way of internal re-organisation, with a view to economising labour and concentrating on the work of coal getting; but they draw the attention of coal-owners and managers to various suggestions which have been put before them with this end in view, in case any further improvements may be possible.

In conclusion, the Committee recommend that the importance of economy in the use of coal should be brought before the public as a patriotic duty. As regards the suggestions made for the curtailment of holidays and stop-days, extension of hours, etc., the Committee remark:—

"The basis of all the proposals and suggestions made by the Committee is harmonious co-operation between employers and employed through the medium of the organisations on both sides thoroughly representative of the parties. Unless the organisations possess this power and are able to act with authority for both owners and workmen, friction may arise and stoppages of work take place which ought to be avoided at the present time to the utmost extent possible."

CHANGES IN WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.*

ENGLAND AND WALES.

In continuation of previous inquiries, the Department has obtained returns, mainly from the chairmen or clerks of Rural District Councils, showing changes which took place in the rates of cash wages in 1914, and also changes made this year up to the latter part of April. The returns cover over 90 per cent. of the Rural Districts.

YEAR 1914.

The results obtained by combining the changes in wages in 1914 with the estimated total number of agricultural labourers of all classes in the rural districts affected are shown in the following Table, comparative figures being added for each year from 1896, the earliest year for which statistics have been compiled:—

Year.	Estimated Number of Men affected.			Computed amount of Change in Weekly Cash Wages, comparing each Year with the previous Year.		
	By Increases.	By Decreases.	Total.	Increases.	Decreases.	Net Inc. (+) or Dec. (-).
				£	£	£
1896 ..	52,771	36,676	89,447	1,858	1,513	+ 345
1897 ..	72,559	4,340	76,899	2,232	110	+ 2,122
1898 ..	183,987	2,356	186,343	6,227	47	+ 6,180
1899 ..	163,960	208	164,168	5,438	4	+ 5,434
1900 ..	230,635		230,635	8,150		+ 8,150
1901 ..	127,565	10,469	138,034	3,559	398	+ 3,161
1902 ..	51,949	41,705	93,654	1,609	1,297	+ 312
1903 ..	51,036	24,353	75,389	1,448	835	+ 613
1904 ..	23,779	9,569	33,348	1,032	451	+ 581
1905 ..	6,659	12,433	19,092	252	442	- 190
1906 ..	14,758	8,744	23,502	704	322	+ 382
1907 ..	14,971	3,439	18,410	479	103	+ 376
1908 ..	40,134	13,780	53,914	1,411	684	+ 727
1909 ..	29,244	19,772	49,016	747	451	+ 296
1910 ..	15,451	271	15,722	794	22	+ 772
1911 ..	25,427	4,360	29,787	1,214	270	+ 944
1912 ..	102,622	1,846	104,468	5,303	92	+ 5,211
1913 ..	182,040	641	182,681	9,596	32	+ 9,564
1914 ..	242,047		242,047	19,337		+ 19,337

It will be seen that there was a very marked increase in wages in 1914, the aggregate weekly amount by which wages increased being nearly twice as large as in 1913, and equal to the accumulated net increase of the ten years 1904-13. The majority of the increases took place in the autumn (*i.e.*, after the outbreak of war), at which season the scarcity of labour previously existing became more or less accentuated in many districts, largely as the result of recruiting for the Army. No decreases in ordinary labourers' wages were reported.

The counties showing over 75 per cent. of the total number of labourers as being affected by advances in cash wages were Cumberland, Westmorland, East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk, Berkshire, Denbighshire, and Montgomeryshire.

The usual amount of increase in 1914 in Rural Districts in which advances took place varied from 1s. to 3s. per week, but in a number of Rural Districts some of the labourers received more than 3s. The increases were distributed as follows among the labourers estimated to have participated: in Rural Districts with 12,478 labourers the mean increase was 6d. or under per week; with 99,681 labourers, over 6d. and up to and including 1s.; with 97,737 labourers, over 1s. and up to 2s.; with 20,901 labourers, over 2s. and up to 3s.; and with 11,250 labourers, over 3s.

CHANGES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF WAR.

From the particulars, so far as reported, of increases granted this year, it is evident that the upward movement in agricultural wages is still continuing.

In the following Table is given for the various counties the predominant amount of increase in wages since July last in those Rural Districts in which wages have been reported as changed. As previously stated, returns have not been received from all Rural Districts, and in certain other districts no general change

in wages has been made. In a few districts the amount of advance falls outside the limits stated for the county, but such cases are exceptional.

County.	Predominant limits of Increase in Wages up to April, 1915, since July, 1914.	County.	Predominant limits of Increase in Wages up to April, 1915, since July, 1914.
Northern Counties:—			
Northumberland ..	1s. to 3s.	South Midland and Eastern Counties— <i>continued.</i>	
Durham	1s. to 4s.	Essex	1s. to 3s.
Cumberland	1s. to 2s.	Suffolk	2s. to 3s.
Westmorland	1s. to 2s.	Norfolk	2s. to 3s.
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire:—			
Yorkshire	1s. to 4s.	South Eastern Counties:—	
Lancashire	1s. to 3s.	Surrey	1s. to 2s.
Cheshire	1s. to 3s.	Kent	1s. to 3s.
North and West Midland Counties:—			
Leicestershire	1s. to 3s.	Sussex	1s. to 3s.
Rutland	About 1s.	Hampshire	Up to 4s.
Lincolnshire	1s. to 5s. 6d.	Berkshire	2s. to 4s.
Nottinghamshire ..	2s. to 3s.	South Western Counties:—	
Derbyshire	2s. to 4s.	Wiltshire	2s. to 4s.
Gloucestershire	1s. to 2s.	Dorset	2s. to 3s.
Herefordshire	2s. to 3s.	Devonshire	1s. to 2s.
Shropshire	2s. to 4s.	Cornwall	1s. to 2s.
Staffordshire	1s. to 3s.	Somerset	1s. to 2s.
Worcestershire	1s. to 2s.	Wales & Monmouthshire:—	
Warwickshire	1s. to 3s.	Flintshire	1s. to 3s.
South Midland and Eastern Counties:—			
Anglesey	1s. to 3s.	Denbighshire	1s. to 4s.
Merionethshire	About 2s.	Carnarvonshire	Little change
Montgomeryshire ..	About 2s.	Little change	
Cardiganshire	1s. to 2s.	Little change	
Radnorshire	1s. to 3s.	Little change	
Breconshire	1s. to 3s.	Little change	
Carmarthenshire ..	1s. to 2s.	Little change	
Pembrokeshire	1s. to 2s.	Little change	
Glamorganshire	2s. to 3s.	Little change	
Monmouthshire	1s. to 3s.	Little change	

IRELAND.

Returns were obtained for Ireland, as for England, relating to the various Rural Districts. They covered nearly 84 per cent. of the whole. It has not been found possible, however, to state the number of labourers affected by the various changes, but it may be said generally that the upward movement in agricultural wages noticeable in Ireland for some years past continued during 1914. The changes so far reported for 1915 are comparatively few, except in the case of casual labourers. No decreases were reported for either period.

The increases in 1914 were most numerous in the province of Ulster, particularly in Antrim. The smallest proportion of increases occurred, as in 1913, in the province of Leinster, the counties of Kildare, Louth, Meath, Queen's County, and Wicklow showing little change. The amounts of the increases usually varied from 1s. to 2s. per week to men paid by the week, though some horsemen and cattlemen received 3s. For yearly servants the amounts varied from £1 to £3 per annum; some increases of £4 or £5 were also reported.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN GERMANY.

(1) IN THE YEAR 1914.

An article in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* of 26th May reproduces some of the statistics relating to strikes and lockouts in Germany in 1914, the annual report on which has recently been published by the Imperial Statistical Office.

It is stated that in consequence of the war the statistics of the year, with the exception of the first seven months, do not compare with those of previous years. On the outbreak of war all disputes which were then in progress speedily came to an end; very few strikes occurred subsequently, and no lockouts were recorded at all after July. Of the total number of disputes which took place during the year 88.6 per cent. ran their full course in the period before the war, 9.4 per cent. were settled shortly after the outbreak of war, and 2.0 per cent. began and ended after that event.

The total number of strikes which ended during 1914 was 1,115 (apart from 12, directly affecting 1,201 workpeople, as to information which was received too late for inclusion). The following Table shows the number of strikes and of persons directly affected during the decade 1905-1914:—

Year.	Number of Strikes.*	Number of Workpeople directly affected.
1905	2,403	408,145
1906	3,328	272,218
1907	2,266	192,430
1908	1,347	68,392
1909	1,537	96,925
1910	2,113	155,680
1911	2,566	217,809
1912	2,610	408,314
1913	2,127	254,206
1914	1,115	58,682

The largest number of strikes in 1914—613, or 55 per cent. of the total—occurred in Prussia; there were 142 (12.7 per cent.) in Saxony, 108 (9.7 per cent.) in Bavaria and 38 (3.4 per cent.) in Alsace Lorraine.

The majority of the strikes (798, or 71.6 per cent.) were confined to single establishments. These involved 52.1 per cent. of the total number of workpeople on strike during the year.

The following Table shows the number of strikes and of workpeople directly affected in each group of trades in 1914, with the corresponding figures for 1913:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Strikes Terminated.		Number of Strikers.	
	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.
Building	386	691	17,504	45,084
Mining, Smelting, &c. ..	16	91	1,773	75,423
Metal and Engineering ..	177	380	10,661	69,532
Textile	20	70	1,632	10,465
Clothing and Cleaning ..	65	95	2,224	8,485
Transport	57	114	7,851	9,859
Printing and Paper	16	30	1,056	2,234
Chemical (including Gas and Oil) ..	14	33	400	2,280
Stones and Earths	120	152	6,186	8,309
Woodworking	114	199	4,768	8,299
Food, Tobacco, &c., Preparation ..	44	96	1,629	5,832
Leather	29	45	1,040	1,789
Other	57	131	1,902	6,465
TOTAL	1,115	2,127	58,686†	254,206

The majority of the strikes of 1914 were of short duration, 411, with 15,980 strikers, lasting less than 6 days. On the other hand 124, with 8,602 strikers, lasted from 31 to 50 days; 123, with 8,408 strikers, from 51 to 100 days; while 48, with 3,960 strikers, lasted more than 100 days.

Disputes as to wages gave rise to the largest number of strikes. Out of a total of 1,708 demands, 884 came within this category, while 230 related to hours, the remaining 594 demands being concerned with working arrangements, dismissal of workmen, *etc.*

As regards the outcome of the strikes, the proportion of cases in which the workpeople obtained their demands in full was about the same as in 1913, being 17.0 per cent., as compared with 16.7 per cent. in the previous year, while the proportion ending in favour of the employers was greater than in the preceding year (44.9 per cent., as against 41 per cent.). In the remaining disputes (38.1 per cent.) neither employers nor workpeople were entirely successful; the corresponding percentage in 1913 was 42.3 per cent.

The total number of establishments affected by the strikes of 1914 was 5,213, in which 193,414 workpeople were employed. Of these establishments 1,221, or 23.4 per cent., were compelled to close down by reason of the strikes. Of the total number of workpeople employed, 30.3 per cent. struck work, while those employed in the same establishments who were thrown out of work through strikes numbered 2,622.

The lockouts that came to an end in 1914 numbered 108, and involved 833 establishments, with 36,458 workpeople. All were begun before the war; 91, with 12,138 persons locked out, ended before the outbreak of war, and 17, affecting 24,320 persons, terminated shortly after that event.

With regard to the results of the lockouts, the proportion ending wholly in favour of the workpeople was 5.6 per cent., the employers were wholly successful in 43.5 per cent., while the remaining 50.9 per cent. ended in compromises.

* In German strike statistics all disputes, however small, are included. There is also a tendency for the same strike to be counted more than once, when it extends over an area wide enough to comprise two or more distinct local authorities.
† The items add up to 58,686, but the total number of strikers during the year is stated in the text of the source to have been 58,682.

(2) SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE WAR.

With regard to strikes and lock-outs which began and terminated in the period from the outbreak of war down to the end of March, 1915, the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* for May states that these numbered in all 52, and involved, directly or indirectly, 4,775 workpeople. Of these, 26 (24 strikes and 2 lockouts) took place during the first quarter of 1915.

Group of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople directly affected.
Building	7	111
Mining and Smelting	7	1,391
Metal and Engineering	12	1,290
Textile	3	161
Clothing	1	62
Transport	6	104
Paper	2	138
Stones and Earths	2	239
Woodworking	1	166
Food Preparation	6	206
Leather	2	22
Other	3	79
TOTAL	52	4,029

It is pointed out that these disputes were, as a matter of fact, less serious than would appear from the figures, owing to their short duration. The average duration of all disputes during the period above stated was 4.77 days. The average number of working days lost by each workman involved was 4.32, whereas the average period lost by each person directly involved in disputes during the years 1909-1913 amounted to 27.99 days.

Except in 4 cases the disputes affected individual establishments only; in 3 of these exceptions 2 establishments were affected and in one case 4. The total number of establishments involved was thus 58. Ten of these were performing work directly for the military authorities, and "in several other cases the establishments were employed indirectly in supplying army requirements."

The proportion of disputes which ended wholly in favour of the workpeople was 21.1 per cent., while 55.8 per cent. ended wholly in favour of the employers, and 23.1 per cent. in a compromise.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

STEEL WORKS, WEST OF SCOTLAND.

Steam, Electrical, and Hydraulic Service.—The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Steam, Electrical and Hydraulic Service of the Steel Trade of the West of Scotland having been unable to agree upon a claim of the operatives for an advance in wages of 25 per cent., a joint request was made on the 10th May to the Board of Trade for the appointment of Sheriff Principal A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., to act as arbitrator in the matter, and Sheriff Mackenzie was accordingly appointed.

At the hearing it appeared that the wages of certain of the claimants are regulated by a Sliding Scale based on the selling price of ship plates, and that the wages of these men had since the beginning of the war been increased by 30 per cent. owing to the operation of the Sliding Scale, and a further advance was in prospect. Other claimants, however, were in receipt of a shift or weekly wage of fixed amount, not regulated by the Sliding Scale.

In his award, issued on 26th May, Sheriff Mackenzie decided that no advance in wages was due to claimants whose wages were regulated by the Sliding Scale. To men in receipt of a shift or weekly wage of fixed amount not exceeding 50s. per week advances ranging from 1s. to 4s. per week were granted, each advance to be regarded as a war bonus. Any advance already granted to any workman in view of the increased cost of living due to the war was to be regarded as forming part of the advance as awarded.

Gasmen and Certain Other Classes of Labour.—Concurrently with the above, Sheriff Mackenzie was also appointed to settle a claim for a war bonus of 5s. per man per week made on behalf of the gasmen and certain other classes of labour employed in the West of Scotland steelworks, exclusive of those who were contributors to the Millmen's Board of Conciliation or whose claims were dealt with under a recent agreement.

The Sliding Scale based on the selling price of ship plates was operative in the case of certain of these men, who, the Arbitrator decided, failed to establish their claim for a war bonus. The case of men in receipt of a shift or weekly wage of fixed amount was withdrawn for further mutual discussion.

* Reports as to changes in labourers' wages in Scotland in 1914 appeared in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, August, 1914 (pp. 285-6), and February, 1915 (p. 43). Changes in the first six months of 1915 will be reported in a forthcoming issue, when the enquiries now in hand have been completed.

Bricklayers.—A dispute having arisen out of the demand of bricklayers employed in iron and steel works in the West of Scotland for a war bonus of 1d. per hour, it was mutually agreed to refer the matter to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade, and Sheriff Mackenzie was accordingly appointed. The arbitrator issued his award on 10th June, granting the men a war bonus of ½d. per hour.

LIGHT CASTINGS IRONFOUNDERS—ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

On 11th March application was made to the National Light Castings Ironfounders' Federation by the Joint Committee representing the Central Ironmoulders' Association and six other Trade Unions for an advance in wages of 1d. per hour or 4s. per week for men, and ½d. per hour or 2s. per week for workers under twenty-one years of age, according to method of time payment, and 10 per cent. for all piece workers, to take effect on 5th April, 1915.

Negotiations subsequently took place between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was mutually agreed to refer the matter to a court of arbitration appointed by the Chief Industrial Commissioner. A Court was accordingly appointed, consisting of Sheriff Principal A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C. (Chairman), Sir Charles Macara, Bart., and Mr. W. Mosses.

The Court, having heard the parties at Glasgow on 28th May, awarded the advances claimed, to come into operation from the beginning of the first pay after 28th May and to be regarded as war wages.

HOSIERY WORKERS, LEICESTER.

In April the hosiery workers at Leicester put forward a claim for an advance in wages of 15 per cent. This was subsequently modified at a meeting on 20th May to a final demand for an increase of 1d. in the shilling on wages earned, with a minimum increase of 1s. per week, and a maximum increase of 4s. for men and 2s. 6d. for women: where helpers were employed the manufacturers to pay the increase to such helpers.

No settlement having been effected, the operatives ceased work on 31st May in support of their claims. At the instance of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, however, work was resumed, and a conference of the parties arranged under the chairmanship of Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P. At this conference it was agreed that a bonus should be given of 1d. in each shilling earned up to a maximum wage of 40s. per week in the case of men and 20s. in the case of women.

SCOURERS, LEICESTER.

Following upon a demand for increased wages made by operatives in the hosiery dyeing and finishing trade of Leicester, an agreement was arrived at on 12th May between the employers and all occupations except the scourers, providing for a war bonus of 1d. for every shilling earned up to 40s. per week, with a minimum advance of 1s. per week. The scourers refused to become a party to this agreement, and 150 struck work on 17th May, demanding a permanent advance in wages of 20 per cent., and throwing idle some 1,900 other workpeople. At the instance of the Chief Industrial Commissioner work was resumed on 21st May, pending reference of the matter to arbitration.

Mr. Alderman T. Smith, the Arbitrator appointed, having heard the parties, decided that the scourers had failed to establish their claim to a permanent advance of 20 per cent. or to preferential treatment, and awarded that the agreement of 12th May, referred to above, should become applicable to the scourers as from 22nd May, 1915.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

On 25th February last a petition for an increased rate of pay of 7s. per week was submitted by the employees at the Greenwich Electricity Generating Station of the London County Council. Petitions were also submitted in February and March by employees at sub-stations asking generally for increases of wages (in one case for advances of 10 per cent. and 20 per cent.); while in July and August, 1914, petitions for increased rates of pay had been submitted by conduit cleaners, in one case specifically asking for an advance from 8d. per hour or 32s. per week to a minimum of 35s. per week.

All the above grades were parties to and subject to the provisions of a Conciliation Board, and by a resolution dated 30th March the Council decided—

"That it be referred to the Electrical Conciliation Board to consider the question of the rates of pay of those grades of employees in the electrical section of the Tramways Department who have submitted petitions for increased wages, and who are not, by the terms of the Conciliation Board's scheme, agreements arrived at by the Board, or the award of a Court of Arbitration, precluded from having their application for increased wages referred to the Board."

In the meantime, by a resolution of the Council dated 16th March, 1915, all persons in their employment whose wages were under 30s. per week were granted a war bonus of 3s. per week, or 6d. per day, as from the 1st March, 1915, for a period of three months, which period was subsequently extended to November of this year.

The Conciliation Board, at its meeting on the 6th May, failed to arrive at an agreement in regard to these matters, and in accordance with the conciliation scheme, application was duly made to the Chief Industrial Commissioner for the appointment of a court of arbitration to determine these matters; and a court was appointed, consisting of the Right Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B. (Chairman), Sir Robert A. Hadfield, F.R.S., and

Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P. The Court heard the parties on 2nd June, and issued their award on 4th June, deciding:—

"That the war bonus of 3s. per week, or 6d. per day, at present confined to men earning less than 30s. per week, shall be continued, and shall be extended to men earning 40s. per week and under, and be paid after the manner at present payable.

"We further determine that our award shall come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay week preceding the first pay day in June, and shall be payable during the continuance of the war and the abnormal circumstances which have arisen therefrom. But, in accordance with the constitution of the Board of Conciliation, this our award shall not in any event extend beyond a period of three years."

BLACKSMITHS, DUNDEE.

In March application was made, on behalf of the blacksmith members of the Associated Blacksmiths and Iron Workers' Society employed by members of the Dundee Association of Engineers and Ironfounders, for an advance in wages to 9½d. per hour, with an increase of 1d. per hour to men in receipt of 9d. or more, in the case of time rates, and an advance of 10 per cent. on piece rates. A request was also made that the starting rate for young journeymen should be not less than 2d. per hour below the district rate, with an advance of ½d. per hour each three months until in receipt of the district rate.

Subsequent negotiations having failed to effect a settlement, application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide the matter; and a Court consisting of Sheriff Substitute A. J. Louttit Laing (Chairman) and Messrs. G. Heron Wilson, J.P., and James Gavin, J.P., was appointed.

The Court, having heard the parties, issued its award on 28th May, to take effect as and from 18th idem, establishing a minimum wage of 8½d. per hour, with a war bonus of 1d. per hour, and deciding that young journeymen should, within one year of completing their apprenticeship, become entitled to the aforesaid minimum wage of 8½d. per hour.

BOOT AND SHOE OPERATIVES, DESBOROUGH.

The clickers employed on Army contracts by certain boot and shoe manufacturers at Desborough ceased work about the middle of May, alleging that the employers were not complying with the recent finding of the Committee on Production.

The attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner being called to the dispute, Mr. Alderman T. Smith was appointed to deal with the matter. Following a resumption of work, a conference of representatives of the parties was arranged under the presidency of Mr. Smith, and an agreement was effected providing that the wages and conditions as embodied in the "Green Book" dated 3rd March, 1915, and in the Kettering and Rushden Clickers' Statement dated 10th March, 1915, should be observed by both parties, except that for the period of the war the ordinary overtime clause in the "Green Book" should be suspended, and all overtime worked over 5½ hours (Saturdays and Sundays excepted) be paid for at the rate of time and a quarter. Certain other matters were also adjusted.

PAINTERS, MANCHESTER.

Differences having arisen between the Association of Master Plasterers and Painters of Manchester and Salford and the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators respecting an application of the operatives for a war bonus, after some negotiations by the Department the parties agreed to refer the matter to arbitration, and Mr. A. A. Hudson, K.C., was appointed to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Hudson heard the parties on 2nd June, and on the various points referred to him he decided that a dispute had arisen under Rule 8 of the Working Rules, but that no notice of the men's claim for a war bonus had been given as required by Rule 14 of the Working Rules and that the operatives could not make any claim to payment of a war bonus except after six months' notice in writing to expire on 1st May.

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES, BOURNEMOUTH.

Certain branches of the building trades of Bournemouth, being unable to arrive at an agreement with the employers, ceased work about the middle of May in support of their claim for an advance in wages and a code of working rules. The attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner was called to the dispute, and he kept in touch with the parties involved, and it was eventually agreed to submit the matters in dispute to an Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade, the men resuming work in the meantime.

His Honour Judge A. O'Connor, K.C., was accordingly appointed to act as Arbitrator. The Arbitrator issued his award on 10th June, determining the rates of wages for the different classes of workers, and establishing a code of working rules.

NAVIES, BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

A dispute having arisen between the members of the Birmingham Building Trades Employers' Association and the Road and General Contractors of Birmingham on the one part, and the navies in their employment on the other, respecting a minimum rate of wages, after prolonged negotiations no settlement was arrived at, it was mutually agreed to refer the matter for decision to an Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade, and Mr. F. A. Greer, K.C., was appointed to act in that capacity.

Mr. Greer heard the parties at Birmingham on 17th May, and fixed minimum rates of 7½d. and 7d. per hour, to be paid on building work and on road and general work respectively, the rates to come into operation on and after 3rd May, to remain operative for a period of fifteen calendar months, and thereafter to be subject to three months' notice.

PLUMBERS, PAISLEY AND DISTRICT.

The master and operative plumbers in the Paisley District, being unable to agree, after two conferences, upon an application for an advance in the rate of wages to be paid to the operatives, made joint application to the Board of Trade for an Arbitrator to settle the matter.

Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., who was appointed, awarded on 2nd June that on and after 1st May, 1915, the standard rate of wages in the plumber trade in the Paisley District should be 11d. per hour, being an advance of ½d. per hour.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, CHELTENHAM.

A dispute having arisen on the demand for a war bonus to the carpenters and joiners in the employment of a Cheltenham firm, application was made to the Chief Industrial Commissioner for the appointment of an Arbitrator to decide the matter.

Mr. Charles Doughty, the Arbitrator appointed, having heard the parties, issued his award on 19th May granting an advance of 2s. per week, to continue only for the duration of the war and conditional upon good timekeeping, the advance to take effect after the next regular pay day following 23rd May.

TUGBOATMEN, RIVER CLYDE.

A Clyde shipping firm and the tugboatmen in their employment having been unable to agree respecting claim put forward by the latter for an extra half-day's pay for Sunday work, application on behalf of the parties was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an Arbitrator to decide the matter.

Sheriff-Principal A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., the Arbitrator appointed, heard the parties at Glasgow on 29th May, and decided that, as the tugboatmen had twice received an advance in wages of 5s. a week as a war bonus, they were not entitled to the increased pay claimed for Sunday work.

COACHMAKERS, LUTON.

A dispute having arisen as to the wages to be paid to the members of the London and Provincial Coachmakers' Trade Union in the employment of a firm of motor-car manufacturers at Luton, after some negotiations conducted by the Department, it was mutually agreed to refer the matter to an Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

Mr. Charles Doughty has accordingly been appointed to act in that capacity.

SADDLERS, BIRMINGHAM AND WALSALL DISTRICTS.

On 26th April last application was made to the Master Brown Saddlers' Association by the Walsall and District New Brown Saddlers' Trade Protection Society for a war bonus of 50 per cent. on saddles required for civil use. A conference took place between the parties, as a result of which the men modified their demand to one of 25 per cent. No agreement having been arrived at, application was made to the Board of Trade, and Mr. F. A. Greer, K.C., has accordingly been appointed to act as Arbitrator to decide the matter.

JOINERS, INVERKEITHING.

Differences having arisen between the master and operative joiners of Inverkeithing as to a demand of the operatives for an advance in wages of 2d. per hour and a proposed alteration of the bye-law relating to Saturday hours, after some negotiations it was agreed that the latter question should be dropped, and the question of the rate of wages referred to an Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

Sheriff-Principal A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., was accordingly appointed to act in that capacity, and issued his award on 10th June, raising the rate of wages by ½d. per hour.

GOVERNMENT WORK.

COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION IN ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments, and whose reference was subsequently extended to deal also with the avoidance of stoppages on work for Government purposes (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 83), have issued the following further decisions on cases referred to them:—

SAILMAKERS, COWES (ISSUED 5TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made to Messrs. Rasey & Laphorne, Ltd. and Messrs. J. Samuel White & Co., Ltd., by the Federation of sailmakers.

The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed on 21st April to refer the question to the Committee on Production for decision. The Committee accordingly heard representatives of the parties on 30th April, and they have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case.

The Committee's finding is, that the wages of the men concerned should be advanced 3s. per week, the advances to come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay week after 21st April, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

IRONFOUNDERS, ST. HELENS (ISSUED 7TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of a claim for an advance of wages made to the St. Helens Engineering Employers' Association by the St. Helens Branch of the Friendly Society of Ironfounders.

Negotiations took place between the parties, and eventually it was agreed to submit the question in dispute to the Committee on Production for decision. Representatives of the parties were accordingly heard on 6th May.

The Committee have given careful consideration to the statements laid before them and to all the circumstances of the case, and their finding is, that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be advanced 3s. per week in the case of time-workers and 7½ per cent. on piece-rates, the advance to come into operation as from the first full pay after 21st April, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

SHIP-REPAIRERS, LIVERPOOL (ISSUED 7TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of a claim for an advance of wages made to the Employers' Association of the Port of Liverpool and to the Mersey Ship-Repairers' Federation by the Mersey District Committee of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades on behalf of the skilled workmen.

The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, and no settlement being arrived at, it was agreed to submit the question in dispute to the Committee on Production for decision. Representatives of the parties were accordingly heard on 5th May.

The Committee have given careful consideration to the statements laid before them and to all the circumstances of the case, and their finding is, that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be advanced 4s. per week in the case of time-workers and 10 per cent. on piece-rates, the advance to come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay following the date of this finding, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE CORPORATION TRAMWAYS (ISSUED 12TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of an application made on 9th February by the Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers for an increase of wages to tramwaymen in the service of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation. This application, together with requests affecting other employees of the Corporation, was considered by the City Council, and it was decided at a meeting held on 22nd March that a "war bonus" of 2s. 6d. per week should be given to all unskilled employees in the service of the Corporation who are in receipt of less than 30s. a week, and a "war bonus" of 1s. 6d. a week to those in receipt of 30s. a week or more, but less than 40s. a week, youths and boys under 18 years of age to receive a "war bonus" of 1s. per week. The representatives of the tramwaymen intimated to the Tramways Committee that the men were dissatisfied with the suggested rate of "bonus"; they emphasised the fact that, under the operation of the scale, while new entrants into the service (many of whom were young men temporarily employed to replace those who had joined His Majesty's Forces) received the higher rate the great majority of the older servants of the Corporation (many of whom were married men and householders) received only the lower rate. It was acknowledged that this circumstance was present to a greater degree in the case of the tramwaymen than in the case of the other grades covered by the Corporation's decision, the majority of the latter coming under the lower scale of pay and therefore receiving the higher rate of "bonus." An alternative scheme, estimated to cost approximately the same as the scheme previously adopted by the Council, was accordingly submitted to the Council by the Tramways Committee; viz.:

2s. 6d. per week to employees who are householders.
1s. 6d. " " " " single men.
1s. " " " " youths of 18 years of age or under.

This scheme was not accepted by the Council, who by a majority adhered to their former decision.

Following upon further indications of dissatisfaction on the part of the tramwaymen, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Committee on Production for decision. The Committee accordingly heard representatives of the parties on 28th April and on 7th May, and they have given full consideration to the arguments of the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case.

The Committee's finding is that the rate of payment of the "war bonus" to the tramwaymen should be as follows:—

To employees who are householders, 2s. 6d. per week.
" " " " single men, 1s. 6d. per week.
1s. per week. " " youths of 18 years of age or under.

The first payment should be made for the week commencing 1st April, 1915.

THE BLAENAVON COMPANY, LIMITED, BLAENAVON (ISSUED 12TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of a claim for a "war bonus" made to the Blaenavon Co., Ltd., by the British Steel

Smelters, Mill, Iron, Tinplate and Kindred Trades Association. The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed that the Committee on Production should be asked to determine whether or not the "war bonus" to be paid to the workpeople concerned should be in accordance with the scale agreed upon at a conference held on 18th March between the Steel Ingot Makers' Association and the British Steel Smelters' Association. Representatives of the parties were accordingly heard on 6th May, and the Committee have given full consideration to the arguments advanced and to all the circumstances of the case.

The Committee's finding is that the "war bonus" to be paid to the workpeople concerned should be in accordance with the agreement of 18th March above referred to.

This finding is to be regarded as entirely without prejudice to the rights of the Company or the Union in respect of questions which may be raised hereafter as to the applicability to the Blaenavon Company's Works of agreements, customs, or practices obtaining in the case of works connected with the Steel Ingot Makers' Association.

THE BLAENAVON COMPANY, LIMITED, BLAENAVON (ISSUED 12TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of a claim for a "war bonus" made to the Blaenavon Co., Ltd., by the Boilermakers', and Iron and Steel Ship Builders' Society, the United Kingdom Society of Amalgamated Smiths and Strikers, the Associated Society of Moulders, and the National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics and Electrical Workers. The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed that the Committee on Production should be asked to determine the amount of the "war bonus." The Committee accordingly heard representatives of the parties on 6th May, and they have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case.

The Committee's finding is that the amount of the "war bonus" should be:—

To workmen earning over 20s. and up to 50s. per week, 3s. per week.
To lads earning not more than 20s. per week, 1s. per week.

The first payment should be made for the week commencing Monday, 5th April, and the advances should be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

IGRANIC ELECTRIC COMPANY, LTD., BEDFORD (ISSUED 12TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of a claim for an advance of wages made to the Igranic Electric Co., Ltd., by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers on behalf of the employees. The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the matter to the Committee on Production for decision. The Committee accordingly heard representatives of the parties on 3rd May, and they have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case.

The Committee's finding is that the rates of wages of the employees (exclusive of females and of indentured apprentices) should be increased as follows, viz.:

	Increase.
Employees whose rates on 14th April, 1915, were 3d. per hour or under	¼d. per hour.
Employees whose rates on 14th April, 1915, were over 3d. per hour	¾d. per hour.

These increases are to merge in any advances that may have been given to individual employees since 14th April, but any such advances that are in excess of the increases now awarded are to continue in force, and are not to be superseded by this finding. The increases now awarded are to be regarded as coming into force on and from 15th April, 1915.

TINSMITHS, CLYDE DISTRICT (ISSUED 21ST MAY).

The following finding is in respect of a claim for an advance of wages made to the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association, the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association, and the Scottish Sheet-Metal Workers Employers' Association, by the Scottish Tin-Plate, Braziers, and Sheet-Metal Workers' Friendly and Protective Society.

The Society applied on 18th January, 1915, for an advance of wages to their members of 1d. per hour, and on 6th February they intimated their acceptance of an offer made by the employers of an advance of ¼d. per hour for the period of six months. Subsequently an arrangement was arrived at between the employers and certain engineering trade unions providing for an advance of ¾d. per hour (and equivalent weekly and piece-work rates), and this advance was offered to the above-mentioned Society, but was not accepted by them.

On 21st March the Society applied for a "war bonus" of 1d. per hour, and it was subsequently explained that this application was for an advance of 1d. per hour as a "war bonus" apart from and in addition to the ¾d. per hour advance (and equivalent weekly and piece-work rates) granted in the previous February, the Society contending that the latter advance was conceded in the ordinary course and was in the nature of a permanent advance of wages.

On 2nd April, following this Committee's findings of 23rd March, 1915, in respect of engineers, &c., in the Clyde district, the employers offered to extend to the tinsmiths the provisions of those findings, in substitution for the arrangement previously arrived at. Further negotiations took place between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and the parties agreed to submit the question in dispute to the Committee on Production for decision. Representatives of the parties were accordingly heard on 18th May.

The Committee have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case, and their finding is that the men concerned should receive an advance of 1d. per hour or 4s. per week (according to the custom of payment in the various shops) on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece-rates, to come into operation as from the first full pay week after 12th February, 1915, and to be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war. The advance already given of ¼d. per hour or 2s. per week, as the case may be (and equivalent advance on piece rates) is to merge in the increase now granted under this finding, and is to be regarded as part of such increase.

COPPER WORKERS, SWANSEA (ISSUED 27TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of a claim for a revised "war bonus" made by the Dock, Wharf, Riverside, and General Workers' Union to Messrs. Williams, Foster & Co. and Pascoe, Grenfell & Sons, Ltd., and to Messrs. Vivian & Sons, Ltd.

The rate of the "war bonus" instituted by the firms in February is as follows:—

- (1) Married men or householders (with dependents) earning below 30s. per week ... 3s. per week.
- (2) Single men (without dependents) earning below 30s. per week ... 1s. 6d. per week.
- (3) Married men or householders (with dependents) earning 30s. and upwards ... 2s. per week.
- (4) Single men (without dependents) earning 30s. and upwards ... 1s. per week.
- (5) Youths and boys ... 1s. per week.

The "bonus" is supplementary to the present rates of wages of all those earning below 60s. per week. The claim made by the Union is for the payment of 4s. 6d. per week on time-rates and 10 per cent. on piece-rates, and 6d. per day in the case of youths and boys.

Negotiations took place between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to submit the matter to the Committee on Production for decision. Representatives of the parties were accordingly heard on 21st May.

It was made clear at the hearing that the men's claim was not intended to over-ride or interfere with the existing Conciliation Board agreement under which rates of wages are regulated, but was a claim to revise the scale of "war bonus" granted by the firms.

The Committee have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case, and their finding is that the amount of "war bonus" should be as follows:—

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| To married men or householders earning up to 60s. a week | 3s. per week. |
| To single men (without dependents) earning up to 60s. a week | 2s. per week. |
| To youths and boys | 1s. per week. |

The payments now awarded should come into force in the first full pay following the date of this finding, and are to be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

THE LACRE MOTOR CAR CO., LTD., LETCHWORTH (ISSUED 27TH MAY).

The following finding is in respect of a claim for an advance of wages made to the Lacre Motor Car Co., Ltd., Letchworth, by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Society of Amalgamated Toolmakers, Engineers and Machinists. The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed that the question should be referred to the Committee on Production for settlement. The Committee accordingly heard representatives of the parties on 21st May, and they have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the circumstances of the case.

The Committee's finding is that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be advanced 3s. per week in the case of time-rates and 10 per cent. on piece-rates, the advance to come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay following 19th April, and to be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war. The advance now awarded is to be in substitution for the special "bonus" at present being paid by the firm.

CEMENT TRADE, THAMES AND MEDWAY (ISSUED 3RD JUNE).

The following finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made on 29th January by the National Amalgamated Union of Labour to the Associated Portland

Cement Manufacturers (1900), Ltd., and to the British Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd. The application was for an advance of 1d. per hour on time-rates and 10 per cent. on piece-rates. On 19th February the firms intimated that during the war an advance of wages of 5 per cent. would be granted, the advance to become operative as from that date.

Negotiations took place for a further advance of wages, and the matter was subsequently referred for settlement to the Committee on Production, who on 31st May heard representatives of the parties.

The adverse effect that the war has exercised and is exercising upon the cement trade was brought to the notice of the Committee, and, after full consideration of the condition of this trade, and of the arguments advanced by the respective representatives, the Committee's finding is that no addition to the advance of 5 per cent. given in February can now be granted.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEA.

[Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 34, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, &c.—Free quarterly circulars on Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and Handbooks (with maps) at 1d. each, may be obtained from the Office post free; and all enquiries about emigration addressed to the Office will be answered.]

WARNING.—Owing to the war (1) labour conditions overseas are uncertain, and openings for emigrants are greatly restricted; and (2) steamers are liable to delay and risk.

CANADA.

Employment has slightly improved in the metal, leather and textile trades; but in most towns—especially in the West—a great many mechanics and large numbers of unskilled labourers are out of work.

There was some improvement in coal mining at Sydney (Nova Scotia), Lethbridge (Alberta), and Fernie (British Columbia); and in metal mining at Cobalt (Ontario), and in British Columbia.

Throughout Canada the supply of farm labourers and female servants is now sufficient; and, for the first time for many years, no more are wanted. Large numbers of men, who usually find employment in railway construction during the summer months, are compelled to seek work on farms or in towns. It is therefore undesirable for any emigrant, except farmers with capital, to go to Canada now.

AUSTRALIA.

Labour conditions are unsettled owing to the war, and there is no present demand for more labour, except for female servants. Assisted emigration to South Australia and Western Australia has been stopped; but the other States still grant reduced passages to emigrants. But in order to avoid interference with recruiting for the war, assisted passages to New South Wales, Victoria or Queensland are not available, except under special circumstances, for men of military age. The demand for experienced female servants continues, and specially cheap passages are offered to widows and young women who will take up domestic service.

According to a cablegram just received from Sydney, "further general rains have fallen in New South Wales, and labour conditions are much improved, except in the building trades; in Victoria the building trades show signs of revival, the engineering trade is busy, good rain has fallen and agricultural prospects are good, and unemployment is reduced generally."

NEW ZEALAND.

During the war reduced-rate passages are granted to married farmers and farm hands and *bona fide* female domestic servants, and also to single farmers and farm hands who are not eligible for military service. The building trades have been busy at Wellington and Dunedin; the engineering trades at Wellington, Dunedin and Napier; and the leather and clothing trades at Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Nelson, and elsewhere; the supply of men is sufficient. Mining has been busy near Auckland, Greymouth, and Westport. There is a demand for female servants.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Owing to the war the labour market in South Africa is disorganised, and no one should go there now.

LABOUR IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.*

HOLLAND.†

Employment in April.—Returns relating to unemployment in April were received by the Dutch Government Statistical Office from trade unions and municipal unemployment funds with a total membership of 94,298. The percentage of members out of work during the month was 17.6, as compared with 20.5 in the previous month, and 4.8 in April, 1914.

Group of Trades.	Number of Members entitled to Benefit in April, 1915.	Percentage unemployed.			Average Days Lost per Week per Member Unemployed.		
		April, 1915.	Mar., 1915.	April, 1914.	April, 1915.	Mar., 1915.	April, 1914.
All Unions paying Unemployed Benefit and all Municipal Unemployment Funds which made Returns Do. do., excluding Diamond Workers ..	94,298	17.6	20.5	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.8
Working in Diamonds and other Precious Stones	10,162	74.7	78.2	26.2	5.9	5.9	6.0
Printing and Lithography, &c.	10,962	16.5	17.7	0.6	2.7	2.6	5.9
Building Trades (including Roadmaking)	16,621	16.2	22.2	2.9	5.3	5.3	5.0
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	11,821	11.0	14.0	0.9	3.4	3.2	6.4
Textile	6,008	10.3	15.1	0.2	2.3	2.2	4.9
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	15,453	3.0	3.0	1.2	3.2	3.7	6.4
Woodworking, &c.	2,741	11.3	16.9	—	5.0	4.6	—
Leather, Oilcloth, &c.	2,004	3.3	2.6	0.6	3.3	3.7	6.1

The comparison between April, 1915, and the previous month yields slightly different results when based upon data furnished by Trade Unions only (irrespective of whether they pay unemployed benefit or not) and when further limited to returns received from Unions making returns for both months. On this basis the percentage of unemployed is found to be 16.0 in April, as compared with 18.8 in March. Among the members of these Unions the average number of working days lost owing to unemployment was, in April, 13.1 per cent., and in March, 15.2 per cent. of the number of days that might have been worked in the respective months.

NORWAY.‡

Employment in April.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of April in certain Trade Unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries, comparative figures being added for March, 1915, and April, 1914:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	30th April, 1915.	31st Mar., 1915.	30th April, 1914.	30th April, 1915.	31st Mar., 1915.	30th April, 1914.
Bricklayers and Masons (Christiania)	622	652	660	16.7	1.4	2.1
Carpenters, &c.	1,294	1,316	1,279	14.6	13.5	0.5
Painters (Christiania)	402	416	469	—	2.2	—
Iron and Other Metal Workers	8,307	8,314	8,611	1.4	2.1	1.0
Boot and Shoe Makers	778	792	756	0.9	0.9	0.5
Printers	2,127	2,129	2,149	2.6	3.4	0.5
Bookbinders (Christiania)	625	622	556	1.8	1.3	0.7
Cabinet Makers	692	581	593	1.9	0.7	0.8
Bakers (Christiania)	447	445	446	10.1	12.8	10.1
Tinned goods (Stavanger)	551	558	421	1.1	—	4.3
TOTAL ..	15,845	15,825	15,980	3.5	3.3	1.2

UNITED STATES.

MASSACHUSETTS.§

Employment at End of March, 1915.—For the quarter ending 31st March, 1915, returns were received from 1,076 labour organisations in Massachusetts, with an aggregate membership of 171,997, or about 70 per cent. of the total membership of trade unions. The proportion of such members unemployed on 31st March, owing to causes other than labour disputes or disablement—e.g., lack of work, shortage of materials, weather conditions, holidays and temporary shut-downs—was 13.7, as compared with 16.7 per cent. at the end of December, 1914, and 10.7 per cent. at the end of March, 1914.

* For Employment in Germany, see p. 197.
† Maandscriften van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau of Holland), 31st May, 1915.
‡ Information furnished by the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries.
§ Information supplied by the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING MAY.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good during May, and showed little general change as compared with April. It was better than a year ago as regards the number of days worked in the collieries, showing an average improvement of a quarter of a day per week, or 4.6 per cent.; but the number of men employed was greatly reduced owing to enlistments.

Returns received for each of the three periods relating to the same 1,013 pits show that the average number of days* worked was 5.64, as compared with 5.69 in the previous month, and 5.39 a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed in May (508,260) showed a decrease of 2,342 (or 0.5 per cent.) on April and of 88,509 (or 14.8 per cent.) on a year ago.

Of the 508,260 workpeople employed in May, 426,106 (or 83.8 per cent.) were at pits working 11 or more days during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while a further 56,154 (or 11.0 per cent.) worked from 10 to 11 days.

The highest average was in South Wales and Monmouth (6.00 days), and the lowest in West Scotland (5.11 days).

Districts.	No. of Work-people employed in May, 1915, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1915, on a	
		22nd May, 1915.	24th April, 1915.	23rd May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	466,087	5.68	5.72	5.42	- 0.04	+ 0.25
Northumberland ..	42,776	5.21	5.47	5.46	- 0.26	- 0.25
Durham ..	95,632	5.55	5.55	5.43	..	+ 0.12
Cumberland ..	4,859	5.67	5.72	5.58	- 0.05	+ 0.09
South Yorkshire ..	56,432	5.84	5.80	5.67	+ 0.04	+ 0.17
West Yorkshire ..	23,611	5.56	5.67	5.13	- 0.11	+ 0.43
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	26,841	5.63	5.66	5.28	- 0.23	+ 0.35
Derbyshire ..	34,597	5.42	5.42	4.82	..	+ 0.60
Nottingham and Leicester ..	23,841	5.62	5.79	5.15	- 0.17	+ 0.47
Staffordshire ..	8,504	5.62	5.63	4.53	- 0.01	+ 1.09
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ..	5,249	5.98	5.90	5.08	+ 0.08	+ 0.90
Gloucester and Somerset ..	9,282	5.99	5.91	5.48	+ 0.03	+ 0.51
North Wales ..	97,626	6.00	5.97	5.68	+ 0.03	+ 0.12
South Wales and Mon. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SCOTLAND.	42,025	5.31	5.31	5.10	- 0.03	+ 0.21
West Scotland ..	20,153	5.11	5.16	4.91	- 0.06	+ 0.20
The Lothians ..	2,197	5.40	5.43	5.10	- 0.03	+ 0.30
Fife ..	19,675	5.46	5.61	5.26	- 0.05	+ 0.20
IRELAND ..	148	5.50	5.95	5.50	- 0.45	..
UNITED KINGDOM ..	508,260	5.64	5.69	5.39	- 0.05	+ 0.25

Employment in Northumberland showed a decline in May as compared with the previous month, and also as compared with a year ago. In Durham employment was good, and better than a year ago. In Cumberland it continued very good. It was also very good in South and West Yorkshire; in the Leeds district holidays were curtailed on account of the demand for fuel by the engineering and textile industries. Employment in West Yorkshire was not quite so good as in April, but in both districts it showed a considerable improvement on a year ago. In Lancashire and Cheshire and in Derbyshire it was again very good, and much better than a year ago, though not quite so good as in April. As a rule only one day's holiday was taken at Whitsuntide in Derbyshire. In Nottingham and Leicester employment was good, though difficulties of transport were still reported; it showed a marked improvement on a year ago. In the other Midland counties, in Gloucester and Somers-

* The figures in this article and the following only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore or shale was got and drawn at the mines or open works included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked the whole number of days.

set, and in North Wales, it was very good, and showed a great improvement on a year ago. In South Wales it continued very good, full time being worked at nearly all the collieries.

In Scotland employment was good generally, especially in Fifeshire; in all districts it was not quite so good as in April, but better than a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there was some improvement at pits producing anthracite and "mixed" coal, but a slight decline at all other pits. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement at all pits, especially at anthracite and at house coal pits.

Description of Coal.	No. of Work-people employed in May, 1915, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1915, on a	
		22nd May, 1915.	24th April, 1915.	23rd May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite ..	5,444	5.89	5.75	5.33	+ 0.14	+ 0.56
Coking ..	26,220	5.65	5.74	5.53	- 0.11	+ 0.10
Gas ..	37,591	5.49	5.53	5.42	- 0.01	+ 0.07
House ..	58,507	5.50	5.61	4.89	- 0.11	+ 0.61
Steam ..	203,543	5.70	5.74	5.60	- 0.04	+ 0.10
Mixed ..	176,436	5.83	5.63	5.29	+ 0.22	+ 0.59
ALL DESCRIPTIONS ..	508,260	5.64	5.69	5.39	- 0.05	+ 0.25

The exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in May amounted to 3,967,657 tons, 18,189 tons less than in April, and 2,501,806 tons less than in May, 1914.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines, though it showed a slight decline on April. In shale mines the full six days a week were again worked. Employment continued moderate in tin mines and good in lead mines.

In and about quarries, with the exception of slate quarries, it was generally fairly good.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods in the Table below, relating to the same mines and open works in each case, show that the number of workpeople employed in May, 1915 (13,464), decreased by 46 (0.3 per cent.) on a month ago, and by 2,189 (14.0 per cent.) on a year ago.

Districts.	Work-people employed in May, 1915.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines and Open Works in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1915, on a	
		22nd May, 1915.	24th April, 1915.	23rd May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland ..	5,952	5.84	6.00	5.59	- 0.16	+ 0.25
Cumberland and Lancashire ..	4,578	5.95	5.95	5.91	0.00	+ 0.04
Scotland ..	696	5.62	5.28	5.69	+ 0.36	- 0.07
Other Districts ..	2,238	5.90	5.99	5.65	- 0.09	+ 0.25
ALL DISTRICTS ..	13,464	5.88	5.95	5.71	- 0.07	+ 0.17

The weekly average number of days* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.88, compared with 5.95 a month ago and 5.71 a year ago. There was some decline in employment in the Cleveland district, where, however, it remained good.

Shale.—According to the returns received there were 3,208 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 22nd May, working 6.00 days* per week, as compared with 3,217 workpeople working the same number of days in April and 3,624 workpeople working 5.92 days in May, 1914.

* See footnote to previous column.

TINPLATE, AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of May, 1915, and the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 25,050 workpeople.

Works.	Number of Works open.		Number of Mills in operation.	
	At end of May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Tinplate ..	73	+ 4	387	+ 24
Steel Sheet ..	12	- 2	77	- 1
TOTAL ..	85	+ 4	464	+ 23

TINPLATE.

Employment showed an improvement on the previous month, due to an increased demand in the home markets; but was still much below the level of last year. There was still a difficulty in obtaining timber for boxes in which the plates are packed; whilst the prices of fuel and of raw material, e.g., bars, palm-oil, and coal, showed a further upward tendency. The number of mills working at the end of April, 1915, was 387, compared with 363 a month ago and 483 a year ago.

The pooling of orders by employers and the short shift system continued, so that not only was there practically no total unemployment, but a shortage of young men owing to enlistments was very generally reported.

Exports of Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets, and of Black Plates.

The following Table shows the exports of tinned plates and sheets, and of black plates, to the various countries:—

To	May, 1915.	April, 1915.	May, 1914.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1915, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United States ..	59	58	1,639	- 39	- 1,640
British East Indies ..	5,466	4,517	6,122	+ 949	- 656
Germany ..	..	..	2,649	..	- 2,649
France ..	5,318	5,248	2,844	+ 70	+ 2,474
Netherlands ..	2,638	4,418	5,176	- 1,780	- 2,538
Russia ..	36	97	501	- 61	- 865
Norway ..	1,208	6,342	2,666	- 5,134	- 1,478
Belgium ..	1,004	704	1,447	..	- 1,447
Portugal ..	234	1,093	..	+ 300	- 89
Italy ..	3,473	234	3,239	+ 205	+ 1,564
Roumania ..	215	3,633	..	- 2,545	- 1,711
China and Japan ..	2,151	4,696	3,862	- 2,545	- 1,711
Australia ..	2,527	3,832	2,140	- 1,305	+ 387
Canada ..	321	453	878	- 132	- 557
Argentine Republic ..	561	707	710	- 146	- 149
Other Countries ..	8,760	8,769	10,879	- 29	- 2,119
TOTAL ..	33,727	40,135	48,628	- 6,408	- 14,501
Black Plates.					
Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
TOTAL ..	4,191	5,222	8,467	- 1,031	- 4,276

The increase in the exports of tinplates shown in April was not maintained in May, the exports falling from 40,135 tons to 33,727 tons. The corresponding figure a year ago was 48,628 tons. The falling off as compared with April was chiefly due to the decline in exports to Norway, which were exceptionally large in that month. There were also declines in the exports to the Netherlands and to China and Japan, but a large increase in those to Italy.

As compared with May, 1914, exports to Germany and Belgium had, of course, ceased; those to the United States, Roumania, and Russia almost disappeared; and those to Norway, the Netherlands, Canada and Japan declined by about 50 per cent. There was an increase, however, in the exports to France, Italy, and Australia.

Tin.—Employment was generally quiet in Cornwall outside the Camborne and Redruth district, where some activity was reported.

Lead.—Employment continued good in North Wales and at Darley Dale (Matlock). In Weardale it was fair, but some decline was reported.

QUARRYING.

Slate.—Short time continued to be worked in many of the North Wales quarries, from which a large number of men had gone to the coal mines in North and South Wales or into the Army. Employment was also bad at Delabole (Cornwall).

Granite.—There was a further improvement in employment at Stoney Stanton, and elsewhere in Leicestershire employment remained good. It continued good in Cornwall. At Aberdeen it was only moderate.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in Wear-dale and in Cumberland. It was quiet, and about the same as a month ago, in the Buxton district. In the Plymouth district it was moderate.

Other Stone.—Chert quarrymen continued well employed at Bakewell. Employment also continued good in road-material (basalt) quarries in the Clee Hill district, and at whinstone quarries in Upper Weardale. At freestone quarries on the Tyne it continued fair, but only five days a week were worked by some men. Employment was reported as bad at grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district and in Forfarshire.

Sett-making &c.—With settmakers in Leicestershire there was a slight decline on a month ago, when employment was reported as good. In Scotland it continued fairly good on the whole, while it was still good in the Clee Hill district. In North Wales it was good at Pwllheli and slack at Nevin. With monumental masons at Aberdeen employment was dull.

China Clay.—Employment was still bad in the St. Austell district, though a further slight improvement was reported. In the Lee Moor district employment continued fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally. There was still some difficulty in obtaining supplies of raw materials, and a scarcity of men was again reported by some firms.

Returns received show that 271 furnaces were in blast at the end of May, 1915, compared with 272 at the end of the previous month, and 268 a year ago. Four furnaces were re-lit during the month (in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Monmouthshire, and Lanark). Five, in Monmouthshire, were blown out. The returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Number of Furnaces included in the Returns in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1915, on a	
	May, 1915.	April, 1915.	May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Cleveland ..	70	70	74	..	- 4
Cumberland & Lancs. ..	27	27	25	..	+ 2
S. and S.W. Yorks. ..	11	11	10	..	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham ..	33	32	34	+ 1	- 1
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton ..	28	28	26	..	+ 2
Staffs & Worcester ..	33	32	29	+ 1	+ 4
S. Wales & Monmouth ..	6	10	6	- 4	..
Other districts ..	4	4	5	..	- 1
ENGLAND & WALES -	212	214	209	- 2	+ 3
SCOTLAND ..	59	58	59	+ 1	..
TOTAL ..	271	272	268	- 1	+ 3

The imports of iron ore in May amounted to 541,418 tons, 44,899 tons less than in April, but 95,746 tons more than in May, 1914. Imports of pig-iron amounted to 15,932 tons, as compared with 12,991 tons in April and 28,456 tons in May, 1914.

The exports of pig-iron declined, and only amounted to 29,342 tons, as compared with 35,209 tons in April, and 95,037 tons in May, 1914.

STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

In this section of the trade employment generally continued quiet. The number of sheet mills in operation at the end of May was 77, compared with 78 a month ago, and 124 a year ago. It was reported that an advance in the price of spelter was hampering the trade.

The exports of galvanised sheets in May amounted to 31,527 tons, as compared with 54,397 tons in May, 1914. A fall of 11,944 tons in the exports to India accounted for more than half the total decline.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was good, and showed little change on the whole compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago there was a great improvement in the Sheffield and Rotherham district and in Scotland; the improvement was principally in foundries. Shortage and high prices of fuel and raw materials, difficulties of transport, and scarcity of labour were again reported very generally.

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.		Aggregate number of shifts worked.	
	Week ending 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Week ending 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a Month ago.
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	9,938	+ 1.0	59,440	+ 0.9
Crucible Furnaces	496	+ 0.4	2,802	+ 3.9
Bessemer Converters	1,451	+ 0.4	7,517	+ 0.4
Puddling Forges	7,200	- 4.2	36,867	- 6.1
Rolling Mills	50,292	+ 0.3	161,028	- 1.0
Forging and Pressing	5,072	- 0.3	26,718	+ 0.2
Founding	14,971	+ 3.6	97,551	+ 3.5
Other Departments	15,023	+ 1.7	66,983	+ 1.6
Mechanics, Labourers	18,688	+ 0.8	110,783	+ 0.2
TOTAL	103,131	+ 0.2	591,509	+ 0.3
DISTRICTS.				
Northumberland & Durham	11,636	- 0.8	65,216	- 2.7
Cleveland	8,774	+ 4.0	51,442	+ 3.3
Sheffield and Rotherham	24,865	+ 2.3	153,750	+ 2.3
Leeds, Bradford, &c.	3,171	- 2.4	22,769	- 6.0
Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire	8,540	+ 3.8	44,716	+ 2.9
Staffordshire	9,212	- 3.1	50,577	- 2.5
Other Midland Counties	5,022	+ 3.3	28,008	+ 2.7
Wales and Monmouth	11,908	+ 0.4	66,013	- 3.6
TOTAL, England & Wales	84,128	+ 1.1	482,481	+ 0.5
Scotland	19,003	- 0.6	109,028	- 0.7
TOTAL	103,131	+ 0.2	591,509	+ 0.3

Compared with a month ago employment showed some improvement in Cleveland, in the Sheffield and Rotherham district, in Cumberland and Lancashire, and in the "other Midland counties" district, but a decline elsewhere, especially in the Leeds and Bradford district. As regards departments, the improvement was most noticeable at crucible furnaces and at foundries; there was a decline at puddling forges.

Employment was moderate at Consett, fair at Gateshead, and good elsewhere throughout the Tyne and Wear district, with overtime worked in some cases. It continued good at iron and steel works in the Hartlepoons district and at Middlesbrough; it was reported as fairly good at Stockton and Thornaby. At Leeds it was good. At Sheffield, Stocksbridge, and Scunthorpe it continued very good; at Sheffield overtime continued to be worked at the week-ends. At Rotherham iron and steel workers were fully employed; with iron workers there was a decided improvement as compared with April. In Staffordshire it was very good at mills and forges. In Shropshire and in the Birmingham district it was good. In the Potteries and in North Wales it continued very good. Employment in South Wales was generally good. In Scotland overtime was worked in some departments to the extent of twelve hours a week.

Compared with a year ago employment on the whole showed a considerable improvement, especially in the Scotland and Sheffield and Rotherham districts.

Every district, except Cumberland and Lancashire, worked an increased number of shifts per man employed; in the Sheffield and Rotherham district the average rose to the high figure of 6.2 shifts per man per week. Hence, though most districts were suffering from a depletion of labour, the aggregate number of shifts worked showed an increase, or only a trifling decrease, in every district except the Leeds and Bradford district and Cumberland and Lancashire. This last district was the only one that was slacker in all respects than a year ago.

The improvement in May as compared with last year was greatest in foundries, in which the average number of shifts was more than 6.5 per man per week, and the aggregate number of shifts worked exceeded that of last year by nearly 40 per cent.

Taking all the districts and all the departments together, the number of workpeople showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. as compared with last year.

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig-iron) in May amounted to 101,345 tons, an increase of about 58 per cent. as compared with April, but less than two-thirds of the imports in May, 1914. The decrease as compared with a year ago was due chiefly to the cessation of imports of sheet bars and tinplate bars from Germany and Belgium, and to reduced imports of wrought-iron angles, bars, and sections, and of plates and sheets for ship, bridge, boiler, and other work. The increase as compared with April was largely due to greatly increased imports of steel billets from the United States.

The exports (British and Irish), excluding pig-iron, tinplates, and galvanised sheets, amounted to 168,629 tons, as compared with 228,295 tons a year ago. There was a decline in most articles; but exports of steel bars, angles, rods, etc., rose by about 90 per cent. owing to the large quantities sent to France.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

The demand for labour continued to be very urgent, and much overtime, night shifts, and Sunday work were again reported.

Trade Unions with 239,036 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, compared with 0.5 per cent. at the end of April and 2.7 per cent. at the end of May, 1915.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in these trades who were insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act was 763,731, of whom 0.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of May, 1915, as against 0.7 per cent. in April, 1915, and 3.1 per cent. in May, 1914. The particulars for the several insurance districts are given in the following Table:—

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1915, on a	
		28th May, 1915.	30th Apr., 1915.	29th May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	72,646	0.9	1.1	4.4	- 0.2	- 3.5
Northern Counties	76,723	0.3	0.3	2.2	- 0.1	- 1.9
North-Western	147,325	0.7	0.8	3.4	- 0.2	- 2.7
Yorkshire	26,978	0.4	0.6	2.8	- 0.1	- 2.4
East Midlands	54,402	0.4	0.5	2.5	- 0.1	- 2.1
West Midlands	82,360	0.4	0.6	3.2	- 0.2	- 2.8
Eastern and S.E. Counties	47,465	0.3	0.5	2.9	- 0.2	- 2.6
South-Western	33,930	0.5	0.7	3.4	- 0.2	- 2.9
Wales	16,674	0.4	1.1	3.0	- 0.7	- 2.6
Scotland	115,251	0.3	0.5	2.4	- 0.2	- 2.1
Ireland	19,977	2.5	3.2	4.6	+ 0.7	- 2.1
UNITED KINGDOM	763,731	0.5	0.7	3.1	- 0.2	- 2.6

The only important exception to the general state of employment as described above was the textile machinery branch, in some departments of which short time continued to be worked, especially at Oldham and at Nottingham. Some short time was also worked in the cycle industry at Nottingham. The improvement in the textile machinery trade at Leeds reported last month was not maintained, so far as regards the tool-

making branch; but in the general engineering trades employment at this centre was very good. Employment with iron-moulders was reported as very slack at Belfast and as having declined at Barrow and at Blackburn.

The imports of machinery in May were valued at £801,889, as compared with £877,806 in April, and £737,423 in May, 1914. The increase on a year ago was due chiefly to a rise from £38,732 to £159,416 in the value of machine tools imported.

The exports fell from £3,386,886 a year ago to £1,830,300. Railway locomotives fell from £329,566 to £93,755; agricultural machinery from £388,850 to £61,148; and textile machinery from £677,255 to £282,278.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

The feature of shipbuilding continues to be the steadily decreasing amount of mercantile work done and the utilisation of practically all the resources of the yards for Admiralty work, at which unlimited overtime was worked during May in many instances. Joiners were, however, rather slack, as Admiralty work generally offers this class of men less employment than merchant vessels.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and of shipwrights, with 70,433 members, reported 0.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, compared with 0.5* per cent. a month ago and 3.9 per cent. a year ago.

The percentage unemployed among the 247,745 workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act at the end of May was 0.7, compared with 0.9 a month ago and 4.0 a year ago.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1915, compared with a	
		28th May, 1915.	30th April, 1915.	29th May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	10,333	1.1	1.3	10.3	- 0.2	- 9.2
Northern Counties	55,221	0.3	0.3	2.0	- 0.3	- 1.7
North-Western	41,036	0.4	0.7	5.2	- 0.3	- 4.8
Yorkshire	6,116	0.5	0.4	2.8	+ 0.1	- 2.3
West Midlands	1,780	2.1	2.3	2.6	- 0.2	- 0.6
East Midlands	358	0.3	0.7	2.5	- 0.4	- 2.2
Eastern & S.E. Counties	7,876	0.4	0.7	2.8	- 0.3	- 2.4
South-Western	23,747	0.6	1.4	10.0	- 0.8	- 9.4
Wales	11,057	1.5	2.0	8.3	- 0.5	- 6.8
Scotland	70,346	0.3	0.5	2.2	- 0.2	- 1.9
Ireland	19,875	3.4	4.0	3.7	- 0.6	- 0.3
UNITED KINGDOM	247,745	0.7	0.9	4.0	- 0.2	- 3.3

The principal exceptions to the general state of employment were as follows:—Iron and steel shipbuilders on repair work at the Hartlepoons reported employment as slack. At Hull iron and steel shipbuilders generally were only moderately well employed.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

THESE trades continued very active during May, and much overtime was worked on Government orders in certain branches. Trade Unions with 33,391 members (excluding those serving with H.M. Forces) reported only 0.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, the same percentage as in April. The corresponding figure for May, 1914, was 1.2 per cent.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—With brassworkers employment continued very good generally; about 50 per cent. of the workpeople were on overtime. At Wolverhampton employment continued moderate, and at Sheffield fair. With bedstead makers at Birmingham employment continued very fair, and was better than a year ago.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails &c.—With makers of bolts, rivets, spikes and nails employment continued good at Black Heath and Halesowen; at Darlaston it was very good on Government work and fairly good on other work. At

* Revised figure.

Birmingham shoe rivet and wire nail makers were fully employed, but with cut nail and nut and bolt makers employment was only fair. At Smethwick it was moderate. On the Tyne it continued good with nut and bolt makers, and was better than a year ago.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups &c.—The cutlery trades continued busy in most branches, and some overtime was worked. With machine file forgers employment was fair; with hand file cutters it was bad, but machine file cutters were fully employed. Woolshear makers continued to work short time. At Birmingham the edge tool trade was moderate on private work; at Wednesbury it was good on Government work, and better than a year ago. At Wolverhampton employment with filesmiths was affected by a dispute. At Walsall employment with bit and stirrup and saddlery and harness furniture makers was described as fair or fairly good, but showed a slight decline on a month ago. At Redditch needle makers were busy; there was some improvement in the fishing tackle trade, but with makers of fish hooks employment continued quiet.

Tubes.—At Wednesbury employment continued good. At Birmingham makers of brass and copper tubes continued very busy. There was a shortage of labourers in all districts owing to recruiting.

Chains, Anchors, Springs &c.—Employment continued very good with chain makers at Cradley, and was better than a year ago. It was fair with chain makers on the Wear, but not so good as in April. Motor chain makers continued well employed at Walsall. With anchor smiths it continued good on the Tyne, and was very good, and better than in April, at Cradley. Anvil and vice makers at Dudley reported short time as still being worked. Makers of springs and small machine parts reported employment as very good at West Bromwich and at Redditch. Spring makers at Sheffield reported an improvement.

Sheet Metal Workers.—At the principal centres employment continued very good, and overtime was still being worked. At Warrington and at Aberdeen employment was fair; at Grimsby it was only moderate, and worse than last year. It was very poor with tinplate workers at Nottingham, and quiet at Exeter. Iron-plate workers in the Lye district and at Birmingham, Bilston, Dudley, and Wolverhampton continued well employed.

Wire.—Employment continued fairly good generally. Wire drawers reported an improvement at Manchester and at Sheffield; at Warrington there was a decline on a year ago, short time being worked. With trap makers at Wolverhampton employment was quiet.

Locks, Hollow-ware &c.—In the lock and latch trade of Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment was good, better than a month ago, but not up to the level of a year ago. The galvanised hollow-ware trade continued very good. Tin and enamelled hollow-ware makers at Wolverhampton continued well employed, but cast-iron hollow-ware makers averaged only four days a week. At West Bromwich employment was moderate. Makers of builders' ironmongery at Wolverhampton reported employment as moderate, hurdle and fence makers as good.

Stoves, Grates &c.—Employment was generally good in Scotland, but quiet in England. At Falkirk employment continued good, but showed a declining tendency. At Sheffield and Rotherham short time was still being worked, but a slight improvement was reported at Sheffield. At Leeds short time was still being worked. With stove fitters on the lower reaches of the Tyne, however, employment was good. It was also good at Luton and Leicester, and fair at Thornaby and Ipswich.

Jewellery, Plated Ware &c.—In Birmingham jewellers reported employment as good, owing to many of the operatives having left the trade; silversmiths and electro-platers reported an improvement, but some short time was still worked. In London and at Sheffield the depression in the gold and silver trades continued, and much short time was worked.

COTTON TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the cotton trade showed a further slight improvement since April. As compared with July, 1914, the average weekly earnings of the operatives employed have increased by 1s. 3d. per head.

The shortage of piecers and other male labour affected employment generally, especially in the Oldham, Ashton and Bolton districts. Firms employing about 12 per cent. of the total number of operatives covered by the returns definitely reported a scarcity of workers, principally men and boys.

Except in a few cases the ordinary home trade, apart from Government contracts, was reported as slack. The foreign trade, especially with China, was said to be poor.

Returns from firms employing 103,995 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 5.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Preparing	14,149	- 0.3	- 4.3	13,538	+ 0.1	- 2.5		
Spinning	22,472	- 0.4	- 8.3	23,494	+ 1.1	- 5.0		
Weaving	43,231	- 0.0	- 3.4	48,338	+ 2.2	- 0.6		
Other	8,831	- 1.5	- 3.9	10,692	+ 3.2	+ 0.6		
Not specified	10,262	- 1.4	- 13.1	10,988	- 1.1	- 12.2		
TOTAL	103,995	- 0.2	- 5.7	107,660	+ 1.5	- 3.0		
DISTRICTS.								
Ashton	6,533	- 0.1	- 3.6	6,893	+ 0.8	- 2.0		
Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	5,737	- 1.1	- 3.2	6,407	- 1.7	- 1.6		
Oldham	12,988	- 1.2	- 4.9	14,869	+ 0.7	- 0.7		
Bolton and Leigh	13,750	- 1.0	- 5.7	13,426	+ 0.9	- 5.7		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsten and Todmorden	8,954	+ 0.7	- 4.9	8,386	+ 0.3	- 5.7		
Manchester	9,902	- 0.4	- 3.6	8,927	+ 1.3	+ 2.3		
Preston and Chorley	8,922	+ 0.1	- 10.5	8,931	+ 5.8	- 9.3		
Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	12,990	- 0.1	- 4.4	14,253	+ 1.9	- 3.4		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	11,203	+ 0.7	- 8.4	13,522	- 1.4	- 5.7		
Other Lancashire Towns	3,976	+ 0.4	- 11.9	3,464	+ 9.0	- 6.5		
Yorkshire Towns	4,054	+ 0.6	- 7.7	4,221	+ 3.5	+ 2.2		
Other Districts	5,883	+ 1.3	- 0.2	5,361	+ 4.9	+ 9.9		
TOTAL	103,995	- 0.2	- 5.7	107,660	+ 1.5	- 3.0		

In the Oldham district employment both in the spinning and in the weaving departments continued good, but was hampered by a shortage of labour, chiefly of piecers; firms employing nearly 30 per cent. of the operatives in this district reported a scarcity of workers.

In the Bolton district employment was slack with weavers and a good deal of short time was worked in the spinning and preparing branches, largely owing to a shortage of men and boys. In the Manchester district employment continued fair.

At Blackburn and Darwen employment with spinners continued fair. With weavers in the Blackburn, Darwen and Preston districts employment was slack; about 40 per cent. of the looms in these districts were standing idle at the end of the month; there was, however, an improvement, especially in the Preston district, compared with a month ago. In the Burnley district employment continued very slack.

PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The average prices during the month, both of American and Egyptian cottons, showed a fall compared with those for April; American cotton declined by 0.42d., and Egyptian by 0.46d. per lb. Compared with May, 1914, the decreases were more considerable, American cotton being 2.16d., and Egyptian 1.46d. per lb. less.

The following Table shows the average prices of cotton at Liverpool in May, 1915, compared with those in April, 1915, and May, 1914:—

MIDDLING AMERICAN : Monthly average of Daily Quotations Highest price on any one day .. Lowest " " " " .. GOOD FAIR EGYPTIAN : Monthly average of Daily Quotations Highest price on any one day .. Lowest " " " " ..	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1915, on a		
	May, 1915.		Year ago.
	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	
5.30	- 0.42	- 2.16	
5.65	- 0.15	- 2.10	
5.14	- 0.38	- 2.11	
7.48	- 0.46	- 1.46	
7.85	- 0.20	- 1.25	
7.25	- 0.50	- 1.55	

COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

The receipts of cotton at inland towns during May fell by nearly 10 per cent. as compared with April, and by over 6 per cent. as compared with May, 1914. The reduction on the previous month was due chiefly to a fall of nearly 10 per cent. in the receipts of American cotton. Those from all other sources, however, declined also. As compared with May, 1914, receipts of all kinds of cotton, except American, declined, especially Brazilian; but receipts of American cotton, though showing a decline from the exceptional figure of a month ago, were still 1.4 per cent. above those a year ago.

Description of Cotton.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1915, on a					
	May, 1915.		Apr., 1915.		May, 1914.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
American	Bales.	248,613	275,123	245,096	- 26,510	+ 3,517
Brazilian	5,412	7,204	20,516	- 1,792	- 15,104	
East Indian	8,599	8,804	12,829	- 205	- 4,220	
Egyptian	21,958	24,664	24,388	- 2,705	- 2,430	
Miscellaneous	9,257	9,319	11,886	- 62	- 2,629	
TOTAL	293,839	325,114	314,715	- 31,275	- 20,876	

EXPORTS OF COTTON MANUFACTURES.

The exports of cotton yarns were maintained at very nearly the same level as in April, and amounted to over 19 million lb., as compared with 20 million lb. in May, 1914. The cessation of exports to Germany and Belgium, and a great decline in those to Turkey, were counterbalanced by an enormous increase in those to France, and considerable increases in those to several other countries. The exports of piece goods amounted to 472½ million yards, an increase of about 25 per cent. on April, but 100 million yards, or 17 per cent., less than in May, 1914. Exports to enemy countries ceased (with the exception of a very small quantity to Turkey), and those to almost all other countries declined, those to South America declining by 20 million yards, and those to China by 19 million yards; but those to France showed a great increase. The exports of cotton sewing thread was 2,136,000 lb., exceeding those of a year ago by nearly 600,000 lb.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued brisk during May on war contracts. Owing to arrears, the ordinary home trade was also busy, and altogether employment was very much better than a year ago, especially in the spinning branch. As compared with July, the average earnings per head of those employed have increased by 4s. per week; but it should be noted that this increase includes overtime and a war bonus.

Firms employing 36 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns reported a shortage of labour. The demand was chiefly for men, but a scarcity of both men and women was reported by firms employing 7 per cent. (included in the above 36 per cent.) of the total number of operatives.

Returns from firms employing 25,047 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 19.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 22 per

cent. of the operatives covered by the returns have worked overtime during each of the last three months:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*		
Wool Sorting	568	+ 0.5	- 6.7	661	+ 0.5	+ 7.3		
Spinning	5,968	- 1.0	+ 13.0	7,074	+ 0.4	+ 41.5		
Weaving	10,137	- 0.2	+ 0.9	10,452	+ 1.8	+ 16.4		
Other Departments	6,630	+ 1.1	- 7.1	8,319	+ 4.6	+ 11.5		
Not specified	1,744	- 0.9	- 0.8	1,971	+ 1.4	+ 7.4		
TOTAL	25,047	- 0.1	+ 0.9	28,477	+ 2.2	+ 19.2		
DISTRICTS.								
Huddersfield District	3,975	- 0.3	+ 9.6	5,336	+ 0.6	+ 31.3		
Leeds District	3,407	+ 0.8	+ 4.1	4,067	+ 3.0	+ 38.8		
Dewsbury & Batley District	2,656	- 0.1	+ 3.8	3,169	+ 1.0	+ 21.8		
Other Parts of West Riding	2,951	+ 0.6	+ 6.8	3,342	- 0.4	+ 19.1		
TOTAL, WEST RIDING	12,969	+ 0.2	+ 6.3	15,914	+ 1.1	+ 28.3		
Scotland	5,982	- 0.3	- 15.0	6,374	+ 4.7	- 5.1		
Other Districts	6,096	- 0.6	+ 9.2	6,189	+ 2.6	+ 29.7		
TOTAL	25,047	- 0.1	+ 0.9	28,477	+ 2.2	+ 19.2		

In the Huddersfield and heavy woollen districts the operatives were kept well employed, mainly on contracts for the British and French Governments; and employment was very much better than a year ago. In the Huddersfield district, in addition to much nightwork, about 26 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during the month, and about 23 per cent. were similarly affected in the Dewsbury and Batley district. In the Leeds district the demand for khaki was not quite so great as hitherto, but this falling off was more than compensated for by a strong demand for ordinary materials; about 30 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns in this district worked overtime.

In Scotland employment was good and better than a month ago. The large decline in numbers as compared with May, 1914, is chiefly due to enlistments.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment was good both in the ordinary home trade and on Government contracts. The average weekly earnings per head, including a war bonus in certain districts, of those employed were 1s. 9d. greater than in July last.

A shortage of labour was reported by firms employing 30 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns.

Returns from firms employing 34,845 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 10 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns worked overtime during May, as compared with 14 per cent. during April:—

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.*		
Wool Sorting & Combing	4,741	- 1.9	- 7.6	5,888	- 0.7	+ 1.3		
Spinning	17,336	- 0.5	- 2.1	11,806		+ 7.9		
Weaving	7,938	- 0.3	- 0.3	8,165	+ 0.8	+ 5.9		
Other Departments	3,293		- 8.1	3,950	- 0.2	+ 3.2		
Not specified	1,537	+ 0.1	+ 2.9	1,530	- 0.2	+ 9.6		
TOTAL	34,845	- 0.6	- 2.9	31,139	+ 0.1	+ 5.5		
DISTRICTS.								
Bradford District	18,497	- 0.6	- 3.0	16,774	- 0.2	+ 4.4		
Keighley District	6,133	- 0.7	- 0.9	5,573	+ 0.9	+ 8.5		
Halifax District	2,697	+ 0.4	+ 2.5	2,085	- 0.1	+ 8.9		
Huddersfield District	3,179	+ 1.1	- 4.6	3,306	- 0.5	+ 8.2		
Other Parts of West Riding	1,992	- 3.4	- 5.9	1,539	- 1.8	+ 6.2		
TOTAL, WEST RIDING	32,498	- 0.6	- 2.5	29,277	- 0.1	+ 6.0		
Other Districts	2,347	- 0.7	- 7.7	1,862	- 2.3	- 0.6		
TOTAL	34,845	- 0.6	- 2.9	31,139	+ 0.1	+ 5.5		

* The comparison of wages with a year ago is affected by the war bonuses granted in April, 1915.

In the Bradford district employment continued good with weavers, spinners and woolcombers, but a slight falling off was reported in the wool-sorting branch; in addition to nightwork, about 7 per cent. of the operatives

worked overtime during May, as compared with 11 per cent. in April. At Keighley overtime was worked by 14 per cent. of the operatives; as compared with a year ago there was an improvement on the whole, but a decline in the woolcombing department. In the Halifax and Huddersfield districts there was little change compared with a month ago, but less overtime was reported in the latter district owing to the completion of Government contracts.

PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

The average price of wool (Lincoln hogs) at Bradford during May was the same as in April. The average price of 40's crossbred tops declined ¼d. per lb., but in the case of 60's super Botany tops there was an increase of 2½d. per lb., and the average for May was over 32 per cent. higher than at the beginning of the year.

AVERAGE PRICES:	May, 1915.			April, 1915.			May, 1914.		
	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs	18	18	12½	18	18	12½	18	18	12½
40's Crossbred tops	25½	25½	16½	25½	25½	16½	25½	25½	16½
60's Super Botany tops	35	35	31½	32½	32½	31½	35	35	31½
COURSE OF PRICES:									
Lincoln Hogs	18	18	12½	18	18	12½	18	18	12½
40's Crossbred tops	25, 25½	26, 25	16½	25, 25½	26, 25	16½	25, 25½	26, 25	16½
60's Super Botany tops	33, 37	32, 33	31½	33, 37	32, 33	31½	33, 37	32, 33	31½

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The imports of wool in May amounted to 104½ million lb., or more than double the amount imported in May, 1914. Re-exports fell from 36½ million lb. a year ago to 21½ million lb.; and the exports of British and Irish wool from over 4 million to less than 2 million lb. Thus, the total stock of wool available for consumption exceeded that of a year ago by 70½ million lb. The imports of woollen yarns, which were nearly 2½ million lb. a year ago, sank to only 101,000 lb. The exports (British and Irish) of tops and of woollen and worsted yarns fell from 9,654,000 lb. a year ago to 2,769,000 lb. Exports of woollen tissues were 7,394,000 yards, as compared with 6,853,000 yards in May, 1914. Exports to what are generally the largest consumers (particularly Japan) declined or ceased entirely, but those to France rose from 291,000 yards to 4,671,000 yards, which more than counterbalanced the decreases. Exports of worsted tissues were 4,226,000 yards, as compared with 4,958,000 yards a year ago.

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed little change compared with a month ago, and was considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 40,621 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 10.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.7 per cent. in the wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Preparing	5,237	- 2.9	- 7.4	3,230	+ 0.7	- 10.6		
Spinning	9,923	- 2.9	- 7.4	5,179	- 2.5	- 11.8		
Weaving	13,250	- 5.0	- 14.1	8,474	- 4.2	- 19.8		
Other	6,625	+ 0.3	- 5.2	5,756	+ 2.5	- 1.2		
Not specified	5,586	- 0.3	- 8.8	3,209	+ 4.7	- 13.6		
TOTAL	40,621	- 2.8	- 10.1	25,847	- 0.8	- 12.7		
DISTRICTS.								
Belfast	16,651							

At Belfast employment was reported as moderate with flax roughers, spinners and dressers, and was on the whole worse than a year ago. In accordance with the arrangements made in April, short time continued to be worked generally in both spinning and weaving establishments. In other parts of Ireland employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

At Dunfermline employment was fairly good during May, but there was a decline in the home trade at the end of the month. At Brechin employment continued good.

The imports of flax and tow increased by about 60 per cent. as compared with April, owing to a recovery in imports from Russia, and reached nearly the same level as in March. The imports of flax were still, however, only about 46 per cent. of those in May last year; those of tow were 45 per cent. greater than last year. The imports of linen yarn fell from over two million lb. to 44,800 lb.

The exports of linen yarn fell from 1,329,000 lb. to 597,800 lb., owing to the cessation of exports to Germany and Belgium. The recovery in exports of linen piece goods noted in April was fairly well maintained in May, the exports amounting to 12,248,900 yards, or about 91 per cent. of those a year ago.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was rather better than a month ago. On Government orders overtime continued to be worked in all districts.

Returns from firms employing 13,186 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with April. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 4.7 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 14.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. This latter increase is due to a general increase in rates of wages and to a war bonus which have been granted since May last year.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.
Preparing	2,934	+ 1.6	- 7.6	2,763	- 0.9	+12.5
Spinning	3,606	+ 0.6	- 3.8	3,203	+ 2.3	+ 16.2
Weaving	4,771	+ 0.3	- 4.0	4,815	+ 1.9	+15.5
Other	1,875	- 1.7	- 3.1	2,411	+ 2.3	+13.3
TOTAL	13,186	+ 0.4	- 4.7	13,192	+ 1.5	+14.6

In the Dundee district, in which are employed over 90 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, employment continued very good. In order to meet the shortage of labour some women from the fishery districts are being employed in the jute works. At Arbroath, Kirkealdy and Forfar the workers were also very busy.

There was a further decline in the imports of jute, as compared with the previous month; they were still, however, over 70 per cent. in excess of the imports in May, 1914, and slightly in excess of the imports in May, 1913. The increase in the imports of jute manufactures noted in April was not maintained in May. The imports in May were valued at £209,423, as compared with £403,368 in April, and with £225,097 in May, 1914.

The high figure (3,799,500 lb.) reached in April by exports of jute yarn was not maintained, and the exports in May fell to 2,153,600 lb., or only about 50 per cent. of the exports in May, 1914. Exports of jute piece goods were about equal to those in April, but only about 64 per cent. of those a year ago, chiefly owing to decreased exports to the United States and Canada.

LACE TRADE.

THERE was a further improvement in the lace trade during May. Employment was not so good as a year ago, but the average earnings of those employed were only 6d. less per week than in July, 1914.

Return from firms employing 7,903 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 16.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.
Levers	1,744	- 0.2	- 27.8	1,946	+ 4.8	- 17.5
Curtain	2,448	- 0.6	- 14.0	2,702	+ 0.1	- 12.7
Plain Net	2,223	+ 1.6	- 16.1	2,581	+ 2.3	- 14.7
Others	888	- 1.8	+ 7.1	704	+ 1.3	+ 4.0
TOTAL	7,903	+ 0.1	- 16.4	7,933	+ 2.1	- 13.4
DISTRICTS.						
Nottingham City	3,493	+ 0.5	- 11.3	3,241	+ 2.7	- 8.6
Long Eaton and other out-lying districts	845	- 2.5	- 25.8	1,092	+ 4.1	- 20.3
Other English Districts	2,283	+ 1.8	- 20.2	2,133	+ 3.3	- 13.8
S. o. land	1,282	- 1.8	- 15.6	1,412	- 2.4	- 17.1
TOTAL	7,903	+ 0.1	- 16.4	7,933	+ 2.1	- 13.4

At Nottingham there was a further improvement since April; much short time, however, was still reported in all the principal branches, the only exception being the embroidery branch, which was fairly well employed. At Long Eaton employment, though still bad, was better than a month ago. In other parts of England employment on the whole was only moderate, and the plain net branch showed a decline as compared with a year ago. In Scotland employment was fairly good generally.

The imports of cotton lace were valued at £62,525 in May, as compared with £52,551 in April, and £154,702 in May, 1914. The exports of cotton lace were valued at £204,490, as compared with £205,222 in April, and £297,735 in May, 1914.

HOSIERY TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good, and was better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. Firms employing about 25 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns reported a scarcity of workpeople of both sexes.

Returns from firms employing 23,448 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. This increase in wages was to some extent due to the payment of war bonuses.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.
Leicester	12,627	+ 0.6	+ 3.9	12,393	+ 5.0	+ 16.6
Leicester Country District	2,438	- 0.1	+ 3.0	2,136	+ 7.5	+ 4.3
Notts and Derbyshire	5,280	+ 0.3	+ 1.9	4,266	+ 3.2	+ 1.9
Scotland	2,809	- 0.6	+ 7.0	2,406	- 0.1	+ 19.0
Other Districts	294	+ 0.7	+ 0.3	209	+ 2.5	+ 5.6
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	23,448	+ 0.3	+ 3.6	21,509	+ 4.3	+ 12.1

At Leicester, Hinckley and Loughborough employment continued very good, and was much better than in May, 1914, owing to Government work; overtime was worked by about 16 per cent. of the workpeople. Pro-

* Comparison affected by war bonuses.

duction was hampered by insufficient supplies of needles, dyeing materials and certain classes of yarn. A general shortage of labour also was reported, especially of young boy and girl helpers. Firms employing 34 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns in the Leicester district complained of a scarcity.

In the Nottingham district and in Derbyshire employment with power-frame workers continued good in the coarse branch and fair in the fine branch of the trade. About 20 per cent. of the operatives in the Nottingham district were on short time to the extent of one to two days per week, whilst about 15 per cent. worked 5 to 10 hours overtime per week.

Employment with hand-frame workers in the country districts of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, who are mainly engaged on fine hosiery work, was bad, only about half-time being worked during May.

In Scotland employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago.

SILK TRADE.

DURING May employment in this trade was fairly good; there was a decline in numbers employed as compared with a year ago, but the average earnings were about 1s. per week higher than in May, 1914.

The ordinary home trade was normal, but was handicapped by a shortage of male labour. The foreign and colonial trade continues to be adversely affected by the war.

Returns from firms employing 6,780 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 11.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.
Throwing	664	+ 2.5	- 16.1	373	+ 6.0	- 3.1
Spinning	1,709	- 0.4	- 17.9	1,482	+ 3.2	- 16.9
Weaving	3,031	- 4.8	- 7.8	2,359	+ 4.6	+ 1.3
Other	836	+ 1.2	- 13.9	523	+ 0.8	- 17.2
Not specified	790	- 5.3	- 3.1	706	+ 0.9	+ 3.4
TOTAL	6,780	- 2.6	- 11.9	5,422	+ 3.4	- 6.3
DISTRICTS.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	1,806	- 1.5	- 13.1	1,637	+ 1.3	- 12.7
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	946	+ 2.3	- 14.5	734	+ 5.3	- 11.5
Eastern Counties	2,481	- 1.5	- 3.8	1,841	+ 1.2	+ 2.6
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,547	- 8.1	- 20.1	1,210	+ 9.0	- 6.1
TOTAL	6,780	- 2.6	- 11.9	5,422	+ 3.4	- 6.3

At Macclesfield employment was good in all the principal branches, except with hand-loom weavers in factories, with whom employment was slack and not so good as a year ago. At Leek employment in all branches continued good and was better than a year ago; at Congleton it was fair generally. Practically no short time was reported at any of the above places. In the West Riding operatives were said to be fairly well employed. In the Eastern counties employment was reported as fair at Norwich, good at Halstead, and slack at Braintree and Great Yarmouth. At Coventry employment with artificial silk workers was reported as fairly good; with ribbon workers it continued good.

The imports of raw silk and of spun silk yarn increased greatly as compared with a year ago; but those of thrown silk declined. The imports of silk manufactures were valued at £1,269,571, as compared with £1,445,808 a year ago.

The exports of silk and silk manufactures declined, and were valued at £103,777, as compared with £114,652 in April, and £146,450 in May, 1914.

CARPET TRADE.

THERE was a further slight improvement in this trade during May, and the average earnings of those employed were 8d. per week more than in May, 1914.

Firms employing 15 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns reported a shortage of labour, chiefly of men and boys.

Returns from firms employing 7,274 workpeople and paying £6,765 in wages in the week ended 22nd May, showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 11.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Very little short time was reported during the month, only about 4 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns being thus affected.

In the Kidderminster district, employment was reported as moderate, but better than a month ago, although not so good as a year ago; some of the operatives were engaged on blanket contracts, etc. In the West Riding employment in the regular carpet trade continued quiet, but a certain amount of the machinery was still being utilised for other Government work. In Scotland employment continued good.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades showed a further slight improvement. The numbers employed showed a marked decline compared with a year ago, mainly owing to enlistments, but the average weekly wages showed an increase of 2s. 6d. per head. This increase, it should be noted, includes a war bonus paid since April by a large number of firms.

Apart from Government contracts, the home trade was, with some exceptions, fair, but hampered by the shortage of labour.

Returns from firms employing 25,515 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 10.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

TRADES:	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Per cent.
Bleaching	2,952	- 2.2	- 11.9	3,374	+ 1.4	- 2.8
Printing	699	+ 2.5	- 17.7	994	+ 1.7	- 6.3
Dyeing	12,746	+ 2.9	- 9.3	20,180	+ 3.6	- 2.5
Trimming, Finishing and other Departments	8,284	- 0.5	- 11.1	9,839	+ 1.1	- 2.5
Not specified	854	+ 2.9	- 9.6	1,407	+ 10.7	+ 18.5
TOTAL	25,515	+ 1.2	- 10.5	35,794	+ 3.0	- 1.8
DISTRICTS:						
Yorkshire	12,037	+ 2.5	- 8.5	19,778	+ 5.1	+ 0.8
Lancashire	7,518	+ 1.0	- 11.9	9,775	+ 1.7	- 2.5
Scotland	2,329	- 4.6	- 16.3	2,301	- 3.1	- 16.1
Ireland	777	- 1.8	- 14.8	570	+ 3.1	- 14.3
Other Districts	2,854	+ 1.8	- 8.6	3,370	- 0.7	- 5.4
TOTAL	25,515	+ 1.2	- 10.5	35,794	+ 3.0	- 1.8

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers continued fair. At Basford employment was good in the hosiery section, and some overtime was reported; in the lace section the operatives were only working half time.

Printing.—The machine calico printers in England reported employment as quiet and much worse than a year ago; about 75 per cent. of the operatives were on short time; with engravers employment was moderate. In Scotland employment was bad with machine printers, fair with block printers, and slack with engravers.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers continued good, and overtime was worked by

* Comparison affected by war bonuses.

about three-fifths of the trade union members during May. There was a further improvement with cotton dyers since April, but employment was not so good as a year ago. With silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek employment was good, at Congleton it was fair. With hosiery dyers at Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell employment was reported as good.

Trimming, Finishing &c.—At Leicester employment with hosiery trimmers, &c., was fairly good and better than a month ago, but was adversely affected by the scourers' dispute at the beginning of the month. At Hinckley the operatives were fairly well employed; at Loughborough employment was good in the heavy goods department, but less regular in other branches than a month ago. At Basford there was an improvement, and some overtime was recorded.

HAT TRADE.

DURING May employment in the silk hat trade in London and in the provincial centres was quiet, and worse than a year ago; short time was universal.

In the felt hat trade employment on the whole was slack, and showed little change compared with a month ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 2.8, compared with 2.2 a month ago, and 3.4 a year ago.

At Denton employment was bad, about 75 per cent. of the operatives being on short time. At Stockport it was better than a month ago, but half the operatives were still working reduced hours. In Warwickshire there was an improvement compared with April, and employment was said to be fairly good.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

FULL pressure on Government contracts was maintained during the month; and employment in the ordinary trade also was good. There was a marked improvement compared with a year ago, and the average weekly earnings (including overtime) per head of those employed were 3s. 5d. more than in July, 1914.

Returns from firms employing 64,760 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 11.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. This increase is due largely to war bonuses now being paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.*	Month ago.	Year ago.*
ENGLAND & WALES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	2,391	- 1.5	- 9.4	3,228	+ 1.8	+ 3.8
Leicester	12,121	- 1.3	- 0.5	16,249	+ 1.3	+ 9.4
Leicester Country District	3,033	+ 0.5	- 2.7	3,513	+ 5.4	+ 9.5
Northampton	9,244	- 1.8	- 5.5	11,415	- 0.9	+ 11.7
Northampton Country District	9,730	- 1.4	- 3.3	12,109	+ 0.8	+ 22.6
Kettering	4,474	- 0.9	+ 1.2	5,707	+ 1.3	+ 21.0
Stafford & District	2,715	- 0.8	- 5.1	3,224	+ 0.4	- 0.8
Norwich & District	4,194	- 1.9	- 11.0	4,276	+ 4.7	- 2.4
Bristol & District	1,826	+ 0.7	+ 8.3	1,793	+ 7.0	+ 32.6
Kingswood	2,074	+ 0.1	+ 10.8	2,466	+ 5.8	+ 28.3
Leeds & District	2,493	- 0.5	+ 3.3	2,893	+ 1.9	+ 24.8
Manchester & District	3,194	+ 0.9	+ 2.9	3,522	+ 1.8	+ 7.7
Birmingham & District	947	- 1.8	- 5.8	930	+ 4.8	+ 6.5
Other parts of England and Wales	3,003	- 3.2	- 8.3	3,232	+ 4.0	+ 2.7
ENGLAND & WALES	61,244	- 1.2	- 2.7	74,557	+ 1.7	+ 12.1
SCOTLAND	3,199	- 2.5	- 6.9	3,743	- 2.5	+ 7.7
IRELAND	317	+ 3.3	- 13.4	243	+ 2.1	+ 8.0
UNITED KINGDOM	64,760	- 1.2	- 3.0	78,543	+ 1.5	+ 11.8

All available labour was fully employed in all the principal districts; and, in addition, much overtime was reported.

Owing to enlistments, there was a marked shortage of labour, and skilled clickers, &c., were in great demand. At Leicester the scarcity of men in the lasting and

* Comparison is affected by war bonuses.

finishing sections was still causing stoppages among the women closing machinists.

It was reported that efforts were being made in Northamptonshire to introduce female labour to work purely automatic machines hitherto worked by men.

The imports of boots and shoes in May amounted to 29,525 dozen pairs, as compared with 39,953 dozen pairs a year ago. The exports amounted to 98,095 dozen pairs, as compared with 103,961 dozen pairs in April, and 121,052 dozen pairs a year ago. The decline compared with April was due to a falling off in exports to France.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good, and was much better than a year ago, the demand for labour being in excess of the supply.

Trade Unions with a membership of 4,023 reported 0.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 0.7 per cent. a month ago and 5.0 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Leather Dressers &c.—Employment with tanners and curriers continued very good on Government orders, much overtime being worked. With skinner and finishers of light leather employment was fairly good.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was very good, with much overtime on Government work; but short time was reported by makers of riding saddles at Walsall.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Workpeople ordinarily employed in the making of purses, handbags, portmanteaux, &c., at most centres were fully employed upon Government work.

The imports of raw hides during May amounted to 140,902 cwts., as compared with 148,973 cwts. a month ago, and 117,374 a year ago. Imports from Russia, Germany, and Belgium had ceased, but this was more than made up for by increased imports from other countries, especially from India, the Argentine and Uruguay, and Australia. The imports of undressed leather amounted to 73,296 cwts., as compared with 75,735 cwts. a year ago; and those of dressed leather to 20,179 cwts., as compared with 19,366 cwts. a year ago. The falling off as compared with April (dressed and undressed leather together) was 22,167 cwts., due chiefly to reduced imports from the United States.

TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment during May showed a seasonal improvement, but was slack in the civilian trade and much below the level of a year ago. The military trade was good.

Returns from firms paying £12,681 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 22nd May showed an increase of 17.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with April, but a decrease of 21.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast employment was reported as good.

READY-MADE AND WHOLESALE BESPOKE.

Great activity still prevailed in all the principal centres, and employment showed a great improvement as compared with May, 1914, especially in London, Manchester and Glasgow.

Returns from firms employing 39,843 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 18.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 29.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 44 per cent. of the operatives were reported to be working more than the normal hours during May.

The total amount of wages paid to outworkers by the above firms showed a decrease of about 28 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 60 per cent. compared with May, 1914.

District.	Indoor Workpeople.					
	Number.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Leeds	10,496	+ 1.6	+ 3.8	9,790	+ 3.3	+ 5.2
Manchester	3,539	+ 3.2	+ 33.0	3,801	.. .. .	+ 4.1
Other places in Yorkshire, Lancs. & Cheshire	5,105	- 0.5	+ 5.9	4,803	+ 2.1	+ 10.2
Bristol	2,093	+ 0.4	- 3.1	1,688	+ 3.5	+ 0.1
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	3,480	+ 0.5	+ 13.5	2,867	- 5.3	+ 19.5
South Midland & Eastern Counties	3,276	+ 1.8	+ 9.4	2,991	+ 3.7	+ 23.9
London	5,864	+ 11.7	+ 81.8	7,185	+ 7.2	+ 135.8
Glasgow	2,247	- 2.1	+ 31.1	2,051	- 6.9	+ 33.2
Rest of United Kingdom	3,743	+ 5.4	+ 29.2	3,070	+ 13.4	+ 38.5
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	39,843	+ 2.8	+ 18.4	38,228	+ 3.0	+ 29.2

At Leeds there was a slight falling off in the pressure of the last six months, but employment was very brisk, and about 36 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime during the month. At Manchester there was also a good deal of overtime, and employment was much above the level of a year ago. Employment was reported as fairly good at Wigan, and good at Liverpool, Hebden Bridge, Huddersfield, Bristol, Stroud, Walsall, Tamworth, Norwich, Colchester and Plymouth; in many cases there was a demand for more workers.

In London great activity still prevailed; compared with a year ago the numbers employed increased by 82 per cent., and the total earnings by 136 per cent.

There was some decline in Glasgow compared with April, but employment was still much above the level of a year ago.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good with makers of Army shirts, but was slack in the dressed shirt and collar departments. On the whole there was little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago, but there was a marked improvement in the Manchester district compared with May, 1914.

A shortage of male and female labour was reported in England by firms employing 15 per cent. of the total number of operatives, the shortage being most marked in the London district.

In London employment was moderate, except with makers of Army shirts; the average weekly earnings were rather higher than a year ago. About 14 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on short time.

In Manchester a large number of firms were engaged on Government contracts, and employment was good, better than a month ago, and much better than in May, 1914.

In the South Western counties employment continued fair; at Glasgow also it was fair on the whole, but showed a decline as compared with a month ago.

In Londonderry employment in the white shirt and collar trade was only moderate, and about 12 per cent. of the operatives were on short time; at the end of the month, however, large contracts for Army shirts were received. In Belfast employment was fair on the whole and slightly better than a month ago, but it was bad with collar makers.

Returns from firms employing 22,179 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a

year ago there was a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

District.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
London	4,983	- 0.5	- 8.5	4,182	- 0.1	- 6.8		
Manchester	3,581	+ 1.5	+ 12.7	3,125	+ 4.2	+ 23.1		
Rest of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.	1,934	+ 1.5	+ 12.3	1,266	- 1.2	+ 9.2		
S.W. Counties	2,050	+ 1.3	- 3.8	1,356	- 2.2	- 1.3		
Rest of England and Wales	1,562	- 2.9	- 1.2	1,154	+ 0.9	+ 5.9		
Glasgow	2,989	- 0.9	- 6.4	1,923	- 3.4	+ 1.1		
Londonderry, City of	2,783	- 0.1	- 8.5	1,937	- 1.1	- 9.6		
Belfast	1,263	- 0.2	- 5.9	908	+ 1.9	- 2.9		
Rest of Ireland	1,054	+ 1.4	+ 1.3	663	+ 9.8	- 1.0		
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	22,179	+ 0.1	- 2.1	16,504	+ 0.4	+ 1.3		

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

RETURNS from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West End, employing 1,982 dressmakers in the week ended 22nd May, showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and a decrease of 13.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Full time and a little overtime were worked during the month, and a scarcity of workers was reported by firms employing nearly 40 per cent. of the workers covered by the Returns.

With court and private dressmakers returns from firms employing 1,191 workpeople in the week ended May 22nd showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 23.3 per cent. compared with May, 1914. The supply of labour was not equal to the demand, firms employing 25 per cent. of the workpeople reporting a deficiency.

With milliners in the West End employment was fair, but not so good as a year ago.

MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and millinery trades, firms in London employing 5,195 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 22nd May showed no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good, and firms employing about 15 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns reported a scarcity of labour.

At Manchester firms employing 5,193 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May in the costume, blouse, mantle, etc., trades showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with April and of 8.0 per cent. compared with May, 1914. Employment continued good and overtime was worked by 30 per cent. of the workpeople. A scarcity of workers was reported by firms employing 13 per cent. of the operatives.

At Glasgow employment in the mantle, costume and underclothing trades was fairly good. Returns from firms employing 2,349 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago and a decrease of 6.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Thirty per cent. of the operatives worked overtime during May.

CORSET TRADE.

Returns from corset manufacturers, mainly in England, employing 6,016 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with April and a decrease of 4.3 per cent. compared with May, 1914. Employment generally continued good.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

PRINTING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT with letterpress printers continued quiet and was worse than a year ago, short time being still in operation to some extent in most places. Compared with a month ago there was again a slight decline on the whole. In London a fair amount of overtime and very little short time were reported by compositors, while machine minders, pressmen, and electrotypers and stereotypers described employment as fair or good. A shortage of labour, especially of boys, was frequently reported.

With lithographic printers employment was fairly good, better than a month ago, and rather better than a year ago; some shortage of labour was reported.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 50,574 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of the month was 4.0, compared with 3.6 a month ago and 3.3 a year ago.

Districts	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1915.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		May, 1915.	April, 1915.	May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	22,359	3.7	3.1	2.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,340	5.0	3.9	3.7	+ 1.1	+ 1.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	6,715	4.8	4.2	4.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.5
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,625	2.7	2.3	2.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
West Midlands	2,575	3.6	4.1	3.7	- 0.5	- 0.1
S. & S.-W. Counties and Wales	3,812	2.6	2.7	2.2	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Scotland	4,851	2.5	3.2	3.1	- 0.7	- 0.6
Ireland	2,397	9.4	9.4	4.7	+ 0.0	+ 4.7
UNITED KINGDOM	50,574	4.0	3.6	3.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.7

According to returns from firms employing 17,976 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May, the number of persons employed showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. on a month ago, while the amount of wages paid increased by 0.5 per cent. Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 18.8 per cent. and 17.4 per cent. respectively.

Districts	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London	4,923	- 1.3	- 19.5	8,105	+ 1.7	- 17.7
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	1,908	- 2.9	- 18.0	2,398	- 2.3	- 16.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	3,286	+ 0.5	- 12.7	5,044	- 0.2	- 11.0
Midland and Eastern Counties	3,260	- 3.5	- 22.9	4,112	- 1.4	- 22.5
Scotland	2,878	- 1.6	- 21.8	3,272	+ 2.7	- 22.6
Other Districts	1,721	+ 1.4	- 15.1	2,057	+ 0.8	- 12.0
UNITED KINGDOM	17,976	- 1.3	- 18.8	24,988	+ 0.5	- 17.4

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in London continued quiet, with short time, and was worse than a year ago, except with stationery binders, who were well employed. In other centres it was reported as fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago, partly owing to enlistments.

Returns from firms employing 10,639 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May show a decrease in the number employed of 1.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 15.6 per cent. compared with a year ago, while the amount of wages paid decreased by 0.6 per cent. and 15.2 per cent. respectively.

Districts	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 22nd May.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,363	- 1.9	- 14.5	3,569	- 0.8	- 16.6
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	902	- 2.9	- 22.2	779	+ 3.3	- 13.6
Lancashire and Cheshire	1,686	- 0.9	- 9.7	1,424	+ 0.6	- 5.6
Midland and Eastern Counties	1,409	- 2.3	- 21.1	1,066	- 4.1	- 20.3
Scotland	2,324	- 0.9	- 18.6	1,657	- 0.9	- 21.6
Other Districts	955	- 2.0	- 5.1	731	+ 0.3	- 2.4
UNITED KINGDOM	10,639	- 1.7	- 15.6	9,026	- 0.6	- 15.2

Trade Unions with a membership of 5,749 had 2.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, 1915, a percentage decrease of 1.0 compared with a month ago, and of 1.2 compared with a year ago.

	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1915.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a	
		May, 1915.	Apr., 1915.	May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	2,915	2.7	3.8	3.5	- 1.1	- 0.8
Other Districts	2,836	1.7	2.7	3.3	- 1.0	- 1.6
UNITED KINGDOM	5,749	2.2	3.2	3.4	- 1.0	- 1.2

PAPER TRADES.

Employment was fairly good on the whole, and rather better than a month ago, a scarcity of labour being reported in some cases, though, on the other hand, some of the mills in Scotland were still on short time.

Returns from firms employing 9,487 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 8.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Districts	Workpeople paid Wages in week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
London	1,976	+ 0.3	- 1.3
Northern Counties	738	- 0.1	- 3.7
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland	3,513	- 0.7	- 9.0
Southern Counties	2,545	- 1.2	- 12.6
Scotland	8,832	- 0.6	- 8.0
Ireland	656	- 0.1	- 12.2
TOTAL	9,487	- 0.5	- 8.3

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,681 members had 0.4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, compared with 0.3 per cent. a month ago and 1.3 per cent. a year ago. In the hand-made paper trade Trade Unions with 447 members had 2.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2.7 per cent. at the end of April, 1915, and 3.8 per cent. at the end of May, 1914.

The value of the imports of paper-making materials in May was £381,132, as compared with £541,483 in May, 1914. The imports of paper were 887,771 cwts., compared with 1,018,584 cwts. a year ago. The exports of paper amounted to 207,540 cwts., as compared with 270,253 cwts. a year ago.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

ORDINARY building work, apart from Government work, was quiet in May; though painters were busy, as is usual at this time of the year. However, partly owing to Government building work, partly to enlistments, and partly to the transference of workpeople from the building to other trades, the percentage unemployed was low in all building occupations, ranging from 0.6 for painters to 2.8 for masons.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed among 825,073 workpeople insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, in each of the principal occupations, at the end of May, 1915:—

Occupations.	Number Insured.	Percentage Unemployed at end of May.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters	122,834	2.4	+ 0.2	-
Bricklayers	68,230	1.9	- 0.5	- 1.4
Masons	40,497	2.8	- 0.6	- 0.6
Plasterers	20,640	2.7	- 1.7	- 4.5
Painters	128,703	0.6	- 0.3	- 1.0
Plumbers	35,748	1.7	+ 0.2	- 2.4
Other skilled occupations	36,712	1.7	- 0.2	- 2.6
Navvies	106,229	0.8	- 0.2	- 2.6
Labourers	259,490	1.1	- 0.4	- 3.6
ALL OCCUPATIONS	825,073	1.4	- 0.3	- 2.1

The next Table shows in detail the percentage unemployed in the above occupations in each geographical

division. Compared with a month ago there were slight improvements in every district except London. The improvement was greatest in the case of plasterers every district sharing in it. A general but less marked improvement was shown by bricklayers, painters, labourers, and navvies. In the London area there was a noticeable decline in the case of carpenters and masons. Compared with a year ago the figures show an improvement in every district, that for London being the greatest. In the Northern and North-Western Counties masons and bricklayers showed some decline, but in the London district there was a great improvement, especially as regards masons.

Districts.	Number Insured.	Percentage Unemployed at end of May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Number Insured.	Percentage Unemployed at end of May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.			Month ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters.								
London	21,636	4.2	+ 1.2	- 1.6	11,025	2.9	- 0.2	- 6.8
Northern Counties	6,075	1.3	- 0.4	+ 0.8	5,508	1.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
North Western	14,390	2.2	- 0.5	- 0.1	7,971	2.2	- 0.5	+ 0.8
Yorkshire	10,157	1.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	5,561	0.9	0.6	- 0.4
East Midlands	6,756	1.6	+ 0.6	- 0.7	5,330	1.8	- 0.8	-
West Midlands	8,149	0.6	+ 0.2	- 0.4	7,265	0.5	- 0.5	- 1.5
Eastern & S.E. Count.	21,554	1.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.2	15,496	2.1	- 0.7	+ 0.1
South Western	14,444	1.0	- 0.4	- 0.9	6,068	1.7	- 0.8	- 1.4
Wales	6,780	1.1	- 0.1	- 0.1	2,197	1.0	- 0.8	+ 0.5
Scotland	12,316	0.8	0.3	+ 0.1	1,980	0.5	- 0.2	- 0.6
Ireland	6,877	12.7	+ 2.0	+ 8.4	1,829	6.1	- 1.1	+ 0.4
Bricklayers.								
London	2,368	6.0	+ 1.5	- 11.3	4,466	3.8	- 2.2	- 12.3
Northern Counties	3,322	1.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.9	887	1.2	- 0.2	- 1.2
North Western	3,573	3.9	- 0.9	+ 2.0	2,248	3.9	- 1.1	- 4.2
Yorkshire	4,607	1.6	- 0.8	- 0.4	1,476	0.8	- 1.6	- 1.4
East Midlands	1,129	2.6	- 1.7	- 0.8	547	3.3	- 1.9	- 0.3
West Midlands	923	2.1	- 0.8	- 0.9	980	1.7	- 3.0	- 3.2
Eastern & S.E. Count.	1,414	3.2	- 0.8	- 2.8	1,911	2.3	- 2.0	- 1.5
South Western	7,783	2.3	- 0.5	- 0.6	2,032	0.6	- 0.7	- 3.3
Wales	6,088	1.5	- 0.8	+ 0.4	1,164	1.7	- 0.7	- 0.8
Scotland	7,665	1.8	- 0.3	+ 0.7	2,360	1.1	- 1.5	- 3.2
Ireland	2,611	9.1	- 1.9	+ 0.4	1,569	7.8	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Masons.								
London	3,589	1.1	-	- 1.7	6,635	3.3	+ 0.6	- 1.8
Northern Counties	3,522	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	1,790	0.8	+ 0.2	- 0.9
North Western	14,105	0.2	- 0.3	- 0.4	5,002	2.3	+ 0.6	- 2.0
Yorkshire	8,248	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.3	3,072	1.1	- 0.5	- 2.8
East Midlands	4,993	0.2	- 0.8	- 1.4	1,479	1.5	- 0.5	- 2.1
West Midlands	8,540	0.2	- 0.3	- 0.6	2,116	0.6	- 1.1	- 3.0
Eastern & S.E. Count.	22,107	0.4	- 0.4	- 0.6	4,148	0.7	-	- 1.0
South Western	12,617	0.1	- 0.3	- 1.4	3,223	0.2	- 0.4	- 2.5
Wales	4,093	0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3	866	1.7	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Scotland	9,539	0.1	- 0.3	- 0.3	6,041	0.2	- 0.4	- 1.7
Ireland	4,645	3.0	- 2.2	- 0.7	1,376	7.6	+ 0.4	-
Plasterers.								
London	35,989	1.1	-	- 1.7	6,635	3.3	+ 0.6	- 1.8
Northern Counties	3,522	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	1,790	0.8	+ 0.2	- 0.9
North Western	14,105	0.2	- 0.3	- 0.4	5,002	2.3	+ 0.6	- 2.0
Yorkshire	8,248	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.3	3,072	1.1	- 0.5	- 2.8
East Midlands	4,993	0.2	- 0.8	- 1.4	1,479	1.5	- 0.5	- 2.1
West Midlands	8,540	0.2	- 0.3	- 0.6	2,116	0.6	- 1.1	- 3.0
Eastern & S.E. Count.	22,107	0.4	- 0.4	- 0.6	4,148	0.7	-	- 1.0
South Western	12,617	0.1	- 0.3	- 1.4	3,223	0.2	- 0.4	- 2.5
Wales	4,093	0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3	866	1.7	+ 0.1	- 0.5
Scotland	9,539	0.1	- 0.3	- 0.3	6,041	0.2	- 0.4	- 1.7
Ireland	4,645	3.0	- 2.2	- 0.7	1,376	7.6	+ 0.4	-
Painters.								
London	8,419	3.2	+ 0.5	- 6.1	9,430	1.4	- 0.3	- 5.3
Northern Counties	2,508	0.5	- 0.1	- 2.0	7,376	0.5	- 0.1	- 1.3
North Western	4,612	1.9	+ 0.6	- 1.3	19,834	0.5	- 0.1	- 1.2
Yorkshire	2,496	1.8	+ 0.2	- 1.5	11,626	0.4	- 0.4	- 2.2
East Midlands	1,712	0.8	-	- 2.2	5,998	0.5	- 0.4	- 3.3
West Midlands	2,141	0.9	- 0.1	- 3.1	6,343	0.5	- 0.1	- 3.3
Eastern & S.E. Count.	2,869	0.7	- 0.3	- 2.3	11,753	0.8	- 0.7	- 3.3
South Western	3,236	1.1	+ 0.2	- 2.6	7,679	1.1	- 0.7	- 7.4
Wales	1,474	1.0	- 0.1	- 1.3	11,405	0.3	- 0.2	- 1.0
Scotland	6,355	0.3	- 0.1	- 1.6	12,077	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.8
Ireland	1,301	5.9	+ 0.2	- 2.8	2,708	6.9	+ 0.4	- 3.1
Plumbers.								
London	8,419	3.2	+ 0.5	- 6.1	9,430	1.4	- 0.3	- 5.3
Northern Counties	2,508	0.5	- 0.1	- 2.0	7,376	0.5	- 0.1	- 1.3
North Western	4,612	1.9	+ 0.6	- 1.3	19,834	0.5	- 0.1	- 1.2
Yorkshire	2,496	1.8	+ 0.2	- 1.5	11,626	0.4	- 0.4	- 2.2

at Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol and Aberdeen. A considerable amount of short time again occurred at Bradford. Basket makers continued very busy at Oldham and Leicester; in London overtime was worked on shell baskets, etc. Cane and wicker workers were well employed at Basford.

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, but rather worse than it was a month ago. Some shortage of men and boys was again reported, and some difficulty was experienced in obtaining raw materials, owing to high prices and want of transport facilities.

Returns from firms employing 7,121 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 13.4 per cent. and 8.1 per cent. respectively. The comparison is to some extent affected by the payment of a war bonus by a few firms.

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,923	- 0.3	- 24.8	4,243	+ 2.8	- 6.6
Midland and Eastern Counties	2,705	- 1.4	- 26.9	3,162	- 4.7	- 26.9
S. and S.W. Counties and Wales	2,100	- 0.2	- 33.9	2,666	- 7.5	- 40.4
Scotland	670	- 0.6	- 20.6	868	+ 2.8	- 14.7
Other Districts	408	+ 1.5	- 41.0	478	- 5.5	- 41.4
TOTAL	8,806	- 0.6	- 28.4	11,417	- 2.2	- 27.4

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Glass Bottle	5,284	- 2.7	- 13.5	7,975	+ 2.2	- 7.3
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,319	- 0.5	- 10.3	1,682	+ 5.9	- 7.3
Other Branches	538	- 1.3	- 21.2	680	- 1.6	- 18.4
TOTAL	7,121	- 2.2	- 13.4	10,337	- 0.9	- 8.1

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
North of England	590	- 5.1	- 27.8	845	- 5.1	- 18.3
Yorkshire	4,014	- 2.5	- 8.0	5,924	- 0.4	- 3.1
Lancashire	1,216	- 1.1	- 61.5	1,838	- 5.0	- 10.2
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	831	- 0.1	- 18.2	1,101	+ 4.4	- 16.3
Scotland	470	- 2.5	- 17.8	629	+ 3.8	- 14.8
TOTAL	7,121	- 2.2	- 13.4	10,337	- 0.9	- 8.1

In the ordinary glass bottle trade employment was generally described as fair or moderate, but in the flint glass bottle trade it was good. With flint-glass makers at Birmingham it was good and better than a year ago, but with flint-glass cutters it was quiet and worse than a year ago, short time being worked by most of the men. With sheet and plate glass workers at St. Helens employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was good, and better than a month ago.

The imports of glass and manufactures thereof were valued at £133,026, as compared with £127,340 in April, and £274,895 a year ago. The exports were valued at £121,122, as compared with £106,012 in April, and £159,420 a year ago.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the brick trade was scarcely as good as a month ago except in the Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire district and in Scotland, where earnings showed a slight increase compared with the previous month. There was a continued difficulty at many centres in obtaining labour owing to enlistments and to the demands of munition and other Government work.

Employment continued moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district. There was an improvement in the glazed brick, etc., trade in the Stourbridge district, full time being reported, and in the Shropshire district employment continued fair. Short time to the extent of two or three days per week continued to be worked at Nottingham, but full time had become general in the Peterborough district. Employment remained fair and was better than a month ago in the Eastern counties. A number of yards were still closed in the Plymouth and Exeter districts, and employment in general was moderate. It was

again reported as slack at Bridgwater, and in the Wrexham and Ruabon district.

Returns from firms employing 8,806 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 28.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 27.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,923	- 0.3	- 24.8	4,243	+ 2.8	- 6.6
Midland and Eastern Counties	2,705	- 1.4	- 26.9	3,162	- 4.7	- 26.9
S. and S.W. Counties and Wales	2,100	- 0.2	- 33.9	2,666	- 7.5	- 40.4
Scotland	670	- 0.6	- 20.6	868	+ 2.8	- 14.7
Other Districts	408	+ 1.5	- 41.0	478	- 5.5	- 41.4
TOTAL	8,806	- 0.6	- 28.4	11,417	- 2.2	- 27.4

CEMENT TRADE.

A shortage of labour continued to be experienced in most cement works on the Thames and Medway, and much overtime was reported; employment showed a further improvement compared with the previous month. It continued fair in the Tees and Hartlepool district.

The exports of cement in May amounted to 45,485 tons, as compared with 48,255 tons in April, and 49,744 tons in May, 1914.

POTTERY TRADES.

THERE was a general improvement in the pottery trades compared with a month ago, although a good deal of short time was still worked. Compared with a year ago the numbers employed declined considerably, but the average earnings showed an increase, partly due to the payment of war bonuses.

Owing to the continued scarcity of male labour and to the stoppage of the supply of German and Austrian articles, employment in the home trade was fairly good except with makers of sanitary earthenware, tiles, &c., who were adversely affected by dullness in the building trade; on both colonial and foreign exports employment was quiet on the whole.

Returns from firms employing 17,278 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 5.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the previous month. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 13.0 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 6.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
China Manufacture	2,731	- 0.4	- 8.5	3,568	+ 2.9	+ 0.4
Earthenware Manufacture	10,477	+ 0.3	- 12.0	10,704	+ 6.1	- 3.1
Other Branches (including unspecified)	4,070	+ 0.9	- 18.0	3,757	+ 8.5	- 13.1
TOTAL	17,278	+ 0.3	- 13.0	18,029	+ 5.9	- 6.0

DISTRICTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Potteries	13,272	+ 0.3	- 13.0	13,140	+ 7.7	- 5.2
Other Districts	4,006	- 1.2	- 12.9	4,889	+ 1.5	- 8.3
TOTAL	17,278	+ 0.3	- 13.0	18,029	+ 5.9	- 6.0

The imports of china, earthenware, and pottery amounted only to 9,061 cwts., as compared with 60,533 cwts. a year ago. The exports amounted to 223,465 cwts., as compared with 318,727 in May, 1914. Exports to New Zealand increased threefold, but those to every other country decreased. The May total, however, shows an increase of 19 per cent. on that for April.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades showed a further slight improvement, as a whole, and was very good, with much overtime. There was a great scarcity of workpeople.

Returns from firms employing 62,782 workpeople in the week ended 22nd May showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with April. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 17.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. This increase in wages paid is due to some extent to the payment of war bonuses by many firms.

Trade.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 22nd May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Sugar Refining &c.	5,441	- 1.2	+ 5.1	8,356	- 4.5	+ 20.9
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	32,364	- 0.4	- 3.2	31,355	+ 3.0	+ 14.8
Biscuits, Cakes &c.	10,104	+ 3.9	- 5.7	10,039	+ 8.9	+ 8.8
Jam, Marmalade &c.	7,454	+ 3.0	+ 7.5	6,268	+ 5.8	+ 17.5
Bacon and Preserved Meats	6,050	- 1.0	+ 42.7	6,216	+ 5.8	+ 53.1
Pickles, Sauces &c.	1,369	+ 2.9	+ 5.0	1,389	+ 13.8	+ 18.8
TOTAL	62,782	+ 0.6	+ 1.4	63,623	+ 3.3	+ 17.4

Sugar Refining &c.—There was a slight decline in this industry in May as compared with April, but employment was still very good, and much better than in May last year. A shortage of labour was reported.

Cocoa, Chocolate, and Sugar Confectionery.—In the cocoa and chocolate branches employment was good, there being a great demand for chocolate in military camps; nearly every firm complained of a shortage of labour, and a good deal of overtime was worked. In the sugar confectionery branch employment was normal.

Biscuits, Cakes &c.—Employment was good, partly owing to Government orders and to the strong demand from canteens and messes; the export trade, however, was greatly diminished. Employment was better than in April. There was a great shortage of male labour, and much overtime was worked.

Jams, Marmalade &c.—Employment was better than in April, and much better than in May last year. The improvement on last year was largely due to Government contracts, on which overtime was regularly worked by some firms; the export trade was much less than last year. Some shortage of male labour was reported.

Bacon and Preserved Meats.—Employment was good, and much better than last year, largely owing to Government contracts. There was some shortage of male labour, and a good deal of overtime was reported. Some producers, especially the Irish bacon curers, complained, however, that they were handicapped by the high price of home-raised pigs.

Pickles, Sauces &c.—Employment was good, and showed a marked improvement on April. The export trade was seriously diminished, the exports being less than half those in May, 1914.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

THE fishing industry continued to be seriously affected by the war, and the quantities of fish landed were considerably less than a year ago.

East Coast.—With fishermen employment continued good at Hull and Grimsby. At the former place it was also good with fish dock labourers, but it was bad with curers at both places and with fish dock labourers at Grimsby. At Yarmouth, apart from a little trawling and alongshore fishing, the industry was almost at a standstill. At Lowestoft it was good with fishermen and fair with fish dock labourers, but bad with fish curers. Employment was still dull with fishermen at Harwich and Southwold.

South Coast.—The fishing industry was reported as good in the Plymouth and South-Western district generally, and with curers employment was fairly good.

West Coast.—At Milford the quantity of fish landed was about the same as in the previous month, but it was

much less than in May, 1914. At Fleetwood there was some decline on the previous month, and the catch was less than half that of the corresponding month of 1914.

Scotland.—With fishermen employment was good at Aberdeen and Peterhead, and moderate at Fraserburgh. It was moderate with fish dock labourers and curers at Aberdeen, but bad with both classes at Peterhead and Fraserburgh. At Macduff employment with all classes was bad, and worse than a month ago. At Arbroath and Montrose the catches were reported to be rather above the average.

Ireland.—Compared with a year ago there was a decline in the catches on the Irish coast generally, except in the West. On the North coast the quantity landed in May was less than one-third that in May, 1914.

FISH LANDED IN MAY.

FISH (OTHER THAN SHELL):	Quantity.		Value.	
	May, 1915.	Decrease on May, 1914.	May, 1915.	Decrease on May, 1914.
England and Wales..	Cwts. 489,068	Cwts. 512,559	£ 618,264	£ 88,309
Scotland	165,541	580,420	146,717	116,696
Ireland	45,402	18,984	22,347	7,648
TOTAL	700,011	1,111,963	787,328	212,653
Shell Fish	—	—	34,241	3,092
TOTAL VALUE	—	—	821,569	215,745

The quantity of fish (other than shell fish) landed in May, 1915, showed a decrease of 1,111,963 cwts. (or 61.3 per cent.) on May, 1914. Owing to high prices, however, the decrease in value of this quantity was only £212,653 (or 21.3 per cent.).

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT was again exceptionally good in London and at Liverpool. It was slack generally at ports on the North-East and East Coasts and at several Irish ports, but elsewhere was good on the whole.

LONDON AND TILBURY.

London.—The congestion in the Port of London continued during May, though it was less acute, and the supply of labour was good. Dock and riverside workers continued very fully employed, and employment was much better than a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended 29th May was 19,544, an increase of 0.8 per cent. on a month ago, and of 32.2 per cent. on a year ago.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks		Total	At Wharves making Returns.	Total in Docks and at Principal Wharves.
By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners &c.	Wharves			
Week ended May 1st	8,247	3,670	11,917	7,971	19,888
" " " 8th	8,118	4,127	12,245	7,919	20,164
" " " 15th	7,655	3,947	11,602	7,688	19,290
" " " 22nd	7,461	3,995	11,456	7,603	19,059
" " " 29th	7,092	4,556	11,648	7,627	19,275
Average for 5 weeks ended 29th May, 1915	7,736	4,042	11,778	7,766	19,544
Average for Apr., 1915	7,581	3,851	11,432	7,964	19,396
" " May, 1914	5,278	2,415	7,693	7,087	14,780

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day* in May, 1915, were as follows:—

Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.
1	18,978	11	20,117	20	20,594
2	19,700	12	21,195	21	19,153
3	20,345	13	14,776	22	18,506
4	20,741	14	20,420	23	18,157
5	20,463	15	19,572	24	19,355
6	20,222	16	20,262	25	19,818
7	19,516	17	15,315	26	19,649
8	19,660	18	20,526	27	19,385
9		19		28	19,001
10				29	
				30	
				31	

The maximum daily number during the month was 21,196, an increase of 5,200 on the maximum for May, 1914. The minimum number (14,775), which was over 3,000 below all other numbers except one, nevertheless

* Sundays and holidays omitted.

showed an increase of 1,611 over the minimum for May last year.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during May was 2,294, compared with 2,257 a month ago and 1,473 a year ago.

OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—Owing to the reduced imports, dock and riverside workers were slack on the Tyne, employment showing a decline on the previous month; it continued moderate with trimmers and teamers on both the Tyne and the Wear, with much lost time on the latter river. Employment was good generally at Blyth, fair at Hartlepool, and fairly good at Middlesbrough. There was a further decline with dock labourers at Hull, where employment was quiet, but an improvement at Grimsby, where it was good; it was fair with coal porters at both ports. It continued bad generally at Goole, with, however, some tendency towards improvement with dock labourers. A decline was reported at Lowestoft and Ipswich, where employment was slack, as it was also at Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Harwich; much short time was reported in spite of the fact that many of the men had enlisted.

South and West Coasts.—There was a slight improvement at Plymouth, employment being fair; it continued good at Hayle, and was good at Falmouth, and very good and better than a month ago at Dartmouth. At Bristol employment was still good and better than a year ago; there was a decline at Gloucester on the previous month. Coal trimmers continued very busy in the South Wales ports, but general cargo workers were slack on the whole. Dock labourers at Liverpool were again very fully employed, with much overtime at the North End docks, but quays and wharves remained very congested.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH PORTS.

Employment continued good at Glasgow and at the Ayrshire ports; congestion at Glasgow has tended to increase the amount of trade at these ports. It was fairly good and better than a month ago at Dundee. Dock and riverside workers were very well employed at Leith, some overtime having been worked. Employment was bad and worse than a month ago at Belfast; it continued very slack at Cork and Waterford, and fair at Limerick.

AGRICULTURE.*

THE supply of labour was below the demand in most districts in Great Britain during May, especially as regards workers outside the regular farm staffs. In the majority of districts, however, the weather helped to put work forward, and the shortage of labour was less acutely felt than it would otherwise have been.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

A deficiency of labour was reported in north and south-east Durham, but elsewhere in this county and in Northumberland the labour supply was not much below requirements. In Cumberland and Westmorland there was a marked scarcity of men, and extra men were hardly to be got in some districts. Men, especially horsemen, were very scarce in Yorkshire; some women were engaged for potato-planting and turnip-hoeing, but in the eastern part of the North Riding it was stated that no women were available. There was generally a shortage of labour in Lancashire and Cheshire.

A very short supply of labour was reported in Shropshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire, milkers being especially scarce in south Leicestershire. In Lincolnshire the shortage applied particularly to horsemen. There was generally a deficiency of labour in the other north and west Midland counties.

Men were very scarce in Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire. Extra men were generally scarce in Buckinghamshire, and the skilled classes in Oxfordshire, a shortage of milkers being also reported in north Buckinghamshire. In Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Suffolk, and Norfolk the shortage of labour appeared to be less marked than elsewhere. There was generally a deficiency in Cambridgeshire and Essex.

A marked scarcity of men was reported in parts of Surrey, and also in Hampshire. In Kent and Sussex extra labour was especially difficult to obtain. Labour was generally scarce in Berkshire.

Labour was short of requirements in most parts of Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset. There was some deficiency in Devonshire and Cornwall, particularly as regards extra labour in Devonshire.

The supply of labour did not as a rule fall far short of the demand in Anglesey and Carnarvonshire, except as regards extra labour in Anglesey. In Flintshire and Denbighshire there was a marked shortage. Little scarcity was reported in Cardiganshire, but in the other counties in Central Wales and generally in South Wales and Monmouthshire the supply of labour was a good deal short of the demand.

SCOTLAND.

A general scarcity of men was reported in Caithness, Sutherland and Orkney, and of women also in Orkney. In Inverness-shire and Ross-shire skilled workers were scarce. The shortage of single men amounted to one-third in Morayshire and Banffshire; and farmers in Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and north-east Forfarshire had great difficulty in securing sufficient labour. In Perthshire it was reported that men were still enlisting in considerable numbers.

There was generally an insufficient supply of labour in the Lothians, while extra labour was scarce in Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire. Some scarcity of workers was reported in Kirkcudbrightshire and in Wigtownshire. There was a marked deficiency of labour in north Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Dumbartonshire, and Stirlingshire.

SEAMEN.

RETURNS received from certain selected ports show that during May, 1915, 33,426 seamen* were shipped on foreign-going vessels, a decrease of 1,781 on the previous month.

Compared with May, 1914, there was a net decrease of 16,146, or 32.6 per cent. Nearly every port showed a decline in the number of men engaged, the most marked decline being at Liverpool, Southampton, the Tyne Ports, London and Glasgow. A shortage of men for ordinary mercantile ships was reported at London, Liverpool, Southampton, Grimsby, Hull, Sunderland, Cardiff and Bristol.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen (excluding Las-ars) shipped in					
	May, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Five months ended May,		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	1914.	1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1915
ENGLAND & WALES:						
<i>East Coast—</i>						
Tyne Ports	1,478	- 136	- 2,107	13,494	8,423	- 5,071
Sunderland	251	- 235	- 237	2,279	1,537	- 742
Middlesbrough	167	- 115	- 94	1,311	924	- 387
Hull	1,126	+ 11	- 444	6,504	6,961	- 443
Grimsby	44	+ 4	- 11	180	313	+ 133
<i>Bristol Channel—</i>						
Bristol	1,176	- 180	- 350	6,083	5,463	- 620
Newport, Mon.	751	- 61	- 209	4,545	5,321	+ 776
Cardiff	4,291	+ 193	- 305	21,067	22,978	+ 1,911
Swansea	337	- 130	+ 52	1,935	1,853	- 82
<i>Other Ports—</i>						
Liverpool	12,348	- 759	- 5,901	80,399	65,489	- 14,910
London	6,908	+ 22	- 1,904	41,299	38,818	- 2,481
Southampton	853	- 236	- 3,534	23,065	6,210	- 16,755
SCOTLAND:						
Leith	438	+ 170	+ 213	1,879	1,745	- 134
Burntisland, Methil, and Grangemouth	40	- 20	- 217	1,130	420	- 710
Glasgow	2,946	- 386	- 1,086	18,156	14,865	- 3,291
IRELAND:						
Dublin	99	+ 56	+ 74	277	350	+ 73
Belfast	173	+ 21	- 86	857	2,606	+ 1,749
TOTAL	33,426	- 1,781	- 16,146	224,460	183,476	- 40,984

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

* Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

THE following information with regard to the prices of bread is derived from two main sources—(1) Master Bakers' Associations and (2) Co-operative Societies. Returns are also received from the local correspondents of the Department in industrial districts.

In the Statistical Tables the predominant prices are utilised, i.e., the prices at which the bulk of the bread was sold, but it will be understood that bread was also sold at both lower and higher prices. In a few places some differentiation has been introduced between the price of bread sold over the counter and the price when delivered, but the number of such cases is insufficient to affect any of the figures quoted, except that stated as the mean price charged at 1st June by co-operative societies in the London district.

(1) MASTER BAKERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Returns received from 127 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations, and thirty returns received from other sources, are summarised in the following Tables. The first of these shows the mean predominant price in different parts of the country at 1st June, as compared with a month earlier and a year earlier:—

District.	Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on		
	1st June, 1915.	1st May, 1915.	2nd June, 1914.
London:—	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W.	8½	8½	5½
E. & N.E.	8½	8½	5½
S.E.	8½	8½	5½
S.W.	9	8½	5½
W. & W.C.	9	8½	6
Northern Counties & Yorks. ..	8½	8½	5½
Lancs. & Cheshire	8½	8	5½
Midlands	8½	8	5½
Eastern Counties	8½	8½	6
Southern Counties	8½	8½	5½
South Western Counties & Wales ..	8½	8½	5½
Scotland	8½	8	6½
GREAT BRITAIN	8½	8½	5½

There is seen to be a slight average increase as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3d. per 4 lb. as compared with a year ago.

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under:—

Place	Predominant Price per 4 lb. on 1st June, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Amount per 4 lb.
London	d.	d.	d.		d.
Birmingham	8½	+ ½	+ 3½	May, '15	+ ½
Bristol	8 & 8½	+ ½	+ 3	May, '15	+ ½
Cardiff	8½	—	+ 2½	Apr., '15	+ ½
Derby	8½	+ ½	+ 3	May, '15	+ ½
Hull	8½	+ ½	+ 3	May, '15	+ ½
Ipswich	8½	+ ½	+ 2½	May, '15	+ ½
Leeds	8 & 9	+ ½	+ 3	May, '15	+ ½
Leicester	8	+ ½	+ 3	Apr., '15	+ ½
Liverpool	8½	+ ½	+ 3½	May, '15	+ ½
Manchester	8½	+ ½	+ 3	May, '15	+ ½
Middlesbrough	9	+ ½	+ 3½	May, '15	+ ½
Norwich	8	+ ½	+ 3	May, '15	+ ½
Nottingham	8 & 8½	—	+ 2½	Feb., '15	+ ½
Plymouth	8 & 9	+ ¾	+ 3	May, '15	+ ½
Portsmouth	8½	+ ½	+ 2½	Apr., '15	+ ½
Stoke-on-Trent	8½	—	+ 3½	Apr., '15	+ ½
Southampton	9	+ ½	+ 3½	May, '15	+ ½
Wolverhampton	8	+ ½	+ 3	Apr., '15	+ ½
Aberdeen	8	+ 1	+ 3½	May, '15	+ ½
Dundee	8	—	+ 2½	Apr., '15	+ ½
Edinburgh	8½	+ ½	+ 2½	May, '15	+ ½
Glasgow	8	+ ½	+ 2	May, '15	+ ½
Belfast	8	+ ½	+ 2	May, '15	+ ½
Dublin	8	+ ½	+ 2	May, '15	+ ½

An increase since a month ago, usually of ½d. per 4 lb., is reported for sixteen of the twenty-five towns included. The advance on a year ago is usually 2½d. or 3d. per 4 lb.

Subsequent information indicates that, with isolated exceptions, the above prices of 1st June remained unchanged for the first two weeks of the month. On 15th June there was some evidence that a reversion from 9d. to 8½d. as the predominant price was beginning to take place in London.

(2) CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The following figures, based on returns from 350 Societies, show the level of prices at 1st June as compared with that of three months ago and a year ago:—

District.	Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on		
	1st June, 1915.	1st March, 1915.	2nd June, 1914.
ENGLAND AND WALES.			
Northern Counties and Yorks. ..	d.	d.	d.
Lancashire and Cheshire	9	8	6½
N. Midland Counties	8½	7½	5½
W. do. do.	8½	7½	5½
S. do. do.	8	7	5½
Eastern Counties	8½	7½	5½
London	8½, 8¾	7½	5½
South Eastern Counties	8½	7½	6
South Western Counties, (Wales & Monmouth) ..	8	7½	5½
ENGLAND AND WALES	8½	7½	5½
SCOTLAND.			
Northern Counties	8	7½	6½
Eastern Counties	8½	7½	6½
Lanarkshire	8	7½	6
Other Southern Counties	8½	7½	6½
SCOTLAND	8½	7½	6½
GREAT BRITAIN	8½	7½	6

The mean of the predominant prices on 1st June, 1915, shows an increase of ¾d. per 4 lb. as compared with 1st March, and of 2½d. compared with a year ago.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The following Table shows the price of wheat and flour for the months specified:—

Month.	British Wheat		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households 52 Mill for Cash).
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	(Average Declared Value.)	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.†	
	Per qr. of 480 lb. s. d.	Per qr. of 480 lb. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per sack of 280 lb. s. d.	
May .. 1914	32 8	34 11	10 1	26 11	
May .. 1915	55 10	61 2	16 6½	49 9	
May	61 5	63 3	17 2½	52 2	

Since the last week of May there has been a fall in the prices of both wheat and flour. The average "Gazette" price of British wheat, as recorded in the Returns received in the week ended 22nd May, was 62s. per quarter (the highest point touched this year); in the week ended 5th June the price was 61s. 9d.; and in the week ended 12th June, 60s. 1d. Since the date of the latest Return there have been further reductions in price. The price of imported wheat has decreased more considerably, large supplies from both India and North America being in view. The spot price of American wheat, "No. 2 Hard Winter," at Liverpool from 26th April to 14th May was over 66s. per 480 lb.; from 15th May the price began to decline, and by 31st May had fallen to about 64s. 3d.; by the 7th June it had further dropped to about 60s.; and on 14th June the quotation was 55s. Similarly, Indian wheat has moved in a downward direction; the "spot" price of "choice white Karachi" on 14th June was just over 55s. per 480 lb., compared with about 63s. 9d. on 1st June. On 14th May the price was 67s. 2d.

The price of flour, town households, in London on 10th May reached the highest point of the year, and was 53s. per 280 lb.; on 31st May the price was 51s. 6d.; on 7th June, 49s. 6d.; and on 14th June, 48s.

The imports of wheat, wheat meal†, and flour‡ during September, 1914-May, 1915, amounted to 19,132,460 quarters, or 150,690 quarters more than in the corresponding months of 1913-1914.

* 8½d. is the mean over-counter price, 8¾d. the mean price when delivered, ¼d. per 4 lb. being the difference between the two prices when such differentiation is made.
† The figures include the estimated weight of offal, &c.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

(a) DISPUTES IN MAY.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of new disputes in May was 63, as compared with 44 in the previous month and 140 in May, 1914. In these new disputes 39,913 workpeople were directly, and 8,227 indirectly involved; and these figures when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before May and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 51,575 workpeople involved in trade disputes in May, 1915, as compared with 10,222 in the previous month and 76,779 in May, 1914.

New Disputes in May, 1915.—In the following Table the new disputes for May are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	6	2,527	650	3,077
Coal Mining	7	11,943	132	12,075
Engineering	6	2,531	116	2,747
Shipbuilding	3	256	37	293
Other Metal	10	2,260	4,605	6,865
Textile	9	10,562	2,410	12,972
Boot and Shoe	3	280	130	410
Transport	7	1,442	250	1,692
Other Trades	9	1,862	34	1,896
Employees of Local Authorities	3	6,144	62	6,206
TOTAL, MAY, 1915	63	39,913	8,227	48,240
TOTAL, APRIL, 1915	44	5,137	440	5,577
TOTAL, MAY, 1914	140	34,551	2,904	37,455

Causes.—Of the 63 new disputes, 44 arose on demands for advances in wages, 6 on other wages questions, 6 on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on questions of hours of labour, and 4 on other questions.

(c) PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY.

Occupations and Locality. §	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Cause or Object §	Result §
	Directly.	Indirectly. §				
BUILDING TRADES:—						
Labourers, scaffolders, bricklayers and plasterers—Woolwich	1,500 ||	600 ||	1915 3rd May	3	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour.	War bonus of 3s. per week granted.
Building trades operatives—Northampton		639	8th May	24	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and other alterations in working rules.	War bonus of 2s. 6d. per week granted. Many of the men obtained work elsewhere.
COAL MINING:—						
Miners, &c.—Dudley (near)		3,000	17th May	3	Misunderstanding arising out of delay in deciding district percentage to be granted as war bonus.	Work resumed at old rates pending issue of award.
Miners, &c.—Cannock and Pelsall Districts		5,000	20th May	3	Dissatisfaction at delay in deciding district percentage to be granted as war bonus.	Work resumed upon award being issued.
IRON AND STEEL:—						
Sheet millmen—Pontardawe	230	120	24th May	6	Misunderstanding as to division of work and wages under a new system of working.	Misunderstanding removed.
ENGINEERING:—						
Motor cycle makers—Bristol	700		3rd May	8	For a war bonus of 15 per cent.	Bonus of 10 per cent. granted, half to be added to wages, and half to accumulate till the end of the War, or till Christmas, 1915.
Engineers, &c.—Leicester	1,047		6th May		Against alleged extensive introduction of cheap labour, and other grievances.	Amicable settlement effected.
TEXTILE:—						
Scourers, dyers, trimmers and auxiliary workers (hosiery)—Leicester	150	1,900	17th May	4	For a permanent advance in wages of 20 per cent., the men refusing to accept a war bonus of 1d. in the shilling as agreed to by dyers, trimmers, and auxiliary workers.	(See p. 202.)
Hosiery workers—Leicester	10,000		31st May	2	For a war bonus of 1d. in the shilling on weekly earnings up to 4s. (males) and 3s. (females).	(See p. 202.)
TRAMWAY SERVICE:—						
Motormen, conductors, &c., London	5,854		14th May	19	For advance in wages, and against alleged excessive "spread-over" time, and other grievances.	Work resumed on employers' terms by the older men; men of military age not to be reinstated during the War, except in special cases.
	1,046		17th May	15		Work resumed unconditionaly.

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—30 disputes, involving about 5,500 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregated duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. † In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. ‡ The aggregate duration in 1914 of the general dispute at Dublin (200,000 working days), is included in the total but not in the separate groups of trades. § The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved" (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons. || Estimated number.

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 42 new disputes and 10 old disputes. Of these new and old disputes 8 were settled in favour of the workpeople, 22 were decided in favour of the employers, and 22 were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in May by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 224,900. In addition, 21,800 working days were lost owing to disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total aggregate duration in May of all disputes, new and old, was 246,700 days, as compared with 67,200 in the previous month, and with 1,040,900 in May, 1914.

(b) DISPUTES IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1914 AND OF 1915.†

Groups of Trades.	Jan. to May, 1914.			Jan. to May, 1915		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople Involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days of all Disputes in progress.
Building	110	34,161	2,040,500	21	9,460	74,000
Coal Mining	80	216,545	3,070,400	20	22,193	86,200
Other Mining and Quarrying	8	814	28,600	1	33	1,100
Engineering	44	6,369	383,900	46	16,295	170,500
Shipbuilding	52	13,190	65,400	25	2,848	24,200
Other Metal	32	8,041	126,500	21	9,699	43,400
Textile	60	13,496	366,500	32	20,672	142,400
Clothing	26	2,390	42,500	16	2,005	10,100
Transport	26	8,563	32,900	46	14,525	58,900
Other Trades	81	11,434	306,200	59	11,963	121,600
TOTAL	519	315,003	6,663,400	286	109,693	567,900

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

CHANGES IN MAY.—The number of workpeople affected by increases in rates of wages, including war bonuses, in May, and the amount of the increase in weekly wages were by far the largest ever recorded in a single month. Altogether 969,680 workpeople received an increase of £188,485 per week. Of these totals, 822,900 workpeople and £169,333 per week were accounted for by the coal-mining industry, in which the workpeople in all the principal districts received a war bonus early in the month. The percentage amounts of these bonuses are shown below, and it may be mentioned that whereas in some districts the bonus is calculated on the basis rates of 1879 or 1888, in the Federated Districts (Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Midlands and North Wales) it is calculated on present wages, which were already 65 per cent. above basis rates. Of the other groups of trades, iron, &c., mining and quarrying, in which considerable bodies of workpeople in Cleveland, Durham and Scotland received war bonuses, accounted for £3,482 per week, and the engineering and shipbuilding trades for £10,823 per week. In the pig iron and iron and steel industries in certain districts there were increases in wages under sliding scales, as a result of a rise in the ascertained average selling prices of pig and manufactured iron.

CHANGES IN JANUARY-MAY.—During the five months ended 31st May, 1915, 1,987,444 workpeople are reported to have had their wages increased by £343,374 per week, or an average of nearly 3s. 6d. per head. In the corresponding period of 1914, 512,082 workpeople sustained a net decrease of £8,035 per week.

All the amounts stated are exclusive of increased

earnings due to overtime and also of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees. It is known, however, that considerable bodies of workpeople in each of these occupations have received increases or war bonuses. In the case of agricultural labourers, information as to recent increases is given in the article on p. 200.

The extent to which each of the other groups of trades contributed to the total this year is shown in the following Table:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Amount of Increase per week.
Building	36,770	7,775
Coal Mining	848,584	171,187
Iron, &c., Mining	18,811	3,587
Quarrying	7,750	839
Pig Iron Manufacture	21,089	2,791
Iron and Steel Manufacture	65,991	9,310
Engineering and Shipbuilding	452,025	81,359
Other Metal	28,101	2,956
Textile	158,415	15,865
Clothing	50,949	4,733
Transport	125,503	25,618
Printing, &c.	9,439	793
Glass, &c.	24,994	2,609
Other	85,057	12,042
Employees of Local Authorities	53,966	6,110
TOTAL	1,987,444	343,374

It will be seen that the coal mining industry accounted for about half of the total increase and the engineering and shipbuilding trades for a little less than half of the remainder. Next in importance as regards both the number of workpeople affected and the amount of the increase per week are the transport and textile groups.

PRINCIPAL WAR BONUSES AND OTHER INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN MAY, 1915.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
Building	Cardiff	1 May	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, plasterers, painters, and labourers	6,000	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, and plasterers, 10.1.; painters, 9d.; labourers, 7d. and 7½d.
	Newport, Mon ..	1 May	Bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plasterers, painters, labourers, scaffolders, engine drivers and drainers	1,298	Increase of ¼d. per hour. Rates after change: bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, and plasterers, 10d.; painters, 9d.; labourers, 7d.; scaffolders, &c., 7½d.
	Glasgow & District	1 May	Slaters	500	Increase of ¼d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.)
		3 May	Hewers, other underground workers and surface workers	44,500	War bonus of 15 per cent., on basis rates, making wages 63 per cent. above the standard †
	Northumberland	3 May	Deputies	1,300	Increase of ¼d. per day (7s. 2½d. to 7s. 3d.).
		17 May	Mechanics	1,600	War bonus of 8½d. per day (7s. 3d. to 7s. 11½d.).
3 May				Increase of ¼d. per day (6s. 0½d. to 6s. 1d.).	
17 May				War bonus of 7½d. per day (6s. 1d. to 6s. 8½d.).	
Coal Mining	3 May	Enginemmen	950	Increase of ¼d. per day.	
	17 May	Firemen	350	War bonus of 8d. per day (6s. 10d. to 7s. 6d. for winding, and of 7d. (6s. 3d. to 6s. 10d.) for others.	
	3 May	Hewers, other underground workers, deputies, enginemmen, boiler-menders, mechanics, cokemen, and other surface workers	120,000	Increase of 2s. per cent. (including war bonus of 15 per cent.), making wages 63 per cent. above the standard.	
	Cumberland ..	3 May	Hewers, other underground workers, surface workers, enginemmen, firemen, coke workers, &c.	8,300	War bonus of 15½ per cent. on present wages.
	Federated Districts ‡	5 May	Hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers	360,000	War bonus of 15½ per cent. on present wages. †
Other Mining and Quarrying	South Staffs and East Worcester (parts of)	5 May	Hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers	11,000	War bonus of 15½ per cent. on present wages. †
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	5 May	Hewers, other underground workers, and surface workers	180,000	War bonus of 17½ per cent. on basis rates, making wages 77½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	Scotland	5 May	Hewers and other underground workers	93,000	War bonus of 18¾ per cent. on basis rates, making wages 83¾ per cent. above the standard of 1888.
	Cleveland ..	17 May	Ironstone miners	9,000	War bonus of 9d. per shift to winding enginemmen, and of proportionate amounts to others.
S. & W. Durham	17 May	Limestone quarrymen	2,500	War bonus of 15 per cent. on basis rates, making wages 46½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. †	
	2 May	Ironstone quarrymen	900	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent., making wages 7¾ per cent. above the standard of 1909.	
	Scotland	6 May	Miners and other underground workers at shale mines	4,900	War bonus of 18¾ per cent.
Surface workers at shale mines				750	War bonus of 3d. per day.
				3,060	War bonus of 4d. per day.

* Excluding the wages of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees. † The increase to be merged into future advances due to increases in the selling price of coal, &c. ‡ Including Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire (parts of), Shropshire and North Wales.

PRINCIPAL WAR BONUSES AND OTHER INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES IN MAY, 1915—continued.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.	
Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture	England and Scotland (certain firms)	2 May	Steel melters, pitmen, &c.	2,400	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3¾ per cent. Increase of 1½ per cent.	
	Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	31 May	Iron puddlers	750	Increase, under sliding scale, of 6d. per ton (9s. to 9s. 6d.). Increase, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent.	
	Barrow-in-Furness (one firm)	3 May	Rail millmen, enginemen, crane-men and boltermen	745	Increase, under sliding scale, of 1 per cent., making wages of millmen 22½ per cent., and of enginemen, &c., 13½ per cent. above standards.	
	North Lines	2 May	Blastfurnacemen	1,600	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent., making wages 7½ per cent. above the standard of 1909.	
	West Scotland	1 May	Blastfurnacemen and labourers	3,500	Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent., making wages 35 per cent. above the standard of 1899.	
		31 May	Iron puddlers	3,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton. Rate after change, 9s. 9d. per ton plus 1d. per heat.	
		31 May	Iron millmen	2,750	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.	
	Engineering and Ship-building	England and Scotland	28 May	Gas producermen and charge wheelers	1,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent.
		Blackburn	15 May	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinememen, brass finishers, &c.	1,300	War bonus of 10 per cent. on piece rates and of 1d. per hour or 4s. per week on time rates.
		Bolton	21 May	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinememen, labourers, &c.	7,000	War bonus of 7½ per cent. on piece rates and of 3s. per week on time rates.
Oldham		21 May	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinememen, patternmaker-labourers, &c.	9,500	War bonus of 7½ per cent. on piece rates and of 3s. per week on time rates.	
Mersey		7 May	Fitters, turners, smiths, angle-iron smiths, platers, riveters, caulkers, shipwrights, &c. (ship-repairing)	9,000*	War bonus of 10 per cent. on piece rates and of 4s. per week on time rates.	
Colchester		May	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinememen, patternmakers, labourers, &c.	1,300	War bonus of 2s. per week to men and of 1s. to boys.	
London District		†	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinememen, patternmakers, brass finishers, instrument makers, electricians, stampers, hammermen and labourers	30,000	War increase of 10 per cent. on piece rates and of 4s. per week on time rates.	
Textile		Leicestershire	1 & 22 May	Dyers, trimmers, scourers, &c.	3,150	War bonus of 1d. on every complete shilling earned up to 40s.
		Hinckley District	7 May	Hosiery workers (see Note † below)	2,000	War bonus of 7½ per cent. to males and 5 per cent. to females.
		Leicester	10 & 11 May	Boot and shoe operatives	25,000	War bonus of 1s. 6d. per week to female operatives of 18 and over and to youths of 18 or under 21; of 3s. to males over 21 earning under 35s., of 2s. 6d. to those earning 35s. and under 45s.; and of 2s. to those earning 45s. and upwards. §
Boot and Shoe	Norwich	17 May	Boot and shoe operatives	4,000	War bonus of 2s. per week to men, of 1s. or 1s. 6d. to youths, and of 1s. 6d. or 2s. to women.	
	Birmingham and District	3 May	Bakers	1,000	Increase of 3s. per week on night work, and of 2s. on day work.	

* Preliminary and subject to revision.
 † The increase was accepted in May to date from 14th April in Federated shops, and from various dates in May in non-Federated shops.
 ‡ An increase of 5 per cent. was granted by certain firms in May, but this was merged into one of 8½ per cent. to take effect in June.
 § Hal. only of the bonus payable from 8th May, the remainder from 5th June.

SLIDING SCALE CHANGES IN WAGES.

In the pig iron and iron and steel industries in certain districts wages move up and down under sliding scales in accordance with the movement in prices, particulars of which are given below. Coal miners in Durham have no automatic sliding scale, but the price is taken into account by the Conciliation Board in fixing wages.

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Durham COAL (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	1915. Jan.—Mar.	s. d. 9 6-90	s. d. + 0 6-53	s. d. - 0 4-89
West of Scotland MANUFACTURED IRON (Rails, plates, bars and angles.)	Feb.—April	67 4-95	+ 8 5-95	+ 10 6-95
Midlands (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, &c.)	Mar.—April	151 10-41	+ 9 10-61	+ 17 1-08
West of Scotland (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.)	Mar.—April	147 5-47	+ 5 1-72	+ 15 2-52

Coal.—No change in wages has been settled in Durham.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blast furnacemen in the West of Scotland were increased by 10 per cent.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the wages of puddlers were increased by 6d. per ton, and those of millmen by 5 per cent., whilst in the Midlands and the West of Scotland they were increased by 3d. per ton and 2½ per cent. respectively, as a result of the ascertainments of the selling prices of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts. In the Midlands the change in wages did not operate till June.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

[NOTE.—These are not connected with the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges.]

The number of applications by workpeople in May, 1915, showed an increase of 10 per cent. compared with May, 1914, and the number of situations offered increased by 5 per cent.

The demand for cooks, parlourmaids and housemaids still greatly exceeded the supply, 408 situations being offered during May, while the number available to fill these vacancies only amounted to 134. In the case of secretaries and clerks and typists the supply is now only slightly in excess of the demand, whereas a year ago the number of applications was more than double the number of vacancies.

	Applications by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
					Permanently.		Temporarily.	
	May, 1915.	May, 1914.	May, 1915.	May, 1914.	May, 1915.	May, 1914.	May, 1915.	May, 1914.
Central Bureau—5, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.	132	110	150	92	75	27	9	8
Y.W.C.A.—26, George Street, (1), Hanover Sq., W. (2).	260	244	412	420	54	36	31	27
Girls' Friendly Society, 39, Victoria Street, S.W.	98	78	135	117	25	22	6	12
Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dublin Bureaux	163	187	249	260	53	59	2	4
TOTAL of 11 Bureaux	302	254	218	219	64	83	9	16
	960	873	1,164	1,108	271	227	57	67
	SUMMARY BY OCCUPATIONS.							
Superintendents, Forewomen, &c.	70	80	44	39	11	10	2	3
Shop Assistants	15	13	6	8	3	3	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, &c.	33	21	74	86	13	5	6	10
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	143	122	123	52	46	20	7	13
Apprentices and Learners	38	13	60	24	34	12	3	—
Domestic Servants	460	476	751	774	141	142	35	36
Miscellaneous	201	148	106	125	23	35	4	5
TOTAL of 11 Bureaux	960	873	1,164	1,108	271	227	57	67

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN MAY.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

RETURNS received from the Department of Labour Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance show a continued improvement in the state of employment in the insured trades during May.

The following Table shows by industries the proportion of unemployment books lodged* to the total current on each Friday during May, 1915. The figures are based on the net number of workpeople after deducting those who have enlisted:—

INDUSTRIES.	7th May.	14th May.	21st May.	28th May.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Building and Construction of Works	1.5	1.4	0.7	0.7
Shipbuilding	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Engineering and Ironfoundry	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Construction of Vehicles	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
Sawmilling	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Other Insured Workpeople	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
ALL INSURED WORKPEOPLE	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
	DISTRICTS.			
London	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7
South Eastern	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
South Western	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
West Midlands	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
East Midlands	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
Yorkshire	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
North Western	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Northern	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Scotland	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Wales	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Ireland	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.9
UNITED KINGDOM	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
A Month ago	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1
A Year ago	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

The total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the four weeks ended 28th May, 1915, was 23,434, as compared with 33,538 during the five weeks ended 30th April, 1915, and with 83,884 during the five weeks ended 29th May, 1914. Of the total of 23,434 claims, 13,283 (or 57 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 10,151 (or 43 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the four weeks was 6,477, 5,719, 5,860, and 5,378, the average being 5,859, as compared with 6,708 in the five preceding weeks, and with 16,777 in May, 1914.

The average weekly amount of unemployment benefit paid during the four weeks ended 28th May, 1915, was £1,574 as compared with £2,009 per week in the five preceding weeks, and with £7,166 per week in May, 1914; 56 per cent. of the amount was paid direct and 44 per cent. through Associations:—

Districts.	Average Weekly No. of Claims Made.			Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.		
	May, 1915.	April, 1915.	May, 1914.	May, 1915.	April, 1915.	May, 1914.
London	1,454	1,579	4,030	£ 225	£ 263	£ 1,979
South-Eastern	483	497	951	122	131	354
South-Western	431	521	1,207	101	144	499
West Midlands	199	278	1,146	64	82	609
East Midlands	281	291	648	56	101	260
Yorkshire	441	504	1,326	103	142	630
North-Western	927	1,154	3,293	270	370	1,378
Northern	239	271	1,040	61	84	364
Scotland	411	500	1,637	91	154	678
Wales	312	249	801	68	68	132
Ireland	681	764	648	409	400	353
UNITED KINGDOM	5,859	6,708	16,777	1,574	2,009	7,166

* In accordance with the Regulations, every holder of an unemployment book has, when unemployed, to lodge it at a Labour Exchange or other local office of the Unemployment Fund.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

FOUR WEEKS ENDED 14TH MAY, 1915

The total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers* of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges (404 in number) on 14th May was 84,774, as compared with 95,245 on 16th April, 1915, and 107,184 on 15th May, 1914.

The number of registrations of workpeople during the four weeks ended 14th May was 231,502, a daily average of 9,646, as compared with a daily average of 9,466 in the previous five weeks and of 9,305 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914.

Excluding cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, there were on the Register at some time of other during the period 312,466 workpeople (men 147,424, women 120,806, boys 17,088, and girls 27,148), as compared with 332,757 in the five weeks ended 16th April, 1915, and 307,397 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914.

The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 144,219, a daily average of 6,009, as compared with 5,736 in the five weeks ended 16th April, 1915, and with 4,721 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 100,065, a daily average of 4,169, as compared with 4,188 in the previous five weeks, and with 3,450 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the period:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
On Register at beginning of period	40,394	41,363	3,998	9,460	95,245
Registrations during period	116,366	83,519	13,496	18,091	231,502
Individuals registered	107,080	79,443	13,090	17,658	217,271
Re-registrations	9,366	4,073	406	433	14,278
On Register at end of period	34,487	38,989	3,425	7,873	84,774
Vacancies notified during period	83,292	35,228	14,414	11,285	144,219
Vacancies filled during period	68,076	26,159	8,035	7,795	100,065
Individuals placed	45,811	20,162	6,938	6,845	79,756
Applicants placed in other districts.	11,672	8,590	1,474	1,155	20,891

Of the 20,931 cases in which persons were placed in Exchange districts other than those in which they were registered, 4,258 represent transferences from one division to another. Of the total vacancies filled, 16,995, or 17.0 per cent., were filled by applicants residing more than five miles from the place in which the work was to be performed.

In the following Table are shown, for men and women, the proportions of vacancies filled to vacancies notified, and of vacancies filled to registrations (including those on the Registers at the beginning of the period) in the principal groups of trades:—

Trades.	Proportion of Vacancies filled to Vacancies notified.		Proportion of Vacancies filled to Registrations.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Insured Trades—				
Building, Construction of Works and Sawmilling	78.6	—	36.8	—
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Construction of Vehicles.	74.5	95.7	42.6	61.0
Uninsured Trades—				
Textiles	53.6	83.4	43.1	26.2
Dress	36.3	77.6	18.0	24.3
Transport	67.6	79.4	41.0	17.3
Agriculture	35.2	50.6	25.4	35.3
Paper, Prints, &c.	42.3	70.8	11.3	18.9
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging	59.5	77.4	37.5	29.9
Commercial	74.0	74.5	14.7	13.5
Domestic	50.6	69.5	27.2	22.2
General Labourers	77.8	—	26.3	—
TOTAL	69.7	74.3	37.1	21.0

The average daily numbers of registrations and vacancies filled, for the periods stated, are shown in the following Table:—

* Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less casual nature (i.e., dock labourers, cloth porters and cotton porters); these are dealt with in the last paragraph but one.

District or Department.	Insured Trades.			Uninsured Trades.		
	4 weeks ended 14 May, 1915.	5 weeks ended 16 Apr., 1915.	4 weeks ended 15 May, 1914.	4 weeks ended 14 May, 1915.	5 weeks ended 16 Apr., 1915.	4 weeks ended 15 May, 1914.
REGISTRATIONS.*						
London.. ..	588	666	782	1,888	1,872	1,294
South-Eastern	206	220	245	518	428	347
South-Western	227	252	339	369	314	316
West Midlands	197	203	294	570	502	482
East Midlands	137	143	181	294	274	258
Yorkshire	254	262	370	506	479	446
North-Western	414	409	702	1,037	951	666
Northern	225	202	296	402	371	239
Scotland	264	279	411	666	735	420
Wales	242	240	434	210	199	203
Ireland	148	192	147	284	268	233
Men	3,992	4,122	4,122	2,047	1,972	1,887
Women	45	23	11	3,485	3,172	2,068
Boys	52	50	54	511	509	607
Girls	3	3	1	751	710	592
TOTAL	2,802	3,073	4,201	6,744	6,393	5,104
VACANCIES FILLED.						
London.. ..	272	299	161	829	715	493
South-Eastern	101	123	95	184	160	126
South-Western	177	230	130	186	175	148
West Midlands	123	125	82	131	160	153
East Midlands	73	76	93	112	113	115
Yorkshire	179	184	149	211	219	178
North-Western	128	134	142	353	389	341
Northern	161	159	127	113	113	105
Scotland	170	173	138	290	315	206
Wales	142	156	280	72	72	89
Ireland	23	20	29	74	73	70
Men	1,459	1,605	1,377	961	950	658
Women	48	32	6	1,047	961	776
Boys	45	42	41	250	232	327
Girls	2	2	2	322	301	265
TOTAL	1,549	1,684	1,426	2,620	2,504	2,024

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.

The average daily number of vacancies notified in the insured trades during the four weeks ended 14th May was 2,011, as compared with 2,105 in the previous five weeks, and with 1,804 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914. The corresponding daily averages in the uninsured trades were 3,998, 3,631, and 2,916 respectively.

INSURED TRADES.†

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 63,358 (men 61,038, women 1,042, boys 1,207, and girls 71). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 86,465 (men 83,216, women 1,620, boys 1,506, and girls 123). These figures exclude 6,286 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed during the period, and represent separate individuals.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register on 14th May was 18,535, as compared with 23,107 on 16th April, and 54,572 on 15th May, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 48,275, a daily average of 2,011, as compared with 2,105 in the previous five weeks, and 1,804 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 37,171, a daily average of 1,549, as compared with 1,684 in the previous five weeks and 1,426 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914.

The following Table shows, for men, the proportion of registrations, vacancies notified, and vacancies filled, respectively, in each group of occupations to the total for the insured trades:—

Groups of Occupations.	Registrations.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
Building and Construction of Works	53.8	52.6	54.1
Sawmilling	1.0	0.5	0.3
Shipbuilding	11.9	12.4	12.7
Mechanical Engineering	31.2	33.3	31.7
Construction of Vehicles	1.5	1.0	1.0
Cabinet Making, &c.	0.6	0.3	0.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

† The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II. of the National Insurance Act.

UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 153,863 (men 45,992, women 78,401, boys 11,883, and girls 17,587). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 226,001 (men 64,208, women 119,186, boys 15,582, and girls 27,025). These figures exclude 7,995 cases in which persons already placed in vacancies during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at 14th May was 66,239 (men 16,895, women 38,326, boys 3,186, and girls 7,832), as compared with 72,138 on 16th April and 52,612 on 15th May, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 95,944, a daily average of 3,998, as compared with 3,631 in the preceding five weeks, and 2,916 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 62,894, a daily average of 2,620, as compared with 2,504 in the preceding five weeks, and 2,024 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914.

Of the vacancies filled during the period 7,630 (men 3,576, women 3,740, boys 159, and girls 155) were known to be for less than a week's employment; of these 1,876 were for men in conveyance of men, goods and messages, 573 were for general labourers, and 3,158 were for women in domestic offices of services.

Of the 14,696 vacancies filled by boys and girls 3,913 (boys 1,718 and girls 2,195), or 26.6 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

The following Table shows the proportion of registrations, vacancies notified, and vacancies filled in certain groups of trades to the total for the uninsured trades:—

Trade Groups.	Registrations.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
MEN:—			
Conveyance of Men, Goods, &c. ..	21.5	23.3	25.7
General Labourers	32.5	18.4	23.3
Commercial Occupations	8.8	3.7	4.5
Textiles	3.9	5.1	4.4
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging ..	2.3	2.7	2.7
Agriculture	2.3	3.1	1.8
All others	28.7	43.7	37.6
	100.0	100.0	100.0
WOMEN:—			
Domestic Offices or Services	48.9	52.4	49.5
Textiles	7.1	7.8	8.8
Food, Tobacco, Drink, &c. ..	6.5	7.6	8.0
Dress	7.2	8.9	9.4
Commercial Occupations	5.9	4.3	4.4
Paper, Prints	1.8	1.7	1.6
All others	25.6	17.3	18.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men given casual employment through the Exchanges was 850, and the number of casual jobs given was 3,791, a daily average of 158, compared with 203 in the preceding five weeks, and 606 in the four weeks ended 15th May, 1914. Of the jobs given during the period 2,326 were for dock labourers, 1,384 for cloth porters at Manchester, and 81 for cotton porters at Liverpool. During the period there were also 3,331 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House system for dock labourers at Liverpool.

UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

During the period covered by the returns there was a general shortage of navvies in works of construction, and there was an unsatisfied demand for workers of all classes in most of the shipbuilding and engineering centres. The demand for labour for agricultural and colliery work was still unsatisfied.

With regard to women, the shortage of labour in the clothing trade still continues.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES—FOUR WEEKS ENDED 14th MAY, 1915.

A.—INSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 14th May, 1915.

OCCUPATION GROUPS.†	ADULTS.				JUVENILES.			
	REGISTRATIONS.			VACANCIES.	REGISTRATIONS.			VACANCIES.
	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registrations during Period.*	On Register at End of Period.		On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registrations during Period.*	On Register at End of Period.	
Building:—								
Carpenters, Joiners &c.	3,627	8,836	2,968	3,918	17	28	15	21
Bricklayers	1,877	3,532	1,468	1,138	1	3	—	—
Masons	1,316	1,527	944	245	1	1	1	2
Painters, Decorators &c.	1,261	3,584	598	2,355	2	8	2	16
Plumbers and Glaziers	711	1,447	576	324	4	21	3	14
Other skilled occupations	1,044	1,732	693	421	2	—	—	7
Labourers	2,801	9,612	2,023	5,059	4	24	5	49
Construction of Works	1,391	5,957	983	5,477	3	8	—	2
Sawmilling	275	664	244	122	3	14	1	9
Shipbuilding:—								
Platers and Riveters	519	2,599	487	1,544	7	56	6	35
Shipwrights	107	838	90	559	2	10	—	8
Labourers	832	4,488	709	2,349	31	91	19	65
Mechanical Engineering:—								
Moulders (Iron and Steel)	697	1,927	720	584	6	47	11	42
Smiths	307	794	282	289	6	10	4	16
Erectors, Fitters and Turners	1,435	6,042	1,373	3,420	120	532	116	371
Metal Machinists	496	2,008	398	1,082	16	141	9	134
Wiremen	282	730	269	291	17	42	13	45
Other skilled occupations	962	2,560	811	1,004	22	44	9	87
Labourers	1,414	6,928	1,359	4,456	18	115	21	84
Making of Vehicles	442	976	339	334	12	39	3	46
Cabinet Making &c.	392	430	298	58	5	10	1	16
TOTAL MALES	22,178	67,261	17,592	35,019	299	1,244	239	1,079
TOTAL FEMALES	578	1,068	663	1,018	62	71	41	55
GRAND TOTAL	22,756	68,329	18,255	36,037	361	1,315	280	1,134

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.
† Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 14th May, 1915.

TRADES.	ADULTS.									JUVENILES.					
	On Register at Beginning of Period.			Registrations during Period.*			On Register at End of Period.			Vacancies Filled during Period.					
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.			
Mining and Quarrying	274	3	277	633	10	643	143	5	148	337	13	350	29	1	30
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	255	564	819	1,043	970	2,013	316	469	785	631	462	1,093	255	278	533
Textiles:—															
Cotton	236	1,362	1,598	1,100	3,572	4,672	258	1,348	1,606	623	1,236	1,859	119	183	302
Wool and Worsted	116	242	358	423	682	1,005	107	203	310	225	261	486	57	71	128
Other Textiles	143	969	1,112	406	1,728	2,134	152	902	1,054	172	716	888	90	265	375
Dress:—															
Boot and Shoe Workers	206	103	309	517	213	730	166	98	264	169	66	235	50	40	50
Others	299	3,617	3,916	403	5,755	6,158	216	2,559	2,775	88	2,250	2,378	47	802	849
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages:—															
On Railways	152	—	152	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c. ..	315	—	315	4,223	333	1,277	11,842	186	660	4,154	888	277	6,214	73	2,386
Agriculture	497	309	806	1,143	956	2,099	417	527	944	417	446	863	91	41	132
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	420	750	1,170	650	1,414	2,064	254	550	804	121	408	529	119	473	592
Wood, Furniture, Fittings and Decorations	376	149	525	701	260	961	280	111	391	244	181	425	125	65	190
Chemicals, Oil, Grease, Soap &c. ..	121	1,725	1,846	806	2,490	3,296	443	1,958	2,441	360	580	940	775	277	1,052
Bricks, Cement, Pottery and Glass	146	264	410	198	540	738	93	249	342	188	123				

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

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

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1915, was 61, of which 53 were due to lead poisoning and 8 to anthrax. Eight deaths, 6 due to lead poisoning and 2 to anthrax, were also reported. In addition, 7 cases of lead poisoning (1 of which was fatal) among house painters and plumbers were reported.

During the five months ended May, 1915, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 178, compared with 258 during the corresponding period of 1914. The number of deaths in 1915 was 15, compared with 20 in 1914. In addition, there were 50 cases of lead poisoning (including 18 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first five months of 1915, compared with 78 cases (including 12 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1914.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Cases.			Deaths.	
	Month of May, 1915.	Five Months ended May, 1915.	May, 1914.	Month of May, 1915.	Five Months ended May, 1914.
Lead Poisoning.					
AMONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN—					
Smelting of Metals	4	15	14	—	1
Brass Works	—	—	5	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ..	1	1	3	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	7	11	13	—	—
Printing	6	16	11	2	3
File Cutting and Hardening ..	—	1	6	—	—
Tinning of Metals	1	1	7	—	—
White Lead Works	7	15	10	—	1
Red and Yellow Lead Works ..	—	5	1	—	—
China, Earthenware, and Litho- Transfer Works	1	7	19	—	3
Glass Cutting and Polishing ..	—	—	1	—	1
Vitreous Enamelling	—	2	6	—	1
Electrical Accumulator Works ..	13	33	17	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	3	4	7	—	—
Coach and Car Painting	5	17	39	2	4
Shipbuilding	1	3	12	—	3
Paint used in other Industries ..	2	5	22	2	2
Other Industries	2	16	27	—	1
TOTAL IN FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS	53	152	220	6	12
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	7	50	78	1	18
Other Forms of Poisoning.					
MERCURIAL POISONING—					
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	3	—	—
Furriers' Processes	—	—	1	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	2	4	—	—
ARSENIC POISONING—					
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL "OTHER FORMS OF POISONING"	—	2	4	—	—
Anthrax.					
Wool	5	12	17	—	5
Handling of Horsehair	—	—	3	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers &c.)	3	12	10	2	3
Other Industries	—	—	4	—	—
TOTAL ANTHRAX	8	24	34	2	8
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FAC- TORY AND WORKSHOP ACT	61	178	258	8	15
GRAND TOTAL	68	228	336	9	33

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS. CASES REPORTED IN MAY.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.]

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during May, 1915, was 229, a decrease of 104 on a month ago and of 66 on a year ago. The mean number for May during the five years 1910-1914 was 282, the maximum being 362 and the minimum 244.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during May, 1915, numbered 36, a decrease of 24 on a month ago, but an increase of 9 on a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 85, a decrease of 45 on April, 1915, and of 44 on May, 1914. There were 2 fatal accidents at quarries, compared with 1 a month ago and 10 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in May, 1915, was 105, a decrease of 32 on a month ago and of 21 on a year ago.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during May, 1915, was 537, an increase of 294 on April, 1915, and of 446 on May, 1914. This increase was mainly accounted for by the loss of the "Lusitania."

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in May, 1915, on a	
	May, 1915.	April, 1915.	May, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
RAILWAY SERVICE—					
Brakemen & Goods Guards	1	1	3	—	— 2
Engine Drivers	1	3	1	— 2	—
Firemen	5	2	—	+ 3	+ 5
Guards (Passenger)	1	1	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not in- cluding labourers)	5	7	1	— 2	—
Porters	9	5	2	+ 4	+ 7
Shunters	2	2	4	—	— 2
Mechanics	—	1	—	—	— 1
Labourers	2	—	3	+ 2	— 1
Miscellaneous	10	8	7	+ 2	+ 3
Contractors' Servants	—	30	1	— 30	— 1
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	36	60	27	- 24	+ 9
MINES—					
Underground	73	115	114	- 42	- 41
Surface	12	15	15	- 3	- 3
TOTAL, MINES	85	130	129	- 45	- 44
Quarries over 20 feet deep ..	2	1	10	+ 1	- 8
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—					
Textile—					
Cotton	5	9	7	- 4	- 2
Wool and Worsted	2	3	—	- 1	+ 2
Other Textiles	2	1	1	+ 1	+ 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	2	9	4	- 7	- 2
Bradford District	2	14	11	- 9	+ 5
Founding and Conversion of Metals	16	25	11	- 9	+ 5
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	9	4	4	- 5	- 1
Ship and Boat Building	—	14	10	- 5	- 1
Gas	1	1	2	—	- 1
Wood	3	2	9	+ 1	- 6
Clay, Stone, &c.	2	3	3	- 1	- 1
Chemicals	10	5	8	+ 5	+ 2
Laundries	—	—	1	—	- 1
Food	2	5	4	- 3	- 2
Drink	1	2	1	- 1	- 1
Paper, Printing, &c.	2	2	1	—	+ 1
Other Non-Textile In- dustries	24	27	22	- 3	+ 2
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	81	112	89	- 31	- 8
ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.	14	15	23	- 1	- 9
Docks, Wharves, and Quays Warehouses	2	1	1	+ 1	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies ..	8	9	13	- 1	- 5
TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.	24	25	37	- 1	- 13
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 ..	1	5	3	- 4	- 2
TOTAL, EXCLUDING SEAMEN.	229	333	295	- 104	- 66
SEAMEN—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	7	9	10	- 2	- 3
Steam	483*	165	75	+ 318	+ 410
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	4	1	—	+ 3	+ 4
Steam	43	68	8	- 25	+ 35
TOTAL, SEAMEN	537	243	91	+ 294	+ 446
TOTAL, INCLUDING SEAMEN.	766	576	386	+ 190	+ 380

* Including 402 seamen lost in the s.s. "Lusitania."

PAUPERISM.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in May, 1915, in the 35 urban districts named below was less than a month ago and a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, the number of paupers relieved decreased by 8,408, or 2.5 per cent., and the rate per 10,000 by 5. Indoor paupers relieved showed a decrease of 5,933 (3.8 per cent.), and outdoor paupers a decrease of 2,475 (1.4 per cent.). The rate per 10,000 decreased in every district but three, in one of which there was practically no change. The most marked decreases were 10 per 10,000 in Central London, and 9 per 10,000 in East London, in North Staffordshire, and in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district.

Compared with May, 1914, there was a decrease of 16,503 (or 4.8 per cent.) in the total number of paupers relieved. Indoor paupers relieved showed a decrease of 15,186 (or 9.1 per cent.); outdoor paupers a decrease of 1,317 (or 0.9 per cent.). Of the 35 districts, 30 showed a decrease and 5 a small increase. The decreases were most marked in the London districts, where they ranged from 13 to 28 per 10,000; and in Ireland (excluding the Dublin district), where they ranged from 11 to 15 per 10,000. Other important decreases occurred at Hull (19), West Ham and Manchester (12), and Newcastle, Nottingham and Leicester (11).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of May, 1915.			Rate per 10,000 of Esti- mated Popu- lation.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with a	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District	11,156	1,932	13,088	161	- 7	- 15
North District	13,883	6,882	20,765	205	- 8	- 13
Central District	4,220	1,390	5,610	383	- 10	- 28
East District	12,907	4,885	17,792	266	- 9	- 22
South District	22,157	13,735	35,892	191	- 7	- 17
TOTAL, Metropolis	64,323	28,804	93,127	206	- 8	- 17
West Ham	4,778	10,506	15,284	204	- 2	- 12
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,210	4,551	6,761	141	- 4	- 11
Stockton & Tees District	1,179	3,694	4,873	196	- 5	+ 2
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,094	4,031	8,125	100	- 4	- 4
Wigan District	2,070	4,951	7,021	161	- 4	- 9
Manchester District	9,554	6,712	16,266	159	- 7	- 12
Liverpool District	10,846	11,441	22,287	197	- 6	- 6
Bradford District	2,144	1,635	3,839	103	- 3	+ 1
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,202	2,943	3,845	100	- 3	- 7
Leeds District	2,568	3,269	5,837	122	- 3	- 7
Barnsley District	875	2,346	3,221	122	+ 1	+ 2
Sheffield District	3,077	3,719	6,796	139	- 4	- 1
Hull District	1,849	5,344	7,193	230	- 1	+ 19
North Staffordshire	2,159	5,167	7,326	182	- 9	- 8
Nottingham District	1,949	4,369	6,318	187	- 3	- 11
Leicester District	1,361	2,850	4,211	181	- 6	- 11
Wolverhampton District	3,593	7,237	10,830	167	- 3	- 6
Birmingham District	6,361	5,979	12,340	145	- 5	- 9
Bristol District	2,842	3,889	6,731	173	- 1	- 7
Cardiff & Swansea	2,326	6,053	8,379	190	- 1	- 7
TOTAL, "Other Districts" ..	62,289	90,440	152,729	164	- 4	- 7
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	3,784	18,185	21,969	231	- 2	- 10
Fairley & Greenock District ..	760	2,577	3,337	176	- 6	- 7
Edinburgh & Leith District ..	1,418	5,052	6,470	161	- 4	- 7
Dunfermline	673	2,154	2,827	141	- 5	- 8
Aberdeen	564	2,781	3,345	201	- 1	+ 2
Coatbridge & Airdrie	280	1,651	1,941	189	- 9	- 7
TOTAL for the above } Scottish Districts	7,489	32,400	39,869	198	- 4	- 8
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	5,604	5,291	10,895	266	+ 1	- 4
Belfast District	2,654	869	3,523	83	- 5	- 15
Cork, Waterford and Limerick District	3,305	4,233	7,538	304	- 2	- 13
Galway District	289	181	470	136	- 5	- 11
TOTAL for the above Irish } Districts	11,852	10,574	22,426	201	- 2	- 11
TOTAL for above 35 Dis- tricts in May, 1915	150,731	172,724	323,455	176	- 5	- 10

* Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards, and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.
† Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. IMPORTS IN MAY.

[Note.—Certain goods which, at the time of importation, were the property of H.M. Government or the Governments of the Allies, are not included in the imports.]

THE total value of the imports in May, 1915, was £71,645,000, compared with £73,678,000 in April, 1915, and with £59,099,000 in May, 1914. The increase as compared with last year was largely due to high prices, though there were substantial increases in the quantity of certain articles, especially cereals (other than maize); cocoa, coffee, and tea; and cotton and wool.

FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO.

Grain and Flour.—All the principal cereals, except barley and maize, showed increases as compared with May of last year. The imports of wheat amounted to 7,284,000 cwt., or 1,238,000 cwt. over those of May, 1914. Argentina sent 3,935,000 cwt., more than three million cwt. in excess of the amount sent in May, 1914, and a million cwt

It will be seen that there was an increase in all the principal articles, except timber and petroleum. Pit wood again showed an increase over last year, and the total imports for the five completed months of the current year are well in advance of those for the corresponding period of 1914. Timber, sawn or split, planed or dressed, increased in average value by 43 per cent.; with the result that the total value was slightly above that of May, 1914, in spite of a decline of nearly 30 per cent. in quantity. The decline in petroleum this month is exceptional; and the total imports for the five completed months of 1915 are still 11 per cent. over those of the corresponding period of last year. Three-quarters of the decline in petroleum was in fuel oil, the imports of which in May last year were quite abnormal. Owing to very heavy imports in the four previous months, however, the total imports of fuel oil in the five months January-May were 40 per cent. greater than in the corresponding period of 1914. Excluding petroleum, the total value of the oil and seed group of imports in May was above the value in May, 1914, by over £1,000,000, or 39 per cent. The imports of nuts and kernels for expressing oil were six times as great as in May, 1914, and nearly ten times as great as in May, 1913.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof showed a recovery in May, and amounted to 117,000 tons, against 77,000 tons in April; this was largely due to heavy imports of steel billets from the United States. The iron and steel imports were still, however, less than those of May, 1914, by about 36 per cent. Copper and lead showed great increases in both quantity and value; tin, a decrease in both respects; and zinc a reduction in quantity but an increase in value, the rise in average price being about 100 per cent. There was again a great increase in machine tools, the imports of which were nearly four times as great as in May, 1914; but most other kinds of machinery, as also hardware and instruments, showed considerable declines. In the textile group, cotton and woollen manufactures, especially the latter, showed very heavy reductions; but silk on the whole little change. Apparel showed a decline in value of over 50 per cent. Chemicals on the whole showed an increase, as also paraffin wax; earthenware and china, and glass-ware showed a great decrease. Paper also showed a reduction. Leather showed a slight reduction in May; but the total imports for the first five months of the year are still more than 50 per cent. ahead of those for the corresponding period of 1914. Skins and furs, dressed (not leather), showed a decline from £156,413 in May, 1914, to £5,504 in May, 1915.

EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN MAY.

[N.B.—Goods bought in the United Kingdom by, or on behalf of, the Governments of the Allies are included in the exports, but not goods taken from British Government Stores and Depots, or goods bought by H.M. Government and shipped on Government vessels.]

The total value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures in May, 1915, was £33,619,000, compared with £32,170,000 in April, 1915, and £42,051,000 in May, 1914. There has been a continuous improvement in the export figures every month since February; and the figure for May fell short of that for May last year by only 20 per cent., as compared with 45 per cent. in November, the month of greatest decline.

FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO.

Exports of malt increased elevenfold, but there was a decrease in most of the other articles in this group, particularly bran and pollard, biscuits and cakes, fish, beer and ale, spirits, and tobacco.

RAW MATERIALS.

There was a total reduction of £1,232,000, or 20·7 per cent., in this group, almost entirely owing to reduced exports of coal and of wool. The exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel were 3,968,000 tons, nearly the same as in April, but 2,500,000 tons less than in May last year. The exports of coal to Norway, Denmark, and France, were actually greater than those of May, 1914; but those to Russia, Italy, South America, and Egypt (among the principal destinations) showed great reductions, and those to Germany and Belgium had ceased entirely.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

*Textiles.**—As in April, the only important increases were in cotton sewing-thread and in woollen tissues, the latter increase being principally due to enormously increased exports to France. The textile group as a whole showed an appreciable improvement over April (£11,723,000 as against £11,019,000), and reached 82 per cent. of the total value of the textile exports in May, 1914.

Other Articles.—Nearly every other important article showed a considerable decline; and the decline was proportionately greatest in pig-iron and iron and steel rails; in copper and brass and manufactures thereof, machinery, and electrical goods and apparatus; in railway carriages and trucks; and in leather. On the other hand, there was an increase in steel bars, angles, and sections (owing to larger exports to France); in soap; and in chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours.

The quantities or values of the principal manufactured articles other than textiles, and the increase or decrease compared with May, 1914, are shown in the following Table:—

* For more detailed information, see the notes on imports and exports appended to the articles dealing with the state of employment in the several textile trades.

Article.	Exports in May, 1915.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on May, 1914.
Pig iron tons	29,342	- 65,695
Steel bars, angles, sections, &c.	38,926	+ 18,531
Rails "	25,740	- 31,812
Galvanised iron and steel sheets	31,527	- 22,870
Thin plates "	33,727	- 14,901
Other plates and sheets "	22,609	+ 2,747
Tubes and pipes and fittings, wrought or cast "	22,439	- 15,447
Wire and manufactures thereof "	8,153	- 1,268
Other manufactures of iron and steel	50,762	- 32,417
TOTAL iron and steel and manufactures thereof	263,225	- 163,132
Copper, brass, and manufactures thereof ..	2,628	- 2,332
Tin, unwrought "	828	- 213
Boots and shoes doz. pairs	88,035	- 22,957
Hats and bonnets doz.	75,073	- 28,559
Leather cwts.	12,655	- 14,088
Paper "	207,540	- 62,713
Oilcloth sq. yards	2,778,300	- 1,633,500
Earthenware and china cwts.	223,465	- 95,262
Ropes and cordage "	50,418	- 4,286
Soap "	178,007	+ 16,833
Machinery tons	31,744	- 32,655
(value) £	1,830,300	- 1,556,586
Cutlery, hardware, implements and tools, scientific instruments and apparatus	(value) £ 450,258	- 173,589
Electrical goods and apparatus	£ 233,569	- 153,228
Other metals and manufactures thereof	£ 344,287	- 37,861
Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	£ 2,166,082	+ 260,528
Leather manufactures (except boots and shoes)	£ 120,823	- 38,501
Apparel, waterproofed or not waterproofed	£ 542,809	- 66,223
Glass "	£ 121,122	- 38,228
Railway carriages, trucks, &c.	£ 136,452	- 249,960
Motor cars, cycles, motor cycles and parts thereof	£ 421,934	- 225,439
Books, printed "	£ 170,993	- 55,120
Stationery, other than paper	£ 120,648	- 28,083

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN JANUARY-MAY, 1915.

The imports in the five months ended May, 1915, were valued at £353,251,000, as compared with £317,649,000 in the corresponding period of 1914. The food group showed an increase of £37,585,000, more than half of which was due to grain and flour alone. The imports of wheat and flour (in grain equivalent) were less in quantity than in the corresponding period of 1914 by nearly 2,000,000 hundredweights, but were valued at nearly £10,000,000 more than last year. There was an increase in raw materials, but a decrease in manufactured articles.

The exports (British and Irish) were valued at £150,369,000, as compared with £215,585,000 in the first five months of last year. Nearly every group showed a decline. Cotton declined by £20,232,000, and the other textiles collectively by £5,221,000; machinery declined by £8,427,000 (or more than 50 per cent.); iron and steel and manufactures thereof by £7,081,000; and coal by £5,508,000.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES. QUARTERLY RETURNS OF SALES.

The following particulars show the sales in the first quarter of 1915 compared with those in the corresponding period of 1914 and 1910:—

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales* in First Quarter of			Percentage Increase compared with	
	1915.	1914.	1910.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments	9,719,795	7,960,954	6,283,605	22·1	54·4
Productive	2,950,814	2,128,554	1,615,140	38·6	82·7
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments	2,572,323	2,246,043	1,859,859	14·5	38·3
Productive	901,529	700,964	637,107	28·6	41·5
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE:—					
Productive Departments	76,336	56,598	38,894	34·9	96·3
IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments	117,545	86,752	52,661	35·5	123·2
TOTAL—Distributive Depts.	12,409,663	10,293,749	8,206,125	20·6	51·2
" Productive	3,923,679	2,866,116	2,291,141	36·1	71·5
Grand Total	16,333,342	13,179,865	10,497,266	24·0	55·6

* The figures given for the productive departments represent sales and transfers to distributive departments.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MAY.

The total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of May, 1915, was 53, as compared with 57 at the end of April, 1915, and 19 at the end of May, 1914. During the month the registers of the Committees at Dublin, Heywood, Middlesbrough and Swansea were closed.

The total number of persons who received employment relief during May, 1915, was 740, as compared with 2,053 a year ago, a decrease of 1,313 persons. Employment was provided also for 99 persons by arrangement with employers and local authorities.

The aggregate duration of employment relief decreased from 23,987 days in May, 1914, to 9,679 in May, 1915, and the average duration of employment was 13·7 days, as compared with 12·3 a year ago.

The total amount of wages paid during May, 1915, was £1,014, compared with £3,722 a year ago; the average earnings were 27s. 5d., compared with 36s. 3d. in May, 1914; those not on piecework received an average of 2s. 1d. a day, compared with 3s. a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Applicants getting Employment Relief.		Aggregate Duration of Employment Relief.		Total Amount of Wages Paid.	
	May, 1915.	May, 1914.	May, 1915.	May, 1914.	May, 1915.	May, 1914.
London: County	213	739	2,395	8,181	£ 243	£ 1,618
Outer	29	387	445	4,480	56	760
TOTAL, LONDON	242	1,126	2,840	12,661	299	2,378
Northern Counties	184	..	2,672	..	341	..
Lancs. and Cheshire	60	82	139	275	28	53
Yorkshire	7	17	7	piecew'k.	1	25
Midlands .. .. .	..	23	298	526	51	93
Eastern Counties .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southern Counties .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wales and Monmouth .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
ENGLAND AND WALES	508	1,248	5,956	13,462	720	2,539
Scotland	59	164	1,339	3,901	107	305
Ireland	173*	641†	2,384	6,624	187	878
UNITED KINGDOM	740	2,053	9,679	23,987	1,014	3,722

* Includes 35 women on piecework.

† Includes 90 women on piecework.

PASSENGER MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN APRIL.

In April, 1915, the total number of passengers who landed in the United Kingdom from other countries was 42,060, and the number who embarked for other countries was 41,251; these numbers compare with 147,822 and 150,010 respectively in April, 1914. In the four months ending April the passengers inward numbered 211,303, and the passengers outward 199,264, the inward being 178,800, and the outward 212,533, less than in the corresponding period of 1914.

The number of outward passengers to non-European countries in April was 11,729 in 1915, and 53,487 in 1914, these numbers including 9,847 and 36,989 British subjects respectively; the inward passengers from non-European countries in April numbered 13,022 in 1915, and 34,106 in 1914, of whom 10,832 and 21,789 respectively were British subjects. The numbers in the four months ending April were 43,460 outward, including 35,134 British, and 46,632 inward, including 38,128 British; the number of British subjects being less by 64,378 and 18,668 respectively than in the first four months of 1914.

The total of passengers of British nationality in April includes 7,768 passengers outward, who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom, and intending to reside permanently in non-European countries; while 7,637 of the inward passengers were recorded as having been resident in such countries, and intending to reside within the United Kingdom. The British passengers who were so recorded as changing their country of permanent residence during the four months ending April numbered 24,929 outward and 25,271 inward, showing a decrease of 52,288 and an increase of 941, respectively, on the corresponding figures for 1914. The distribution of the migratory movement of British subjects during April and the four months ending April is shown below, so far as the principal countries are concerned.

The effects of the European War are reflected in the continued decline in the number of emigrants to North America, and in the increased number of immigrants from British North America, during April, 1915.

Migrants of British Nationality.*	April		Four months ending April	
	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
EMIGRANTS TO—				
British North America	15,018	2,143	31,593	5,681
Australia	3,594	774	13,017	4,315
New Zealand	524	134	2,367	781
British South Africa	610	469	2,758	1,647
India (including Ceylon)	252	277	1,710	1,667
Other British Colonies and Possessions ..	411	324	1,838	1,443
TOTAL, BRITISH EMPIRE	20,409	4,121	53,283	15,535
United States	10,803	3,356	21,485	8,137
Other Foreign Countries	463	291	2,449	1,257
TOTAL EMIGRANTS	31,675	7,768	77,217	24,929
IMMIGRANTS FROM—				
British North America	1,409	2,192	5,311	8,130
Australia	1,874	1,157	4,181	3,112
New Zealand	323	213	788	556
British South Africa	1,584	495	3,789	2,039
India (including Ceylon)	1,643	1,012	2,604	2,302
Other British Colonies and Possessions ..	440	414	1,228	1,597
TOTAL, BRITISH EMPIRE	7,273	5,483	17,901	17,736
United States	1,725	1,450	4,262	4,529
Other Foreign Countries	920	704	2,167	3,006
TOTAL IMMIGRANTS	9,918	7,637	24,330	25,271
EXCESS OF EMIGRANTS	21,757	131	52,887	34†

* Exclusive of persons travelling via Continental Ports.

† Excess of Immigrants.

IMMIGRATION TO AND EMIGRATION FROM THE UNITED STATES IN MARCH.

The total number of immigrant aliens admitted into the United States in March, 1915, was 19,263, of whom 11,549 were males and 7,714 females. This number is considerably under one quarter of the average number of immigrant aliens in March during the three previous years. Persons to the number of 1,652 were debarred from landing, over 1,000 on the ground that they were "likely to become a public charge." In addition, 194 persons were deported after landing.

A majority of the immigrants were described as labourers (3,144), servants (1,823), or farm labourers (1,418). The other occupations most prominently represented were merchants (582), clerks and accountants (488), farmers (485), and carpenters and joiners (367). Including women and children there were also 7,054 persons of no stated occupation. The number of alien emigrants from the United States in March was 7,755, of whom 6,328 were males and 1,427 females. This total is about half the average figure for March in the three previous years. Of these emigrants 2,728 went to Italy and 1,014 to Canada. Of the 7,755 emigrants, 4,360 were described as labourers, and there were also, including women and children, 1,269 persons of no stated occupation.

During the period July, 1914, to March, 1915, the number of alien immigrants admitted to the United States was 253,501, or about one-third of the average for the corresponding period in the three previous years. The number departing in the period July, 1914, to March, 1915, was 176,166, rather more than two-thirds of the average for the corresponding period of the previous three years.

EMERGENCY GRANTS TO TRADE UNIONS.

It has been decided in view of the complete change of conditions since the Emergency Grant scheme was introduced to pay no grants on expenditure incurred after the end of May.

During the month of May a total sum of £1,703 2s. 1d. was paid to Trade Unions by way of grants in aid of exceptional expenditure on unemployment benefit, but the greater part of this expenditure was incurred before the end of February last.

The following statement shows the number of Unions, arranged in trade groups, to which grants have been made, and the total sum paid to the 31st May:—

Trade Group.	Applications Granted.		Amounts Paid.
	No. of Associations.	Membership.	
Building	1	61	£ 4 6 3
Metal	18	8,372	1,307 12 9
Cottons	135	221,415	68,801 9 4
Other Textile	7	5,402	2,280 13 1
Printing	6	23,260	5,286 8 11
Woodwork	8	17,302	2,111 18 2
Other Trades	10	8,487	1,968 18 10
TOTAL	185	284,297	81,761 7 4

1 Textile Machinery and Jewellery Workers.

2 Including Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing in Cotton.

3 Leather Workers, Basket Makers, Hatters, Tobacco (Cigar) Workers, etc.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: SEAMAN BOUND TO FIND OWN FOOD: GOING ASHORE TO BUY FOOD: ACCIDENT WHILE RETURNING.

Compensation for injury is payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, only when the injury was caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of the injured workman.

The crew of a coasting vessel were required by the articles under which they were employed to provide their own food. The ship was in port on 14th January, 1913, moored near steps leading from the end of a pier to the water. A member of the crew went ashore in the afternoon with the knowledge and tacit permission of his employers, and about 6.30 p.m. he bought some provisions for his own use in the town. The pier was badly lighted, and it was a dark night, with a high gale and heavy rain. After the man had gone ashore the ship had, without his knowledge, been moved to another mooring. Next morning the man's dead body was found on the beach in a place where a body might be expected to be cast up if a person fell into the sea near the end of the pier. The widow of the deceased claimed compensation. The county court judge found that, having bought provisions, the deceased was returning to where he expected his ship to be, when he accidentally fell into the water and was drowned; but he held that the accident was not one arising out of his employment, and therefore he refused to make an award in favour of the widow. An appeal from this decision was dismissed by the Court of Appeal, and the claimant appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords held that the deceased was under no obligation to his employers to feed himself. His contract was that the employers should not be under an obligation to feed him. Assuming that he was under necessity to go ashore to get food, that necessity did not arise out of his employment, but from the fact that he, like the rest of mankind, must eat to live. Hence the accident did not arise out of his employment. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Parker v. Owners of ship "Black Rock."*—House of Lords.—11th May, 1915.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: EPILEPTIC FIT: INJURY FROM FALL.

A workman employed as an engine fitter was subject to epileptic fits. On 30th March, 1914, he returned to work after a few days' absence while recovering from a fit. On 6th April, 1914, while engaged in his ordinary work and standing on a hard cement floor, he had another fit, and, falling backwards, fractured the base of his skull. In consequence he died some ten days later, and his widow claimed compensation. The Sheriff decided that the claimant had failed to prove that the fatal injury was caused by an accident arising out of the employment of the deceased, and refused an award of compensation. The widow appealed. It was contended on her behalf that the deceased had undertaken a risk incidental to his work in standing at work on a hard cement floor, and that this was the cause of death.

The Court of Session dismissed the appeal. They held that the risk was not a risk incidental to the work, but was such a risk as anyone was exposed to. Hence the death was not due to an accident arising out of the employment.—*Cuthbert v. Robert Kerr & Sons.*—Court of Session.—14th May, 1915.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF EMPLOYMENT: WORKING IN MANNER FORBIDDEN: SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT: PERMANENT DISABLEMENT.

Where it is proved that injury to a workman is attributable to his serious and wilful misconduct, no compensation is payable unless the injury results in death or in serious and permanent disablement.

A boy was employed to work a machine for rolling ventilation tiers, and was forbidden to sit down while at work. Although he was well aware of his orders and of the danger of disobeying them, he sat down, and worked the machine in that position. In consequence his foot was caught in the roller, and seriously and permanently injured. He claimed compensation, but the county court judge held that, as he was doing the work in a manner which was forbidden, the accident had not arisen out of the employment, and therefore he was not entitled to compensation.

On appeal the Court of Appeal reversed this decision on the ground that, though the workman had for his own convenience adopted a dangerous method of doing his work, he was acting within the sphere of his employment, and, having been permanently disabled, was entitled to compensation.

On further appeal by the employers, the House of Lords affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal, holding that on the facts only one conclusion was possible, namely, that the injury was caused by an accident which arose out of the employment. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Blair & Co. v. Chilton.*—House of Lords.—7th and 11th May, 1915.

REVIEW OF PAYMENTS: PARTIAL REMOVAL OF INCAPACITY: SUBSEQUENT INABILITY TO FIND WORK: OLD AGE.

Where compensation is being paid under the Act, any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished or increased.

A workman lost one eye by accident in 1910, and was by agreement paid 16s. 7d. a week, which was half the average amount he had been earning before the accident. In 1911, on review, this weekly payment was reduced to 6s. 7d. a week, it being proved that the workman was capable of earning £1 a week. On a second review, in 1912, the weekly payment was raised to 9s. 10d., on evidence that he was only able to earn 13s. 6d. a week. In 1914 the workman again requested a review and an increase in the payments. He proved that he was unable to obtain employment, though he had tried through the Labour Exchanges. He was, however, over 60 years of age, and the Sheriff-Substitute found that his inability to obtain work could not be traced directly to the accident, but was due rather to age and bad health. An increase was therefore refused, and a second request for an increase a few months later shared the same fate. The workman appealed.

The Court of Session held that no new fact in support of an increase had been proved, except that the workman was getting older. Old age, however, came upon all who lived long enough, and brought with it more or less incapacity for work. Such incapacity could not be put forward as a reason for increasing payments under the Act. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Young v. Bilsland & Co.*—Court of Session.—12th May, 1915.

(2) COAL MINES ACTS.

INSPECTION OF MINE: BREACH OF REGULATIONS: LIABILITY OF OWNER AND MANAGER: EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY.

Under the provisions of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, secs. 63, 64, 65, the firemen, examiners, or deputies of every mine must, before the commencement of work in a shift, inspect the parts of the mine specified in the above sections, and shall ascertain the condition thereof as regards the presence of gas, ventilation, &c. A report has then forthwith to be made in a book. If such inspection is not carried out as required, an offence has been committed against the Act, and the owner, agent, and manager of the mine is each guilty of an offence unless he proves that he had taken all reasonable means to prevent contravention of the Act by publishing the regulations and to the best of his power enforcing them. Where proceedings are taken against the owner or agent of a mine for an offence under the Act, such owner or agent is not liable to any penalty if he can prove that he took no part in the management of the mine in respect of the matters in question; that he had made all the financial and other provision necessary to enable the manager to carry out his duties; and that the offence was committed without his knowledge, consent or connivance.

A fireman, whose duty it was to inspect a mine before a shift went to work, omitted to inspect a certain cavity, which was afterwards found to be full of gas and in a dangerous condition. Proceedings for an offence against the Act were then taken against the fireman, the owners and the agent. The owners and agent gave evidence that they had appointed a competent manager, who had the control and management of the mine, and that they had made all financial and other provision to enable such manager to carry on his duties. Also they had published at the mine the prescribed abstract of the Act and the regulations made under the Act. The agent used to go down the mine once a week for general supervision, but did not interfere in the management nor in the matter of inspection, and the fireman's offence was committed without the knowledge or consent of the owners or agent. In these circumstances the magistrates dismissed the charges against the owners and agent, but convicted the fireman.

On appeal the High Court held that the magistrates were right in dismissing the charges against the owners or agent, as they had brought themselves within the protective words of the Act.—*Atkinson v. Jeffreys & Lancaster & Co., Ltd.*—King's Bench Division.—6th May, 1915.

ACCUMULATION OF DUST: ADOPTION OF MEANS TO PREVENT ACCUMULATION: CLEARING ROOF AND SIDES "AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE."

It is provided by the Coal Mines Act, 1911, that in every mine, unless the floor, roof and sides of the roads are naturally wet throughout, they must be systematically cleared so as to prevent, as far as practicable, coal dust accumulating.

The floor, roof and sides of the roads of a certain mine were of a very dry and dusty character, and the dust accumulating on the sides and roof was a cause of danger. The manager of the mine had attempted by brushing, by blowing with compressed air, and by watering, to clear the roof and sides, but his attempts were not successful, and he abandoned them in October, 1913. Considerable lengths of road were then arched with stone, but this roof had been crushed by the pressure from above. Watering the roof and sides was found to be dangerous. Proceedings were taken against the manager for an offence under the Act in that he did not cause the floor, roof and sides to be systematically cleared. It was proved that the floor had been properly cleared and well watered. It was admitted that brushing and blowing would not have been effective, and might have been dangerous. In these circumstances the magistrates were satisfied that it was not practicable to carry out the provisions of the Act, and that the manager had done all that was reasonably practicable in the circumstances to prevent accumulation of dust. They therefore dismissed the charge.

On appeal the High Court held that the magistrates were justified in the circumstances in dismissing the charge.—*Atkinson v. Shaw.*—King's Bench Division.—6th May, 1915.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1915.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (REFUNDS TO EMPLOYERS) REGULATIONS, 1915.

The Board of Trade, in exercise of their powers under Section 91 of the National Insurance Act, 1911, and in exercise of their powers under Section 5 of the National Insurance (Part II. Amendment) Act, 1914, and all other powers in this behalf, hereby make the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Unemployment Insurance (Refunds to Employers) Regulations, 1915, and shall come into force on the date hereof.

2. In these Regulations, the expression "the Act" means the National Insurance Act, 1911, and the expression "the amending Act" means the National Insurance (Part II. Amendment) Act, 1914.

The expression "application" means an application for a refund in accordance with Section 94 of the Act, as amended by Section 5 of the Amending Act.

3. (1) Every application shall be in the form set out in the first schedule* hereto or such other form as the Board may direct, accompanied by schedules (in duplicate) setting out in respect of each workman included in the application.

(a) The particulars mentioned in Part I. of the second schedule* hereto, and also

(b) (As regards each workman included in the application in respect of whom no refund would have been payable otherwise than by virtue of the last sub-section of Section 5 of the Amending Act) the particulars mentioned in Part II. of the second schedule hereto, or so many of them as are applicable.

(2) The application shall be lodged at a local office of the Unemployment Fund, or posted to the "Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade, Labour Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Department, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.," within two months after the termination of the insurance year to which it relates.

4. The proportionate reduction in the refund to the employer, referred to in the last sub-section of Section 5 of the Amending Act, shall be at the rate of 4d. for every five contributions, or part of five contributions, by which the number of contributions paid by the employer (otherwise than by virtue of the said sub-section of Section 5) falls below 45.

5. (1) An employer who has made an application shall furnish to the Board such other information as the Board may require for enabling them to check the particulars given in the application, or for the purpose of verifying the actual number of contributions paid in respect of any workman, or workmen, included in the application.

(2) An employer, so far as may be necessary for these purposes, shall allow an officer of the Board, duly authorised on their behalf, to inspect any material books of account, vouchers, or other documents.

Signed by order of the Board of Trade this 26th day of May, 1915.

H. LEWELLYN SMITH,
Secretary to the Board of Trade.

APPLICATIONS TO THE UMPIRE.

In pursuance of Regulations made by the Board of Trade and dated 26th day of March, 1912, Notice is hereby given that the Umpire (Unemployment Insurance) has received applications for decisions as to whether contributions are payable or not in respect of the following classes of workmen:—

343. Persons employed by rifle manufacturers and engaged in shooting guns and rifles at ranges.

344. Workmen engaged in making, fixing or repairing railway turntables.

DECISIONS BY THE UMPIRE.

Pursuant to paragraph (5) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations, the Board of Trade hereby give Notice of the following decision by the Umpire on questions whether contributions are payable:—

A.—The Umpire has decided that contributions ARE payable in respect of:—

1511. Mechanics and their helpers engaged partly in the repair and upkeep of machinery and partly in machining flanged or special pipes.

This decision modifies decision B 1452 (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for June, 1914).

Note.—Decisions relating to individual workmen which raise no question of general interest, or which merely apply a principle laid down in a previous decision, are not published.

RETURN OF DEATHS OF SEAMEN.

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

* Omitted for reasons of space.

TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

LACE FINISHING TRADE.

FILLING OF ANNUAL VACANCIES ON THE TRADE BOARD.

IN accordance with the Regulations with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Lace Finishing Trade Board, two representatives of employers and two representatives of workers retired on 14th May, 1915. After considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively, the Board of Trade have selected the following persons to be members of the Trade Board for the period commencing 14th May, 1915:—

Representatives of employers: *Mrs. J. Dudley and *Mr. T. H. Martin.

Representatives of workers: Mrs. Eliza Thompson and Miss Florence Wallis.

TAILORING TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT TRADE COMMITTEES.

The new Tailoring Trade Board (Great Britain) have established District Trade Committees for the areas for which District Committees were established by the late Trade Board, viz.—(1) Scotland, (2) the North-Eastern Counties, (3) the North-Western Counties, (4) the Midlands, (5) the Eastern Counties, (6) London and the South-Eastern Counties, and (7) the South-Western Counties. Each Committee consists of (a) appointed members of the Trade Board directed by the Board of Trade to act on the Committee, (b) representatives of employers and representatives of workers on the Trade Board chosen by their colleagues to act on the Committee, and (c) representatives of local employers and representatives of local workers selected by the Board of Trade after considering names supplied by employers and workers respectively. The principal function of the Committees is to consider the application of minimum rates of wages to their areas.

SHIRTMAKING TRADE.

IRELAND.

PROPOSAL TO FIX MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

The Shirtmaking Trade Board (Ireland) gave notice on 17th May that they proposed to fix a minimum time-rate of wages of 3½d. per hour for female workers other than learners.

The Trade Board also propose to fix special minimum time-rates for female learners (as defined by the Trade Board), ranging from 3s. 6d. per week of 50 hours up to 11s. per week, according to age and experience.

Notice was also given of general minimum piece-rates of wages for home-workers, which the Trade Board propose to fix for the processes of machining and hand-finishing. Information respecting the proposed minimum piece-rates can be obtained by persons affected from the Secretary of the Trade Board.

The Trade Board will consider any objections to the above-mentioned proposals which may be lodged with them within three months from 20th May, 1915. Objections should be in writing, and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Shirtmaking Trade Board (Ireland), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS DURING MAY, 1915.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination *
Abergele (Denbigh)	P. Jones, Abergele	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Ashton-in-Makerfield (Lancs.)	O. W. Jones, 88 Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield	Surgery, 41, Gerard Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Cardenden (Flife)	T. R. Hunter, Broompark, Cardenden	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Lurgan (co. Armagh)	T. B. Pedlow, 61, Market Street, Lurgan	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Staindrop (Durham)	C. H. Welford, Albert House, Barnard Castle	Surgery at Staindrop, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.

* Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

* Retiring member re-appointed.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MAY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

[All the United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any Bookseller from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H.M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 28, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. Ponsoby, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

Committee on the Use of Lead in Painting of Buildings. Report of Departmental Committee (Home Office) to investigate the Danger attendant on the Use of Paints containing Lead in the Painting of Buildings. [Cd. 7882: price 1s. 2d.]

Report of the Committee appointed by the Local Government Board upon the Provision of Employment for Sailors and Soldiers Disabled in the War. [Cd. 7915: price 1½d.]

Shipbuilding, Munitions, and Transport Areas. Copy of Report and Statistics of Bad Time kept. Treasury. [H.C. 220: price 3d.]

Forty-third Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1913-1914. Part III. (a) Public Health and Local Administration, (b) County Council Administration, (c) Local Taxation and Valuation. [Cd. 7611: price 2s. 2d.]

Annual Report of Proceedings under the Small Holdings and Allotments Acts, 1908 and 1910, the Agricultural Holdings Acts, &c., 1914. Part II. Allotments and Miscellaneous. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 7892: price 8½d.]

Police (England and Wales), 1914. Reports of H.M. Inspectors of Constabulary on the County and Borough Police Forces. Strength of the forces, ranks, number, and rates of pay, &c. [H.C. 209: price 1s. 5d.]

Third Report of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, 1914. Loans to existing landholders, agricultural education and research, home and rural industries, &c. [Cd. 7899: price 10½d.]

Report by the Scottish Land Court as to their Proceedings under the Small Landholders (Scotland) Acts, 1886 to 1911. Year 1914. Number of holdings, fair rents fixed, &c. [Cd. 7880: price 3s. 10d.]

Banking and Railway Statistics, Ireland, December, 1914. Particulars of agricultural credit societies, etc. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 7884: price 3d.]

Loan Fund Board of Ireland. Seventy-seventh Annual Report, 1914. [Cd. 7912: price 2d.]

Congested Districts Board for Ireland. Twenty-second Report, 1913-14. [Cd. 7865: price 4d.]

Emigration Statistics of Ireland for the year 1914. Number, occupations, &c. [Cd. 7883: price 2½d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

INDIA.—*Monthly Statistics of Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Indian Mills, January and February, 1915.* [Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing.]

CANADA.—*The Labour Gazette, April, 1915.* Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during March, industrial accidents in 1914 and in March, 1915, wholesale and retail prices, trade disputes, etc. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—*Census and Statistics Monthly, April, 1915.* [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—*Ontario. Fifteenth Report of the Bureau of Labour, 1914.* Wages and hours, trade disputes, Trade Unions, labour legislation, &c. [Toronto: L. K. Cameron, King's Printer.]

—*Saskatchewan. The Public Service Monthly, April, 1915.* [Regina: J. W. Reid, Government Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—*Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, January, 1915.* Trade Unions, unemployment, changes in rates of wages, industrial disputes, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird, & Co.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*Friendly Societies, Trade Unions, Building Societies, &c.* Report of the Registrar for 1914. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

—*The Industrial Arbitration Reports, 1914.* Vol. XIII. Part 6. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—*Report of Proceedings before the Court of Arbitration.* Vol. XII., 1913. [Perth: F. W. Simpson, Government Printer.]

NEW ZEALAND.—*Journal of the Department of Labour, March, 1915.* Condition of trade and employment as at 27th February, cases under the Workers' Compensation Act, persons assisted to employment, accidents, current retail prices, average weekly rent, etc. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

—*Awards, Agreements, and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.* Vol. XV., 1914, parts 10 and 11. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—*International Co-operative Bulletin, May, 1915.* International Co-operative Alliance. [London.]

—*Bulletin de l'Office International du Travail.* Nos. 11-12, 1914. International Labour Office. [Paris, Berger-Levrault.]

—*Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics, May, 1915.* Monthly Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence, April, 1915. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

UNITED STATES.—*Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, No. 172.* April, 1915. Unemployment in New York City. No. 165, 15th December, 1914. Lead Poisoning in Manufacture of Storage Batteries. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Annual Report of the Commissioner-General of Immigration.* Year ended 30th June, 1914. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Mortality Statistics, 1913.* Fourteenth Annual Report. Bureau of the Census. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Mineral Resources of the United States, 1913.* Part I., Metals. Part II., Non-metals. United States Geological Survey. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics, 1869-1915.* A Sketch of its History, Organisation, and Functions. Prepared for the Panama-Pacific Exposition. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—*Labour Bulletin, No. 105, 1st March, 1915.* Sixth Annual Report on Labour Organisations, 1913. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—*Second Annual Report of the Minimum Wage Commission, 1914.* [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—*Connecticut. Twenty-sixth Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics for the two years ended 30th November, 1914.* Free public employment bureaux, strikes and lock-outs, labour organisations, etc. [Hartford: Published by the State.]

—*Maine. Second Biennial Report of the Department of Labour and Industry, 1913-1914.* State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, labour organisations, accidents, manufacturing industries, etc. [Waterville: Sentinel Publishing Co.]

GERMANY.—*Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, April, 1915.* Labour disputes in fourth quarter of 1914, employment in March. Department of Labour Statistics of the Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

ITALY.—*Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro, 1st May, 1915.* Labour disputes and retail prices of food in March. *Do. Do. 16th May.* Labour disputes in second half of April. Labour Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d. each part.]

—*Bollettino dell'Emigrazione, 15th April, 1915.* Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Emigration. [Rome: Fratelli Bocca: price 3d.]

HOLLAND.—*Verslag van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek over het Jaar 1913.* Central Bureau of Statistics, Report for 1913. [The Hague.]

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