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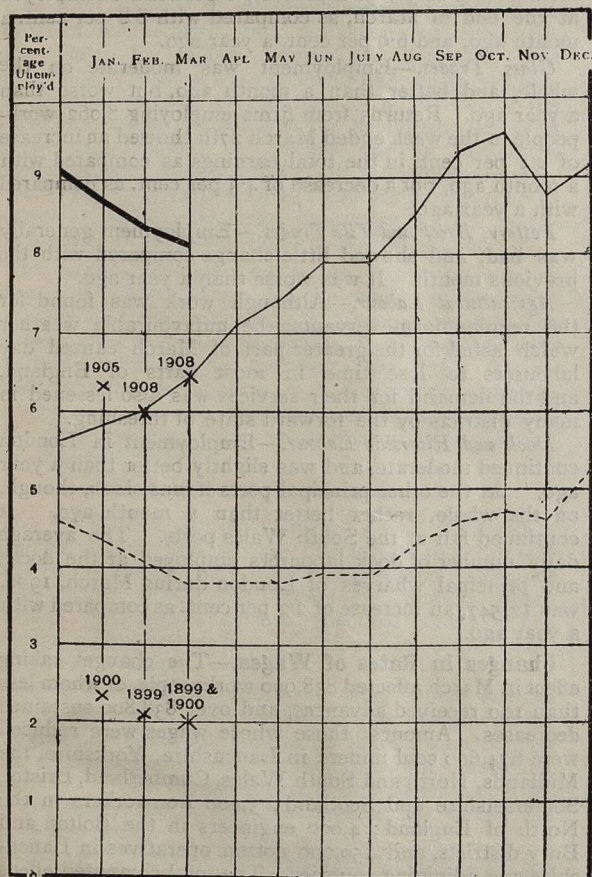
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF  
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1909.      ——— Thin Curve=1908.  
..... Dotted Curve=Mean of 1899-1908.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1899-1908 with the dates thereof.



**NOTE TO CHART.**

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For March, 1909, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 700,654 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 62,025	Paper, Printing & Book-binding ... .. 59,892
Coal Mining ... .. 139,761	Woodworking and Furnishing ... .. 36,236
Engineering ... .. 172,969	Miscellaneous ... .. 17,004
Shipbuilding ... .. 57,706	<b>Total ... .. 700,654</b>
Other Metal Trades ... .. 40,775	
Textiles ... .. 114,286	

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[In addition to the 2,894 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,552 were received from employers relating to 1,111,606 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,446 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in March showed, on the whole, a slight improvement as compared with February. It continued to improve in most of the textile trades excepting cotton, and there was a seasonal improvement in the printing, building, furnishing and woodworking trades. The building, engineering and shipbuilding trades remained very depressed.

As compared with a year ago, there was some improvement in the worsted, linen, hosiery and lace trades, and in the tinplate trade, but in most of the other industries there was a decline.

The changes in rates of wages reported during the month affected over 800,000 workpeople, and resulted in a fall of £43,000 per week.

In the 416 Unions, with a net membership of 700,654 making Returns, 57,450 (or 8.2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, 1909, compared with 8.4 per cent. at the end of February, 1909, and 6.4 per cent. at the end of March, 1908.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment during March continued fairly good. It was slightly better than a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended March 27th, 1909, was 5.29, as compared with 5.21 in February, and 5.49 a year ago.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended March 27th by all mines and open works included in the returns was 5.82, as compared with 5.87 a month ago and 5.76 a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry during March continued moderate. It was rather better than a month ago, but was slightly worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 iron-masters employing 22,000 workpeople showed 285 furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1909, as compared with 283 in February, 1909, and 290 in March, 1908.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago. It was also worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended March 27th, 1909, at the works from which Returns were received was nearly 1 per cent. less than in the week ended February 27th, 1909, and 4.1 per cent. less than a year ago.



**Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment during March continued very good. It was better than a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns, 445 tinplate and sheet mills were working, as compared with 447 in February, 1909, and 430 in March, 1908.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment continued slack and showed little general change as compared with a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 12.6, as compared with 12.8 per cent. in February, and 7.2 per cent. a year ago.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment continued bad, and showed but little change on the whole as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 22.2, as compared with 22.5 per cent. a month ago, and 21.5 per cent. a year ago.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment on the whole was moderate during March; there was an improvement in the weaving branch, compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Short time and slackness were reported in many districts.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment was moderate, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 29,858 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,639 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Linen Trade.**—Employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,110 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 13.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment on the whole continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,484 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment was fair on the whole, and showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,997 workpeople in the week ended March 27th, showed an increase of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment continued moderate, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,999 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 5.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment was fair in England and continued fairly good in Scotland. It was better on the whole than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,015 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the bespoke branch in London showed the usual seasonal improvement, but was not so good as a year ago. In the provinces it was moderate. In the ready-made branch employment was fair, and better than a month ago.

**Hat Trade.**—Employment in the Silk Hat trade was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. In the Felt Hat trade it was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment generally was fair. It was slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 63,732

workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment was bad, but showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month. It was not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,261 had 7.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 7.6 per cent. in February and 6.8 per cent. a year ago.

**Paper Making Trades.**—Employment in these trades was fair. It showed little change compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment was moderate with letterpress printers and slack with lithographic printers and bookbinders. It was better than a month ago but worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of March was 4.6, as compared with 5.8 a month ago and 4.0 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages were 7.8, 7.6, and 6.4 respectively.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continued slack; it was better than in February, but worse than a year ago.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment was bad generally, but fair with coachmakers, and good with brushmakers. It showed a general improvement compared with a month ago, and little change compared with a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 36,236 reported 7.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 8.8 per cent. a month ago, and 6.9 per cent. a year ago.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment was moderate on the whole, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,062 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the total earnings as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 4.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Pottery, Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment generally was bad, and showed little change compared with the previous month. It was worse than a year ago.

**Agricultural Labour.**—Although work was found for the regular farm servants, the unfavourable weather which lasted for the greater part of March caused day labourers to lose time in most parts of England, and the demand for their services was also lessened in many districts by the forward state of threshing.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment in London continued moderate, and was slightly better than a year ago. At the other principal ports it was slack, though, on the whole, rather better than a month ago. It continued fair at the South Wales ports. The average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves of London during March, 1909, was 12,547, an increase of 2.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes taking effect in March affected 838,900 workpeople, of whom less than 100 received advances, and over 838,800 sustained decreases. Amongst those whose wages were reduced were 674,600 coal miners in Lancashire, Yorkshire, the Midlands, North and South Wales, Cumberland, Bristol, Somersetshire and Scotland; 3,400 ironworkers in the North of England; 4,000 engineers in the Bolton and Bury districts, and 150,000 cotton operatives in Lancashire and adjoining counties. The total computed effect of all the changes was a net decrease of £42,800 per week.

**Trade Disputes.**—Seventeen disputes began in March, 1909, as compared with 19 in the previous month, and 23 in March, 1908. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during March, 1909, was 7,678, or 372 less than in February, 1909, and 31,500 less than in March, 1908.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 101,600 working days, or 11,300 more than in February, 1909, and 689,800 less than in March, 1908.

**EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE TEXTILE TRADES.**

An Enquiry was instituted by the Board of Trade in 1906 in order to ascertain the amount actually earned by all classes of workpeople of the United Kingdom in a selected week, and to obtain means of estimating their annual earnings. The only previous enquiry of this extensive kind was that undertaken in the year 1886, but there is a broad distinction between the two enquiries. In the 1886 enquiry the principal object was to obtain the rates of wages for a full week, while in the present enquiry the actual earnings of each individual, irrespective of the number of hours worked has been ascertained. At the same time provision was made for the classification of those workpeople who worked full time, less than full time, or more than full time, so that the full time earnings afford a basis of comparison with the result of the 1886 enquiry.

The first instalment of the results of the enquiry has now been published,\* and relates to the textile trades. The information contained therein is based on returns relating to over half a million workpeople. The final results of the whole enquiry will cover over 3,000,000 workpeople, or about three times as many as were covered by the previous enquiry.

Of the different groups of trades investigated, the textile trades are of special interest owing to the fact that in these trades both men and women are employed in very large numbers, and in some cases on work of a similar character.

The total number of workpeople employed in these industries in factories and workshops in 1904 (the latest date for which figures are available) was 1,171,000, and returns were received relating to 513,000, or nearly 44 per cent. of the total. In only two of the industries (silk and lace), was the proportion less than 40 per cent., while in hosiery and in bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing, it was approximately 50 per cent. The returns may therefore be regarded as covering a sufficiently large proportion of the workpeople employed to yield sound statistical results.

The particulars obtained as to earnings were as follows:—(1) A return showing the number of operatives employed and the total amount of wages paid in the last pay week† of each month in 1906, together with the total wages bill for the year; and (2) a Return showing the individual earnings of workpeople classified by occupation in the last pay week† in September, 1906, distinguishing those who worked either less or more than full time.

**Weekly Earnings in 1906.**

**Men and Women.**—In the following Tables the average earnings of men and women in each of the different industries in the last pay-week of September, 1906, are shown, together with the percentage numbers whose earnings fell within certain specified limits. The earnings given are of those employed for a full week, exclusive of overtime.

The most striking features of the Tables are the high percentage of men in the lace industry earning over 40s. per week, and the large percentages of men with earnings below 20s. in the linen, jute, and hair industries. With the exception of the latter industries and of hosiery, the largest percentages fall within the 20s. to 30s. group.

With the exception of operatives engaged in the cotton industry, the majority of women employed in the textile trades earn considerably less than 15s. per week, while, again with the exception of those in the cotton industry, comparatively few earn more than 20s. The high percentages of women employed at less than 10s. in the linen, silk, hemp, smallwares, hair and fustian cutting industries are also very noticeable.

\* Report of an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into the Earnings and Hours of Labour of Workpeople of the United Kingdom. I. Textile Trades. Cd. 4545. 2s. 6d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.  
† If the last week was a week in which employment was affected by holidays, strikes, lock-outs, breakdowns, or other exceptional circumstances, particulars were given for an ordinary week in the month.

Industry.	Men.						Average Earnings in a full week.
	Percentage Numbers of Men working Full Time whose Earnings, in the last Pay-week of September, 1906, fell within the under-mentioned limits.						
	Under 20s.	20s. and under 30s.	30s. and under 40s.	40s. and under 50s.	50s. and under 60s.	60s. and above.	
Cotton	16.0	43.7	21.3	14.4	4.1	0.5	s. d. 29 6
Woollen & Worsted	13.2	52.2	26.2	4.1	1.1	1.2	26 10
Linen	44.4	36.7	13.6	3.3	1.0	0.8	22 4
Jute	49.1	36.0	13.4	0.2	—	—	21 7
Silk	19.4	54.0	23.0	2.6	0.6	0.4	23 8
Hosiery	11.5	33.6	34.3	14.1	4.7	1.8	31 5
Lace	6.2	25.3	24.4	19.0	11.9	13.2	39 6
Carpet	19.4	49.7	23.4	5.5	1.6	0.4	26 7
Hemp	22.3	50.9	21.9	3.6	0.7	0.6	25 4
Smallwares	16.8	53.4	22.9	4.8	1.5	0.6	26 6
Flock and Shoddy	15.8	71.0	9.4	2.5	1.0	0.3	23 9
Elastic Web	7.9	47.0	29.0	12.0	3.3	0.8	30 3
Hair	51.2	33.2	10.3	2.5	2.1	0.7	21 3
Other Textile	23.7	48.5	22.1	4.9	1.6	0.2	25 8
Fustian and Cord Cutting	23.7	53.3	19.6	1.4	—	—	24 1
Bleaching, Printing, &c.	16.8	54.4	16.6	6.4	2.4	3.4	27 8
All above Industries	18.4	46.3	21.3	9.6	3.0	1.4	28 1

Industry.	Women.						Average Earnings in a full week.
	Percentage Numbers of Women working Full Time whose Earnings, in the last Pay-Week of September, 1906, fell within the under-mentioned limits.						
	Under 10s.	10s. and under 15s.	15s. and under 20s.	20s. and under 25s.	25s. and under 30s.	30s. and above.	
Cotton	3.0	20.9	35.4	29.9	9.6	1.2	s. d. 15 8
Woollen and Worsted	10.7	55.6	24.7	7.6	1.2	0.2	13 10
Linen	41.7	49.1	8.5	0.6	0.1	—	10 9
Jute	6.2	66.4	25.9	1.4	0.1	—	13 5
Silk	38.9	47.8	11.4	1.6	0.5	—	11 2
Hosiery	14.5	44.4	30.3	9.1	1.4	0.3	14 3
Lace	18.1	49.3	25.1	5.7	1.3	0.5	13 5
Carpet	15.3	49.8	28.2	6.5	0.2	—	13 8
Hemp	47.1	39.6	10.5	2.6	0.1	0.1	10 11
Smallwares	32.2	53.0	13.7	1.0	—	0.1	11 5
Flock and Shoddy	10.9	75.9	12.8	0.4	—	—	12 3
Elastic Web	21.8	65.5	12.3	0.4	—	—	11 8
Hair	51.9	45.3	2.8	—	—	—	9 4
Other Textile	18.3	44.5	30.3	6.1	0.7	0.1	13 7
Fustian and Cord Cutting	47.1	41.7	6.8	3.7	0.7	—	10 10
Bleaching, Printing, &c.	27.0	51.6	15.6	5.3	0.3	0.2	12 4
All above Industries	13.3	38.8	26.9	15.8	4.6	0.6	15 5

**Lads and Boys and Girls.**—Employers were asked on the schedule to classify as lads and boys all males under 20 years of age and as girls all females under 18 years of age. The average full time wages of lads and boys and girls in the different textile industries are shown below. The wages of half-timers working the full number of hours for which they were employed are shown separately.

Industry.	Average Earnings of Lads and Boys working Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906.		Average Earnings of Girls working Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906.	
	Full Timers.	Half Timers.	Full Timers.	Half Timers.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cotton	12 8	3 6	11 0	3 0
Woollen and Worsted	10 2	3 8	9 3	3 8
Linen	8 5	3 4	7 4	3 5
Jute	11 4	3 4	10 0	4 1
Silk	8 11	3 0	6 9	2 8
Hosiery	9 5	—	7 9	2 8
Lace	12 8	*	7 1	*
Carpet	9 6	3 7	7 9	3 3
Hemp	8 6	2 9	7 1	3 1
Smallwares	7 9	2 7	6 4	2 5
Flock and Shoddy	11 8	—	8 9	—
Elastic Web	10 8	—	6 6	—
Hair	7 5	—	7 0	—
Other Textile	9 6	3 10	7 1	3 3
Fustian and Cord Cutting	9 10	*	8 2	*
Bleaching, Printing, &c.	10 10	3 3	8 3	3 2
All above Industries	11 4	3 7	9 7	3 4

**All Workpeople.**—The earnings stated in the foregoing Tables are those of workpeople who worked full time in the last pay-week of September, 1906. For all the workpeople included in the returns, whether working full time or more, or less than full time in the above week, the average earnings are shown in the following Table. In computing the averages for lads and boys and girls in this Table, each half-timer has been counted as a separate unit.

\* The number of half-timers returned in this industry was insignificant.



Industry.	Average Earnings of all Operatives, including those who worked less or more than Full Time in the last Pay-week of September, 1906.				
	Men.	Lads and Boys.	Women.	Girls.	All Workpeople.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cotton	23 4	11 6	18 3	10 0	19 5
Woolen and Worsted	25 11	8 11	13 4	8 2	15 9
Linen	22 1	7 7	10 6	6 6	11 11
Jute	21 10	10 10	13 0	9 6	14 3
Silk	21 11	8 1	10 8	6 2	12 9
Hosiery	30 1	9 5	13 11	7 6	15 9
Lace	58 1	12 7	13 2	7 1	21 11
Carpet	25 4	8 10	12 11	7 5	15 1
Hemp	25 1	8 2	10 2	6 7	12 1
Smallwares	24 10	7 3	10 10	8 5	18 7
Flock and Shoddy	24 1	12 6	11 10	6 7	15 0
Elastic Web	30 5	10 8	11 5	6 7	15 0
Hair	21 3	7 5	9 3	6 8	12 7
Other Textile	25 8	9 3	13 4	6 11	16 1
Fustian and Cord Cutting	20 1	11 10	9 7	7 9	12 8
Bleaching, Printing, &c.	26 5	10 11	11 11	7 11	21 5
All above Industries	27 3	10 5	14 10	8 8	17 6

Annual Earnings in 1906.

The total amount of wages paid in 1906 by all the firms furnishing returns was nearly £22,500,000. The average weekly number of workpeople employed by these firms was 514,867, which, divided into the total for the year, yields an average per head of about £43 10s. The averages for the different industries are shown below:—

Industry.	Average Annual Earnings* per Head in 1906.	Industry.	Average Annual Earnings* per Head in 1906.
Cotton	£ 48 0	Smallwares	£ 29 10
Woolen and Worsted	40 0	Flock and Shoddy	45 10
Linen	29 10	Elastic Web	37 0
Jute	34 10	Hair	30 10
Silk	34 10	Other Textile	39 0
Hosiery	38 10	Fustian and Cord Cutting	30 10
Lace	54 10	Bleaching, Printing, &c.	54 10
Carpet	40 10		
Hemp	36 0	All above Industries	43 10

Changes in Average Wages, 1886-1906.

In comparing the general average for full time workers deduced from the returns for 1886 and 1906, it must be remembered that in the 20 years' interval machinery has been improved, new processes have been introduced and the classes of goods manufactured have changed. In some processes men have been replaced by women, women by girls, and more skilled by less skilled workers, or vice versa. It must also be borne in mind that the state of employment in the textile industries in 1886 was one of depression, while 1906 was a year of comparatively good employment.

Another factor which has to be taken into account is the diminution in the number of half-timers which has taken place, since, if each half-timer is counted as an unit, the replacement of two half-timers by one full-timer would have the effect of increasing the general average wages per head.

In the following Table particulars are given of the changes in the average earnings of adult men and women respectively in a full week in 1886 and 1906 as shown by the returns received.

Industry.	Average Earnings for Full Time.					
	Men.			Women.		
	1886.	1906.	Percentage Increase.	1886.	1906.	Percentage Increase.
	Per Week.	Per Week.		Per Week.	Per Week.	
	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	
Cotton†	23 7	28 10	22	15 0	18 8	24
Woolen and Worsted	23 3	26 10	15	12 7	13 10	10
Linen	19 9	21 4	13	8 11	10 9	21
Jute	19 4	21 7	12	9 7	12 5	40
Silk†	23 0	25 5	11	10 4	11 6	11
All Textile Industries‡	22 11	27 7	20	12 9	15 7	22

It will be seen from the foot-notes to the Table that certain modifications have been necessary in order to

\* Calculated to the nearest ten shillings.  
 † Counting all male big piecers as men.  
 ‡ Lancashire and Yorkshire, and the Congleton, Leek, and Macclesfield districts.  
 § Except lace, hair, fustian cutting and bleaching, printing and dyeing, for which industries sufficient details were not obtained for comparison.

obtain figures for 1906 comparable with those for 1886. On this account, the average weekly earnings for full time in 1906, as shown in the Table, differ in some cases from those shown in the preceding Tables.

For all the textile industries combined the percentage increase in average full time earnings is shown to be 20 per cent. for men and 22 per cent. for women.

It would appear, however, from the recorded changes in rates of wages published annually by the Board of Trade that on the whole rates of wages in the textile trades were somewhat lower in 1886 than in the years 1884-5 and 1887-8, while in 1906 rates were higher than in the years 1904-5, but not quite so high as in 1907-8. As compared with 1886, rates of wages, so far as dependent on changes in nominal piece rates only were higher in 1906 by about 19 per cent., but in the period 1904-8 they were only about 15 per cent. higher than in the period 1884-8.

It is reasonable, therefore, to assume that the percentage increase in average full time as shown between 1886 and 1906 should be reduced by approximately one-fifth in order to arrive at the true average rise of wages in the last 20 years. Accordingly it would probably more nearly represent the facts to say that the average advance in wages in the textile industries during the last 20 years has been about 16 per cent. for men and 18 per cent. for women.

In the following Table, which gives the average earnings of all males, all females and all workpeople, two half-timers have been counted as one unit in view of the marked decline in the number of half-timers employed which has taken place since 1886:—

Industry.	Average Earnings for Full Time.*					
	All Males.		All Females.		All Workpeople.	
	1886.	1906.	1886.	1906.	1886.	1906.
	Per week.	Per week.	Per week.	Per week.	Per week.	Per week.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cotton	19 4	24 7	27	13 4	16 9	+26
Woolen and Worsted	18 7	21 10	17	11 7	12 9	+10
Linen	15 2	17 11	18	8 2	10 5	+24
Jute	14 1	18 2	29	9 1	12 10	+41
Silk	19 2	21 2	10	9 4	10 9	+15
Hosiery	23 8	25 11	14	13 1	12 7	-3
All Textile Industries.†	18 5	23 1	25	11 7	14 5	+23

The exceptional result shown in the hosiery industry is due mainly to an increase in the proportion of girls to women and of women to men.

Hours of Labour.

In textile factories, print works and bleaching and dyeing works the maximum number of hours which may legally be worked in a week by women and young persons under 18 is 55 on any manufacturing process, and 55½ for any purpose whatever. In workshops and non-textile factories the maximum for women and young persons is 60 hours.

In the Table below is shown the average number of hours constituting a full week (exclusive of overtime) in each of the undermentioned industries so far as returned:—

Industry.	Average Number of Hours constituting a full working week.		Industry.	Average Number of Hours constituting a full working week.	
	Hours.	Hours.		Hours.	Hours.
Cotton	53 5	54 1	Hemp	53 5	54 1
Woolen and Worsted	53 5	54 1	Smallwares	53 5	54 1
Linen	53 5	54 1	Flock and Shoddy	53 5	54 1
Jute	53 5	54 1	Elastic Web	53 5	54 1
Silk	53 5	54 1	Hair	53 5	54 1
Hosiery	53 5	54 1	Other Textile	53 5	54 1
Lace	53 5	54 1	Fustian and Cord Cutting	53 5	54 1
Carpet	53 5	54 1	Bleaching, Printing, &c.	53 5	54 1

\* Counting two half-timers as one full-timer.  
 † Lancashire and Yorkshire, and the Congleton, Leek and Macclesfield Districts.  
 ‡ Except lace, hair, fustian cutting and bleaching, printing and dyeing, for which industries sufficient details were not obtained for comparison.

Throughout the cotton, woollen and worsted and carpet industries the regular working hours are practically identical with the maximum limit for women and young persons in textile factories above mentioned. In the linen and jute industries the working hours are on the average about half an hour less. In the other industries there is greater variation, the hours in the lace industry averaging 53½ and in fustian and cord cutting 57½.

Holidays.

The number of days on which factories and workshops in each of the textile industries were returned as being closed for holidays, public and local, in 1906, is shown below:—

Industry.	Number of days' holiday per annum.		Industry.	Number of days' holiday per annum.	
	Usual number.	Average number.		Usual number.	Average number.
	Days.	Days.		Days.	Days.
Cotton—			Lace	8-16	11 6
United Kingdom	8-15	11 4	Carpet	7-12	9 6
Lancashire and Cheshire	10-13	11 5	Hemp	6-12	9 2
Woolen and Worsted—			Smallwares	8-13	10 8
United Kingdom	6-13	8 2	Flock and Shoddy	8-10	9 1
Yorkshire	7-11	8 1	Elastic Web	9-15	11 9
Linen	6-16	8 0	Hair	6-11	7 9
Jute	10-12	10 8	Other Textile	8-15	11 6
Silk	8-15	10 7	Fustian and Cord Cutting	11-13	11 2
Hosiery	6-16	10 2	Bleaching, Printing, &c.	6-13	10 1

The only classes of workpeople generally paid for holidays were foremen and others on "standing wages." Such workpeople formed only a small proportion of the total number employed.

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Conciliation Conferences in the Cotton Trade.

At a Conference of the Cotton Trade recently held at the Board of Trade, between the Employers' and Operatives' representatives, with a view to discussing the advisability of the adoption of some equitable scheme for the future automatic regulation of wages, a Resolution was passed that future Conferences, for the purpose of devising such a scheme, should be held in Manchester, under a Chairman to be appointed by the Board of Trade after consultation with the Employers and Operatives' representatives. In accordance with this resolution the President of the Board of Trade, after consulting the various parties, has appointed the Right Hon. Sir Edward Clarke, K.C., to act as Chairman at future Conciliation Conferences for the above purpose, and Sir Edward Clarke has accepted the office.

Coal Miners, Swansea.

A dispute having arisen over a price list for coal miners at New Ystradowen colliery, Swansea, the matter was referred for settlement to two arbitrators appointed by the firm and the workpeople respectively with a provision for the appointment of an umpire in the event of the arbitrators failing to agree.

On February 24th, the arbitrators made application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to settle certain questions upon which they were unable to agree.

The Board of Trade, on March 8th, appointed Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas to act in that capacity, and subsequently nominated Mr. J. T. Robson to act as technical assessor.

Slaters, Glasgow.

The master slaters of Glasgow having given notice of a reduction in wages from 9d. to 8d. per hour, the matter was referred for settlement to two arbitrators with power to appoint an umpire in case of failure to agree. On April 6th the arbitrators, having been unable to

effect a settlement, applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire.

Joiners, Glasgow.

On April 8th the Conciliation Board for the Carpenter and Joiner Trade in the Glasgow district applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of a "Conciliator" to determine a question of wages upon which the Conciliation Board had been unable to agree.

Music Hall Employees, Middlesbrough.

A dispute as to the dismissal of certain employees having arisen between the employees and managers of certain music halls and theatres at Middlesbrough, it was mutually agreed by the parties on March 23rd to further discuss matters, and, failing agreement, to refer them to the arbitration of Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C.

No agreement having been arrived at, the questions in dispute were referred to and heard by Mr. Askwith on March 29th, and he issued his award on March 31st.

Mr. Askwith decided that in the case of the Empire, Palace and Hippodrome Music Halls, the employees should not have been dismissed, and should be reinstated on or before April 17th; that in the case of the Theatre Royal the employees gave grave reason for the belief that it was necessary to dismiss them, but that they should be reinstated on or before April 24th; while in the case of the Grand Opera House, the managers were within their right in dismissing their employees, and should not be required to reinstate any or all of them, other than those in the front of the house, who were not concerned in the dispute, and who may have since been dismissed.

Mr. Askwith also drew up rules for the future good working of the Theatres and Music Halls at Middlesbrough.

Irondressers, Falkirk.

On February 16th, 24 irondressers, &c., in the employment of a firm at Falkirk struck work against a proposed change from piece to time work, a large number of moulders, fitters and other workpeople being thrown out of work in consequence.

In March an officer of the Department visited Falkirk to investigate the circumstances of the dispute, and subsequently a joint application was made by the parties on April 1st to the Board of Trade asking for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide the question in dispute.

The President of the Board of Trade on April 10th appointed a Court composed of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T., as Chairman, and, in accordance with the wishes of the parties, Mr. Douglas Upton, from the Employers' Panel, and Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., from the Labour Panel.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Cork.

Alderman T. Smith, J.P., the arbitrator appointed in this case (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, p. 40) issued his award on March 16th.

Mr. Smith fixed the minimum wage for pressmen or rough stuff cutters at 26s. per week; for clickers, ordinary lasters, and finishers at 28s.; for Rex machine operators at 34s. and for Consol machine operators at 35s. per week. He also drew up quantities or piecework statements for clickers, rough stuff cutters or pressmen, fitters-up, lasters and finishers, and settled the general conditions under which these statements should apply. He further decided that the award should come into operation on May 3rd next, and that neither side should be competent to re-open the questions settled under it until after the expiration of three years from that date.

Miners, Bath (near).

His Honour Judge Austin, chairman of the Court of Arbitration appointed to deal with this dispute (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1909, p. 80), issued the decision of the Court on March 22nd.



The question in dispute was the rate to be paid to carting boys, and the decision of the Court was as follows:—

As from the 24th day of March, 1909, the running prices payable by the Employers to the Carting Boys shall be at the following rates:—

	d,
1 to 25 yards ... ..	1 ½ per ton
26 " 50 " ... ..	1 " "
51 " 75 " ... ..	1 ½ " "
76 " 100 " ... ..	2 " "
101 " 125 " ... ..	2 ½ " "
126 " 150 " ... ..	3 " "
151 " 175 " ... ..	3 ½ " "
176 " 200 " ... ..	4 " "

and so on, adding ¼d. per ton for each further 25 yards.

NOTE.—For the purpose of calculating distances, 2 yards in "topples" shall be reckoned as 3 yards, 1 yard in "dipples" shall be reckoned as 2 yards.

## RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

### Midland Railway Award.

THE Sectional and Central Conciliation Boards to which certain proposals for modification of wages and other working conditions which had been made by the Midland Railway Company and by various grades of their employees were referred having failed to arrive at any settlement and also failed to agree on appointment of an arbitrator, the question in dispute were referred for settlement to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Cromer, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., the Arbitrator appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons and by the Master of the Rolls. The Earl of Cromer issued his award on April 1st, the operative part of which is as follows:—

#### Drivers, Firemen and Cleaners.

1. That Engine-drivers and Firemen are not to receive less than a day's pay if sent out with a train or on shunting duty, and that Engine-drivers and Firemen coming on duty by order, whose services are not required, are in no case to receive less than a quarter of a day's pay.

2. That, in so far as the necessities of the service will permit, arrangements are to be made for all Engine-drivers, Firemen and Cleaners to remain off duty for at least nine consecutive hours.

3. That in the case of Engine-drivers, Firemen and Cleaners who are called out for duty before the nine consecutive hours of rest, as aforesaid, have expired, they are to be paid at a rate and a half for the unexpired portion of the nine hours.

4. That overtime is to be paid at the rate of eight hours per day, to commence after ten hours' duty.

5. That all time between 12 midnight on Saturday and 12 midnight on Sunday shall be paid, in the case of Engine-drivers and Firemen employed on passenger trains, at a rate and a quarter, and in the case of Engine-drivers and Firemen employed on mineral or goods trains at a rate and a half;

Provided that Engine-drivers and Firemen employed on mineral or goods trains, who finish at or before 7 a.m. on Sunday the work commenced on the previous Saturday are to be paid at a rate and a quarter.

6. Having taken note of the declaration made by the representative of the Company in the course of the proceedings, that it is the intention of the Company to abolish the trip system at present applicable to the express passenger trains between London and Leicester and between Birmingham and Bristol, I award that Engine-drivers and Firemen who work express passenger trains and are paid on a mileage basis be granted the following allowances:—

(A) Drivers working and paid on the mileage basis of 150 miles as equivalent to a day of 10 hours to receive 6d. extra for each time signing on for a booked mileage turn, subject to such allowance not exceeding 2s. per calendar week.

(B) Firemen working and paid on the mileage basis of 150 miles as equivalent to a day of 10 hours to receive 3d. extra for each time signing on for a booked mileage turn, subject to such allowance not exceeding 1s. 6d. per calendar week.

7. That an advance of 3d. a day be made to every Fireman employed on locomotive engines with a heating surface of more than 1,500 square feet, except to Firemen working and paid on the mileage basis as laid down in Clause 6 (B) of this portion of the Award.

8. That the following times be allowed to Engine-drivers and Firemen for preparing engines at the commencement of the day's work, and for disposing of them at the close of it:—

#### 1. FOR PREPARING ENGINES.

	If coal is not required.	If coal is required.	
		New stage.	Old stage.
	Minutes	Minutes	Minutes
For any class of engine working short trip or shunt trains, and No. 1 class passenger and goods engines ... ..	30	35	40
For No. 1 class engines with leading bogies, Nos. 2 and 3 class passenger, for goods engines working main line trains, also for 2,000 class tank engines ... ..	35	40	45

#### 2. FOR DISPOSING OF ENGINES.

For any class of engine working short trip or shunt trains, and No. 1 class passenger and goods engines ... ..	30	35	40
For No. 1 class engines with leading bogies, Nos. 2 and 3 class passenger, for goods engines working main line trains, also for 2,000 class tank engines ... ..	35	40	45
For main line passenger or goods engines working 150 passenger or goods miles, or over ... ..	40	45	50

Drivers and Firemen taking more than three tons of coal to be allowed five minutes more than the above-mentioned times.

9. That Engine-drivers, Firemen, passed Cleaners and Cleaners stationed at the Company's locomotive depots at Kentish Town and Cricklewood are to receive a minimum of the following sums above the wages paid in the country districts, and that the same arrangement should apply to Hendon:—

#### 1. Kentish Town.

(A) All men employed at Kentish Town who are now married, or single men who may hereafter marry, to receive an allowance of 3s. per week over the standard rates of wages paid in the country districts.

(B) All unmarried men employed at Kentish Town at the date of the Award to continue to receive, so long as they are employed at Kentish Town, such allowances over the standard rates of wages paid in the country districts as they are enjoying at the date of the Award, subject to such allowance not exceeding 3s. per week in any case. All other unmarried men employed at Kentish Town to receive an allowance of 1s. per week over the standard rates of wages paid in the country districts.

#### 2. Cricklewood.

(A) All married men employed at Cricklewood to receive an allowance of 3s. per week over the standard rates of wages paid in the country districts; subject to all such married men as may now or hereafter reside in the Company's cottages paying the Company's standard rents for such houses.

(B) All unmarried men employed at Cricklewood to receive an allowance of 1s. per week over the standard rates of wages paid in the country districts.

10. That any passed Fireman or passed Cleaner having done 313 days' driving or firing, shall be entitled to his advances as per existing regulations dealing with Drivers' and Firemen's wages.

#### Carriage and Wagon Examiners and Greasers, Carriage Cleaners and Washers, Brakesmen and Gas Labourers.

1. That any Carriage or Wagon Examiner, Greaser, Carriage Cleaner or Washer, Brakesman or Gas Labourer who is called out to work shall receive not less than one day's pay. This does not apply to work performed on Sundays.

2. That a minimum of a rate and a half be paid for all time worked between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday.

#### Signalmen.

1. That any signalman called out to work on any day, including Sunday, shall receive not less than one day's pay.

2. That overtime be paid at a rate and a quarter on the basis of the standard day.

3. That a minimum of a rate and a quarter be paid for all work between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday; Provided that Signalmen who are called on duty and who work for six hours or less between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday, are to be paid at ordinary rates, receiving not less than one day's pay.

#### Passenger Guards.

1. That 11 hours constitute the standard day for all Passenger Guards.

2. That any Passenger Guard called out to work on any day, including Sunday, shall receive not less than one day's pay.

3. That, in so far as the necessities of the service permit, arrangements are to be made for Passenger Guards to remain off duty for at least nine consecutive hours.

4. That in the case of Passenger Guards who are called out for duty before the nine consecutive hours of rest, as aforesaid, have expired, they are to be paid at a rate and a half for the unexpired portion of the nine hours.

5. That overtime be paid at a rate and a quarter on the basis of the standard day.

6. That a minimum of a rate and a quarter be paid for all work between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday; Provided that Passenger Guards who are called on duty and who work for six hours or less between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday, are to be paid at ordinary rates, receiving not less than one day's pay.

#### Porter Guards and Platform Staff.

1. That eleven hours constitute the standard day for all Porter Guards and members of the Platform Staff, and that an aggregate time of one hour and a half be allowed in the course of those eleven hours for meals.

2. That any Porter Guard or member of the Platform Staff who is called out to work on any day, including Sunday, shall receive not less than one day's pay.

3. That overtime be paid at a rate and a quarter on the basis of the standard day.

4. That a minimum of a rate and a quarter be paid for all work between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday; Provided that Porter Guards and members of the Platform Staff who are called on duty and who work for six hours or less between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday are to be paid at ordinary rates, receiving not less than one day's pay.

#### Parcels Porters, Cloak-room Porters and Parcels Vanmen.

1. That eleven hours constitute the standard day for all Parcels Porters and Cloak-room Porters, and that an aggregate time of one hour and a half be allowed in the course of these eleven hours for meals.

2. That 72 hours per week, less an aggregate of eighteen hours each week to be deducted for meals, be the maximum working week for all Parcels Vanmen;

Provided that the gross booked hours on any one day shall not exceed twelve.

3. That any Parcels Porter, Cloak-room Porter or Parcels Vanman who is called out to work on any day including Sunday, shall receive not less than one day's pay.

4. That overtime be paid at a rate and a quarter on the basis of the standard day.

5. That in so far as the necessities of the service permit, arrangements are to be made for all Parcels Porters, Cloak-room Porters and Parcels Vanmen to remain off duty for at least nine consecutive hours.

6. That in the case of Parcels Porters, Cloak-room Porters and Parcels Vanmen who are called out for duty before the nine consecutive hours of rest, as aforesaid, have expired, they are to be paid at a rate and a half for the unexpired portion of the nine hours.

7. That a minimum of a rate and a quarter be paid for all work between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday;

Provided that all Parcels Porters, Cloak-room Porters or Parcels Vanmen who are called out for duty, and who work for six hours or less between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday, are to be paid at ordinary rates, receiving not less than one day's pay.

#### Passenger Shunters.

1. That eleven hours constitute the maximum working day for all Foremen Passenger Shunters and Passenger Shunters.

2. That in the case of all Shunters whose working day is ten hours, an aggregate of not less than one hour and a quarter, and in the case of all Shunters whose working day is eleven hours, an aggregate of not less than one hour and a half be allowed for meals.

3. That any Foreman Shunter or Passenger Shunter who is called out to work on any day, including Sunday, shall receive not less than one day's pay.

4. That, so far as the necessities of the service permit, arrangements are to be made for all Foremen Shunters or Passenger Shunters to remain off duty for at least nine consecutive hours.

5. That, in the case of Foremen Shunters or Passenger Shunters called out for duty before the nine consecutive hours of rest, as aforesaid, have expired, they are to be paid at a rate and a half for the unexpired portion of the nine hours.

6. That overtime be paid at a rate and a quarter on the basis of an eleven, ten or eight hours' day according to the standard hours at the respective stations.

7. That a minimum of a rate and a quarter be paid for all work between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday; Provided that Foremen Shunters and Passenger Shunters who are called on duty and who work for six hours or less between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday, are to be paid at ordinary rates, receiving not less than one day's pay.

#### Platelayers and Telegraph Construction Men.

Nil.

#### Members of the Goods Department.

1. That 72 hours per week, less an aggregate of 18 hours each week to be deducted therefrom for meals, be the maximum working week for all men employed in the Goods Department;

Provided that the gross booked hours on any one day shall not exceed twelve.

2. That any man employed in the Goods Department who is called out to work on any day, including Sunday, shall receive not less than one day's pay;

Provided that this clause does not apply to men called out for ordinary and indispensable stable duty on Sunday.

3. That, so far as the necessities of the service permit, arrangements are to be made for all men employed in the Goods Department to remain off duty for at least nine consecutive hours.

4. That, in the case of all men employed in the Goods Department who are called out for duty before the nine consecutive hours of rest, as aforesaid, have expired, they are to be paid at a rate and a half for the unexpired portion of the nine hours.

5. That overtime be paid at a rate and a quarter on the basis of the standard week.

6. That, except in the case of men employed on stable duties, a minimum of a rate and a quarter be paid for all work between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday;

Provided that men of the Goods Department who are called on duty and who work for six hours or less between 12.0 midnight on Saturday and 12.0 midnight on Sunday, are to be paid at ordinary rates, receiving not less than one day's pay.

7. That 1s. (one shilling) be paid to each man performing ordinary and indispensable stable work on Sunday.

8. That an immediate advance of 2s. (two shillings) per week be made to all Capstanmen.

#### As regards Good Friday and Christmas Day.

1. That, in respect to hours of labour and rates of wages, Good Friday and Christmas Day are, in all branches of the service of the Company, to be treated as if they were Sundays.

#### Conclusion.

1. I further declare and award that except as hereinbefore appears, I make no award upon any of the claims set forth in the said schedule hereto, and that thereby I mean, except as aforesaid, to leave in force for the duration of this my Award the practice of the Company in respect of all the matters in controversy which was in force at the date of this my Award, but without prejudice to the power of the Company to vary the said practice in its discretion, provided that such variation do not lengthen the hours of labour or lessen the rates of wages of the employees of the Company.

2. I further declare and award that in the interpretation of the preceding paragraph it is to be considered within the power of the Company at its discretion to vary its present practice in respect to the following points namely:—

(A) Bonus payments.

(B) Annual holidays.

(C) Payments, save as hereinbefore provided, on Good Friday, Christmas Day, and on Bank, Local and Public Holidays.

3. I further declare and award that, although the Company should make every effort to confine the hours of work to those laid down as respectively applicable to each class of employees, they are at liberty in cases where the adoption of this course is, for whatsoever reasons, impossible or highly inconvenient, to keep the men at work for a longer period than the standard hours on payment of overtime at the rates laid down in this Award.

4. I further declare and award that this Award shall come into operation on the 28th day of May, 1909, and shall be binding until the 31st day of December, 1913.

Dated this First day of April, 1909.

(Signed) CROMER.

Witness: (Signed) ELEANOR HARRISON.

#### DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MARCH, 1909.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 142.

The Table given below summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees as to their operations in March, 1909. The registers of the London Committees were closed for ordinary purposes (*i.e.* except for women, emigration cases, and special "colony" cases), as from March 6th. Provincial Committees at Heywood, Huddersfield and Nelson also closed their registers to new applicants during the month. As regards the number of applicants the Committees were requested, in making up their returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work or to have left the neighbourhood since registration, and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified. Those engaged on relief-works are, however, included. The particulars as to relief relate to employment provided by the London Central Unemployed Body, and by the various Distress Committees, or towards the provision of which the Distress Committees are expected to contribute. Works provided and entirely paid for by the Local Authorities, without any contribution from the Distress Committees are, as far as possible, excluded:—



Main table containing statistics for Distress Committees across various regions including London, Provincial Towns in England and Wales, Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, and Scotland. Columns include Net No. of Applicants, No. given Employment-relief, Aggregate duration of Employment-relief, and Total Amount of Wages Paid.

disqualified, those who had found work, &c.) was 135,571, of whom 55,134 were in London and "Outer London," 63,678 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 10,902 in Scotland, and 5,857 in Ireland.

The total number who received employment-relief was 37,957, of whom 8,845 were in London and "Outer London," 22,846 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 4,827 in Scotland, and 1,439 in Ireland.

The following table affords a comparison between the work done by Distress Committees in March, 1909, and February, 1909, and March, 1908.

Table comparing Distress Committees in operation and applicants given employment-relief for March 1909, February 1909, and March 1908. Includes aggregate duration and wages paid.

EMPLOYMENT AND OUTPUT AT COAL MINES IN 1908.

A PRELIMINARY statement has recently been issued by the Home Office relating to the output of coal and other minerals and the number of persons employed at mines in the United Kingdom during the year 1908.

The following statement shows the output in the principal districts in the years 1907 and 1908:-

Table showing Output of Coal in principal districts for 1907 and 1908, including quantity and percentage increase or decrease.

The decline in the output was, it will be seen, general, the only districts showing increases being South Wales and Monmouth and Northumberland.

It will be seen that the net total number of applicants remaining on the registers (after deduction of persons

\* Applicants on registers of 29 Metropolitan Boroughs on day of closure. † Some not registered under Act. ‡ Also 506 men on piecework. § No employment-relief was provided by the Distress Committee, but the Municipality found work for some of the men.

\* Revised Figures.

tons are recorded in each of the districts of Derbyshire, Nottingham and Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Lanarkshire.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel from the United Kingdom in 1908 amounted to 65,180,649 tons, a decrease of 882,609 tons, and the quantity of coal shipped as bunker coal was 19,474,174 tons, an increase of 855,346 tons as compared with 1907.

The total number of persons employed at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act (including a certain number of persons engaged in mining ironstone, fireclay, shale, &c.) was 987,813, an increase of 47,195, or 5 per cent. compared with 1907.

The total number of persons employed in and about coal and other mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, in the principal districts in each of the years 1907 and 1908 was as follows:-

Table showing number employed in coal and other mines by district for 1907 and 1908, including percentage increase.

It will be seen that there were increases in all the coalfields, the greater being in South Wales and Monmouth (11,489, or 6 per cent.) and in Yorkshire (11,476, or 8.7 per cent.).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1908.

THE total number of deaths from industrial accidents reported in 1908 was 4,224, a decrease of 253 on 1907, but an increase of 29 on the mean of the five years 1904-8.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople reported killed by accidents connected with their employment for each of the five years 1904-8, together with the mean of the period:-

Table showing Total Number of Deaths from Industrial Accidents in various industries for 1904-1908, including mean annual death rate.

The figures for the shipping industry show a decrease of 80, as compared with 1907. The fluctuations from year to year in the number of deaths from shipwreck will be seen from the following Table:-

Table showing Deaths by wrecks and other casualties to vessels, and Deaths by other accidents for years 1904-1908.

Of the 1,343 deaths from accidents to miners in 1908, 149 occurred on the surface, and of the remainder 603 were due to falls of ground, 90 to shaft accidents, 128 to explosions of firedamp or coal dust, and 182 to men being run over or crushed by trams and tubs underground.

The number of fatal accidents to railway servants in 1908 was 432, a decrease of 78 on 1907 and of 30 on the mean of 1904-8.

Of the 767 factory and workshop operatives killed by accidents in 1908, 10 were women, 93 were young persons, and 664 men; the total number being 85 less than in 1907 and 19 less than the mean of the period 1904-8.

The 275 fatal accidents reported under Sections 104-5 of the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901 included 131 at docks, wharves and quays, as compared with 167 in 1907, and 114 in connection with the construction of buildings as compared with 127.

In comparing the figures of the several trades it is important to bear in mind the proportion which the number of fatal accidents bears to the total number of workpeople engaged in the several industries.

Table showing Mean annual death rate from accidents per 10,000 employed for various occupations in 1908.

It must be understood that these ratios are only approximately correct, as accurate figures respecting the numbers employed are not available for each of the years covered.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN 1908.

DURING the year 1908 the total number of cases of lead poisoning was 646, being 68 more than in 1907 and 37 in excess of the average for the five years 1904-1908.



painters and plumbers, were reported in 1908, as compared with 174 cases and 39 deaths in 1907.

Of the 646 cases of lead poisoning, 117 occurred at china and earthenware works, 79 at white lead works, and 70 each in the metal smelting and coachmaking industries. Of the total number, 101 (including 61 in the china and earthenware industry) occurred among females, and 545 among males; the mortality rate of the former being 2.0 per cent., and of the latter 5.5 per cent.

The cases of other forms of industrial poisoning (mercurial, phosphorus and arsenic) numbered 34 in 1908, as compared with 17 in 1907. The mean for the five years (1904-1908) was 16. In 1908 there was 1 death, the result of arsenical poisoning.

The number of cases of anthrax in 1908 was 47, a decrease of 11 as compared with 1907. The mean number of cases for the five years 1904-1908 was 56. The number of deaths during 1908 was 7, as compared with 11 in 1907.

The following Table shows the number of cases of lead, mercurial, phosphorus and arsenical poisoning and of anthrax reported in 1904-1908, classified according to industry. The statistics are extracted from the Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Factories, with the exception of the particulars for 1908. The number of cases shown for any one year is the same as the number of persons attacked, second notifications of persons already included in a return within the preceding twelve months not being regarded as fresh cases. Such cases numbered 29 in 1908.

Industry.	Cases.					Deaths.				
	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
<b>Lead Poisoning.</b>										
Smelting of Metals ...	33	24	38	28	70	1	1	1	2	2
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	7	9	7	6	14	—	—	—	—	—
Printing ...	15	19	16	26	30	—	—	—	—	—
File Cutting ...	20	12	15	10	9	4	4	2	3	2
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware ...	10	16	18	25	10	—	1	1	—	—
White Lead Works ...	116	90	108	71	79	2	1	7	—	3
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	15	19	16	26	30	—	—	—	—	—
China and Earthenware ...	106	84	107	103	117	4	3	4	9	12
Litho Transfer Works ...	3	5	5	10	2	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	3	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	3	2	4	6	7	—	—	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	33	27	26	21	25	—	1	—	—	—
Paints and Colours ...	34	57	37	35	25	1	1	—	—	—
Coachmaking ...	49	65	85	70	70	4	3	7	3	3
Shipbuilding ...	48	32	26	22	15	—	2	1	—	—
Paints used in Other Industries ...	27	49	37	49	47	3	2	3	2	5
Other Industries ...	84	99	93	85	111	7	4	6	5	5
<b>Total, Lead Poisoning*</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>
House Painting and Plumbing†	227	163	181	174	239	39	28	36	39	44
<b>Other Forms of Poisoning.</b>										
<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>										
Barometer and Thermometer Making	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes	—	3	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	2	4	3	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning—</b>										
Lucifer Match Works	1	3	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>										
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	3	—	2	4	16	—	—	—	—	1
Other Industries	2	1	3	5	7	—	—	—	—	2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total, Other Forms of Poisoning</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Anthrax.</b>										
Wool ...	12	34	24	23	18	1	12	8	3	3
Handling of Horsehair ...	12	7	10	17	10	4	1	5	4	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins, Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.	18	17	19	12	13	3	4	5	2	1
Other Industries	8	1	14	6	6	2	1	3	2	2
<b>Total Anthrax</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>

\* Reportable under the Factory and Workshop Act.  
† Not compulsorily reportable under the Factory and Workshop Act.

**GERMAN CENSUS OF OCCUPATIONS, 1907.**

A SUMMARY of the results of the Census of Occupations taken throughout the German Empire on June 12th, 1907, is published in the *Reichsarbeitsblatt*, the journal of the German Labour Department.

The total population of the Empire on that date was 61,720,529, as compared with 51,770,284 at the corresponding census of 1895, and 45,222,113 at that of 1882. Between 1882 and 1895 there was thus an increase in the population of 14.5 per cent., and between 1895 and 1907 an increase of 19.2 per cent., or, taking the whole period of 25 years, an increase of 36.5 per cent.

The number of occupied persons (including domestic servants and casual labourers) was 28,092,117, or 45.51 per cent. of the total population in 1907. The corresponding percentage in 1895 was 42.7 and, in 1882, 41.92. The tendency during the two intercensal periods has thus been for the occupied part of the population to increase at a greater rate than the total population of the country.

A noteworthy feature of the census results is the increase in the proportion in which females enter into the composition of the occupied population. This is shown by the following Table:—

	At Census of		
	1907.	1895.	1882.
<b>Occupied Population—</b>			
Males ...	18,599,235	13,511,841	13,415,415
Females ...	9,492,881	6,576,350	5,541,517
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>28,092,117</b>	<b>22,110,191</b>	<b>18,956,932</b>
<b>Percentage—</b>			
Males ...	66.21	70.25	70.77
Females ...	33.79	29.75	29.23
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Thus there is now in Germany one female to every two males among the occupied population.

The total population supported by agriculture, forestry and fishing has declined from 19,225,455 in 1882 to 18,501,307 in 1895 and 17,681,176 in 1907; and though the number of persons actually engaged in agricultural operations has increased from 8,236,496 in 1882 to 8,292,692 in 1895 and 9,883,257 in 1907, their percentage of the total occupied population has declined from 43.4 in 1882 to 37.5 in 1895 and 35.2 in 1907.

In the totals given under the heading "Occupied Population" in the foregoing Table are included domestic servants residing with their employers to the number of 1,324,924 in 1882, 1,339,316 in 1895 and 1,264,755 in 1907, so that since 1895 there has been an absolute decline of 74,561 in the number of such persons. The bulk of this decline has been among female servants, whose number has fallen from 1,313,957 in 1895 to 1,249,383 in 1907. Those performing domestic service without residing with their employers (e.g., charwomen) are classed with casual labourers, whose number has increased from 432,491 in 1895 to 471,695 in 1907.

The number engaged in the public services and professions has increased from 1,425,961 in 1895 to 1,738,530 in 1907, or by 21.9 per cent.

Comparing the 1907 figures with those of the preceding census the Table below shows relative decreases in the following large groups: Agriculture, forestry and fishing, textile, woodworking, food and tobacco, clothing and cleaning; and increases in the building, metal and engineering, mining and smelting, stones and earths, and chemical and transport trades, and also in commercial employment. The Table also shows the relative numerical importance of each of the chief

occupation groups distinguished by the German Census Authorities at each of the three censuses, leaving out of consideration domestic service, casual labour and the public services and professions:—

Occupation.	No. of Persons occupied.	Per cent. of Total.		
		1907.	1895.	1882.
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing ...	9,883,257	40.15	43.85	50.84
Mining, Smelting, &c., Salt, Turf...	963,278	3.91	3.00	2.72
Stones and Earths, Chemical ...	373,296	1.35	1.19	1.41
Metal and Engineering ...	2,933,147	12.59	6.60	5.02
Soap, Fats, Oil, Varnish, etc. ...	75,879	0.31	0.23	0.19
Textile ...	1,957,243	4.29	5.00	5.25
Printing and Paper ...	404,665	1.64	1.35	0.99
Leather, etc. ...	219,443	0.89	0.89	0.80
Woodworking, &c. ...	787,754	3.20	3.42	3.22
Food and Tobacco ...	1,127,515	4.58	4.64	4.09
Clothing and Cleaning ...	1,691,066	6.88	8.00	8.23
Building ...	1,905,987	7.74	7.16	5.84
Art... ..	37,111	0.15	0.15	0.15
Industrial Workers (not specially distinguished)	18,865	0.08	0.16	0.56
Commerce ...	1,730,910	7.07	6.37	5.20
Insurance ...	60,517	0.25	0.13	0.07
Transport Trades ...	1,026,288	4.17	3.25	2.70
Hotels and Restaurants ...	650,897	2.64	2.61	1.72
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>24,517,137</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Another point brought out in the report upon which the foregoing particulars are based is the fact that, comparing the 1907 figures with those for 1895, there has been, both in the agricultural and industrial groups of occupations, a decrease in the number of employers and persons working on their own account, but an increase in the number of persons employed, pointing to a greater concentration of German manufacturing and commercial enterprises.

**HOURS OF LABOUR IN GLASS WORKS IN GERMANY.**

ACTING upon instructions from the Imperial Department of the Interior an enquiry has been made by the German Factory Inspectors into the conditions prevailing in glassworks throughout the German Empire, with special reference to the health of the workpeople. The results are published in the Reports on Factory Inspection, and show that in 1906 there were in Germany 374 works with 62,159 workpeople engaged in glassmaking, and 713 works with 18,705 workpeople engaged in glass grinding.

One part of the enquiry related to the hours of labour of the two chief categories of workpeople—the glassblowers and the glassgrinders, who were found to number 22,860 and 12,032 respectively. For each of these classes of men the usual daily hours of labour (exclusive of intervals) were found to be as shown below:—

Limits of Daily Working Hours.	Glass Blowers.		Glass Grinders.	
	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
6 hours or under ...	154	0.7	563	4.7
Over 6 up to 8 hours ...	3,639	16.1	—	—
" 8 " 9 " ...	7,101	31.0	796	6.6
" 9 " 10 " ...	8,655	37.9	6,180	51.4
" 10 " 11 " ...	855	3.7	3,598	29.9
" 11 hours ...	291	1.3	783	6.5
Not classified ...	2,115	9.3	112	0.9
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>22,860</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,032</b>	<b>100.0</b>

For glass blowers the predominant hours were from 8 to 10, while in the case of grinders they were 9 to 10 for over half the workpeople and 10 to 11 for about 30 per cent. The figures for Prussia alone (in which the majority of the glass works are situated) give results which do not differ materially from those shown above for Germany as a whole. In Bavaria the predominant hours were 9 to 11 for blowers, while over 80 per cent. of the grinders exceeded 9 hours (nearly one-third of these working over 11 hours); in Saxony they were 9 to 10 for blowers and 9 to 11 for grinders; and in Alsace-Lorraine 9 to 10 for both classes of workpeople.

**EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.\***

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

**Canada.**

THE only persons, for whom there is an active demand in Canada now, are farmers with a little money, farm labourers and female servants. This is the best time of the year for them to go to Canada. In other occupations conditions are more favourable than they were this time last year, and emigrants who are skilled men in the building trades, or miners, or labourers accustomed to railway construction would have very fair prospects; but they are not advised to emigrate unless they go to assured employment immediately on arrival, or go at the advice of friends, or land with enough money in their pockets to live on till they obtain work. Every emigrant, male or female, 18 years of age or over, who arrives in Canada, must have in his or her possession the sum of 25 dollars (£5 4s. 2d.)—in addition to a ticket to his or her destination; unless satisfactory evidence is furnished that the emigrant is going to some definite employment or to relatives or friends already settled in Canada who would take care of such emigrant. All emigrants sent out to Canada by British charitable societies or by public funds, must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration Authorities, Charing Cross, London, S.W., that they are suitable settlers for Canada. Special attention is drawn to the fact that whenever an immigrant has within two years of his or her landing in Canada become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or other charitable institution, he, or she may, under existing Canadian Law, be deported, together with all those dependent on him or her after investigation of the facts. A Bill now before the Canadian Parliament extends this period to three years.

**Australia.**

The following States offer reduced passages to certain classes of emigrants who will work upon the land:—New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia. In *New South Wales* there is a good demand for female servants, and a fair demand in many country districts for farm and general labourers; but in some districts there have been a good many out of work. In Sydney itself men in the building trades—except stone masons, who have been busy—have been slack; in the iron trades only blacksmiths and pattern makers have been busy, and the clothing, boot, printing and furniture trades have been generally slack. The local supply of mechanics is, with few exceptions, sufficient. The serious strike at the Broken Hill Silver Mines has thrown large numbers of men out of work.

In many parts of *Victoria*, *Queensland*, and *Western Australia* there is a good demand for farm and general labourers and female servants; but the supply of mechanics and miners is as a rule quite sufficient. Many of the emigrants, who go out as farm labourers, take up land for themselves after being two or three years in the country.

**New Zealand.**

Approved farmers, agricultural labourers, shepherds, milkers, and female servants are eligible for reduced passages to New Zealand. Application must be made to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13 Victoria Street, London, S.W. The last reports show that agricultural operations were busy everywhere; that the meat-freezing trade was busy in several places; that the cycle, coach-building, printing, wood-working, building, engineering, leather, and clothing trades, and unskilled labourers, were fairly busy or quiet. The local supply of mechanics and general labourers is mostly sufficient, and in one or two places exceeds the demand. Emigrants going now would not arrive in the busiest season of the year, so should have some money on landing.

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



## South Africa.

There is no demand for emigrants, except female servants, in any part of South Africa, and in nearly all the big towns there are many who are unable to obtain employment. Male emigrants therefore are warned against going there now in search of work. Female emigrants should apply to the South African Colonization Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 109 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

## FRANCE.\*

*Employment in February.*—There was still considerable unemployment in the building trades in February, and in Paris there were more bricklayers and masons out of work than in the previous month. In the metal trades there was, on the whole, no change from January. In the textile trades there was an improvement in certain centres in the Nord department; in the majority of the cotton centres of Normandy and the Roanne district employment continued fair, and reports from the Vosges and the smaller centres of Maine-et-Loire and Vendée were to the same effect. There was a decline in employment among silk weavers in the Loire and Haute-Loire departments. At Lyons power-loom weavers were satisfactorily employed, but many hand-loom weavers were out of work. In tailoring, dressmaking, &c., there was as yet no revival. In the printing and book-binding trades employment was good, especially at Paris. There was much unemployment among pottery workers at Limoges, among coopers generally, and among watch and clock and spectacle makers in the Franche-Comté and Savoy. Rather less unemployment was reported among vineyard workers in the South of France, and also among woodcutters. Among gardeners at Paris and agricultural workers in the Seine-et-Marne department, employment was satisfactory for the time of year.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in February were received by the French Labour Department from 1,000 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 242,532. Excluding returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 13.9 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 13.5 per cent. in the previous month and 10.6 per cent. in February, 1908. (As regards these figures see note above under "Labour Abroad.")

*Coal Mining in February.*—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during February was 5.88, as compared with 5.99 in the preceding month and 6.01 in February, 1908. Taking surface and underground workers together, 66.99 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 32.24 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 62.73 and 7.21, and in February, 1908, 67.17 and 2.66.

*Labour Disputes in February.*—Sixty-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in February, compared with 46 in the previous month and 129† in February, 1908. In 62 of the new disputes 4,876 workpeople took part, as compared with 3,709 who took part in 34 of the January disputes and 7,452 who took part in 113 of the disputes of February, 1908. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were textile (16), building (14), metal (8), agriculture (7), wood-working (5), leather (5), and transport (5). Of 50 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, 11

ended in favour of the workpeople and 17 in favour of the employers, while 22 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in February.*—Seven instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in February. In 4 cases committees of conciliation were formed, which settled one dispute. In two other cases the employers refused to take part in conciliation proceedings. In the remaining case the dispute terminated before a committee of conciliation could be formed.

## GERMANY.

*Employment in February.*—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of March:—"Lack of uniformity characterised the aspect of the labour market in February. In a number of the greater industries recovery was retarded by the continuance of cold weather. This was especially the case with the building and allied trades, where employment was no better than in the preceding month. In the Ruhr coal district, too, the unfavourable situation continued unrelieved; there was even further depression in parts, and the market was paralysed by the stagnation in shipping. No improvement was observed in the metal trades, but the downward movement had, on the whole, apparently ceased. In other trades the reviving influence of the spring season began to be felt, as, for instance, in the manufacture of wearing apparel and in hat-making; in many instances, however, the revival was less marked than in the corresponding period of 1908. Employment in the brewing industry of Berlin was worse than in January, but breweries in Bavaria continued busy. As in January, inland navigation was practically at a standstill, and there was very little movement of shipping on the Rhine, Neckar, or Elbe."

## HOLLAND.\*

*Employment in February.*—Except for a slight improvement for stucco-workers, employment in the building trades showed no change for the better as compared with January. In iron and steel manufacture, in machine making and in the electrical and bicycle trades, employment was fair, and there were few men wholly without work. Employment in shipbuilding declined. The diamond industry continued slack, with a tendency, however, to improve, so that towards the end of the month the proportion of members of Trade Unions out of work was below 5 per cent. In the textile trades employment was slightly better than in January, and was on the whole satisfactory. The seasonal slackness continued in the millinery and the boot and shoe trades; this was also the case in the men's tailoring trade, except as regards ready-made clothing, which experienced a slight seasonal improvement. Makers of men's hats and caps continued satisfactorily employed. In the wood-working trades employment was on the whole rather better than in the previous month. In the printing trades employment was normal on the whole. The seasonal slackness continued in the bulb-growing industry, and in the brewing and mineral water trades.

*Labour Disputes in February.*—Thirty-nine disputes, 32 of which directly affected 1,299 workpeople, were reported to have commenced in February. Twenty-nine disputes came to an end during the month, including 22 of the above. The results were known in 23 cases. Five of these terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 5 in favour of the employers, while 13 were compromised.

## BELGIUM.†

*Employment in February.*—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department 6.4 per cent. of the 51,341 members of 224 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as

\* Proofs of *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).  
† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT  
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES  
IN MARCH.

## COAL MINING.

(Based on 502 Returns—440 from Employers, 48 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March continued fairly good. It was slightly better than a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,333 pits employing 659,523 workpeople showed that the average number of days\* worked per week during the four weeks ended March 27th, 1909, was 5.29, as compared with 5.21 in February, and 5.49 a year ago.

Of the 659,523 workpeople covered by the Returns 495,870 (or 75.2 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended March 27th, 1909, while 347,905 (52.8 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in March was in the South Wales and Monmouthshire district (5.69), and the lowest in Fife (4.50).

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended March 27th, 1909, together with the figures for similar periods in February, 1909, and March, 1908:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Mar., 1909, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with	
		Mar. 27th, 1909.	Feb. 27th, 1909.	Mar. 27th, 1908.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
Northumberland ...	39,544	5.27	4.91	5.47	+0.36	-0.20
Durham ...	116,424	5.23	5.25	5.45	-0.02	-0.22
Cumberland ...	7,423	5.55	5.40	5.49	+0.15	+0.05
South Yorkshire ...	67,700	5.37	5.23	5.73	+0.14	-0.35
West Yorkshire ...	25,058	5.04	5.10	5.42	-0.06	-0.38
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,718	5.11	5.14	5.47	-0.03	-0.36
Derbyshire ...	41,596	5.26	5.00	5.67	+0.26	-0.41
Nottingham and Leicester	35,675	4.82	4.71	4.75	+0.11	+0.07
Staffordshire ...	29,292	5.44	5.40	5.65	+0.04	-0.21
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,810	5.65	5.45	5.56	+0.20	+0.09
Gloucester and Somerset	8,140	5.40	5.48	5.29	-0.08	+0.11
North Wales ...	11,202	5.11	5.47	5.57	-0.36	-0.46
South Wales and Mon. ...	153,355	5.69	5.64	5.72	+0.05	-0.03
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>602,035</b>	<b>5.38</b>	<b>5.27</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>+0.08</b>	<b>-0.18</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ...	26,276	4.90	4.80	5.04	+0.10	-0.14
The Lothians ...	4,054	4.92	4.76	4.92	+0.16	...
Fife ...	25,504	4.50	4.28	4.73	+0.22	-0.23
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>56,834</b>	<b>4.72</b>	<b>4.58</b>	<b>4.91</b>	<b>+0.16</b>	<b>-0.19</b>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>4.79</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>-0.77</b>	<b>-0.44</b>
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>659,523</b>	<b>5.29</b>	<b>5.21</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>+0.08</b>	<b>-0.20</b>

Employment in Northumberland showed an improvement of about a third of a day per week as compared with a month ago; in Derbyshire there was also an increase of about a quarter of a day per week. The greatest decrease was in North Wales. In the other districts of England and Wales there was no marked change. In Scotland there was some improvement, but the average number of days worked was still below 5.00 per week. Compared with a year ago only four districts show a slight improvement, all the others (except the Lothians, where there was no change) showing a decline ranging from 0.03 of a day per week in South Wales to nearly half a day in North Wales. The decline in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Derbyshire amounted to over one-third of a day per week.

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

compared with 7.3 per cent. in the preceding month, and 7.3 per cent. also in February, 1908. Excluding the returns relating to Antwerp diamond workers, who were suffering from an exceptional degree of unemployment, the percentage for a year ago would be 4.8.

*Labour Disputes in February.*—Seven strikes, affecting 1,290 workpeople (1,043 directly and 247 indirectly) were reported to have commenced in February. Of 9 strikes, including all the above, which were reported to have terminated, 1, affecting 70 strikers, ended in favour of the workpeople, and 5, affecting 749 strikers, ended in favour of the employers, while 3, affecting 378 strikers, were compromised.

## NORWAY.\*

*Employment in February.*—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed in certain Trade Unions which made returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics for each of the three months, February and January, 1909, and February, 1908:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Feb., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.	Feb., 1909.	Jan., 1909.	Feb., 1908.
Carpenters, &c. ...	467	458	474	12.0	12.3	19.4
Painters ...	450	425	550	17.3	16.9	27.3
Metal Workers ...	5,180	5,257	5,128	4.4	5.1	1.4
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	299	257	201	4.1	4.2	...
Printers ...	1,562	1,345	1,264	2.0	1.5	0.5
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers	543	559	409	3.7	3.6	0.7
Sawyers and Planers ...	97	50	225	15.5	22.2	18.7
Cabinet Makers ...	417	450	325	4.1	5.2	6.9
Tinned Goods ...	422	420	216	31.0	15.2	5.2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>9,328</b>	<b>9,491</b>	<b>8,822</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>

(As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 120.)

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Unemployment in Massachusetts: End of 1908.*—Advance proofs of the *Massachusetts Labour Bulletin* (the journal of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour) for April, kindly forwarded by the Bureau, give statistics of unemployment among members of Trade Unions in the State at the end of each of the four quarters of 1908. The percentage for the first quarter was based on returns from 256 Unions with 66,968 members, that for the second quarter on returns from 493 Unions with 72,815 members, that for the third quarter on returns from 651 Unions with 83,969 members, and that for the fourth quarter on returns from 770 Unions with 102,941 members. It is stated that the returns now comprise about 60 per cent. of the total number of Unions and probably not less than 60 per cent. of the total number of organised workmen in the State.

The figures are summarised in the following Table, distinguishing the principal causes of unemployment:—

Cause of Unemployment.	Members of Trade Unions returned as unemployed.							
	Number.				Percentage.			
	Mar. 31st, 1908.	June 30th, 1908.	Sept. 30th, 1908.	Dec. 31st, 1908.	Mar. 31st, 1908.	June 30th, 1908.	Sept. 30th, 1908.	Dec. 31st, 1908.
Lack of Work or Material	10,832	9,128	7,349	11,302	16.18	12.54	8.75	10.98
Unfavourable Weather	113	90	1	54	0.17	0.12	...	0.51
Strikes or Lock-outs	487	173	389	708	0.73	0.24	0.46	0.83
Disability ...	512	880	978	1,254	0.70	1.21	1.17	1.23
Other Causes ...	43	219	202	530	0.06	0.30	0.24	0.51
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>11,987</b>	<b>10,490</b>	<b>8,918</b>	<b>14,345</b>	<b>17.90</b>	<b>14.41</b>	<b>10.62</b>	<b>13.94</b>

Thus the percentage unemployed on December 31st, taking account of all causes was 13.94, as compared with 10.62 on September 30th, 14.41 on June 30th, and 17.90 on March 31st, 1908. Excluding unemployment due to strikes or lock-outs and disability, the percentages unemployed at these dates were 12.03, 8.99, 12.96 and 16.41 respectively.

\* Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.  
† Included under "Other Causes" in this quarter.

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



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

Table with columns: Description of Coal, No. of Workpeople employed in Mar., 1909, Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended (Mar. 27th, 1909, Feb. 27th, 1909, Mar. 26th, 1908), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

Compared with a month ago, there was no marked change. Compared with a year ago, there was a decline except at pits producing anthracite. The decline was most marked at pits producing coking, gas, and mixed coal.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in March, 1909, amounted to 5,433,230 tons, or 837,807 tons more than in February, 1909, and 374,008 tons more than in March, 1908.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 81 Returns—62 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good in iron and shale mines, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

It was moderate on the whole in tin and copper mines, and fair in lead mines. In quarries employment on the whole was moderate, but with setmakers it was good.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended March 27th, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.82, as compared with 5.87 a month ago, and 5.76 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Table with columns: Districts, No. employed in Mar., 1909, Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended (Mar. 27th, 1909, Feb. 27th, 1909, Mar. 26th, 1908), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 92.5 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended March 27th, as compared with 92.2 per cent. a month ago, and 85.1 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,408 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended March 27th, as compared with 3,404 in the previous month, and 3,349 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended March 27th was 5.77, as compared with 5.80 a month ago, and 5.77 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall was fair in the Camborne district, but bad and worse than a month ago in the Calstock district.

Lead Mining.—Employment was fair generally in North Wales, and in Derbyshire.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued slack generally in North Wales, and at Ballachulish (Argyllshire).

Granite.—Employment continued good in the macadam branch in Leicestershire. It was still dull, with much short time in Aberdeenshire. It was generally dull on Dartmoor and in the Penryn district.

Limestone.—Employment was moderate in Weardale, with some short time. In the Buxton district employment, though improving, was still quiet. In the Somerset blue lias quarries employment was moderate.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good in the Cleve Hill road material quarries. In freestone quarries at Gateshead it was bad, with much short time. In the North Wales sandstone quarries employment was interrupted by bad weather during the first part of the month, but later on it was good. Chert quarrymen at Bakewell were slack, and some short time was worked. In the "Bath stone" quarries employment was slack, though better than in February. Employment was generally moderate in the Sheffield and Rotherham districts. It was also moderate at Barnsley, except in the grindstone branch, where it was slack. In Forfarshire employment continued bad.

Setmaking.—Employment was good in Leicestershire and in North Wales. It was fairly good at Sheffield. In the Cleve Hill and in the Rowley Regis districts it was slack. Employment was good on the whole in Scotland.

China Clay.—Employment was good in the St. Austell district, and at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 116 Returns—109 from Employers and an Employers' Association, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during March continued moderate. It was rather better than a month ago, but slightly worse than a year ago.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1909, was 285, as compared with 283 in February, 1909, and 290 in March, 1908. During March, 5 furnaces were re-lit (2 in the Cleveland district, 2 in Cumberland, and 1 in Worcestershire), and 3 were blown out (2 in Cumberland and 1 in Worcestershire). The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 22,000 in March, 1909; a decrease of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of (Mar., 1909, Feb., 1909, Mar., 1908), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

The Imports of iron ore in March, 1909, amounted to 486,286 tons, or 50,959 tons more than in February, 1909, and 11,549 tons less than in March, 1908.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in March, 1909, amounted to 82,054 tons, or 12,155 tons more than in February, 1909, and 33,547 tons less than in March, 1908.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 213 Returns—196 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 2 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago. It was also worse than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended March 27th, 1909 (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked), was about 458,200, showing a decrease of 4,300 shifts (or nearly 1 per cent.) as compared with February, 1909, and a decrease of 19,300 shifts (or 4.1 per cent.) as compared with March, 1908.

Table with columns: Departments, Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns, Average Number of Shifts worked per man, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with (In week ended Mar. 27th, 1909, A month ago, A year ago).

Table with columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns, Average Number of Shifts worked per man, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with (In week ended Mar. 27th, 1909, A month ago, A year ago).

As compared with a month ago, there was an increase in the number of workpeople employed in Northumberland and Durham: while there were decreases in the Cleveland, Sheffield and Rotherham, Lancashire and Cheshire districts and in "Other Midland Counties." In the other districts there was but little change. As compared with a year ago there were decreases in all districts except Cleveland. The decline was most marked in Northumberland and Durham, Lancashire and Cheshire, and in Sheffield and Rotherham. Compared with a month ago there was an increase at iron rolling mills and decreases at iron foundries, open hearth melting furnaces and iron or steel rolling mills. As

compared with a year ago, the principal improvement was in the Bessemer converting department; while the declines were most marked at open hearth melting furnaces and steel rolling mills and foundries.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.34, as compared with 5.36 in February, and 5.37 in March, 1908. Compared with a month ago, there was an improvement in Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire towns, and a decline in "Other Midland Counties." The improvement was mostly at crucible furnaces and iron forges. As compared with a year ago, the decline was greatest in "Other Midland Counties." There was an improvement in employment at crucible furnaces and iron foundries, while there was a decline at iron rolling mills and forges, and in the Bessemer converting department.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during March, 1909, amounted to 95,976 tons, or 9,856 tons more than in February, 1909, and 10,894 tons less than in March, 1908.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during March, 1909, amounted to 237,053 tons, or 57,537 tons more than in February, 1909, and 44,452 tons more than in March, 1908.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

(Based on 59 Returns—55 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued very good. It was better than a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 398 tinplate mills were working at the end of March, 1909, as compared with 402 a month ago, and 385 a year ago. The number of sheet mills working at the same dates were 47, 45, and 45 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople.

Table with columns: Number of Works open, Number of Mills in operation, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a (At end of March, 1909, Month ago, Year ago).

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

Table with columns: Districts, March, 1909, Feb., 1909, March, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago).

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



**ENGINEERING TRADES.**

(Based on 1,016 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 965 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 43 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from Trade Unions having a membership of 172,969 show that at the end of March the percentage unemployed was 12.6, as compared with 12.8 per cent. a month ago, and 7.2 per cent. at the end of March, 1908. Compared with a month ago there was a slight decline in employment in six districts, and an improvement in eight districts. Compared with a year ago all districts, except the North East Coast, showed a decline, which was especially marked in the East of Scotland, and in the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn district.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Mar., 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		North-East Coast ...	15,416	19.9	19.2	23.4†
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,366	11.9	11.6	5.8	+ 0.3	+ 6.1
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,509	15.9	16.1	4.7	- 0.2	+ 11.2
West Riding Towns ...	12,565	15.0	16.1	7.9	- 1.1	+ 7.1
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,977	11.5	10.7	7.2	+ 0.8	+ 4.3
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,416	7.2	7.8	6.2	- 0.6	+ 1.0
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,149	9.1	10.0	5.6	- 0.9	+ 3.5
London and Neighbouring District	11,970	6.8	7.0	5.8	- 0.2	+ 1.0
South Coast ...	4,018	4.8	4.5	3.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
South Wales and Bristol District	6,959	7.3	9.0	2.9	- 1.7	+ 4.4
Glasgow and District ...	15,196	21.7	23.4	14.3	- 1.7	+ 7.4
East of Scotland ...	3,962	26.3	25.5	12.9	+ 0.8	+ 13.4
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,565	14.2	14.9	8.9	- 0.7	+ 5.3
Other Districts ...	6,054	10.4	10.0	4.8	+ 0.4	+ 5.6
<b>United Kingdom</b> (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	<b>172,969</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>- 0.2</b>	<b>+ 5.1</b>

On the North-East Coast employment continued slack, and one-fifth of the Trade Union members were unemployed. At Newcastle employment was fairly good at ordnance works, but at some other works a decline was reported and short time was worked. On repair work in the lower reaches of the Tyne employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago. On the Wear employment continued very bad, with much short time.

In Lancashire employment continued slack, considerable short time being reported. With makers of textile machinery employment was moderate on the whole, but showed some decline.

In the West Riding of Yorkshire employment continued slack, but showed a slight improvement on the previous month. Considerable short time was reported. On the Humber employment continued bad; at Lincoln and Doncaster it was fair.

In the Midland Counties employment, though still slack, continued to improve. In the cycle and motor trades in the Birmingham, Coventry, and Wolverhampton districts it was fair on the whole. At Nottingham, employment was good with lace and hosiery machinery builders and brass bobbin and carriage makers, some overtime being reported. At Derby it was good with motor-car builders and with makers of refrigerating machinery. At Leicester employment was fairly good with toolmakers and electrical engineers.

Employment continued slack in London, and fair in the Royal Dockyards. At Southampton it was dull. In the Bristol and South Wales district employment continued slack, but was on the whole better than a month ago.

In Scotland employment continued bad, and more than one-fifth of the Trade Union members were

\* Exclusive of superannuated members.  
† Exclusive of Members on Strike.

unemployed. An improvement was reported in the Glasgow district, but in the East of Scotland employment declined. With brassfinishers at Glasgow employment was fair. At Belfast employment continued slack on the whole, but an improvement was reported in some branches. At Dublin it continued bad.

The Imports of machinery in March, 1909, amounted to £468,296 or £94,605 more than in February, 1909, and £59,562 less than in March, 1908.

The Exports of machinery in March, 1909, amounted to £2,398,784, or £318,039 more than in February, 1909, and £355,691 less than in March, 1908.

**SHIPBUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 367 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 344 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March continued bad, and showed but little change on the whole as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. On the North East Coast there was, however, some improvement as compared with a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,706 members had 12,838 (or 22.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, 1909, as compared with 22.5 per cent. a month ago, and 21.5 per cent. a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, there was an improvement in eight districts, the most marked being in the Tees and Hartlepool and Bristol Channel Districts. The greatest increase in the percentage unemployed was on the Mersey. As compared with a year ago, there was an improvement on the North-East Coast, but the percentage unemployed showed a considerable increase on the Mersey and Clyde, and in the East Scotland and Belfast districts.

District.	No. of Members* at end of March, 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Tyne and Blyth ...	9,577	30.3	26.4	37.7†
Wear ...	3,677	38.8	41.3	40.2†	- 2.5	- 1.4
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,649	27.9	33.8	50.3†	- 5.9	- 22.0
Humber ...	2,515	16.8	18.9	10.8	- 2.1	- 4.0
Thames and Medway ...	4,433	11.5	9.0	11.7	+ 2.5	- 0.2
South Coast ...	5,148	4.4	5.4	4.2	- 1.0	+ 0.2
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,491	15.4	21.4	16.6	- 6.0	- 1.2
Mersey ...	4,148	24.6	14.7	5.3	+ 9.9	+ 19.3
Clyde ...	12,137	26.4	29.3	18.1	- 3.1	+ 8.1
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	4,444	24.1	26.2	14.2	- 2.1	+ 5.9
Belfast ...	2,966	17.2	13.5	6.3	+ 3.7	+ 10.4
Other Districts ...	3,221	8.8	12.4	5.3	- 3.6	+ 3.5
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>57,706</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>

On the Tyne employment continued slack generally, and much short time was worked. At Blyth it was bad with shipwrights. On the Wear employment continued very bad.

In the Tees and Hartlepool districts employment was generally bad, but showed some improvement, and on repair work it was good at the Hartlepoons, and better than a year ago. On the Humber employment showed an improvement, and was fair generally with shipwrights at Hull and Beverley, and good at Selby.

In the Thames and Medway district employment continued slack, except at Chatham, where it was good with shipwrights. On the South Coast employment was slack, but with shipwrights at the Royal Dockyards it was still good.

At the Bristol Channel Ports employment continued bad, but there was an improvement at Newport. On the Mersey employment continued slack; at Barrow it was bad.

On the Clyde employment continued bad, but was slightly better than a month ago. At Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen, it was slack. At Belfast employment was, on the whole, worse than a month ago, though there was some improvement with cabinet-makers and platers.

\* Exclusive of superannuated members. † Exclusive of members on strike.

**TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**

According to Lloyd's Returns there was at the end of March, 1909, an increase in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 147,752 tons gross (or 19.3 per cent.) as compared with the end of December, 1908, and of 64,771 tons gross (or 7.6 per cent.) as compared with the end of March, 1908.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	End of Mar., 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Mar., 1909, as compared with end of		End of Mar., 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Mar., 1909, as compared with end of	
		Dec. '08.	Mar., '08.		Dec., '08.	Mar., '08.
Clyde ...	305,731	+ 60,978	+ 10,994	23,111	+ 17,360	- 14,586
Belfast ...	238,590	+ 62,430	+ 86,060	...	...	...
Tyne ...	124,065	+ 19,785	+ 49,874	55,354	- 12,235	- 27,316
Wear ...	86,787	+ 18,087	+ 24,824	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby	30,995	- 560	- 6,255	...	...	...
Middlesbrough and Stockton	42,459	+ 15,553	- 706	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	4,500	- 333	- 5,690	47,483	+ 5,074	+ 4,610
Other Districts...	59,045	+ 11,382	+ 5,516	7,490	+ 2,195	- 2,456
Royal Dockyards	...	...	...	114,320	+ 16,100	+ 5,499
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>912,272</b>	<b>+ 147,752</b>	<b>+ 64,771</b>	<b>247,765</b>	<b>+ 23,494</b>	<b>- 31,258</b>

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with the end of December, 1908, there was an increase of over 60,000 tons in both the Clyde and Belfast districts; in the Wear district there was an increase of 18,000 tons and in the Middlesbrough and Stockton district of 15,500 tons. On the Tyne there was a decline of nearly 20,000 tons. In the Hartlepool and Barrow districts there was not much change. As compared with March, 1908, there were increases in the Clyde, Belfast and Wear districts amounting in the Belfast district to 86,000 tons. In the Tyne district there was a decrease of 50,000 tons.

War Vessels.—As compared with December, 1908, there was an increase of 17,000 tons in the Clyde district and a decrease of 12,000 tons in the Tyne district, and as compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 15,000 tons in the former district and of 27,000 tons in the latter district. In the Barrow district there was an increase of about 5,000 tons, as compared with both December, 1908, and March, 1908. At the Royal Dockyards there was an increase of 16,000 tons as compared with December, 1908, and of over 5,000 tons as compared with a year ago.

**MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.**

(Based on 97 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 67 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull; it showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 23,865 had 5.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, compared with 5.5 per cent. a month ago and 3.5 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment continued generally, but brassworkers in some sections reported a slight improvement on the previous month. Employment was good with brassworkers at Doncaster, and fair at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment was slack generally; at Birmingham it was fair in the shoe rivet and wire nail branches, and moderate in the cut nail branches.

Wire.—Employment was fair on the whole, and rather better than a month ago.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment was slack in the hollow-ware trade; at Wolverhampton and Willenhall it was bad with lock and latch makers.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was bad generally, but better than a month ago.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield was bad generally, with much short time. At Redditch it was fair and improving in the needle trade, quiet in the fish-hook trade. It was moderate with edge tool makers at Birmingham.

Tubes.—In South Staffordshire employment was bad; in South Wales it was slack; at Birmingham, moderate.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—At Cradley Heath employment was bad in all branches of the chain and anchor trade; it continued bad with anchor smiths on the Wear. Employment continued bad with railway spring fitters and vicemen at Sheffield. It was slack, with much short time, at Dudley with anvil and vice makers.

Sheet Metal Workers.—Employment was generally bad with braziers and sheet metal workers, though fair at Newcastle and Hull. It was generally fair with tin-plate workers. With iron plate workers it was slack.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment with goldsmiths and jewellers in London was slack. At Birmingham it remained quiet with jewellers, silversmiths, and electroplaters. At Sheffield it was bad with silversmiths, silver and electro-plate finishers, and Britannia metal workers. With silversmiths and electro-plate operatives in London it was fair and better than a month ago. It continued moderate with Britannia metal workers at Birmingham. With watch-makers at Coventry it continued quiet.

Farriers.—Employment was fair generally, but was slack in the Edinburgh district.

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

Description.	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery ...	9,853	6,871	12,974	+ 2,982	- 3,121
Hardware ...	89,894	72,452	92,034	+ 17,442	- 2,200
<b>Exports:—</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery ...	46,098	37,054	50,753	+ 8,144	- 4,655
Hardware ...	172,284	155,819	188,298	+ 16,445	- 16,004
Implements and Tools...	154,674	142,756	128,383	+ 11,915	- 23,712

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 435 Returns—341 received from Employers, partly direct, and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 85 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was moderate during March; there was an improvement in the weaving branch, compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Short time and slackness were reported in many districts.

Returns from firms employing 108,345 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed no change in the number employed, and a decrease 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 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. The comparison of the amount of wages paid in March as compared with a month ago and a year ago is affected by a recent reduction in the wages paid to spinners in certain districts.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago the numbers employed showed little change in any department, except in the "other" departments, where there was a decrease of 4.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago; the amount of wages paid showed a considerable decline in the preparing and spinning departments, but an increase in the weaving department.



Table with columns: Workpeople (No. paid wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with), Earnings (Aggregate amount of wages paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with). Rows include Departments (Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.) and Districts (Ashton, Stockport, Oldham, etc.).

Compared with a month ago, the amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 15.9 per cent. in the Stockport district, 7.1 per cent. in the Oldham district, and 2.8 per cent. in the Bolton district; there was an increase of 4.5 per cent. in the Burnley district; the other districts showed little change.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of March the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.04d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5.14d. and the lowest 4.93d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during March, 1909, averaged 7.59d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.8d. and the lowest 7.3d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on April 9th, 1909, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,334,070 bales, as compared with 927,470 bales on April 10th, 1908.

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

Table with columns: Description of Cotton, Mar., 1909, Feb., 1909, Mar., 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with a year ago.

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

Table with columns: Description, March, 1909, Feb., 1909, March, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with a year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 397 Returns—371 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 19 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 29,858 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

In the Huddersfield district employment was moderate, and less short time was reported. In the Leeds district and the Dewsbury and Batley district there was an improvement, but employment was considerably worse than a year ago.

Table with columns: Description, Workpeople covered by returns (No. employed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago), Earnings (Aggregate amount of wages paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago).

Worsted Trade.

Employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 46,639 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

In the Bradford district employment with wool sorters and combers was good, and much better than a year ago; in the other branches of the trade it was fair.

Table with columns: Workpeople covered by returns (No. employed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago), Earnings (Aggregate amount of wages paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago).

Prices of Raw Material.

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

Table with columns: Description, Mar., 1909, Feb., 1909, Mar., 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Table with columns: Description, Mar., 1909, Feb., 1909, Mar., 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a year ago.

Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS').

Table with columns: Imports, Exports, Re-Exports of Imported Wool.

British and Irish Manufactures Exported.

Table with columns: Description, 1909, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1909, as compared with 1908.

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 114 Returns—104 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 47,110 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

In Belfast employment was, on the whole, moderate, and a good deal of short time was worked; there was little change as compared with a month ago, but a marked improvement as compared with a year ago.

Table with columns: Workpeople covered by Returns (Number paid wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago), Earnings (Aggregate amount of wages paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago).

Imports and Exports.

Table with columns: Description, Mar., 1909, Feb., 1909, Mar., 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a year ago.

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 34 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 17,484 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

Table with columns: Workpeople covered by Returns (Number paid wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago), Earnings (Aggregate amount of wages paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago).

Compared with a month ago the weaving department showed an increase in the amount of wages paid of 2.5 per cent., while the other departments showed little change either in wages or in the number of workpeople employed.



**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and piece goods for the months stated.

Description.	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
jute ... .. Tons	28,871	43,944	27,259	- 15,073	+ 1,582
<b>Exports:</b>					
jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	51,828	35,890	49,633	+ 15,938	+ 2,195
jute Piece Goods 100 Yds.	161,444	118,822	114,150	+ 43,622	+ 47,994

**LACE TRADE.**

(Based on 85 Returns—77 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 7,999 workpeople in the week ended March 27th, and paying £7,656 in wages, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago the number employed increased by 0.5 per cent., and the amount of wages paid by 5.7 per cent.

At Nottingham employment was reported bad in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch. There was little change as compared with a month ago, but there was an improvement as compared with a year ago. Some short time was reported. In the Long Eaton district there was a further improvement, and employment was much better than a year ago; some short time was worked. In the West of England employment continued slack; it was rather better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Lavers ... ..	1,862	+ 0.3	- 1.4	2,360	+ 0.4	+ 18.1
Curtain ... ..	2,545	+ 0.4	+ 2.0	2,705	+ 2.1	+ 5.3
Plain Net ... ..	2,785	+ 1.6	+ 1.3	2,104	+ 1.2	- 3.1
Others ... ..	707	- 1.3	- 3.2	487	- 0.8	- 2.8
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>7,999</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>7,656</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>+ 5.7</b>
<b>Districts.</b>						
Nottingham City ... ..	1,743	- 1.6	+ 1.5	1,591	- 1.5	+ 4.0
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,495	+ 0.9	- 2.8	1,843	+ 1.8	+ 11.0
Other English districts ... ..	2,935	+ 2.0	+ 0.1	2,441	+ 1.6	+ 2.8
Scotland ... ..	1,826	+ 0.4	+ 3.1	1,781	+ 2.2	+ 6.3
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>7,999</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>7,656</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>+ 5.7</b>

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

Description.	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Cotton Lace ... ..	290,688	279,288	253,019	+ 11,403	+ 27,659
Silk Lace ... ..	25,693	23,357	27,778	+ 2,633	- 1,783
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Cotton Lace ... ..	387,258	382,785	366,900	+ 4,473	+ 20,358
Silk Lace ... ..	14,773	10,726	8,870	+ 4,017	+ 5,903

**SILK TRADE.**

(Based on 57 Returns—51 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair on the whole, and showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,997 workpeople, and paying £5,215 in wages in the week ended March 27th, showed that, as compared with February, there was an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Throwing ... ..	1,026	+ 1.1	- 5.2	463	+ 1.0	- 6.5
Spinning ... ..	2,435	+ 1.3	- 2.4	1,761	+ 2.3	- 0.8
Weaving ... ..	3,493	+ 0.7	- 3.8	2,353	+ 3.2	- 5.7
Other ... ..	913	+ 1.7	+ 11.2	633	+ 5.0	+ 11.8
Not specified ... ..	130	+ 4.8	- 1.5	65	+ 3.2	- 4.4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>7,997</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>- 2.0</b>	<b>5,215</b>	<b>+ 3.8</b>	<b>- 2.2</b>
<b>Districts.</b>						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	2,841	+ 1.2	+ 0.5	2,121	+ 1.7	+ 1.1
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	969	+ 2.0	- 0.7	684	+ 5.6	+ 1.9
Eastern Counties ... ..	2,413	+ 0.4	- 1.7	1,430	+ 5.3	+ 4.5
Other Districts, including Scotland and Leek ... ..	1,774	+ 1.3	- 6.8	960	+ 2.6	- 8.1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>7,997</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>- 2.0</b>	<b>5,215</b>	<b>+ 3.8</b>	<b>- 2.2</b>

With throwsters and spinners employment was fair at Macclesfield, and moderate at Congleton. At Leek it continued bad with throwsters, good with spinners. At Macclesfield it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago with hand-loom weavers working in factories, but bad with "outside" hand-loom weavers; with power-loom weavers it was moderate. With trimming weavers it was bad at Leek, moderate at Congleton. In the Bradford district employment was fair; in the Eastern Counties it improved compared with a month ago.

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

Description.	March, 1909.	Feb., 1909.	March, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Raw Silk ... .. lbs	91,194	105,064	66,473	- 13,870	+ 24,716
Thrown Silk ... .. "	51,141	37,981	51,262	+ 13,157	- 121
Spun Silk Yarn ... .. "	30,427	24,838	18,296	+ 5,589	+ 12,131
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	7,937,778	7,043,546	7,917,455	+ 894,232	+ 20,323
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Thrown Silk ... .. lbs	6,625	5,461	4,518	+ 1,164	+ 2,107
Spun Silk Yarn ... .. "	78,654	63,785	96,202	+ 14,869	- 17,548
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	454,268	456,661	427,486	- 2,393	+ 26,782

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

(Based on 109 Returns—101 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair in England, and continued fairly good in Scotland. It was better on the whole than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 19,015 workpeople in the week ending March 27th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number

employed increased by 0.7 per cent. and the amount of wages paid by 3.6 per cent.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Leicester ... ..	9,637	+ 1.2	- 0.5	7,990	+ 3.4	+ 2.2
Leicester Country District ... ..	2,251	+ 0.7	+ 0.1	1,708	+ 2.7	+ 2.2
Notts and Derbyshire ... ..	4,118	+ 2.0	+ 0.1	3,150	+ 4.6	+ 5.8
Scotland ... ..	2,094	- 0.1	+ 6.0	1,507	...	+ 5.9
Other Districts ... ..	915	- 2.2	+ 5.7	628	- 2.2	+ 8.6
<b>Total, United Kingdom</b>	<b>19,015</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>14,953</b>	<b>+ 2.9</b>	<b>+ 3.6</b>

At Leicester employment was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago; at Hinckley and Loughborough it was moderate generally. With power-frame workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago; with hand-frame workers in the country districts it was slack. In Scotland employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table shows the value of woollen and cotton hosiery imported and exported for the months stated:—

Imports (less Re-Exports):	March, 1909.	Feb., 1909.	March, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Hosiery, Woollen ... ..	31,545	23,954	28,579	+ 7,591	+ 2,956
Cotton ... ..	120,374	106,833	133,286	+ 13,541	- 12,912
<b>Exports:</b>					
Hosiery, Woollen ... ..	121,615	122,275	122,368	- 660	- 753
Cotton ... ..	37,459	35,762	39,744	+ 1,697	- 2,285

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

(Based on 40 Returns—20 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

**Carpet Trade.**

EMPLOYMENT during March showed an improvement as compared with a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. Some short time was reported. Returns from firms employing 5,415 workpeople and paying £4,616 in wages in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed declined 1.9 per cent., while the amount of wages paid showed no change.

**Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.**

**Woollen and Worsted Dyers.**—Employment in the West Riding was slack, but slightly better than a month ago. About one-eighth of the Trade Union dyers worked overtime, but the large majority worked short time.

**Cotton Dyers.**—Employment was moderate, and slightly better than a month ago; much short time was still reported.

**Silk Dyers.**—Employment was reported as moderate at Macclesfield, and fair at Leek.

**Calico Printers, &c.**—Employment with machine calico printers generally was moderate, and better than a month ago; some short time, however, was still worked. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire employment was good. In Glasgow it continued bad with calico printers and engravers; with block printers it was fair.

**Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.**—At Leicester and Hinckley employment showed a further slight improvement; at Loughborough short time was worked.

With dyers at Nottingham employment was fair; with bleachers at Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell it was good; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it was fair; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was better than a month ago.

**Calenderers, &c.**—In Glasgow employment was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Dundee it was good with bleachfield workers, fair with calender workers.

**TAILORING TRADE.**

(Based on 119 Returns—91 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London showed the usual seasonal improvement, but was not so good as a year ago. In the provinces it was moderate. In the ready-made branch employment was fair, and better than a month ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

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

Firms paying £9,937 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended March 27th showed an increase of 6.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

**Ready-made Branch.**

**London.**—Employment during the month was fair, and better than a month ago; it showed little change compared with a year ago.

**Leeds.**—Employment was fair, and slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,689 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops), in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Centres.**—Employment at Manchester and Norwich continued moderate. At Bristol it was fair, and better than a year ago. It was fairly good at Glasgow.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in March, 1909, were valued at £403,904, as compared with £257,658 in February, 1909, and £264,336 in March, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months at £429,914, £416,775, and £389,354 respectively.

**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

(Based on 501 Returns—485 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 5 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fair. It was slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 63,732 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. At Northampton there was generally a decline in employment. At Kettering it was about the same as a month ago, but better than a year ago. With army bootmakers in Northamptonshire employment showed a further improvement. At Bristol it was fair in some branches, but generally much



worse than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood and Leeds it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland employment showed little change compared with a month ago, and was slightly better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.			£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
London ... ..	2,740	+ 0.6	3,042	+ 1.4	- 1.6	
Leicester ... ..	13,484	- 1.0	14,336	- 1.8	- 6.2	
Leicester Country District ... ..	3,105	+ 0.5	2,949	+ 1.9	+ 6.4	
Northampton ... ..	9,641	+ 0.8	9,141	- 2.9	+ 1.8	
Northampton Country District ... ..	8,606	+ 1.5	7,971	+ 2.4	+ 3.2	
Kettering ... ..	4,616	- 0.0	4,034	- 0.2	+ 3.3	
Stafford & District ... ..	2,735	- 0.7	2,331	- 2.7	- 6.5	
Norwich & District ... ..	3,395	- 0.1	2,879	- 0.2	+ 2.5	
Bristol & District ... ..	1,921	- 4.9	1,627	+ 0.3	- 10.5	
Kingswood ... ..	1,809	- 1.5	1,474	- 2.7	- 6.2	
Leeds & District ... ..	1,805	- 2.9	1,482	- 5.6	- 6.1	
Manchester & District ... ..	2,760	- 0.7	2,483	+ 3.2	+ 9.9	
Birmingham & District ... ..	797	+ 8.1	656	+ 9.2	- 2.4	
Other parts of England and Wales ... ..	2,850	- 1.3	2,403	- 1.7	+ 0.2	
ENGLAND & WALES ... ..	59,694	- 0.4	55,745	- 0.6	- 1.0	
SCOTLAND ... ..	3,803	- 0.1	3,535	+ 0.1	+ 1.0	
IRELAND ... ..	235	+ 0.9	169	+ 5.6	+ 34.1	
UNITED KINGDOM ... ..	63,732	- 0.4	60,452	- 0.6	- 0.8	

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

Description.	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				<b>Imports (less Re-Exports)</b>	
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	23,709	18,738	24,516	+ 4,971	- 807
Value ... .. £	70,593	68,525	80,207	+ 2,068	- 9,614
<b>Exports (British and Irish)</b>					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	94,209	89,173	87,938	+ 5,036	+ 6,271
Value ... .. £	219,419	199,157	199,295	+ 29,262	+ 20,124

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

**OTHER LEATHER TRADES.**

(Based on 33 Returns—20 from Trade Unions and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was bad, but showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month. It was not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,261 had 7.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 7.6 per cent. in February, and 6.8 per cent. a year ago.

**Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.**—With skinner employment continued fair at Leeds; it was slack at Birmingham, and bad in London. With curriers employment on the whole was bad. With dressers employment continued moderate. With leather workers generally it was fair at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan; quiet at Manchester.

**Saddle and Harness Makers.**—In London employment was bad. At Walsall it was generally slack, but fair with brown saddlers. Employment was generally slack elsewhere.

**Miscellaneous Leather Trades.**—With fancy leather workers employment continued bad. With portmanteau and trunk makers employment continued quiet in London; at Manchester it was fair and better than a month ago.

**Imports and Exports.**

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

Description.	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				<b>Imports:—</b>	
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	34,757	33,321	21,053	+ 836	+ 13,104
Ditto, wet	59,244	61,130	49,932	- 1,886	+ 9,312
Total, hides, dry and wet	93,401	94,451	70,985	- 1,050	+ 22,416
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	1,340,603	1,057,137	737,432	+ 283,466	+ 663,171
Sheep skins, (value) £	193,884	219,462	214,002	- 25,578	- 20,118
<b>Leather*</b>					
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	33,791	33,292	38,181	+ 499	- 4,390

**HAT TRADE.**

(Based on 11 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, and 9 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during March in the *Silk* hat trade was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 13.2, compared with 14.1 a month ago, and 14.2 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 3.4, compared with 3.4 a month ago, and 1.7 a year ago. Employment was reported as fair at Denton and bad at Stockport. In Warwickshire it was moderate, and some short time was worked.

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

Description.	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				<b>Imports:</b>	
All kinds ... ..	42,289	58,985	33,362	- 16,696	+ 8,927
<b>Exports:</b>					
Felt ... ..	52,378	56,039	57,088	- 3,661	- 4,710
Straw ... ..	50,703	45,880	47,042	+ 4,823	+ 3,661
Other Sorts ... ..	6,562	6,429	6,341	+ 133	+ 221
Total ... ..	109,643	108,348	110,471	+ 1,295	- 828

**OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.**

(Based on 151 Returns—143 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trade showed the usual seasonal improvement; with retail firms it was better than a year ago, but with court dressmakers it was worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it was fairly good, and slightly better than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was moderate; in the corset trade it was fairly good.

**Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,389 dressmakers in the week ended March 27th, showed an increase of 7.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers employing 982 workpeople in the week ended March

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

27th showed an increase of 11.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 8.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West-End employment on the whole was moderate.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,573 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed no change in the demand for and a slight decrease in the supply of dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers continued moderate. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 2,041 workpeople in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 2.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 15.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was good.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was moderate, and about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 6,588 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,601 in wages, in the week ended March 27th, showed an increase of 3.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was moderate.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,044 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended March 27th showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

**PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.**

(Based on 454 Returns—136 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 298 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

**PAPER TRADES.**

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was fair on the whole; but short time was reported at a number of mills in the Northern Counties. Employment showed little change compared with a month ago, but a decline compared with a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 21,715 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was little change in the total number employed compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in the Northern and Midland Districts, and an increase in the Southern Counties and Scotland.

Description.	No. of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of March, 1909, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:	
Northern Counties ... ..	6,745	- 0.9	- 2.6
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland ... ..	1,299	+ 0.3	- 1.1
Southern Counties ... ..	6,752	- 0.0	+ 1.9
Scotland ... ..	6,045	+ 0.6	+ 1.8
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	20,841	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Hand-made Paper ... ..	874	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Total ... ..	21,715	- 0.1	+ 0.2

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,647 members had 3.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 3.7 per cent. a month ago, and 1.8 per cent. a year ago. In the *hand-made paper* trade Trade Unions with 586 members had 6.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, compared with 7.8 per cent. in February and 5.4 per cent. in March, 1908.

The **Imports of paper** in March, 1909, amounted to £522,767, as compared with £424,254 in February, 1909, and £540,591 in March, 1908; and the **Exports** for the same months amounted to £234,569, £179,099 and £205,580 respectively.

**PRINTING TRADES.**

EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole with letterpress printers and lithographic artists, and slack with lithographic printers. It was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago.

The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 4.6, as compared with 5.8 at the end of February and 4.0 at the end of March, 1908.

Districts.	No. of members of Unions at end of Mar., 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London ... ..	21,364	3.6	6.1	3.7
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,403	6.4	6.4	4.1	...	+ 2.3
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,721	4.9	5.7	4.1	- 0.8	+ 0.2
West, Midland and Eastern Counties	2,596	3.9	3.7	3.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
West Midlands	2,525	3.9	4.7	4.4	- 0.8	- 0.5
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,791	2.4	2.8	3.0	- 0.4	- 0.6
Scotland ... ..	5,700	5.1	5.4	3.9	- 0.3	+ 1.2
Ireland ... ..	2,646	11.0	11.6	8.9	- 0.6	+ 2.1
United Kingdom	59,746	4.6	5.8	4.0	- 1.2	+ 0.6

**London.**—Employment was fairly good with letterpress printers but dull with lithographic printers. It was better than a month ago, and showed little change compared with a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members out of employment at the end of the month was 3.6, compared with 6.1 at the end of February and 3.7 a year ago.

**Other Centres.**—Employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but a decline compared with a year ago. With letterpress printers it was good in the Midland, Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties and Wales, and also at Manchester, Bolton, and Dundee. At Edinburgh it was fair, except in the machine section, in which employment was slack. Employment was slack in the Northern Counties, Yorkshire, and Ireland, and also at Liverpool, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. With lithographic printers employment was slack, except at Bradford, Hull, Birmingham, and Bristol, where it was fair.

**BOOKBINDING TRADES.**

EMPLOYMENT continued slack generally, and was worse than a year ago. In London short time was worked to a considerable extent.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1909, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London ... ..	3,530	8.4	7.6	7.4
Other Districts ... ..	3,393	7.5	7.5	5.5	- 0.2	+ 1.8
United Kingdom ... ..	6,923	7.8	7.6	6.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.4



**BUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 1,972 Returns—649 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,271 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 52 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in March was slack in all parts of the United Kingdom, except with painters who were fairly well employed. It showed an improvement compared with February, but was worse than in March, 1908.

Returns received from 591 firms employing 34,573 workpeople at the end of March show that, compared with a month ago, there were increases in the number of skilled workmen employed of 3.6 per cent. in London and 3.4 per cent. in the provinces; while in the case of labourers there were increases of 3.4 per cent. and 0.9 per cent. respectively. Compared with a year ago, there were decreases in the number of skilled workmen of 0.3 per cent. in London, and 1.5 per cent. in the provinces; the decreases in the case of labourers being 2.2 per cent. and 1.9 per cent. respectively.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Mar., 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Mar., 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
London ... ..	7,113	+ 215	- 20	4,501	+ 150	- 59
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	1,738	+ 160	- 10	1,492	+ 45	- 134
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	2,906	+ 72	- 25	2,372	- 19	- 510
Midland & Eastern Counties	1,937	+ 104	- 430	1,508	- 7	- 275
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,585	+ 61	- 328	1,472	- 17	- 79
England and Wales ...	16,279	+ 642	- 913	11,355	+ 152	- 1,097
Scotland ... ..	2,155	- 55	- 743	1,133	- 55	- 611
Ireland ... ..	277	+ 38	- 503	482	+ 108	- 492
United Kingdom ...	18,711	+ 625	- 1,989	12,970	+ 125	- 2,200

District.	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Mar., 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Mar., 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
London ... ..	491	+ 17	+ 4	12,108	+ 412	- 115
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	366	- 5	- 53	3,696	+ 200	- 327
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	708	- 7	- 23	5,998	+ 86	- 858
Midland & Eastern Counties	745	+ 7	- 58	3,690	+ 80	- 743
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	403	+ 27	- 56	3,465	+ 71	- 483
England and Wales ...	2,218	+ 25	- 166	20,852	+ 819	- 2,208
Scotland ... ..	609	+ 3	- 113	3,697	- 87	- 1,467
Ireland ... ..	63	+ 2	- 12	824	+ 148	- 807
United Kingdom ...	2,882	+ 30	- 291	31,973	+ 880	- 4,480

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of March was 13.5 as compared with 14.5 a month ago and 10.4 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 13.7, 12.0, and 12.8 respectively. For both carpenters and plumbers the percentages unemployed were always above these averages in the Northern Counties (where many of the Trade Union members are connected with shipbuilding) and always below these averages in the Southern and South Western Counties, Wales and Monmouthshire. For London the Trade Union Returns show that 11.3 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 11.8 a month ago and 11.5 a year ago; the corresponding percentages for plumbers were 15.0, 15.6, and 17.5 respectively.

Employment except with painters remained slack in nearly every large centre. With painters it was generally fair. A decline in employment was reported in the Tyne and Wear district. Employment was moderate with plumbers at Middlesbrough. At Manchester employment with plumbers was worse than a month ago. Employment was slack with painters at Bolton and Preston. It was moderate generally at Oldham, and with carpenters at Blackpool and Stockport. It was moderate with plumbers at Birmingham. With painters at Norwich it was slack. At Plymouth bricklayers and carpenters reported a decline in employment. Bricklayers

and masons at Cheltenham, and carpenters at Swansea and Llanelly were fairly well employed. With painters at Glasgow and Dundee employment, though better than a month ago, was dull. Masons at Aberdeen and Dundee, and plumbers at Edinburgh reported employment as worse than in February.

**FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.**

(Based on 166 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 134 from Trade Unions, and 29 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed a general improvement compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago an improvement was shown in the furnishing, coachbuilding and brushmaking trades; but with woodcutting machinists and coopers employment declined. Trade Unions with a total membership of 36,236 reported 7.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 8.8 per cent. a month ago and 6.9 per cent. a year ago.

**Furnishing Trades.**

Employment with cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and french polishers, though still bad on the whole, was better than a month ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 8.5, as compared with 11.6 a month ago, and 8.9 a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinetware in March, 1909, were valued at £36,433, as compared with £29,810 in February, 1909, and £53,279 in March, 1908; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £63,722, £44,276, and £42,050 respectively.

**Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.**

Employment generally continued bad. Trade Unions reported 8.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 8.7 per cent. a month ago, and 7.2 per cent. a year ago.

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

Description.	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn ... ..	Loads. 33,243	Loads. 21,379	Loads. 43,528	+ 10,874	- 11,285
" sawn ... ..	Loads. 125,777	Loads. 130,471	Loads. 134,095	- 4,694	- 8,318
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 15,941	£ 11,762	£ 20,916	+ 4,179	- 4,975

**Coopers.**

Employment generally continued dull, and worse than a year ago, much short time being reported. It was still good, however, at Dublin and Belfast.

**Coachbuilding.**

Employment with coachmakers was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago; with wheelwrights and smiths it was still reported as bad. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, &c., reported 5.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 7.1 per cent. a month ago, and 6.1 per cent. a year ago.

**Miscellaneous.**

Brushmakers.—Employment was good generally and better than a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, reported as slack at Dublin and dull at Glasgow. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 3.5, as compared with 4.8 at the end of February, and 4.0 a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment continued bad generally, though it was fair at Bolton and Bury. With basket makers it was fair at Edinburgh and Glasgow, and better than a month ago, but continued bad at Leicester.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in March, 1909, were valued at £33,361, as compared with £30,220 in February, 1909, and £31,280 in March, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £15,760, £15,749 and £15,187 respectively.

**POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.**

(Based on 25 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was bad, and on the whole showed little change compared with the previous month. It was worse than a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—Employment during March was generally bad in Staffordshire; it showed a slight improvement on the previous month, but was worse than a year ago. It continued moderate on the whole in Devonshire. In Scotland it was generally slack, with much short time. It was fairly good with earthenware potters at Bristol. With earthenware makers in the South Yorkshire and River Aire districts employment continued bad, and worse than a year ago. With clay tobacco pipe makers it was fair and better than a month ago at Glasgow; it was good at Manchester, but bad on the Tyne.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment generally remained bad, and worse than a year ago. It was, however, still reported as good in South Wales, and moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in March, 1909, were valued at £73,366, as compared with £53,552 in February, 1909, and £82,076 in March, 1908; and the Exports for the same months at £187,848, £158,210, and £209,680 respectively.

**GLASS TRADES.**

(Based on 92 Returns—60 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 21 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,062 workpeople in the week ended March 27th, and paying £9,729 in wages, showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the total earnings, as compared with a month ago.

As compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 4.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.3 per cent. in the total earnings.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle ...	5,273	+ 40	- 56	£ 6,655	+ 38	- 46
Plate Glass ...	706	+ 23	- 72	£ 859	+ 13	+ 44
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,721	- 14	- 24	£ 1,827	- 19	- 74
Other Branches ...	357	- 22	- 17	£ 408	- 42	- 107
Total ...	8,062	+ 24	- 49	£ 9,729	+ 21	- 43

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 27th, 1909.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
North of England	772	- 0.6	+ 0.4	£ 833	- 2.7	+ 3.6
Yorkshire ...	4,292	+ 5.8	- 6.1	£ 5,438	+ 7.7	- 4.3
Lancashire ...	710	- 1.3	+ 0.7	£ 754	- 8.4	- 3.6
Worcester and Warwick	1,202	- 0.7	- 2.2	£ 1,457	- 2.3	+ 0.5
Scotland ...	757	- 3.3	- 14.2	£ 924	- 6.5	- 18.8
Other parts of the United Kingdom	329	+ 1.2	+ 2.5	£ 323	+ 1.3	+ 2.9
Total ...	8,062	+ 2.4	- 4.9	£ 9,729	+ 2.1	- 4.3

Employment with glass bottle makers in Yorkshire and Lancashire, though dull on the whole, was generally better than in the previous month. Employment was moderate and about the same as a month ago with glass bottle makers in the North of England. In Scotland employment was moderate; at Bristol it was good; and at Dublin it was dull. With flint glass makers and cutters employment was fair on the whole, but at Birmingham it was bad with cutters. It continued moderate with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed

glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was bad and worse than a month ago. Employment continued fair with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham. It was fair with glass blowers in London.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the months stated:—

Description.	March, 1909.	Feb., 1909.	March, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	95,431 cwt.	92,510 cwt.	100,475 cwt.	+ 2,621	- 5,334
Plate ... ..	29,413	26,245	25,670	+ 3,163	+ 3,413
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	61,148	46,749	56,866	+ 14,899	+ 4,282
Manufactures, other sorts...	160 gross	191 gross	445 gross	- 32 gross	- 285 gross
Bottles ... ..	138,311	116,069	143,941	+ 21,242	- 10,633
Exports:					
Plate ... ..	14,696	12,297	13,784	+ 2,316	+ 822
Flint ... ..	6,379	4,877	4,151	+ 1,502	+ 2,228
Manufactures, other sorts ...	52,477 gross	26,036 gross	39,523 gross	+ 6,391 gross	- 7,146 gross
Bottles ... ..	57,254	59,740	64,085	- 2,486	- 6,831

**AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.**

(Based on 220 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

ALTHOUGH work was found for the regular farm servants, the unfavourable weather which lasted for the greater part of March caused day labourers to lose time in most parts of England, and the demand for their services was also lessened in many districts by the forward state of threshing.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland and Cumberland outdoor employment was much hindered by the severe weather, and spring sowings were delayed in consequence; there was little demand for extra labour. At the March hirings in Northumberland wages showed comparatively little change from the previous year; some scarcity of women workers was reported. A fairly even supply of and demand for labour were reported from districts in Westmorland and Lancashire. Potato planting and other work afforded employment to extra labourers in Yorkshire when the weather permitted, but snow and rain caused a somewhat considerable loss of time to many men of this class.

Midland Counties.—Severe weather interrupted the employment of day labourers in Cheshire during the early part of the month; otherwise the supply of this class of labour was generally equalled by the demand. There was a fair demand for extra labourers in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Threshing, hedging, manure carting, etc., provided a certain amount of work for extra men in Leicestershire, but the demand for their services was much diminished by the severe weather. Similar reports come from Staffordshire. There was generally an even supply of and demand for labour in Shropshire, though there was occasional loss of time through bad weather. In Worcestershire and Warwickshire the supply of extra labourers was generally in excess of the demand, but a scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from several districts. Extra labourers were in excess of requirements in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire; there was, however, a continued demand for carters, cattlemen, and shepherds in the latter county. Threshing, draining, hedging and other work caused a moderate demand for day labourers in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire, but there was generally some surplus in the supply, and bad weather occasioned much loss of time.

Eastern Counties.—Out-door work in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, was interrupted by unfavourable weather, while in several districts many more men were seeking work than were wanted. There was generally an equal supply of and demand for day labourers in Lincolnshire, except for a few days when bad weather rendered work impossible. Threshing, hedging, ditching



and manure carting provided a fair amount of employment in *Norfolk*, though there was some loss of time from bad weather in most districts. The forward state of threshing, as well as the weather, was said to have affected the employment of day labourers in *Suffolk*, and the supply of such men was generally somewhat in excess of the demand. Correspondents in *Essex* also report that day labourers lost time on account of bad weather.

**Southern and South Western Counties.**—Day labourers were in irregular employment in *Kent*, owing to the severe weather, which considerably interrupted threshing and other work. A scarcity of shepherds was reported from the Bridge Union. There was a similar irregularity of employment in *Surrey*. Wood-cutting, hedging, ditching, manure carting, etc., caused a moderate demand for extra labourers in *Sussex*, but a number of such men suffered loss of time from the bad weather. There was a fair demand for day labourers in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire* when the weather permitted outdoor work. A correspondent in the latter county states that the demand was also somewhat affected by the forward state of work. Day labourers in *Wiltshire* occasionally lost time owing to bad weather, and there was generally some surplus of this class of labour. Hedging and threshing provided a fair amount of employment for day labourers in *Dorset* when the weather permitted. Frost and snow interrupted out-door work in *Somerset*, and there was generally but little demand for extra men. Similar reports come from *Herefordshire*, and correspondents state that men for permanent situations involving Sunday work were still somewhat difficult to secure. Threshing, hedging, ditching, and manure carting, provided a moderate amount of employment for extra labourers in *Gloucestershire*. In *Devon* and *Cornwall* extra men were in fairly regular employment at preparing the land for spring sowing, hedging, and other work, though several men lost some time through bad weather. Some scarcity of men for permanent situations was generally reported, but a correspondent in the Newton Abbot Union (*Devon*) states that such men are becoming more plentiful.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based on 139 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 8 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London continued moderate, and was slightly better than a year ago. At the other principal ports it was slack generally, though, on the whole, better than a month ago. It continued fair at the South Wales ports.

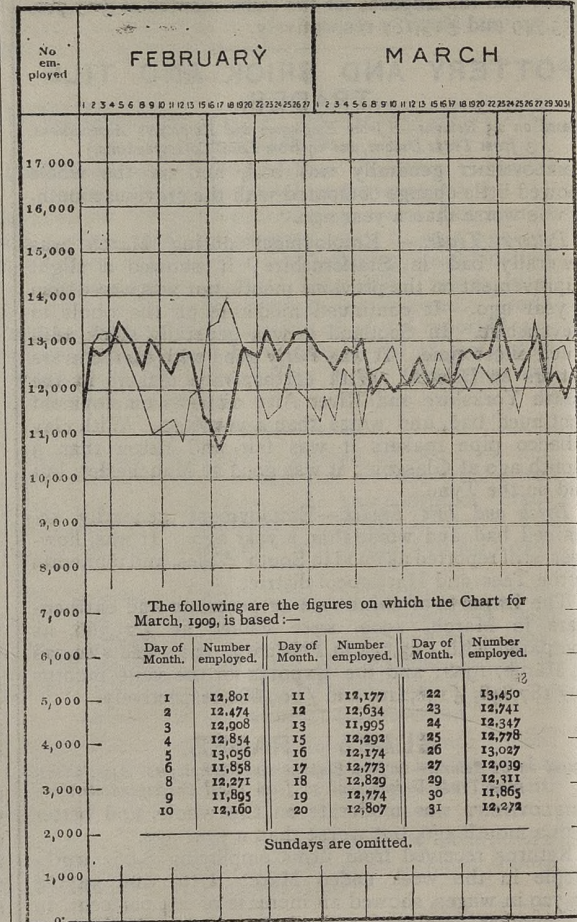
**London.\***—Employment continued moderate during March, and showed some improvement on a year ago. Wool sales continued throughout the greater part of the month. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended March 27th was 12,547, an increase of 268 (or 2·2 per cent.) as compared with March, 1908. The daily numbers employed in March, 1909, ranged from 13,450 on the 22nd to 11,858 on the 6th; in February, 1909, from 13,363 on the 4th to 10,716 on the 16th; and in March, 1908, from 13,555† on the 27th to 11,192† on the 6th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	In Docks		At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total.	
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.			
Week ended Mar. 6th	4,096	2,661	6,757	5,902	12,659
" " " 13th	4,098	1,817	6,115	6,074	12,189
" " " 20th	4,095	2,631	6,727	5,881	12,608
" " " 27th	4,154	2,798	6,952	5,778	12,730
Average for 4 weeks ended Mar. 27th, 1909	4,161	2,477	6,638	5,909	12,547
Average for Feb., 1909	3,986	2,624	6,610	5,986	12,646
Average for Mar., 1908	4,247	2,356	6,608	6,776†	12,974†

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of February and March, 1909. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1908, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1909, and the thin curve to 1908.]



The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,023 in March, 1909, as compared with 1,286 during February, 1909, and 1,100 during March, 1908.

At *Liverpool* employment was slack and worse than a month ago. With carters it was moderate and was affected by a dispute.

**Other Ports.**—Employment with dock labourers on the Tyne and Wear was bad generally; it was, however, moderate with quayside labourers. With dock labourers at *Hartlepool* and *Middlesbrough* employment was bad; at the latter port there was some improvement on a month ago; riverside labourers reported employment as slack, but rather better than a month ago, at *Stockton*. At *Hull* and *Grimsby* employment with dock labourers was bad, and at *Goole*, moderate; with coal porters at *Hull* it was slack; at *Grimsby* moderate; and at *Goole*, fair. At *Yarmouth* and *Lowestoft* employment continued dull; at *Southampton* it was fair and better than a month ago; at *Plymouth* and *Devonport* it was dull generally; at *Bristol* and the South Wales ports it was fair. At *Manchester* it was bad. Employment was bad at *Glasgow*; fair at *Leith* and *Dundee*, and dull at *Aberdeen*. It was fair at *Dublin* and bad at *Belfast*.

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics of England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in March, 1909, showed a decrease both in quantity and value as compared with March, 1908.

At *Yarmouth* employment was fair with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At

*Grimsby* it was fair with fishermen, but fish dock labourers worked much short time. At *Lowestoft* employment was fair with all classes, and about the same as a year ago. At *Hull* it continued moderate with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers; with fishermen it was worse than a year ago. At *Aberdeen* employment was good with fishermen and moderate with other classes; it was about the same as a month ago and worse than a year ago. At *Peterhead* and *Macduff* employment was fair. At both ports it was on the whole better than a year ago. At *Fraserburgh* employment was bad with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; with fish curers it was fair. Off the south-western coast of England only moderate catches were landed.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in March, 1909 and 1908:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Mar., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Mar., 1909.	Mar., 1908.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ...	805,439	793,304	539,327	560,961
Scotland ...	293,285	345,635	125,909	141,510
Ireland ...	21,997	20,428	12,481	13,189
Total ...	1,120,711	1,159,367	678,709	715,660
Shell Fish ...	—	—	23,682	29,574
Total Value ...	—	—	702,391	745,234

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in March 1909, were valued at £50,014, as compared with £66,511 in February, 1909, and £49,720 in March, 1908.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MARCH.**

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), show that during March 38,592\* seamen, of whom 3,808 (or 9·9 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with March, 1908, there was a net increase of 356. The greatest increases occurred at *Southampton* and *Liverpool*, and the greatest decrease at *Newport, Mon.* For the three months ended March, 1909, the total number of seamen\* shipped was 108,309, or 4,317 less than during the corresponding period of 1908. The most noticeable decreases occurred at *Liverpool*, the Tyne Ports, *Cardiff*, *Glasgow* and *Bristol*. Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	March,			Three months ended March,		
	1908.	1909.	Ino. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.	1908.	1909.	Ino. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1909.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	2,113	2,205	+ 93	7,069	6,195	- 874
Sunderland ...	502	492	- 10	1,223	1,376	+ 153
Middlesbrough ...	191	312	+ 121	838	832	- 6
Hull ...	954	919	- 35	3,123	3,151	+ 28
Grimsby ...	51	16	- 35	188	73	- 115
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	551	438	- 113	1,791	1,367	- 424
Newport, Mon. ...	1,234	830	- 404	2,905	2,966	+ 61
Cardiff ...	4,229	4,798	+ 569	14,352	13,496	- 756
Swansea ...	278	341	+ 63	1,050	1,036	- 14
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	13,424	13,779	+ 355	39,922	38,193	- 1,729
London ...	6,569	6,417	- 152	17,632	17,571	- 61
Southampton ...	4,108	4,636	+ 528	12,333	12,305	- 28
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith ...	368	363	- 5	930	1,205	+ 275
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	172	215	+ 43	385	457	+ 72
Glasgow ...	2,654	2,695	+ 41	7,921	7,427	- 494
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	39	70	+ 31	159	220	+ 61
Belfast ...	299	125	- 174	905	439	- 466
Total ...	38,236	38,592	+ 356	112,626	108,509	- 4,117

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

**PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.**

**I.—BREAD.**

RETURNS showing the predominant price of 4 lbs. of bread on April 1st, 1909, have been received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised in the following Table, in which the highest predominant rates and the lowest predominant rates are shown, together with the mean of all the predominant rates in each district:—

District.	1st April, 1909.			1st Mar., 1909.			1st April, 1908.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	6	5½	5'9	6	5	5'6	5½	5	5'4
E. & N.E. ...	6	5½	5'9	5½	5½	5'5	5½	4½	5'3
S.E. ...	6	5	5'6	5½	5	5'5	6	5	5'6
S.W. ...	6	5½	5'9	6	5½	5'8	6	5½	5'6
W. & W.C. ...	6	5½	6'0	6	5½	5'9	5½	5	5'5
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	6'0	7	5	5'8	7	5	5'9
Midlands ...	6	5	5'7	6	5	5'5	6	4½	5'4
Eastern Counties ...	6	5½	5'7	6	5	5'4	6	5	5'4
Southern Counties ...	7	5½	6'2	6½	5	6'0	6½	5	5'9
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5'8	6	5	5'6	6	5	5'6
Scotland ...	6½	5½	6'1	7	5½	6'1	7	5	6'2
Great Britain ...	7	5	5'9	7	5	5'7	7	4½	5'7

As compared with both a month ago and a year ago each of the districts, with the exception of *Scotland* shows a rise. The mean of all the district prices shows an increase of 0·2d. per 4 lbs. as compared with those of 1st March, 1909, and 1st April, 1908.

In the next Table the predominant price is shown for 28 of the principal towns.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on April 1st, 1909	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London ...	d. 6	+ ½	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Birmingham ...	5½ & 6	+ ½	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Bolton ...	6	...	...	Oct. '07	+ ½
Bristol ...	5½ & 6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Cardiff ...	5½ & 6	...	+ ½	Feb. '09	+ ½
Derby ...	5½	+ ½	...	Mar. '09	+ ½
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	6	+ ½	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Ipswich ...	6	+ ½	...	Mar. '09	+ ½
Leeds ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ 1
Leicester ...	5½	...	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Liverpool ...	5½	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Manchester ...	5½	...	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Middlesbrough ...	5½	...	- ½	April '08	- ½
Newcastle ...	6	+ ½	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Norwich ...	5½	+ ½	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Nottingham ...	6	+ ½	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Oldham ...	6	+ 1	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ 1
Plymouth ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Potteries ...	5½	+ ½	+ 1	Mar. '09	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	5½	...	+ ½	Mar. '09	+ ½
Aberdeen ...	5½	...	- ½	May '08	- ½
Dundee ...	5½ & 6½	...	...	Dec. '07	- ½
Edinburgh ...	6½	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Belfast ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Dublin ...	6	...	...	Mar. '08	- ½

Compared with a month ago, the price of the 4lb. loaf has risen ½d. in *London*, *Derby*, *Hull*, *Ipswich*, *Newcastle*, *Norwich*, *Nottingham*, and the *Potteries*. At *Oldham* the rise amounted to 1d. per 4 lbs. In *Birmingham* the predominant price is now 5½d. and 6d. as compared with 5½d. per 4lbs on 1st March. As compared with a year ago, 15 of the towns show no change, one (*Birmingham*) shows an increase of ½d., eight (including *London*) show increases of ½d., and one (*Nottingham*) an increase of ¾d. per 4 lbs. In the *Potteries* the increase was 1d. per 4 lbs. In *Middlesbrough* and *Aberdeen* the price on 1st April, 1909, was ½d. per 4 lbs. lower than on 1st April, 1908.



II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during the period September, 1908-March, 1909, amounted to 50,723,185 cwt., or 3,873,415 cwt. less than in the corresponding period of 1907-8. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1908-March, 1909, amounted to 7,407,243 cwt., or 1,876,089 cwt. less than in September, 1907-March, 1908.

The following Table gives the mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat, the average declared value of wheat and flour imports, and the market price of London flour (Town Households) for the periods stated.

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) per Mill for cash.
	Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt.*	(Average Declared Value.)		
			Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
March ... 1908.	s. d. 7 5	Per cwt. 8 2½	Per cwt. 11 1	Per cwt. 11 3½	
February ... 1909.	7 11	8 8	10 1½	11 8½	
March ... 1909.	8 3	8 10½	10 9½	12 2½	

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

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

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Decrease of last Audit as compared with	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
<b>Coal.</b>		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland:— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth).	{ Dec., 1908— Feb., 1909 }	7 2 8½	— 0 11 77	— 1 10 04
<b>Pig Iron.</b>	1909.			
Cleveland ...	Jan.-Mar.	48 10 87	— 0 5 33	— 1 3 65
Cumberland ...	Jan.-Mar.	56 3 169	— 2 1 940	— 4 10 164
<b>Manufactured Iron.</b>				
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	} Jan.-Feb.	131 7 32	— 1 10 39	— 10 8 42
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, etc.)		125 4 83	— 1 0 75	— 19 6 53
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)		119 6 79	— 1 4 99	— 17 2 33

**Coal.**—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board, on April 3rd, that the wages of underground workers and "bankmen" should be reduced by 8¼ per cent., and of other surface workers by 7 per cent., leaving their wages 28½ per cent. and 23 per cent. respectively above the standard of 1879.

**Pig Iron.**—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were reduced by ½ per cent. in Cleveland, and by 2¾ per cent. in West Cumberland.

**Manufactured Iron.**—In the North of England the wages of puddlers were reduced by 3d. per ton and those of millmen by 2½ per cent., whilst in the Midlands and

\* In accordance with Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, the rate of conversion from quarters to cwt., is made at the rate of 60 imperial pounds = 1 bushel of wheat.

the West of Scotland the wages remain unchanged as a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

CONTRACTING OUT: SCHEME CERTIFIED UNDER 1897 ACT: OPERATION AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF 1906 ACT.

By the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, it was provided that a scheme of compensation, benefit or insurance might be substituted for the provisions of the Act by contract between employers and workmen, if such scheme were, after enquiry, certified by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. By the Act of 1906 it was provided that every scheme under the Act of 1897 in force at the commencement of the Act of 1906 should have effect as if it were a scheme under the later Act if it were re-certified by the Registrar; and that the Registrar should re-certify such scheme if he was satisfied that it conformed with the Act of 1906. If any such scheme had not been so re-certified before the expiration of six months from the commencement of the Act of 1906, the certificate became revoked. The last mentioned Act came into operation on July 1st, 1907.

A railway company had adopted a scheme under the Act of 1897 which had been certified by the Registrar, and provided that the fund should be managed by a committee in accordance with rules to be from time to time framed by them, and which were not to be inconsistent with the scheme. No servant of the company was obliged to join the fund, but anyone becoming a member was to remain a member so long as he continued to be a servant of the company and the scheme was in force. The rules framed by the committee were not certified by the Registrar. One of these rules provided that any person who became a member of the fund "released on behalf of himself and his representatives and dependants all claims upon the company under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, or otherwise." By another rule the decision of the committee on any dispute was to be final. The scheme was never certified or registered under the Act of 1906.

In February, 1906, a workman in the employment of the company became a member of the fund. In November, 1907, he met with an accident in the course of his employment, and received payments from the fund in respect of the accident. In January, 1908, he was discharged by the company. In October, 1908, he commenced proceedings in a County Court to obtain compensation under the Act of 1906. On behalf of the company objection was taken that the judge had no jurisdiction to entertain an arbitration as his jurisdiction was ousted by the contract between the workman and the company. The judge, however, held that he had jurisdiction. From this decision the company appealed.

At the hearing of the appeal it was contended on behalf of the company that there was a six months' interval between the coming into force of 1906 Act and the time that the scheme under the 1897 Act became revoked. Therefore the scheme was in force for six months from July 1st, 1907, and was therefore in force at the time of the accident in question. It was argued on the other side that the contract between the workman and the company was only to accept the scheme, instead of compensation under the Act of 1897; that this was a claim under the Act of 1906, and that the scheme could have no application; but in any event rules not certified by the Registrar had no effect under the old Act. The Court held that rules not certified could have no valid operation so far as they were inconsistent with the scheme; that if the words "and otherwise" in the rule included compensation to which the workman might become entitled under future legislation the rule was plainly inconsistent with the scheme; the scheme had not been re-registered under the Act of 1906, and within six months it became revoked; this claim was under the Act of 1906, and neither the Act of 1897 nor the scheme under it had any operation; therefore the County Court judge had jurisdiction to make an award. The appeal was dismissed.—*Moss v. Great Eastern Railway Co., Court of Appeal, March 24th, 1909.*

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES: LEAD POISONING: CERTIFICATE OF SURGEON: CONDITION PRECEDENT TO CLAIM.

It is provided by the Act of 1906 that where a certifying surgeon certifies that a workman is suffering from any one of certain diseases, among which is lead poisoning, and is thereby disabled from earning full wages, or where death is caused by any such disease, the workman or his dependants are entitled to compensation as if the disease were a personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment. The disablement is to be treated as the happening of the accident.

A man employed as a fixer of enamel letters complained that in March, 1908, he felt symptoms of lead poisoning. He was dismissed by his employers on April 27th, 1908. The same month he claimed compensation under the Act. The case first came before the Court in July, 1908. In September the man obtained from a

certifying surgeon a certificate that he was suffering from chronic lead poisoning, and that the disablement commenced on April 30th, 1908. The case was heard in October, 1908. The claimant alleged that he had been dismissed by his employers owing to his poisoned condition, and that by reason of the lead poisoning he was disabled from earning full wages at his work. The Sheriff-Substitute, without giving a decision on the questions of fact in dispute, decided that he could not make an award in the claimant's favour on the ground that at the time when his claim was made no certificate had been obtained from a certifying surgeon as directed by the Act. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Session reversed the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute, and remitted the case to him to hear it upon its merits, holding that the obtaining of a certificate was not a condition precedent to making a claim for compensation, and that it was sufficient if a certificate were put in process within the six months within which the claim must be made.—*Taylor v. Burnham & Co., Court of Session, March 2nd, 1909.*

END OF INCAPACITY: DOUBT WHETHER RECOVERY PERMANENT: PROPER ORDER ON REVIEW.

Where compensation for injury is being paid, whether under an award or by agreement, 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 seaman met with an accident in the course of his employment which caused rupture. Compensation was paid by agreement for some time. The employers then requested a review, and asked that the payments should be ended on the ground that the incapacity had come to an end, and that the seaman was quite able to do his usual work. At the hearing evidence was given that the seaman had refused to undergo an operation, but that he could earn his wages if he wore a suitable truss, which his employers had supplied to him. On these grounds the County Court judge decided that the incapacity had ceased, and he ended the payments, refusing to make an award in such a form that the man could ask for a further review if the truss did not prove satisfactory. Against this refusal the seaman appealed. On the hearing of the appeal it was alleged on behalf of the appellant that he had proved that he could not work with the truss.

The Court of Appeal held that the judge had power to make a suspensory order in such a case and ought to have made such an order in this case. The appeal was therefore allowed to the extent that an award was to be made reducing the payments to a week or else a suspensory order made.—*Morgan v. Owners of ship Tynron, Court of Appeal, March 30th, 1909.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

LEGAL AND ILLEGAL COMBINATIONS: SOCIETY NOT IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE: JURISDICTION OF COURTS IN DISPUTES.

By the Trade Union Act, 1876, a trade union means any combination for regulating the relations between workmen and masters, or between workmen and workmen, or between masters and masters, or for imposing restrictive conditions on the conduct of any trade or business, whether such combination would, or would not, apart from the Trade Union Act, 1871, have been deemed to have been an unlawful combination by reason of some one or more of its purposes being in restraint of trade. By the Act of 1871 it is provided that no court shall entertain any legal proceeding instituted with the object of directly enforcing, or recovering damages for breach of, certain specified agreements between members of a union and the union.

A society had been registered under the Acts, the general object of which, according to the rules, was to give relief to members when out of work, either by reason of illness or accident, or owing to trade disputes. The members were not obliged to belong to any particular trade. They might subscribe to the sick fund without being "trade members." Full members were entitled not only to sick benefits, but also to dispute pay and assistance in suing for compensation in case of injury. The rules provided that strike pay would only be paid in support of members endeavouring to secure advance of wages or resisting reduction of the same, resisting an increase of the hours of labour, and, when desirable, endeavouring to secure a reduction of such hours; also that in case of a strike all trade members should receive certain payments. No officer or member of the society as such, was permitted to aid or assist any trade movement. One of the objects of the society, however, was stated to be to regulate the relations between employers and workmen.

A member of this society complained that when on sick pay he was improperly fined a sum of 2s. 6d., and that that sum had been wrongfully deducted from his sick pay. He accordingly brought an action against the society in the County Court, to recover this sum. The defence was that the society was not a friendly society but a trade union, and that therefore the court had no jurisdiction to entertain the proceedings. The judge adopted this view of the case and non-suited the plaintiff. On appeal to the High Court the decision of the lower court was upheld. The plaintiff appealed further to the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal held that it is wrong to suppose that every trade union is, apart from the Act of 1871, an unlawful combination; and that a trade union may either be an unlawful combination apart from the Act, or a lawful one, according as one or more of its purposes are or are not in restraint of trade. There is

nothing necessarily illegal in a strike, although it may be attended with circumstances which make it illegal; nor is there anything illegal in contributing for the support of persons on strike. There was nothing in the rules of this society which authorised the calling-out of members, or the assisting in a strike. The society was, in fact, merely a mutual insurance society against sickness and loss of wages, either by reason of a strike or otherwise. There was, therefore, nothing unlawful in its objects, and it was a harmless friendly society apart from the Act of 1871. Therefore a court of justice might entertain proceedings, and the decisions of the County Court and the High Court were wrong. The case was, therefore, remitted to the County Court to be heard on its merits.—*Gozney v. The Bristol, West of England, and South Wales Operatives' Trade and Provident Society, Court of Appeal, March 1st, 1909.*

(3) Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

COMMON EMPLOYMENT: COAL MINES REGULATION ACTS: BREACH OF STATUTORY DUTY: CIVIL LIABILITY OF OWNERS.

By the doctrine of common employment a master is not responsible to a servant for the consequences of an accident caused to that servant by the breach of duty or negligence of a fellow-servant in a common employment with the one injured.

By the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, it is provided that in any place which is dry and dusty no shot shall be fired except by or under the direction of a competent person appointed by the owner, agent, or manager of the mine; and such person shall not fire the shot or allow it to be fired until he has examined both the place itself where the shot is to be fired and all contiguous accessible places of the same seam within a radius of twenty yards, and has found such places safe for firing. Further, no shot may be fired in such a place unless the place of firing and all contiguous accessible places within a radius of twenty yards are at the time of firing in a wet state from thorough watering or other such treatment in all parts where dust is lodged; or, in the case of places in which watering would injure the roof or floor, unless the explosive is so used as to prevent it from inflaming gas or dust, or is of such a nature that it can not inflame gas or dust. If such dry and dusty place is part of a main haulage road, or contiguous thereto, and showing dust adhering to the roof and sides, no shot may be fired in such place unless both these conditions have been observed, or unless all the men from that seam and communicating seams, except those firing the shot, have been removed. It is also provided that every person who contravenes or does not comply with any of the general rules of the Act shall be guilty of an offence against the Act and liable to a penalty; and, whoever actually commits the offence, the owner, agent and manager shall each also be guilty of an offence against the Act, unless he proves that he had taken all reasonable means, by publishing and to the best of his power enforcing the said rules, to prevent such contravention and non-compliance. By the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, provision is made for regulating the explosives which may be used in mines by order of the Home Secretary.

A shot was fired in a main haulage road in a coal mine which was "a dry and dusty" place; the shot was not fired by the duly appointed shot-firer; the explosive used was gunpowder, which was not a permitted explosive for that part of this mine; and no watering was done nor other precautions taken. The result of this shot was an explosion by which seven men were killed. The widow of one of these men brought an action at common law on behalf of herself and her children, to recover damages against the colliery company for breach of their statutory duty under the Acts and negligence by which the explosion was caused. At the trial it was proved that certificated managers and a competent shot-firer had been appointed by the company and that special rules had been posted up and duly supplied to the men; but no special evidence was given that the defendants had taken all reasonable means for enforcing the rules and regulations to prevent any contravention or non-compliance therewith. The judge told the jury that the Act did not impose upon the owners of the mine an absolute liability to insure compliance with the rules by their servants, and that if to the best of their power they had tried to enforce the rules they were not liable for damage done by reason of their servants not performing the rules; also that it was only where criminal proceedings for a penalty were taken that the onus was laid on the owners to show that they had taken all reasonable means to enforce the rules, and unless the jury were of opinion that the company had connived at a breach of the rules they ought to give a verdict for the defendants, as the doctrine of common employment governed the case. The jury found in favour of the company, and the plaintiff appealed on the ground that the judge had misdirected the jury.

The Court of Appeal decided that where an action is based on the breach of a statutory duty on the part of an employer, the doctrine of common employment does not apply; that the duty imposed upon mine owners to see that the rules for safety are observed is an absolute duty; that the civil liability arising from breach of that duty is of a different nature from the liability of the owners to a penalty; that although every offence against the Act which entails a penalty is undoubtedly a breach of statutory duty, the converse is not true, and there may be statutory duties under the Act which are not offences; that the penalties are not in lieu of civil liability, they are additional to and independent of it, and the statutory duty exists whether or not there is also a penalty for its breach. The court therefore decided that there had been a misdirection of the jury and ordered a new trial of the action. *David v. Britannic Merthyr Coal Co., Court of Appeal, March 22nd, 1909.*



DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during March, 1909, was 49, consisting of 42 cases of lead poisoning, 1 each of arsenic poisoning and phosphorus poisoning, and 5 cases of anthrax. Four deaths were reported in March, 3 from lead poisoning and 1 from anthrax. In addition, 15 cases of lead poisoning (2 of which were fatal) were reported during March among house painters and plumbers.

During January-March, 1909, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 143, as compared with 174 in the corresponding period of 1908. The number of deaths was 11 in 1909 and 7 in 1908. In addition there were 56 cases of lead poisoning (including 11 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first three months of 1909, as compared with 49 cases (including 9 deaths) in the corresponding period of 1908.

Analysis by Industries.

[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.]

Industry.	CASES.			DEATHS.		
	Month of Mar., 1909.	Three Months ended Mar., 1909.	Month of Mar., 1908.	Month of Mar., 1909.	Three Months ended Mar., 1909.	Month of Mar., 1908.
<b>Lead Poisoning.</b>						
Smelting of Metals ...	8	17	15	—	1	—
Brass Works ...	—	1	2	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	2	6	—	1	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	2	10	5	—	—	—
Printing ...	2	8	3	—	—	—
Rife Cutting ...	1	1	4	—	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware	1	4	1	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	1	6	19	—	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	1	3	5	—	—	—
China and Earthenware*	3	12	25	—	—	2
Litho-Transfer Works ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	3	1	—	2	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	—	2	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	2	4	7	—	1	1
Paint and Colour Works ...	3	6	5	—	1	—
Coach Making ...	7	10	13	2	2	—
Shipbuilding ...	2	4	3	—	—	—
Paint used in other Industries	1	9	9	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	8	20	20	1	1	1
<b>Total in Factories and Workshops</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
House Painting and Plumbing ...	15	56	49	2	11	9
<b>Other Forms of Poisoning.</b>						
<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>						
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	1	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning—</b>						
Lucifer Match Works ...	1	2	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	1	1	7	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Anthrax.</b>						
Wool ...	3	7	6	—	—	1
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	1	3	—	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	2	3	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	2	2	4	1	1	2
<b>Total, Anthrax ...</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

\* All the 3 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry were males.

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.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1909, was 237, a decrease of 152 as compared with the number in February, 1909, when the West Stanley mining disaster occurred, and a decrease of 56 as compared with a year ago. The mean number for March in the years 1904-1908 was 262, the maximum year being 1908 with 293 deaths, and the minimum year 1904 with 233 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in March, 1909, was 100, as compared with 268 in February, 1909, and 145 a year ago. The total number of accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1909, was 72, as compared with 87 in the previous month, and 104 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 64, 31, and 43 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in March, 1909, was 115, as compared with 80 in February, 1909, and 117 in March, 1908.

During the three months ended March, 1909, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 857, as compared with 842 in 1908. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 293 in 1909, and 353 in 1908.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, as compared with a	
	Mar., 1909.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1908.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	7	1	8	+ 6	- 1
Engine Drivers...	3	5	3	+ 2	- 2
Firemen ...	2	4	4	- 3	+ 1
Guards (Passenger) ...	1	—	—	+ 1	+ 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	5	6	8	- 1	- 3
Porters ...	—	2	1	- 2	- 5
Shunters ...	2	3	7	- 1	+ 1
Miscellaneous ...	12	12	11	+ 1	+ 1
Contractors' Servants ...	32	1	1	+ 31	+ 31
<b>Total, Railway Service</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>+ 33</b>	<b>+ 21</b>
<b>Mines—</b>					
Underground ...	81	251	115	-170	- 34
Surface ...	11	7	20	+ 4	- 9
<b>Total, Mines ...</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>-166</b>	<b>- 43</b>
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep ...</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>- 2</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Factories and Workshops—</b>					
<b>Textile—</b>					
Cotton ...	3	1	8	+ 2	- 5
Wool and Worsted ...	—	3	1	- 3	- 1
Other Textiles ...	—	1	—	- 1	—
<b>Non-Textile—</b>					
Extraction of Metals ...	3	4	4	- 1	- 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	8	7	11	+ 1	- 3
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	2	2	3	—	- 1
Ship and Boat Building ...	8	5	13	+ 3	- 5
Wood ...	4	1	1	+ 3	+ 3
Chemicals ...	1	3	4	- 2	- 3
Laundries ...	1	—	1	+ 1	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	27	29	41	- 2	- 14
<b>Total, Factories ...</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>- 30</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—</b>					
Docks, Wharves and Quays...	6	18	8	- 12	- 2
Warehouses ...	2	1	2	+ 1	—
Buildings to which Act applies	7	12	7	- 5	—
<b>Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>- 16</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>- 2</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total, exclusive of Seamen</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>-152</b>	<b>- 56</b>
<b>Seamen—</b>					
<b>On Trading Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ...	29	17	42	+ 12	- 13
Steam ...	79	42	61	+ 37	+ 18
<b>On Fishing Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ...	2	4	3	- 2	- 1
Steam ...	5	17	11	- 12	—
<b>Total, Seamen ...</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>+ 35</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Total, including Seamen</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>-117</b>	<b>- 58</b>

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.\*

Number and Magnitude.—Seventeen disputes began in March, 1909, as compared with 19 in February, 1909, and 23 in March, 1908. By the 17 disputes, 2,914 workpeople were directly, and 591 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 7,678 workpeople involved in trade disputes in March, 1909, as compared with 8,050 in February, 1909, and 39,178 in March, 1908.

New Disputes in March, 1909.—In the following Table the new disputes in March are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ...	1	30	—	30
Mining and Quarrying ...	6	1,917	185	2,102
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	3	393	16	409
Textile ...	3	305	190	495
Transport ...	2	190	—	190
Other Trades ...	2	79	200	279
<b>Total, March, 1909 ...</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>3,505</b>
<b>Total, February, 1909 ...</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>2,559</b>
<b>Total, March, 1908 ...</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4,087</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>5,184</b>

Causes.—Of the 17 new disputes, 6 arose on demands for increased wages, 5 on objections to reduction in wages, 2 on other wages questions, 2 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons; and 2 on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 8 new disputes, directly involving 732 persons, and 9 old disputes, directly involving 526 persons. Of these 17 new and old disputes, one, directly involving 32 persons, was decided in favour of the workpeople; 7, directly involving 361 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 9, directly involving 865 persons,

were compromised. In the case of 2 other disputes, terminated during the month, work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in March of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 50,200 working days. In addition, 51,400 working days were lost during March owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 101,600 working days, as compared with 90,300 in the previous month and 791,400 in the corresponding month of 1908.

Summary for the First Three Months of 1908 and 1909.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the three months, January-March, 1908 and 1909, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-Mar., 1908.			Jan.-Mar., 1909.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ...	2	1,036	30,400	3	57	600
Mining and Quarrying...	19	9,247	361,400	25	15,032	248,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	17	31,115	1,175,600	14	3,124	92,400
Textile ...	23	7,537	151,300	14	1,621	20,300
Clothing ...	14	1,309	32,400	5	418	2,900
Transport ...	4	1,195	13,300	4	371	1,300
Other Trades ...	14	1,473	29,800	11	614	20,900
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>52,932</b>	<b>1,797,000</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>21,237</b>	<b>386,200</b>

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began in 1909.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.‡				
<b>Coal Mining—</b>							
Coal Miners ...	Aberdare ...	1,500	—	1 Mar.	8	Refusal to accept price list for a new seam	Work resumed pending further negotiations.
Coal Miners and other Workpeople...	Cwmillery ...	750	710	22 Feb.	8	Dispute as to rates to be paid for alleged abnormal working places	Work resumed on old conditions.
<b>Jute Manufacture—</b>							
Weavers and other Workpeople ...	Forfar ...	205	145	9 Mar.	—	Against proposed reduction in wages	No settlement reported.

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

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

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

IRISH EMIGRATION STATISTICS.\*

THE number of natives of Ireland who left that country in 1908 with the intention of settling permanently in other countries was 23,295. This is the lowest number recorded, and represents a rate of 5.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population of Ireland. It is 40 per cent. less than the number of emigrants in 1907 and 24 per cent. less than the previous lowest in 1905.

Of these natives, 2,906 emigrated to Great Britain, 16,861 to the United States, 2,531 to Canada and 997 to other countries. The great majority of the emigrants to Canada and to Great Britain were natives of Ulster; from the remaining Provinces all but about 1,000 went to the United States.

The following Table shows the sex and age-distribution of the natives of Ireland who emigrated:—

	Under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 35.	35 and over.	Total.
Males ...	1,317	5,058	3,186	919	10,480
Females ...	1,230	8,303	2,423	853	12,815
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>13,361</b>	<b>5,615</b>	<b>1,772</b>	<b>23,295</b>

It will be seen that 81 per cent. were between 15 and 35 years of age, 11 per cent. under 15 and only 8 per cent. 35 years of age or over.

Nearly half (5,151) the male emigrants were returned as "labourers," and nearly two-thirds (7,844) of the female as "servants." Of the 1,374 "farmers" who emigrated nearly 1,100 were from Ulster.

Passages had been paid for in America for 5,268 of the 23,295 emigrants in 1908.

\* Emigration Statistics of Ireland. Cd. 4550. Price 2d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in March.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in March, 1909, was a decrease of £42,843 per week, as compared with a decrease of £3,990 per week in February, 1909, and one of £731 per week in March, 1908.

Six changes, affecting 587,100 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and five changes, affecting 5,169 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales.

Summary for the three completed months of 1909.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, during the three months ended March 31st, 1909, was 1,056,810, as compared with 625,316 in the corresponding period of 1908.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN MARCH.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1909, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics).

NOTE.—Full particulars will appear in the May GAZETTE of the following important changes which have been arranged to take effect in April:— Coal Mining.—Reduction of 8 1/2 per cent. in the wages of miners in Northumberland.

with an increase of £15,269 per week in the corresponding period of 1908.

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

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, January—March, 1908, 1909. Sub-columns: No., £.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in March, 1909, affected 50 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 150 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in March.

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

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for three months ended March.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

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

Table with columns: Three months ended March, 1907, 1908, 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1909, compared with 1907.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Table with columns: Three months ended March, 1907, 1908, 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1909, compared with 1907.

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £26,329,366 in the three months ended March, 1907; £20,062,137 in the three months ended March, 1908; and £22,701,309 in the three months ended March, 1909.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended March 27th, 1909, amounted to £4,313,846, a decrease of £85,575 (or 1.9 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1908.

Table with columns: 4 weeks ended March 27th, 1909, 12 weeks ended March 27th, 1909, Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1908.

\* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

The number of paupers relieved on one day in March, 1909, in the 35 urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 240 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with February, 1909, the total number of paupers increased by 2,665 (0.6 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers increased by 461 (0.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers increased by 2,204 (0.9 per cent.).

Compared with March, 1908, the rate per 10,000 increased by 13. The number of indoor paupers increased by 9,570 (5.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 18,229 (8.2 per cent.).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Mar., 1909, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with 1908.

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



LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.\*

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux whose registers are identical with those of Distress Committees are excluded from this Table. For statistics of the work of Distress Committees in March, see page 115.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 44 Labour Bureaux during March; of these Bureaux 26 were in London (including West Ham), and 18 in the Provinces. Of the 26 London Bureaux 23 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 24,571, of which 19,174 were in London, and 5,397 in the Provinces. The number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 5,476, or 22.3 per cent. of the applications received, and 86.5 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 2,605 (or 47.6 per cent.), and temporary 2,871 (or 52.4 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Exchanges affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades, as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 350; wood-working trades, 45; metal and engineering trades, 137; other skilled trades,

92; "transport and general," 277; other trades, 133; boys, 410; women and girls, 648. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 136; metal and engineering trades, 79; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 185; general labourers, 148; bill distributors, &c., 380; employees of local authorities, 1,606 (including 1,429 men employed at snow-clearing); charwomen and domestic servants, 238; other occupations, 422. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 189 men.

At 43 of the Bureaux mentioned below figures for 1908 are available. The number of applicants registered at these Bureaux was 24,557 in March, 1909, of whom 5,460 (or 22.2 per cent.) obtained situations. In March, 1908, there were 15,738 applicants, of whom 3,310 (or 21.0 per cent.) obtained situations. The number of workpeople on the registers at the end of March, 1909, was 29,059, as compared with 16,943 in March, 1908.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING MARCH, 1909.

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

\* The figures for the London Exchanges affiliated to the Central Exchange relate to the 4 weeks ended March 27th, 1909; for the other Bureaux the particulars relate to work done during the calendar month. † 1,379 of these were employed for removing snow from March 2nd to 9th.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH, 1909.

DURING March 847 fresh applications (478 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 863 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 246 persons, of whom 125 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 246 situations found for applicants 180 were of a more or less permanent character, while 66 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids was greatly in excess of the supply; the supply of housemaids, ladies' maids, children's nurses, and companions was in excess of the demand.

The work done by the Bureaux during March, 1908 and 1909 is shown in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Applications by Workpeople during (Mar., 1909, Mar., 1908), Situations offered by Employers during (Mar., 1909, Mar., 1908), Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily) (Mar., 1909, Mar., 1908). Includes Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

In addition to the above registered applications, the Returns show that 18 persons in London, 32 in Edinburgh and 13 in Glasgow, were referred to other Agencies; 345 persons in London, 71 in Leeds, and 25 in Dublin were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.) Mines and Quarries, 1908. Output of Coal and other Minerals and the Number of Persons employed during the year 1908. (Advance proof subject to correction.) Home Office. Royal Commission on Mines. Reports of an Enquiry into the Ventilation of Coal Mines and the Methods of Examining for Fire-damp. By John Cadman and E. B. Whalley. [Cd. 4551: pp. 112: price 6s. 3d.] Railway Servants (Hours of Labour) Return of Railway Servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions in October, 1908, on duty more than Twelve Hours at a time, &c. Board of Trade. [Cd. 4335: pp. 25: price 3d.] Railway Accidents. Summary of Accidents and Casualties, &c., &c., during the three months ending 30th September, 1908. Board of Trade. [Cd. 4500: pp. 87: price 83d.] Tables showing the Progress of Merchant Shipping in the United Kingdom and the Principal Maritime Countries, 1907. Contains tables of wages of seamen, mates, engineers, petty officers, &c. [H.C. 375: pp. 87: price 9d.] Merchant Shipping Life-Saving Appliances. Report of the Merchant Shipping Advisory Committee respecting Life-Throwing Appliances for use on ships in cases of shipwreck or distress at sea. Board of Trade. [Cd. 4552: pp. 16: price 4d.]

Information not available.

Coast Erosion and Afforestation. Royal Commission. Minutes of Evidence and Appendices accompanying Second Report (on Afforestation). [Cd. 4461: pp. viii. + 490 + 97: price 5s. 3d.] Agricultural Statistics, 1908. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Part I. Acreage and Live Stock Returns of Great Britain. [Cd. 4533: pp. 95: price 6d.] Part II. Returns of Produce of Crops of Great Britain, with Summaries for the United Kingdom. [Cd. 4562: pp. 83: price 43d.] Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. Part C. Trade Unions. For the year ending 31st December, 1907. [H.C. 210—III.: pp. 40: price 43d.] Paupers and Dependants (Scotland). Return showing the Number of all Ordinary Poor and their Dependants chargeable to Parish Councils in Scotland during the year ended May 15th, 1908. Scottish Office, 1909. [H.C. 370: pp. xiii. + 57: price 7d.] Emigration Statistics of Ireland for the year 1908. Number, ages, conjugal condition, and destinations of the emigrants from each county and province; also the occupations and number who left each port in each month of the year. [Cd. 4550: pp. 14: price 2d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH COLONIES.

Indian Factory Labour Commission, 1908. Vol. II. Evidence. India Office, 1909. [Cd. 4519: pp. 417: price 3s. 5d.] Canada. Report of the Department of Labour for the fiscal year 1907-1908. Action under the Industrial Disputes Investigation and Conciliation and Labour Acts, dispute and accident statistics, &c. [Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, King's Printer: pp. 408.] The Labour Gazette, February, 1909. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during January; report of Royal Commission on industrial disputes in cotton factories in the Province of Quebec; iron and steel production in Nova Scotia during 1908. New Zealand. Awards, Recommendations and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Vol. IX., Part 8, January, 1909. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.] Journal of the Department of Labour, February, 1909. Condition of trade and employment as at 31st January, persons assisted to employment, co-operative works, accidents, legal cases and decisions, &c. Victoria. Determinations of Wages Boards. Clothing Board, 4th January, 1909, cancelling all previous Determinations. Shirts and Underwear Board, 2nd January, 1909, cancelling all previous Determinations. South Australia. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1907. Wages Boards formed, or in course of formation, determinations issued, statistics of wages, accidents, &c. [pp. 8.] Early Closing Act. Report on the working of, for the year 1907, by the Chief Inspector of Factories. [pp. 2.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

California. Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1907-1908. Industrial statistics, factory inspection, employment agencies, child labour, synopsis of labour laws, &c. [Sacramento: W. W. Shannon: pp. 381.] Idaho. Fifth Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Immigration, Labour, and Statistics, 1907-1908. Agricultural and other industries, irrigation, education, &c. [Boise City: Syms-York Co.] New Jersey. Thirty-first Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour and Industries, for the year ending 31st October, 1908. Statistics of manufactures—wage earners, wages, plant, &c.; industrial chronology—accidents, strikes, trade unions. [Camden, N.J.: Sinnickson Chew & Sons Co.] Wisconsin. Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour and Industrial Statistics, 1907-1908. Part IV. Factory inspection, child labour permits and free employment offices. [Madison, Wisconsin: Democrat Printing Co.: State Printers.] Labour Conference. Proceedings of the Conference with the Representatives of Labour, held in the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Labour, February 10th and 11th, 1909. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 133.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department. February, 1909. Unemployment in 1908; health and safety of workpeople in 1907; state subventions to unemployed funds in first six months of 1908. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: price 2d.] Report on the Application of Labour Laws in 1907. French Ministry of Labour. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: pp. ccxvi. + 566: price 3s. 2d.] Wages and Hours of Labour and Cost of Living of certain Classes of Workpeople in 1906. (Extract from French Statistical Yearbook for 1906. French Ministry of Labour. [Paris, 1907: pp. 62.] Strikes and Lock-outs and Conciliation and Arbitration in 1907. French Ministry of Labour, 1908. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: pp. xviii. + 688.]

Germany.

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## INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

### REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING MARCH.

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

#### (1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in March was as follows:— Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 25; under the Friendly Societies Act, 37 (including 21 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 1, in all, 64.

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

**Trade Unions.**—*England.*—1, viz., Motor Cab Drivers' Protection Assoc., 244, Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, S.W. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—Nil.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—14, viz., Retail Distributive Societies: (3) Fenny Compton Industrial and Provident Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Fenny Compton, Leamington Spa; Abergavenny and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 2, Grosvenor Road, Abergavenny; Thornton Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, New Road, Thornton, Yorks. Small Holdings Societies: (2) Kilham and Dist. Small Holders, Ltd., Eastgate House, Kilham, Yorks.; Carnarvon Small Holdings and Allotments Soc., Ltd., 7, Crown Street, Carnarvon. Agricultural Distributive Societies: (4) Clynnog Fawr Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Cefn Artho, Clynnog, Carnarvon; Herefordshire Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., 69, Newmarket Street, Hereford; Solva Farmers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., "Guardian" Office, Solva, Pembroke; Claydon and District Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Public Hall, Botolph Claydon, Steeple Claydon, S.O., Bucks. Working Men's Clubs: (2) Blaenclydach and Clydach Vale Constitutional Club, Ltd., 92, Court Street, Blaenclydach, Glam.; Saltwell Social Club, Ltd., (converted from a Co.), 100, Saltwell Road, Gateshead-on-Tyne; Credit Bank Societies (Town): (1) West Ham and District Co-op. Bank, Ltd., 459, Green Street, Upton Park, E. Miscellaneous: (2) Scotland.—(4) viz., Agricultural Distributive Societies: (4) Kilmallie Agric. Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Corpach Cottage, Corpach, Argyll; Shiskine Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Shiskine, Arran; Deerness Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Holland, Deerness, Orkney; St. Margaret's Hope Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Viewfield, St. Margaret's Hope, Orkney. *Ireland.*—7, viz., Agricultural Productive Societies: (3) Causeway Co-op. Creamery, Causeway, Kerry; Knockfune Co-op. Agri. and Dairy Soc., Knockfune, Newport, Tipperary; Lackamore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Lackamore, Newport, Tipperary. Agricultural Distributive Societies: Coolgraine Co-op. Agric. Soc., Newbridge Dowra, Leitrim; Glenisland Co-op. Agric. Soc., Glenisland, Castlebar, Mayo; Castlereagh Co-op. Agric. Soc., Castlereagh, Roscommon; Cloonacool Co-op. Poultry Keepers' Soc., Cloonacool, Tubbercurry, Sligo.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—14, viz., Ilford Working Men's Club and Inst., Ilford; South Moor Social Working Men's Club, South Moor, Durham; Ashfield Working Men's Club and Inst., Stairfoot; North Ward Labour Club and Inst., Bradford; Rayleigh Park and Station Estates Plot Owner's Soc., Clapham, London, S.W.; Street Trader's Loan Club, Woolwich; County of Monmouth Permanent Money Soc., Newport, Mon.; Penarth Dist. Mutual Investment Soc., Penarth; Bristol, West of England and South Wales R.A.O.B. Friendly Assurance Collecting Soc., Bristol; Stag Inn Friendly Benefit and Dividing Soc., Enfield; Friend-in-Need Death Soc., St. Matthew's Church School Room, Smethwick; Hand-in-Hand Lodge of Past and Present Elective Officers Friendly Soc., Malvern; Adult and Juvenile Burial Soc. of the Halifax Dist. I.O.O.F. Manchester Unity Friendly Soc., Halifax; Llanddulas Llysfaen and Dist. Tontine, Sick and Burial Soc., Llanddulas, Abergale, S.O. *Scotland.*—nil. *Ireland.*—2, viz., St. Paul's Friendly Burial Soc., of Rathfarnham, Rathfarnham; Togher Credit Soc., Annamoe.

#### (2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices received in Mar., of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions ... ..	...	...	...
Industrial and Provident Societies ... ..	...	...	...
Friendly Societies... ..	...	21	8
"    Branches ... ..	...	58	...
Building " ... ..	3	6	...

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