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# THE LABOUR GAZETTE

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

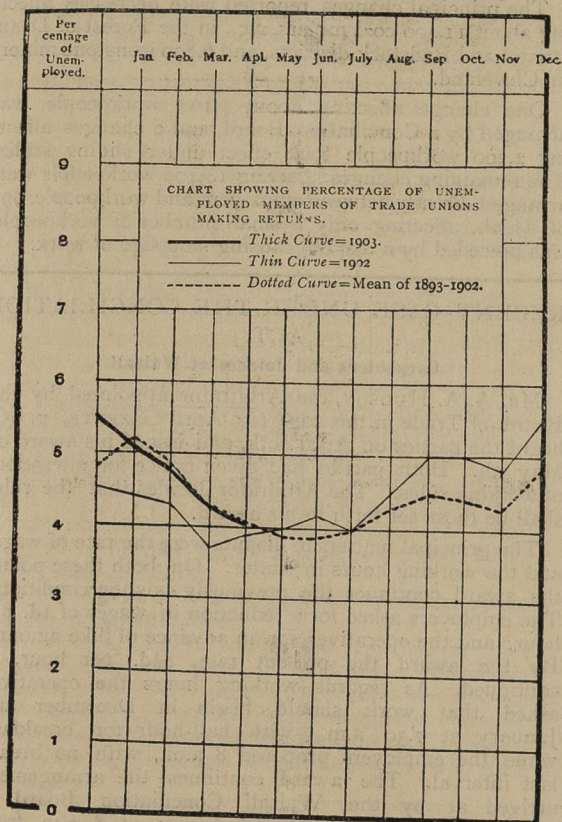
PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. XI.—No. 5.

MAY, 1903.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

## EMPLOYMENT CHART.



## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

[Based on 3,202 returns, viz.: 2,030 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,107 from Workmen and Trade Unions, and 65 from other sources.]

The general state of employment, apart from seasonal movements in certain industries, shows no material change as compared with February. As compared with a year ago it continues to show some decline.

In the 226 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 554,901 making returns, 22,665 (or 4.1 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4.3 per cent. in March, and 3.9 per cent. in the 224 Trade Unions, with a membership of 550,958 from which returns were received for April, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of April during the past decade was 4.1.

**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment in the four weeks ended April 25th showed no improvement as compared with March, and was not so good as a year ago. At collieries employing 492,607 work-people, the pits worked on an average 4.82\* days per week, as against 5.10 in March and 4.90\* in April, 1902. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

\*The averages for April, 1902 and 1903, are reduced by Easter Holidays.

**Iron Mining.**—Iron miners continue well employed. In the 133 mines and open works covered by the returns received, and employing 15,912 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the mines was 5.61\* per week, against 5.79 in March and 5.67\* in April, 1902. The number of workpeople employed in April, 1903, was 2.8 per cent. greater than a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry shows little change compared with a month ago, and is better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 327 furnaces, employing about 22,800 workpeople, were in blast at the end of April, as compared with 328 at the end of March, and 320 at the end of April, 1902.

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—In this industry employment shows a falling off as compared with a month ago, and it is not so good as a year ago. At 202 works covered by the employers' returns, 72,977 workpeople were employed in the week ended April 25th, and the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows a decrease of 2.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tinplate Manufacture.**—Employment in this industry continues good. At the end of April 390 mills were working, as compared with 389 at the end of March, and 407 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills was about 19,500.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment generally is moderate, but rather better than a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 4.2, as compared with 4.6 at the end of March, and 5.0 in April, 1902.

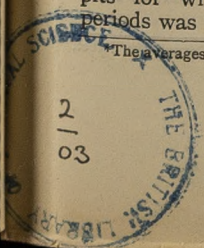
**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment generally continues bad and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 9.6, as compared with 9.8 at the end of March and 5.2 in April, 1902.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in these trades, compared with last month, shows a slight seasonal improvement on the whole, but is not quite so good as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 2.8 at the end of April, compared with 3.4 at the end of March, and 3.0 in April of last year. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 7.1 at the end of April, as compared with 7.5 in March, and 5.4 in April, 1902.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment continues dull with millsawyers and coopers; in the furnishing trades and with coach-makers it has improved. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 3.0, as compared with 4.1 in March and 2.4 in April, 1902.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades has been quiet, and worse than a month and a year ago, especially with letterpress printers. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 5.1, compared with 4.2 at the end of March, and 4.1 a year ago.

Employment in the *Paper* trade has declined, and is now rather dull, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 3.2, as against 2.6 a month ago and 2.0 in April 1902.



Employment in the *Glass* trades continues dull. In the *Pottery* trades it shows a further improvement, but is still slack. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it continues fair.

Employment in the *Spinning* branch of the *Cotton* trade continues good, and is about the same as a month ago, and better than a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it is irregular, and about the same as a month and a year ago. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 100,000 women and girls shows that 91 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 94 per cent. in March and 80 per cent. in April, 1902. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 83 during April, compared with 82 in March, and 84 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the *Woolen* trade continues good generally, but is still quiet in the heavy branch. In the *Worsted* trade it shows a slight decline generally, but has improved with woolcombers. Information respecting woolen and worsted factories in Yorkshire employing about 29,000 women and girls shows that 82 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, to be compared with 85 per cent. in March, and with 93 per cent. in April, 1902.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade shows a further decline but is still fair on the whole. Employment in the *Flax and Jute* trades has been good, and better than a month ago.

**Leather Trades.**—The general condition of employment remains dull and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 5.3 at the end of April, as compared with 6.3 in March and 2.7 in April, 1902.

Employment in the *Boot and Shoe* trade is fair. It is slightly better than in March, and distinctly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing about 70,500 workpeople show an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed at the end of April, as compared with a month ago, and of 3.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Of the total number, 81 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout April, compared with 78 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for March.

Employment in the *bespoke* branch of the *Tailoring* trade shows a further improvement and is good generally; but in the *West End of London* it is considered bad for the time of year. In the *ready-made* branch employment generally is fair, but a marked decline is reported in *Leeds*.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade is still slack. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 2.7, compared with 2.9 per cent. at the end of March, and 3.4 per cent. a year ago.

**Agricultural Labourers** were, generally speaking, regularly employed during April, there having been, on the whole, very little interruption through unfavourable weather. The supply of casual labourers has been sufficient in most parts of the country.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment during April was bad in *London* but generally fair elsewhere. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in *London* was 12,653, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. as compared with the average for the previous month, and of 9.2 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The average number employed in April during the six years 1897-1902 was 14,380.

**Trade Disputes.**—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during April, 1903, was 10,861, compared with 19,665 in March, 1903, and 8,236 in April, 1902. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 171,900 working days, compared with 233,700 in the previous month, and 128,900 in the corresponding month of last year.

Twenty-three disputes began in April, involving 4,715 workpeople, compared with 9,784 in March, 1903, and 3,635 in April, 1902.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 23 disputes, new and old, affecting 4,704 workpeople. Of these 23 disputes, 6, involving 1,473 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 11, involving 1,931 persons, in favour of the employers and 6, involving 1,300 persons, were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes in rates of wages reported during April affected about 24,700 workpeople, of whom nearly 350 received advances and 24,350 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of £790 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 39,200 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £15 weekly. During April, 1902, the number affected was nearly 12,950, and the net result was an increase of £245 weekly.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting about 11,400 coal miners, &c., in the *Forest of Dean*, *Bristol and Radstock* districts, and 6,800 ironstone miners in *Cleveland*.

One change affecting about 4,100 workpeople was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and 8 changes affecting 2,200 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes affecting 18,400 workpeople were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, one of which, affecting only a small number of workpeople, was preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

RECENT CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Carpenters and Joiners at Walsall.

MR. A. A. HUDSON, the Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (see April GAZETTE, p. 95), heard the parties on April 29th, and issued his award on May 5th. Both parties had given notice for alterations of working rules. The Arbitrator decides that the rules shall be those set forth in his award.

The principal matters in dispute were the rate of wages and the working hours in winter. On both these points the award continues the previously existing conditions. The employers asked for a reduction in wages of 1d. per hour, and the operatives for an advance of like amount. By the award the present rate, 8½d. per hour, is continued. As regards working hours the operatives asked that work should begin in December and January at 7.30 a.m., with half-hour for breakfast, while the employers proposed 8 a.m., with no breakfast interval. The award continues the arrangement arrived at by the *Walsall Conciliation Board* in October last, by which work begins at 8 a.m. from December 16th to January 15th and at 7.30 a.m. during the remainder of December and January.

By the new rules overtime is to be paid at the rate of time and a-quarter for the first two hours and thereafter at the rate of time and a-half, instead of, as under the old rules, at the ordinary rate for the first two hours, time and a quarter for the next two hours and time and a-half for succeeding hours. New rules are added providing for a Standing Committee and Board of Conciliation, with ultimate reference of disputes to the Board of Trade, under the Conciliation Act.

THE MOSELY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

MR. ALFRED MOSELY, C.M.G., has made arrangements for the publication, at the price of 6d. per copy, of the reports of the Trade Union representatives who accompanied him on his visit to the industrial centres of the United States. The volume\* contains reports by officials of Trade Unions representing blastfurnacemen, ironfounders, iron and steel workers, engineers, boilermakers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights, Sheffield trades, tubes, cotton spinners, weavers, tailors, boot and shoe operatives, leather workers, bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and joiners, furnishing trades, paper makers, compositors, lithographers and bookbinders. Mr. Mosely contributes a preface.

\* Printed by the Co-operative Printing Society, Ltd., 118, Corporation Street, Manchester.

WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

Share of Employees and others in Membership, Capital, and Management.

Of the 288 Workmen's Co-operative Productive Societies making returns to the Labour Department for the year 1901, 257 supplied particulars showing the division of their membership, capital, and management between employees, other individuals, and societies.

The returns show that out of a total membership of 48,862, 7.9 per cent. were employees of the societies, 84.4 per cent. were other individual members, and 7.7 per cent. consisted of societies, counting each society as one member.

Of 8,833 persons employed by the societies 43.5 per cent. were members and 56.5 non-members.

The total share and loan capital of the 257 societies was £1,057,083, of which 7.9 per cent. was owned by the employees, 34.3 per cent. by other individual members, and 41 per cent. by societies. The remaining 16.8 per cent. consisted of non-members' loans, including bank overdrafts.

The total number of members of the management committees of the societies was 3,202, of whom 12 per cent. were employees, 80.8 per cent. other individual members, and 7.2 per cent. representatives of shareholding societies.

In the Table below the corresponding figures returned by 250 societies for 1900 are included for comparison.

In addition to the societies dealt with, there were at work eight corn milling societies which made returns for 1901, showing that out of a total membership of 5,617, 26 were employees, 5,173 were other individuals, and 418 were societies. Of their 398 employees 26 were members owning £995 of share and loan capital.

The total share and loan capital amounted to £394,298, of which 64.8 per cent. was owned by societies, and 31.3 by individual members, the remaining 3.9 per cent. being made up of employees' shares and non-members' loans, including bank overdrafts.

None of the corn mill employees were members of the management committees.

The following Table shows the position at 31st December, 1900 and 1901, of workmen's productive Societies in the United Kingdom, as regards the division of their membership, capital, and management among their employees, other individual members, and Societies, together with the proportion of their employees who were also members:—

	1901	1900		1901	1900
I.—Number of Societies making returns ... ..	257*	250*			
II.—Membership:—The total membership consisted of:—			Per-centages.		Per-centages.
1. Employees ... ..	3,841	3,772	7.9	8.1	8.1
2. Other Individuals ... ..	41,260	39,295	84.4	84.1	84.1
3. Societies ... ..	3,761	3,625	7.7	7.8	7.8
Total Membership ... ..	48,862	46,692	100.0	100.0	100.0
III.—Employees:—The persons employed consisted of:—					
1. Members ... ..	3,841	3,772	43.5	44.4	44.4
2. Non-members ... ..	4,992	4,725	56.5	55.6	55.6
Total Employees... ..	8,833	8,497	100.0	100.0	100.0
IV.—Share and Loan Capital:—The Share and Loan Capital was held by:—					
1. Employees ... ..	£83,823	£78,815	7.9	7.9	7.9
2. Other Individual Members ... ..	362,903	339,457	34.3	34.7	34.7
3. Societies ... ..	433,330	397,364	41.0	40.0	40.0
4. Non-members (Loans)† ... ..	177,027	179,539	16.8	18.0	18.0
Total Share & Loan Capital	1,057,083	995,175	100.0	100.0	100.0
V.—Management:—The Management Committees consisted of:—					
1. Employees ... ..	383	343	12.0	11.2	11.2
2. Other Individual Members ... ..	2,580	2,483	80.8	81.0	81.0
3. Representatives of Societies... ..	230	238	7.2	7.8	7.8
Total Number of Committeemen	3,202	3,064	100.0	100.0	100.0

\* Excluding Corn Mill Societies.  
† Including Bank overdrafts.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS LAW OF VICTORIA: REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION.

THE Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the operation of the Factories and Shops laws of Victoria (Australia) has published its Report, dated February 19th, 1903.

The first of the Victorian laws, the operation of which had to be investigated by the Commission, was the Factories and Shops Act of 1890. In 1896 a law was enacted which "introduced sweeping changes in the factory legislation then existing in this State. Its most important feature was a provision for the establishment of Wages Boards for six trades which recent investigations had shown to be subject to unduly long hours of labour, with, too often, miserably low rates of pay. The employees affected were those engaged in the making of bread, boots, furniture, men's and boys' clothing, shirts, and underclothing. Four years afterwards the main principle of this law was further extended by a provision in an amending Act, which brought a seventh trade, that of butchers, under the Board system, and empowered either House of Parliament to declare by resolution that similar Boards should be created to fix wages in any process, trade, or business usually or frequently carried on in a factory or workroom."

The Victorian laws dealing with Wages Boards expired at the end of the session of Parliament which terminated on September 15th, 1902. But on December 5th, 1902, "a Factories and Shops Continuance Act received the Governor's assent, which restored the lapsed statutes, with certain modifications as to Wages Boards, and provided for their remaining in force up to the 31st day of October of the present year."

Each Wages Board "comprises, exclusive of a chairman, from 4 to 10 elected members, half of whom represent employers, and the other half employees. Their fees are fixed by regulation. Failing election on either side, the Governor in Council has the power of appointment. The chairman of each Board . . . is elected by the members, but no member is eligible for this post. Should they fail to elect a chairman, the power of appointment rests with the Governor in Council. In order to guard against Chinese domination, members of the Furniture Board are appointed by the same authority, and not elected."

The Report concludes that "despite grave mistakes made by the Boards in the course of their duties, which may be partly attributed to their unwieldiness, the restricted field they have allowed themselves in the choice of their chairmen, and the weakness of their powers in securing evidence and examining books and other records, it may be conceded that they have effected a good deal of useful work in connection with their determinations"; but points out "the inherent weakness in the constitution of the Boards. They are chosen as representatives, or rather delegates, of a trade in which the wages are to be fixed. Taking no oath of office or other solemn obligation to act justly between the two parties, they cannot easily divest themselves of the spirit of partisanship. Neither side will, as a rule, allow any person with business training or experience in the trades to be elected as chairman, lest employers or employed should gain the slightest advantage, so they usually fall back on the expedient of taking, say, a clergyman, a retired police officer, or an estate agent to preside. Both sides know fully beforehand the rate of wages they must strive to carry through, and it becomes then merely a question of time, by moving up or down, as the case may be, to win the vote of the chairman, and, if possible, as the rates suggested more nearly approach, of a wavering member or two on either side."

So far as concerns the actual effect on the conditions of employment produced by the determinations of the Wages Boards, the Report contains particulars as to the evasion of these decisions in several trades. Thus, in the boot trade the Commissioners "came to the conclusion that in a fair number of instances certain small factories employing under 20 persons do not honestly pay the minimum wages;" in the baking trade "we regard it as established on sworn evidence that the determination which has fixed £2 10s. a week as the minimum wage for ordinary and inferior journeymen is not honestly and faithfully carried out in a very large number of cases." With regard to the furniture trade "there can be little doubt that the minimum wage system never has been, and probably never will be, honestly carried out by the Chinese colony which has invaded and, to a large extent, captured this industry."

The Commission recommends the substitution for the Wages Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration Courts, modelled generally upon the lines of the New Zealand and New South Wales legislation, but with important modifications. Each of the Courts of Conciliation will "consist of 5 persons, 2 members chosen by delegates elected by employers' Unions, and 2 chosen for appointment by delegates elected by employees' Unions, . . . with police magistrate specially selected, for his known ability

impartiality and tact as chairman," who will be appointed by the Governor in Council on the nomination of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Court will have power to select 2 assessors with skilled knowledge of the industry under review, representing employers and employed respectively. In addition to recommending terms of settlement, the Court of Conciliation is charged with the duty of bringing to a close by arbitration any dispute, which the parties concerned shall not have settled by an industrial agreement within 14 days after the Court has made its recommendation.

The Court of Arbitration is to act as a Court of Appeal, to which any award of the Court of Conciliation may be referred for reconsideration, but only after such award has been in force for at least 6 months. The President of the Court of Arbitration will be a Judge of the Supreme Court, appointed by the Governor in Council; in addition to the President, the Court will consist of 2 members similarly appointed, "one from persons chosen by electors representing employers," the other from persons chosen by electors representing employes' Unions;" the Court will have power to select two expert assessors to advise it on technical points.

### THE RAILWAY DISPUTE IN VICTORIA (AUSTRALIA).

ACCORDING to newspaper reports, a trade dispute has taken place in relation to the State Railways of Victoria (Australia). Towards the end of February last it was reported that the Government had required the Trade Unions of the railway servants to withdraw from affiliation with the Trades Hall Council, on the ground that the regulations of the Railway Department forbid employees to be connected with any political organisation. This demand was not acceded to; and at midnight on May 9th, the engineers and firemen ceased work, with the result that the bulk of the railway traffic was suspended. According to the latest available statistics, the total number of railway servants of all classes employed on the Victorian railways is about 12,000.

On May 13th the Parliament of Victoria met in special Session for the purpose of dealing with the situation created by the dispute; and the Premier of the State introduced in the Legislative Assembly a Bill which provided that any employee who left work without giving fourteen days' notice, should be liable to pay a fine of £100 or suffer a year's imprisonment, and would lose his pension and become ineligible for future employment by the Government in any capacity whatever.

The Bill further empowered the Railway Commissioner to fill the places of the strikers, the new appointments to be for two years, and provided for the protection of the men at work. It prohibited interference by picketing or otherwise with the employees, and provided that persons who collected or distributed strike funds, or acted in a manner likely to encourage the strike, should be deemed to be guilty of an offence. The Bill empowered the police to destroy printed documents encouraging the strike, and provided that the printers of such documents should be regarded as offenders. It further declared attendance at strike meetings unlawful, and empowered the police to arrest persons attending them. Such meetings would be unlawful if four strikers were present, and refusal to disperse rendered all persons attending them liable to arrest without warrant. The police were also empowered forcibly to enter meetings. The Bill will not have retrospective operation.

It was reported that by May 14th the train service had greatly improved. A telegram, dated May 15th, stated that the Premier had announced to the Legislative Assembly that he had received a letter from the Engineers' Association, declaring the dispute to be at an end, and submitting unconditionally.

### NEW SOUTH WALES: REPORT OF LABOUR COMMISSIONERS.

THE Second Annual Report of the Labour Commissioners of New South Wales, covering the year ended June 30th, 1902, has been received.

The total number of registrations of unemployed during the year was 4,886, compared with 12,252 in 1900-01. Of the 4,886 registrations, 2,243 were new registrations at Sydney, 1,391 were merely transfers from the old register, and 1,252 were registrations at country branches.

During the past two years in Sydney there have been 5,342 new registrations and 7,734 transfers. The latter "largely represent the chronic unemployed," many of them "having been on the books from the first institution of the Labour Bureau 10 years ago."

Speaking generally of the class of men registered, the Report states that "while we have a large number of really good men on our books—200 or 300 first-class labourers being always available—the bulk of those who register in this office are only second grade, for one reason or another. At the same time, we have hundreds on our books whom no ordinary employer would employ, owing to physical incapacity, through age, or other causes. Very many seem to have lost any energy they ever possessed, have no initiative faculty, and seem too careless or too stupid to help themselves in any way. Many of these may be seen on every fine day seated or lying about in our parks, or in the shady spots afforded by the yard attached to this office. Some will go to work if it is pointedly offered to them, and its locality and surroundings suit their critical taste; while others make every sort of excuse to refuse any offer of work, and in some cases, it is feared, obtain registration as a means of baffling the police should they be arrested for having no lawful visible means of support. Of course, the great bulk of the men are deserving and well-conducted, but there is an admixture of undesirable persons, who will never be effectively dealt with until some compulsory labour institution for the idle and dissolute is founded."

The statistics of offers of work and its distribution show that out of 9,589 offers of work made to various men, 4,469 only were accepted, 2,264 were refused, while 2,856 elicited no response.

In 935 cases the men left the work of their own accord before completion, this being, however, 9 per cent. less than during the previous year.

A large proportion of the work obtained by the unemployed was Government work. Thus out of 5,389 assisted and sent to work, 4,029 were sent to Government employment.

In December, 1901, a branch registry was opened at the Trades Hall for the registration of Trade Unionists only, and a month later a State Labour Board was established, consisting of five heads of branches of the Public Works Department, their function being to supply all ordinary public works with workmen. The Trades Hall Registry has been transferred to the control of the State Board. All men, not necessarily unemployed, who wish to obtain employment at Government works, may register at these offices, and if considered suitable by the officer in charge, are sent for in rotation as work is available, an equal number of men being drawn, if obtainable, from the Trades Hall Registry (all Trade Unionists) and from the State Registry (who may or may not be Trade Unionists).

In March, 1902, a Government Female Registry was opened, a lady superintendent being appointed who transacts all the usual business of a first-class registry office, no fees of any kind, however, being charged. In less than four months 747 servants were sent to situations out of 1,113 who applied, for places, while the total number asked for by employers was 1,092.

A Government night shelter for destitute and homeless men has been opened, where free accommodation for 228 men has been provided, which, except on a few nights, has been fully utilised.

### MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF ARBITRATION: AMENDMENT OF LAW.

Under the Law hitherto in force in relation to the State Board of Arbitration of Massachusetts, it has been provided that "If it appears to the mayor of a city or to the selectmen of a town that a strike or lock-out described in this Section is seriously threatened, or actually occurs, he, or they, shall at once notify the State Board. If, when the State Board has knowledge that a strike or lock-out, which involves an employer and his present or former employees, is seriously threatened, or has actually occurred, such employer, at that time, is employing, or upon the occurrence of the strike or lock-out, was employing, not less than 25 persons in the same general line of business in any city or town in the Commonwealth, the State Board shall, as soon as may be, communicate with such employer and employees and endeavour by mediation to obtain an amicable settlement, or endeavour to persuade them, if a strike or lock-out has not actually occurred, or is not then continuing, to submit the controversy to a Local Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, or to the State Board. Said State Board may, if it considers it advisable, investigate the cause of the controversy, and ascertain which party thereto is mainly responsible or blameworthy for the existence or continuance of the same, and may make and publish a report finding such cause and assigning such responsibility or blame."

By an amending Law, the text of which was published in the *Bulletin* of the United States Department of Labour (March, 1903) the previous Law is altered in the following respects. (1) At the end of the first sentence in the Section cited above is added: "and

such notification may be given by the employer or by the employees concerned in the strike or lock-out." (2) The words printed above in italics are omitted, and "shall" inserted instead, with the result that the Board of Arbitration is now charged with the duty of investigating the causes of any and every controversy within its knowledge, and of ascertaining which party thereto is mainly responsible for the existence or continuance of the same, the discretion which the Board previously possessed on this point being taken away.

The Act containing the amendments just stated was approved on June 5th, 1902, and took effect upon its passage.

### SHIPS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

ACCORDING to the quarterly returns compiled by *Lloyd's Register*, there were 425 vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom at the end of March, 1903, with an aggregate gross tonnage of 974,686 tons, a decrease of 49,381 tons as compared with the end of December, 1902, and of 265,658 tons as compared with the end of March, 1902. At the Royal Dockyards, 12 warships, with an aggregate displacement of 120,450 tons, were under construction at the end of March, 1903, and at private yards 51, with a displacement of 206,500 tons, a total of 63 warships and 326,950 tons, being an increase of 26,260 tons as compared with the previous quarter, but a decrease of 2,295 tons as compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the above figures:—

Description of Vessels.	Tonnage under construction on			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Mar., 1903, as compared with	
	Mar. 31st, 1903.	Dec. 31st, 1902.	Mar. 31st, 1902.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
	Merchant Vessels— Tons gross...	974,686	1,024,067	1,240,344	- 49,381
War Vessels— Tons displacement ...	326,950	300,690	329,245	+ 26,260	- 2,295

Of the 425 merchant vessels under construction at the end of March, 1903, 382 were steamships with an aggregate gross tonnage of 963,365 tons, and 43 were sailing vessels of 11,321 tons gross. As compared with the previous quarter, the number of steam vessels under construction has increased by 31, but the tonnage has declined to the extent of 38,374 tons, while as compared with March, 1902, the number has fallen off by 19 and the tonnage by 250,139. The number of sailing vessels in course of building was 7 more, and the aggregate gross tonnage 11,007 tons less than at the end of December, 1902, and 13 vessels more and 15,519 tons less than at the end of March, 1902.

The following Table shows the gross tonnage of vessels, other than warships, under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts. The figures include over 95 per cent. of the total mercantile tonnage under construction:—

District.	At			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Mar., 1903, as compared with	
	31st Mar., 1903.	31st Dec., 1902.	31st Mar., 1902.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
	Clyde ...	307,857	354,831	442,769	- 46,974
Belfast...	190,995	225,940	176,988	+ 35,035	+ 13,917
Tyne ...	178,958	168,169	224,294	+ 9,949	+ 45,236
Wear ...	116,219	118,051	158,659	- 1,732	- 42,320
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	57,822	48,351	76,820	+ 9,471	- 18,998
Middlesbrough and Stockton	52,094	40,174	78,300	+ 11,920	+ 26,206
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	27,890	27,090	22,715	+ 800	+ 5,175

It will be noticed that relatively there were considerable increases in the tonnage under construction at the end of March, 1903, as compared with the previous quarter in the Hartlepool and Whitby, and Middlesbrough and Stockton districts; while there has been a considerable falling off on the Clyde and at Belfast. As compared with March, 1902, there were increases at Belfast and in the Barrow, Maryport and Workington district; while at the other districts included in the Table there were considerable decreases.

By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are at various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the work remaining to be done.

### PRICE OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

THE returns as to the price of bread furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of May and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of the bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for ordinary household bread of average quality.

As compared with a month ago the price per 4 lbs. has remained unchanged in all the towns given in the following Table:—

Place.	Price of 4 lbs. of Bread.							
	1902.				1903.			
	5th May.	1st July.	1st Sept.	1st Oct.	2nd Feb.	2nd Mar.	2nd April.	1st May.
London ...	d. 4 ½	d. 4 ½	d. 4 ½	d. 4 ½	d. 4 ½	d. 4 ½	d. 4 ½	d. 4 ½
Birmingham	4 ½ & 5 ½	4 ½ & 5 ½	4 ½ & 5 ½	4 ½ & 5 ½	4 ½ & 5 ½	4 ½ & 5 ½	4 ½ & 5 ½	4 ½ & 5 ½
Bolton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bristol ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Cardiff ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Derby ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hudders- field	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hull ...	4 & 5	4 & 5	4 & 5	4 & 5	4 & 5	4 & 5	4 & 5	4 & 5
Ipswich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Leicester ...	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½
Liverpool...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Manchester	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Middlesbrough	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Newcastle- on-Tyne	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½
Norwich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Nottingham	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oldham ...	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½	4	4	4	4	4
Plymouth ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Potteries	4	4	4	4	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½	4 ½
District								
Wolverhampton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Aberdeen...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dundee ...	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½
Edinburgh	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½
Glasgow ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Belfast ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dublin ...	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½	5 ½

### Wheat and Flour.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the colonies from 1st September, 1902, to 30th April, 1903, amounted to 53,190,838 cwt., compared with 43,739,188 cwt. in the corresponding eight months of 1901-2. The imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 12,931,624 cwt., compared with 12,961,929 cwt. from 1st September, 1901, to 30th April, 1902. The Table below gives the mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months January, 1902, to April, 1903:—

Month.	British Wheat.	Imports.	
	Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.
		Average Declared Value.	Average Declared Value.
	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
January 1902.	6 5 ½	6 5 ½	9 1 ½
February ...	6 3 ½	6 3 ½	9 0
March ...	6 3 ½	6 3 ½	9 3 ½
April ...	6 3 ½	6 3 ½	9 0
May ...	7 3 ½	6 11 ½	9 2
June ...	7 2 ½	6 9 ½	9 4 ½
July ...	7 3	6 9 ½	9 4
August ...	7 4 ½	6 7 ½	9 2 ½
September ...	6 4 ½	6 7 ½	9 3 ½
October ...	5 10 ½	6 6 ½	9 1 ½
November ...	5 10	6 6 ½	9 2 ½
December ...	5 9 ½	6 8	9 1 ½
January 1903.	5 10	6 8 ½	9 3 ½
February ...	5 11	6 11	9 2 ½
March ...	5 10 ½	6 11 ½	9 2 ½
April ...	6 0 ½	6 8 ½	9 2 ½

\* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 2nd June, 5th August, 3rd November, 1st December, 1902, 1st January, or at 2nd March, 1903.

† Raised to 5d. on the 4th May.

‡ It is reported that a cheaper quality at 5d. is now being more generally bought, but there has been no reduction in the price for the same quality.

§ Import Duty commenced in this month.

## EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

## Canada.

THIS is the best season of the year for emigrants to go to Canada, and unusually large numbers have already started. There is a large demand in all parts of Canada, including British Columbia, for capable men and boys, who understand farm work, milking cows, looking after cattle, horses, sheep or pigs, killing and dressing animals, &c., but this demand has been to a great extent met by the large numbers who have gone out this season. All trades, especially the building, metal and engineering, and wood-working and furnishing trades continue to be very busy, and in some places there is a dearth of skilled labour, but not in British Columbia. The lumbering trade has also been busy. The printing trades are busy in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and in some of the rural towns skilled men are wanted. Coal miners, especially those able to work coal-cutting machinery, are wanted in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia: but in British Columbia all kinds of mining have been hindered by the strike of coal miners at the Crow's Nest Pass, which however is now settled. Many thousands of labourers are being employed on railway construction and road repairing in the Montreal and other districts. There has been a strike for higher wages at the Milltown Cotton Mills in New Brunswick, which affects some 800 persons. At Edmonton, North West Territories, there is a good demand for farm labourers, carpenters, bricklayers, and female servants. There has been a serious strike of longshoremen at Montreal; but it has just been settled. There is no demand for mechanics or labourers of any kind at the steel and iron works in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. In British Columbia employment seems very unsettled, and besides the coal miners' strike there has been a serious strike of railway employees. Female servants are very much wanted throughout Canada, both in towns and on farms. The demand for female factory hands is small, and in the clothing trade the pay is generally very poor.

## Australia.

*New South Wales.*—A report from the large Broken Hill Silver mines states that there is always a demand for skilled hard ground miners, but that there is no demand for mechanics or any other kind of labour. Good rains have recently fallen, but over a large part of the pastoral districts of the State, such as round Walgett, work has been very seriously hindered by the long drought, and the best opening has been in scrub cutting to keep the starving sheep alive. The total numbers of sheep decreased from 42 millions at the end of 1901 to 25½ millions at the end of 1902, and these great losses in the pastoral industry affect the general demand for labour. In Sydney there is a considerable number of unemployed persons, and emigrants are advised not to go to New South Wales at the present time on the chance of getting work.

*Victoria.*—The effects of the drought continue, and there is no demand for labour. The furniture trade is in a very depressed condition; it is largely in the hands of Chinese, and the demand for European workers is very limited. The report of the Royal Commission on the Factories' and Shops' Law has just been issued (see page 123). The strike of coal miners at Outtrim is still unsettled. A serious strike of engine drivers and firemen on the Government Railways has taken place (see page 124).

*Queensland.*—In Central Queensland large losses have been incurred through the drought; since rains have fallen both pastoral and mining prospects are improving, but there is still no demand for labour.

*Western Australia.*—By an agreement recently arrived at between the railway department and its employees wages are raised in two or three branches, and 48 hours are to constitute a week's work in some districts, exclusive of Sundays, and 54 hours in other districts. Sunday work is to be paid at the rate of time and a-half. There

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

is a good demand for farm hands, but very little for more mechanics.

## New Zealand.

The Arbitration Court at Auckland has fixed the minimum wage for cabinet makers at 1s. 3d. an hour instead of 1s. 1d. The employers have dismissed some 100 men, who in their opinion are not worth this wage, and a serious dispute has arisen in consequence. The building trades have been busy everywhere, both in large towns and in country places; engineering trades have been generally busy, except at Wellington; the clothing trade has been very busy at Napier and Wanganui; other trades have been fairly busy: there has been plenty of work for unskilled labour on farms, and in flax mills, &c., but harvesting and shearing are now over.

## South Africa.

*Cape Colony.*—The drought in many parts of the Colony is very severe, and great losses are being incurred from this cause. The strike of carpenters and joiners at Cape Town has been settled; competent men are to receive 1s. 9d. an hour; their rate of wages thus becomes 14s. a day instead of 13s. as formerly. Masons, bricklayers and carpenters have been in demand at Kimberley at 16s. to 18s. a day. Carpenters are wanted near Middelburg at 1s. 10d. to 2s. an hour. The following persons are wanted for the Government Railways according to a Notice received on the 7th inst.: (1) 40 Railway Clerks, age under 30, with not less than 3 years' station and 1 year's head-office experience, must be proficient shorthand writers and typists; commencing salary £144 a year, advanced to £156 after 12 months satisfactory service; passages paid to Cape Town, and cost deducted from salary by monthly instalments of £2; (2) 20 railway carriage builders, age 24 to 35, wages 11s. a day, and 12s. after 3 months; 12 months' engagement; free passage to the Colony, but no return; half-pay on the voyage out; must have had railway shop experience. Candidates in both cases must apply to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, 98, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Employers domiciled in Cape Colony can obtain cheap passages at £3 a head for male or female servants engaged by them in England. The cost of living is high.

*Natal.*—The building trade at Durban is brisk, but so many bricklayers and others have arrived from England that the supply of labour is quite equal to the demand. The demand for female servants continues, but they should not go by themselves. The following were wanted on the 11th inst. for the Government Railways:—(1) good platelayers, between 25 and 40 years, with at least five years' experience; wages £12 per month rising to £14 and £16; three years' engagement; third class passage provided free from London and half-pay during voyage. (2) 12 boiler makers and 2 angleiron smiths, must have had five years' experience in locomotive workshops after completing their apprenticeship; wages 13s. a day, rising to 14s.; first engagement three years; free passage, and half-pay during voyage. (3) 1 spring maker, wages 14s. a day; first engagement three years; free passage, and half pay on voyage. All candidates must apply to the Agent-General for Natal, 26, Victoria Street, London, S.W., stating experience, age, height, whether married or single, and enclosing testimonials or name of superintendent to whom the Agent-General should write, and medical certificate.

*Transvaal.*—Government land is open for selection, but some capital is necessary. Permits are necessary for those entering the Transvaal. Building materials are arriving more rapidly and the building trades are brisk at Johannesburg, but many workmen of all kinds—both skilled and unskilled—are still unable to obtain employment. As the cost of living is two or three times as high as in England emigrants are warned not to go there in search of work at the present time, unless they take from £100 to £200 with them. Though artisans' houses are being erected all round the city, rents do not at present show any signs of becoming lower. The Crown Agents for the Colonies, Downing Street, are engaging 500 navvies for work on the

Central South African Railways in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies. Female domestic servants may obtain assisted passages, provided they undertake to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages: they must apply to the South African Expansion Committee, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

*Orange River Colony.*—Government land is open for selection, but some capital is necessary. Permits are required by those entering the Colony. There is some demand for skilled mechanics in the building trades; the men's wages have been raised to 2s. 6d. an hour. Residents in the Colony can now obtain, through the Local Magistrate, advanced and reduced passages for persons from England; the residents undertake to repay the money by 12 equal monthly instalments: the fares from London to Bloemfontein are third class open berths (men only) £9 11s. 3d., and closed cabins £11 1s. 3d., second class about £23 8s. od., and children under 11 years £15 11s. od.; persons in whose favour these passages are granted should refer to the Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W. There is a demand for female servants; they should apply to the South African Expansion Committee mentioned above.

*Transvaal.*—A new handbook giving a description of the Transvaal and its Government, and of the openings for and conditions of employment, price of land, cost of living and other information useful to intending emigrants to South Africa, and including a map of the Colony, has been issued at one penny, post free, by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster.

## HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

## Particulars of Piece-Work Wages.

By an Order dated April 22nd, 1903,\* and coming into operation on June 1st, 1903, the Home Secretary has ordered that Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, requiring particulars of work and wages to be given to workers paid by the piece, shall apply, subject to the modifications contained in the Order, to factories and workshops in which is carried on the making of felt hats, and to outworkers employed in that class of work, and to the occupiers or contractors by whom they are employed.

The particulars required by this Order to be furnished to employees paid by the piece are as under:—

The occupier or contractor shall furnish every worker with particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work done by him, (i) by handing him a written or printed statement of such particulars when the work is given out to him; or (ii) in the case of persons employed in a factory or workshop, by exhibiting such particulars in the factory or workshop on a placard containing no other matter than the rates of wages applicable to the work done in the factory or workshop, and posted in a position where it is easily legible by the workers.

In addition "such particulars of the work to be done by each worker as affect the amount of wages payable to him shall be furnished to him in writing at the time when the work is given out to him."

*Explosives in Coal Mines.*—The Home Secretary has made an Order†, dated April 24th, under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, amending the Order of December 20th, 1902 (see GAZETTE for January, p. 5). By the new Order Coronite is added to the list of permitted explosives, and some alterations are made in the definitions of Bobbinite, Westfalite No. 1, and Westfalite No. 2.

*Order Defining Attendance at School and Fixing Standard of Proficiency (Ireland).*—The Home Secretary has made an Order‡, dated February 19th, 1903, under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in pursuance of Section 68 (which provides for the attendance at school of children employed in factories or workshops) and of Section 71 (which relates to the employment as a young person of a child of 13 on obtaining an educational certificate). The Order is made with the consent of the Lord-Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland, dated March 10th, 1903, and revokes the Order of February 15th, 1879.

By the new Order it is provided that an attendance for the purposes of Section 68 shall be an attendance at instruction in secular subjects for a period of not less than two hours at some recognised

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1902. No. 334 (Eyre & Spottiswoode). Price 1d. † Statutory Rules and Orders, 1903. No. 335 (Eyre and Spottiswoode). Price 1d. ‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1903. No. 232 (Eyre and Spottiswoode). Price 1d.

efficient school; and that the standard of proficiency for the purpose of Section 71 shall be such proficiency in reading, writing, and arithmetic as is prescribed for the 5th class or standard in the programme of instruction of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland. Certificates of proficiency may be granted in the same manner as is prescribed for certificates under the Irish Education Act of 1892 by the second Schedule to that Act.

*Night Work: Special Exceptions.*—The Home Secretary has made an Order\*, dated May 4th, 1903, under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the special exception under Section 54 of the Act, which allows the employment of male young persons above 16 at night, subject to certain conditions prescribed in that Section, to that part of a factory in which reverberatory or regenerative furnaces are used and are necessarily kept in operation day and night in order to avoid waste of material or fuel. The new Order, which will come into force on June 1st, 1903, further, revokes the extension of the special exception to oil and seed crushing mills and iron ore washing granted by the Order of November 16th, 1895, and consolidates that Order and the Order of August 22nd, 1902 (see LABOUR GAZETTE, November, 1902, p. 323).

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.†

*Employment in March.*—As usual at this time of year, a general revival of activity was reported; this year the improvement in the state of employment was particularly marked, the average number of persons out of work being reduced by more than one-third, as compared with February. This was partly due to the fine weather, which has been favourable to agricultural labour, and has enabled work to be resumed in the building and accessory trades. The settlement of the differences pending in certain districts between employers and workpeople in the timber-felling industry has enabled operations to be resumed in those districts. Elsewhere the season for such work is over. Employment continued satisfactory in the textile trades in the departments of the Nord, Vosges, Ardennes, Loire, Maine-et-Loire, Tarn and Ariège. In silk manufacture, the muslin branch alone showed signs of activity. The seasonal slackness in the clothing trades was almost over. A considerable decrease took place in the number of people out of work in the glovemaking trade. Employment in the metal trades continued on the whole to improve; in some places, however, the situation was far from satisfactory. There appeared to be no immediate prospect of a resumption of work for tin-box makers in Brittany and Morbihan. Employment began to revive in the furniture trades. The revival already noted in the coach-building trade became more marked. Makers of wooden shoes and galoshes were very busy. Employment in the glass and pottery trades continued, on the whole, to be satisfactory.

Of 170,680 members of 1,078 Trade Unions (not including those of the miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments), which made returns as to the state of employment in March, 1903, 12,815, or 7.5 per cent. were stated to be out of work, as compared with 11 per cent. the month before, and 15 per cent. in March, 1902.

*Coal Mining in March.*—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in March was 5.90, as compared with 5.87 in the preceding month, and 5.78 in March, 1902. Taking all workpeople together (surface and underground), 83 per cent. worked full time (6 days per week and over), and 13 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, as compared with 67 and 32 respectively in February.

*Labour Disputes in March.*—Thirty-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in March, 34 of these involving 4,728 workpeople. In the preceding month there were 32 disputes, 31 of which involved 3,489 workpeople, while in March, 1902, 46 disputes occurred, 9,541 workpeople being involved in 43 of them. Seven of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 3 in mining, 6 in the metal trades, 6 in

\* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1903. No. 363 (Eyre and Spottiswoode). Price 1d. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).

the textile trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 5 in transport, 3 in the woodworking trades, and 5 in trades not included within any of the foregoing groups. Thirty-one new and old disputes came to an end in March, 5 being decided in favour of the workpeople, 14 in favour of the employers, and 12 being compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in March.*—Five cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in April, the initiative being taken by the workpeople in 3 and by the Justice of the Peace in 2 cases. Committees of Conciliation met in 3 cases, resulting in the settlement of 2 disputes (the third, after two ineffectual meetings of the Committee of Conciliation, and after arbitration had been rejected by both parties, came to an end by the men resuming work on the employer's terms). In one of the other two cases no answer was returned by the employers to a notification from the Justice of the Peace, and in the remaining case the proffered mediation was refused by the employers.

*Dockers at Marseilles: Movement for Nine Hours' Day.*—In continuation of his previous despatches (see last month's GAZETTE, p. 98), Mr. M. C. Gurney, H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles, telegraphing to the Board of Trade on April 27th, stated that the employers had offered the nine hours' day at 5 francs 85 centimes (4s. 8d.) per day, which the men refused. A telegram from the same source, dated May 5th, reported the dispute as over, the employers having agreed to the men's demand for a nine hours' day at 6 francs (about 4s. 9½d.).

#### GERMANY. †

*Labour Disputes in April.*—The same journal, reports 123 disputes as having begun in April, as compared with 88 in March. Of these, 43 occurred in the building trades, 1 in mining, 18 in the metal and engineering trades, 6 in the textile trades, 20 in the clothing trades, 6 in transport, 3 in agriculture and gardening, 11 in the woodworking trades, 6 in the pottery and chemical trades, 2 in the food preparation trades, and 7 in the leather trades.

*Publication of a German "Labour Gazette."*—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated May 4th, Sir F. Lascelles, H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, forwards a copy of the first number of a new publication, called the *Imperial Labour Gazette*, issued by the German Government on April 21st. The published price is 10 pfennige (about 1½d.) for a single number, and the year's subscription for the 12 monthly issues will be 1 mark (1 shilling). This publication is a production of the Imperial Statistical Office; and its chief importance lies in the fact that the collection and working up of labour information hitherto carried on by private persons has now become a recognised official duty of the Imperial Government.

The principal subject-matter of the new *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Berlin, Carl Heymanns Verlag) is as follows:—Memorandum on the organisation of the German Labour Department; state of the labour market at home and abroad; employment registries and the unemployed; wages and hours; "fair wage" clauses in public contracts; text of laws affecting labour and administration of such laws; trade disputes; housing; conciliation and arbitration.

#### HOLLAND.

*General Strike.*—With reference to the general strike, reported in last month's GAZETTE (p. 99), further information has been supplied by the Foreign Office in a series of despatches dated April 8th to April 22nd, from Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, and Messrs. W. C. Robinson and H. Turing, H.M. Consuls at Amsterdam and Rotterdam respectively.

As regards the railway workers, it was reported on April 8th, that about 50 per cent. of the drivers and about 80 per cent. of the other employees had returned to work before the expiration of the time fixed by the Direction, so that the railway strike might be considered as having completely failed.

At Amsterdam, on April 7th, a lock-out was proclaimed in the shipping and forwarding trades, so that some thou-

sands of men were laid idle in consequence; and on April 9th, a partial strike among the workmen employed by the municipality took place, in sympathy with the earth-workers employed by the same authority who left work some days previously.

On April 16th the various Federations of employers in that city, viz.:—the Shipping Association, Federation of Employers in the Associations for the Supply of Labour, Association of Amsterdam Forwarding Agents, Association of Master Lightermen, issued a joint public notice to the workpeople that they could present themselves on the following day to their former employers in order to ascertain the conditions upon which the resumption of work, at a date to be afterwards determined, might take place. These conditions were embodied in a Labour Contract, agreed upon between the Federated Associations of Employers. This Contract contains (among other provisions) a stipulation requiring each workman to leave part of his wages in the hands of his employer as a guarantee of his good conduct, and an arbitration clause. The workmen in regular employment in the shipping and transport trades presented themselves in their full number on April 17th, and such as were accepted, signed the contract referred to. By April 18th, the existing lock-out had been declared at an end by the Associated Federations of Employers; the strike of the earth-workers and that of the lightermen were at an end, the men returning to work on the old terms. The leaders of the agitation and some of the more turbulent among the workmen had been refused reinstatement, but the great majority of the strikers had been re-admitted on the formerly existing terms, on signing the new labour contract. On April 22nd, there still existed a partial strike among labourers in the timber trade, but the places of those men who had not presented themselves for reinstatement were being filled up by non-Unionists.

At Rotterdam on April 13th, H.M. Consul reported that, locally, the effects of the strike had been almost nil, the business of the port having practically been carried on uninterruptedly.

*Status and Conditions of Service of Railway Employees: Royal Commission of Inquiry appointed.*—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 27th, Mr. A. F. G. Leveson-Gower, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at the Hague, reports the appointment, by Royal Decree of April 20th, of a Royal Commission to inquire into the legal status and conditions of service of railway employees in Holland. This Commission, which is that provided for in the Law of April 11th, 1903 (see last month's GAZETTE, p. 93), consists of a Chairman and five members.

#### SPAIN.

*Establishment of Official Institute of Social Reforms.*—A Royal Decree, dated April 23rd, 1903, and published in the official *Gaceta de Madrid* of April 23rd, provides for the establishment, under the general control of the Spanish Home Office, of an Institute of Social Reforms, which is to be charged with the duty of preparing legislative measures in relation to labour, watching over the administration of these measures, organising the necessary services of inspection and statistics, and promoting generally their efficacy. The Institute will be composed of 30 members, 18 to be appointed by the Government, 6 to be elected by employers and 6 by workmen, these 12 elected members to be chosen so as to give equal representation (two employers' and two workmen's representatives) to (1) industry carried on upon a large scale (2) industry carried on upon a small scale, and (3) agriculture.

There will be three distinct Sections of the Institute, of which one will deal with questions relating to the maintenance of public order, etc., and will be attached to the Home Office; the second will deal with legal matters and be attached to the Ministry of Justice, and the third will be attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, and will concern itself with public administration affecting social and economic conditions. The Assistant Secretaries of the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice will form part of Sections 1 and 2 respectively, and the Director-General of Agriculture of Section 3.

The explanatory circular accompanying the Decree states that, since the promulgation of the Workmen's Accident Compensation Law of January 31st, 1900 (see GAZETTE, February, 1900, p. 37, and September, 1900, p. 267), more than 2 millions of pesetas (£80,000) have been paid as compensation in respect of accidents to insured workpeople.

*Strike of Carpenters, Builders, and Shoemakers at Malaga.*—Telegraphing to the Board of Trade under date of April 24th, H.M. Consul at Malaga reported the termination of the strike of carpenters, builders, and shoemakers in that city (see last month's GAZETTE, p. 99).

*Strike of Ship Labourers at Cartagena.*—Telegraphing to the Board of Trade on April 17th, H.M. Consul at Malaga reported a renewal of the strike at Cartagena referred to in last month's GAZETTE (p. 99).

#### SWITZERLAND.

*Strike in the Building Trade at Basel.*—In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated April 22nd, Sir W. Conyngham Greene, H.M. Minister at Berne, reports that a strike broke out at Basel on April 6th, among the stone-masons and building hands, about 2,500 to 3,000 men being thereby thrown out of work.

The strikers, many of whom were Italians, demanded (1) the reduction of the working day from 10 hours to 9½ hours in summer and 9 in winter; (2) increase of wages; (3) extra pay for overtime, Sunday work, and unhealthy employment; and (4) abolition of piece-work, and a minimum wage, besides some minor concessions.

The strikers were subsequently joined by the plasterers, painters, and carpenters.

On April 8th, a Committee of Conciliation was formed, and approached the employers, who agreed to make some considerable concessions in respect of wages, overtime, and medical assistance, but refused to reduce the 10 hours' day except by half-an-hour on Saturdays, or to depart from the system of piece-work, or to admit a minimum wage.

These concessions did not, however, satisfy the strikers, who demanded an all-round increase of wages, and the efforts at conciliation consequently failed.

By April 17th the greater number of the local strikers had made up their minds to resume work; and on April 18th an official decision to resume work was taken, and the strike collapsed.

#### AUSTRIA.\*

*Employment in February.*—The statistics of the labour registries (public and private), which furnished returns to the Austrian Labour Department for February, show that, on an average, 206 applications were made for every 100 situations offered in that month, as compared with 204 in the previous month and 183 in February, 1902. Taking the sexes separately, there were, in the case of men, 330 applications on an average for every 100 situations, as against 396 in the previous month and 304 in February, 1902; while in the case of women there were 102, as compared with 86 in the previous month and 100 in February, 1902.

*Labour Disputes in February.*—Twelve disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in February, the number of workpeople taking part in 11 of these being 542. Two of the new disputes occurred in the metal trades, 3 in the textile trades, 3 in the clothing trades, 2 in the glass, pottery, &c., group of trades, and 2 in trades not coming within any of these groups. Of the 9 disputes as to which the results were reported, 1 was decided in favour of the workpeople, 1 in favour of the employers, and 7 were compromised.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

##### CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office, under date of April 27th, Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago reports upon labour questions in his Consular District during the last few months.

\* *Soziale Rundschau* (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department).

At the present time the organisation of every branch of trade is going on rapidly, and the number of Unions increasing daily; while, at the same time, the old-established Unions are increasing their membership enormously.

From every branch of organised labour the cry is raised for higher wages, shorter hours, and better conditions for labour, and in nearly every case the demands have been granted.

Each trade has an Association of the employers; and each Association will endeavour to raise the wages in factories, which are now paying less than the others, bring every dispute to arbitration, and, by showing a combined determination in cases where the demands of the workers are unreasonable, avoid strikes.

The increase in wages and shorter hours, which has been granted in many cases for a year, carries with it a clause, as a rule, for the settlement of all questions by arbitration, and an agreement that there shall be no sympathetic strikes.

The result has at present been that wages have been increased in nearly every case where the demand has been made.

Rents of houses, flats and offices have all been advanced, owing to the increased wages of all employees.

The Chicago Federation of Labour now controls over 200,000 men, and the number of Unions affiliated increases weekly.

Wages are higher in Chicago than anywhere in the States, skilled labour demanding nearly 4s. a day more in Chicago than in New York.

The output of Chicago factories has not been equal to the demand, and there has been a rush of work, but with the increased size of the factories this demand has been caught up with, and there is little question that some trades are now producing fully up to, if not over, any possible demand.

During this time there has been a job for every man willing to work, and the result is the increase in numbers of the Unions and in their strength. The strongest body in Chicago is the Teamsters' Central Body, who govern all the Unions of drivers of wagons employed in different trades, and very few men are employed in this calling who do not display conspicuously the Union button. A non-Unionist can be blocked by other wagons and delayed on his trip, and when he reaches his destination delivery of goods will be made to him slowly by the delivery Union man, and it has been found safer for any man to become a member. There has been some organisation of the employees in retail stores in the outlying districts, but none has as yet been made in the large department stores in the business district except among drivers, freight handlers, and skilled labour.

There is very little profit-sharing in this district, and only one or two co-operative factories are running.

The number of children employed in factories in Illinois has decreased owing to the strict obedience enforced to the law, but in Wisconsin one out of every eight labourers is a child.

The great drawback to the system of arbitration that has been resorted to lately in the United States is the enormous expense that can be incurred in the taking of evidence. In one case, where the arbitrator chosen is considering whether a few men were wrongfully discharged or not, the case has dragged on for over two months, and about £800 has been incurred for expenses, stenographers' fees alone amounting £150. These expenses are too heavy to be borne by most of the Unions, and recourse is being had to conciliatory boards composed of members of the trades, masters and men, who discuss the questions in dispute and arrange matters quickly.

The question of the age, at which a man is no longer desirable in the different trades, is a very difficult one to fix a rule about because, while many men go on working for the same employer for many years after they have reached a good age, each trade, when engaging new men prefers the workers as follows:—Railroad switchmen, under 30; railway firemen and brakemen, 21 to 33; railroad engineers, 30 to 35; bridge and structural iron, 20 to 35; railway shop machinists, 35 to 45; plumbers, 25 to 35; seamen, under 35; steamfitters, under 35; carpenters, 21 to 40; machine woodworkers, 21 to 45.

A strike among the readers of the gas meters has been going on for some time, and during the week preceding the date of the Consul's Report, the teamsters employed had refused to work, but on April 26th, at a meeting of the Federation of Labour of Chicago, the gas teamsters were ordered back to work, 11 of them were suspended from the Union and the head of the Gas Teamsters' Union was removed for not keeping control over his organisation.

*Dispute in the Cotton Shipping Trade at New Orleans.*—In despatches to the Foreign Office dated April 8th and 25th, Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at New Orleans, reports concerning a dispute, which had resulted in a

cessation of work on the part of some 2,000 screwmen (cotton stowers) at that port, and a consequent blocking of the commerce of the city.

From a statement issued by the employers of the workmen concerned, published in a New Orleans newspaper, of which H.M. Consul has forwarded a copy, it appears that the question at issue in this dispute is the alleged restriction of output on the part of the stowers. Prior to 1894 the old regulations of the screwmen only permitted of the stowing of 75 bales per day, per gang of 5 men. "Between 1894 and November 3rd, 1902, the work of stowing cotton in the port of New Orleans was performed by these gangs, on a basis of a fair day's work for the pay agreed upon, and without limit as to the number of bales stowed by a gang per day."

In November, 1902, the two Trade Unions (of white and coloured screwmen respectively) entered into an agreement for the regulation of the work; and it is alleged "that some of the rules adopted by the Associations at that time, although not exhibited or admitted to the steamship agents, provided for the limitation of the work to about 85 bales per day in the case of cotton stowed with the use of screws, and not more than 120 bales in the case of cotton stowed by hand, without the use of screws."

On April 2nd, the Associated Ship Agents wrote to the men's Unions, demanding a restoration of the conditions existing prior to November 3rd, 1902, and added that, if these conditions were not restored by April 6th, the ship agents would cease work on vessels consigned to them.

On April 5th, the Unions replied, declining to accede to the ship agents' demands, with the result that, since April 7th, the tie-up of cotton-handling in New Orleans had been complete.

### LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

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

##### WHO IS "A WORKMAN"?

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, provides that "if in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as herein after mentioned, be liable to pay compensation" as is specified in the Act.

A man was working for an iron and steel company when he met with a fatal accident. Compensation was claimed from the company by certain persons as dependants of the deceased. The question arose whether the deceased was a workman, within the meaning of the Act. His work consisted in breaking steel and clearing cinders, for which he was paid weekly by the ton; he had five or six men under him, whom he used to engage and discharge; and his average weekly earnings amounted to £4. The County Court Judge found that the deceased was employed as a contractor, and not as a workman, within the meaning of the Act; and he awarded that the company were not liable to pay compensation. The applicants appealed; and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that there was evidence, on which the County Court Judge might find that the relation of the deceased to the company was that of a contractor, and not of a servant.—*Vamplew v. The Parkgate Iron & Steel Company, Limited, April 25th.*

#### FAILURE OF ACTION TO RECOVER DAMAGES: ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION: COSTS: APPEAL.

The Act provides that "if, within the time herein-after in this Act limited for taking proceedings, an action is brought to recover damages independently of this Act for injury caused by any accident, and it is determined in such action that the injury is one for which the employer is not liable in such action, but that he would have been liable to pay compensation under the provisions of this Act, the action shall be dismissed; but the Court in which the action is tried shall, if the plaintiff shall so choose, proceed to assess such compensation, and shall be at liberty to deduct from such compensation all the costs which, in its judgment, have been caused by the plaintiff bringing the action instead of proceeding under this Act."

In any proceeding under this sub-section when the Court assesses the compensation, it shall give a certificate of the compensation it has awarded and the directions it has given as to the deduction for costs, and such certificate shall have the force and effect of an award under this Act."

A workman brought an action against his employer, under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, to recover damages for personal injuries caused by an accident. Judgment having been entered in favour of the employer, the workman applied to the County Court Judge, under the provisions cited above, to assess compensation, which the Judge did, directing that the taxed costs caused to the employer by the workman bringing the action should be deducted

from the compensation or that the compensation should be applied in part payment of these costs, and that the costs of the workman should be taxed under scale B. and be set off against the taxed costs of the employer, and that the balance should be paid by the employer within 14 days from the date of the certificate of the taxation. The Registrar taxed the costs in question, and the workman applied to the County Court Judge to direct the Registrar to review the taxation of the employer's costs on certain grounds, but the Judge refused the application. The workman appealed to the Court of Appeal, which dismissed the appeal, holding that an appeal did not lie from the County Court Judge to the Court of Appeal in regard to this order.—*Keane v. Nash, Court of Appeal, April 21st.*

##### WHAT IS "A FACTORY"? VESSEL MOORED IN RIVER.

The Act applies only to certain classes of employment, including "employment by the undertakers as herein-after defined, on or in or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work, and to employment by the undertakers as herein-after defined on or about any building which exceeds 30 ft. in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding, or being demolished, or on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power, is being used for the purpose of the construction, repair, or demolition thereof."

In the Act "Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895."

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, enacts that certain provisions of the Factory Acts "shall have effect as if—(a) every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse, and, so far as relates to the process of loading or unloading therefrom or thereto, all machinery and plant used in that process . . . were included in the word 'factory.'" The Act of 1895 was repealed by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, which makes similar provisions "have effect as if every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse, and all machinery or plant used in the process of loading or unloading or coaling any ship in any dock, harbour, or canal were included in the word 'factory.'" In the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, it is provided that for the purposes of the Section just cited, the expression "harbour" shall have the same meaning as in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (in which this term includes navigable rivers). The Interpretation Act, 1889, by Section 38 (1), provides that: "Where this Act or any Act passed after the commencement of this Act repeals and re-enacts, with or without modification, any provisions of a former Act, references in any other Act to the provisions so repealed shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as references to the provisions so re-enacted."

A workman, employed by a shipping company, was working upon a steamship lying in a navigable river about 150 ft. from low-water mark, and which was discharging her cargo into lighters alongside by means of her own cranes, when he was injured by some of the cargo falling upon him. He claimed compensation from his employers, who contended that the Compensation Act did not apply to the employment of this workman, because the definition of "factory" in that Act referred specifically to the Section of the Factory Act of 1895 cited above, which dealt with machinery used in loading and unloading in certain places not including a harbour. On the other hand, it was argued for the workman that, since the coming into operation of the Factory Act of 1901, "factory" in the Compensation Act includes machinery used in the process of unloading a ship in a harbour (including a navigable river). The County Court Judge made an award in favour of the workman. The employers appealed; and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal.—*Stevens v. General Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., Court of Appeal, April 23rd.*

##### "ON OR IN OR ABOUT" AN "ENGINEERING WORK."

In the Act "Engineering Work" means any work of construction or alteration or repair of railroad, harbour, dock, canal, or sewer, and includes any other work for the construction, alteration, or repair of which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power is used."

A firm of contractors had undertaken the work of laying the pipes for a scheme for supplying Birmingham with water. One of their workmen was engaged at a place in Shropshire on this work, when he met with an accident. He claimed compensation from his employers. The County Court Judge made an award in his favour. His employers appealed. The Court of Appeal held that, the pipe which was being replaced when the accident took place having been broken by the force of the water pumped in by a steam pump, the work upon which the workman was engaged was an engineering work, within the meaning of the Act, and dismissed the appeal with costs.—*Parker v. Morrison & Mason, Court of Appeal, April 21st.*

In another case a workman, employed by a contractor, claimed compensation from his employer in respect of an injury sustained by him while at work. This contractor had undertaken the construction of a reservoir and filter beds and the laying of supply pipes for a water supply for a town. The whole of the works were undertaken under one contract. The reservoir was about 2 miles from the town, to which the pipes were to convey the water. The reservoir was being constructed, and machinery driven by steam was being used for that purpose; the laying of the pipes was commenced at a point about 600 yards from the reservoir, and was carried on from that point towards the reservoir. The workman was employed upon the work of laying the pipes, and, when that work had reached a point about 500 yards from the reservoir, he was accidentally injured by the wire rope of a hand crane which was being used in the work. It was admitted that the constructio

of the reservoir was an "engineering work," machinery driven by steam power being used there; and the County Court Judge decided that the laying of the water pipes was a part of that work, and that the workman was, therefore, employed on or in or about an engineering work. An award was accordingly made in favour of the workman. The employer appealed. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that there was evidence upon which the County Court Judge could properly find that the workman was employed on or in or about an engineering work.—*Athinson v. Lumb, Court of Appeal, April 23rd.*

##### WHAT IS "A SCAFFOLDING"?

A painter employed by a firm, which had contracted to repair and paint a house exceeding 30 ft. in height, was painting a wall, when he met with an accident. He claimed compensation from his employers. The wall in question was 10 ft. or 11 ft. in height, and in order to reach the necessary height the painter was standing upon a pair of ordinary painter's steps. These steps were 8 ft. high and had 10 flat steps with a board on the top upon which a man could stand when at work. The steps were supported by wooden uprights, and could be moved from place to place. While the painter was at work standing on the steps, they slipped, and he fell off and was injured. At the time of the accident the main scaffolding, which had been used in repairing the house, had been taken down. The County Court Judge gave judgment as follows:—"I find that the applicant in this case was injured by a fall from steps on which he had been standing for the purpose of painting a wall above the height he could reach when standing on the ground. The steps were 8 ft. high, 10 rungs, ordinary painter's steps. In my opinion such steps, though used at the time of the accident to support the man while doing the work, afford no evidence that the house in question was being repaired by means of a scaffolding. If the Court is of opinion that there was evidence on which I might find that the steps were a 'scaffolding,' I award £1 a week from 14 days after the accident until ended, reduced, or varied, with costs on scale C. Award for the respondents (the employers) with costs on scale C." The applicant appealed; and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, on the ground that there was evidence, on which the County Court Judge might find that the steps were a scaffolding, and made an award in favour of the painter, but granted a stay of execution pending an appeal to the House of Lords, upon the employers agreeing to pay to the painter the compensation awarded, the costs to be paid to his solicitors upon their undertaking to repay them, if the appeal was unsuccessful.—*Elwin v. Woodward & Co., Court of Appeal, April 22nd.*

##### WHO IS A "DEPENDANT"?

In the case of a fatal accident, the Act makes provision for the payment of compensation to dependants wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the deceased at the time of his death. The father of a workman, who had met with a fatal accident, claimed compensation from his employer; and the only question was whether this applicant was or was not a dependant in relation to his son. The deceased was 20 years of age, and was earning wages at the rate of 20s. a week, which he paid into the common family fund. The father was also earning wages at the rate of 20s. a week, and the other members of the household were his wife, who was not earning anything, a daughter over age, who was also earning 20s. a week, a second daughter who was imbecile and was not earning any wages, a younger son who was earning 14s. a week, another daughter earning 2s. 6d. a week, and two other children who were too young to earn anything. The County Court Judge took into consideration his own knowledge of the district in which the family lived, and of what such a family would require for their maintenance, and he found that £2 16s. 6d., the total of the family fund, excluding the earnings of the deceased son, was sufficient to meet their requirements. He accordingly found that the applicant was not a dependant wholly or in part dependent on the earnings of the deceased, and therefore held that he was not entitled to any compensation. The applicant appealed. The Court of Appeal held that the County Court Judge had been wrong in taking into consideration, as he did, the standard of living in the neighbourhood, and allowed the appeal, sending the case back to the County Court Judge.—*French v. Underwood, Court of Appeal, April 22nd.*

##### "AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS": EMPLOYMENT NOT CONTINUOUS.

The compensation payable under the Act, where total or partial incapacity for work results from the injury sustained by a workman, is "a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding 50 per cent. of his average weekly earnings during the previous twelve months, if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer, such weekly payment not to exceed £1."

A stevedore's labourer, who met with an accident in the course of his employment causing him personal injury which incapacitated him for work, claimed compensation from his employers. The only question at issue was as to the proper method of calculating the amount of compensation to which the applicant was entitled. The accident happened on November 28th, 1902. The applicant had then been working for the employers, not continuously, but irregularly, for a period of more than 12 months. During the 12 months preceding the accident he had worked in every month except May, June, and July, during the whole of which three months he had been in hospital. In the other months he had worked for part of most weeks. In November, 1902, however, he did not work for the first ten days of the month. He worked on the 11th, and then continued working every day until the 28th, when the accident happened. The County Court Judge found as a

fact that the nature of the applicant's employment was that of work under a daily contract, and he calculated the average weekly earnings, which were to be the basis of the compensation, by adding together the applicant's actual earnings for the 18 days from November 11th to November 28th, and dividing the total by three, the number of weeks into which the 18 days extended. From an award made on this basis the employers appealed. It was contended on their part that the proper method to be adopted by the County Court Judge in this case was to add together the earnings of the applicant during the 12 months preceding the accident, and divide the total either by 52 or by the number of the weeks in which he had actually worked. The Court of Appeal held that the County Court Judge had adopted the right method of assessing the compensation, and dismissed the appeal.—*Giles v. Belford, Smith & Co., Court of Appeal, April 25th.*

##### REVIEW OF COMPENSATION: REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO SURGICAL OPERATION.

A workman, who had injured his hand by accident while at work, obtained an award against his employer for a weekly payment of 17s. during incapacity. More than a year afterwards the employer, having requested the workman to submit to a surgical operation, which was refused, applied to the County Court, asking that the weekly payment might be reviewed and diminished. At the hearing of the arbitration medical evidence was given to the effect that the proposed operation would probably be successful, but that it would be attended with a certain amount of risk (according to some of the medical witnesses, with serious risk). The County Court Judge refused to make any order. The employer appealed. It was argued on his behalf that, if the workman refused to submit to an operation which was reasonably necessary for his case from a medical point of view, he was not entitled to continue to receive the same weekly payment. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal.—*Rothwell v. Davies, Court of Appeal, April, 25th.*

##### (2) Trade Union Acts.

##### TRADE UNION: RULES IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE: ACTION FOR BENEFITS.

The Trade Union Act, 1871, provides that "nothing in this Act shall enable any Court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted with the object of directly enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any of the following agreements, namely: . . . (3) Any agreement for the application of the funds of a Trade Union,—(a) To provide benefits to members."

A member of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors and Tailoresses had for some time before June, 1901, been in receipt of a superannuation allowance from the Society, but in that month the rule under which he had taken the allowance was, without his consent, struck out by a vote of the members, and the Society refused to pay him any further allowance. In November, 1902, he sued the secretary and treasurer of the Nottingham branch for 16 weeks' allowance, and recovered judgment from those defendants. Subsequently he sued the trustees of the branch for 40 weeks' allowance.

In that action the defendants set up various defences, but the County Court Judge held that by reason of the decision in the earlier action the matter was *res judicata*, and entered judgment for the plaintiff for the amount claimed. The Society appealed, and contended that (1) the matter was not *res judicata*; (2) that by reason of the rescission of the rule under which superannuation allowances were paid the plaintiff was not entitled to receive any allowance; (3) that the Society was an illegal Society, many of its rules being in restraint of trade, and that the plaintiff could not sue the other members of the Society. The rule of the Society chiefly relied on by the appellants as being in restraint of trade was rule 34, which was as follows:—Section 1.—During the slack seasons a fair equitable division of trade shall be compulsory in all shops. That a fair equitable division of trade shall be understood to mean that each man shall get trade to the same value as his fellow-man, or as near it as possible. Section 2.—In no shop shall the dual system of piecework and day wage be allowed to exist. Section 3.—No member of this Society shall in future be allowed to leave a workshop for the purpose of working outdoors or at home, except by the express permission of his branch committee, such permission only to be granted in case of physical inability to remain in the workshop, and to be in all cases endorsed by a general meeting of the branch. Any member breaking the rules and allowing himself to run out of Society and still work for a Society shop, the branch shall have full power to deal with the matter as they deem best, subject to rules 32 and 33. Section 4.—That a working week shall not exceed 54 hours, each district or town to regulate its own time of starting in the morning and leaving off in the evening, and that no overtime be worked except in cases of necessity. Time lost on one day cannot be made up on the following or any subsequent day. Members infringing the rule shall be dealt with as a branch directs, subject to rules 32 and 33. Rules 32 and 33 dealt with the power of the Society to fine or expel its members. The King's Bench Division held that the judgment of the County Court Judge in the earlier case not having involved the finding of fact that the Society was not an illegal society, the County Court Judge in the second case was wrong in saying that the decision in the previous action estopped the defendants in the second action from raising this defence of illegality. The Court, on the merits, came to the conclusion that the Society was, by reason of its rules and constitution, not a legal Society at common law, and therefore proceedings could not be taken by one of its members against another. The appeal of the Society was accordingly allowed. Leave to appeal was given.—*Cullen v. Elwin and others, King's Bench Division, April 27th.*

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—BUILDING TRADES.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns supplied by 89 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 96,000 building operatives of all classes, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 200,000, employment in the building trades generally continued moderate during April, but showed a slight seasonal improvement as compared with March. It is not quite so good as a year ago. The returns from Employers' Associations covering 57 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the returns show employment to have been dull or bad, 31 per cent. fair or moderate, and 12 per cent. good. With bricklayers employment is reported as fair; it is better than a month and a year ago. Employment with masons is fair in England and Ireland; quiet in Scotland. With carpenters and joiners employment is fair, but shows an improvement as compared with a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 2.8 at the end of April, compared with 3.4 in March, and 3.0 a year ago.

Employment with painters is fairly good, and better than a month ago; it is about the same as in April, 1902. With plasterers it is dull in England, but fair in Scotland and Ireland. The plumbers continue to report employment as fair. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union plumbers was 7.1 at the end of April, compared with 7.5 in March, and 5.4 in April, 1902. The slaters and tilers report employment as fair in England, good in Scotland.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of April 1903.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for April, 1903, as compared with	
		Apr., 1903.	Mar., 1903.	Apr., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.</b>						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	6,961	4.2	4.3	3.1	-0.1	+1.1
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	5,859	2.2	1.3	1.9	+0.9	+0.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,066	2.6	3.8	4.1	-1.2	-1.5
Yorkshire	4,937	3.2	4.7	4.1	-1.5	-0.9
East Midlands	3,006	2.3	1.6	3.4	+0.7	-1.1
West Midlands	4,724	4.3	4.2	2.5	+0.1	+1.8
Eastern Counties	1,215	2.1	2.8	1.2	-0.7	+0.9
S. and S.W. Counties	5,476	2.0	3.0	1.8	-1.0	+0.2
Wales and Monmouth	1,600	4.0	7.3	2.9	-2.4	+2.0
SCOTLAND	4,946	0.5	3.2	0.5	-0.7	...
IRELAND	4,797	2.9	4.3	5.8	-1.4	-2.9
<b>PLUMBERS.</b>						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	1,222	9.3	12.8	5.9	-3.5	+3.4
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,432	6.8	9.2	3.0	-2.4	+3.8
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,400	6.8	6.0	6.4	+0.8	+0.4
Yorkshire	1,197	5.3	5.0	6.5	+0.3	-1.2
East Midlands	336	8.3	6.8	3.8	+1.5	+4.5
West Midlands	448	10.3	8.3	2.9	+1.8	+7.4
Eastern Counties	130	3.1	3.8	0.9	-0.7	+2.2
S. and S.W. Counties	505	7.9	7.5	4.9	+0.4	+3.0
Wales and Monmouth	260	9.2	9.2	7.4	...	+1.8
SCOTLAND	1,658	4.8	5.7	4.5	-0.9	+0.3
IRELAND	623	10.6	9.8	10.6	+0.8	...

**London.**—Employment in London shows a little improvement, but is not so good as a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 80 employers show that in the last week of April they paid wages to 17,281 men, as compared with 16,843 in March, and 18,384 in April, 1902.

Branches of carpenters and joiners with 6,961 members had 4.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4.3 per cent. in March, and 3.1 per cent. in April, 1902. Branches of plumbers with 1,222 members had 9.3 per cent. unemployed, as compared with 12.8 per cent. in March, and 5.9 per cent.

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

in April, 1902. Employment with bricklayers and masons is, on the whole, moderate but improving; with plasterers it is bad. Painters and decorators are getting busy.

**Northern Counties.**—In the Tyne and Wear district employment with bricklayers and plumbers is reported as moderate, with joiners as better, with masons as improving, and with painters as good. Slaters and tilers are fully employed on the Wear, but quiet on the Tyne. At Hartlepool and Stockton employment is moderate. At Middlesbrough slaters and painters are fairly well employed, bricklayers moderately so.

**Lancashire and Cheshire.**—Employment has again slightly improved during the month. At Liverpool most branches report an improvement. At Manchester the painters are busy, but in some of the other branches employment is slack. In Bolton, Bury, Chorley, and Wigan employment has somewhat improved. At Oldham the plasterers are rather better employed, but other branches remain about the same as a month ago.

**Yorkshire.**—The slight improvement reported last month is maintained, but employment, on the whole, remains moderate. At Sheffield employment is dull, but fairly good at Rotherham. At Hull employment with masons and painters is good, but bad with plasterers and plumbers; in other branches it is only moderate. In Leeds the bricklayers and masons have been fairly employed; painters are busy, plumbers and carpenters and joiners quiet. Employment at Bradford is dull; and in Huddersfield and Halifax moderate.

**East Midland Counties.**—Employment is quiet and about the same as a month ago. At Derby employment is reported as good with painters, quiet in other branches. In Nottingham employment is dull with bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers; improved with carpenters and joiners; fairly good with painters and decorators. At Leicester employment is very quiet.

**West Midland Counties.**—Employment still continues dull though showing an improvement compared with a month ago. Employment at Wolverhampton is quiet, fair at Stourbridge, good at Tamworth. At Birmingham and in the Potteries it is very quiet, and moderate at Crewe, Leek and Stafford.

**Eastern Counties.**—Employment continues quiet but is better than a month ago. Employment in Norwich, Cromer, and Yarmouth has somewhat improved; painters and masons are fully employed. At Ipswich employment is better with bricklayers, quiet with carpenters and joiners, dull with plasterers. At Colchester bricklayers are well employed; carpenters fairly so.

**Southern and South Western Counties.**—Employment on the whole shows little change. At Bristol employment has improved generally; at Bath it is dull. At Gloucester and Cheltenham bricklayers and carpenters are slack, but masons are busy. Employment in the Plymouth district is good with bricklayers, fair with carpenters and joiners, slack with plasterers.

**Wales and Monmouth.**—Employment in South Wales is moderate with bricklayers, good with painters. With carpenters and joiners and plasterers it is bad in the seaport towns, but better inland. In North Wales employment is fair with bricklayers and painters, moderate with plasterers and carpenters and joiners.

**Scotland.**—Employment shows little change from the previous month and is rather worse than a year ago. In Glasgow employment is somewhat better than last month, the painters and carpenters and joiners being well employed. In Edinburgh it is dull with bricklayers and masons, fair with joiners, quiet with plasterers and plumbers, good with painters. In Dundee employment remains about the same. At Aberdeen it is fair on the whole.

**Ireland.**—The returns show an improvement in the state of employment. In Dublin all branches are fairly employed, but the carpenters and joiners not so well as last month. At Belfast most branches have improved. At Cork employment with the carpenters and joiners and plasterers is fair; with masons and plumbers it is dull.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—COAL MINING; OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

COAL MINING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during April showed no improvement as compared with March, and was not so good as a year ago. The number of workpeople employed, however, at collieries for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Returns received relating to pits employing 492,607 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked by the collieries included in the returns during the four weeks ended 25th April was 4.82 per week, as against 5.10 in March and 4.90 in April, 1902.

In the following Table detailed particulars are given for the different mining districts:—

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN APRIL, 1903 AND 1902, AND IN MARCH, 1903.

District.	No. employed in April, 1903, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1903, as compared with	
		25th April, 1903.*	21st Mar., 1903.	19th April, 1902.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	39,838	4.87	4.94	5.04	-0.7	-1.7
Durham	95,534	5.06	5.40	5.15	-0.34	-0.9
Cumberland	7,418	5.07	5.07	4.86	...	+21
Yorkshire	73,704	4.65	4.93	4.68	-0.28	-0.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	51,111	4.67	5.01	4.75	-0.34	-0.6
Derbyshire	36,837	4.52	4.84	4.68	-0.32	-0.18
Nottingham and Leicester	27,830	3.94	4.37	4.24	-0.43	-0.30
Staffordshire	29,972	4.52	4.90	4.74	-0.38	-0.22
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	9,744	4.75	5.00	4.66	-0.25	+0.9
Gloucester and Somerset	8,885	4.75	5.02	4.92	-0.27	-0.17
North Wales	13,020	5.12	5.34	4.99	-0.22	+1.3
South Wales and Mon.	56,788	5.09	5.44	5.12	-0.35	-0.9
ENGLAND & WALES	480,681	4.78	5.08	4.87	-0.30	-0.9
SCOTLAND.						
West Lothians	20,773	5.28	5.40	5.15	-0.12	+1.3
The Lothians	4,688	5.44	5.63	5.28	-0.19	+1.6
Fife	15,885	5.31	5.19	5.30	+0.12	+0.1
SCOTLAND	41,346	5.31	5.34	5.22	-0.03	+0.9
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom	492,607	4.82	5.10	4.90	-0.28	-0.8

The falling off in the average number of days worked by the pits in April as compared with March was mainly due to the Easter holidays.

The comparison with a year ago is not, however, affected on this account, the holidays having fallen within the same limits in the two periods.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	April, 1903.		Corresponding percentages in	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1903.	April, 1902.*
24 days (full time)	5,621	1.1	1.3	0.9
20 and under 24 days	233,889	51.5	50.0	58.2
16 " " 20 "	177,164	36.9	34.0	32.4
12 " " 16 "	43,116	8.8	6.4	6.9
8 " " 12 "	9,942	2.0	1.9	1.2
Under 8 days	2,875	0.6	0.4	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>492,607</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It will be seen that while over 67 per cent. of the total number of workpeople were employed at pits which worked 20 or more days during the four weeks ended March 21st, 1903, only about 53 per cent. were so employed in the four weeks ended April 25th, 1903. Here again the falling off is partly due to the Easter holidays.

\* Easter Holidays are included in this period.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland steam coal pits worked on an average 4.65 days per week and house coal pits 4.97 days per week. Employment in Durham is stated to have been fair, and about the same as in March, but worse than a year ago. In the Leeds district at the end of the month full time was being worked, except in house coal pits. At Castleford employment has been good, at Dewsbury bad. At South Kirkby and Hemsworth full time has been worked. In the Sheffield district only 4.34 days per week were worked, most of the collieries being idle for four days on account of the Easter holidays. In the Burnley, Accrington and Oldham districts employment has been good; in the Wigan district slack; in the Bolton district irregular. In Nottinghamshire employment has declined. In Leicestershire employment since the Easter Holidays has shown some improvement. In North Staffordshire miners generally are well employed. In the Cannock Chase district employment has been slack; in North Wales fair; in the Bristol district moderate. In the Radstock district about four days per week were worked. In the Forest of Dean employment at steam coal pits has been good, at house coal pits moderate.

In Lanarkshire employment has generally been fair; in the West Lothian district no improvement has taken place; in Mid and East Lothians employment at certain collieries has been slack owing to the scarcity of waggons; in Fife it has been fairly steady.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during April amounted to 3,582,361 tons, as compared with 3,678,416 tons in March, and 3,661,691 tons in April, 1902.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing 18,550 workpeople, from 5 Employers' Associations and from Local Correspondents.

In iron and shale mines employment has been good; in tin and copper mines moderate; at slate and limestone quarries it was good generally; with granite quarrymen it was good in England and Wales and fair in Scotland.

Mining.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment in this industry continues good. During the four weeks ended 25th April, the average number of days worked per week by the 133 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.61, as against 5.79 in March, 1903, and 5.67 in the corresponding period of last year.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

District.	No. employed in April, 1903, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1903, as compared with	
		25th April, 1903.*	21st March, 1903.	19th April, 1902.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,792	5.77	5.92	5.75	-0.15	+0.2
Cleveland	6,970	5.70	5.85	5.70	-0.15	...
Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	879	5.71	5.76	5.77	-0.05	-0.6
Leicestershire	626	5.36	5.73	5.59	-0.37	-0.23
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,174	4.25	4.84	5.05	-0.59	-0.80
Other places in England	137	5.11	5.76	5.23	-0.65	-1.12
<b>Total, England</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>5.78</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
SCOTLAND	1,240	5.91	5.95	5.86	-0.04	+0.5
IRELAND	94	5.95	5.93	5.92	+0.02	+0.3
<b>Total and Averages</b>	<b>18,912</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.79</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.6</b>

The decrease in the average number of days worked in April, as compared with March is due to the days lost in

\* Easter holidays are included in this period.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

England through the Easter holidays. The comparison with a year ago is not affected on this account, as the holidays fell within the same period in the two years.

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,912, or 2·8 per cent. more than a year ago. Of these, 83·8 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended April 25th, as compared with 88·6 a year ago.

**Shale Mining.**—Employment with shale miners in the Lothians continues good. At the 25 mines covered by the returns received, the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended April 25th was 5·77, as compared with 5·63 in the four weeks ended March 21st, and 5·50 in the four weeks ended April 19th, 1902. The number of workpeople employed at the mines reported on was 2,638 in April, compared with 2,637 a month ago, and 2,688 a year ago.

**Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.**—In Durham employment with lead ore miners shows no change compared with a month ago, 5 days per week being worked. With tin and copper miners in Cornwall there has been little change as compared with a month ago; in the Calstock district employment is quiet, and in the Camborne district fair.

Quarrying.

**Slate.**—Apart from the dispute affecting the Bethesda district, employment with slate quarrymen in North Wales continues good. In Devon and Cornwall it is moderate.

**Limestone.**—In Weardale employment in all branches of the limestone quarrying industry continues good. In Cumberland employment was good at the end of April and better than a month or a year ago. With Derbyshire limestone quarrymen employment has been fully maintained; in North Wales it has been good; and in Devon and Cornwall moderate.

**Granite.**—Quarrymen in Leicestershire are fully employed; in North Wales employment continues good; in the Penryn district (Cornwall) and in the Dartmoor and Gunnislake districts employment is good; at Penzance it is quiet; in other districts fair. In Forfar, Aberdeen and Kincardine employment was fair, but worse than a year ago.

**Other Stone.**—Employment with quarrymen in the Gateshead district has been fairly good, but worse than a year ago. In the Barnsley and Normanton districts employment has been good; in the Sheffield district moderate; in the Bath stone quarries in the Bristol district it has been fairly good; in North Wales it continues good.

**Settmaking.**—In Leicestershire employment with sett-makers is slacker, but kerbstone dressers are fully employed; in the Clee Hill district (Shropshire) and in North Wales employment continues good. In the Aberdeen district employment has been fair; in the Edinburgh district dull.

**Clay Works.**—In Cornwall employment with china clay workers is moderate.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

ACCORDING to returns received relating to the works of 113 ironmasters, employment in this industry shows little change as compared with a month ago, but some improvement as compared with a year ago. These returns show that at the end of April 327 furnaces were in blast, as compared with 328 at the end of March, and 320 at the end of April, 1902. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 327 furnaces in blast at the end of April was about 22,800.

The following Table shows by districts the number of furnaces in blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a month ago.			Present time compared with a year ago.		
	April, 1903.	Mar., 1903.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1903.	April, 1903.	April, 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1903.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ... ..	82	83	- 1	82	77	+ 5
Cumberland & Lancs.	42	43	- 1	42	41	+ 1
S. and S.W. Yorks....	15	15	...	15	15	...
Derby & Nottingham	38	37	+ 1	38	37	+ 1
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton }	25	25	...	25	26	- 1
Stafford & Worcester }	32	32	...	32	33	- 1
S. Wales & Monmouth }	16	15	+ 1	16	14	+ 2
Other districts ... ..	7	7	...	7	6	+ 1
Returned from England & Wales }	257	257	...	257	249	+
Returned from Scotland ... ..	70	71	- 1	70	71	- 1
Total furnaces included in returns ... ..	327	328	- 1	327	320	+ 7

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.\*

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works shows a falling off as compared with a month ago, and is not so good as a year ago.

At 202 works covered by the returns received from employers, 72,977 workpeople were employed during the week ended April 25th, a decrease of 657 compared with a month ago, and of 2,292 compared with a year ago.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apl., 1903, as compared with	
	Apl. 25th 1903.	Mar. 28th 1903.	Apl. 26th 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales ... ..	61,180	61,791	62,710	- 611	-1,530
Scotland ... ..	11,797	11,843	12,559	- 46	- 762
Total ... ..	72,977	73,634	75,269	- 657	-2,292

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has also been received with regard to works at which 90 per cent. of the workpeople included in the above Table were employed, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below.

The average number of shifts worked per man was 5·36 in the week ended April 25th, compared with 5·43 in the week ended March 28th, and with 5·46 in April, 1902.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Apl., 1903, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			Mar., 1903.	Apl., 1902.
Under 5 per week ... ..	9,275	14·2	9·7	8·2
5 per week ... ..	20,775	31·7	35·6	35·9
5½ per week ... ..	636	1·0	1·1	1·6
6 per week ... ..	34,275	52·4	52·9	53·6
Over 6 per week ... ..	460	0·7	0·7	0·7
Total ... ..	65,421	100·0	100·0	100·0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the above Table (10 per cent. of the total number returned as employed) worked the same average number of shifts as those who are included, the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople given in the first Table may be estimated to have been 391,250 in the week ended April 25th, compared with 399,760 in the week ended March 28th, and with 411,040 in April, 1902.

On this basis the volume of employment at the works included in the returns shows a decrease of 2·1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4·8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The following reports on the

\* Including iron puddling and rolling and steel making and rolling.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING.

different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

**Tyne and Wear District.**—At steel plate, bar and cogging mills in the Jarrow district employment was good, but at sheet mills it was slack.

**Cleveland and Hartlepool District.**—Employment with rail millmen has been good, with other classes fair. In metal expansion works employment has been good.

**South Yorkshire.**—In the Sheffield district employment with ironworkers has been quiet, short time being worked. In the steel trade employment generally has been slack, although an improvement has taken place in some branches. In the Leeds district employment with steelworkers improved during the month, and has been more regular.

**Midlands.**—In Derbyshire employment with puddlers and millmen has improved. In North Staffordshire employment in all branches has been moderate. In South Staffordshire the improvement in the employment of steel smelters recorded in last month's LABOUR GAZETTE has been maintained. At the mills and forges employment has improved.

**South Wales.**—At the mills and works in operation full time generally has been worked.

**Scotland.**—Employment with steel smelters has been good; with iron and steel workers, fairly good and about the same as a month ago, but slightly better than a year ago.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues good. At the end of April 390 mills were in operation, most of which were working full time, as compared with 389 at the end of March, and 407 a year ago. The total number of works open was 77, and at 50 of these all the mills (250) were in operation, whilst at the remaining 27 works, 140 mills, out of a total of 192 were at work. Of the 390 mills in operation, and employing about 19,500 workpeople, 378 were situated in the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire districts, compared with 377 in March, and 395 in April, 1902. It is reported that the supply of and demand for labour in this industry are fairly balanced, the only scarcity being of young men as "catchers" but these are now more readily obtained than for some time past.

The following Table shows the number of mills at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,\* at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ... ..	50	250	...	250
Works giving partial employment ... ..	27	140	52	192
Total at end of April, 1903* ... ..	77	390	52	442
Corresponding Total for Mar., 1903* ... ..	76	389	41	430
Corresponding Total for April, 1902*† ... ..	81	407	53	460

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	April, 1903.	Mar., 1903.	April, 1902.	April, 1903.	Mar., 1903.	April, 1902.
To United States ... ..	3,994	5,896	5,896	122	...	37
" Other Countries ... ..	17,547	22,834	20,423	5,498	6,012	5,066
Total ... ..	21,541	28,730	26,319	5,620	6,012	5,103

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

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, from two large Shipbuilding Companies, from 5 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment continues bad, and considerably worse than a year ago. In some of the smaller districts, however, it is reported as fair.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,112 members had 5,174 (or 9·6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 9·8 per cent. at the end of March, and 5·2 per cent. in April, 1902.

The state of employment in the principal districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Principal Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apr., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Apr., 1903, as compared with a	
		Apr., 1903.	Mar., 1903.	Apr., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ... ..	9,209	13·6	11·8	4·6	+ 1·8	+ 9·0
Wear ... ..	4,642	15·8	19·2	4·0	- 3·4	+ 11·8
Tees and Hartlepool ... ..	4,733	18·8	20·1	3·0	- 1·3	+ 10·8
Humber ... ..	2,493	6·0	8·1	10·9	- 2·1	- 4·9
Thames and Medway ... ..	4,452	8·5	7·8	6·1	+ 0·7	+ 2·4
Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton ... ..	3,633	3·1	3·2	1·2	- 0·1	+ 1·9
Bristol Channel Ports ... ..	2,438	9·4	6·7	15·6	+ 2·7	- 6·2
Mersey ... ..	3,917	1·9	2·2	8·4	- 0·3	- 6·5
Clyde ... ..	12,227	7·4	10·2	3·4	- 2·8	+ 4·0
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ... ..	2,287	7·9	6·5	4·1	+ 1·4	+ 3·8
Belfast ... ..	3,040	2·6	1·7	1·4	+ 0·9	+ 1·2

Employment generally on the North East Coast continues bad, and much worse than a year ago. Shipjoiners, however, are busy overtaking arrears of work. On the Tyne employment with riveters and caulkers is rather worse than a month ago, chiefly on old or repair work. With shipwrights it continues moderate. With ship-smiths employment has improved slightly. On the Wear there has been some improvement, but employment is still very slack. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment is fair with shipwrights and smiths and strikers, but is slack with iron shipbuilders.

On the Humber employment generally is fair, but is bad at Grimsby. Iron shipbuilders are, however, slack, repairs being scarce and the new work consisting of small vessels, principally for the fishing trade.

On the Thames employment continues slack on both new and repair work, and worse than a year ago. At Chatham and Sheerness it is fairly good.

On the South Coast employment generally is good. At Southampton it is fair generally, but there is some slackness owing to removal of troopships. At Portsmouth shipwrights report employment as good, iron shipbuilders as slack. At Devonport it is very good in the Government yards, at private yards at Plymouth it is bad.

At the Bristol Channel Ports employment generally is not good, though better than a year ago. At Bristol it is slack with shipwrights but has been better than a month ago; iron shipbuilders are also slack. A report from Cardiff states that employment has been very good with much overtime.

On the Mersey employment continues fairly good, and better than a year ago. Work has been very fair on repairs, alterations and fittings for the passenger trade, and on refittings for the cattle trade.

At Barrow employment is not so good as a month or a year ago.

On the Clyde employment is better than in March, but is worse than a year ago. Repair work has been better. With iron shipbuilders and shipwrights employment is slack generally but fair at Govan, Renfrew and Clydebank. It is bad at Greenock and Dumbarton with iron shipbuilders. Smiths and strikers report it as moderate, shipyard helpers as improving, ship joiners as fair.



EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING.

On the East Coast of Scotland the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is greater than a month and a year ago. Iron shipbuilders report employment as slack, shipwrights as fair.

At Belfast employment continues good, but the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is slightly higher than a month and a year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that employment generally is moderate but slightly better than a month ago. On the whole some slight improvement is also shown as compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of 24 Trade Unions with 137,705 members show that 5,756 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4.6 per cent. at the end of March, and 5.0 per cent. in April, 1902. With pattern makers employment continues very good.

The state of employment in the principal districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Principal Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apr., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Apr., 1903, as compared with a	
		Apr., 1903.	Mar., 1903.	Apr., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		ENGLAND AND WALES.				
North-East Coast ...	13,724	5.7	6.1	4.6	- 0.4	+ 1.1
Manchester and Liverpool District ...	16,886	2.9	3.7	5.9	- 0.8	- 3.0
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District ...	10,779	5.4	6.4	6.3	- 1.0	- 0.9
West Riding Towns ...	11,882	6.5	6.4	7.4	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District ...	5,905	2.5	2.4	2.5	+ 0.1	...
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District ...	4,093	3.0	3.4	5.0	- 0.4	- 2.0
London and Neighbouring District ...	12,403	4.3	3.9	3.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
South Wales and Bristol District ...	5,740	2.0	2.9	3.3	- 0.9	- 1.3
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow and District ...	13,796	5.9	7.1	7.6	- 1.2	- 1.7
East of Scotland ...	3,573	6.0	7.7	9.8	- 1.7	- 3.8
IRELAND.						
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,459	3.2	3.2	5.0	...	- 1.8

It will be seen that in most of the districts show some improvement as compared with a month and a year ago. The greatest changes are in the Manchester and Liverpool and the East of Scotland districts, where considerable improvement as compared with a year ago is indicated.

**North-East Coast.**—Employment generally shows a further slight improvement but continues worse than a year ago. Pattern makers report employment as good. With ironfounders it continues good generally, but bad at Sunderland and South Shields. With engineers employment generally is dull, especially at Sunderland and Stockton, but it is good at Jarrow, moderate at Darlington and Middlesbrough. With brassfinishers employment is fair. In bridge building employment is good at Darlington and Middlesbrough, moderate at Stockton; at railway wagon shops it is good.

**Barrow and Lancaster.**—Employment generally has fallen off. Ironfounders report it as bad.

**Manchester and Liverpool District.**—Employment generally is fair. It shows a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, and the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is considerably less than a year ago. With pattern makers employment is very good. With ironfounders it is good, except at Liverpool, where, however, it is improving. Employment

with engineers is moderate generally, and bad at Stockport. Boilermakers report employment as moderate, brassfounders as good. At Crewe all branches continue busy.

**Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.**—Employment generally is still dull, but the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is rather less than a month and a year ago. With ironfounders employment is improving at Blackburn. Employment is bad with engineers in Oldham. It is moderate with engineers at Bolton and Rochdale, and with boilermakers at Dukinfield and Horwich.

**West Riding.**—Employment generally is quiet. The proportion of unemployed Trade Union members shows practically no change as compared with a month ago, but is less than a year ago. With pattern makers employment is moderate at Leeds, very good at Sheffield. Employment generally is reported as fair at Sheffield, but some branches are slack. At Bradford employment is good with ironfounders, moderate with engineers.

**Hull and Lincolnshire District.**—Employment generally is fair and better than a month and a year ago. With ironfounders it is good; with boilermakers moderate. Engineers report it as bad at Doncaster and Grimsby, as moderate elsewhere. At Lincoln and Grantham employment generally is good.

**West Midlands.**—Employment continues fairly good and the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members shows no change as compared with a year ago. With ironfounders employment is moderate at Birmingham, good elsewhere. Engineers and boilermakers report it as moderate generally. At Birmingham tool makers report it as fair; with military gun makers it continues quiet, with sporting gun makers fair. In the railway and wagon shops it continues good. In the cycle and motor industries employment continues good, with overtime.

**East Midlands.**—Employment generally is fair and about the same as a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is less than a year ago. With ironfounders employment is good at Derby and Leicester, moderate elsewhere. With boilermakers it is good at Derby, slack at Nottingham. Engineers report it as moderate. Employment is good with lace and hosiery machine builders, and in the cycle and motor industries. Shoe machinery makers are fairly well employed.

**London and Neighbouring District.**—Employment generally continues moderate. At Erith it is bad with engineers, good with pattern makers. Scientific and mathematical instrument makers are slack.

**South Coast.**—The proportion of unemployed Trade Union members shows little change as compared with a month and a year ago. Ironfounders report employment as good generally, but moderate at Southampton; engineers as moderate generally, as bad at Weymouth. At Southampton employment generally is stated to be fair, but not so good as a month or a year ago.

**South Wales and Bristol District.**—The general state of employment is good, and better than a month and a year ago. At Cardiff a good deal of overtime has been worked. Ironfounders report employment as bad at Swansea and Bristol. At Newport engineers report it as bad; ironfounders as improving. At Swindon engineers continue well employed, and boilermakers are very busy.

**Glasgow and District.**—Employment is not good, but the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was less than a month and a year ago. With pattern makers employment is fair. With moulders it is reported as moderate, on light work as good. It is fair with iron, steel and brass dressers, and with coppermiths. Engineers report employment as moderate in most branches, but at Greenock and Port Glasgow it continues bad.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—ENGINEERING; HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &C., TRADES; TEXTILE TRADES.

**East of Scotland.**—Employment generally shows a further improvement, and the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is considerably less than a year ago. In most branches employment is reported as moderate or fair, but with brassfounders and finishers it is dull. At Falkirk, pattern makers and moulders report it as good. At Aberdeen employment is dull.

**Ireland.**—Employment generally is fairly good, about the same as a month ago and better than a year ago. At Dublin brass founders are slack.

HARDWARE, CUTLERY, AND MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from three Employers' Associations, from 17 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

**Brasswork.**—Among brassworkers employment is reported as generally good, and better than a month and a year ago. It is fair at Birmingham, except with makers of fenders and firebrasses. Bedstead makers are also fairly employed. Employment is reported as slightly improving during the month at Wolverhampton. At Sheffield employment is fair, but is dull at London, Rotherham and Doncaster. At Leeds it is slack, but better than a month ago. At Nottingham employment is moderate, but it is reported as good at Manchester and Exeter.

**Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.**—With nut and bolt makers at West Bromwich and Wednesbury employment is fair, but at Birmingham moderate. Employment at Birmingham with makers of machine made rivets, and cut and wire nailmakers has been quiet, but spike and rivet makers at Blackheath, and wrought nail makers at Halesowen are fairly employed.

Makers of *General Hardware* are fairly employed at West Bromwich, but moderately so at Birmingham.

**Tubes.**—In the Staffordshire tube trade employment is reported as generally bad, but in Birmingham it is fair.

**Anchor, Anvils, Vices.**—Employment is slack with vice makers at Dudley, and chain makers at Cradley Heath. With anchor smiths and anvil makers at Dudley it is good, and also with chain and anchor smiths on the Tyne and Wear.

**Locks, Keys, etc.**—Makers of locks, keys and latches report employment as fair all round. Employment is good with makers of electrical fittings, iron fences and hurdles. It is fair with cast hollow ware makers and japanners. The malleable iron workers at Walsall continue badly employed.

**Files.**—In the file trade employment has been good at Warrington, fair at Wolverhampton; at Birmingham and Sheffield moderate in the hand-cutting trade; at Sheffield slack in the machine cut trade.

**Springs, Axles, etc.**—With railway spring makers employment at Sheffield is slack, but at Wednesbury it is reported as good with makers of railway springs, axles and tyres, and fair with steel and iron forgers.

**Stoves, Grates, etc.**—With stove grate and kitchen range makers employment has been quiet at Sheffield, Rotherham, Nottingham, Mansfield and Leeds. At Langley Mill it is fair, at Glasgow it is good, and at Falkirk it has improved during the month and is now reported fair.

**Sheet Metal.**—With workers of iron plate, tin and other sheet metals employment has been good at Exeter; fair at Glasgow; moderate at Sheffield, Leeds, Hull, Manchester, and Oldham; quiet but improving at Birmingham; slack at Wolverhampton, Bilston, the Lye, Nottingham and Dublin. In London it has been fair with iron-plate workers and braziers, but slack with iron and sheet metal workers, tin canister and tinnmen and zinc workers.

**Edge Tools.**—Edge tool makers report employment as good at Wolverhampton, moderate at Birmingham, quiet at Sheffield.

**Cutlery, etc.**—In the Sheffield cutlery trades employment on table knives is quiet, with pen and pocket blade forgers good, with grinders, knife cutters, and handle makers fair. Employment is slack on razors,

and with haft and scale pressers. At Redditch employment is good with needle and fish-hook makers. Hosiery machine needle makers at Loughborough report employment as good, but at Nottingham as slack.

**Gold, Silver, and Britannia Metal Work.**—Britannia metal workers report employment as quiet at Birmingham and slack at Sheffield, except with platers and gilders, who are well employed. With silversmiths, electro-platers, and jewellers employment is quiet at Birmingham. It is bad with silversmiths in Sheffield, many being on short time. In London goldsmiths, jewellers, small silver workers, and diamond workers report employment as quiet; silversmiths and plate polishers as fair; electro-platers moderate; silver spoon makers and finishers as good.

**Wirework.**—Wireworkers report employment as good at Warrington and Glasgow, quiet but improving at Sheffield, fair at Bristol, moderate at Bradford, slack at Manchester, and very bad at London, with much short time. In wire weaving employment is bad at London and Glasgow.

**Farriers.**—Farriers report employment as generally quiet at Aberdeen and Dublin, however, it is stated to be good at Cork, and in the Tyne and Wear districts moderate.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department and from 13 Employers' Associations. The estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns of these Associations and by the returns of the Trade correspondent is 214,000. Reports have also been furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department and by Trade Unions.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to 543 spinning and weaving factories, employing about 100,000 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources is as follows. Employment in the *Spinning* branch continues good, and is about the same as a month and better than a year ago. Practically no short time has been reported. Of the 27,000 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 91 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 94 per cent. in March and 80 per cent. in April, 1902.

In the *Weaving* branch employment continues irregular; it is about the same as a month and a year ago. Little short time has been reported, but looms in many districts are standing for warps. Of the 73,000 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 83 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 82 per cent. in March and with 84 per cent. in April, 1902.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women and girls, and also gives, for comparison, the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time throughout the Month.		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—Spinning—</b>				
April, 1903 ... ..	91	5	1	3
March, 1903 ... ..	94	2	—	1
April, 1902 ... ..	80	7	10	3
<b>Cotton Trade—Weaving—</b>				
April, 1903 ... ..	83	12	3	2
March, 1903 ... ..	82	15	1	2
April, 1902 ... ..	84	12	3	1

## EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—TEXTILE TRADES.

## COTTON SPINNING.

*Stockport, Manchester and Ashton District.*—Employment in the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Crumpsall district is good, and shows no change as compared with a month and a year ago. In the Manchester district it is good. In the Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield and Droylsden district it is good, and better than a year ago.

*Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).*—Mills are working full time, and employment is good, though trade is reported as unsatisfactory. Employment is better than a year ago, when short time was being worked at most of the Oldham mills.

*Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).*—Employment continues good generally. With card-room operatives it is fair.

*Bury and Rochdale District.*—In Bury and Elton employment is only moderate, being about the same as in March, but worse than a year ago. In Rochdale and Milnrow it is reported as good, being about the same as a month and a year ago. In Heywood employment is fairly good.

*Other Districts.*—In the Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde district employment continues good, and shows no change as compared with a year ago. In Preston employment is only moderate, and worse than a month and a year ago. In Blackburn and Burnley it continues good.

## COTTON WEAVING.

*Preston District.*—Employment is moderate, some firms giving fuller employment, others less than in March and is about the same as a year ago; no short time is reported, but looms are standing for warps.

*Blackburn, Darwen, and Chorley District.*—In Blackburn employment is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago, many looms standing for warps. In Darwen full time is being worked but a number of looms are waiting for warps. In Chorley employment is reported as unsatisfactory and worse than in March.

*Burnley, Accrington and Colne District.*—In Burnley and Padham employment is reported as bad and worse than a month and a year ago, many looms standing. In Nelson there is a slight improvement. In Accrington, Church and Oswaldtwistle employment shows a decline as compared with a month and a year ago; more looms are standing. In Colne employment is reported as fairly good, being about the same as a month and a year ago.

*Other Districts.*—In Bury and Elton many looms are standing for warps and employment is reported as irregular; it is about the same as in March but worse than a year ago. In Rochdale employment is irregular. In Radcliffe it is not so good as during the three previous months but is better than a year ago. In Bolton it is good and better than a month and a year ago.

## WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from two Employers' Associations, from Local Correspondents, and also from women correspondents with regard to 174 factories in Yorkshire employing about 29,500 women and girls.

Employment in the Woollen trade continues good generally, but remains quiet in the heavy branch. In the Worsted trade it shows a slight decline generally, but with woolcombers it has improved. Of the women and girls usually employed in the Yorkshire woollen and worsted factories reported on 82 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, to be compared with 85 per cent. in March, and with 93 per cent. in April, 1902.

*Bradford District.*—Employment in the worsted trade is reported as having slightly declined with spinners. With woolcombers it has improved, being reported as

good with women and fair with men. Employment at Keighley is reported as a little quieter, weavers having to wait for warps.

*Huddersfield District.*—Employment in the worsted trade shows no improvement as compared with March, and is not so good as a year ago. In the woollen trade in Huddersfield and the Colne Valley, a few firms continue to work overtime. In the heavy woollen trade in Dewsbury and Batley employment continues quiet, firms running full time, but several giving only partial employment.

*Other Districts.*—Employment in the Leeds mills is reported as moderate; at Morley and Wakefield as quiet; at Yeadon and Guiseley as good. With woollen workers in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport it continues good. Employment in the Stroud district is fairly good; at Wellington it is quiet. In Montgomeryshire it continues good. In Hawick, Galashiels and Selkirk it continues good in all branches of the woollen industry.

## OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

## Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from two Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades has been good and better than a month ago.

Information has been received with regard to 56 jute and flax factories, employing about 9,400 men and boys and 22,000 women and girls. From this it appears that of the 20,000 persons employed in spinning mills 93 per cent. were employed in mills running full time, and giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 81 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in March. Of the 11,400 employed in weaving works, 82 per cent. were employed in factories running full time and giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 66 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in March. The weavers in Forfar report employment as fairly good, the same as last month and a year ago.

In Ulster employment in the flax trade continues good. In Belfast the women workers' Trade Union reports employment as fair; the power loom tenters as good; the beetlers, the flax roughers, and hackle and gill makers as quiet; the flax dressers as dull.

Linen weavers at Barnsley are reported as moderately employed.

## Hosiery Trade.

According to reports from one Trade Union and from Local Correspondents, employment shows a further decline, but is still fair on the whole.

*Leicester District.*—Employment at Leicester is fairly good generally. In Loughborough it is quiet, but is moderately good in seamless hose and natural wool and cashmere underwear. In Hinckley it is rather slacker in most branches.

*Nottingham and Derby District.*—On the whole employment is worse than last month and a year ago. It is reported as moderate and declining with power frame work knitters; as fair in the circular hose branch; as slacker in the rib top branch; as rather quiet with female operatives in factories and in the finishing departments; as fair at Arnold, Calverton and Woodborough; as bad with Shetland shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard. Employment with hosiery workers at Belper is slack.

*Scotland.*—In the Hawick and Selkirk district hosiery workers continue busy, as in March and a year ago.

## Lace Trade.

According to information from the Employers' Association, the Lace Makers' Trade Union and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham Lace Trade, in the levers section, shows a decline and is worse than a year ago; it is fair in the curtain and plain net

## EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING TRADE; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

branches, being about the same as a month and a year ago. Employment is quiet at Beeston, moderate at Stapleford, regular at Kimberley and Bulwell.

## Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, 4 Trade Unions with about 12,000 members, and Local Correspondents. One dyers' Trade Union in the West Riding with 5,200 members reports that one-fifth of the members worked overtime during April, and three-fifths worked short time. Another dyers and finishers' Trade Union reports employment as moderate in Bradford and Huddersfield; as good in Holmfirth, Middleton, Bury and Burnley; as slack in Barnsley and Todmorden. In Leeds, black dyers are moderately well employed, blue dyers are quiet. In the Bolton district the dyers and finishers report employment as moderate. Calico printers in the Manchester district are busy; dyers are slack. The cotton and wool dyers' Employers' Association, covering Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the south of Scotland, reports employment as fair, and about the same as a month and a year ago.

Employment with dyers and trimmers in Leicester is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; short time was worked during the greater part of April. It has improved with dyers and is good with bleachers in Basford and Bulwell. With dyers at Macclesfield it is fair; at Leek moderate. In the Dundee district it is fair with finishers and dyers but considerably worse than a year ago; the bleachers in Arbroath are working short time.

## TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents and Trade Unions.

*Bespoke Branch.*—Employment again shows a general improvement and is good on the whole, although it is reported as bad for the time of year in the West End of London.

*Ready-made Branch.*—Employment generally is fair, but a marked decline is reported in Leeds.

Employment in London at the end of the month was fair on the whole. It fluctuated during the month and compared with March showed an improvement in some firms, a decline in others. The cutters' Trade Union reports that employment is very quiet in the stock trade, fair in order work, good in the shipping trade, and that generally employment is better than a month and a year ago.

In Leeds, according to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 12,000 workpeople in their factories in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during April was poor or bad in firms employing 44 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns. Firms employing 10½ per cent. report employment as better than in March, and firms employing 53 per cent. as worse, firms employing 36½ per cent. reporting no change. As compared with a year ago firms employing 4 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 71 per cent. as worse. The clothiers' operatives' Trade Union reports employment as bad.

In Manchester employment continued fairly good, showing an improvement at the end of the month, and is about the same as a year ago.

In Bristol employment continued good, being much the same as in March and better than a year ago. In Norwich employment is reported as fairly good; in Ipswich and Colchester as good.

Employment in Glasgow is reported as fairly good.

## BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Leather Trades see p. 142.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 554 firms employing 70,520 workpeople. Reports

have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The reports show that employment generally is fair. It is slightly better than in March and distinctly better than a year ago. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of April was 70,520 compared with 70,005 at the end of March, and with 67,912 a year ago, an increase of 0.7 per cent. during the month, and of 3.8 per cent. during the year. Of the total number of operatives, 81 per cent. were employed by firms working at least full time throughout April, to be compared with 78 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for March.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the number employed in the various districts at the end of April with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns:—

District.	No. of firms making returns	No. employed by these firms at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on	
		Apr. 1903.	Mar. 1903.	Apr. 1902.	Mar. 1903.	Apr. 1902.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ... ..	72	6,054	6,050	5,858	+ 0.1	+ 5.3
Leicester and District ... ..	99	16,248	16,219	15,861	+ 0.2	+ 2.4
Northampton and District ... ..	148	18,560	18,046	17,181	+ 8	+ 8*
Kettering ... ..	30	3,512	3,504	3,481	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
Stafford and District ... ..	17	2,747	2,756	2,732	+ 0.8	+ 0.5
Norwich and District ... ..	34	5,100	5,032	4,889	+ 5	+ 4.4
Bristol ... ..	16	1,903	1,921	1,735	- 0.9	+ 9.7
Kingswood ... ..	20	2,246	2,280	2,239	- 1.5	+ 0.3
Leeds and District ... ..	36	3,282	3,307	3,108	- 0.8	+ 5.6
Manchester and District ... ..	15	2,320	2,331	2,174	- 0.5	+ 6.7
Birmingham and District ... ..	11	1,305	1,312	1,299	- 0.5	+ 0.5
Other parts of England & Wales	30	2,357	2,386	2,324	- 1.2	+ 1.4
Total, England and Wales	528	65,640	65,114	62,881	+ 0.8	+ 4.4
SCOTLAND ... ..	24	4,459	4,479	4,673	- 0.2	- 4.5
IRELAND ... ..	2	411	412	358	- 0.2	+ 14.8
Total ... ..	554	70,520	70,005	67,912	+ 0.7	+ 3.8

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

*London.*—Returns covering 6,054 workpeople show that 95 per cent. were in firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 90 per cent. in March. Employment amongst the Trade Union boot and shoe operatives is reported as fair, and as better than a month and a year ago; the clickers' Trade Union reports it as bad and worse than a year ago. With handsewn boot makers it is better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

*Leicester District.*—Returns covering 13,692 workpeople in Leicester and 2,556 in country districts show that 77 per cent. of the former and 54 per cent. of the latter were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 68½ and 84 per cent. respectively in March. Employment at Leicester shows a slight improvement; at Hinckley it is rather slack.

*Northampton District.*—Returns covering 9,098 workpeople in Northampton and 9,462 in country districts show that 87 per cent. of the former and 90 per cent. of the latter were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 85½ and 78 per cent. respectively in March. Employment has improved, but is slack for time of year. Makers of handsewn work are fully employed. Returns covering 3,512 workpeople in Kettering show that 94 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 96 per cent. in March.

*Stafford, Stone, and Nantwich.*—Returns covering 2,747 workpeople show that all were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 92 per cent. in March. Employment at Stafford and Stone is reported as very good, a large proportion of the operatives working overtime.

*Eastern Counties.*—Returns covering 5,106 workpeople in Norwich, Ipswich, Colchester and Braintree show

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—BOOT AND SHOE, HAT AND OTHER CLOTHING TRADES;  
PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

that 73 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 75 per cent. in March. Employment is reported as dull.

**Bristol and Kingswood.**—Returns covering 1,903 workpeople in Bristol show that 60 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 63 per cent. in March. Of the 2,246 workpeople in Kingswood covered by the returns, 51 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 46 per cent. in March. Employment in Bristol and Kingswood is reported as irregular, and as showing no improvement compared with March.

**Leeds.**—Returns covering 3,282 workpeople show that 54 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 58 per cent. in March. Employment continues bad.

**Other Districts in England.**—Employment at Mansfield and Manchester is reported as fair; at Birmingham as quiet; at Nottingham as bad.

**Scotland.**—Returns covering 4,469 workpeople show that 86 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 82 per cent. in March. Employment continues slack in Maybole, and fair in Kilmarnock. In Edinburgh it is reported as good; in Aberdeen as quiet.

HAT TRADE.

REPORTS have been received from two Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment generally is slack. Trade Unions with 5,142 members have 145 (or 2·7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2·9 per cent. at the end of March and 3·4 per cent. a year ago.

Employment with silk hatters in London is reported as bad for the time of year, and worse than a month and a year ago. During April most shops worked short time to the extent of one or two hours a day. In Denton the silk hatters' Trade Union reports employment as quiet and rather worse than a month and a year ago.

With felt hatters, employment in Denton is reported as better than last month. In Stockport employment is reported as quiet, and worse than a month ago; in Bury as bad; in Hyde, Hurst and Failsworth as moderate in the stiff hat branch, quiet in the soft hat branch. Employment in Warwickshire is reported as quiet, much short time being worked, as better than in March, but worse than a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

In London employment with mantle-makers has been fairly good with some firms, slack, or bad, with others; it is reported as worse than a month or a year ago. Employment was worse at the end of the month than at the beginning. The returns from three Employment Bureaux for women show an increased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago and a year ago, the number of fresh situations offered during the month being 167, compared with 134 in March and 146 in April, 1902. The number requiring situations was only 26, compared with 70 in March and 33 in April, 1902. Employment in wholesale millinery manufacture is reported as only fair generally, and as bad in some cases. Employment in the shirt and collar trade is fair, the numbers employed by the firms making returns showing little change compared with a month or a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle-makers is reported as fair generally, although worse in some cases. Employment in the costume and skirt trade showed a marked decline, and was generally dull at the end of the month, piece workers earning considerably less wages than in March; returns from manufacturers employing 2,544 workpeople in their factories at the end of April show practically no change in the numbers employed

compared with a month ago, but an increase of 6·8 per cent. on the number employed at the end of April, 1902. Employment with shirtmakers is reported as steady but not busy.

In Glasgow employment with mantlemakers in factories, although reported as still fairly good, on the whole shows a decline compared with March. In the shirt and slop factories employment showed a decline and was quiet at the end of the month.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been supplied by 24 Employers' Associations, by Trade Unions with 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents. The information thus obtained shows that employment in the Printing and Bookbinding Trades was worse at the end of April than a month and a year ago, and is now quiet, especially in the letterpress section of the Printing trade. A slight improvement is reported, however, in some branches; while in Scotland, though a decline is shown as compared with a month ago, employment generally remains fairly good.

In the Paper Trade employment has declined and is rather dull, except in Lancashire, where it is reported as still fairly good.

The following Table shows the percentage of Trade Union Members unemployed as compared with a month and a year ago:—

	United Kingdom.				London.			
	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of		
		Apr., 1903.	Mar., 1903.	Apr., 1902.		Apr., 1903.	Mar., 1903.	Apr., 1902.
Letterpress Printing	39,748	5·1	4·0	4·2	19,115	5·1	3·6	3·4
Lithographic Printing	6,183	4·7	4·7	3·0	1,881	6·7	7·1	4·8
Bookbinding	6,988	4·9	4·7	4·2	3,927	5·5	5·4	4·3
Total Printing and Bookbinding	52,919	5·1	4·2	4·1	24,923	5·3	4·2	3·6
Paper Manufacture	2,247	3·2	2·6	2·0	...	...	...	...

The percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the Printing and Bookbinding Trades in the principal districts were as follow:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apr. 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) or percentage unemployed for Apr., 1903, as compared with a	
		Apr., 1903.	Mar., 1903.	Apr., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	24,923	5·3	4·2	3·6	+ 1·1	+ 1·7
Northern Counties ...	1,344	2·0	5·3	3·7	+ 1·7	+ 3·3
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,143	6·8	6·9	6·8	− 0·1	+ 1·2
Yorkshire ...	3,884	4·8	3·0	3·6	+ 1·8	+ 1·2
East Midlands ...	1,842	3·9	3·1	2·1	+ 0·8	+ 1·8
West Midlands ...	2,248	5·3	4·3	5·9	+ 1·0	− 0·6
Eastern Counties ...	368	1·4	2·2	1·9	− 0·8	− 0·3
S. & S. W. Counties ...	2,016	2·8	3·8	4·4	− 1·0	− 1·6
Wales and Mon. ...	799	5·2	4·0	3·6	+ 1·2	+ 1·6
Scotland ...	5,956	2·7	1·6	3·1	+ 1·1	− 0·4
Ireland ...	2,523	7·8	7·5	5·7	+ 0·3	+ 2·1

Percentages for London are shown in the first Table for each branch of the Printing and Bookbinding Trades. Reports from other districts are summarised below:—

**Northern Counties.**—Employment is described as fair in most of the towns in this district.

**Lancashire and Cheshire.**—Employment is still bad in Manchester and quiet in Liverpool; in other towns it is fairly good.

**Yorkshire.**—Employment remains fairly good, on the whole, at Sheffield; it is quiet at other centres.

**East Midland Counties.**—Employment at Nottingham is reported as slack. It is good at Derby, Leicester, Retford, Lincoln and Kettering; fair at Northampton; quiet at Glossop.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES; GLASS, POTTERY, &c., TRADES.

**West Midland Counties.**—Employment at Birmingham is moderate with letterpress printers and bookbinders; good with lithographic printers. It is fairly good in other towns, except with letterpress printers in the Potteries and at Wolverhampton, who report it as dull.

**Eastern Counties.**—Employment remains fairly good in this district.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Employment is fairly good generally. At Portsmouth, however, it is described as poor.

**Wales and Monmouth.**—Employment in this district is quiet generally.

**Scotland.**—Employment, though declining, remains fairly good on the whole.

**Ireland.**—Employment in Dublin and Cork is fair on the whole. At Belfast 9·2 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed at the end of the month.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 7 Employers' Associations, from 35 Trade Unions with 37,496 members, and from Local Correspondents. Employment, on the whole, is moderate. It shows an improvement as compared with March, but is not up to the level of a year ago.

The percentage of unemployed Trade Unionists in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of April was 3·0, compared with 4·1 in March, and 2·4 in April, 1902.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers shows little change as compared with the previous month. It is rather better than a year ago. Three unions, with a membership of 4,843, show 156 (or 3·2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April as compared with 3·2 per cent. at the end of March, and 3·6 per cent. at the end of April, 1902.

In London employment is dull generally, and some short time is being worked. On the Tyne it is fairly good; on the Wear it is dull; on the Tees and at Middlesbrough it is fair. At Liverpool and Manchester employment is quiet. At Leeds it is moderate, at Hull quiet. Employment at Leicester and Northampton is improving, at Birmingham it is still quiet, at Nottingham it is slack. At Bristol employment has improved, in South Wales it is quiet generally.

In Edinburgh employment is fair; at Glasgow it has improved; at Dundee and Aberdeen it is good. At Dublin it remains dull; in Belfast and Cork however employment is good.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades generally continues to improve, being better than a month and a year ago.

Of the 15,130 members of 15 Trade Unions making returns, 247 (or 1·6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 3·6 per cent. at the end of March, and 1·7 per cent. at the end of April, 1902.

In London employment has been fairly good on the whole, showing a slight improvement both as regards a month and a year ago. Upholsterers also are better employed.

**Northern Counties and Yorkshire.**—On the Tyne and Wear cabinet makers are somewhat better employed than in March and with upholsterers employment is brisk. In Sheffield employment is good; at Leeds there is a good demand for labour; at Hull employment is moderate.

**Lancashire.**—Employment is fair with all branches of the furnishing trades at Liverpool, and a little overtime is being worked; at Manchester, Burnley, and Bolton it is fair; at Oldham it is quiet.

**Midlands.**—At Nottingham employment with upholsterers and french polishers is fair, with cabinet makers it is moderate; at Leicester it is quiet, except with polishers, who are fairly well employed; at Birmingham it is moderate.

**S. W. Counties and Wales.**—Employment at Bristol is fair generally, but some short time is being worked. At Plymouth it is fair, in South Wales generally it is quiet.

**Scotland.**—Employment in Edinburgh is good generally, and upholsterers and french polishers are on overtime. At Glasgow it is fairly good; at Aberdeen and Dundee it is fair.

**Ireland.**—Employment at Dublin is about the same as a month ago; at Belfast it is good; at Cork it is fair.

Coopers.

Employment among coopers has improved very little since the end of March, and is still bad. It is worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,229 report 340 (or 6·5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6·4 per cent. in March and 4·4 in April, 1902. In London, Leeds, Burton-on-Trent and Birmingham employment continues bad; on the Tyne and at Hull it is fair; at Liverpool and Bristol it is dull; at Manchester slack. At Widnes employment with coopers in chemical works is fair, as also with those in china clay works at St. Austell. At Glasgow and Edinburgh employment continues bad, but coopers in the fish-curing establishments at Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, and Peterhead remain well employed. At Dublin employment is good; at Limerick fair; at Cork and Belfast bad.

Coachbuilding.

Employment in the coachbuilding industry is moderate. It is better than a month ago, but worse than in April, 1902. Trade Unions with a membership of 9,215 report 288 or 3·1 per cent. unemployed, compared with 4·5 at the end of March, and 2·0 at the end of April, 1902. In London employment generally is quiet and some short time is still being worked. At Swindon the men employed in the railway carriage works are fairly well employed. At Manchester employment is fair; at Liverpool it is bad. At Newton Heath coachmakers in carriage works are moderately employed. At Birmingham employment with coachmakers is good. In Glasgow employment is good; at Edinburgh it is moderate; at Dublin it is bad; at Belfast it is good.

Miscellaneous.

**Packing Case Makers.**—Employment continues slack; it is bad in London, and short time is still being worked; at Birmingham and Nottingham it is bad; at Glasgow and Belfast it is quiet.

**Brushmakers.**—Employment continues good. Four Unions with a membership of 1,766 report 29 (or 1·6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 0·9 per cent. in March and 0·8 per cent. in April, 1902. In London only 6 out of a total Trade Union membership of 785 are unemployed.

**Other Trades.**—With lathrenders employment is slack generally; it is bad on the Tyne; moderate at Hull; dull at Edinburgh. Employment is bad with basket-makers and stick-mounters in London, with stick-makers it is fair. At Manchester and Leicester basketmakers are well employed.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 12 Employers' Associations, 9 Trade Unions with 5,273 members, Local Correspondents and Employers.

Employment in the Glass trades continues bad in the bottle making branch; in other branches it is dull generally although reported as fair in some departments. In the Pottery trades an improvement is again reported but short time is still general. In the Brick and Tile trades employment continues fair.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment with glass bottle makers in the North of England continues bad, and worse than a year ago. In the St. Helens and Newton-le-Willows district it shows a slight improvement, but the bottle makers' Trade Union reports a higher percentage of members unemployed than a year ago. In the West Riding of Yorkshire employment continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the Glasgow, Alloa and Portobello district employment is reported as bad, with

## EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—GLASS, POTTERY, &amp;c., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

much short time, and as worse than a year ago. In Dublin employment is reported as fair.

In London, glass blowers report employment as continuing fairly good, and as about the same as a year ago. In Birmingham flint-glass makers report it as bad; flint glass cutters as slack; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as fair. At West Bromwich employment generally is reported as moderate. In all branches of the flint glass trades at Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge it is reported as quiet. At St. Helens sheet glass makers and flatteners report it as good; decorative glass workers as fair. With pressed glass makers at Gateshead it continues bad. In the Glasgow district flint glass makers and pressed glass makers are working short time. In Edinburgh glass makers and glass cutters report employment as dull, and worse than a year ago.

**Pottery Trades.**—Although in the Staffordshire Potteries employment generally has improved, short time is still the rule. Printers and transferrers are well employed. Ovenmen are reported as averaging  $4\frac{1}{2}$  days per week, an improvement on March; encaustic tile makers  $5\frac{1}{2}$  days. Stilt and spur makers have been busy.

In London employment is reported as quiet, and is not so good as a year ago. In the Glasgow and Portobello districts it is reported as remaining fair, but as not so good as a year ago.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—In the Plymouth brickyards employment is quiet. In the Leicestershire district brick and tile makers are well employed. In the Nottingham district employment continues fair and is much the same as a year ago. In the Birmingham district it is fair, showing an improvement compared with a month and a year ago. In West Bromwich and Oldbury employment is reported as fair and better than a month ago, but as worse than a year ago. At Northampton brickmakers are fully employed. In North Wales employment continues good. In the Glasgow district it continues fair but is not so good as a year ago.

## LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trade see page 139.)

RETURNS have been received from 5 Employers' Associations and 11 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 5.3 at the end of April, as compared with 6.3 in March and 2.7 in April, 1902. The general condition of employment remains dull, and short time is still worked, especially in the dressing and preparatory stages of the trade.

**Tanners, Curriers, &c.**—Skinners generally have not been well employed, but a slight improvement is reported in the London district. With curriers and leather dressers employment remains slack. In the Bristol district there has been increased short time among the tanners. On the other hand, the curriers report an improvement at Edinburgh, with some overtime, while at Bolton and Dundee employment remains fairly good for curriers, and also for tanners and machine leather workers. In all departments of the trade employment is dull at Leicester and Northampton. At Wellingborough it is fairly good with dressers of light leather.

**Saddlers.**—With saddlers employment remains generally worse than a year ago, but continues to improve in the London district. It is also reported as fair in the Walsall district, especially with new brown and gig saddlers. In Birmingham employment is bad. At Nottingham saddlers are well employed. In Bristol they are reported as slack; in Glasgow as fair; in Edinburgh as moderate; in Dublin worse than a month ago, although better than a year ago.

**Harness Makers.**—Among harness makers employment is generally dull; in the Walsall district it is reported as fair on United States and best quality harness; bad with other harness and with female harness stitchers, there being some short time worked, and a strike in progress. At Walsall employment is quiet with bridle cutters, collar makers, buckle, chain, cart gear, case hame, and spring

hook makers. In London horse collar makers report some improvement.

**Miscellaneous Leather Workers.**—With pocket-book and leather case makers, and with portmanteau and trunk makers in London, employment is bad, and worse than a year ago, though slightly better than a month ago, but short time is general.

## AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the condition of employment in Agriculture has been received from 210 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that the growth of crops was somewhat retarded by cold weather in the early part of April, and there was consequently but little hoeing to be done, but work on the land was regular on the whole, though there was some little interruption at the end of the month through wet weather. The demand for extra men was small, and the supply was generally sufficient, and in some districts more than sufficient. Difficulty in getting skilled men for permanent situations continues to be reported from several counties.

**Northern Counties.**—In *Northumberland*, *Durham*, *Cumberland* and *Westmorland* agricultural labourers are stated to have been in fairly regular employment during April. There was some delay in sowing in the early part of the month, owing to rain, but the weather improved latterly and work was then plentiful. A correspondent in the Hexham Union states that at the hiring-fair farm servants were rather easier to get, but boys were scarce, and women to work in the fields were not to be had. Reports from *Lancashire* show that casual labourers have been in full employment in most places, the supply being about equal to the demand. Farm labourers in *Yorkshire* have been, on the whole, well employed, and very little time has been lost through unfavourable weather. The supply of extra men was in most parts equal to the demand. Correspondents in the *Pattingham* and *Selby* Unions report the arrival of some Irish migratory labourers for potato planting and other work.

**Midland Counties.**—Correspondents in *Derbyshire* and *Cheshire* report that employment in the fields for casual labourers has been fairly regular, the weather, on the whole, having been favourable for outdoor work. A correspondent in the *Bakewell* Union states that it is difficult to get good cattlemen on account of their dislike to milking on Saturday evenings and Sundays. In *Nottinghamshire* employment has been plentiful, and most agricultural labourers have been in regular work. In *Leicestershire* work is stated to have been somewhat hindered in certain districts by cold weather, but casual labourers have been in most cases in full employment, the supply being about equal to the demand. Regularity of employment is reported in *Staffordshire* and *Shropshire*. Men for permanent situations, especially stockmen, are said to be scarce. Reports from *Worcestershire* show that employment has been a little interrupted by wet weather. Agricultural labourers are said to be rather more plentiful this spring than a year ago. Outdoor employment for farm labourers in *Warwickshire* is stated to have been somewhat interrupted by wet weather towards the end of the month, causing some loss of time to a few casual men.

In *Oxfordshire* agricultural labourers have been, generally speaking, in regular employment, but there was little demand for extra labour. Shepherds, carters, and cowmen are, however, in request. Farm labourers in *Northamptonshire* are stated to have been in full work generally. The supply of extra men in most parts is said to have been sufficient. Work was somewhat hindered in the latter part of the month by wet weather. In *Buckinghamshire* employment has been regular. The demand for casual labourers was in excess of the supply, many being employed on railway and public works in the county. Agricultural work in *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire*, though somewhat interrupted by rain and frost, is fairly well forward. There has been no great demand for casual labourers, and the supply has been generally sufficient.

## EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

**Eastern Counties.**—Regularity of employment is reported in *Huntingdonshire*. Some scarcity of agricultural labour is reported on account of the militia being out for training. Employment has been generally regular in *Cambridgeshire*, but some casual labourers have not been in constant work owing chiefly to cold, dry weather which delayed hoeing. Reports from *Lincolnshire* show that a few farm labourers were in irregular work during the month owing to unfavourable weather. The supply of men in some districts was scarcely sufficient. Employment in *Norfolk* has been fairly regular, and in a few districts the supply of labour was in excess of the demand. The weather was cold and stormy during part of the month, but casual labourers found work in feeding stock and sowing corn, etc. Regularity of employment is reported from *Suffolk*, but some casual men have lost time in certain districts. The supply of this class of labour has been in excess of the demand. Farm labourers in *Essex* are said to have been for the most part in regular work, and the supply of extra men has been sufficient, work on the land being fairly well forward.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—The reports from *Kent* show that although the weather has been favourable many casual labourers have been irregularly employed, and the supply of this class of men has been in excess of the demand. In *Surrey* and *Sussex* farm labourers are reported to be fully employed in most districts. Two or three days were lost by casual men in some parts through unsettled weather. Difficulty is reported in obtaining carters and cowmen. Employment in *Hampshire* was fairly regular during the month, and the supply of extra labour was generally equal to the demand. According to reports from *Berkshire*, farm labourers were, as a rule, fully employed; there was not a great demand for casual men, and the supply was in most cases sufficient. In *Wiltshire* employment has been regular during April, except for one or two days. Men for permanent situations are reported to be rather scarce. Regularity of employment is reported in *Dorsetshire*. There was a good deal of work in sowing, banking, and hedging, but the demand for extra labour was small, and the supply was, as a rule, sufficient. Farm labourers in *Somersetshire* were regularly employed, except at the end of the month, when a few men lost time owing to wet weather. The supply of labour was in most parts sufficient, but a scarcity is reported in certain districts. In *Herefordshire* employment has been found for casual labourers in the orchards and hop gardens. Work in ploughing and sowing is stated to be in arrear owing to unfavourable weather. Skilled men (waggoners, milkmen and hedgers) are in demand. Employment for farm labourers in *Gloucestershire* was regular till the end of the month, when there was some interruption through wet weather. The supply of casual labourers was sufficient, and in certain parts in excess of the demand. Few casual labourers are reported as out of work in *Devon* and *Cornwall*, and in many districts there was a scarcity of men.

## DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions. As regards other principal ports, information has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, Local Correspondents of the Department, and Trade Unions.

Employment was generally fair in April. It was a little better than in the previous month, but worse than in the corresponding month of last year.

## LONDON.

Employment at the docks and wharves during April was about the same as during March, but was worse than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended April 25th was 12,653, a decrease of

0.4 per cent. as compared with the average for the previous month, and of 9.2 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The average number employed in April during the six years, 1897-1902 was 14,380.

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

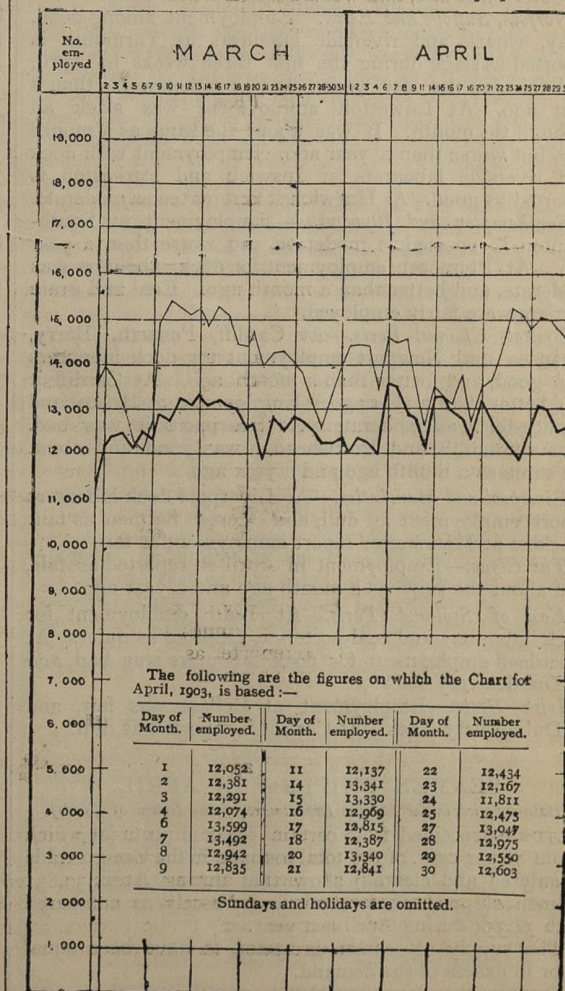
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended April 4	4,917	1,840	6,757	5,486	12,243
" " " 11	4,736	2,604	7,340	5,661	13,001
" " " 18	4,946	2,602	7,548	5,420	12,968
" " " 25	5,085	2,071	7,156	5,355	12,511
Average for 4 weeks ended April 25th	4,928	2,250	7,178	5,475	12,653
Average for Mar., 1903	5,154	2,028	7,182	5,521	12,703
Average for Apr., 1902	6,009	2,224	8,233	5,704	13,937

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in April ranged from 13,599 on the 6th to 11,811 on the 24th.

During April, 1902, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 12,612 on the 12th to 15,319 on the 24th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of March and April, 1903. The corresponding curve for March and April, 1902, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1903, and the thin curve to 1902.]



EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; SEAMEN; FISHING.

Employment in mid-stream and with stevedores, lightermen, lumpers, winchmen, and coal, corn, and deal porters has been moderate. With fruit porters in Thames-street employment has been fair, the average daily number employed being 297, compared with 289 in March, and 326 a year ago.

Of the 3,414 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London, during April, 1903, 60 per cent. on the average were employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, compared with 54 per cent. in the previous month, and 61 per cent. in April, 1902.

OTHER PORTS.

**North-East Coast.**—At Newcastle-on-Tyne and South Shields employment for dock, wharf and quay labourers was fair, and slightly better than a month ago. At the former port it was better than a year ago, but at the latter it was worse. Employment for dock labourers at Sunderland was fair, and better than a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. Employment for coal porters and shippers on both Tyne and Wear was slightly better. With steam packet men on both rivers it was much better. Wear tug boat men report employment as fairly good, though rather worse than a month ago. At Middlesbrough employment for dock labourers was fair, and at the Hartlepoons bad, but fair for riverside labour.

**Hull, Grimsby, and Goole.**—At Hull employment for dock labourers, coal porters and timber trade workers was moderate, but bad for lightermen. Employment for dock labourers, timber trade workers and coal porters at Grimsby was moderate, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. At Goole employment for dock labourers was bad, and worse than a month ago.

**Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.**—Employment among dock, quay, wharf, and riverside labourers at Yarmouth is reported as slack during the first three weeks in April, and fair for the last week. It was rather worse than a year ago. At Lowestoft employment was slack all through this month. It was about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Employment with dock and riverside labourers at Ipswich and Parkeston is reported as good. At Harwich it is reported as moderate.

**Southampton and Plymouth.**—Employment at Southampton is reported as moderate, and worse than a year ago. At Plymouth employment for dock labourers was moderate, and better than a month ago. Coal and grain carriers were fairly employed.

**Bristol Channel Ports.**—At Cardiff, Penarth, Barry, Swansea and Newport employment for dock labourers was good, and better than a month ago. At Cardiff it was better than a year ago. Employment at Bristol and Gloucester was moderate. At Sharpness it was bad. At Avonmouth and Portishead it was good, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

**Liverpool and Manchester.**—At Liverpool dock labourers report employment as dull, and Mersey flatmen as fair. Dockers at Manchester report employment as fair.

**The Clyde.**—Employment in April is reported as fair, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

**East of Scotland Ports.**—At Leith employment for dock labourers and coal-porters is reported as quiet. At Aberdeen employment for dock labourers was bad, and at Dundee very slack.

**Irish Ports.**—Employment at Belfast was fair, and at Dublin very slack. At Cork it is reported as dull.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade). RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during April, 33,831 seamen shipped on foreign-going vessels, as compared with 34,354 during April last year.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been equal to or in excess of the demand.

During the four completed months of this year,

129,992\* seamen have been shipped, of whom 20,870 (or 16.0 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 127,392\* seamen were shipped, of whom 20,588 (or 16.2 per cent.) were foreigners.

Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in April, 1903 and 1902, respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the four months ended April in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in April, 1903.*			Total in April, 1902.*	Total number* shipped in four months ended April.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April, 1903.*		1903.	1902.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ... ..	46	2,333	2,379	2,700	9,518	9,963
Sunderland ... ..	...	427	427	405	1,494	1,454
Middlesbrough ... ..	...	180	180	209	794	751
Hull ... ..	...	906	913	891	4,079	3,731
Grimsby ... ..	...	7	73	86	325	150
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ... ..	...	422	422	516	2,428	1,862
Newport, Mon. ... ..	...	59	640	699	705	2,826
Cardiff † ... ..	...	116	4,190	4,306	5,006	18,157
Swansea ... ..	...	37	619	656	409	1,942
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ... ..	...	110	11,763	11,873	11,708	44,136
London ... ..	...	148	5,899	6,047	6,293	23,080
Southampton ... ..	...	...	2,052	2,052	2,384	8,460
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth ... ..	...	576	576	414	1,879	1,761
Glasgow ... ..	...	2,851	2,851	2,450	9,616	8,471
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ... ..	...	118	118	57	479	410
Belfast ... ..	...	...	259	259	98	985
<b>Total, April, 1903</b> ... ..	<b>523</b>	<b>33,308</b>	<b>33,831</b>	...	<b>129,992</b>	...
<b> Ditto, April, 1902</b> ... ..	<b>963</b>	<b>33,891</b>	...	<b>34,354</b>	...	<b>127,392</b>

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Collectors of Fishery Statistics in England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; and also from Local Correspondents.

Employment in the fishing industry during April was generally better than a month ago. Both the quantity and value of fish landed were above the totals for the corresponding month of last year.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed:—

COUNTRY.	Quantity (Exclusive of Shell Fish).		Landing Value (Inclusive of Shell Fish).	
	April, 1903.	April, 1902.	April, 1903.	April, 1902.
England and Wales ... ..	Cwts. 702,550	Cwts. 653,640	£ 585,583	£ 552,233
Scotland ... ..	186,159†	187,687†	121,833	113,295
Ireland ... ..	39,137	27,501	25,486	22,237
<b>United Kingdom</b> ... ..	<b>927,846‡</b>	<b>868,828‡</b>	<b>732,902</b>	<b>687,765</b>

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that the unsettled state of the weather interfered with the work of the line boats, although trawl fishing was good.

At Grimsby employment in the fishing industry was generally better than a month ago; at Hull it showed little change. Employment among fishermen at Yarmouth and Lowestoft was better than a month ago. With fish dock labourers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft employment was fair, and with fish curers at Yarmouth it was moderate. At Harwich the fishing industry was quiet. From Plymouth it is reported that fishing operations improved during the month, owing to better weather, and employment was consequently better with fish packers and carters.

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

Reports supplied by the Fishery Board for Scotland show that at Aberdeen employment in all branches was good, and better than a month or a year ago. Employment at Fraserburgh was bad, and much the same as a month ago; at Peterhead it was moderate, and showed some improvement towards the end of the month, but it was worse than a month ago. At both these ports it was worse than a year ago. At Macduff employment among fishermen and fish curers was moderate, and better than a month or a year ago.

LABOUR DISPUTES AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN FRANCE IN 1901.

Labour Disputes.

THE Report for 1901 on strikes and lock-outs in France, issued by the French Labour Department,\* shows that in the year under review, 523 trade disputes took place, as against 903 in 1900 (a reduction of 42 per cent.), there being at the same time a reduction of 50 per cent., both in the number of workpeople involved in disputes, and in the number of working days lost by such workpeople.

The figures for the two years are given in the following Table, which also shows the extent, to which the principal groups of trades were affected by disputes:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Disputes.		Number of Workpeople who took part in Disputes.		Number of Working Days lost by Workpeople affected directly and indirectly by Disputes.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
Building Trades ... ..	130	86	13,540	8,573	170,254	143,217
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	53	31	43,777	22,137	487,267	825,688
Metal Trades ... ..	110	68	18,449	7,781	149,770	130,400
Textile Trades ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Manufacture ... ..	236	100	49,418	12,361	1,716,129	303,553
Textile Goods (Clothing, &c.) † ... ..	26	13	10,791	1,753	58,474	47,512
Transport ... ..	128	67	47,125	36,636	363,203	319,629
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ... ..	14	7	2,359	1,402	15,496	14,275
Miscellaneous Trades ... ..	206	151	37,310	20,771	800,634	277,776
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>903</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>222,769</b>	<b>111,414</b>	<b>3,761,227</b>	<b>1,862,050</b>

The following is a classification of the disputes of 1900 and 1901 according to their causes or objects. (In this Table a dispute having two or more causes or objects is counted under each.)

Cause or object.	Number of Disputes.		Number of Workpeople who took part in Disputes.		Number of Working Days lost by Workpeople affected directly and indirectly by Disputes.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
Wages:—						
For increase ... ..	581	274	178,912	76,508	3,224,456	1,551,397
Against decrease ... ..	66	37	13,146	4,876	295,643	77,991
Other ... ..	83	62	27,774	15,733	640,314	277,422
Hours of Labour—						
For decrease ... ..	100	69	78,512	41,872	1,590,169	448,162
Employment of particular classes or persons ... ..	198	139	44,192	41,993	298,230	433,529
Working arrangements ... ..	121	84	57,226	44,923	1,303,540	1,188,400
Other causes ... ..	82	66	32,672	19,040	695,576	165,965

The results of disputes appear to have been much less favourable to the workpeople in 1901 than in 1900. This may be seen from the following Table:—

Result.	Percentage of workpeople engaged in disputes the results of which were as stated in Col. 1.	
	1900.	1901.
In favour of workpeople ... ..	10.87	8.40
In favour of employers ... ..	26.12	51.76
Compromised ... ..	63.01	39.84

Conciliation and Arbitration.

The means provided by the French Conciliation and Arbitration Law of December 27th, 1892, for settling labour disputes were applied in 1901 in 142 cases of differences between employers and employees. In 6 of

\* Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage survenus dans l'Année 1901. Paris, Government Printing Works, 1902.  
† Includes sailmaking, umbrella manufacture, and various minor trades.

these, measures of conciliation were adopted before any stoppage of work had taken place. (The corresponding figures for the previous year were 234 and 9 respectively.) In 2 of the cases, in which conciliation took place in 1901 before work had ceased, the threatened stoppage was averted.

The initiative in applying the Law came in 1901 from the workpeople in 67 disputes, from the Justices of the Peace in 67, from the employers in 5, and from employers and workpeople jointly in 3 disputes.

Nine disputes were settled by direct negotiations between the parties concerned after the initial formalities, but before the Committee of Conciliation had time to meet. In the case of 61 disputes the proffered mediation was rejected (in 51 cases by the employers, in 4 by the workpeople, and in 6 cases by both parties). It is stated, however, that 7 of these disputes terminated on the employers refusing mediation, the workpeople either abandoning their demands completely or accepting partial concessions, which they had previously refused. In connection with the remaining 72 disputes Committees of Conciliation were duly formed, with the result that 46 of these disputes were settled—38 by the Committees themselves and 8 by arbitration. In addition, 3 disputes are stated to have been settled subsequently to the meetings of Committees, and as a result of the negotiations which took place at such meetings.

Thus we find in 1901 a total of 46 disputes settled directly and 19 indirectly by the application of the Law, while in 1900, 78 disputes were settled directly and 28 indirectly by the same means.

BELGIAN OLD AGE PENSIONS.

New Regulations.\*

By the Belgian Old Age Pension Law of May 10th, 1900, it was provided that all necessitous Belgians who were (or had been) workpeople, who resided in Belgium, and who should have reached the age of 65 years by January 1st, 1901, should receive an annual allowance of 65 francs (£2 12s.), and that the same allowance should be paid, on their reaching the age of 65, to workpeople, whose age on that date was not less than 55; but in the case of those who then were less than 58 years old, the granting of the allowance should be conditional upon their having for at least 3 years paid into the National Superannuation Fund not less than 3 francs (say 2s. 5d.) per annum, or less than 18 francs (say 14s. 5d.) in the aggregate (see GAZETTE, June, 1900, p. 163).

Regulations for the administration of this Law were made by a Royal Decree of October 20th, 1900 (see GAZETTE, November, 1900, p. 331), subsequently amended by Decrees of June 13th, 1901, and July 25th, 1902. These Regulations have been replaced by a Decree, dated December 30th, 1902, which codifies and amends the Regulations previously in force, and which came into operation on January 1st, 1903. With respect to the definition of "necessitous" persons, the new Regulations declare that no person shall be considered necessitous whose income shall exceed in the case of a man 360 francs (£14 8s.), or in the case of a married couple living together 600 francs (£24). Persons who, by themselves or by agents, keep an establishment for the sale of drink, shall, in default of proof given to the contrary, be presumed not to be necessitous.

The allowance (£2 12s.) provided for necessitous persons can also not be claimed by (1) persons supplied either by a benevolent institution, or by a private individual with board, lodging, firing, and clothing, whether in or out of an asylum, &c.; (2) inmates of prisons or of houses of detention, &c.; (3) persons, who within the last twelve months have been sentenced for being intoxicated in a public place; and (4) persons, who have, with fraudulent intent, parted with the possession of their property.

NEW ZEALAND LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE eleventh Annual Report of the New Zealand Labour Department states that during the year ended March 31st, 1902, artisans, mechanics, and all skilled workers found their services in demand and good earnings to be obtained for efficient service. The approximate number of persons employed in factories in 1902 was 55,395, of whom 41,783 were males and 13,612 females. Of the 41,783 males, 9,807, or 23.5 per cent., were engaged in the iron trades, and 8,200, or 19.6 per cent., in the provision trades. Of the 13,612 females, 10,048, or 73.8 per cent., were engaged in clothing factories.

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Twenty-three new disputes began in April, 1903, compared with thirty-one in March, and thirty-two in the corresponding month of last year. By the twenty-three disputes 2,898 workpeople were directly and 1,817 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before April, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, give a total of 10,861 workpeople involved in trade disputes during April, 1903, compared with 19,665 in March, and 8,236 in April 1902.

**New Disputes in April, 1903.**—In the following Table the new disputes in April are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ... ..	6	1,117	80	1,197
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	2	981	754	1,735
Textile ... ..	2	81	610	691
Clothing ... ..	2	41	19	60
Transport ... ..	2	250	...	250
Other ... ..	4	428	354	782
<b>Total, April, 1903</b> ... ..	<b>23</b>	<b>2,898</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>4,715</b>
<b>Ditto, March, 1903</b> ... ..	<b>31</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>9,784</b>
<b>Ditto, April, 1902</b> ... ..	<b>32</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>3,635</b>

**Causes.**—Of the twenty-three new disputes, seven arose on demands for advances in wages, four on objections to reduction, four on other wages questions, two on questions of hours of labour, three on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and three from other causes.

**Results.**—Sixteen new disputes affecting 3,460 workpeople and eight old disputes, affecting 1,260 workpeople, were reported as having terminated in April. Of these twenty-four new and old disputes, six, involving 1,473 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople, eleven, involving 1,931 persons, were decided in favour of the employers, and six, involving 1,300 persons, were compromised. In the case of the remaining dispute, involving 16 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in April of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 59,200 working days. In addition, 112,700 working days were lost in April owing to disputes that began before that month and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in April of all disputes, new and old, was 171,900 working days, which compares with 233,700 in the previous month, and 128,900 in the corresponding month of last year.

**Summary for the First Four Months of 1903.**—For the four completed months of 1903 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 115 disputes which commenced in these months was 25,546, as compared with 48,264 in the 134 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1902. The aggregate duration in working days of all disputes was about 902,000, as compared with 510,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1903.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Painters and Paperhangers	Preston	200	...	1 Apr.	...	For advance of wages from 8d. to 9d. per hour	No settlement reported.
Painters	Southport	275	...	9 Apr.	18	Against reduction of winter hours and for alterations in other working rules.	Matters in dispute arranged by compromise.
Stonemasons	Newcastle, Gateshead and Gosforth	400	...	16 Apr.	5	Against proposed increase of working hours, and other alterations of working rules.	Work resumed on old conditions.
Bricklayers and Labourers	Walsall	130	80	1 Apr.	...	For advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour and other alterations of working rules.	No settlement reported.
Reelers, Warpers, and other Workpeople (Jute Spinning)	Dundee	60	600	2 Apr.	9	For advance of wages	Work resumed at old rates.
Harness Makers and Female Stitchers	Walsall	160	300	13 Apr.	...	Dispute as to prices to be paid on change from day to piece work.	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 working days.  
 † In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.  
 ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

LEAD POISONING.

The Home Office has issued a Return\* of the cases of lead poisoning reported as occurring in china and earthenware works during the years 1899 to 1902, showing (1) the number of cases in the several classes of works and in the various processes; (2) the number of persons employed; (3) particulars as to the character of the attacks reported in earthenware and china works, and in all industries, under the Factory and Workshops Act; (4) the number of persons suspended in certain districts by the certifying surgeons. The number of cases of persons employed in earthenware and china works reported in 1902 as cases of lead poisoning was 87 (40 males and 47 females), and the proportion of cases to persons employed was (taking both sexes together) 1·4 per cent., as compared with 1·7 in 1901; 3·1 in 1900; and 3·9 in 1899. Taking males separately, the proportion in each

of the last 4 years has been 0·9, 1·3, 2·2, and 3·0 per cent.; and for females 2·2, 2·3, 4·9 and 5·6 per cent.

CANADA.—REPORT OF ONTARIO BUREAU OF LABOUR.

The third report of the Bureau of Labour of Ontario states that during the period from September 1st, 1901, to December 31st, 1902, 75 strikes and 4 lock-outs were reported, involving about 500 establishments, 6,863 persons, and covering an aggregate of 1,227 days, or an average of 16 days for each dispute.

The secretary of the Bureau, who is also registrar under the Trade Disputes Act, has acted officially as conciliator in 12 disputes, and assisted in the prevention and adjustment of a number of other disputes.

The report contains a directory of labour organisations in the Province, statistics of wages, hours of labour, etc., and a synopsis of the Labour Laws of Ontario.

\* P.P. 102 of 1903 (Eyre and Spottiswoode). Price 1½d.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL, 1903.

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

**Summary.**—The net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported during April was a decrease of £790 per week in the wages of 24,675 workpeople. Of the total number affected, 348 received advances averaging 1s. 1½d. per head per week, and 24,327 sustained decreases averaging 8d. per head per week. The changes of the previous month affected 39,223 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £15 per week. During April, 1902, the number affected was 12,947 and the net result of all the changes in wages was an increase of £245 per week.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 11,390 coal miners, etc., in the Forest of Dean, Bristol, and Radstock districts and 6,800 ironstone miners in Cleveland.

**Methods of Arrangement.**—One change, affecting 4,090 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and eight changes, affecting 2,201 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. One change, affecting only 15 workpeople, was preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting 18,369 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

**Summary for First Four Months of 1903.**—For the four months, January to April, 1903, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have received advances or sustained decreases is 215,874 as compared with 343,923 for the corresponding period of 1902. Of these, 133,040 have obtained a net increase amounting to £2,165 per week, or an average of 4d. per head, and 76,944 have sustained a net decrease amounting to about £3,874, or an average reduction of 1s. per head, while 5,890 have had upward and downward changes and are now at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes in 1903, is a decrease of £1,709 per week, compared with a decrease of £20,350 per week in the corresponding period of 1902.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1903.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
<b>BUILDING TRADES.</b>					
3 Increases—310 Workpeople.      Decreases—Nil.					
Hartlepool District	Painters and Decorators	1 April	174	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.).
Kidderminster	Bricklayers' Labourers	1 May	100	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (5d. to 5½d.).
Kirkcaldy	Painters and Decorators	1 April	36	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.).
<b>COAL MINING.*</b>					
3 Decreases—11,390 Workpeople.					
Forest of Dean	Hewers, other Underground Workers, and Surface Workers (including Enginemen and Mechanics)	27 April	5,500	...	Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1888.†
Bristol District	Hewers and other Underground Workers	2 May	1,800	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard.‡
Radstock District	Banksmen and Screenmen Enginemen and Stokers	2 April	4,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 35 per cent. above the standard.
<b>IRON MINING AND QUARRYING.</b>					
6 Decreases—8,817 Workpeople.					
Cleveland	Ironstone Miners— Underground Workers and Mechanics	20 April	6,800	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 24½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Weardale	Limestone Quarrymen	20 April	1,500	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 24½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Middleton-in-Teesdale	Whinstone Quarrymen	30 Mar.	200	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Lunedale	Whinstone Quarrymen, Enginemen, &c.	6 April	15	...	Decrease of 1d. in the shilling to quarrymen and of 1s. per week to enginemen, &c.
Dalton-in-Furness	Iron Ore Miners	April	230	...	Decrease of 1d. per day (5s. 5d. to 5s. 4d.) under sliding scale.
Stainton-in-Furness	Limestone Quarrymen	April	72	...	Decrease of 0·13d. per ton under sliding scale.
<b>IRON AND STEEL TRADES.</b>					
6 Decreases—1,899 Workpeople.					
Middlesbrough	Steel Workers	30 Mar.	740	...	Decrease of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 13 per cent. above the standard.
Barrow-in-Furness	Rail Millmen	6 April	570	...	Decrease of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 17 per cent. above the standard.
	Wire and Hoop Millmen	6 April	80	...	Decrease of 1 per cent. under sliding scale leaving wages 17 per cent. above the standard.
South Lancashire (2 firms)	Blastfurnacemen	April	220	...	Decrease of 3 per cent., leaving wages 19 per cent. above the standard.
Wellington (near)	Blastfurnacemen, Mechanics & Labourers	April	250	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale.
North Wales	Blastfurnacemen	9 April	39	...	Decrease of 3 per cent., leaving wages 19 per cent. above the standard.
Newport (near)	Blastfurnacemen	12 April	38	...	Advance of 1½ per cent., making wages 21 per cent. above the standard of 1899.
<b>ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.</b>					
12 Decreases—2,221 Workpeople.					
Leeds	Wool-comb Makers	April	8	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Hull	Boilermakers	8 April	400	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates.
Barrow-in-Furness	Patternmakers	2 April	56	...	Decrease of 1s. per week (38s. 3d. to 37s. 3d.).
	Shipsmiths	19 Mar.	50	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 3d. per hour off time rates above 34s. per week.
The Clyde	Brass Finishers, Turners, and Fitters	2 Mar.	700	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 3d. per hour (7½d. and 8d. to 7½d. and 7½d.) or of 1s. per week off time rates.
	Patternmakers	1 April	80	...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (8½d. to 8d.) or of 1s. per week off time rates.
	Iron and Steel Shipbuilders	1 April	...	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Edinburgh and Leith	Boilermakers	1 April	350	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 3d. per hour, or of 1s. per week off time rates.
	Engine and Ship Smiths	1 April	47	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 3d. per hour, or of 1s. per week off time rates.
	Shipwrights	20 Mar.	230	...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (8½d. to 8½d.) or of 1s. per week off time rates.
	Drillers and Hole Cutters	20 Mar.	42	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Joiners in Shipyards	20 Mar.	250	...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (8½d. to 8½d.).
Airdrie	Boilermakers	2 Mar.	8	...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.).

\* Durham Coal Mining.—Early in May it was arranged that Durham Miners' wages should be reduced 1½ per cent. off standard, leaving their wages 33½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. Full particulars will appear in the June GAZETTE.  
 † A few of the collieries the percentage is stated to be 25 per cent. above standard, certain collieries the percentage above standard after change was 35.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL, 1903.

THE only change in hours of labour reported during April was one affecting about 350 painters at Southport whose winter working hours will be reduced from 1st November next, making an average reduction for the year of 1 1/2 hours per week.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF LEAD, MERCURIAL, PHOSPHORUS, AND ARSENIC POISONING AND OF ANTHRAX REPORTED TO THE HOME OFFICE UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, DURING THE UNDERMENTIONED PERIODS.

[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.]

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, Cases (Apr. 1903, 4 months ended April, 1903, 1902), Deaths (Apr. 1903, 4 months ended April, 1903, 1902). Rows include Lead Poisoning, Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, Anthrax, etc.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGER'S CERTIFICATES.

York and Lincoln District.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as manager and under-manager will be held at the Town Hall, Leeds, on Monday, June 15th. Candidates must, on or before May 23rd, send their names to the Secretary to the Board of Examinations, Mr. John R. Jeffery, 5, Piccadilly, Bradford (Yorks), from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Persons residing outside the District are eligible for examination.

\*Of the 12 cases in the china and earthenware industry in April, 1903, 7 affected females. †House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 14 cases of lead poisoning (including 6 deaths) were reported during April among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported for the four months ended April, 1903, was 45 (including 8 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1902, 35 (including 11 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during April, 1903, was 379, as compared with 361 in the corresponding month of 1902, 312 in 1901, 442 in 1900, and 506 in 1899. The average number of fatal accidents in the month of March in these five years was thus 400, so that the total for the past month continues below the average.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz.: Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping and Factories, the number of workpeople killed was 354, compared with 329 in April, 1902. The approximate number employed in these industries at the date of the latest returns was about 5,700,000. Although the proportion of seamen included in this total of numbers employed was only about 1 in 24, the proportion of fatal accidents to seamen reported in the three months included in the Table was about 2 in 5, or 454 out of a total of 1,076.

In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between April, 1903, and a month and a year ago.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (April 1903, March 1903, April 1902, A month ago, A year ago), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1903, as compared with. Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, Workshops, Seamen, etc.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

IN six Bureaux, which furnished returns for both April, 1903 and April, 1902, 1,696 fresh applications for work were registered, compared with 1,485 a year ago. Work was found by these Bureaux for 621 persons, of whom 469 were engaged by private employers. In April, 1902, the number engaged by private employers was 507. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 1,124, as compared with 699 a year ago.

Four other Bureaux, not in operation a year ago, furnished returns for April, 1903, and the figures relating to them are included in the Tables below.

(I.) Work done in April.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Apr. 1903, Apr. 1902), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Apr. 1903, Apr. 1902), No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities). Rows include London, Provincial, etc.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during April.

Table with columns: Category, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total. Rows include Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities, Grand Total for 10 Bureaux.

The ten Bureaux included in the Tables registered, during April, 2,361 fresh applications, and work was found for 719 persons. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 2,777, consisting of 2,330 men and lads, and 447 women and girls.

\* Engaged by Salvation Army.

† Bureau not in operation in April, 1902.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April, 642 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 726 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 183 persons, of whom 96 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 594 to 431, and the number of servants applying fell from 380 to 307; the number permanently engaged fell from 92 to 77. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 135 to 168, and the number requiring such situations fell from 70 to 26; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 35, compared with 46 in March.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the seven Bureaux during April compared with a month and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN APRIL.

Table with columns: Bureau, No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily). Rows include Summary by Bureaux, Summary by Occupations.

LABOUR AND OUTPUT IN UNITED STATES COAL MINES IN 1901.

ACCORDING to the Report for the calendar year 1901 on the mineral resources of the United States, issued by the United States Geological Survey,\* that year was, on the whole, the most prosperous in the history of the coal industry of the United States. The production amounted to 293,298,516 short tons (of 2,000 lbs.), an output one-third larger than that of three years before, and more than four times that of the year 1880.

The total number of men employed in the coal mines in 1901 was 485,544, who made an average of 216 working days, as compared with 448,581, men who made an average of 212 working days in 1900. Of the total of 485,544 men employed in 1901, 340,235 were occupied in bituminous coal mining, their average working time being 225 days, while 145,309 men, with an average working time of 196 days, were engaged in anthracite mining.

The average output per man per day in the bituminous mines was 2.94 short tons in 1901, and has decreased every year since 1898, when it amounted to 3.09 short tons. The daily tonnage per man has also decreased in anthracite mining, viz., from 2.50 in 1899 to 2.36 in 1901.

\* Washington, Government Printing Office, 1902.





## INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN APRIL.

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

## (1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in April was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 25; under the Friendly Societies Act, 77 (including 42 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all, 108.

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

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—2, viz., London United Clay Tobacco Pipe Makers' Society, Fox Tavern, Russell-street, Mile End, E.; Halifax and District Carpet Power Loom Tuners' Assoc., Haley Hill Cocoa House, North Bridge, Halifax. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—1, viz., Irish Drapers' Assistants' Benefit and Protective Assoc., 56, Henry-street, Dublin.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—*Workmen's Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution*, 4, viz., Framwellgate Moor Equitable Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Society's Stores, Front-street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham; Gwauncaegurwen and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Gwauncaegurwen, Glam.; Launceston and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Launceston, Cornwall; Market Weighton and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., York-road, Market Weighton, Yorks. *Workmen's Co-operative Societies mainly for Production*, 1, viz., Bradford Builders, Ltd., 32, Rebecca-street, Bradford. *Agricultural Societies*, 1, viz., Scalford Dairy, Ltd., The Dairy, Scalford, Melton Mowbray. *Miscellaneous*: 5 Workmen's Clubs, 1 Land Society and 3 others. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—*Agricultural Societies*, 8, viz., Mullinavat Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Mullinavat, co. Kilkenny; Fane Valley Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Altnamachin, co. Armagh; Herbertstown Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Herbertstown, co. Limerick; Killinagariff Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Killinagariff, co. Limerick; Buninadden Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Buninadden, co. Sligo; Cladybeg Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cladybeg, co. Armagh; Mountshannon Co-op. Beekeepers, Mountshannon, co. Clare; Lough Derg Co-op. Beekeepers, Derryooper, co. Galway. *Miscellaneous*, 2, viz., New Ross Co-op. Home Industries, New Ross, co. Wexford; United Homes Investment Soc., Ltd., 19 and 21, Victoria-street, Londonderry.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—30, viz., Glossop West End Working Men's Club and Inst., Glossop; Spring-street Working Men's Club and Inst., Glossop; Blackburn Amalgamated Soc. of Engineers Inst., Blackburn; Hoddlesden Working Men's Club and Inst., Hoddlesden, Darwen; Hindley Green Working Men's Social Club, Hindley Green, Wigan; Olympia Working Men's Club and Inst., Fulham, S.W.; Peckham and Nunhead Progressive Working Men's Club and Inst., Peckham, S.E.; Deptford Working Men's Club and Inst., Deptford; Coronation Working Men's Club and Inst., Newport, Mon; Wallsend-on-Tyne Working Men's Club and Inst., Wallsend-on-Tyne; Cheslyn Hay Pioneer Working Men's Club and Inst., Cheslyn Hay, Walsall; Bletchingly Working Men's Club and Inst., Bletchingly, Red Hill; Calne Liberal Club and Inst., Calne, Wilts; King's Norton Working Men's Club and Inst., King's Norton, Birmingham; Wheldale-lane Working Men's Social Club, Wheldale-lane, Castleford; Smawthorne Grove Working Men's Club and Inst., Smawthorne Grove, Castleford; Ossett Working Men's Club and Inst., Ossett, Yorks; Little Horton Working Men's Club, Little Horton, Bradford; Holmfild Working Men's Club and Inst., Holmfild, Halifax; Aldham Working Men's Club and Inst., Aldham, Wombwell, Barnsley; Cardiff Central Liberal Working Men's Club and Inst., Cardiff; Messrs. Pilkington Bros., Ltd., Sheet Glass Works Sick and Burial Soc., St. Helens; Edge Hill Congregational Church P.S.A. Brotherhood Tontine Soc., Liverpool; St. Andrew's Linacre Protestant Friendly Benefit Soc., Linacre, Liverpool; Sons of Progress Benefit Soc., Poplar, E.; Willstrop United Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Midland United Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Favourite Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Hockley, Birmingham; Dog and Duck Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Hylton Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—5, viz., Gulladuff Agric. Bank, Gulladuff, Knockloughrim, co. Londonderry; Lower Mourne Rural Bank, Ballymartin, Kilkeel, co. Down; Macosquin Agric. Bank, Macosquin, Coleraine, co. Londonderry; Aghanloo Agric. Bank, Aghanloo, Limavady, co. Londonderry; Meigh Agric. Bank, Meigh, Newry, co. Armagh.

## (2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in April, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, none; under the Industrial

and Provident Societies Acts, 3; under the Friendly Societies Act, 70 (including 59 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 16; in all 89.

NOTE.—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, &c.) which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

## MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of April, and also during the four completed months of 1903, with comparative figures for 1902 and 1901:—

	Month of April,			Four months ended April,		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imported ... ..	Bales. 350,595	Bales. 274,484	Bales. 335,661	Bales. 1,653,610	Bales. 1,697,096	Bales. 1,351,410
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	274,833	289,927	268,351	1,274,620	1,185,860	1,091,935
Exported ... ..	42,253	27,378	35,330	162,642	133,666	106,561

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns during April in the years 1903, 1902 and 1901 respectively, are given in the following Table:—

Description of Cotton forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	April, 1903.	April, 1902.	April, 1901.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American ... ..	229,581	226,684	239,789
Brazilian ... ..	15,164	17,905	2,234
East Indian ... ..	5,510	1,386	2,465
Egyptian ... ..	19,387	37,185	18,006
Miscellaneous ... ..	5,191	6,767	5,857
Total ... ..	274,833	289,927	268,351

**Traffic Receipts.**—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended May 2nd amounted to £7,203,525, an increase of £224,778 (or 3·2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,377,684, an increase of £421,283, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,825,841, a decrease of £196,505.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during April, numbered 269, being 52 less than in April, 1902, 92 less than in April, 1901, and 34 less than in April, 1900.

## NEW SOUTH WALES STATISTICAL REGISTER.

THE New South Wales Statistical Register (Part XI) contains particulars for 1901 and previous years of the Manufactories and Works of the Colony. Returns were received for 1901 from 3,367 establishments, employing 66,135 persons, compared with 3,077 establishments employing 60,779 persons making returns for 1900.

Of the 3,367 establishments making returns for 1901, 1,969 employing a total of 47,862 persons used steam or other power, the remaining 1,398 employing 18,273 persons using manual labour only.

Of the total employees in establishments of both classes 54,461, or 82·3 per cent. were males, and 11,674, or 17·7 per cent., were females.

Of the total employees 11,095, or 16·8 per cent., were working in establishments where not more than ten hands were employed.

The industries employing the largest number of male workers were the Metal and Machinery works employing 13,806 males. Food and Drink trades employing 9,828, and the Clothing and Textile trades employing 5,779 males. The largest numbers of female workers were in the Clothing and Textile trades employing 8,718 females, and the Food and Drink trades in which 1,544 were employed. In the Clothing and Textile trades 173 males and 538 females were regularly employed at their own homes.

The average time worked by the 66,135 employees during the year was 11·32 months.

Part XIII. of the New South Wales Statistical Register for the year ended December 31st, 1901, shows the ages, number and average weekly wages of male and female employees in Metropolitan Factories, and the average rates of wages paid in each class of industry in the Colony.