

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

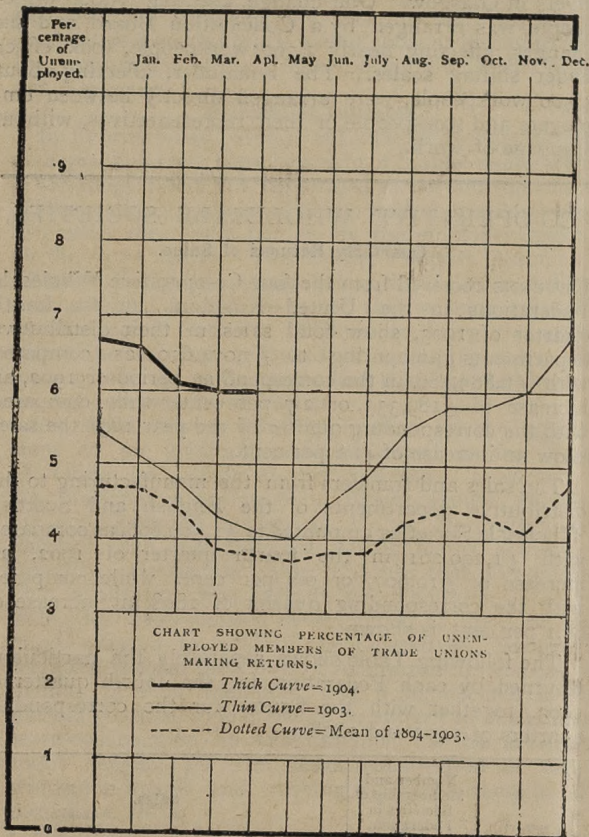
PUBLISHED ON THE 16th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. XII.—No. 5.

MAY, 1904.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

[Based on 4,026 returns, viz.: 2,628 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,305 from Trade Unions, and 93 from other sources.]

The general state of employment shows little change as compared with March, but, on the whole, it has slightly improved. As compared with a year ago, however, a decline continues to be shown, and the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is higher than the mean percentage for April in the past ten years.

In the 223 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 561,611 making returns, 33,706 (or 6.0 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with the same percentage in March, and 4.1 per cent. in April, 1903. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of April during the ten years 1894-1903 was 3.8.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry during April showed a slight improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. At collieries employing 504,170 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 4.86 days per week, as compared with 4.82 in April, 1903. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.5 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good. At the 133 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended April 23rd was 5.67, as compared with 5.61 in April, 1903. The number of workpeople employed was 2.5 per cent. less than a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry showed little change during April, and is still below the level of a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 304 furnaces were in blast at the end of April, at works employing about 21,600 workpeople, as compared with the same number of furnaces in March, and 328 in April, 1903.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment showed a slight improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. At the 195 works employing 74,488 workpeople, covered by the returns received, the total volume of employment, as indicated by the estimated aggregate number of shifts worked, showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the last week of April as compared with March, and of 2.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in the tinplate industry continues to improve, and is generally good, though not so good as a year ago. At the end of April, 367 mills were working, as compared with 364 at the end of March, and 378 in April, 1903. The estimated number of workpeople employed in April, 1904, was 18,350.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally shows little change on the previous month. It continues dull, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 6.2, as compared with 6.3 in March, and 4.2 in April, 1903.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in this industry is slightly worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 12.7, as compared with 11.8 at the end of March, and 9.1 at the end of April, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues dull. Compared with a month ago it is rather better, but it is worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 6.1 at the end of April, compared with 6.7 at the end of March, and 2.8 in April, 1903. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 9.7 at the end of April, compared with 9.2 at the end of March, and 7.1 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally in these trades was dull, being worse than a year ago, but rather better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 4.9, as compared with 5.9 in March, and 3.3 a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was dull on the whole. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 4.5, as compared with 3.4 in March, and 4.9 per cent. in April, 1903.

Employment in the *Papermaking* trade was fair. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 3.1, against 2.9 in March, and 3.2 per cent. in April, 1903.

Employment in the *Glass* trade remained bad in the bottle-making branch, and was slack on the whole in the flint-glass branch. In the *Pottery* trades, and in the *Brick and Tile* trades it was quiet.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in both *spinning* and *weaving* showed little change during April. It continued bad in both branches, although some improvement was apparent in weaving factories at the end of the month. Owing to the continued high prices of American raw cotton, short time was again worked in the majority of spinning mills where it was used.

Employment in the *Woollen* and *Worsted* trades again shows a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but is still worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 81,950 workpeople show an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the *Jute* and *Flax* trades it is moderate, and worse than a year ago.

Leather Trades.—The returns again show the general state of employment to be bad in most branches with short time still prevalent. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of April was 9.8, as compared with 11.3 at the end of March, and 5.3 at the end of April, 1903.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment shows an improvement in several districts, and a decline in others compared with a year ago. Returns from 505 firms employing 63,820 workpeople at the end of the month, and paying £227,100 in wages during the month, show a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in numbers employed, and an increase of 0.9 per cent. in wages paid compared with a year ago.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade is better than a month ago, but shows little change compared with a year ago. In the ready-made branch it is bad, and worse than a year ago.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade continues dull. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April was 4.0, as compared with 4.3 at the end of March, and 2.7 a year ago.

Agricultural Labourers were regularly employed, the weather having been favourable for outdoor work. The supply of day labourers was sufficient in most districts.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during April remained moderate on the whole, and showed little change as compared with a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended April 30th was 12,854, a decrease of 0.6 per cent. on the average for March, and an increase of 1.6 per cent. on the average for April, 1903. The average daily number employed in April during the seven years 1897-1903 was 14,334.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during April, 1904, was 5,529, compared with 4,512 in March, 1904, and 10,861 in April, 1903.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 70,700 working days, as compared with 74,500 in the previous month, and 171,900 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Twenty-one disputes began in April, involving 3,972 workpeople, compared with 14 in March, 1904, and 23 in April, 1903.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 16 disputes, new and old, affecting 3,933 workpeople. Of these disputes, two, involving 580 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; eight, involving 2,389 persons, were decided in favour of the

employers; and six, involving 964 persons, were compromised. In the case of three other disputes, terminating during the month, and involving 581 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during April affected about 40,800 workpeople, of whom nearly 1,900 received advances and 38,900 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of £1,000 per week. The changes of the previous month affected about 61,000 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of nearly £2,000 per week. During April, 1903, the number affected was about 24,700, and the net result a decrease of £790 per week.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 35,000 coal miners in Northumberland and 1,800 bricklayers in Glasgow. One change, affecting 35,000 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and six changes, affecting nearly 1,300 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remainder, affecting about 4,500 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from the four Co-operative Wholesale Federations in the United Kingdom, for the fourth quarter of 1903, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £7,074,619, as compared with £6,885,286 in the corresponding period of 1902, an increase of £189,333, or 2.7 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of the year 1898 the sales show an increase of 41.8 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,309,868, as compared with £1,299,261 in the fourth quarter of 1902, an increase of £10,607, or 0.8 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1898 an increase of 62.1 per cent. is shown.

The following Table shows separately the particulars returned by each Federation for the fourth quarter of 1903, together with the figures for the corresponding quarters of 1902 and 1898:—

	Number and Membership of Societies in Federation.		Sales.				
	Societies.	Membership.	In 4th quarter of			Percentage increase of 1903 as compared with	
			1903.	1902.	1898.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—			£	£	£		
Distributive Depts.	1,133	1,445,099	5,297,579	5,131,854	3,629,472	3.2	46.0
Manufacturing Depts.			812,708*	785,231*	442,347*	3.5	83.7
SCOTLAND:—							
Distributive Depts.	278	301,479	1,734,775	1,706,446	1,323,243	1.7	11.1
Manufacturing Depts.			497,160*	513,980*	365,579*	3.3†	
IRELAND:—							
Butter Agency—	not stated		38,016	41,336	31,325	8.0†	21.4
Distributive Depts. (Agricultural (Distribution))	28	3,404	4,249	5,650	3,320†	24.8†	28.0
Total Distributive Depts.	...	...	7,074,619	6,885,286	4,987,360	2.7	41.8
Total Manufacturing Depts.	...	...	1,309,868	1,299,261	807,926	0.8	62.1
Grand Total...	...	...	8,384,487	8,184,547	5,795,286	2.4	44.7

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.
† Decrease.
‡ Figures for butter making not available.
§ 1899 figures. 1898 figures not available.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Bricklayers and Plasterers at Leicester.

A dispute having arisen as to whether bricklayers or plasterers should fix or set certain blocks which were being used in the construction of an infirmary at Leicester, the local branches of the societies affected agreed to refer the matter to arbitration, and on April 20th addressed a joint application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator. The Board appointed Alderman T. Smith, of Leicester, to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Smith heard the parties on April 26th and issued his award the following day, deciding that "bricklayers shall set and fix the Mack patent slabs or blocks used in the construction of the Union Infirmary at North Evington, Leicester."

Painters at Leicester.

In February two painters at Leicester declined to work on a particular job, because a firm of cabinet makers, who, it was alleged, had not conformed to certain rules in the cabinet making trade, were doing work there. Afterwards two other men were put on by the employer, and left for the same reason. The Master Painters' Association wished to bring the matter before the Court of Arbitration provided for by No. 9 of the working rules, but the operatives' Societies declined to bring the matter before the Arbitration Board or to supply other men to carry out the work, contending that the men had left for their own personal reasons.

On April 22nd a joint application for the appointment of an arbitrator was addressed to the Board of Trade on behalf of the Leicester Branches of the National Association of Master House Painters, the Amalgamated Society of House Decorators and Painters, and the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators. The arbitrator was asked to determine whether Rule 9 had been violated by the action of the four men above referred to, and of the Operatives' Society in declining to form the Court of Arbitration to discuss the conduct of their members, and if he decided in the affirmative, then Rule 9 was to be subject to amendment or re-construction, in such manner as the arbitrator might suggest for the better constitution of future arbitration boards and working rules, the same to take immediate effect.

The Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act as arbitrator. Mr. Hudson issued his award on May 6th, and decided that the following should take the place of Rule 9 from the date of his award:—

RULE.

In case of any dispute arising between the Society representing the employers and the Societies representing the operatives, or either of them arising or alleged to arise out of or in connection with these rules, such dispute shall be referred to a Court of Arbitration, consisting of 7 representatives of the employers and 7 representatives of the operatives, presided over by the Local Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade, or, failing him, by a local man nominated by the Board of Trade. If the Court so constituted shall not meet within seven days from the date of a notice in writing of a dispute from the secretary of the society representing the employers to the secretary of either society representing the operatives, or from the date of a notice in writing of a dispute from the secretary of either society representing the operatives to the secretary representing the employers, or within such further time as may be agreed between the parties to the said dispute, or if, after a meeting of the Court so constituted, the Court shall not settle the dispute within seven days of such meeting, or within such further time as may be agreed between the parties to the said dispute, the secretary of any of the said societies being a party to such dispute may, in writing, signed by him, request the Board of Trade to appoint an arbitrator, and a request in writing so signed shall be sufficient authority to the Board of Trade to appoint an arbitrator, and the decision of an arbitrator so appointed shall be final and binding upon the parties to the said dispute.

If a notice of a dispute is given as above mentioned no operative shall thereafter cease work on account of any dispute to which the notice refers, and any operative who has ceased work on account of any such dispute shall forthwith return to work. Pending the

settlement of such dispute by the Court of Arbitration before referred to or the decision of the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

Plumbers at Wigan.

Mr. T. Blashill, F.R.I.B.A., the umpire appointed by the Board of Trade to deal with certain matters in dispute in the plumbing trade at Wigan (see GAZETTE for April, p. 101), heard the parties on April 15th and issued his award on April 22nd.

The award leaves the rate of wages and hours of labour unchanged, but effects some alteration in the rules regarding apprentices and the procedure for the settlement of disputes.

Building Trades at Reading.

THE employees in the building trades of Reading asked for an advance of wages to plumbers and bricklayers, from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and that the rate of wages for labourers should be 5½d. per hour, and for excavators and scaffolders 6d. per hour. The matter was discussed by the Conciliation Board for the Building Trades of Reading and neighbourhood, who, however, failed to agree. On April 15th, the Board of Trade received an application in accordance with the rules of the Conciliation Board for the appointment of an arbitrator.

The Board of Trade have appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

(b) OTHER CASES.

Leicester Boot and Shoe Finishers—Statement of Wages.

At a conference of representatives of employers and workmen in the Leicester Boot and Shoe Trade, held on May 13th, 1903, it was resolved among other matters "that a committee be appointed to frame a Piecework Statement for Finishers in Leicester. The Joint Committee appointed as a result of this resolution, and presided over by Mr. Alderman Wood, J.P., as independent chairman, issued on May 5th, 1904, a detailed statement of piece rates of wages, to which is appended certain terms and conditions regulating its operation. Among the important clauses are the following:—

"All manufacturers and workmen shall accept the Piecework Statement in its entirety as a basis of payment; but the system of work shall be daywork, and the wages of the men shall be regulated and adjusted according to the amount of work done at the rate of the prices fixed by the Statement for each operation or process. [NOTE.—This clause means that a man shall undertake to do a given quantity of work for a given wage. If he does work in excess of that, he shall be paid for the excess at the Statement rate; if he does less than the agreed quantity, a corresponding deduction shall be made; but for the purpose of carrying this clause into effect, no workman over twenty years of age shall be engaged at less than the minimum rate of wages without a special permit].

"That a Finishing Statement Committee shall be appointed, consisting of four representatives of the Manufacturers' Association, four representatives of the No. 1 Branch of the Union, and an independent chairman to be elected by the committee, and all questions in dispute arising out of the Statement shall be referred to this committee for settlement; and they shall also be empowered to revise and adjust the prices fixed by the Statement for any process or portion of a process affected by any substantial improvement in existing machinery or the introduction of new machinery, and to settle any difficulties that may arise from time to time in the application of the Statement to the different systems of manufacture adopted in the various factories."

This important agreement, which materially affects the conditions of employment of Finishers in the Leicester Boot and Shoe Trade, is to come into operation on July 18th, 1904, and it is provided that "it shall not be competent for either side to re-open the question until after the expiration of three years from that date."

NEW JERSEY BUREAU OF STATISTICS OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRIES.

THE 26th Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour and Industries of New Jersey for the year ending October 31st, 1903, gives information based on the returns of 1,811 manufacturing establishments, which, in 1902, employed an average number of 217,929 persons. The total wages paid amounted to £21,208,404, yielding an average of about £97 per employee, or about 6 per cent. more than the average of 1900. The earnings of males and females in the chief industries are also given, and show that the

highest weekly wage earned by males was £2 18s. 8d. in the jewellery industry, and the lowest £1 7s. 4d. in silk throwing. The highest average wage of females, £1 11s. 8d., was earned in the manufacture of broad silk and ribbon, and the lowest, 17s. 6d., in the manufacture of art tiles.

The Report also deals with "The Negro in Manufacturing and Mechanical Industries," cost of living (where the retail cost of certain articles is shown to have decreased 6 per cent. between 1898 and 1903); child labour; and contains a labour chronology for the year.

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

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

In the LABOUR GAZETTE of April last particulars were given as to the number of employees and value of productions in 1902 of 332 co-operative societies in the United Kingdom, established primarily for production.

The Table below contains additional information respecting 309 of these societies, showing the extent to which the workpeople employed by them share in the membership, capital and control of the societies by which they are employed. The total membership of these 309 societies was 60,937 (consisting of 3,878 other societies and 57,059 individuals); their share and loan capital, £1,172,110; and their sales during the year, £2,670,425. Of the total number, 105 societies were in England, 20 in Scotland, and 183 in Ireland.

The returns received from these societies show that 59 per cent. of their members were workers employed by them, who held a total of £90,568, or 7.7 per cent. of the total share and loan capital of the societies. This, however, shows a falling off from the previous year, when 257 of these societies reported that 7.9 per cent. of their members were employees holding 7.9 per cent. of the share and loan capital.

The total number of persons employed by the 309 societies was 9,026, of whom 39.7 per cent. were members. This again shows a reduction on the previous year, when 43.5 per cent. of the employees were members. In the English societies 56 per cent. of the employees were members, the industry showing the largest proportion being the clothing trades, in which nearly 74.5 per cent. of the employees were members holding about 17 per cent. of the capital of the societies by which they were employed. In Scotland 6.3 per cent. and in Ireland 9.3 per cent. of the employees were members.

The share of the employees in the management of these societies shows a falling off in 1902 compared with the previous year, the percentage of committeemen who were also employees being 8.4, compared with 12.0 per cent. in 1901. In England 32 per cent. of the committeemen were employees, the industry showing the largest proportion being the boot and shoe trade, where 78.3 per cent. of the committeemen were also employees.

As regards the proportion of the production of these societies which is under the direct control of the employees, the total sales of the 332 societies, as shown in the LABOUR GAZETTE for April, amounted to £2,757,414. Of this total, £1,911,528, or 69.3 per cent., represented the sales of 228 societies, in which the employees were not represented on the managing committee, £342,928, or 12.4 per cent., represented the sales of 56 societies in which some of the committeemen, but less than a majority, were employees, while in 25 societies, with sales amounting to £415,969, or 15.1 per cent., the employees formed the majority of the managing committee, nearly half of this amount being the sales of 10 societies in which the whole of the committeemen were also employees; the remaining £86,989 represented the sales of 23 societies as to which information was not available.

The following Table shows the position at 31st December, 1901 and 1902, of certain workmen's co-operative productive societies and agricultural and dairy societies in the United Kingdom, as regards the division of membership, capital and management among their employees, other individual members and societies, together with the proportion of their employees who were also members

	1902.		1901.	
I.—Number of Societies to which particulars relate ...	309*		257*	
II.—Membership:—The total membership consisted of:—		Per-centages.		Per-centages.
1. Employees ...	3,586	5.9	3,841	7.9
2. Other Individuals ...	53,473	87.7	41,260	84.4
3. Societies ...	3,878	6.4	3,761	7.7
Total Membership ...	60,937	100.0	48,862	100.0
III.—Employees:—The persons employed consisted of:—				
1. Members ...	3,586	39.7	3,841	43.5
2. Non-members ...	5,440	60.3	4,922	56.5
Total Employees ...	9,026	100.0	8,833	100.0
IV.—Share and Loan Capital:—The Share and Loan Capital was held by:—				
1. Employees ...	£90,568	7.7	£83,823	7.9
2. Other Individual Members ...	398,811	34.0	362,993	34.3
3. Societies ...	478,777	40.9	433,330	41.0
4. Non-members (Loans)† ...	203,954	17.4	177,027	16.8
Total Share & Loan Capital	1,172,110	100.0	1,057,083	100.0
V.—Management:—The Management Committees consisted of:—				
1. Employees ...	325	8.4	383	12.0
2. Other Individual Members ...	3,270	84.5	2,389	80.8
3. Representatives of Societies ...	276	7.1	230	7.2
Total Number of Committeemen	3,871	100.0	3,202	100.0

In addition to the societies dealt with above, there were eight corn milling societies at work, with a total membership of 5,534, of whom 23 were employees. These 23 employees held £625 out of a total share and loan capital of £396,411, and none of them were members of committees.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1903.

The following Table showing the number of the various classes of Industrial Organisations registered and of Organisations removed from the Register in the United Kingdom during 1903 is based upon monthly returns furnished to the Labour Department by the Friendly Societies Registry. The figures are subject to correction in the annual returns issued by that Department.

The total number of new organisations registered was 1,194 compared with 1,113 in 1902, and the number removed from the Register was 991 compared with 815 in 1902. These figures include branches of existing Friendly Societies, of which 535 were added and 388 removed from the Register in 1903.

The net increase in the number of registered organisations in the year was thus 203, as compared with 208 in 1902. The largest net increase in 1903 was in Friendly Societies, which show 161 more registrations than dissolutions; Industrial and Provident Societies following with an increase of 150. Building Societies show a net decrease of 97, and Trade Societies of 11.

The removal from the Register of 4 Trade Unions and of 4 Industrial and Provident Societies was due to their amalgamation with other organisations, and 2 other Industrial and Provident Societies were transferred to the Companies Acts.

The figures given of Building Societies removed from the Register include only societies registering "Instruments of Dissolution," or notifying the "Termination of Dissolution" or of "Winding-up," and are exclusive of 39 societies in 1903 and 30 in 1902 which gave notice of "Commencement of Dissolution" or "Commencement of Winding-up."

Of the 1,194 new organisations registered in 1903, 901 were in England and Wales, 110 in Scotland, and 183 in Ireland; while of the 991 organisations removed from the Register, 927 were in England and Wales, 53 in Scotland, and 11 in Ireland.

A noticeable feature of the new registrations in 1903 is the large number (115) of Industrial and Provident Societies registered for agricultural purposes (88 of which

* Excluding Corn Mill Societies. † Including Bank overdrafts. ‡ Preliminary figures.

were registered in Ireland), and of Specially Authorised Friendly Societies, of which 103 were registered, 64 being in Ireland. The increase in the Specially Authorised societies is mainly due to recent activity in the formation of Co-operative Credit Banks in Ireland for the assistance of small agriculturists.

Table showing the number of the various classes of Industrial Organisations added to and removed from the Register in the United Kingdom during the year 1903.

Description of Organisation.	Number of Industrial Organisations in the United Kingdom.		
	Added to the Register in 1903.	Removed from Register in 1903.	Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
Trade Societies:—			
Trade Unions ...	25	37	- 12
Trades Council ...	—	1	- 1
Trade Federation ...	—	1	- 1
Employers' Associations ...	5	2	+ 3
Totals ...	30	41	- 11
Industrial and Provident Societies:—			
For Distribution ...	32	43	- 11
Production ...	18	1	+ 5
Agricultural Purposes ...	115	8	+ 107
Miscellaneous ...	62	13	+ 49
Totals ...	227	77	+ 150
Friendly Societies:—			
Ordinary Friendly ...	63	163	- 100
Dividing ...	88	31	+ 57
Female ...	1	7	- 6
Juvenile ...	9	25	- 16
Medical ...	2	—	+ 2
Benevolent ...	1	—	+ 1
New Orders ...	2	6	- 4
Collecting ...	1	3	- 2
Cattle Insurance ...	1	—	+ 1
Specially Authorised ...	103	21	+ 82
Workmen's Clubs ...	93	97	- 4
Shop Clubs ...	5	—	+ 5
New Branches of existing Societies ...	525	388	+ 147
Totals ...	904	743	+ 161
Building Societies—Totals ...	33	130	- 97
Total Industrial Organisations in 1903	1,194	991	+ 203
Corresponding Totals for 1902 ...	1,113	815	+ 298

SHIPS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.*

ACCORDING to the quarterly returns compiled by Lloyd's Register, there were 398 vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom at the end of March, 1904, with an aggregate tonnage of 988,664 tons gross, an increase of 90,186 tons (or 10 per cent.) as compared with the end of December, 1903, and of 13,978 tons as compared with the end of March, 1903. At the Royal Dockyards, 9 warships of 125,500 tons displacement were being built at the end of March, and 65 at private yards, with a displacement of 251,615 tons, a total of 74 warships and 377,115 tons, or an increase of 67,605 tons (22 per cent.) as compared with the previous quarter, and of 50,165 tons (15 per cent.) 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., 1904, as compared with	
	Mar. 31st, 1904.	Dec. 31st, 1903.	Mar. 31st, 1903.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Merchant Vessels—					
Tons gross ...	988,664	898,478	974,686	+ 90,186	+ 13,978
War Vessels—					
Tons displacement ...	377,115	309,510	326,950	+ 67,605	+ 50,165

Of the 398 merchant vessels under construction at the end of March, 1904, 353 were steam vessels with a gross tonnage of 973,511 tons, and 45 were sailing vessels of 15,153 tons gross. As compared with December, there was an increase in both the number of steam vessels and the aggregate tonnage under construction, but compared with a year ago it is interesting to note that, while the tonnage increased by 10,146 tons, the number of vessels declined by 29. The number of sailing vessels and aggregate tonnage under construction at the end of

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the aggregate 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 done or remaining to be done.

March were less than at the end of December, but greater than at the end of March, 1903.

The following Table shows the aggregate tonnage of vessels, other than warships, under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts. The figures include over 90 per cent. of the total mercantile tonnage under construction:—

District.	Tonnage under construction on			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Mar., 1904, as compared with	
	Mar. 31st, 1904.	Dec. 31st, 1903.	Mar. 31st, 1903.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Clyde ...	294,104	259,250	607,857	+ 34,854	- 13,753
Belfast ...	193,633	208,333	190,095	- 6,700	+ 2,728
Tyne ...	186,006	152,341	178,038	+ 23,665	+ 7,948
Wear ...	121,936	106,187	116,319	+ 15,749	+ 5,617
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	58,520	55,503	57,822	+ 2,017	+ 698
Middlesbro' and Stockton ...	69,455	61,984	52,094	+ 7,501	+ 17,361
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	33,420	52,570	27,690	+ 850	+ 5,530

From this Table it will be seen that the tonnage under construction at the end of March, 1904, as compared with the end of December, 1903, was greater in every district except Belfast, the greatest increases occurring on the Clyde and the Tyne. As compared with March, 1903, there was an increase in every district except the Clyde, the greatest increase occurring in the Middlesbrough and Stockton district.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

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 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 below. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

Place.	1903.						1904.		Present Price, 2nd, May 1904.
	1st May.	1st July.*	1st Aug.	1st Sept.	1st Oct.	1st Dec.*	1st March.*		
London ...	d. 4½ & 5	d. 4½ & 5	d. 4½ & 5	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	
Birmingham ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	
Bolton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Bristol ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Derby ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	
Gateshead ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Huddersfield ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Hull ...	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	
Ipswich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Leicester ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	
Liverpool ...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Manchester ...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Middlesbro' ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Norwich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Nottingham ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Oldham ...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Plymouth ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Potters ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	
Wolverpton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Aberdeen ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Dundee ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Edinburgh ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Glasgow ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Belfast ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Dublin ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	

As compared with a month ago, the price remains the same at all the towns given in the Table. In London, however, there has been a considerable decrease in the number of shops selling at 5½d., and a corresponding increase in the number selling at 5d. per 4 lbs.

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 1st June, 2nd November 1903, or at 1st January, 1st February, and 1st April, 1904, except at Wolverhampton, where the price per 4 lbs. was reduced ½d. (5½d. to 5d.) at 2nd November, 1903, and at Dublin, where the price was reduced ½d. at 1st April, 1904.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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, 1903, to April, 1904:—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.	
	Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	Wheat-meal and Flour.
	Per cwt.	Average Declared Value.	Per cwt.	Average Declared Value.
1903.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
January	5 10	6 8½	6 8½	9 3
February	5 11	6 11	6 11	9 2½
March	5 10½	6 11½	6 11½	9 2½
April	6 0½	6 8½	6 8½	9 2½
May	6 5½	6 9½	6 9½	9 3½
June	6 5	6 9½	6 9½	9 1½
July	6 7½	6 9½	6 9½	9 4½
August	6 11½	6 8½	6 8½	9 4½
September	6 6	6 9½	6 9½	9 6½
October	6 0½	6 9½	6 9½	9 7½
November	6 2½	6 9½	6 9½	9 2½
December	6 2½	6 8½	6 8½	9 8½
1904.				
January	6 3½	6 9½	6 9½	9 9½
February	6 3½	6 10½	6 10½	9 9½
March	6 7½	7 1	7 1	10 1½
April	6 5½	6 11½	6 11½	9 11

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1903, to April 30th, 1904, amounted to 58,773,600 cwts. (13,713,840 quarters), compared with 53,190,838 cwts. (12,411,196 quarters) in the corresponding eight months of 1902-3. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the eight months September-April of 1903-4 amounted to 15,326,764 cwts., compared with 12,931,624 cwts. from September 1st to April 30th, 1902-3.

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.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF THE EMPLOYMENT; DEATH BY LIGHTNING.

Where a workman is injured by accident, compensation is payable under the Act only where the accident arose "out of and in the course of the employment."

A bricklayer was employed in building a house exceeding 30 feet in height. Whilst doing his work upon a scaffold about 23 feet from the ground, he was killed by a flash of lightning. The widow of the man claimed compensation under the Act before a County Court Judge. Expert evidence was given to the effect that a man working on an elevated position runs an appreciably greater risk from lightning than a man does when working on the ground. The accident admittedly arose "in the course of" the deceased man's employment, but it was argued for the employers that it did not arise "out of" his employment, as there was no sort of connection between the work and the accident. The County Court Judge, however, was of opinion that though the accident was not connected with the actual work being done, still, as the position in which the man was working was a position which was dangerous to a degree appreciably and substantially greater than the normal, the extra danger to which he was exposed was something arising out of his employment, and therefore the accident arose out of his employment. The Judge, therefore, awarded the widow £300 compensation.

The employers appealed, and on appeal the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the County Court Judge.—*Andrew v. Faulstich Industrial Society (Ltd.)*, Court of Appeal, April 12th, 1904.

TIME WITHIN WHICH CLAIM MUST BE MADE.

When a workman has been injured by accident and desires to obtain an award of compensation under the Act, he must make his claim within six months from the occurrence of the accident.

A workman was ruptured in lifting some heavy weights. In conversation with a member of the firm by whom he was employed he asserted his right to compensation. The employers thereupon said they would pass on his claim to the Insurance Company by whom they were insured. This they did, but the Insurance Company refused to pay, on the ground that injuries by rupture were not covered by the policy. The workman then claimed compensation in the County Court against his employers, but at the time he made his claim more than six months had elapsed since the accident. On this ground the County Court Judge refused to award the workman compensation.

On appeal the Court of Appeal held that the reason the man did not formally make his claim within the six months was because the employers had promised to pass his claim on to the Insurance Company. The employers were thereupon estopped from setting up that the claim had not been made in time, and the County Court Judge was wrong.—*Heaton v. Tomlinson & Sons*, Court of Appeal, April 15th, 1904.

WHAT IS A FACTORY: BUILDING USED FOR SELLING AND SHOWING ARTICLES.

The Act applies to employment in a factory. "Factory" is to have the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and also is to include any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant to which any provision of the Factory Acts are applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. That Act provides that its provisions, with respect to notice of accidents and the formal investigation of accidents, shall have effect as if any building which exceeds 30 feet in height and in which more than 20 persons, not being domestic servants, are employed for wages, was included in the word "factory."

A man was employed in a building more than 30 feet in height, in which more than 20 persons were employed. There was no machinery or plant worked by mechanical power on the premises, which were used for the purpose of showing and selling bicycles, and also for the purpose of doing certain repairs. While engaged in cleaning a bicycle the man was injured by accident. He took proceedings in the City of London Court to obtain compensation under the Act, and an award was made in his favour.

The employers appealed. On appeal the Court of Appeal held that, as the premises were neither a dock, wharf, quay, machinery, nor plant, and as no evidence was given that they were a "factory" within the meaning of the Act. The decision of the City of London Court was therefore reversed and the compensation disallowed.—*Dyer v. Swift Cycle Company (Ltd.)*, Court of Appeal, April 13th, 1903.

SHIP AT WHARF: SEAMAN NOT ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION.

The Act applies to employment on, or in, or about a factory. "Factory" includes any dock, wharf, or quay, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901; and by the last mentioned Act its provisions with respect to accidents have effect as if every dock, wharf, or quay were included in the word "factory."

A fireman was employed on a passenger steamship which made daily trips from Cardiff to various places. She came into Cardiff on the evening of August 20th, 1903, and was made fast to the landing pontoon outside the docks. This pontoon is a floating stage which rises and falls with the tide. Early the next morning, while the ship was still at the same fastenings, the man went on board to perform his usual duties as fireman. The vessel was timed to leave Cardiff at 8.15 a.m. At 8.17 a.m., almost all the passengers having come on board, and the ship still being connected with the pontoon by gangways, a tube in one of the boilers exploded, and the fireman, who was at work at the boilers, was injured. The main and auxiliary engines had been worked before the accident happened.

The injured man claimed compensation under the Act. He was a seaman on the ship's articles, and was engaged on his duties as a seaman when he was injured. For the employers it was contended that the Act did not apply. The County Court Judge, however, decided in favour of the claimant, and awarded compensation.

The employers appealed. A majority of the Court of Appeal held that the man was not employed "in or on" the wharf, and although the ship was moored to a wharf, the work upon which he was employed had no connection with the purposes for which the wharf was used; therefore, the man was not employed "about" the wharf, and was not entitled to compensation. The Court granted a stay on terms pending an Appeal to the House of Lords.—*Owens v. P. A. Campbell (Ltd.)*, Court of Appeal, April 26th, 1904.

BUILDING BEING REPAIRED BY MEANS OF A SCAFFOLDING.

The Act applies to employment on, in, or about any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding.

A builder had contracted to repair a certain building. A man in the builder's employment was standing on a ladder engaged in whitewashing an outside wall, when the ladder gave way and the man fell to the ground and was killed. The dependants of the deceased claimed compensation under the Act. In defence, it was contended that the Act did not apply. It was proved that besides the ladder in question, and two other ladders which were being used by other men for the same purpose, in another part of the building a board had been placed between a stepladder and a wall for the purpose of whitewashing. The board and stepladder, however, had not been used at the time of the accident. The County Court Judge held that the ladders used by the men did not in themselves constitute scaffolding, but that the board and stepladder did constitute scaffolding, and therefore, the Act applied. He therefore awarded £234 as compensation.

The builder appealed, but the Court of Appeal held that the fact that the injured workman was in no way concerned with the scaffolding, or that the scaffolding was entirely remote from the part of the building on which he was engaged did not affect his right to compensation under the Act. Once it was ascertained that scaffolding was being used, the right arose. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Brindle v. Jones*, Court of Appeal, April 12th, 1904.

DEPENDANTS: WHO IS WHOLLY DEPENDENT?

Where death results from an accident, the Act provides that in certain cases, if the workman leaves any dependants wholly dependent upon his earnings at the time of his death, such dependants are entitled to compensation.

A boilermaker, 64 years of age, had worked regularly up to March 10th, 1903, at wages averaging about £2 a week. On that day, as he was suffering from lumbago, he arranged with his son that he should not work any more and that the son should support him for the rest of his life. The son met with a serious accident

on April 4th, and the result was that he died on May 11th. The father, on behalf of himself and his wife, claimed compensation on the ground that he was, at the time of his son's death, wholly dependent upon his son's earnings. It was proved that the claimant had worked and earned half-a-day's pay on May 11th, and he admitted that he was able to work, but not without difficulty. Medical evidence was tendered on behalf of the employers as to the physical condition and ability for work of the claimant. The County Court Judge, however, refused to admit such evidence, and decided that the claimant and his wife were wholly dependent on the earnings of the deceased at the time of his death.

The employers appealed, and the Court of Appeal held that the County Court Judge was wrong in thinking he was debarred from considering evidence as to whether the claimant's incapacity was temporary or total. Evidence as to the man's physical condition was most material to the question whether he was really wholly dependent on his son's earnings. The case was therefore sent back to the County Court Judge, in order that the medical evidence should be considered.—*Wainwright v. C. & H. Crichton*, Court of Appeal, April 15th, 1904.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: EMPLOYMENT FOR ONLY ONE DAY.

When a workman is injured and entitled to compensation under the Act, any weekly payment awarded as compensation must not exceed 50 per cent. of his average weekly earnings during the previous 12 months, if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer.

A joiner had no permanent employment, but used to work casually for several different firms or companies. On June 22nd, 1903, he was employed by a company, and had been working for two hours only, when he met with an accident which totally incapacitated him for over six months. He claimed compensation before the County Court Judge. The Judge found as facts that at the time of the accident the workman was employed for one day only, that there was no presumption that he would have been employed on the following day or on any other day, and that if he had worked the whole of June 22nd he would have earned 7s. 6d. He accordingly awarded him 3s. 9d. a week.

The workman appealed on the ground that the compensation was inadequate. The Court of Appeal, however, dismissed the appeal, holding that the question was one of fact, and that there was ample evidence to justify the conclusion arrived at by the County Court Judge.—*McKay v. Canadian Pacific Railway Company*, Court of Appeal, April 22nd, 1904.

APPEAL FROM ARBITRATOR: PROCEDURE.

Where a claim for compensation under the Act is referred for decision to an arbitrator other than a County Court Judge, it is provided that such arbitrator may submit any question of law for the decision of the County Court Judge, and that such decision shall be final unless either party appeals to the Court of Appeal.

A claim under the Act was heard by an arbitrator, who made an award in favour of the workman applying for compensation. After award the arbitrator was asked to state a case, but he held that he was *functus officio*, and had no power to state a case. The employers appealed from the arbitrator's decision to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal on the ground that an appeal cannot be brought direct from an arbitrator to the Court. The only manner in which the decision of an arbitrator can be reviewed is, that, if he thinks fit, he may submit a question of law for the decision of the County Court Judge, and then the decision of the County Court Judge is open to appeal to the Court of Appeal.—*Gibson v. Wormald & Walker (Ltd.)*, Court of Appeal, April 22nd, 1904.

AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION: ABILITY TO EARN AFTER ACCIDENT: CARRYING ON TRADE.

Where a workman has been injured by accident, the Act provides that, in fixing the amount of a weekly payment, regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident. Weekly payments may be reviewed from time to time, and, on such review may be ended, diminished, or increased.

A workman, employed as a machinist by a firm of builders and contractors, met with an accident in the course of his employment in May, 1901, by which he lost part of one finger and injured another. At the time of the accident his wages were 37s. a week, and he was awarded 18s. 6d. a week as compensation under the Act. This sum was paid till May, 1903. An application was then made by the employers to the County Court Judge to end or diminish the weekly payments, upon the ground that the workman was carrying on the business of a baker and earning money thereby. The workman had a wife, and a son, and a daughter whom he supported before the accident. After the accident he carried on the business of a baker, with the labour and assistance of each of these three members of his family; his wife taking the principal share in the work, the daughter serving in the shop, and the son going out with a horse and cart. He himself exercised a general control of the business and took all the profits, appropriating the work of his family and supporting them. He also sometimes went out with the horse and cart. The profits of the business amounted to £2 a week. The employers asked the Judge to say that these profits, or at least such part of them as were attributable to the workman's own labour, were his earnings within the meaning of the Act. The Judge, however, refused to take this view, or to diminish the weekly payments. He held that compensation to a workman was assessable by comparing his weekly wages or earnings earned before the accident, with his

weekly earnings or wages earned after the accident, and that trade profits in a business could not be taken into account. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal overruled the decision of the County Court Judge; holding that in comparing the amount of a workman's earnings before an accident, with the amount he is able to earn after the accident, the latter amount was not limited to wages earned from an employer, but referred to the whole money-earning capacity of the workman. The case was, therefore, referred back to the County Court Judge to enquire how much of the profits of the business were attributable to the workman's own labour, and to deal with the case upon its merits in accordance with the law as laid down by the Court of Appeal.—*Norman & Burt v. Walder*, Court of Appeal, April 12th, 1904.

(2) Factory and Workshop Act.

WHAT IS A TENEMENT FACTORY.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, gives Local Authorities power to compel the owner of a factory, in which more than 40 persons are employed, to provide the factory with proper means of escape in case of fire. In regard to the exercise of this power, the whole of a tenement factory is to be deemed to be one factory, and the owner of the building is the person responsible. The expression "tenement factory" is defined to mean a factory where mechanical power is supplied to different parts of the same building occupied by different persons for the purpose of any manufacturing process or handicraft, in such manner that their parts constitute in law separate factories; and for the purpose of the provisions of the Act with respect to tenement factories, all buildings situate within the same, close or curtilage, are to be treated as one building. Where a local authority requires the owner of a factory to take measures for providing means of escape from fire, and a difference of opinion arises between the authority and the owner as to such requirement, it is provided that such difference may be settled by arbitration.

Certain premises in London consisted of three floors and a basement under part of the ground floor, and were occupied in part by a paper-cutting company, in part by manufacturers of wood and cardboard boxes, and as to the rest by the owner as a building store. The part occupied by the paper-cutting company, which had no connection with the rest of the premises, was fitted with 30 cutting machines, all driven by a gas engine belonging to the company, and on that part of the premises occupied by them. On the company's premises 25 persons were employed. In the part of the building occupied by the box manufacturers were several cutting machines driven by a steam engine belonging to the manufacturers, and placed in the basement. About 140 persons were employed by this firm. The rest of the building, occupied by the owner himself, was used only as a store, and no mechanical power was used thereon. The London County Council, under the powers conferred by the Act, required the owner to carry out certain measures for providing escape from fire. A difference of opinion arose between the parties, and the difference was referred to arbitration under the Act. At the arbitration it was contended on behalf of the owner that the premises in question were not a tenement factory within the meaning of the Act, and the umpire stated a case for the opinion of the High Court on the question.

The High Court held that in order to bring a building within the definition of a tenement factory, it was necessary that the mechanical power should be supplied to different parts of the building from one source. Here there was not such a supply of mechanical power, and the premises in question, therefore, were not a tenement factory, and not within the Act with regard to the provision of means of escape from fire.—*Brass v. The London County Council, King's Bench Division*, April 29th, 1904.

(3) Truck Acts.

RIGHT OF EMPLOYER TO DEDUCT FROM WAGES DAMAGES DUE FROM WORKMAN.

It is provided by the Truck Act, 1831, that the entire amount of the wages earned by or payable to any workman in respect of any labour done by him shall be actually paid to such workman in the current coin of this realm, and not otherwise; and every payment made to any workman by his employer, or in respect of, any such wages, by the delivery to him of goods, or otherwise than in current coin, is declared to be illegal, null, and void; and the workman may recover by legal process so much of the wages earned by him as was not paid in current coin.

Six miners in the employment of a colliery company absented themselves from work without notice, contrary to the terms of their written contract of service. The company thereupon took proceedings against the men in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, claiming damages against them for their breach of contract. The result was that each of the men was ordered to pay to the company the sum of 30s.; and an order was made by the magistrates that the money should be paid in three fortnightly instalments of 10s each, the first instalment to be paid on January 30th, 1904, the second on February 13th, and the last, on February 27th. These days were the men's pay days, their wages being payable fortnightly. In paying the men their wages on January 30th, the company deducted therefrom in each case the sum of 10s., the amount of the instalment due that day. On February 1st the six men commenced an action in the High Court against the company, claiming to recover the sum of 10s. so deducted, and asking for a declaration that such deduction was illegal and for an injunction to restrain the company from making any further deduction from wages that might become due in the future.

A Judge of the King's Bench Division granted an interim injunction forbidding further deductions till the trial of the action. Against this order the company appealed to the Court of Appeal.

and it was agreed between the parties to treat the appeal as the trial of the action. It was argued for the men that the deductions were an infringement of the provisions of the Truck Act, as the entire amount of the wages earned was not paid to the men in current coin. For the company it was contended that, if they had been sued for wages, they could have set-off when they paid the wages without being sued, and that the Truck Act did not affect such right. The argument was confined to the one question whether a set-off against wages insisted on by an employer at the time of the payment of wages, was a violation of the Truck Act. The Court of Appeal held that the central scheme and purpose of the Truck Act was to provide that wages should be paid in money and not in goods; that the Act dealt with the mode of payment and not with the amount of payment; that a legal set-off was merely a mode of calculating the amount of wages due, and the payment of the amount so found due was no violation of the Act; and that, therefore, the plaintiffs were not entitled to the injunction they asked for.—*Williams and Others v North's Navigation Collieries (1889) (Ltd), Court of Appeal, April 20th and 21st, 1904.*

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

Farm labourers, and men and boys willing and able to work on farms are in great demand everywhere. This is the busy season in Canada, and there is now considerable activity in mining both in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, in manufacturing, especially in Ontario, in railway construction, and in the building trades. Competent mechanics, miners and labourers should have little or no difficulty in finding employment. Female servants also are in great demand both on farms and in towns; single women are not as a rule advised to go out in the expectation of getting work in factories.

The Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—There is not much demand at present for more labour, but the good season of 1903-4 has improved prospects. Maize, oats, hay, barley, and sugar products are in excess of any previous year, and wheat, tobacco, fruit, and market gardens, and all kinds of stock show increases.

Victoria and South Australia.—Prospects have similarly improved, but the demand for outside labour is still limited, and there is no demand for miners.

Queensland.—There is a good demand for agricultural labourers, and in the north for female servants.

Western Australia.—There is no demand for more miners either on the goldfields or at the coal mines, and in some mining districts there are more miners than are wanted. There is a good demand for farm labourers at certain seasons of the year, as during harvest, but at other times the demand is mostly met by the local supply. Free homesteads of 160 acres are given to settlers, but some capital is necessary for clearing, stocking, &c. Local mechanics are generally well employed, but there seems to be little demand for more, except sometimes for men in the building trades. Competent men can get work in timber districts. Female servants are wanted, especially in country districts, which they find too dull.

New Zealand.

Competent workers in the building, engineering, boot, and clothing trades have been doing well; coach builders, men in the flax mills and saw mills, wheelwrights, and blacksmiths have been well employed; and in country districts there has been plenty of work at road making, firewood cutting, scrub cutting, grass seeding, dairying, haymaking, &c.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—There is no demand for any more labour, and no one is allowed to land unless he has £20 on arrival, and has secured employment. Male and female servants under 35 years of age are eligible for assisted passages to the Colony at £3 a head on certain conditions. The cost of living is considerably higher than in England.

Natal.—Over 100 men have been discharged from the railways, and 44 hours a week are now being worked instead of 48. Emigrants are recommended not to go to

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

Natal at the present time in search of work, unless they are nominated by friends in the Colony.

Transvaal.—No one can enter the Colony without a permit. There is no improvement in the demand for labour, and persons other than female servants are warned against going to the Colony at the present time in search of work. The cost of living is very high, and accommodation is scarce. Female servants may procure assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—No one can enter the Colony without a permit. There is no demand for more labour, and the cost of living is very high. Female servants may obtain assisted passages by applying to the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

*Employment in March.**—The improvement in the building trades was more marked than in the previous month. Some slight increase of activity was reported in the metal trades, more especially in the engineering and automobile branches. The depression in the textile trades extended in March to nearly every cotton manufacturing centre, even in the North; almost everywhere the workpeople were unemployed one or two days per week. Only in the woollen and linen industries was any degree of activity maintained. There was a revival in the garment-making trades. The improvement in the weather permitted agricultural and viticultural operations to be pushed forward. Fishing was better than in the previous months, both on the Atlantic and Mediterranean Coasts. The paper trades were once more actively employed, and the printing trades were in their busy season. The depression, which has lasted for some months, in the leather tanning and dressing trades, became much less acute in March.

Of the 175,367 members of 1,102 Trade Unions (not including the miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made reports as to the state of employment in March, 19,186, or 10.9 per cent. were out of employment on the 15th of the month, as compared with 12.5 per cent. in the previous month, and 7.0 per cent. in March, 1903.

The following statement shows the percentages reported by certain Trade Unions as unemployed in March, compared with the corresponding figures for the previous month and for March, 1903.

Trade Union.	Percentage reported Unemployed at end of		
	Mar., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.
Building Trades:—			
Carpenters and Joiners ...	12.0	18.0	9.0
Other Branches ...	17.3	29.0	14.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	7.2	10.0	10.0
Textile Trades ...	10.0†	9.6	6.0
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking) ...	7.5	11.0	Not stated.
Printing Trades:—			
Paris ...	2.6	5.0	5.0
Provinces ...	3.3	2.1	3.0
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	24.0	48.0	7.0
Boot and Shoemaking ...	10.0	4.0	4.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades ...	8.0	12.0	8.0
Food Preparation Trades ...	16.0	8.0	10.0

*Coal Mining in March.**—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in March was 5.88, as compared with 5.69 in February, and 5.96 in March, 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 24.5 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 74.45 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 43.5 and 49.4 respectively. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 151,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

*Labour Disputes in March.**—Ninety-seven disputes were reported as having begun in March, the number of

* *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† See also reference to the employment in the textile trades in the first paragraph.

participants in 87 of these being 45,267. The number of disputes reported in the previous month was 95, in 73 of which 13,645 workpeople took part, while in March, 1903, there were 37 disputes, in 34 of which 4,728 workpeople took part. Information as to trades is supplied in the case of 96 of the new disputes. Of these, 14 took place in the building trades, 3 in mining and quarrying, 6 in the metal trades, 22 in the textile trades, 19 in the transport and warehousing trades, 12 in agriculture, 3 in the printing and paper trades, 2 in the woodworking trades, 4 in the chemical, glass, and pottery trades, 3 in the food and tobacco trades, 6 in the leather trades, and 2 in trades not included within any of these groups. Seventy-six new and old disputes were reported as having terminated in March, 17 having ended in favour of the workpeople, 16 in favour of the employers, and 43 in a compromise.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in March.**—Twenty-one cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in March, the initiative being taken in 12 cases by the Justice of the Peace, and in 7 cases by the workpeople. With respect to 2 cases information on this point is wanting.

Committees of Conciliation were formed in 16 of the 21 cases, and resulted in the settlement of 13 disputes. In 3 of the remaining 8 cases the workpeople eventually accepted the employers' terms, in 2 further cases a compromise was reached by direct negotiations between the parties, while in 3 cases the strikes were still in progress at the time of reporting.

*Results of the Eight-hours Day in Postal and Telegraph Workshops.**—After having been applied provisionally in the workshops of the Postal and Telegraph Department, situated in the Boulevard Brune, Paris, from September 16th, 1899, to February 9th, 1901, the 8-hours day was, on the latter date, introduced as a definite measure, the hours of labour having previously been 10. In considering the result of this departure, it is to be noted that some of the workpeople employed were paid time-wages, while others were on piece-wages. At the end of the first three months it was found that no appreciable reduction of output had resulted from the change. Since then there has been a decline. It is stated, however, that the true cause of this decline is the suppression of piece-work rather than the introduction of the 8-hours day.

Owing to the increase of staff rendered necessary by the reorganisation of the service, an increased expenditure of about 33,000 francs (£1,320) per annum has been incurred. This represents an increase of 2.4 per cent. of the wages paid under the 10-hours system, whereas the reduction of working hours amounted to 20 per cent.

Strike of Ships' Officers and Engineers at the Principal Sea Ports.—In a series of despatches dated April 23rd to May 14th, Mr. M. C. Gurney, H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles, reported concerning a strike of officers and engineers of vessels belonging to that port, which began on April 22nd. Their complaint was that, in order to avoid being boycotted by the men, the local steamship companies had in several cases yielded to pressure from the Seamen's Union, and removed officers on the complaints of the seamen. The officers demanded (1) the re-instatement on their respective vessels of the officers discharged at the request of the Seamen's Union; (2) entire freedom to the masters in the formation of their crews, and liberty to take Union or non-Union men; and (3) all differences between officers and men to be submitted within 24 hours to the master, who, if he does not decide them himself, must refer them to the Marine Superintendent for final decision. War vessels were employed for conveying the mails to Corsica, Algeria, and Tunis.

Ultimately, on the recommendation of the Mercantile Marine Superintendent, the Seamen's Union accepted the officers' conditions, and agreed to resume work on May 16th. Despatches received from H.M. Consuls at Havre, Bordeaux and Dunkerque, dated May 9th, 11th

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

and 14th respectively, reported the ship's officers at those ports as having struck, or decided to strike, in support of those at Marseilles.

Strike of Textile Operatives in the North of France.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated May 6th, Mr. C. A. Payton, H. M. Consul at Calais, reported that though work had been resumed in the spinning and other industries in the Lille district, those engaged in weaving still remained on strike. The Consul also reported that the strikes at Roubaix, Tourcoing, and Croix had ended on April 25th. (See last month's GAZETTE, p. 105.)

Employment Bureaux: New Law.—The conditions under which private employment bureaux carry on their business in France have hitherto been regulated by the Decree of March 25th, 1852, which requires all such bureaux to hold a license from the Municipality, such license being revocable only on the holder being convicted of certain specified offences. By a new Law,* dated March 14th, 1904, Municipalities are empowered to revoke the license held by any private employment bureau irrespective of the commission of any offence by the holder. In such cases the holder is to receive as compensation a sum equivalent to the selling price of the bureau. Where the price cannot be agreed upon, the decision rests with the Council of the Prefecture. The cost of compensation is to be borne by the Municipality.

The Law requires that in each Commune a register shall be kept of situations offered and applied for, such register to be open free to the public. Communes with a population exceeding 10,000 are required to establish Municipal Labour Bureaux.

From the date of promulgation of the present Law private employment bureaux are forbidden to charge any fees to persons applying for situations.

Theatrical, circus and music-hall agencies do not come within the scope of the Law.

BELGIUM.

Addition to List of Trades classed as Dangerous, &c.†—By a Royal Decree, dated February 18th, 1904, establishments in which the manufacture of hydrate of barium and sulphate of zinc is carried on, have, by reason of the smoke, danger of fire and explosion, and sulphurous fumes, been added to the list of establishments classed as dangerous, unhealthy, or unpleasant, and accordingly subject to inspection.

GERMANY.

Employment in March.‡—According to the review of the state of the labour market, prepared by the German Labour Department on the basis of reports obtained from various sources (including Employers' Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Public Labour Bureaux, and Sick and Invalidity Insurance Funds), employment in March was better than a year ago, and showed more than the general improvement which usually results from the complete resumption of building operations, and the increased activity in the clothing trades connected with the approach of Easter. At blastfurnaces the slackness of recent months gave way to brisk employment, while the remaining branches of the iron trade, and most of the engineering trades, were well provided with work. The coal mining industry was still suffering from the slight decline previously reported. Employment in the electrical industry continued satisfactory. Though the textile trades had again to contend with violent fluctuations in the prices of raw materials, no adverse effects were experienced so far as employment of labour in those trades was concerned.

Employment returns were supplied to the German Labour Department by Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 446,712, for the quarter ended March 31st. According to these returns 8,651, or 1.9 per cent. of the total membership, were unemployed on March 31st, as compared with 2.2 per cent. at the end of

* *Journal Officiel*, March 17th, 1904.

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

‡ *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department).

December. The trades most largely represented in these returns were the metal, engineering, and printing trades. The number and percentage of members unemployed on March 31st and December 31st respectively, in the three principal Unions in these trades, were as follows:—

	Total Membership.		Unemployed Membership.			
	Dec. 31st, 1903.	Mar. 31st, 1904.	Total.		Per cent. of Membership.	
			Dec. 31st, 1903.	Mar. 31st, 1904.	Dec. 31st, 1903.	Mar. 31st, 1904.
1. Federation of Metal Workers, (Headquarters Stuttgart)	158,548	160,141	2,632	2,297	1.7	1.4
2. Federation of German Engineers and Metal Workers, (Headquarters Berlin)	38,175	34,880	335	347	0.9	1.0
3. Federation of German Book Printers (Headquarters Berlin)	34,807	35,374	1,637	1,405	4.7	4.0
Total of above 3 Federations	231,530	230,395	4,604	4,049	2.0	1.8

Labour Disputes in April.—The Berlin journal *Der Arbeitsmarkt* reports 50 disputes as having begun in April, as compared with 61 in March. Of the former, 18 occurred in the building trades, 7 in metal and engineering trades, 4 in clothing trades, 7 in pottery trades, 8 in woodworking trades, 2 in transport, and 1 in each of the following trades:—mining, food preparation, printing, leather.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Employment in March.*—According to reports made to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries, the number of applications for employment per 100 situations offered was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
March, 1904	204	115	158
February, 1904	292	107	177
March, 1903	210	101	168

Disputes in March.—Twenty-eight disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in March, the number of workpeople taking part in 27 of these being 3,259. Two of the disputes occurred in the building trades, 7 in mining, 6 in the metal and engineering trades, 2 in the clothing and cleaning trades, 4 in the glass and pottery trades, 5 in the woodworking trades, 1 in paper making and 1 amongst employees in commercial establishments.

Strike of Employees on the Hungarian State Railways.—In despatches to the Foreign Office, dated April 21st and 22nd, Sir F. Plunkett, H.M. Ambassador at Vienna, transmits reports relating to a strike of the employees on the Hungarian State Railways. From these it appears that for some little time past there had been an agitation amongst the railway employees for an increase of pay. Local conferences had taken place in various parts of the country, and a general meeting had been held at Budapest, with the result that the demands of the employees were formulated in a memorandum. In order partially to comply with the wishes of the employees, who are admitted to have had some grounds for dissatisfaction, the Minister of Commerce recently introduced a Bill in the Chamber providing for an increase of wages and salaries amounting in the aggregate to £279,000. The employees, however, persisted in a demand for an increase amounting to over £417,000. A meeting, which was convoked for April 20th, to protest against the action of the Government was prohibited, and two officials and an engine-driver were suspended from duty. The strike was then proclaimed, and came into force in Budapest on April 19th, afterwards extending over the greater part of the country, though the Southern Line, which is a private enterprise, was not affected.

(According to newspaper reports, all men belonging to the railway and telegraph regiments, as well as all reservists who are professional railway men, were called out by the Government to join the Army, and in this way the strike was brought to an end by April 25th. The Government offered a full amnesty to all employees on condition that they returned to work within a given time, and the men returned to their posts as rapidly as possible).

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

NORWAY.*

Employment in February.—Out of 7,946 members of 95 Trade Unions which made returns to the Norwegian Bureau of Labour Statistics, 357, or 4.5 per cent., were out of work at the end of February, as compared with 497, or 6.3 per cent. reported out of work by the same Trade Unions at the end of January, and 551, or 7.1 per cent., at the end of December. Thus there has been a continuous improvement in employment since the end of 1903, and, as might be expected, this improvement is most noticeable in the building trades.

The following statement shows, by trades, the percentages reported unemployed by certain Unions at the end of each of the three months under review, together with the aggregate number of days of unemployment experienced in each month by members of those Unions. (The figures as to unemployment relate to the same 95 Unions in each month.)

Occupation.	Total Membership of the Unions reporting in February.	Percentage of Membership reported unemployed at the end of each month.		
		Dec., 1903.	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1904.
Masons and Bricklayers	126	51.1	50.4	38.1
Stonecutters	259	1.5	1.1	—
Painters	338	53.4	46.9	30.0
Iron and other Metal Workers (except Moulders)	4,651	1.7	1.6	1.6
Moulders	658	6.4	7.5	2.4
Railway Servants	319	—	—	—
Bakers	502	11.2	12.3	9.6
Printers	993	11.1	8.1	6.0
Others	120	18.8	8.3	7.5
All the above Trades	7,946	7.1	6.3	4.5

ITALY.

Dispute at the Flour Mills at Torre Annunziata.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 26th, Sir F. Bertie, H.M. Ambassador at Rome, reports that in consequence of a dispute between the Owners' Association and the Trade Union, with regard to wages, the flour and macaroni mills in Torre Annunziata were closed. The number of mills concerned is 57, and there were about 7,000 people out of employment.

PORTUGAL.

Strike of Newspaper Compositors at Lisbon.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 22nd, Sir M. Gosselin, H.M. Minister at Lisbon, reports a strike of the newspaper compositors which resulted in the issue of the daily papers in that city being completely suspended—with the exception of the official "Diario do Governo." The Association of Typographic Compositors had proposed a new scale of wages to the proprietors of the various newspapers, but the latter rejected the proposals on the grounds that their earnings did not admit of an increase of wages; that the conditions of work in the different offices varied considerably; and that the compositors earned on an average from 4s. 3d. to 5s. per day, and occasionally from 6s. 5d. to 7s. 1d., though in the cheaper editions, where the workmen employed were not so efficient and the scale of wages was arranged according to piece-work, the wages averaged from 2s. 10d. to 4s. 3d. per day. On April 12th, the employers were informed that if the proposals for an increase in wages were not accepted the compositors would discontinue work after the 18th, which they did in spite of efforts to promote an understanding.

In a report from the same source, dated April 28th, it is stated that the Civil Governor endeavoured to bring about a reconciliation by proposing that a conference should take place between the representatives of both parties. But while the proprietors offered to submit the dispute to a tribunal composed of six delegates, three to be chosen by each side, who should select a president, they would not agree to the proposal of the compositors that both parties should submit two names for president, and that the choice should be decided by the drawing of

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Bureau of Labour Statistics.

lots. When it was understood that no recourse was to be had to a court of arbitration, most of the compositors, who were anxious to come to terms, returned to work. The strike came to an end on April 25th without any benefit having been gained by the men.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Labour Disputes.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated May 2nd, Mr. T. E. Erskine, Acting British Consul at Chicago, states that the workers in a large boot and shoe factory having struck over a question of the price of vamping, the manufacturers on April 30th announced that all the works (11 in number, employing 4,000 men) would be closed for a week or two. Two of the manufacturers notified their employees that when the works were re-opened they would have to subscribe to a new set of rules in which it was provided that non-Union as well as Union men could be employed, and that no extra rate would be paid for overtime.

The brass workers in the chandelier shops, mentioned in the February GAZETTE (p. 43) as being on strike, were still out at the date of reporting.

Telegraphing to the Foreign Office on May 12th the Acting British Consul states that the masters and pilots of the Lake vessels have struck.

(From newspaper reports it appears that the men are demanding pay for the whole year at the same rate at which they are paid for the eight working months only).

PANAMA.

Strike on the Panama Railway.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 7th, Mr. C. Mallet, H.M. Consul at Panama, reports that a strike of the labourers employed by the Panama Railroad Company in that town was begun on March 31st. Work on the dock was, in consequence, at a standstill and interoceanic traffic was paralysed. The men demanded higher wages on the plea that living had become more expensive. The wages hitherto paid have been 10½d. per hour, and the workmen now demand 1s. 2½d. They further asked that their working time should be computed by days and half-days, instead of by hours and half-hours, and that the labourers should be admitted according to a list formed on the basis of long service. In a despatch from the same source, dated April 14th, the Consul reports that the strike came to a sudden ending on April 10th, when all the men resumed work again under the old conditions as to wages, &c.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 70 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 80,000 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 185,000, employment continues dull. Compared with a month ago it is rather better, but it is worse than a year ago.

With bricklayers employment is reported as dull; but on the whole rather better than a month ago. With masons employment was fair in England, and dull in Scotland.

With carpenters and joiners employment was dull generally, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of April was 6.1, compared with 6.7 at the end of March, and 2.8 in April 1903. With plumbers employment was dull in England and fair in Scotland. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers at the end of April was 9.7, compared with 9.2 at the end of March, and 7.1 a year ago.

Employment with plasterers was dull generally; with painters it was fair, and better than a month ago; with slaters and tilers it was dull in England, and fair 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, 1904.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Percentage for April, 1904, as compared with a	
		April, 1904.	Mar., 1904.	April, 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.				
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	7,145	7.2	7.1	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 3.0
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	5,822	10.8	9.3	2.2	+ 1.5	+ 8.6
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,484	6.4	7.9	2.6	− 1.5	+ 3.8
Yorkshire	5,199	6.7	9.5	3.4	− 2.8	+ 3.5
East Midlands	2,688	5.2	6.8	3.3	− 1.6	+ 2.9
West Midlands	4,484	7.1	8.5	2.1	− 2.1	+ 3.9
Eastern Counties	1,174	6.0	8.1	4.3	− 1.4	+ 2.8
S. and S.W. Counties	5,655	3.5	3.2	2.0	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
Wales and Monmouth	1,774	4.3	4.1	4.9	+ 0.2	− 0.6
Other Districts	567	4.8	6.2	1.5	− 1.4	+ 3.3
SCOTLAND	5,382	2.7	2.4	0.5	+ 0.3	+ 2.2
IRELAND	4,871	4.5	5.1	2.9	− 0.6	+ 1.6
UNITED KINGDOM	55,245	6.1	6.7	2.8	− 0.6	+ 3.3
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	1,085	7.9	9.1	9.3	− 1.2	− 1.4
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,617	9.8	8.5	6.7	+ 1.3	+ 3.1
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,614	10.3	9.5	6.7	+ 0.8	+ 3.6
Yorkshire	1,244	9.3	10.6	5.2	− 1.3	+ 4.1
East Midlands	661	13.0	11.1	8.2	+ 1.9	+ 4.8
West Midlands	500	9.8	10.3	10.1	− 0.3	− 0.3
Eastern Counties	110	6.4	8.7	3.2	− 2.3	+ 3.2
S. and S.W. Counties	331	6.9	5.6	7.7	+ 1.3	− 0.8
Wales and Monmouth	194	5.7	9.0	8.9	− 3.3	− 3.2
Other Districts	32	6.3	6.3	14.8	—	− 8.5
SCOTLAND	1,872	9.7	8.3	4.6	+ 1.4	+ 3.1
IRELAND	628	10.7	9.9	10.7	+ 0.8	—
UNITED KINGDOM	10,888	9.7	9.2	7.0	+ 0.5	+ 2.7

A large majority of the Employers' Associations from which returns were received through the Trade Correspondent report employment as dull or bad. Some improvement is shown, however, as compared with March.

London.—Employment in London continues slack, but shows a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 83 employers show that in the last week of April they paid wages to 20,533 workpeople, as compared with 20,380 in March, and 20,064 in April, 1903. The supply of labour is stated to be abundant.

Northern Counties, Lancashire, and Cheshire.—In the Tyne and Wear districts employment generally was dull. In the Tees and Hartlepool districts employment generally shows little change compared with a month ago, but with joiners there was a slight falling off. In Liverpool and Manchester employment continues dull; in the Blackburn, Burnley, and Bolton districts some improvement is reported; in other districts little change is shown.

Yorkshire.—In Yorkshire employment generally was slack, but at Hull it was fair with plasterers, slaters, and painters.

East Midland Counties.—Employment generally in this district was slack, except with painters who were fairly well employed on the whole. At Leicester with stone-masons, and at Northampton with carpenters and joiners there was a slight improvement.

West Midland Counties.—In Birmingham and Wolverhampton employment was bad; in other centres it was quiet, although showing some improvement as compared with a month ago.

Eastern Counties.—In Norfolk and Cambridge employment continues bad; with bricklayers and with painters at Yarmouth, however, there has been some improvement. In Suffolk and Essex employment on the whole was fair.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Devon and Cornwall employment generally was fair or quiet, but in the Plymouth district it was dull. In Somerset and Gloucester employment continues dull generally.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—In North Wales employment was fair with bricklayers and painters; slack with carpenters, and joiners, and plasterers. In South Wales and Monmouthshire employment was generally bad

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

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

with plumbers, and with carpenters and joiners; it was moderate with stonemasons.

Scotland.—Employment generally is dull or quiet, except with painters, with whom it is good.

Ireland.—In Dublin employment with stone cutters has been good; with painters fair; with other trades bad. In Belfast a slight improvement is reported. In Cork employment has been on the whole moderate.

COAL MINING

[NOTE.—The following figures only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns 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 a slight improvement in England and Wales as compared with a year ago. In Scotland employment was about the same as in March, but worse than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received was about the same as in March, and 1.5 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Returns received relating to 1,317 pits, employing 504,170 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries during the four weeks ended April 23rd, was 4.86, as compared with 4.82 in April, 1903. In both these periods the average number of days worked was lowered to about the same extent by holidays, but in the comparison of April with March an allowance has to be made, in the case of England and Wales, of rather more than half a day in the average for the four weeks. In Scotland the average time lost in this way was insignificant and the comparison with a month ago is therefore unaffected.

In the Table below the average time worked by the pits in the various districts is shown for the three periods specified:—

Table showing Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended. Columns include District, No. of workpeople employed in Apr., 1904, at the Collieries included in the Table, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended (Apr. 23rd, 1904; Mar. 19th, 1904; Apr. 23th, 1903), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr., 1904, as compared with A m'th ago. and A year ago.

As compared with a year ago, there were increases in eleven districts, while in five districts the average time worked showed a decrease. In Northumberland the increase amounted to about one-fourth of a day per week; in Gloucester and Somerset, to two-fifths of a day.

Of the 504,170 workpeople included in the returns, 261,843, or 51.9 per cent., were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended April 23rd, 1904, as compared with 52.6 per cent. in April, 1903.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland, steam and house

* Easter Holidays are included in these periods. These holidays are not observed in Scotland as a rule.

coal pits worked on an average about 5 days per week. In Durham gas coal pits worked on an average nearly 5 days per week, while house coal, manufacturing coal, and coking coal pits averaged rather more than 5 days per week. In the Leeds district employment was quiet. Pits in the Barnsley, Sheffield, and Rotherham district worked an average of 4.64 days per week.

In Lancashire employment generally was moderate.

In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire employment was moderate. At Tamworth it was dull. In the Cannock Chase district employment shows little change as compared with a month ago; in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire there was a falling off. In Shropshire employment continued fair. In the Forest of Dean it has declined. In the Bristol district it continues good. In the Radstock district 5 1/2 days per week were worked.

In North Wales employment was fair.

In Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire employment continued fairly good. In Ayrshire a considerable number of men were working short time. In Stirlingshire an improvement is reported. In Mid and East Lothian about 80 per cent. of the miners worked full time. In West Lothian, and in Fifeshire, employment improved slightly towards the end of April.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during April amounted to 3,931,880 tons, as compared with 4,222,654 tons in March, and 3,582,361 tons in April, 1903.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing over 18,000 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations, from a Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in April continued good in iron, shale, and lead mines, and fair generally in tin and copper mines. It was fairly good in slate and limestone quarries, and with settmakers; fair on the whole in granite quarries, and with china clay workers.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. Owing to the Easter Holidays the average time worked shows a slight decline as compared with March, but, compared with April, 1903 (which also included Easter), is slightly improved. The number of workpeople employed was 2.5 per cent. less than a year ago. During the four weeks ended April 23rd, the average number of days worked per week by the 133 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.67, as compared with 5.83 in March, and 5.61 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Table summarising returns received for Iron Mining. Columns include Districts, No. employed in April, 1904, at the Mines included in the Table, Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended (April 23rd, 1904; Mar. 19th, 1904; April 25th, 1903), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr., 1904, as compared with A month ago. and A year ago.

* Easter holidays are included in this period.

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

Of the 15,516 workpeople covered by the returns, 12,636, or 81.4 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended April 23rd, 1904, as compared with 93.4 per cent. a month ago, and 83.8 per cent. in April, 1903.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners was good. Returns received relating to 24 mines show that in April 2,723 men were employed, as compared with 2,709 a month ago, and 2,638 in April, 1903. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended April 23rd was 5.57, as compared with 5.56 days a month ago, and 5.77 days in April, 1903.

Lead, Tin, and Copper Mining.—In the Weardale district lead ore mines employment continues moderate, the miners working 5 days per week; in North Wales it continues good. Employment in the tin and copper mines in Devon and Cornwall was quiet in the Calstock district; fair in the Camborne district; and improving generally in the western part of Cornwall.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment with slate quarrymen in North Wales continued good. It was quiet in Devon and Cornwall, and moderate in Argyllshire.

Limestone.—Employment was fair in the Upper Weardale district; moderate at Westgate, and at Stanhope (Durham), and in Cumberland. In Derbyshire and in Devon and Cornwall it was quiet. In North Wales it continued good.

Granite.—Employment with granite quarrymen continued good in Leicestershire; dull in Devon and Cornwall; good in North Wales; and bad in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire, where some short time was worked.

Other Stone.—Employment with stone quarrymen in the Gateshead, and in the Blackburn and Burnley districts, was fairly good. It was moderate in the Sheffield district with quarrymen employed on street work; at Barnsley employment was slack; but at Normanton full time was worked. Employment with chert quarrymen in Derbyshire was slack; at the building and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district it was bad. In the Clee Hill quarries it continued good. It was fair in the Gloucester and Somerset Pennant Stone quarries, and good in the "Bath" stone quarries. At the sandstone quarries in North Wales it was also good. Employment with quarrymen in Forfarshire continued bad, and was worse than a month ago.

Settmaking.—Employment in Leicestershire was good both with settmakers and kerbstone dressers. With settmakers in the Clee Hill and North Wales districts it continued good. In Scotland it continued fair at Airdrie, and in the Edinburgh district, and good at Aberdeen. It was fair in the Belfast district.

China Clay.—Employment with china clay workers in the St. Austell district was fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

RETURNS have been received from Employers, and a Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in this industry shows little change as compared with a month ago, but in England and Wales it continues to be considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that in England three furnaces were re-lit and four damped down or blown out, and in Scotland one furnace was re-lit. At these works 304 furnaces were in blast at the end of April, as compared with the same number in March, and with 328 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the returns is estimated at about 21,600.

The following Table shows by districts the furnaces in

blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Table showing Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of April, 1904; March, 1904; April, 1903. Columns include Districts, Number of Furnaces, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1904, as compared with A month ago. and A year ago.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows a slight improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. Returns furnished by employers and relating to 195 works show that 74,488 workpeople were employed in such works during the week ended April 30th, an increase of 318 as compared with the numbers employed in the previous month, and of 1,827 as compared with the last week in April, 1903. The total volume of employment, as indicated by the estimated aggregate number of shifts worked by all workpeople employed, shows an increase of 0.8 per cent. as compared with March, and of 2.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Number Employed.

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

Table showing Numbers employed in week ended April 30th, 1904; Mar. 26th, 1904; May 2nd, 1903. Columns include District, Numbers employed, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr., 1904, as compared with A month ago. and A year ago.

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked at iron and steel works at which 90 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table were employed. The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended April 30th was 5.40, as compared with 5.38 in the previous month and 5.39 in April, 1903.

Table showing Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended April 30th, 1904; Mar. 26th, 1904; May 2nd, 1903. Columns include Number of Shifts worked, Percentage of workpeople, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Apr., 1904, as compared with A month ago. and A year ago.

On the basis of the above Table the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople covered by the returns may be estimated at 402,000, as compared with 398,940 in the preceding month, and 391,450 in the last week of April, 1903.

The following reports relating to the different branches

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

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

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

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment with steel smelters was fairly good, and steel plate mills worked full time (with the exception of the holidays). Bar and angle mills, cogging, finishing and sheet mills worked nearly full time. At forges, employment was fair, and at finished iron and steel works good.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—Employment was good in iron and steel works and at metal expansion works. In angle and plate mills it was fair, in rail mills moderate.

South Yorkshire.—Employment in Sheffield continued slack, with a slight improvement in large works. It was quiet with steel workers at Rotherham and Parkgate, fairly good with iron workers at Masbro'. Employment in steel works at Leeds continued quiet. Steelworkers at Scunthorpe were well employed.

Midlands.—At West Bromwich and Smethwick employment improved with both iron and steel workers. In South Staffordshire it continued to improve with steel smelters, but in the mills and forges no change was reported. In Shropshire employment was quiet generally, but brisk in some branches. At Derby it was slack.

Scotland.—Employment with steel smelters was good on the whole, but some short time was reported. Iron and steel workers were fairly well employed.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry continues to improve, and is generally good, though not so good as a year ago.

At the end of April, 367 mills were working, as compared with 364 at the end of March, and 378 a year ago. At the 75 works open, 52 had all their mills (257) in operation, while the remaining 23 works had 110 mills going out of a total of 152. The estimated number of workpeople employed was 18,350.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire district 357 mills were in operation at the end of April, as compared with 353 a month ago, and 366 in April, 1903.

The supply of and demand for labour continue about equal, very few workmen being reported as unable to obtain employment.

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 ...	52	257	...	257
Works giving partial employment ...	23	110	42	152
Total at end of April, 1904* ...	75	367	42	409
Corresponding Total for Mar., 1904*	72	364	36	400
Corresponding Total for Apr., 1903†	76	378	38	416

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

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	April, 1904.	March, 1904.	April, 1903.	April, 1904.	March, 1904.	April, 1903.
To United States ...	Tons. 5,496	Tons. 6,802	Tons. 3,994	Tons. —	Tons. —	Tons. 122
„ Other Countries	22,038	22,918	17,547	6,336	5,383	5,498
Total ...	27,534	29,720	21,541	6,336	5,383	5,620

* 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.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 26 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally shows little change as compared with the previous month. It continues dull, and worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 139,467 members show that 8,651 (or 6·2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6·3 per cent. at the end of March, and 4·2 per cent. in April, 1903.

The percentage of unemployed is greatest in the Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn, and East of Scotland districts, the Glasgow and West Riding districts coming next in order. The district showing the least percentage of unemployed continues to be the South Coast, and the proportion is also below the general average in the South Wales and Bristol district, London, the Midlands, and the North-East Coast.

Compared with a month ago a decline is shown on the East Coast of Scotland, while most other districts show some improvement, but the changes are in no case great. As compared with a year ago some improvement is shown on the North-East Coast, and a very slight improvement in London, while in all other districts a decline is indicated, the falling-off being most marked in Lancashire, the East of Scotland, Hull, and Ireland.

The percentages for the various districts are shown in detail in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apr., 1904, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage unemployed for Apr., 1904, as compared with a	
		Apr., 1904.	Mar., 1904.	Apr., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	14,202	4·5	4·9	5·7	- 0·4	- 1·2
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,041	7·0	6·9	2·9	+ 0·1	+ 4·1
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,328	11·0	11·5	5·4	- 0·5	+ 5·6
West Riding Towns ...	11,882	8·0	8·3	6·5	- 0·3	+ 1·5
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,270	7·4	8·4	2·9	- 1·0	+ 4·5
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,668	4·3	4·8	2·5	- 0·7	+ 1·6
Nottingham and Leicester District	4,102	5·9	5·5	3·0	+ 0·4	+ 2·9
London and Neighbouring District	11,989	4·1	4·4	4·3	- 0·3	- 0·2
South Coast ...	3,843	1·8	2·1	1·6	- 0·3	+ 0·2
South Wales and Bristol District	6,354	3·6	3·2	1·9	+ 0·4	+ 1·7
Glasgow and District ...	13,245	8·6	9·2	5·9	- 0·6	+ 2·7
East of Scotland ...	2,824	10·7	9·2	6·0	+ 1·5	+ 4·7
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,330	6·8	7·4	3·4	- 0·6	+ 3·4
Other Districts ...	3,455	5·2	4·9	3·0	+ 0·3	+ 2·2
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	139,467	6·2	6·3	4·2	- 0·1	+ 2·0

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

North-East Coast.—Employment shows a further slight improvement and is better than a year ago. Generally it is moderate, but good at Jarrow and Wallsend, bad at Darlington and Stockton. With pattern makers it is fairly good on the whole, except at Gateshead. With ironfounders it is good generally, moderate at Sunderland, bad at Darlington and Carlisle. It is moderate with boiler-makers at the two last named places, and continues good with bridge-builders in the Tees district. Fitters in the Newcastle and Gateshead district have not been so well employed. On the Tyne and Wear brass finishers report a slight improvement and employment is reported as good with coppersmiths, and enginemen and firemen. With the latter section it is moderate in the Tees district.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment generally continues bad, and much worse than a year ago. Short time continues at Crewe. At Liverpool brassfounders and iron dressers report employment as fair, hammermen as moderate, coppersmiths as quiet.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—ENGINEERING; SHIPBUILDING.

Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn Districts.—Employment generally shows a slight improvement, but is still bad, and much worse than a year ago, being affected by the depression in the cotton trade. It is good at Preston, moderate at Rochdale. Short time is reported. With pattern makers employment is fair at Blackburn and Bury, good at Preston, moderate at Oldham, dull at Bolton. With ironfounders it is bad generally, moderate at Bury and Oldham.

West Riding Towns.—A slight improvement is indicated, but employment generally continues bad, and worse than a year ago. With pattern makers it is fairly good at Sheffield, very fair at Bradford, bad at Leeds. At the latter town engineers and boiler makers report employment as moderate, brassfounders and finishers and machine workers as bad. With ironfounders employment is moderate at Keighley, good at Rotherham. It is moderate with engineers at Bradford, Wakefield, Keighley, and Cleckheaton.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment is rather better than a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. At Hull it is bad, and short time is reported, but pattern makers report employment as improving. Elsewhere it is moderate generally, but engineers report it as bad at Grimsby, ironfounders as bad at Doncaster, good at Gainsborough and Lincoln.

East Midlands.—Employment generally continues quiet, and worse than a year ago. At Nottingham it is bad generally, but with cycle and hosiery machine builders it is moderate. With lace machine builders it is fairly good at Nottingham, slack at Long Eaton. At Derby employment is dull with pattern makers, moderate or fair with other sections. At Leicester it is moderate on the whole, but bad with ironfounders. The shoe machinery branch is well employed. Electrical engineers are busy.

West Midlands.—Employment is rather better than a month ago, but not as good as a year ago. Generally it is moderate. With pattern makers it is quiet. With ironfounders it is improving at Wolverhampton, good at Smethwick, declining at Birmingham. In the latter place it is bad with general engineers and tool makers, fairly good with electrical engineers, with whom, however, employment is quiet at Wolverhampton. In the cycle trade it is quiet at Coventry, moderate at Redditch; in the motor industry, fair. With sporting gun makers it is quiet; in the military branch, improving.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment generally is quiet; it shows a very slight improvement compared with a month and a year ago. With pattern makers it is dull, with ironfounders moderately good. Coppersmiths report it as fair, brassfounders and brass finishers, and hammermen as bad. Employment is bad in electrical work, and dull with instrument makers.

South Coast.—In this district the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is less than 2 per cent. Employment generally is described as moderate, but engineers report it as bad at Portsmouth, good at Weymouth; ironfounders as bad at Devonport and Southampton; boiler-makers as slack at Brighton.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally is moderate. It is not quite so good as a month ago, and is worse than a year ago. Engineers report it as good at Bristol, bad at Swansea and Gloucester. With brassfounders it is fair at Bristol. Ironfounders report it as bad at Swansea, good at Bristol, Trowbridge, and Cardiff. Boiler-makers are slack.

Glasgow and District.—Employment generally shows a slight improvement, but is worse than a year ago. It is bad at Glasgow and Paisley, moderate elsewhere. With pattern makers it is fair. Employment is reported as good with boiler and pipe coverers; fair with brass moulders and finishers, iron, steel and brass dressers, and electrical workers; dull with copper-smiths and iron grinders; bad with tool makers and machinists. A number of iron moulders are working short time, and some is also reported by iron, steel and brass dressers.

East of Scotland.—Employment shows some decline on the previous month, and is considerably worse than a year ago. Generally it is reported as dull or bad. It is, however, moderate with engineers at Leith, and blacksmiths at Edinburgh; fair with blacksmiths at Leith, and moulders at Dundee. Moulders at Falkirk report employment as moderate, with a large number on short time. It is moderate with brass moulders at Dundee, and fair with brass finishers at Aberdeen.

Belfast and Dublin District.—Employment shows a slight improvement, but is considerably worse than a year ago. On the whole it is dull, but brassfounders and machine workers report it as fair at Belfast, and smiths as moderate at Dublin.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continues moderate on the whole, but pattern makers and ironfounders report it as good, and some branches of engineers as bad. In the Eastern Counties employment is fair on the whole. Engineers report it as moderate at Lancaster, Worcester, and York. At Stoke it is moderate with engineers and boiler makers. At Cork employment is bad.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment continued bad, and was slightly worse than a month ago. It was considerably worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,689 members had 7,177 (or 12·7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 11·8 per cent. at the end of March, and 9·1 per cent. at the end of April, 1903.

The districts in which the percentage of unemployed was greatest were the Bristol Channel Ports, Scotland, and the Humber, while it was lowest on the South Coast, the Thames and Medway, and at Belfast.

As compared with a month ago considerable improvement is shown in the Humber, and Tees and Hartlepool districts. There is, however, a decline in most districts, the falling off being greatest on the Mersey, and at the Bristol Channel ports. As compared with a year ago, some improvement is shown on the North-east Coast. In most of the other districts there is a marked decline.

The percentages of unemployed Trade Union members in the various districts are shown in the following Table, with comparative figures for a month and a year ago:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apr., 1904, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Percentage for Apr., 1904, as compared with a	
		Apr., 1904.	Mar., 1904.	Apr., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	8,952	12·8	14·0	13·6	- 1·2	- 0·8
Wear ...	4,489	12·4	9·4	15·8	+ 3·0	- 3·4
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,064	11·7	16·1	18·8	- 4·4	- 7·1
Humber ...	2,513	16·6	24·0	6·0	- 7·4	+ 10·6
Thames and Medway ...	4,102	8·8	8·4	8·5	+ 0·4	+ 0·3
South Coast ...	4,019	4·1	2·1	3·0	+ 2·0	+ 1·1
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,737	13·8	10·2	9·4	+ 8·6	+ 9·4
Mersey ...	3,806	11·8	3·7	1·9	+ 8·1	+ 9·9
Clyde ...	12,148	17·0	15·7	7·4	+ 1·3	+ 9·6
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,169	17·7	17·1	7·9	+ 0·6	+ 9·8
Belfast ...	3,901	9·3	9·8	2·6	- 0·5	+ 6·7
Other Districts ...	3,091	5·0	5·0	2·0	...	+ 3·0
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	56,689	12·7	11·8	9·1	+ 0·9	+ 3·6

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

On the Tyne employment is slightly better than a month and a year ago. With riveters and caulkers, and shipwrights it is fair, and with shipsmiths it continues to improve slowly. Employment on repair work has been better than a month ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SHIPBUILDING; MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

Employment on the *Wear* is not so good as a month ago, but is better than a year ago. With drillers and hole cutters it is good, both on new and repair work.

In the *Tees* and *Hartlepool* district employment is better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. It is fair with shipwrights and joiners except at *Hartlepool*, where it is slack on repairing work.

On the *Humber* employment continues bad, and is much worse than a year ago. Short time is reported. At *Beverley* employment is fair.

On the *Thames* and *Medway* employment continues quiet, and is about the same as a year ago. With iron shipbuilders it is fair at *Sheerness* and *Chatham*. With shipwrights it is good at *Chatham*, but slack at *Sheerness*, where some discharges have taken place.

On the *South Coast* employment shows some decline, as compared with a month and a year ago, but is still fair on the whole. At *Devonport* it is good. At *Portsmouth* there have been some discharges of shipwrights.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment generally is bad, and much worse than a month and a year ago. It is fair with iron shipbuilders at *Bristol*, and with shipwrights at *Pembroke Dock*.

On the *Mersey* employment generally is dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

On the *Clyde* employment is rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Generally it is bad. It is fair with shipwrights at *Renfrew* and *Clydebank*, moderate at *Port Glasgow*, and good at *Dumbarton*. Some overtime is reported as being worked by ship joiners.

Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.—Employment continues bad generally, and is much worse than a year ago. It improved somewhat at *Aberdeen* during the month, and with shipwrights it was good.

At *Belfast* employment continues quiet, and is much worse than a year ago. With shipwrights it is fair.

Other Districts.—At *Barrow* employment is moderate generally; good with shipwrights. It is fair at *Dublin*, *Lowestoft*, *Ipswich*, and *Yarmouth*.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 20 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns indicate that employment generally continues quiet. Compared with a month ago it shows a slight improvement, but it is not so good as it was a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—Employment generally with brassworkers is not good, showing no change on the month, and is rather worse than it was a year ago, with more short time than is usual, although in a few cases overtime is worked. In *Birmingham* employment is quiet with makers of fire brasses; with bedstead makers it is bad, but there is a tendency to improve. The brassworkers at *Rotherham* report a slight improvement.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Nut and bolt makers report employment as moderate in the *Birmingham*, *Smethwick* and *Wolverhampton* districts. Makers of machine made rivets and cut and wire nails at *Birmingham* are fairly well employed. On spikes, rivets and wrought nails in the *Blackheath* and *Halesowen* districts employment is slack.

Tubes.—Employment shows a slight tendency to improve, and is about the same as a year ago. In *Birmingham* cased and ordinary bedstead tube makers report employment as good.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—At *Cradley*, chain makers and strikers, and makers of side-welded and block chains report employment as moderate. Chain makers on the *North-East Coast* report it as good, and better on the whole than a month ago. On the *North-East Coast* employment with anchor smiths and strikers is fair; in the *Cradley* district it is moderately so. Anvil and vice makers at *Dudley* report employment as fair, and better than a month and a year ago, but there is still a little

short time worked. Spring makers at *West Bromwich* and *Wednesbury* are fairly well employed. Axle makers at *Birmingham* and *West Bromwich* are moderately employed; fairly employed at *Wednesbury*, as also are workers on coach iron work. Employment is slack in iron and steel forgings, and with makers of bits and stirrups, case hames, cart gear, and spring hooks at *Walsall*.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At *Willenhall* and *Wolverhampton* employment is reported as bad with makers of all kinds of locks, keys, and latches, and short time is still prevalent. Employment is quiet at *West Bromwich* with hollow-ware makers, and at *Wolverhampton* with hollow-ware tanners and turners. At *Sheffield* hollow-ware stampers and buffers are slack. In the *Wolverhampton* district employment is reported as good with makers of plantation and brazil hoes, malleable nails and protectors, and on electrical and motor castings. It is moderate with spade and fork finishers, makers of iron fencing and hurdles, and with stampers and piercers; quiet with makers of vermin traps; and slack with makers of spectacle frames.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—File cutters at *Birmingham*, file smiths at *Wolverhampton*, and file forgers and machine file cutters at *Sheffield* report employment as moderate; at *Warrington* as slack. Edge tool makers report employment as moderate but improving at *Birmingham*; slack at *Wolverhampton* and at *Sheffield*.

Cutlery, etc.—In *Sheffield* wool shear makers report employment as good; jobbing grinders and pen and pocket blade forgers as moderate. Most of the other branches are slack. At *Redditch* both needle and fish-hook makers are well employed. Needle makers at *Nottingham* are slack.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment is reported as moderate at *Birmingham*; bad at *Falkirk*, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, with many on short time; slack at most other centres of the trade, with short time in some cases.

Sheet Metal.—In *London* workers in sheet metal report employment as bad, except zinc workers who are fairly employed. Employment is reported as good at *Exeter*, fair at *Leeds*, on the *Tyne* and *Wear*, and at *Edinburgh* and *Dublin*; moderate at *Liverpool*. Employment with ironplate workers at *Birmingham* is rather quiet; with tinplate workers it is moderate; at other large centres slackness is reported.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In *London* silversmiths and electro-platers report trade as moderate and fair respectively; diamond workers as fair; gold beaters as fairly good; other sections as slack. In *Birmingham* and *Sheffield* employment generally is slack.

Wirework.—Wire workers at *Glasgow* report employment as fairly good; weavers at *London* as good, at *Glasgow* fair; drawers at *Ambergate* as good, *Sheffield* as fairly good, *Halifax* as steady. In other centres the trade generally is slack.

Farriers.—With farriers employment in most districts is bad.

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, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being about 215,000. Reports have also been furnished by Local Correspondents.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received, with regard to spinning and weaving factories usually employing about 114,000 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources shows that little change took place during April; at the end of the month an improvement began to show itself in the weaving branch, but employment in both spinning and weaving factories is still bad.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—COTTON TRADE.

The average price of "middling" American cotton at *Liverpool* during April was 8'03d. per lb., or about 3 per cent. less than in March, and about 48 per cent. more than in April, 1903. The quantity of all kinds of American cotton forwarded from English ports to inland towns during the first four months of 1904, was 742,461 bales, or 323,414 bales less than in the corresponding period of 1903. The price of "good fair" Egyptian cotton in April was 8'89d. per lb., or 4 per cent. less than in March, and about the same as in April, 1903.

In the *Spinning* branch short time (40 hours a week instead of 55½) was again the rule in mills using American cotton, part of the spindles standing in many cases when the mill was running full time. Of the 32,750 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents, 11,000 were in the *Bolton* and *Leigh* district, in which Egyptian cotton is largely used; of these 72 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 81 per cent. during March, and 93 per cent. during April, 1903. Of the 21,700 included in the returns for the remaining districts, 33 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with the same percentage during March, and 90 per cent. during April, 1903. If due allowance be made for the over representation of *Bolton* in these returns, it appears that of the women and girls employed in all the districts covered by the returns, 42 per cent. were employed in spinning mills giving full employment, to be compared with 43 per cent. during March, and 90 per cent. a year ago.

In the *Weaving* branch employment although bad showed some improvement. Of the 81,700 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents 48 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 44 per cent. in March, and 83 per cent. a year ago.

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 revised 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.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
April, 1904	42	16	32	10
March, 1904	43†	14†	37†	6†
April, 1903	90†	6†	1†	3†
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
April, 1904	48	21	24	7
March, 1904	44	20	31	5
April, 1903	83	12	3	2

COTTON SPINNING.

Ashton District.—In *Ashton*, *Dukinfield*, *Stalybridge*, *Mossley*, and *Droylsden* employment shows no improvement; about three-fourths of the mills have run short time, and some of those running full time have had part of their spindles stopped.

Stockport and Manchester District.—Employment in the *Stockport*, *Reddish*, *Romiley*, and *Compstall* district has continued bad, short time being the rule in mills using American cotton. In the *Manchester*, *Pendlebury* and *Patricroft* district employment has been fair, few operatives being employed on coarse counts.

Glossop, Hadfield, and Hyde District.—Employment in *Glossop* is reported as bad; in *Hadfield*, as fair; in *Hyde*, as very irregular.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees, and Chadderton).—Employment has shown no change, nearly all the mills either working short time or stopping part of their spindles; at most mills the Easter holidays

* Excluding usual holidays. † Revised Figures.

were prolonged, although only a few firms stopped the whole week.

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh, and Wigan).—Employment is still comparatively good in the *Bolton* and *Leigh* district owing to Egyptian cotton being largely used, but there was a slight falling off in several mills. In *Wigan* short time continues general.

Bury, Heywood, and Rochdale District.—In *Bury* employment is reported as fair, and better than a month ago. In *Heywood* the mills using American cotton have continued short time. In *Rochdale* the mills are working only 40 hours a week with the exception of a few fine spinning mills on full time.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad during the month, but as improving at the end of the month.

COTTON WEAVING.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad; a large proportion of operatives are working short time, and many are wholly unemployed.

Blackburn, Darwen, and Accrington District.—Employment in *Blackburn* has been bad, with a considerable amount of short time, and many looms stopped for warps; at the end of the month some improvement was apparent. In *Darwen* four sheds are reported as closed; the rest have run full time, but a considerable number of looms have been idle. In *Accrington* employment is better, although still rather irregular.

Burnley, Nelson, and Colne District.—In *Burnley* employment has improved, fewer looms being empty. In *Nelson* also employment has improved; in *Colne* it is still very irregular.

Other Districts.—In *Bury* much short time has been worked, and many looms have been idle, but employment at the end of the month shows a slight improvement. In *Chorley* employment has been fair, although some slackness is reported. In *Bolton* much slackness is reported. In *Oldham* employment is bad.

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of April the average price of raw cotton (middling American) at *Liverpool* was 8'03d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8'50d. and the lowest 7'68d. For the period for 1st to May 11th the average price of "middling American" was 7'62d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during April averaged 8'89d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9'5d. and the lowest 8'0d. For the period for 1st to May 11th the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 8'15d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported:—

	Month of April.			Four months ended April.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imported	Bales. 274,484	Bales. 350,595	Bales. 247,967	Bales. 1,697,096	Bales. 1,653,610	Bales. 1,246,452
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	289,927	274,833	214,567	1,185,860	1,274,620	955,942
Exported	27,378	42,253	26,258	133,666	162,742	193,939

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

Description of Cotton.	Month of April.			Four Months ended April.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
American	Bales. 226,684	Bales. 229,581	Bales. 157,792	Bales. 972,400	Bales. 1,065,875	Bales. 742,461
Brazilian	17,905	15,164	11,718	46,666	49,327	35,968
East Indian	1,386	5,510	17,807	4,669	16,345	35,008
Egyptian	37,185	19,387	21,597	133,326	121,850	124,927
Miscellaneous	6,767	5,191	5,653	28,799	21,223	17,578
Total	289,927	274,833	214,567	1,185,860	1,274,620	955,942

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—COTTON AND WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on May 6th was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 584,540 bales, compared with 689,560 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in April, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903. The declared value of the cotton yarn and twist exported during April averaged 14.18d. per lb., as compared with 11.01d. per lb. in April, 1903, an increase of nearly 29 per cent. The corresponding value for March, 1904, was 13.21d. per lb. The increase per yard in the value of exported cotton piece goods amounted to 10 per cent., the value being 2.74d. per yard in April, 1904, as compared with 2.49d. in April, 1903. The declared value in March, 1904, was 2.71d. per yard:—

	Quantities exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	April, 1902.	April, 1903.	April, 1904.	Apr., 1902.	Apr., 1903.	Apr., 1904.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Cotton Yarn & Twist—						
Grey	11,376,500	10,290,700	10,149,300	10.36	10.78	14.31
Bleached and Dyed..	4,336,800	3,320,500	2,398,700	11.15	11.75	13.61
Total	15,713,300	13,611,200	12,548,000	10.58	11.01	14.18
	yds.	yds.	yds.	per yd.	per yd.	per yd.
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached	205,626,000	169,630,100	134,083,000	1.97	2.03	2.24
Bleached	129,583,000	108,151,400	118,609,500	2.40	2.51	2.59
Printed	78,767,500	73,959,600	78,029,200	2.66	2.72	2.84
Dyed or Manufactured, of Dyed Yarn	72,596,000	66,378,900	74,659,300	3.39	3.39	3.77
Total	486,572,500	418,120,000	405,381,000	2.41	2.49	2.74

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 257 firms employing 81,950 workpeople; from women correspondents with regard to factories in Yorkshire usually employing about 32,000 women and girls, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of April was 81,950, compared with 81,523 at the end of March, and 83,056 at the end of April, 1903, an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

From the following Table it will be seen that there was a slight improvement in April, compared with the previous month, in the worsted trade in Yorkshire and in the woollen trade in Scotland. Compared with a year ago there is a decline in the worsted trade, and a marked decline in the woollen trade in Scotland, the woollen trade in England showing a slight improvement.

Trade and District.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on		
	April, 1904.	Mar., 1904.	April, 1903.	Mar., 1904.	April, 1903.	
Worsted—						
Bradford	26,059	25,864	26,417	+ 0.8	- 1.4	
Other Yorkshire Districts	21,076	20,952	21,309	+ 0.6	- 1.1	
Other Districts	2,120	2,152	2,163	- 1.5	- 2.0	
Total	49,255	48,968	49,889	+ 0.6	- 1.3	
Woollen—						
Yorkshire	9,711	9,731	9,628	- 0.2	+ 0.9	
Scotland	7,354	7,267	7,747	+ 1.2	- 5.1	
Other Districts	4,325	4,332	4,297	- 0.2	+ 0.7	
Total	21,390	21,330	21,672	+ 0.3	- 1.3	
Woollen and Worsted (not separated)	5,698	5,599	5,900	+ 1.8	- 3.4	
Total Woollen and Worsted	76,343	75,897	77,461	+ 0.6	- 1.4	
Carpet Manufacture	5,607	5,626	5,595	- 0.3	+ 0.2	

From the next Table it appears that in the *Sorting and Combing* branches there was an increase of 3.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago,

and a decrease of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the *Spinning* branch there was practically no change compared with a month ago, and only a slight decrease compared with a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch there was a slight increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 3.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the other departments there was practically no change compared with a month ago, and only a slight decline compared with a year ago:—

District and Branch of Trade.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on		
	April, 1904.	Mar., 1904.	April, 1903.	Mar., 1904.	April, 1903.	
Sorting and Combing—						
Yorkshire	7,122	6,879	7,209	+ 3.5	- 1.3	
Scotland	376	376	388	- 3.1	- 3.1	
Other Districts	288	295	293	- 2.4	- 1.7	
Total	7,786	7,550	7,900	+ 3.1	- 1.4	
Spinning—						
Yorkshire	26,141	26,109	26,063	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	
Scotland	2,213	2,240	2,430	- 1.2	- 8.9	
Other Districts	1,848	1,843	1,815	+ 0.3	+ 1.8	
Total	30,202	30,192	30,308	- 0.3	- 0.3	
Weaving—						
Yorkshire	14,991	14,870	15,435	+ 0.8	- 2.9	
Scotland	3,816	3,763	4,036	+ 1.4	- 5.5	
Other Districts	1,841	1,845	1,814	- 0.2	+ 1.5	
Total	20,648	20,478	21,285	+ 0.8	- 3.0	
Other Departments—						
Yorkshire	8,822	8,840	8,698	- 0.2	+ 1.4	
Scotland	3,932	3,885	4,083	+ 1.2	- 3.7	
Other Districts	1,717	1,752	1,732	- 0.9	- 0.9	
Total	14,471	14,477	14,513	+ 0.1	- 0.3	
Unspecified—						
Yorkshire	3,036	3,020	3,255	+ 0.5	- 6.7	
Scotland	200	200	200	-	-	
Other Districts	200	200	200	-	-	
Total	3,436	3,420	3,455	+ 0.5	- 6.3	
TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—						
Yorkshire	60,112	59,718	60,670	+ 0.7	- 0.9	
Scotland	10,337	10,264	10,937	+ 0.7	- 5.5	
Other Districts	5,894	5,915	5,854	- 0.4	+ 0.7	
Total, Woollen and Worsted	76,343	75,897	77,461	+ 0.6	- 1.4	

Of the 32,000 women and girls in the Yorkshire factories reported on by women correspondents, 69 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 62 per cent. in March; 25 per cent. were employed in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 6 per cent. in factories running short time.

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

Bradford District.—Wool sorters still report employment as bad, many working short time. Returns show an increase in the number of wool combers employed, and less short time is reported. In the other branches little change is perceptible, and employment is on the whole dull. Of the 11,400 women and girls usually employed in the factories reported on by women correspondents, 67 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month (compared with 57 per cent. in March), 30 per cent. being in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment, and 3 per cent. in factories running short time.

Keighley District.—Employment shows a further improvement compared with a month ago, and shows no decline compared with a year ago.

Halifax District.—Employment continues unsatisfactory; two-thirds of the women and girls reported on by women correspondents were employed in factories giving only partial employment.

Huddersfield District.—Employment in the worsted trade shows a slight improvement, but the number employed shows a decline compared with a year ago. The slight improvement in the woollen trade has been maintained, and a few firms have worked overtime; the number employed shows an increase compared with a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES; OTHER TEXTILES; TAILORING TRADE.

Leeds and Wakefield District.—Employment in Leeds is reported as fair, employment in the worsted trade showing an improvement. An improvement is also reported at Wakefield in both spinning and weaving branches.

The Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, Ossett, etc.).—Employment is somewhat irregular, slackness being reported in some factories, and overtime in others.

Scotland.—Employment shows an improvement compared with a month ago, but a marked decline compared with a year ago. In Galashiels it is good on the whole, being much the same as a month and a year ago. In Selkirk it has improved, and is now as good as a year ago. In Hawick employment shows no improvement, short time or slackness prevailing in several factories.

Other Districts.—Employment is reported as good generally in the Somerset cloth mills, and as fair in the Stroud district. The improvement in Rochdale and Milnrow has been maintained, although some short time is again reported. At Stockport employment has improved and is moderate.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from Employers' Associations, one Trade Union, and Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades continues moderate, and is worse than a year ago.

In Dundee employment is moderate, and is worse than in March. Information has been received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys and 21,200 women and girls. From this it appears that out of 40 spinning mills, 3 worked some short time during the month and 5 gave only partial employment. Out of 33 weaving factories all ran full time, but 7 gave only partial employment. In Arbroath, Forfar, and Brechin employment is reported as quiet. Flax dressers at Johnstone and Kilbirnie report it as fair.

In Ulster generally employment is reported as fair. In Belfast the Trade Unions report it as bad with beetlers; as moderate with flax dressers and roughers; as dull with women workers; as fair with power loom tenters and yarn dressers; as very good with hackle and gill makers and linen lappers.

At Barnsley employment in the linen trade is fairly good.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from the Correspondents of the Department and one Trade Union, employment in the hosiery trade is still bad, but there is again a slight improvement on the preceding month in the Leicester district; it is worse than a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers, employing 11,635 workpeople in their factories at the end of April, show an increase of 2.2 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, but a decrease of 2.1 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 48 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 70 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in March. In Leicester employment has improved in several departments of the trade, and less short time is being worked. In Loughborough the improvement noted last month has been maintained. In Hinckley employment generally continues quiet.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment continues bad, and much short time is being worked; it is worse than a month ago. It is reported as very bad in the hand-frame branches in the country districts.

Scotland.—In Hawick employment shows no improvement, and short time has been worked in many factories. In Selkirk hosiery workers are fully employed.

Lace Trade.

According to information received from the Trade Union and the Local Correspondent employment in the Nottingham lace trade continues bad, and is worse than

a year ago. It is reported as bad in the levers and curtain branches; as fair in the plain net branch. Employment is reported as bad at Beeston, and as moderate at Stapleford, Kimberley, and Bulwell.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from three Employers' Associations, from three Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment with woollen and worsted dyers in the West Riding is still quiet, but is better than a month ago and not much worse than a year ago; during the month, however, a large number have worked short time. With cotton dyers generally employment is still slack. It is reported as fair with calico printers at Manchester and at New Mills, and good with calico printers' engravers at Dinting; with woollen block printers at Rossendale as moderate. Employment with hosiery dyers and trimmers is reported as slightly improved at Leicester and Loughborough; as bad at Hinckley. It is slack with dyers and bleachers at Nottingham and Basford; moderate with hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Nottingham. In the Glasgow district, employment is reported as dull with calendermen, as fair with calico printers; as bad with block printers. In Dundee it is reported as slack with calender workers; as fair with dyers and bleachfield workers.

TAILORING TRADE.

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

Employment in the *bespoke* branch has been moderate and better than a month ago; it shows little change compared with a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment is bad, and worse than a year ago in nearly every district.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 912 workpeople on their premises and 1,242 outworkers.* According to these returns employment with inworkers was good during the month in firms employing 20 per cent. of the total number, moderate in firms employing 76 per cent., and bad in firms employing 4 per cent. With outworkers* it was good with firms employing 26 per cent., moderate with firms employing 70 per cent., and bad with firms employing 4 per cent. Of 57 firms, 45 report employment as better than a month ago, 4 as unchanged, 8 as worse. Compared with a year ago, 23 firms report employment as improved, 13 as unchanged, 21 as worse. The Trade Union reports employment as bad. In Manchester and Belfast employment is reported as good; in Liverpool, Glasgow, and Dublin as fair; in Edinburgh as dull.

Ready-made Branch.—In London employment on factory-made measure work was fairly good, but in the ready-made branch generally it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union cutters report employment as slightly improved.

In Leeds employment showed a decline and was worse than a year ago. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 8,200 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during April was good or fair in firms employing 24 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate in firms employing 25 per cent., and bad in firms employing 51 per cent. Compared with March, firms employing 37 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 9 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 54 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 14 per cent. report it as better, firms employing 13 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 73 per cent. as worse. Some factories are reported as working short time and closing on Saturdays. In Manchester employment is moderate and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago;

*The numbers may include the same outworkers more than once, and do not include persons employed by outworkers.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—TAILORING, BOOT, AND SHOE TRADE.

the Trade Union tailors and machinists report it as good. In Bristol, employment continues bad, but is better than a month ago; it is decidedly worse than a year ago. In the Eastern Counties employment has shown some improvement; factories at Norwich are on full time, and employment is better at Ipswich; it is dull at Colchester. In Glasgow employment is fairly good.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Leather Trades see page 151.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 653 firms employing 79,613 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

Comparison with March is rendered difficult owing to the inclusion of the Easter holidays in the returns for April. Compared with a year ago, the numbers employed at the end of April show a decline, but the amount of wages earned during the month shows an increase.

The number (79,613) employed by all firms making returns at the end of April shows a decrease of 0.2 per cent. on the number (79,742) employed by these firms at the end of March, and of 2.3 per cent. on the number (81,481) employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 70 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments throughout April (except during Easter holidays), compared with 69 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for March.

The numbers employed alone, however, do not show the full fluctuation in the volume of employment. Accordingly 505 firms employing 63,819 workpeople have been good enough to supply returns of the aggregate amount of wages paid on the four pay days in April, in addition to particulars of the numbers employed.

The following Table shows the number employed and wages paid in the principal districts, together with the increase or decrease in each compared with a month and a year ago:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both no. employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
		No. employed at end of April, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last four pay days in April, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with			
			A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
ENGLAND & WALES.			Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
London	56	4,483	+ 1.4	+ 0.2	21,330	- 2.8	+ 4.9		
Leicester	74	13,327	- 1.8	- 0.8	50,261	- 12.3	- 4.2		
Leicester Country District	34	3,327	- 1.0	+ 9.5	11,481	- 7.9	+ 13.7		
Northampton	58	8,344	- 0.4	- 2.5	30,663	- 7.1	+ 5.8		
Kettering	21	2,616	+ 0.3	- 7.8	9,544	- 17.0	- 6.4		
Northampton Country District	84	8,619	- 1.0	- 10.5	29,056	- 6.8	- 4.1		
Stafford and District	15	2,360	+ 0.7	+ 2.0	7,714	- 9.2	+ 7.6		
Norwich and District	28	4,116	+ 1.8	+ 1.9	12,587	- 3.0	+ 4.5		
Bristol	17	2,240	- 1.9	- 1.0	7,348	- 11.8	+ 6.0		
Kingswood	23	2,674	+ 1.5	+ 10.9	9,168	- 8.3	+ 23.1		
Leeds and District ...	36	3,897	- 0.6	- 7.6	9,357	- 15.9	- 12.4		
Manchester and District	11	1,996	+ 6.0	+ 10.9	6,388	- 2.9	+ 15.4		
Birmingham and District	7	949	+ 1.1	- 3.0	2,916	- 10.1	- 0.5		
Other parts of England and Wales	20	1,630	+ 0.3	+ 3.7	5,106	- 4.6	+ 8.7		
Total, England and Wales	482	59,888	- 0.2	- 1.6	212,929	- 8.5	+ 1.5		
SCOTLAND AND IRELAND	23	3,931	- 1.4	- 4.0	14,176	- 9.0	- 6.6		
Total UNITED KINGDOM	505	63,819	- 0.3	- 1.7	227,105	- 8.6	+ 0.9		

Compared with a month ago all districts show a decline in the amount of wages paid, owing to the inclusion of the Easter holidays in the April returns.

Compared with a year ago nine districts show an increase from £103,239 to £111,785 in the amount of wages paid during the month by 260 firms making returns, and six show a decrease from £121,753 to £115,320, in the amount paid by 245 firms making

returns, giving a net increase of 2,113 or 0.9 per cent. The percentage increase was highest in Kingswood (23.1 per cent.), Manchester district (15.4), and Leicester country district (13.7). The percentage decrease was greatest in Leeds district (12.4), Scotland (6.6), and Kettering (6.4).

The net result was a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed by 505 firms at the end of the month compared with a year ago, and an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month compared with a year ago.

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

London.—According to the returns of employers, the amount of wages paid during the month showed an increase compared with a year ago. The Trade Union operatives report employment as still quiet, and the clickers, pressmen, and machinists as dull. The hand sewn bootmakers report it as a little better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago, and as very quiet for the season.

Leicester and District.—In Leicester the returns show a slight decline in the number employed, and a decrease in the amount of wages paid during the month compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as fair; the clickers and pressmen as irregular, short time and overtime being worked.

In the Leicester country districts the number employed and wages paid show an increase compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as quiet at Hinckley; as good at Anstey.

Northampton, Kettering, and District.—The returns for Northampton show a decrease of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed at the end of the month, but an increase of 5.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month, compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as quiet, with several on short time. In Kettering employment shows a decline of 7.8 per cent. in the number employed at the end of the month, and of 6.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month compared with a year ago.

In the Northampton country districts the returns show a decline of 10.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a year ago.

Stafford and District.—The returns show an improvement in number employed and wages paid compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as good in Stafford and Stone, a large proportion working overtime; the clickers and pressmen report employment as fair.

Eastern Counties.—The returns show an improvement in number employed and wages paid compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as fairly good at Norwich and Ipswich; the clickers and pressmen at Norwich as good.

Bristol and Kingswood.—In Bristol the returns show a decline of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed at the end of the month, but an increase of 6.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers working on ladies' goods report employment as slack, one half of their members working short time; the clickers and pressmen report it as bad. In Kingswood the returns show a great improvement compared with a year ago, the number employed at the end of the month showing an increase of 10.9 per cent., and the amount of wages paid during the month, an increase of 23.1 per cent.

Leeds and District.—The returns show a decrease of 7.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 12.4 per cent. in the wages paid compared with a year ago. Employment throughout the district is reported as bad.

Other Districts in England.—In the Manchester district the returns show a considerable improvement compared with a year ago; in the Birmingham district there is a decline. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—HAT TRADE; OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

employment as quiet at Wolverhampton, improving at Nottingham, good at Kendal, and moderate at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and the values of the boots and shoes imported and exported during the undermentioned periods:—

	Month of April			Four months ended April		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imports { Dozen pairs... 29,066	23,165	20,041	103,981	86,010	80,123	
Value £ ... 114,182	97,756	79,469	351,651	343,519	292,119	
Re-Exports { Dozen pairs... 1,699	1,397	1,418	5,965	8,248	8,042	
Value £ ... 4,734	3,491	3,843	17,070	21,234	19,478	
Exports { Dozen pairs... 52,034	58,281	42,835	227,999	282,615	203,452	
(British and Irish) Value £ ... 126,330	139,431	99,547	560,946	677,844	467,626	

HAT TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from three Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment continues dull. Trade Unions with 5,338 members have 212 (or 4.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.3 per cent. at the end of March, and 2.7 per cent. a year ago.

With silk hatters, employment in London continues dull, two hours a day short time being worked. In Denton employment is better than a month ago, but short time has been general. In Edinburgh employment is good; in Glasgow it continues quiet.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton shows a further slight improvement, but is still quiet. At Stockport it is quiet and worse than a month ago; short time is reported at a few of the largest firms; at Bury and at Failsworth it is bad and worse than a month ago; at Hyde it continues bad. In Warwickshire employment is reported as fair and better than a month ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

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

Employment in the dressmaking trades continues fair; in the mantle trade it shows a decline, and is quiet; in the shirt and collar trade and corset trades it is fair.

Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,794 dressmakers at the end of April, show a decrease of 1.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment generally is reported as fairly good. Court dressmakers employing 1,766 workpeople at the end of April show an increase of 6.7 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment generally is fair. Employment in the wholesale mantle and costume trades is only moderate, and is worse than a month ago. With mantle makers in retail firms it is fairly good, but worse than a year ago. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons, and underclothing report employment as fairly good on the whole, and much the same as a month and a year ago. In the wholesale millinery trade employment is fair; in retail firms the number employed has increased compared with a month ago and a year ago, and employment generally is fairly good.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux again show an increased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago, but a decrease compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade shows a decline, although still fair in some firms. In the costume and skirt trade it has declined, and is quiet; firms employing 1,982 workpeople at the end of April show a decrease of 2.3 per cent. on the number employed at the end of March, and of 1.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade continues quiet.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 8,351 workpeople in their factories at the end of April show a decrease of 0.7 per cent. on the number employed at the end of March, and of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 74 per cent. of the total number report employment as good or fair, and firms employing 26 per cent. as quiet or bad.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,832 workpeople in their factories at the end of April, show an increase of 2.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of March, but a decrease of 10.6 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 19 per cent. were employed in firms reporting some short time. Firms employing 72 per cent. of the total number included in the returns report employment as good or fair, firms employing 28 per cent. as bad.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been furnished by 16 Employers' Associations, by 27 Employers, by Trade Unions with 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment is dull generally. In letterpress printing it has declined, except in London, but is better than a year ago, Trade Unions with 39,287 members having 4.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 3.0 per cent. in March, and 5.0 per cent. in April, 1903. In lithographic printing little change is shown, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month being 4.5, against 4.0 a month ago and 4.7 a year ago. With bookbinders employment has fallen off considerably, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of April being 7.4, against 5.0 a month ago and 4.9 a year ago.

In the following Table are shown the percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the Printing and Bookbinding Trades in the principal districts, compared with those for a month and a year ago:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1904 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Apr., 1904.	Mar., 1904.	Apr., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	22,854	4.1	3.5	5.4	+ 0.6	- 0.9
Northern Counties ...	2,486	4.5	3.0	7.0	+ 1.5	- 2.5
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,759	7.1	3.6	6.8	+ 3.5	+ 0.3
Yorkshire	4,247	4.2	3.5	4.8	+ 0.7	- 0.6
East Midlands	2,110	3.9	3.2	3.9	+ 0.7	...
West Midlands	2,540	5.0	4.3	5.3	+ 0.7	- 0.3
Eastern Counties	365	2.5	2.5	1.4	...	+ 1.1
S. & S. W. Counties ...	2,627	3.2	1.7	2.8	+ 1.5	+ 0.4
Wales and Mon.	810	2.2	1.6	2.2	+ 0.6	- 3.0
Scotland	6,399	3.0	2.1	2.7	+ 0.9	+ 0.3
Ireland	2,593	8.2	7.0	7.8	+ 1.2	+ 0.4
United Kingdom ...	52,760	4.5	3.4	4.9	+ 1.1	- 0.4

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

London.—Employment with letterpress printers remains fairly good. Branches of Trade Unions with 17,035 members had 2.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 2.6 per cent. a month ago and 4.8 per cent. a year ago. With lithographic printers employment remains dull on the whole, though good in some branches. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 5.6 at the end of April, against 5.0 in March and 6.7 a year ago. With bookbinders employment has suffered a further and marked decline, and short time is frequent. Of 3,789 Trade Union members in this section, 9.2 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 6.5 in March, and 5.5 in April, 1903.

Northern Counties.—Employment is slack at Newcastle; fairly good elsewhere.

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

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Manchester and Liverpool employment is dull. Letterpress printers at Accrington and Ashton-under-Lyne report it as slack; at Oldham, Bury, Rochdale, Wigan, Southport, and Lancaster as fair; at Preston, Newton-le-Willows, Chester, and Stockport as good.

Yorkshire.—Employment at Leeds is reported as fairly good with letterpress printers and bookbinders; slack with lithographic printers. At Bradford, Sheffield, Hull, and York it is slack with letterpress printers; fairly good with other branches. Letterpress printers at Scarborough and Wakefield report employment as good.

East Midland Counties.—Employment is slack at Nottingham. At Leicester it is reported as declining with letterpress printers; fair with other branches. At Derby it is good with printers; fair with bookbinders. Letterpress printers at Northampton, Rugby, and Lincoln report employment as good.

West Midland Counties.—At Birmingham and Hanley employment is dull with letterpress printers and bookbinders; fair with lithographic printers. Employment with letterpress printers at Coventry is reported as moderate; at Warwick, Wolverhampton, Walsall, and West Bromwich as fair; at Shrewsbury and Stafford as good.

Eastern, Southern, and South-Western Counties and Wales.—Employment is fairly good generally, but dull with letterpress printers at Bristol, Aylesbury, and Watford.

Scotland.—At Edinburgh employment is fair with compositors, and slack with other branches. At Glasgow it is quiet generally. At Dundee it is fairly good. At Aberdeen it is quiet with printers, good with bookbinders.

Ireland.—Employment continues dull generally.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment remains fair but is not quite so good as a month ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,390 members had 3.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 2.9 per cent. at the end of March, and 3.2 per cent. a year ago. Returns received from 22 employers in Scotland show that 4,087 work-people were employed by them at the end of April, as compared with 4,101 at the end of March.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, from 36 Trade Unions with 33,250 members, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally was dull during April, and worse than a year ago, but rather better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of April was 4.9, as compared with 5.9, in March, and 3.3 per cent. in April, 1903.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment generally with millsawyers was quiet. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,853 show 2.9 (or 4.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 5.4 at the end of March, and 3.2 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that it was bad at Birmingham, Hull and Dublin; dull at Bristol and Gloucester; slack at Norwich and Dundee; quiet at Liverpool, Leicester, Grantham, Plymouth, and Glasgow; fair in Suffolk and Essex, and at Nottingham, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Cork; moderate at Sheffield, and in the Tees and Hartlepool district; and unsettled in the Tyne district.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was quiet, and about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 12,938, show 8.54 (or 6.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6.8 per cent. at the end of March, and 1.9 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that employment with cabinet makers was bad in London, in the Tyne district, and at Birmingham and Leicester; slack at Warrington, Burnley, and Hull; quiet in the

Tees and Hartlepool district, and at Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool, Edinburgh, and Glasgow; fair in Suffolk and Essex, and at Manchester, Dundee, Aberdeen, Dublin, and Belfast; moderate at Barnsley, Bristol, and Bath; and improving at Nottingham and Plymouth. With upholsterers employment was quiet at Liverpool, Nottingham, and Plymouth; fair at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, and in the Wear district; moderate at Bristol and Barnsley; good in the Tyne district, and at Manchester and Belfast; and improving at Aberdeen. With French polishers it was bad at Edinburgh; dull at Liverpool and Glasgow; quiet at Plymouth; fair at Nottingham; improving at Belfast; and good at Manchester. With carvers at Birmingham employment was fair.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was bad, with much short time. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,180, report 20.7 (or 4.0 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6.8 per cent. at the end of March, and 6.5 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that employment was bad at Burton-on-Trent, Liverpool, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Tralee; dull at Bristol and Belfast; fair at Hull, Nottingham, and Dublin; moderate in Manchester and district, and at Cork; and good in the Tyne district, Greenock, in Peterhead and district, and in Fraserburgh and district.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment was moderate, but better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,826, report 23.1 (or 3.0 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of April, compared with 4.0 per cent. at the end of March and 3.3 per cent. a year ago. Employment continued bad at Dublin; it was dull at Cork; slack at Sheffield and Hull; fair at Selby, Bristol, Plymouth, Glasgow, and Dundee; moderate at Liverpool, Birmingham, Leicester, Swindon, Gloucester, Exeter, Edinburgh, and Belfast; improving at Manchester and Leeds; and good at Nottingham and Northampton.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was fair, about the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,771 report 7.5 (or 4.2 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4.4 per cent. at the end of March, and 1.6 per cent. a year ago. Employment is reported as fair at Leeds and Glasgow, moderate at Bristol, and in Suffolk and Essex, and good at Hull, Plymouth, and Dublin.

Other Trades.—Employment in London was bad with stick makers and mounters, basket makers and packing-case makers, and slack with lath-renders. Stick makers and mounters, and basket makers report much short time. Lath-renders report employment as bad in the Tyne district, dull at Glasgow and Edinburgh, quiet at Dundee, and fair at Hull; basket makers as bad at Leicester, quiet at Glasgow, and fair at Nottingham; and packing-case makers as bad at Nottingham, quiet at Birmingham and Glasgow, and fair at Bristol and Belfast. Employment with wood-turners at Glasgow was fair; with bobbin and shuttle makers at Dundee, and gilders at Glasgow, it was good.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 12 Employers' Associations, 13 Trade Unions (in the Glass Trade) with 5,039 members, Local Correspondents, and one firm of employers.

Employment in the Glass trade remained bad in the bottle-making branch, and was slack on the whole in the flint-glass branch. In the Pottery trades, and in the Brick and Tile trades, it was quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass-bottle makers is reported as bad in the Mexbro' district and at Bristol, Glasgow, Alloa, and Portobello; dull at Dublin; slack at

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

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in Agriculture in April was received from 202 correspondents in various parts of England. According to the reports furnished, the growth of crops was retarded to some extent by cold winds, and there was not much hoeing to be done. The weather during April, however, was favourable for outdoor work, and the arrears of farming operations were almost everywhere made up. Day labourers were, for the most part, regularly employed, and the supply of this class of labour was generally sufficient. Men suitable for permanent situations on farms continue to be in demand.

Northern Counties.—Reports from Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland, show that employment was regular, farm labourers being busily engaged in sowing turnips, planting potatoes, cleaning meadows, ditching, and repairing fences and roads. Day labourers were in some demand, the supply being barely sufficient. A correspondent in the Hexham Union states that at the annual statute hirings the supply of single men was better than last year, but married men and boys were scarce. In Lancashire farm labourers were fully employed in sowing corn, planting potatoes, and other work. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand. Good progress was made in Yorkshire with the arrears of farm work, and there was no lack of employment during April. A good deal of corn and mangold sowing was done. Day labourers were more plentiful than a year ago. A correspondent in the Bridlington Union states that the supply was somewhat in excess of the demand, owing to slackness of work in the local brick-fields and ropeworks. A scarcity of experienced shepherds, stockmen, horsemen, and lads is reported in certain districts.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire and Derbyshire day labourers were fully employed in preparing the land for crops, and in sowing. The supply of such men has been generally sufficient. A correspondent in the Tarvin Union states that teamsmen and cowmen are difficult to obtain locally, and Irish labourers have to be employed instead. Day labourers were fully employed in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. The supply of this class of labour is about equal to the demand in most districts, but men for permanent situations are not readily obtainable. In Staffordshire and Shropshire agricultural work was plentiful in April, and employment was regular. The supply of and demand for day-labourers were generally about equal. A correspondent in the Tamworth Union, however, writes: "Labour is very scarce indeed, although so many are short of work in the towns; men cannot be got to work on the land." Regularity of employment is reported in Worcestershire and Warwickshire. It is stated that, at the end of April, there were still arrears of work on some farms, overtime being worked in consequence. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient, but men for permanent situations are said to be difficult to obtain. Agricultural labourers in Northamptonshire were fully employed during April. In some districts, however, the crops were backward and not ready for hoeing. There was some demand for extra labour, and the supply in one or two districts was insufficient. Difficulty is reported in obtaining shepherds, stockmen, and milkers. Reports from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire state that farm labourers were fully employed in threshing, sowing, &c. The supply of day labourers, was on the whole, sufficient, although the demand was greater than in March. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire agricultural employment was generally regular. Extra labour was not much required, as there was very little hoeing on account of the backward state of the corn. There was, however, a demand for men in some parts for manure-carting and for cleaning the land. The supply of day labourers has been generally sufficient, but good men for permanent situations are scarce.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 148.)

RETURNS have been received from 2 Employers' Associations, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns show no change in the general state of employment, which is bad in most branches, with short time prevalent. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of April was 9.8, as compared with 11.3 at the end of March and 5.3 at the end of April, 1903.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—In these branches employment generally is reported as bad, with little change on the month, but worse than a year ago, and short time continues. Leather grounders at Bermondsey and Leeds, however, report a slight improvement, while at Bristol, Bolton, Bury, Dundee, and Glasgow employment is reported as fair. At Wigan and in Suffolk and Essex it is moderate.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—In these branches there is but little change, but there are indications of improvement in some cases. Saddle and harness makers still suffer from want of employment, and short time is worked. In London employment remains quiet but tends to improvement. At Walsall harness makers report employment as bad, but there is a suggestion of improvement in the wholesale trade. Gig saddle makers report a slight improvement, but still have about 40 per cent. on short time. In Aberdeen and Dublin employment is fair; for cycle saddle makers it is moderate in Birmingham. Horse collar makers report employment as fair at Birmingham, improving at Leeds, bad elsewhere.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—In London pocket-book and leather case makers report employment as bad, and portmanteau makers as dull, with short time in each case; Manchester portmanteau makers report employment as fair, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—AGRICULTURAL AND DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

Eastern Counties.—According to reports from *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire* farm labourers were well employed in April. The supply of extra labour for hoeing and other work was adequate in most districts, but men for permanent situations are in request. A correspondent in the *Chesterton* Union, writing on April 29th, states that work on the land is getting into its normal condition, most of the spring corn having been sown, as well as mangolds and potatoes. In *Lincolnshire* there was full employment in working the land and drilling seed. The supply of day labourers was equal to the demand in most districts. The engagements of hired labourers in *Lincolnshire* usually date from April 6th or May 14th, and it is reported that more men are available this year to fill situations than for some time past. Farm labourers in *Norfolk* were well employed in finishing the spring corn sowings, preparing the land for roots, and other work. The supply of day-labourers was generally equal to the demand. In the *Erpingham* Union, however, owing to railway works in progress, the supply was barely sufficient. In *Suffolk* and *Essex* employment was generally plentiful, and good progress was made in overtaking arrears of work in the fields. A few men were in irregular employment, however, in certain districts.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Correspondents in *Kent* state that agricultural labourers were fully employed during April in hoeing, potato planting and general farm work. Some day-labourers found employment in the market gardens and hop gardens, but the demand was not quite equal to the supply. A scarcity of good shepherds, yardmen, and carters is mentioned in a report from the *West Ashford* Union. Agricultural employment was regular in *Surrey* and *Sussex*. The supply of day labourers was sufficient, but it is stated that good men for permanent situations are difficult to obtain. In *Hampshire* and *Berkshire*, farm work is said to be well forward, and labourers were for the most part in constant employment during the month. A correspondent in the *Hungerford* and *Ramsbury* Union states that men for permanent situations are difficult to replace when a vacancy occurs, there being frequently a dislike to Sunday work, and to being bound for any length of time. Farm labourers in *Wiltshire* and *Dorsetshire* were well employed, and field work is in a forward state. A scarcity of men for permanent situations continues to be reported, but it is becoming less pronounced than a year or two ago. Agricultural employment was generally regular, in *Somersetshire*. Extra men were rather scarce in certain districts, on account of public works in progress. In *Herefordshire* and *Gloucestershire* employment in ploughing and sowing was active. In most places, the drilling of spring corn and mangolds was completed during the month. Potato planting on heavy soils is backward, however, on account of the wet condition of the land. The supply of day labourers was ample in most districts, but in the *Winchcombe* Union a scarcity of men for hoeing is mentioned. Correspondents in *Devon* and *Cornwall* state that farm work is now fairly well advanced. Day-labourers were well employed on the whole, and the supply of this class was insufficient in certain districts. Men for permanent situations are difficult to obtain, but there is some increase in the number available.

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. Information regarding other principal ports has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, by Trade Unions, and by Local Correspondents of the Department. Employment during April remained moderate on the whole, and showed little change as compared with a year ago.

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks

ended April 30th was 12,854, a decrease of 0.6 per cent. on the average for March, and an increase of 1.6 per cent. on the average for April, 1903. The average daily number employed in April during the seven years, 1897-1903, was 14,334.

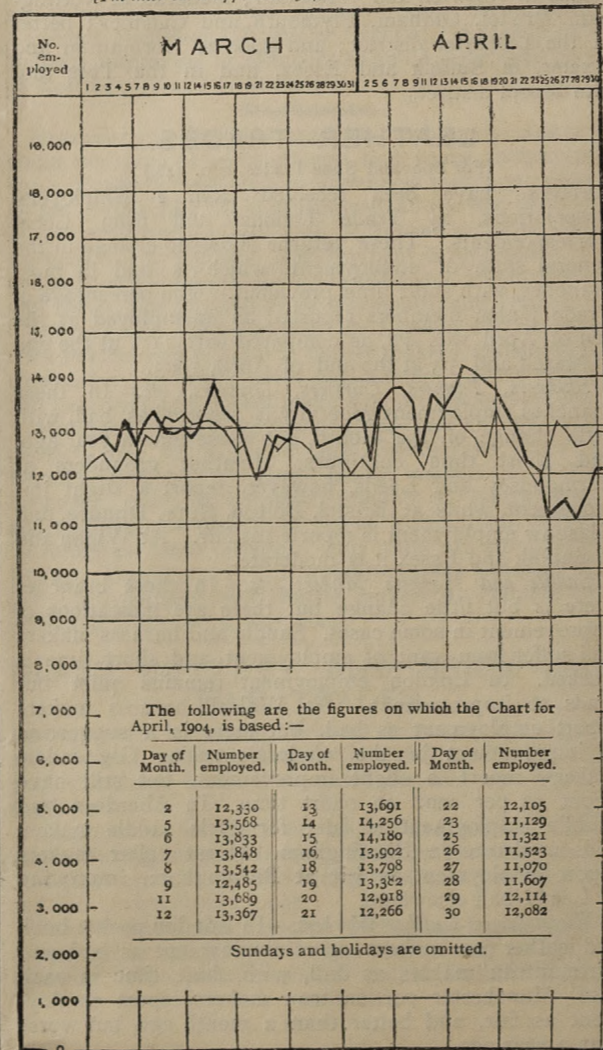
(1) *Weekly Averages.*—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the five weeks ended April 30th:—

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 Apr. 2nd	4,857	2,318	7,175	5,673	12,848
" " 9th	5,129	2,474	7,603	5,852	13,455
" " 16th	4,350	3,108	7,958	5,890	13,848
" " 23rd	4,395	4,406	6,711	5,888	12,599
" " 30th	4,186	1,749	5,935	5,685	11,620
Average for 5 weeks ended Apr. 30th, 1904	4,642	2,412	7,054	5,800	12,854
Average for Mar., 1904	5,011	2,204	7,215	5,723	12,938
Average for Apr., 1903	4,928	2,250	7,178	5,475	12,653

(2) *Daily Fluctuations.*—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 14,256 on the 14th to 11,070 on the 27th. During April, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 13,599 on the 6th to 11,811 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, 1904. The corresponding curve for March and April, 1903, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1904, and the thin curve to 1903.]



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

Employment was moderate with workers in mid-stream, stevedores, lumpers, corn porters, deal porters, coal porters, winchmen, and lightermen. With fruit porters in *Thames-street* it was fair, the average daily number employed being 289, as compared with 271 in March and 297 a year ago.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during April, 1904, 76 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 72 per cent. in the previous month, and 60 per cent. in April, 1903.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—Employment generally on the Tyne and Wear is reported as quiet. On the Tees, riverside labourers report employment as fair, and better than a month ago; with dock labourers employment is good at *Middlesbrough*, but remains slack at *Hartlepool*. **Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.**—Employment remains fair on the whole.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Employment is reported as fair at *Ipswich* and *Parkeston*; moderate at *Harwich*; slack at *Yarmouth*, *Lowestoft*, and *Lynn*.

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment remains moderate on the whole.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment is reported as dull on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Liverpool and Manchester.—Employment at *Liverpool* is reported as dull with quay and railway carters, *South end* dock labourers, and *cotton warehousemen* and porters. The *North end* and *Bootle dock* labourers and the *flatmen* report it as fair. Employment with dock labourers at *Manchester* is slack.

The Clyde.—Employment remains quiet at *Glasgow*.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment remains fairly good at *Leith*. At *Aberdeen* it is moderate; at *Dundee* slack.

Irish Ports.—Employment at *Belfast*, *Dublin*, and *Cork* is dull, and worse than a year ago.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and from Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland; and from Local Correspondents.

The total quantity and value of fish landed during April shows a decrease as compared with a year ago. The decrease was confined to the quantity and value of fish landed in England and Wales, and Scotland; in Ireland there was an increase in both items. The following Table gives the quantity and value of fish landed in April, 1904, and April, 1903, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Apr., 1904.	Apr., 1903.	Apr., 1904.	Apr., 1903.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 661,389	Cwts. 702,550	£ 524,185	£ 559,993
Scotland	183,239	186,160	106,065	113,394
Ireland	60,551	39,137	27,175	24,638
Total	905,179	927,847	657,425	698,025
Shell Fish	—	—	35,258	34,877
Total Value	—	—	692,683	732,902

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that fair supplies of white fish were landed by the trawl boats, though fishing was interrupted by stormy weather.

Employment at *Hull* is reported as moderate in all branches. At *Grimsby* line fishermen report it as good, trawl fishermen and curing-house workers as fair, and fish dock labourers as slack. Employment at *Yarmouth* was fair among fishermen, and moderate with fish dock labourers and persons employed in fish curing. At *Lowestoft* it was moderate in all branches.

Off the South-western coast catches were regular, and fishing on the whole better than a month ago. Employment with fish packers, carters, and curing-house workers was quiet.

Employment at *Aberdeen* was good, and better than a month ago. At *Fraserburgh* it was fair with fishermen, and bad in other branches. Employment at *Macduff* was moderate with fishermen and persons employed in fish curing; at *Peterhead* it was fair. At *Arbroath* and *Montrose* fishing was irregular during the early part of the month, but improved towards the end.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during April, 33,825 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, or about the same number as in April, 1903.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been in excess of, or equal to the demand at the ports included in the returns.

During the four months of 1904, 136,306* seamen were shipped, of whom 21,885 (or 16.1 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of 1903, 129,992 seamen were shipped, of whom 20,870 (or 16.0 per cent.) were foreigners.

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

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in April, 1904 and 1903 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the four months ended April in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Persons shipped in April, 1904.*			Total in April, 1903.*	Total number* shipped in four months ended April,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April, 1904.		1904.	1903.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	20	2,631	2,651	2,379	10,824	9,518
Sunderland	311	427	738	1,807	1,494	1,494
Middlesbrough	206	206	412	818	794	794
Hull	890	800	1,690	4,098	4,079	4,079
Grimsby	36	36	72	140	325	325
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	—	430	430	422	2,358	2,428
Newport, Mon.	30	73	103	699	2,944	2,786
Cardiff	43	4,269	4,312	4,306	13,308	17,091
Swansea	12	346	358	656	1,366	1,942
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	122	12,345	12,467	11,873	47,507	44,136
London	139	5,128	5,267	6,047	23,778	23,980
Southampton	—	2,220	2,220	2,052	8,712	8,460
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth	—	586	586	676	2,091	1,879
Glasgow	84	2,921	3,005	2,851	10,017	9,510
IRELAND.						
Dublin	5	39	44	118	388	479
Belfast	—	288	288	489	1,150	985
Total, April, 1904	443	33,379	33,825	...	136,306	...
 Ditto, April, 1903	623	33,308	...	33,831	...	129,992

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Liverpool and North Wales District.—An examination for first and second-class certificates of competency as manager and under-manager of a mine for this District will be held at *Wigan* on June 14th. Candidates must, on or before June 11th, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. T. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King Street, Wigan, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

York and Lincoln District.—An examination for first and second class certificates of competency as manager and under-manager of a mine for this district will be held at *Leeds* on June 20th. Candidates must, on or before May 25th, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. R. Jeffery, 5, Piccadilly, Bradford, Yorks.

Persons residing outside the Districts are eligible for examination.

* 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.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION.

THE third annual meeting of the Agricultural Organisation Society of Great Britain was held at Westminster on the 4th May, under the Presidency of Mr. Robert A. Yerburgh, M.P., when about 120 members and delegates from agricultural co-operative societies were present. It was reported that 73 agricultural co-operative societies were in existence in Great Britain at the end of 1903, comprising societies for the supply of farmers' requirements and sale of produce, cheesemaking, dairying, rural industries, allotments and small holdings, manufacture of agricultural implements, and co-operative credit bank.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended May 7th amounted to £7,146,142, a decrease of £25,775 (or 0.4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,062,516, a decrease of £138,131, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,083,626, an increase of £112,356.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during April numbered 375, being 106 more than in April, 1903, 54 more than in April, 1902, and 14 more than in April, 1901.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE following Table shows 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.]

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	April, 1904.	4 months ended April	April, 1904.	4 months ended April
		1904.		1903.	1904.	1903.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals ...	3	4	10	1
Brass Works ...	1	2	4	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	2	9	4	1
Printing ...	2	7	4	—
File Cutting ...	2	11	11	1
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron ...	2	7	2	—
Hollow-ware ...	5	27	41	1
White Lead Works ...	2	6	2	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	11	44	33	1
China and Earthenware* ...	1	2	1	—
Litho-transfer Works ...	—	—	1	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	—	1	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	1	4	10	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	3	14	23	—
Coach Making ...	4	19	5	—
Shipbuilding ...	4	9	16	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	2	14	10	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	49	188	188	4
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making ...	—	1	2	—
Furriers' processes ...	—	1	1	—
Other Industries ...	1	1	1	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	1	2	4	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	—	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ...	—	2	3	—
Other Industries ...	—	1	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	—	3	3	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting ...	—	2	4	—
Wool Combing ...	—	3	7	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	2	5	1	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	3	5	2	—
Other Industries ...	1	5	4	—
Total Anthrax	6	20	18	1

* Of the 11 cases in the china and earthenware industry in April, 1904, 3 affected females. Seven were reported from works outside the Potteries District. † House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 18 cases of lead poisoning (including 5 deaths) were reported during April, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the four months ended April, 1904, was 54 (including 11 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1903, 45 (including 8 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, 1904, was 266, as compared with 379 in the corresponding month of 1903, 361 in 1902, 312 in 1901, and 442 in 1900. The mean number of fatal accidents in the month of April in these five years was thus 352, so that the total for the past month was well below the average. Excluding seamen the number of accidents in April, 1904, was 214, or about the same as the mean for the years 1900 to 1904, viz., 226.

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, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 238, compared with 354 in April, 1903. During the four months ended April, 1904, the number of persons in this group of industries reported as killed was 1,196, as compared with 1,375 in the corresponding period of 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

In the following Table the accidents reported in April are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in	
	Apr., 1904.	Mar., 1904.	Apr., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	2	1	− 1	...
Engine Drivers	1	...	2	+ 1	− 1
Firemen	3	3	3	...	...
Guards (Passenger)	...	8	...	+ 4	+ 4
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	3	3	4	...	− 1
Porters	3	2	3	+ 1	...
Shunters	10	14	20	− 4	− 10
Miscellaneous	...	3	...	− 3	− 3
Contractors' Servants	...	3	...	...	...
Total Railway Service	33	35	44	− 2	− 11
Mines—					
Underground	69	82	73	− 13	− 4
Surface	14	17	15	− 3	− 1
Total Mines	83	99	88	− 16	− 5
Quarries over 20 feet deep	6	6	4	...	+ 2
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	1	3	...	− 2	+ 1
Wool and Worsted	3	...	1	+ 3	+ 2
Other Textiles	3	...	...	...	...
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	7	6	2	+ 7	+ 5
Founding and Conversion of Metals	17	10	12	+ 4	+ 4
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	6	2	2	+ 4	+ 4
Ship and Boat Building	3	6	5	− 3	− 2
Wood	1	1	3	− 5	− 2
Chemicals, &c.	1	6	3	− 5	− 2
Other Non-Textile Industries	22	20	28	+ 2	− 6
Total Factories	64	55	58	+ 9	+ 6
Workshops	...	1	...	− 1	...
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	17	93	21	− 76	− 4
Steam	32	42	115	− 10	− 83
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	2	2	9	− 3	− 7
Steam	1	4	18	− 3	− 17
Total Seamen	52	141	163	− 89	− 111
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6—					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	9	14	8	− 5	+ 1
Warehouses	1	6	1	− 5	...
Buildings to which Act applies	11	9	7	+ 2	+ 4
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6	21	29	16	− 8	+ 5
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	7	8	6	− 1	+ 1
Grand Total	266	374	379	− 108	− 113

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-one new disputes began in April, 1904, compared with 14 in March and 23 in April, 1903. By the 21 disputes 3,052 workpeople were directly and 920 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 the month, give a total of 5,529 workpeople involved in trade disputes during April, 1904, compared with 4,512 in March, 1904, and 10,861 in April, 1903.

New Disputes in April, 1904.—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	7	779	79	858
Coal Mining	2	860	...	860
Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	624	...	624
Cotton Weaving	2	199	840	1,039
Tailoring Trade	2	39	...	39
Dock Labour	1	380	...	380
Other	2	171	...	171
Total, April, 1904	21	3,052	920	3,972
Total, March, 1904	14	1,865	...	1,865
Total, April, 1903	23	2,898	1,817	4,715

people, and five old disputes, affecting 1,277 workpeople.

Of these sixteen new and old disputes, two, involving 580 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople, eight, involving 2,389 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and six, involving 964 persons, were compromised.

In the case of three other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 581 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in April of disputes that commenced or were settled in that month was 52,100 working days. In addition, 18,600 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 70,700 working days, which compares with 74,500 in the previous month, and 171,900 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Summary for the First Four Months of 1904.—For the four completed months of 1904 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 93 disputes which commenced in these months was 17,619, as compared with 25,546 in the 115 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1903.

The aggregate duration in working days of all disputes was about 324,000, as compared with 902,000 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.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Joiners	Edinburgh and Leith	500	...	1904. 15 Apr.	2	Against alterations in code of working rules proposed by employers	Old rules maintained.
Colliers and Other Workpeople	Pontypridd	427	348	1903. 9 Mar.	327	The want of a price list in a certain seam and alleged restriction of production by the workmen	Price list arranged for the seam in question and an agreement made as to other matters in dispute. No settlement reported.
Ship Painters	Tyne, Tees & Hartlepool	350	...	1904. 18 Apr.	...	For advance in wages of 2s. a week	...
Coal Heavers and Top Hands	London, E.	380	...	1904. 11 Apr.	11	Refusal to unload Welsh coal at night	Work resumed on employer's terms.
Compositors and Machinists	Hull	160	...	1904. 15 Apr.	...	For advance of wages...	No settlement reported.
Navvies, Masons and Engine Drivers	Armagh	214	16	1904. 28 Mar.	6	For advance in wages	Work resumed on old conditions.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days. † In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly 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.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' VALUATION RETURNS.

THE Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has issued a report for the year 1902,* containing a list of Friendly Societies—not having branches—in the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands), with their registered addresses, together with abstracts of particulars from the quinquennial valuation returns made by certain of the societies, and a summary showing separately the number of these societies showing a surplus, and of those showing a deficiency. Most of the valuations refer to the years 1899, 1900, 1901, or 1902, but some relate to earlier years.

From this it appears that 3,759 societies made returns. Of these 1,071, with an aggregate membership of 6,424,165, showed estimated surpluses on valuation amounting to a total of £1,500,862, and

2,688, with an aggregate membership of 1,539,037, showed estimated deficiencies amounting to £5,739,941.

Of the 1,071 societies showing surpluses 16, with an aggregate membership of 5,667,378, were Collecting Societies, with a total surplus amounting to £443,342, and 6 were specially authorised Societies with an aggregate membership of 15,544, and surpluses amounting to £22,585.

Of the 2,688 societies showing deficiencies, 16 were Collecting Societies with an aggregate membership of 238,341, and deficiencies amounting to £135,637, and 5 were Specially Authorised Societies with an aggregate membership of 1,057, and total deficiencies amounting to £12,907.

Of the societies showing surpluses, 998 were in England and Wales, 70 in Scotland, and 3 in Ireland.

Of those showing deficiencies, 2,554 were in England and Wales (including 2 in the Channel Islands), 130 in Scotland, and 4 in Ireland.

* Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 1902. Part D—Appendix (N). No. 77—III. [Price 3s. 5d.]

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

WAGES.

Changes Reported in April.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in April was a decrease of £1,003 per week, as compared with a decrease of £1,969 in March, and a decrease of £790 in April, 1903. The number of workpeople affected was 40,755, of whom 1,836 received advances amounting to £123 per week, and 38,919 sustained decreases amounting to £1,126 per week. The total number affected in March was 61,038, and in April, 1903, 24,675.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 35,000 coal miners in Northumberland and 1,800 bricklayers in Glasgow.

One change affecting 35,000 workpeople was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and six changes affecting 1,261 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remainder, affecting 4,494 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives without stoppage of work.

Summary for the first Four Months of 1904.†—For the four months, January—April, 1904, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have had their wages changed was 271,488 as compared with 215,874 in the corresponding period of 1903. Of these, 5,124 obtained a net increase amounting to £391 per week, and 259,774 sustained a net decrease of £10,409 per week, whilst the remaining 6,590 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of

all the changes reported was a decrease of £10,018 per week, compared with a decrease of £1,709 per week in the corresponding period of 1903.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by changes during the four months, January—April, 1903 and 1904, respectively, and the net results of the changes on their weekly wages are as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—April.			
	1903.		1904.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	942	+ 36	2,830	- 173
Coal Mining	132,900	+ 1,435	152,690	- 3,183
Iron Mining	7,161	- 173	10,612	- 57
Quarrying	1,875	- 60	1,964	- 51
Big Iron Manufacture	10,186	- 96	11,569	- 598
Iron and Steel Manufacture	7,604	+ 119	50,602	- 2,395
Engineering and Shipbuilding	46,456	- 2,765	29,305	- 2,495
Textile Trades	376	+ 20	2,200	- 68
Glass Trades	4,200	- 282	4,393	- 69
Other Trades	2,727	+ 61	2,643	- 59
Employees of Local Authorities	1,447	+ 1	3,080	+ 190
Total	215,874	- 1,709	271,488	- 10,018

HOURS.

Three changes in hours of labour were reported during April, affecting 450 workpeople, whose working hours in a full week were reduced by 757 hours per week. During the four months January—April, the total number of workpeople affected by changes in hours was 3,505, the reduction in their working hours being 7,050 hours per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	
				Increase.	Decrease.

I.—DETAILS OF CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL, 1904.

2 Increases—392 Workpeople.		BUILDING TRADES.		2 Decreases—2,850 Workpeople.	
Stockton, Thornaby, Middlesbrough, & West Hartlepool	Carpenters and Joiners	9 May	450	Decrease of 3d. per hour (9½d. to 9½d.).	
Preston	Carpenters and Joiners†	1 May	380	Advance of 3d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).	
Stafford	Plumbers	1 April	12	Advance of 3d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.).	
Glasgow	Bricklayers	2 May	1,800	Decrease of d. per hour (10d. to 9½d.).	

Increases—Nil.		MINING AND QUARRYING.		3 Decreases—35,288 Workpeople.	
Northumberland	Coal Miners:—	4 and 11 April	35,000	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 18 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.	
	Underground Workers and Banksmen (except Deputies, Mechanics, Engine-men and Firemen)			Decrease of 2 per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.	
	Other Surface Workers			Decrease of 1d. per day (5s. 1d. to 5s.) under sliding scale.	
Dalton-in-Furness	Iron-ore Miners	1 April	218	Decrease of 0 13d per ton under sliding scale.	
Stainton-in-Furness	Limestone Quarrymen	1 April	70	Decrease of 0 13d per ton under sliding scale.	

Increases—Nil.		IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.		5 Decreases—1,999 Workpeople.	
Stockton-on-Tees	Steel Millmen	4 April	59	Decrease of 2½ per cent. leaving wages 2½ per cent. above the standard.	
Workington	Enginemn, Cranemen, &c.	13 Mar.	326	Decrease of 7½ per cent. off rates above 25s. per week, and of 5 per cent. off rates of, and under, 25s. per week.	
Barrow-in-Furness	Rail, Wire and Hoop Millmen	4 April	650	Decrease of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 11 per cent. above the standard.	
South Lancashire (two firms)	Blastfurnacemen	April	220	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above the standard.	
North Wales	Blastfurnacemen	7 April	44	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above the standard.	

1 Increase—404 Workpeople.		ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.		Decreases—Nil.	
Southampton	Angle-smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers, and Holders-up in Boilerships and Shipyards	8 April	404	Advance of 2s. per week on new work and of 3s. per week on repair work.	

Increases—Nil.		CLOTHING TRADES.		1 Decrease—17 Workpeople.	
Blairgowrie	Tailors	1 April	17	Decrease of 3d. per hour in "log" rate (5½d. to 5d.).	

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. 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.
 † Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen and railway servants. 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.
 ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	
				Increase.	Decrease.

I.—DETAILS OF CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL, 1904—(continued).

3 Increases—159 Workpeople.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		1 Decrease—65 Workpeople.	
Rotherham District	Founders and Teasers (Glass Bottle Making)	2 April	65	Decrease of 3d. per shift.	
Nottingham	Linotype Operators	2 April	64	Advance of 1s 6d. per week. Rates after change, 44s. 6d., night work, and 41s. day work.	
	Stone Hands			Advance of 3s. per week. Rates after change, 41s., night work, and 38s., day work.	
Clydebank	General Case Hands	20	20	Advances of 1s. per week, night work, and of 1s. 6d. per week, day work.	
	Bakers*			Rates after change 39s., night work, and 36s. 6d. day work.	
Motherwell	Bakers	24 Mar.	35	Advance of 1s. in minimum weekly wage (32s. to 34s.).	

7 Increases—881 Workpeople.		EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.		Decreases—Nil.	
Leeds	Meter Repairers	22 April	28	Advance of 2s. per week (32s. and 34s. to 34s. and 36s.).	
	Waste Water Inspectors	14 April	12	Advance of 2s. per week (31s. and 33s. to 33s. and 35s.).	
	Gangers (Sewer Works)	9 Mar.	150	Advance of 4d. and 6d. per day (4s. 2d. and 4s. 8d. to 4s. 8d. and 5s.).	
Rochdale	Flushers	22 April	37	Advance of 4d. per day (3s. 10d. to 4s. 2d.).	
	Meter Repairers' Labourers			Advance of 1s. per week (23s. to 24s.).	
Warrington	Carmen or Guards (sanitary service)	7 April	34	Advance of 1s. per week (22s. to 23s.).	
Belfast	Ash carriers	29 Mar.	17	Advance of 1s. per week to men with more than 12 months' service.	
	Scavengers and Labourers	1 April	603	Advance of 6d. per week (19s. 6d. to 20s.).	

II.—DETAILS OF CHANGES IN HOURS REPORTED IN APRIL, 1904.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.
Preston	Carpenters and Joiners†	1 May	380	Average decrease of about 6 hours per week in winter working hours.
Helensburgh	Painters	17 Mar.	40	Decrease of 5 hours per week in summer working hours (56 to 51).
Clydebank	Bakers†	28 Mar.	50	Decrease of 2½ hours per week (55½ to 53).

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

† See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during April was 44,030 as compared with 53,322 in April, 1903. During the four months ended April, 1904, the number of passengers was 112,478, being 19,425 (or 14·7 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 44,030 passengers in April, 29,671 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 1,374 compared with a year ago. For the four months ended April, 1904, the number was 69,367, as compared with 74,548 in the corresponding period of 1903, a decrease of 5,181, which is more than accounted for by a decrease of 7,175 passengers to British South Africa.

The following Table gives the number of British and Irish passengers in the different periods:—

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Four months ended	
	April, 1904.	April, 1903.
British Empire:		
British North America	10,466	9,719
Australia and New Zealand	747	711
British South Africa	1,977	3,666
India (including Ceylon)	188	216
Other British Colonies and Possessions	227	284
Total, British Empire	13,605	14,594
Foreign Countries:		
United States	15,728	16,057
Other Foreign Countries	338	594
Total, Foreign Countries	16,066	16,651
Grand Total	29,671	31,245

Foreign.—The remainder of the 44,030 passengers in April, viz., 14,359, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 7,918 less than in April, 1903. For the four months ended April, 1904, the number of such passengers was 43,111, of whom 31,293 were bound for the United States, 7,606 for British North America, and 1,733 for British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1903, the number was 57,355, of whom 38,119 were bound for the United States, 13,274 for British North America, and 3,527 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During April, 15,545 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 9,610 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 8,556 as compared with April 1903. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,725 (exclusive of seamen), or 173 less than a year ago. For the four months ended April, 1904, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 28,271, and the number not so stated, 17,508 (exclusive of seamen), compared with 44,556 and 19,092 respectively in 1903

The figures for April, 1904 and 1903, and also for the four months ended April, 1904 and 1903, are as follows:—

	Total for four months ended	
	Apr., 1904.	Apr., 1903.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	1,210	1,381
Seamen Others	4,725	4,898
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	9,610	18,166
Gross Total	15,545	24,445
	49,972	68,286

CONDITIONS OF WORK IN FLAX AND LINEN MILLS.

THE Home Secretary has issued a circular letter to flax and linen manufacturers with a copy of a Report, received from the Chief Inspector of Factories, of an inquiry made by Commander Hamilton Smith (H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories), with reference to the dangers to health arising in the processes of spinning and weaving of flax, and the further precautions which are practicable and necessary for the protection of the operatives.* The Secretary of State considers it necessary that the requirements of the Special Rules drawn up in 1896 should be revised and re-issued as Regulations under S. 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. Observations upon the draft Regulations drawn up for this purpose will be considered if received before the 30th May; and, should it prove to be desirable, the Secretary of State would propose to instruct Commander Smith to meet the representatives of the trade before proceeding to issue formally the Regulations in draft, as provided by Section 80 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL SUB-STATIONS: HOME OFFICE RECOMMENDATIONS.

APART from the conditions prescribed by the Board of Trade, underground electrical sub-stations are subject to the general provisions of the Factory Act, 1901, and to the Regulations which the Home Secretary has power to make under Section 79 of that Act for the safety of persons employed. They are now inspected by the Factory Department of the Home Office, and it is found that many have been constructed and fitted up in a manner dangerous to persons having to enter them. The necessary safeguards required by the Factory Act can be introduced more effectively and economically at the time of construction than later, and hence, pending the issue of regulations as above, a memorandum of general recommendations has been drawn up and issued by the Home Office for the information of persons who may be about to construct such chambers. The memorandum only applies to sub-stations which a man can enter, and not to mere boxes.

*Cd. 1997. Eyre & Spottiswoode; Price 2s.

Acts, Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1890 to 1896, and Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899. [Cd. 2012, pp. 14 + xliii. + 412: price 2s. 3d.]

Emigration Statistics of Ireland for the year 1903. Number, ages, conjugal condition, and destination of the Emigrants from each County and Province in 1903; also the occupations of Emigrants, and the number who left each port in each month of the year. [Cd. 2030, pp. 14. Price 2d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., or ordered through any bookseller.)

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada.

Third Annual Report of the Department of Labour of Canada for the year ended June 30th, 1903. Reports on special investigations by the Department; Conciliation and Arbitration; the British Columbia Industrial Disputes Commission; Fair Wages on Public Contract Work, &c. [S. E. Dawson, King's Printer, Ottawa: pp. 99, price 5 cents.]

Ontario.

Fourth Report of the Bureau of Labour of Ontario, 1903. Reports on investigations into wages and hours of labour among organised and unorganised workers: into openings for new industries: into wages, rates, and cost of production in manufactories; reports upon conciliation cases, strikes, and lock-outs, labour organisations. [L. K. Cameron, King's Printer, Toronto: pp. 215.]

New South Wales.

Third Annual Report of the Labour Commissioners of New South Wales for the year ended June 30th, 1903. Employment Bureau statistics. [W. A. Gullick, Government Printer, Sydney, N.S.W.: pp. 60.]

Victoria.

The Law relating to Factories, Workrooms, and Shops in Victoria. Arranged for purposes of reference by the Chief Inspector, 1903. [R. S. Brain, Government Printer, Melbourne: pp. xii. + 79; price 1s.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

New York. Twentieth Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the State of New York, 1902. Reports upon special investigation into wages earned in the Clothing Trades, with special reference to the income of families carrying on work at home; Trade Unions in 1902; employment and earnings of organised wage workers; changes in wages and hours of labour in 1901-2. [The Argus Company, Printers, Albany, N.Y.: pp. 1172.]

New York. Second Annual General Report of the Department of Labour of the State of New York, 1902. Comprises report of the Commissioner of Labour; report of the Free Employment Bureau in New York City; report of the Bureau of Factory Inspection; Sixteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration. [The Argus Company, Printers, Albany, N.Y.: pp. 887.]

New Jersey. Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour and Industries of New Jersey for the year ended October 31st, 1903. Statistics of manufactures; number of persons employed in different industries; statistics of child labour; labour chronology, comprising new machinery plants, changes in wages, strikes and lock-outs, accidents, trade union statistics, &c. [MacCrellish & Quigley, State Printers, Trenton: pp. viii. + 629]. See Notice on p. 131.

France.

Report of Proceedings of Twelfth Session of Higher Council of Labour, November, 1903. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1904: pp. xviii. + 224.]

Italy.

Report of Proceedings at Third Session of Council of Thrift, 1903. (Ministry of Agriculture, &c.). [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale, Via Umbria, 1904. pp. 682, price 5 lire (4s.)]

Austria-Hungary.

Austrian Census of December 31st, 1900. Part 4.—Statistics of Unemployment. [(K.K. Statistische Centralkommission); pp. xli. + 60, price 3 Kronen (2s. 6d.), Vienna.]

Report of Hungarian Factory Inspectors for 1902. (Konigl. Ungar. Handelsminister.) [pp. 105, Buda-Pesth, 1904.]

Sweden.

Savings Banks and People's Banks in 1902. (Kungl. Statistiska Centralbyran), [pp. xi. + 46. Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner, 1904.]

Report on Pauperism in 1901. (Kungl. Statistiska Centralbyran), [pp. xxiv. + 112. Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner, 1904.]

Statistical Year-Book for 1904. Includes statistics of wages, savings banks, pauperism, &c. (Kungl. Statistiska Centralbyran), [pp. viii. + 100; price 2 kr. 75 öre (3s. 1d.). Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner, 1904.]

NOTE.—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Norway, and the State of New York.

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, 6; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 14; under the Friendly Societies Act, 54 (including 22 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all, 76.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—5, viz., Union of the Employees of the firm of Moore, Nettlefold & Co., 6, Auberon Terrace, Auberon Street, North Woolwich, E.; Chatham Government Labourers' Union, 13 Frederick Street, Chatham; National and International General Federation of Trade and Labour Unions, 570 Tonge Moor Road, Bolton; Order of Cosmopolites, 102 Irlam Road, Bootle, Liverpool; Manchester Mantle Maker-up Assoc., Jewish Working Men's Club, Exchange Street, Cheetham, Manchester. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—1, viz., Sligo General Labourers' Benevolent Union, Town Hall, Sligo.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—**Co-operative Societies, mainly for Distribution.**—1, viz., St. Martin's Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, St. Martins, Chirk Ruabon. **Co-operative Agricultural Societies.**—4, viz., Liskeard District Poultry Soc., Ltd., Liskeard; Collingham Farmers, Ltd., Four Mile Farm, Brough, South Collingham, Newark; Cambs., Hunts., and Isle of Ely Farmers' Supply Assoc., Ltd., 7, Downing Street, Cambridge; Blakesley Poultry and Dairy Produce Soc., Ltd., Blakesley, Towcester. **Miscellaneous Societies.**—Working Men's Clubs, 3; others, 4. **Scotland.**—1, viz., Patriotic Investment Soc., Ltd. **Ireland.**—1, viz., Slievegalliar Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Mullabawn, Forkhill, Dundalk.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—32, viz., Western Co-op. Friendly Loan Soc., Wardour-street, W.; Southgate Mutual Investment and Loan Soc., Southgate, N.; Oliver Cromwell £10 Permanent Money Soc., Nottingham; Swindon and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Swindon; Central Permanent Money Soc., Cardiff; Church Hill Working Men's Club, Hednesford; Ball Lane Working Men's Club, Wolverhampton; Hednesford London Working Men's Club, Hednesford; Nether Thong Working Men's Club, Huddersfield; Triangle Working Men's Club, Halifax; Shafton Village Working Men's Club and Inst., Barnsley; Hoyle Ing Working Men's Club and Inst., Huddersfield; Rotherham Working Men's Club and Inst., Rotherham; Ribblesdale Working Men's Club and Inst., S-ttle; Suburban Sick and Burial Tontine Soc., Chester; Calow Colliery Sick and Accident Soc., Chesterfield; Rays Pride of Heanor Friendly Soc., Heanor; Loyal Simeon Lodge of Oddfellows' M.U. Juvenile Friendly Soc., Calbourne, Newport, Isle of Wight; Cunard Cargo Employees' Benefit Soc., Liverpool; Earcroft National Sunday School Sick and Burial Soc., Darwen; Jewish East End Benefit Soc., Mildmay Park, N.; Norman Comical Fellows' Friendly Soc., Deptford; Kolomeya Friendly Benefit Soc., Commercial Road, E.; Railway Hotel Mutual Assistance Soc., Ipswich; Wrentham Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Squirrel United Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Kent Street North Alexandra Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Belgrave Own Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Forward Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Leopard Good Intent Sick and Provident Soc., Birmingham; Exon Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Buckley Free Churches Sick and Burial Tontine Benefit Soc., Chester. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

(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, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 6; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 36 (including 20 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 8; in all 51.

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.

NOTICE.

Communications respecting the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to:—

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR,
43, Parliament Street, London, S.W.

Printed by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & Co., Ltd., 31 to 37 Cursitor Street, London, E.C., and Published for His Majesty's Stationery Office by HORACE MARSHALL & SON, Temple House, Temple Avenue, London, E.C. Sole Advertising Contractors—RATCLIFFE, DUNBAR & Co. 1 Lombard Court, Lombard Street, E.C.—May, 1904.