OF POTITION AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE

LABOUR GAZETTE

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

No. I.-Vol. I.

MAY 1893.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

THE OBJECTS OF THE "LABOUR GAZETTE."

The Labour Gazette is a journal for the use of workmen, and of all others interested in obtaining prompt and accurate information on matters specially affecting labour. It is intended to stand to labour questions in the same relation as the Board of Trade Journal to questions of trade and commerce. In other words, official information bearing on the interests of labour will be adapted for general use and made public, including information which the Department obtains from its correspondents largely for the purpose of publication.

With mere questions of opinion the Labour Gazette will not be concerned. The aim of the Department in the publication is to provide a sound basis for the formation of opinions, and not to supply opinions. In performing this task there are three classes of materials which have to be dealt with. First, there is the information bearing on labour which is already collected and published periodically by various Government Departments, but which, as yet, is not readily accessible to the vast mass of workmen, either because it is buried in large and expensive publications, or because workmen have not, as a rule, the means of knowing when and how it can be obtained. There is again much useful information published by Foreign Governments, which is inaccessible to British workmen for the same reasons, with the additional barrier offered by an unfamiliar language. It is intended to collect and sift this information, to publish month by month such parts of it as can be included in the Gazette, and, so far as possible, to add references to the remainder. In the present number are included such items as the Monthly Report on the State of Employment, the returns of Emigration and Immigration, and the summaries of various British and Foreign Reports, such as the last published Annual Report on Strikes and Lock-outs, Trade Unions, and other subjects.

In the second place, there is much information which is already obtained through various official channels, but which has hitherto not been published at all, or issued after the public interest in the subject has, to some extent, subsided. The Labour Department is enabled, by the courtesy of the various Government Offices concerned, to present, for the first time, monthly or quarterly reports on several matters which have hitherto been only the subject of less full or less frequent returns. As examples of such information in the present number, reference may be made to the list of Trade Unions, Co-operative, and Friendly Societies registered and dissolved during the month, the returns of pauperism in the chief industrial districts of the United Kingdom, of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, and of accidents to railway servants and in factories and workshops.

In the third place there are many matters of importance on which exact information has not hitherto

been obtained, or at least has not been officially collected. Some of these questions will probably always elude exact investigation; many others will require to be made the subject of searching special inquiries before they are ripe for precise treatment in a monthly journal. There are, however, a few cases in which it is proposed at once to begin to break fresh ground. Thus, in the present number it is possible, through the Local Correspondents of the Department, connected for the most part with important trade organizations, to supply a series of statements from the workmen's point of view as to the conditions of employment in the chief centres of industry. With regard to one important group of irregularly employed labour in the port of London, the daily changes in the volume of employment are shown in the form of a chart, which, though referring only to a small fraction of the low-skilled labour of London, may to some extent serve as a useful barometer of employment, so far as concerns the waterside and carrying industries of the port. The Department would be glad to extend the information to waterside and other labour in other districts, and would welcome any suggestions to that end.

An account is given in the GAZETTE of the chief labour disputes and changes in rates of wages and hours of labour of which information has been received during the month. In the preparation of these tables much valuable help has been given by Trade Unions, employers, and Employers' Associations. Arrangements have also been made for special short articles on important trade disputes, and such subjects as arbitration, conciliation, various methods of industrial remuneration, and the working of various laws bearing specially on labour. The trade disputes thus treated in the present number are the late Lancashire Cotton Dispute, and the Shipping strike now in progress at Hull.

The Department is also endeavouring, chiefly through the machinery of the Workmen's Co-operative Societies, to obtain returns of average retail prices of the chief articles of workmen's consumption, based on a record of actual transactions. The returns so far obtained are given in another column, and will be repeated periodically. In addition, the Department has to thank the district secretaries of the Co-operative Union, for agreeing to supply materials for the Monthly Reports on Co-operation.

Through the courtesy of the Foreign Office, the Department will be able to give periodical reports on the state of labour, trade disputes, changes in wages, and labour legislation in the principal foreign countries, obtained specially for the purpose through the British Embassies and Consulates. The Colonial Office have also kindly arranged with the Emigrants' Information Office, which has already for some time collected information as to the demand for labour, and the conditions of employment in the principal British Colonies, to furnish the Labour Department with material for monthly reports, of which the first appears in the present number.

THE STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

I.-GENERAL SUMMARY.

RETURNS of unemployed members at the close of April have been received from 23 Trade Unions, with a total membership of 296,771, of which number 20,478, or 6.9 per cent., are reported as being out of work, against 25,622, or 8.7 per cent., in the previous month. The figures, however, for this month are still one per cent. higher than for the corresponding month of 1892. They can hardly be looked upon as indicating an upward movement of a lasting nature, but must rather be attributed to seasonal causes of a more or less fluctuating character. Six of the 23 societies describe trade as "good," 8 as "moderate," and 9 as "bad."

Notwithstanding the settlement of the dispute in the Cotton Trade, a large number of spinners in the Oldham district are still unemployed, the proportion having risen from 12 per cent. in April 1892 to 28 per cent. in April 1893. On the other hand, in the Bolton district, which was much less severely affected by the Cotton Dispute, the percentage of unemployed has fallen from 2.25 in the former to 1.85 in the latter period. Speaking generally, the Engineering Trades show a slight improvement when compared with last month, though when compared with the corresponding period of last year they are in an unsatisfactory condition, especially in the case of the Iron Shipbuilding Trades, in which the tendency is still a downward one. The Building and Furnishing Trades, as might be anticipated at this season of the year, continue to improve, and are generally in a good condition, while the Printing and kindred Trades have somewhat improved in the Metropolis, though a falling off is noticeable in the provinces, and also in Ireland and Scotland.

Seventy-three new disputes have been reported during the month, the most important being the strike in con nection with the Dock and Shipping Industries in Hull, directly affecting about 10,000 men, which for some time threatened to spread to other ports. A general strike in the Shipping Industries has been averted, at least for the time, though local disturbances have taken place in the ports of London, Bristol, and elsewhere. Next in magnitude come three mining disputes, affecting 1,200, 1,000 and 800 miners respectively. It will be seen that the number of new strikes noted, viz., 73, is somewhat large, being 14 in excess of last month and 8 more than for the like period of 1892. In 36 of these strikes, for which full particulars have been received, 16,954 workers were concerned. In many cases, however, the numbers interested were small, and the disputes themselves of but short duration. Of the total 73 disputes, 23 occurred in the Building Trades, 11 in the Mining Industry, 9 in the Shipbuilding Industry, 8 in the Textile Trades, 7 in the Clothing Trades, 6 in connection with Shipping and Dock Labour, 5 in the Metal Trades, and the remaining 4 in various other trades and industries. Several of the disputes in the Building Trades were within the Metropolitan area, and arose from differences as to the enforcement of the agreement mutually entered into last year by the representatives of employers and workmen in those trades.

Taking three important groups of trades, viz., Building, Engineering, and Furnishing, and analysing the figures, the following results are obtained:-In the Building Trades (comprising carpenters, masons, plasterers, and plumbers), reports from 794 branches of unions, representing 52,441 members, show the state of trade to be as follows

ŀ	Branches.	Members.
 •••	367	24,303
 	258	16,246
 •••	169	11,892
	-	
	794	52,441
•••		258

In these unions the percentage of unemployed is 2.27.

In the Engineering Trades (comprising engineers, ironfounders and pattern makers), reports from 610 branches of unions, representing 83,109 members, show the state of trade to be as follows:

			Branches.	Members.
"Fair" to "very good"	•••	•••	21	1,576
"Moderate" or "quiet"	•••	•••	234	30,342
"Dull" to "very bad"			355	51,191
			610	83,109

In these unions the percentage of unemployed is 8.o.

In the Furnishing Trades (comprising cabinet-makers, chair-makers, carvers, turners, upholsterers and polishers), reports from 109 branches of unions, representing 6,455 members, show the state of trade to be as

			Branches.	Members
"Fair" to "very good"	•••		56	3,385
"Moderate" or "quiet"		•••	21	2,116
"Dull" to "very bad"	•••	•••	24	954
			~	
			IOO	6.455

In these unions the percentage of une uployed is 2.48.

The most important changes of wages during April, of which the Department has received information, have been the fall in wages in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades in several districts of the North England, and a rise in wages in various departments of the Building Trades in several towns. Fuller particulars of the changes are given in another column.

A further index of changes in the state of employment in the chief industrial districts is furnished by the particulars of pauperism published in another part of the GAZETTE. As might be expected, having regard to the advance of Spring, and the long-continued fine weather, every district in England shows a more or less marked improvement on the previous month. In London the proportion of paupers per 10,000 of population has fallen from 232 to 221, and in nineteen provincial districts, chiefly of an urban character, with a total population of nearly 7,500,000, the corresponding proportion has fallen from 211 to 201. The fall is naturally greatest in the Lancashire textile districts, where, doubtless owing to the cessation of the Cotton Dispute, the proportion has fallen from 193 to 156.

II.—REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS. ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District .- Mr. J. Ratcliffe reports that in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Industries a more hopeful outlook prevails than in March. A marked improvement is manifest in the lemand for skilled labour. The number of unemployed engineers in the Newcastle district, at present the most congested, show a visible decrease, and this remark applies also to the Wear and Tyne generally. Settlements have taken place in respect to reductions in wages claimed by employers all round; in all departments of the above trades, terms have been arranged with one or two exceptions. Reductions varying in amount from 2s. to 6d. on time rates, and 5 to 10 per cent. on piece prices, come into force in May. The Boiler-makers and Iron Shipbuilders exhibit the same upward tendency, the number receiving unemployed benefit being 500 less than in March; but the numbers out of work are still large. Shipyards maintain their normal condition; one or two are still busy, while others have difficulty in getting new work. Carpenters and Joiners are fairly well employed, and surplus labour is being drafted off to other districts, 50 to 60 men leaving the Wear for Belfast during the last fortnight. They are up to the present resisting all attempts to reduce wages. Northumberland Collieries are working fairly steadily, with an average of 91 days per fortnight throughout the county. Prices are recorded as being well maintained during the month. In 15 collieries there are between 300 and 400 men either idle or under notice. The average net selling price of coal for the quarter ending in February was 6d. per ton less than the average of the preceding quarter. The coal-owners at a meeting of representatives of miners and coal-owners held in April, considered themselves entitled to claim a reduction, but ultimately agreed to defer further action until the next ascertainment of prices. Much depression at present exists in the Durham Coal Trade; some collieries have discharged

large numbers of men, while others are only working five to nine days a fortnight, and in some cases only two days. It is estimated that fully 1,500 men are still idle. Generally speaking, however, it may be said that there is a perceptible improvement. Lead Factories are fully employed, Chemical Works are fairly busy, but the Copper Works are slightly depressed. Building operations are brisk and the Plasterers have succeeded in obtaining an advance in wages in the Newcastle district. The half-yearly "Hinds Hiring" at Newcastle was held in April; while the number of men offering their services was greater than in former hirings, the number of wives was less prices ranged from 16s. up to 23s. for good and known workers.

May, 1893.

Oldham, Bolton and District .- Mr. J. T. Fielding reports that in the Building and Clothing Trades work is plentiful, the demand for workers in the tailoring branch being in excess of the supply In the Iron and Engineering Trades employment is fairly steady although overtime is not so prevalent as is sometimes the case. Th Cotton Trade has settled down after its long stoppage, and the mills in the Bolton district are fully employed. The markets during the past month have been greatly affected by the fluctuations in the quotations for cotton "futures." All the spindles stopped during the recent lock-out were at once set going on a settlement being effected, but looms could not be started so expeditiously owing to a scarcity of yarn, and the re-starting has been a matter of somewhat slow progress. Oldham yarns scarcely maintained the rates current at the opening of the month, the margin between Middling American cotton and an average 32's twist yarn being 3d. per lb. on April 28th as against 316d. per lb. on March 31st. "Bolton" yarns have kept fairly steady during the month. Plain cloths have been unsatisfactory in price, and sales disappointing, this section of the trade not having fully recovered from the recent disturbance. Consider able agitation must be recorded amongst several sections of wageearners in the district. In Bolton the Paper Mill Workers are agitating for a reduction in hours for females, who have asked to leave off at 1 p.m. on Saturdays instead of 2 p.m. In Oldham, two strikes have occurred in the Tailoring Trade, and one in the Cotton Industry. The first strike of the tailors was of a general character, and terminated in favour of the men. A further strike of tailors is still pending. The Cotton Reelers' strike against a reduction in wages has been partially successful.

Burnley, Accrington and District.-Mr. W. H. Wilkinson reports that the Weaving Branch of the Cotton Trade shows very little improvement; employers are not starting their looms to any great extent, in consequence of the low margin which prevails between yarns and cloth, and the result is that some thousands of looms are still standing idle. The Building Trades have been depressed for some time, but are improving. The Machine and Iron Works are fully occupied, and one firm is making large extensions to their works. In the Printing Trade workmen are fully employed. The Joiners' dispute at Colne has been settled after a stoppage of ten days, the employers agreeing to concede the required advance of &d. an hour. The dispute as to measurement of looms at Rishton at the beginning of May has been settled, the employers agreeing to pay according to the measurements agreed to by the Secretaries of the Employers' and Operatives' Associations.

Manchester and District .- Mr. G. D. Kelley reports that trade remains in a depressed condition, with perhaps a slight change for the better. The depression resulting from the recent Cotton Dispute, which affected so many industries in this neighbourhood, still continues to exert some considerable influence on trading generally A dispute has begun in Stockport among the Stonemasons, who have given six months' notice of their intended application for an advance in wages from 81d. to 9d. per hour, which is the price paid

Liverpool and District.-Mr. J. Sexton reports that there has been little if any change for the better in the state of trade during the past month, and the tendency to improvement at the beginning of April in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades has not been sustained. All through the month there has been a spirit of unrest and insecurity as to the probability of the Hull dispute extending to Liverpool. Notwithstanding the large number of menover 1,000—drafted from Liverpool to Hull by the employers, there are still a great number of men connected with the Shipping Industry out of employment. The relief works started by the Corporation at the beginning of March, came to an end on April 28th. During the seven weeks of their existence, 350 men have received one week's wages, a fresh gang being put on each week, with the exception of a gang of about 12 practical men, who were employed constantly while the work lasted. The only industry that can be said to have made any permanent advance, is the Building Trade. Towards the end of the month, the employers conceded an advance of 1d. an hour, and a reduction of working hours, from 55 to 50 during the Summer

months, and 50 to 47½ during Winter; the change affecting 3,000 men. In the Chemical Industry, there are slight signs of an improvement, and new works are shortly to be erected at Ditton Marsh, near Widnes. The Tailors of Widnes are asking for an increase in wages, from 15 to 30 per cent. The long and severe struggle in the St. Helen's Bottle-making Industry having terminated, all the furnaces are being relighted, and the men are resuming work. The Coal Mining Industry in the neighbourhood of St. Helen's is in a very disturbed state. The grievances of the men are multifarious, the chief being attempted reductions of wages, and a system of working, which the men claim to be equivalent to a reduction. The employers are taking the men's complaints into con-

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.-Mr. A. Main reports that trade has been slightly better during the last month. Extensive steel works, which have been closed more than three months, have been re-started in some departments, thus reducing the number of the unemployed at South Bank and Eston considerably. The Finished Iron Trade is very dull, but the Steel Trade is slightly better. The number of blast furnaces at work in this district is 87, as against 88 last month, and the Cleveland Ironstone Miners are fairly well employed. Work continues very scarce in the Engineering Trade, fully 10 per cent of the men being unemployed. Shipbuilding generally is slack, few new contracts being reported. In Middlesbrough, however, one large yard is said to be very busy, and other yards are fairly employed. The men belonging to the Boilermakers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Society have agreed to a reduction of five per cent. off piece prices, and is. per week off time wages. A dispute has arisen at the ironstone mines of a firm at Skelton as to the conditions of working the newly introduced ratchet drilling machine. The question has been referred to the Joint Committee for consideration, and will probably be settled without any cessation of work. The strike of Builders Labourers at Hartlepool still continues, and the men are being well supported by the National Labour Union and others. Several of the master builders have conceded the terms asked for, and their men are at work. The Painters of the district have been agitating for various concessions, and at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough the men are out on strike, with the exception of a few firms in Middlesbrough, who have signed the new code of rules. At Hartlepool the men are endeavouring to establish a co-operative society to carry on the work themselves. The strike of the Tailors for the general adoption of a time-log for Middlesbrough has been amicably arranged, the employers having accepted the log with certain alterations.

Leeds and District .- Mr. O. Connellan reports some improvement in the general condition of trade during the past month, but some industries, Iron especially, are still depressed. In the Engineering, the locomotive and tool-making branches are very slack, but a slight improvement is shown in the machine-making, boiler-making, and ironfounding departments; a small decrease has taken place among those signing the out-of-work book, but the number is still abnormal. Considerable improvement has been exhibited in the Leather Trade; the workmen in the largest tanning works in Leeds have recently worked full time, for the first time for over a twelvemonth. The Ready-made Clothing Trade, which was very slack in March, has now become brisk; the large factories are very busy, and in some cases overtime has been necessary. The bespoke branch of the trade is also very active, and there is every indication of a good summer trade. The resumption of work by the Glass Blowers was followed by considerable activity and briskness, which will probably continue for some time, owing to the large accumulation of orders during the dispute. The Building Trades continue brisk, and a good demand for workmen prevails, especially for bricklayers and nasons; carpenters and joiners, however, are in only moderate demand. The ordinary Printing Trade has been dull, with a larger number of unemployed than usual. Night compositors engaged on daily morning papers have had an increase of 1/4d. per 1,000 ens. An advance has also been gained by the Plasterers, viz., 1/2d. per hour, dating from May 1st.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.-Mr. A. Gee reports that in Huddersfield several woollen manufacturers are running their mills night and day; during the latter part of the month one worsted firm has begun night work, and another has begun to work two hours overtime. In Keighley, one or two firms in the Worsted Trade have raised wages about 5 per cent. The Woollen Trade is quiet in Bradford, but not exceptionally so, and the same remark applies to the heavy woollen district, including Batley, Dewsbury, and the neighbourhood. The Iron Trade in Halifax has been somewhat depressed, and the employers have proposed a reduction in wages; at Keighley there is a slight improvement. The Tailors in Keighley are endeavouring to obtain an advanced rate of

wages. The Weavers' Association has declared the strike at Holmfirth at an end, but are giving "victimised" pay until further notice or until the men get work. The Wire Drawers' strike at Lindley, Huddersfield, which began seven months ago, is still going on. The Carpenters and Joiners of Bradford and district, who, six months ago, asked for an advance of ½d. per hour on their rate of wages (71d. an hour), have accepted an advance of 1d., and have given notice that next year the additional 4d. will be asked for.

Barnsley and the Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).-Mr. J. Wadsworth reports that in most of the collieries the men have only been employed four days a week, in some they have worked only two or three days. In a few cases, however, five and even six days have been worked. Several of the men thrown out of work by the closing of a colliery have obtained work in the Flockton Seam, which has been re-opened. The Dockers' Dispute at Hull has affected the Yorkshire Coal Trade to some extent. House coal is not much in demand, nor is there much demand for gas coal at some collieries. Notice has been given to 50 men at a colliery, near Rotherham, owing to depression of trade, and to 200 men at another colliery. The dispute at one colliery in the Warren House Seam still continues; the men have offered to accept arbitration, but the owners have refused. The men at the Swallow-wood Pit, Aldwarke Main Colliery, are still out. The Glass Bottle Dispute has been settled during the month, and the men are getting fairly well to work again, going in on their own terms after 16 weeks' absence. The Ironworkers in Yorkshire are affected, equally with those in the Midlands, by Sir Thomas Martineau's award of 21 per cent. reduction in connection with the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board.

Sheffield and District. -Mr. S. Uttley reports that on the whole, although there has been a slight improvement during the month, the state of trade in this district is bad. As regards the heavy trades there is no activity manifested, except in a few special lines, such as the manufacture of patent flues and tubes. In the Armour and Ship-plate, Tyre, Axle and Railway-Spring Trades, but little work is being done, and in many cases the men have not averaged more than one turn per week since Christmas, and are consequently in a most deplorable condition. The Railway Wagon and Carriage Builders are very short of orders, as are also the Iron and Steel Founders. With respect to the old staple industries, the Silver and Metal Trades are exceedingly quiet, as also are the Table and Spring-Knife Cutlery branches. The Razor Trade is very slack. Some makers of scissors are fairly well off for orders, but this is not general. The File Trade is moderate, the number of unemployed in this industry having decreased owing to some extent to the recent placing of Government orders. The demand for reaper files and for sheep shears has increased considerably owing to the season There is a fair demand for certain classes of wire, and also for cycle steel, but generally the rolling mills are slack. For steel spades, shovels and forks for agricultural purposes the demand is maintained, this being the height of the season for such articles. In the Building Trades there is a fair amount of activity manifested, the long continued fine weather having been highly favourable to building operations. The Joiners' Tool Trade is fairly good, but the Engineers' Tool Trade is very quiet.

Hull and District.-Mr. W. G. Millington reports that the great dispute in the Shipping Industry which has been in progress for nearly the whole month overshadows everything else in importance so far as the conditions of labour in Hull are concerned. An account of the origin of this dispute is given elsewhere. Over 10,000 men are directly affected, but the influence of the prolonged dispute has extended to almost all the local workpeople, especially seed-crushers and men engaged in various trades connected with engineering and shipbuilding. Shopkeepers are also doing little business, and there is great distress in the town. The men on strike receive food tickets to the value of 6s. weekly, the funds being provided by subscriptions, which come in freely. 9,000 men received strike pay last week. Meanwhile the Shipping Federation is importing "free labourers" from time to time, but many appear to leave at the end of their fortnight's engagement, and the work of the port is going on slowly. All the chief groups of local industries, except the Building Trades, were seriously depressed before the dock strike, and the depression has been considerably increased by the dispute. In the Engineering and Shipbuilding Yards work is reduced to the lowest possible extent, short of actual stoppage, with the result that a large number of men dependent on such work are out of employment. The Trade Societies which give dispute pay have now a large number on their funds. The Iron Trades Employers' Association issued notices at the end of March for a general reduction in wages, with the result that the Engineers' Society agreed eventually to accept a reduction of 1s. a week from | brighter than it has been for some years past; and an advance of 5 per

1st May, and labourers in receipt of over 20s. a week a reduction of 6d. a week from 18th May. The Shipwrights received three months' notice of a reduction of 5 per cent. The Boiler-makers also received notice of a 5 per cent. reduction, but eventually came to an agreement with the employers on the basis of a reduction of 21 per cent. on piecework rates, and of is. a week on time wages. A strike of Drillers and Hole-cutters at two firms was amicably settled after a few days, the point in dispute being a question of demarcation of work between these trades and that of the Boiler-makers. The Painters at Grimsby struck at the beginning of April for advanced wages; an amicable settlement was arrived at, the employers granting an increase of ½d. an hour, and a mutually revised code of rules.

Wolverhampton and District.-Mr. W. F. Mee reports that the commercial outlook for the past month in this district has not been very encouraging. A large number of Ironworkers are still unemployed. The gradual reduction in the wages of the Chainmakers ended in a strike on April 25th, for a return to the 5s. price list. Several firms have conceded the demand. In the Brass and Copper Trades short time is being worked, and there are many men seeking employment. There is no improvement manifested in the Galvanising, Hollow-ware Casting, and Light Iron Foundry Trades, and orders are still scarce. In the Hardware Trade there is a slight improvement, more especially in season orders; and there is a fair demand for ironwork for engineering, bridge-making, and roof work. There is also a slight improvement in the Iron and Tin-plate Trades. The Boot and Shoe Trade is well up for spring goods. The late strike at a firm in Stafford has terminated in favour of the men, and, as the firm has some large Government contracts, there is a demand for labour. The Tailors are fully employed, and trade is reported "steady" in the Letterpress Printing, Cabinet-making, and Electrical Trades. Owing to the lengthening days, the numbers of Gasworkers are being reduced, but they soon find work as Builders' Labourers. The genial weather has had a beneficial influence upon the Building and Out-Door Trades, and there is a slight demand for good men. It has also had its influence upon some branches of the Lock Trade, but the manufacturers have large stocks in hand. The Plumbers have had their wages increased from 8d. to 81d. per hour, and have obtained a revised code of bye-laws, one employer alone refusing to comply with it. The Cycle Trade is in full swing, and there are some good orders in for export. The men are working from 15 to 18 hours a day, and in some cases double shifts are

Birmingham and District.-Mr. W. J. Davis reports a slight improvement in the steadiness and regularity of trade, and the number out of employment has somewhat decreased, although many are but partially employed. Much privation was caused by protracted Easter holidays at certain works. The prolonged fine weather, on the other hand, enabled some season trades to start earlier than usual. Trades dependent on shopkeepers' custom have been busy, and the workers in them well employed; this has been the case, e.g., in the Boot and Shoe Trade. The Cycle Trade continues to expand, and a sub-division of manufacturing processes is becoming necessary under such heads as saddles, wheels, tyres, lamps and fittings. Employment is also found, in consequence, for many more workers in the Leather and Indiarubber Trades. The Tin Plate Workers employed on gear-cases by a firm in Coventry were granted an increase of from id. to 2d. an hour, and payment for overwork at the rate of time and a-quarter; they have also been put on the 48-hour system. The trade in Sporting Guns for export shows a slight improvement, as also that in Wire-working, Saddlery, and Enamelled Iron; the Metallic Bedstead, Tin-Plate and Metal Rolling Works are rather brisk. The Nail and Screw Frade is at present somewhat depressed, as also the Coach-Harness-Furniture and Printing Trades. There is hardly any change in regard to Flint Glass, Locks, Chains, and Engineering work; large orders under the last heading have been placed with a Handsworth firm for South Africa. The Conciliation Board of the Tailoring Trade has collapsed, although it had been in existence only a short time, and had settled many trade points without the intervention of an umpire. The dispute referred by the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board to the arbitration of Sir Thomas Martineau has resulted in the award of a reduction of 3d. per ton in puddlers' wages, with a corresponding decrease in those of the mill and forge men. At Walsall, the Bit, Harness, and Coach-Harness-Furniture Workers, held a meeting, and decided to join the Walsall and Bloxwich Bit Forgers and Filers' Association.

Nottingham and District.-Mr. W. L. Hardstaff reports that the Fancy Lace Trade, which had been brisk during the last few months, has now fallen off again, so that workmen have not been engaged full time. The Leavers branch, however, is much cent. in wages will take effect on June 1st next. The plain-net and the curtain branches are very quiet; the men are only partially employed, and short time prevails generally. Warp lace is quiet, but improving; a small percentage of men are in receipt of out-ofwork pay. The Engineering Industry is slightly improving, with only about 6 per cent. out of work. Machine Building is brisk, and men mostly fully employed. Boxmakers are busy, working full, and in some places, overtime. Boot and Shoemaking is moderate only. The Tramway employés have obtained a reduction in hours from 15½ to 11½ a day. The Bleaching, Dyeing, and Finishing Trades are very slack, one firm having reduced wages by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Hosiery Trade is also very slack, there being very few establishments where the men are making full time. The Printing Trade is quiet; a few men have been displaced by the introduction of the linotype machine. Plasterers, Painters, Bricklayers and Labourers are fairly well employed, there being but very few out of work. Female labour in the Lace Finishing is very busy, and there is also full employment in the Tailoring Trade.

Leicester and District .- Mr. T. Smith reports that the condition of business in the staple trades of the district has been healthy and employment regular. The Boot and Shoe Manufactories have been working up to their full time, and in some departments overtime has been worked to complete the large orders placed. Great activity has likewise prevailed in and around Northampton in the same industry, all classes of operatives being well employed, and a great demand existing for skilled labour in all branches. The production of cheap rubber-soled boots and shoes has far exceeded the output of previous seasons, and many of the makers have been unable to execute all the orders received. There is a healthy condition of business in the Wool and Spinning Trades, the export department being especially good. In most branches of the Hosiery Trade a firmer tone in operations is reported, with the result that employment is becoming more regular. The Engineering Trades are in general well employed, particularly those firms which make a speciality of boot and shoe machinery. The Building Operatives are working full time, and in the painting branch good workmen are in demand. A decisive majority of the Boot and Shoe Operatives (74 to 9) declared in favour of the application of conciliation and arbitration in settling disputes. This decision has given very great satisfaction to both employers and employed, and restored confidence throughout the trade. The umpire of the Leicester Arbitration Board, in regard to the deductions for "heeling" and "rubbing-down bottoms," has decided in favour of the amounts suggested by the Operatives' Union. The price to be paid to clickers and pressmen working on piecework, and the settlement of the date on which the Northampton employers are to provide their employés with workshops, are still under consideration. Nearly 400 boot and shoe operatives at Anstey have succeeded in reducing their hours from 56 to 54 hours per week. A similar demand at Hinckley, Barwell, and Earl Shilton was, however, referred for settlement to the Board of Arbitration. At Wellingborough the House Painters and Decorators have secured an increase of 1d. per hour. At the time of reporting, the Bricklayers' Labourers at Northampton are out on strike for an increase in wages, whil. at Leicester the Stonemasons' Labourers are negotiating for an advance, and for an alteration in the working rules.

Eastern Counties .- Mr. J. Robinson reports that little change has taken place during the month in the condition of the Agricultural Labourers, so far as wages and the number of unemployed are concerned. So far as can be estimated, without obtaining the actual figures from all the villages, about 2 per cent. are out of work, as compared with 3 per cent. in March, when the last complete figures were collected. At this season of the year every agricultural labourer should be fully occupied, but the long spell of fine dry weather has hindered work very much. In a few villages wages have increased, and at the present moment the usual times wages of agricultural labourers are from 11s. to 12s. per week Horsemen on the farms average from 1s. to 2s. more than the labourers, with, in some cases, a free cottage, but they have to work much longer hours than the labourers. During the month there have been several small strikes and lock-outs, which have only been partially successful.

Bristol and South-Western District.-Mr. J. Curle reports that in the Building Trade, masons and painters are very fully employed, and bricklayers, plasterers, and plumbers moderately so; but carpenters and joiners are not so busy. The painters of Bristol seem to have had no difficulty in securing the halfpenny advance, granted on May 1st. The masons at Bath have asked for an advance of id. per hour in wages, and for an amended code of working rules.

The Gloucester painters have been agitating for an advance of id. per hour, while employers have offered 1/2d. now, and 1/2d. next year; no agreement appears to have been arrived at as yet. The Boot and Shoe Trade shows a slight decline from last month, but a better state of things is anticipated after Whitsuntide. In the Kingswood district, attempts have been made unsuccessfully to slightly reduce prices upon certain classes of goods. The movement for a uniform statement of wages for this district is at present making very little headway. The Bristol operatives are making strenuous efforts to secure the adoption by the manufacturers of the indoor system of working in the Shoe Trade. Work at all the Collieries is very slack indeed, quite 900 men being unemployed at present in the Bristol district alone. A dispute appears imminent in the surrounding coalfields. In the Forest of Dean the men have been asked to accept a reduction of 20 per cent. in wages. The actual figures of the ballot that was taken on the question by the men have not been published, but it has been stated that quite two-thirds were opposed to accepting the reduction. In Somersetshire, the coal-owners are proposing a reduction of 231 per cent. in wages, and a giving up of 1 cwt. of "bag coal" each for every day the men do not work. The men have been unanimous in refusing these terms, on the recommendations of the executive committee of the Miners' Federation. The dispute which broke out at the East Gloucestershire Quarries on March 25th, for an increase in wages and reduction in the hours of labour, ended on April 25th, in favour of the men. A reduction of 5s. a month has taken place in the wages of Sailors and Firemen, and a strike is announced of 500 dock labourers, in opposition to the introduction of Shipping Federation men. During the past month some clergy and ministers have endeavoured, without avail, to bring about a settlement of the Deal Runners' Lock-out, which has existed since November, 1892. The offer of the men to accept their services as arbitrators in the matter was declined by the Timber Importers' Association. Work still continues slack in the Ironfounding Industry, and to a less extent also in the Engineering, the proportion of unemployed being about 15 per cent in the former, and 81 in the latter case. Trade is also bad with the Saddle and Harness-makers, and the Shipwrights. A slight recovery is taking place in the Cabinet and Furnishing Trades, and the Wholesale and Bespoke Garment Makers are reported busy, as well as the Iron and Tin-plate Workers. Business is moderate with the Printing, Brush, and Basket Trades.

Cardiff and District .- Mr. T. Davies reports that, with one exception, all branches of trade are in a worse condition than in March. The Building Trade, however, has been so flourishing that the Carpenters' and Bricklayers' Societies have had to send out of the district for men, while the Plasterers and Plumbers have had no members out of work. The Masons, who came out on strike in May 1892, are still out. Almost unprecedented depression is reported in the Engineering establishments of Cardiff, Newport, and Swansea. Some of the ship-repairing firms have suspended nearly all their workers except apprentices, and a few firms are working short time. A temporary rise is reported in seamen's wages in April. Several firms have induced their Engineers to take the Federation ticket, although the Amalgamated Society of Engineers has drawn out some of its members from their jobs to resist the enforcement of the ticket. The Coal Industry is very slack, owing in some measure, no doubt, to the action of the Boiler-makers in regard to the iron-ore carrying steamers. Four or five collieries—affecting some 1,500 men—have been stopped, and notices to terminate contracts have been given at some others. Early in the month about 500 surface-men, employed at three large collieries near Cardiff, received notices to increase the weekly working hours from 54 to 60. This was unanimously opposed, and for some time the result appeared doubtful. However, the men's representatives met the agents of the collieries, and after a full discussion the notices were eventually withdrawn.

South Wales and Forest of Dean Mining Districts .-- In future issues a separate report will appear.

London District.-No arrangements have been made for Local Correspondents in London, but Mr. C. J. Drummond, one of the Labour Correspondents of the Department, reports as follows:-In 42 branches of unions connected with the Engineering Trades, for which returns are forthcoming, and containing 9,276 members, no less than 575 (or 6.2 per cent.) are unemployed, though this number is rather less than for the last two or three months; 34 of these branches report trade "bad," 8 "moderate," and none "good." In the Building Trades, the condition of things is very different. Figures have been obtained from 78 branches of unions connected with these trades, containing 5,530 members, of whom only 105 members, or 1.9 per cent. are unemployed, 40 branches returning trade as "good," 28 "moderate," and 10 "bad." A number

of small strikes in the Building Trades have taken place in suburban districts, principally for the enforcement of the working rules mutually agreed upon between representative employers and workmen last year. In the Cabinet-making Trades, the number of unemployed has increased to some extent during the month; 15 branches, for which figures are forthcoming, with 1,929 members, show 89 (or 4.6 per cent.) unemployed. Eight, however, of these branches return trade as "good," 6 "moderate," and II "bad." The Brush-making Trade is described as "much improved and improving." The Coopers have recently had a dispute with two of the large brewery companies, owing to the introduction of machinery, but as the men employed failed to respond to the call of the Union to strike, except to a limited extent, the dispute for the present has fallen through. The Clothing Trades generally are in a good condition, the most interesting matter that has arisen during the month being the conference at Leicester with respect to the action of the London members of the Boot and Shoe Operatives Union, who had resolved to withdraw from the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. The Leicester conference resolved by a large majority to request the London members to withdraw their resignation, and determined to hold a meeting in London for the purpose, if possible, of carrying the decision into effect. The Printing Trade is far from good for the time of year, but is somewhat better than it was a month or two ago, though a large number of compositors are still compelled to sign the out-of-work book. During the last few weeks there has been considerable ferment among various classes of Waterside Labourers in the port, due to sympathy with the strikers at Hull, and the action of the Shipping Federation in transporting "free labourers" from London to take their places. For some time a general strike seemed imminent, but an immediate cessation of work has been discountenanced by the principal Unions concerned. The introduction of "Federation' men to coal a vessel in the Victoria Dock led to a strike of Coal porters (winchmen), which still continues. They were for a time supported by a "sympathetic" strike of some 700 dockers, sailors, and other labourers, but the movement did not spread, and is now at an end, except so far as the coal winchmen are concerned.

Edinburgh and District.-Mr. J. Mallinson reports that the Building Trades are in a brisk condition at present, and the prospects for the summer are brighter than they have been for a year or two. Masons and joiners are fully employed. The Iron Trades are still in a depressed condition. Several firms of Engineers are working short time, although there is a slight falling off in the number of unemployed. Iron Moulders report trade to be very bad, and without any prospect of improvement. The Printing Trade is quiet, and numbers of pieceworkers are not fully employed. Cabinet Makers report trade to be in a fair condition, with but few idle men. They have been agitating for some time to have a change from piecework to set wages, but without success. One firm is trying the experiment of set wages and an eight hours' day for one month. Shoemakers and Tailors are fairly well employed, although the factory work of the former is somewhat dull. The Shipping industry at Leith is still bad, and wages are showing a downward tendency. Attempts are being made to reorganise the Dock Labourers. At the beginning of the year application was made to the Board of Conciliation for the Building Trades by the employers to have the wages of Masons reduced by 1d. per hour. The arbitrator, whose decision was given at the end of March, decided in favour of a reduction of \$\frac{1}{4}\text{d}\$, per hour. A similar application for the reduction in the wages of Joiners was rejected, the arbitrator deciding that no change should take place. The decision in both cases is binding until the end of March 1894.

Glasgow and West of Scotland .- Mr. A. J. Hunter reports that there is very little change in the general condition. The Building Trade is fairly busy, except in the plumbing and painting branches. A considerable reduction in the number of unemployed has taken place among the Blacksmiths and Tin-plate Workers, although trade cannot be said to have materially improved. Employment is good among the Cabinet-makers and Tailors. Dock Labourers, Seamen and Firemen are not busy, but matters have somewhat improved. Dulness prevails among such industries as the Bakers, Shoemakers, Ironmoulders, Glass Bottle Makers, Potters and Curriers; in the last case a reduction in wages of 5 per cent. has been agreed to in consideration of the hours being reduced from 56 to 54 per week. Several disputes have taken place during the month in this district with the Joiners, Millmen, Labourers, Pattern-makers, Miners and Rivet Boys.

Dundee and District.-Mr. R. D. B. Ritchie reports that the Building Trades are busy, notably masons and plasterers, employers in some instances offering 1d. to 1d. per hour more than the

standard rate for competent workmen. Iron Shipbuilding and the Iron Trades generally continue dull, large numbers being unemployed, engineers and moulders having experienced a prolonged period of depression. Many sea-going men are idle in consequence of several large vessels being still laid up in dock waiting for freights. Bakers, printers and tailors are fairly well employed. Miners in the Fife Coal District are fully employed, but coal is low in price. Masons, Plumbers and Paviors are agitating for an increase in wages. In consequence of an intimation that wages were to be reduced 5 per cent., the workers in 41 jute mills and factories to the number of nearly 25,000 struck work on May 1st, and remained out until the 6th, when, after an attempted compromise at 21 per cent. reduction, the employers withdrew the notice of reduction, and work was resumed at the old rate of wages.

Dublin and District.-Mr. J. P. Nannetti reports that trade in the city and surrounding districts shows no change for the better, the report of societies in nearly all cases being "bad," except in the Building Trades in which there is a slight improvement. A continued spell of prosperity seems likely in the Bricklaying Trade, and out of 1,740 members of unions, only 15 men are idle. The Engineering Trade was depressed during the month, but its prospects seem more hopeful, and the same is true of the Cabinet Makers. The Bottle-makers were rather busy, probably because they had only just returned to work after their recent lock-Trade is not very active in the Tailoring Industry, and in the Boot and Shoe Trade work is very slack. In the Printing and Allied Trades work is precarious, the Lithographic branch not yet having turned the corner, while of the Typographers 150 members out of 850 are unemployed, as against 40 last month. A large number of the members of the Seamen and Firemen's Union are idle, and unskilled labourers are in a very bad way as regards employment. Trade is also very bad among the Purveyors, and also among the Operative Smiths. In Kilkenny the local painters formed a branch of the Amalgamated Society of House and Ship Painters, and applied for an increase in wages from 24s. to 28s., which was granted by the employers, with one

Belfast and District.-Mr. R. Sheldon reports that the very avourable conditions of the I abour Market that obtained in March have been more than sustained during April, and, generally speaking, the prospects of a continuance of this state for some time longer are good. In the Linen Trades employment is very good. Although the returns from the organised workers in this industry—owing to the great depression in one particular branch of the trade (the Roughers)—give a very high percentage of unemployed, if this branch be omitted from the calculation there is almost an entire absence of unemployed. Of the many thousands of women operatives, including Weavers, Spinners and Warehouse Workers, the same may be said. The Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades are still exceptionally busy. The largest firm in the district has a night shift employed in the Engineering and Joinery departments, and the day workers are on overtime in several of the departments. The Building Trades report is very satisfactory, there being no unemployed amongst the bricklayers, plasterers and painters, while in the other branches there are very few. A great number of men from the Tyne and Clyde, in the Carpenters' and Joiners', and kindred Trades, have found employment here during the month. The returns in these trades show an increase of unemployed, but the cause of this will be found outside the actual condition and requirements of the trade. In the Miscellaneous Trades there is not one reported as "bad," although some are reported "quiet"; the great majority are stated to be "fair," "very fair," or "good." Particulars have been obtained from over 40 trade societies, with a membership of 16,481, of whom 632, or 3.8 per cent., were unemployed at the end of the month. The Textile Trades showed 293 unemployed, out of 3,192 members, or 9.2 per cent.; the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades had 217 unemployed, out of 7,611, or 2'9 per cent.; and the Building Trades 82 out of 3,433, or 2.4 per cent. The strikes of Flax Roughers, at Lisburn, and of Plasterers, at Belfast, have been settled in favour of the men. The employers of the Flax Roughers have conceded an advance of id. per cwt., or about is. per week; and the dispute with the Plasterers has been settled, the contractor agreeing to pay the society the money spent by them during the strike, and promising not to sublet any portions of his contract in future. A dispute has arisen at an iron foundry in Newry, the men striking on April 15th against a proposal to reduce their hours from 54 to 50, with a corresponding reduction in wages. The Sailors and Firemen report that crews were shipped from this port during April at an increase of 5s. per month, the rates being £4 a month for Sailors, and £3 15s. per month for Firemen.

Cork and District .- Mr. P. O'Shea reports that little change in the state of employment has taken place. The Building Trades, including masons, plasterers, carpenters, stonecutters, and painters, are fairly busy in all departments. The Ironmoulders have had less employment, but the position of the Boiler-makers is decidedly better. The percentage of unemployed members in the Engineering Trade has increased during the month from 4 to 10. The Tailors are fully employed at present, this being their busy season. The Printers show a slight depression. The strike and lock-out of Coal Porters has ended, the men submitting to a reduction of 2s. per week and agreeing to go back to their employment according as vacancies occur, but the greater number are still unemployed.

May, 1893.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS IN APRIL.

An attempt has been made in the following table to collect together the information supplied to the Department, showing the changes reported during the month in the rates of wages and hours of labour of workpeople. If, by the co-operation of all those who possess special information on the subject, such a monthly record could be made complete, it would be of considerable value to those interested in labour questions.

CHANGES IN WAGES.

Employment. Local	Approximate number of workpeople affected, so far as stated.	
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INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Building Trades.	Livernool	2 000	1d. per hour from May 1st
1111 0100000	Liverpool Bradford	Not stated.	d. per hour from May 1st
			d. per hour from April 14th
	Colne	Not stated	d. per hour from April 24th
Joiners	Greenock	Not stated.	Zu. per nour nom April 24th
Plasterers	Newcastle	160	1d. per hour from April 17th
and Labourers			
Plasterers	Leeds	Between 200 and 300	ad. per hour from May 1st
Plumbers	Wolver- hampton	Between 20 and 30	2d. per hour from April 10th
	Bristol	700	½d. per hour from May 1st
Painters	Halifax	160	1d. per hour from April 10th
	Wellingboro'	35	d. per hour from May 1st
Painters	Gt. Grimsby	120	ad. per hour from April 17th
and Decorators	Gloucester	120	id. per hour from May ist,
	Headington	43	1d. per hour in April 1894, is. 6d. per week when working out of town. New Code of Rules. Over 10 per cent. from April
Brickmakers	Tradington	13	4th
Mining & Quarrying. Sett Makers, Kerb)	1 1 3 34		
Decembers, Reib	Land Control of	27	- non cont and named
Dressers and	Glasgow	Not stated.	5 per cent. and upwards
Quarry Black-			until March 1st, 1894
smiths)			(ad. per hour day work, and
	D	100	al now cont miceo mork
Quarrymen	Bristol and	400	21 per cent. piece work
~	District		from April 25th
Metal Trades.		THE RESERVE OF	
Chain Trade	Wolver-	100	Return to 5s. list
	hampton		
	Ebbw Vale	19	6s. per week
Boiler-makers	Rhymney		4s. per week
	Coventry	One Firm.	2d. per hour, and time and
Tin-plate Workers	Covenity	Jan Land	quarter for overtime
Engineering and		34114 93	
Shipbuilding.	-	0	rd nor hour
Carpenters	Southampton		id. per hour
and Joiners		employers.	The state of the s
	Glasgow	Not stated.	3s. per week
Rivet Boys			
Textile Trades.	** 1 1.1	One Pierre	5 per cent. from first pay
Worsted Spinners	Keighley	One Firm.	day in May
			day in May
Card Room Operatives	Bury	Not stated.	Increase to Oldham list
Flax Roughers	Lisburn	11	id. per cwt.
Tank Roughers	Oxenhope,)	and the second second
Weellen Weavers	Yorks	"	10 per cent.
Woollen Weavers		"	
****	Haworth	The same of the same of	2s. 6d. per pack
Woolsorters	Bradford		
Fancy Lace Trade.	-	Charles and	5 per cent. from first Mon
Leavers Branch	Nottingham	11	Jewin Tune
		1	day in June
Seamen, &c.		B	
Seamen	Cardiff	**	ros. per month for a shor
ocamen		-0.5391950	time, but have since faller
The Land of the Land			to March rates
Commend Planner	Dalfant	A 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	5s. per month
Seamen and Firemen	Belfast	"	
Miscellaneous.			
	Stafford	60 (one firm)	Lasters and Finishers 15
Root and Shoe			
Boot and Shoe	Stanotu		per doz.
Operatives		A hout you on	per doz.
	Leeds	A hout you on	per doz. 1d. per 1,000 ens, equal to about 1s. 6d. to 2s. per wee

CHANGES IN WAGES-(Continued).

Employment.	Locality.	number of workpeople affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Decrease.			
DEC	CREASES IN	RATES OF W	AGES.			
Building Trades. Building Trade Masons	Pontypridd Edinburgh	100	id. per hour id. per hour			
Mining. Shale Miners	Midlothian	1,200	10 per cent.			
Metal Trades. Puddlers	Midlands	Not stated.	Sliding scale, 3d. per ton, mill and forge-men in proportion			
Blast Furnace Men Engineers and Steam Engine Makers, Machine Workers, Smiths, Brass Moulders, Iron Moulders and Pat- tern Makers Brass Fitters, Tur-		9,000	5 per cent. 5 per cent. piecework, is. in May and is. in July on time rates of "30s. and over;" "25s. and under 30s.," is. in May and 6d. in July; "under 25s.," 6d. in May, and 6d. in July. 21 per cent. piecework; time			
ners, and Finishers Engineers, &c	Hull	1,200	rates same as Engineers, &c. is. per week			
Engineers' Labourers	Ditto	1,000	6d. per week on those re- ceiving upwards of 20s.			
Shipbuilding. Platers, Angle Smiths, &c.	Tyne & Wear	Not stated.	is. per week from May, and is. per week from July. Piecework 5 per cent. from May			
	Ditto	"	rs. per week from May, 6d. per week from July. Piece- work 5 per cent. from May			
Riveters, Caulkers J and Holders up	Hull	1,000	2½ per cent. on piecework; is. per week on time wages from middle of May			
Textile Trades. Spinners Bleachers, Dyers and Finishers	Darwen Nottingham		7d. in the £, from April About 7½ per cent.			
Seamen, &c. Captains, Officers, and Engineers	Liverpool	class Atlan- tic Passen-				
Seamen and Firemen Seamen and Firemen			10s. to 15s. per month 5s. per month			
Miscellaneous Trades Curriers	Glasgow	Not stated.	5 per cent. in consideration of reduction in hours from 56 to 54.			
Coal Porters	Cork	130	2s. per week.			

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

DECRETAGES IN HOURS

	DECKEASE	S IN HOUI	70.
Carpenters and Joiners Co-operative Stores Ship-building	Liverpool Swalwell Jarrow		From 54 to 48 hours Concession of 12 o'clock Saturday but shorter meal times
	East Glouces- tershire		Concession of ½ hour per day to day workmen
	Wolver- hampton	About 100 employers.	Three hours on Thursdays
		Not stated.	From 15½ to 11½ per day From 54 to 48 hours From 58 to 54 hours From 56 to 54 hours for
tives	Leicester	350 00 400	daymen

THE LANCASHIRE COTTON DISPUTE.

On March 25th, the greatest dispute which has ever taken place in the Cotton Trade was brought to an end, after a struggle lasting for twenty weeks. The following brief account of some of the features of the lock-out is based on personal inquiries made on the spot during the last week of the dispute, by one of the Labour Correspondents of the Department, and on published

The total number of persons affected directly or indirectly by the dispute was very large. Of these, between 45,000 and 50,000 were locked out, viz.:-

20,000 card-room hands (two thirds females) 16,000 card-room hands (two thrus lemales).
16,000 piecers, males (one third men, the rest boys).
8,000 spinners, males (all men).
3,000 winders and warpers (females).
3,000 miscellaneous hands (males).

Of the card-room hands, about 75 per cent. belong to the Card and Blowing Room Operatives' Association, the remainder are non-unionists. About 60 per cent. of the piecers either belong to the local branches of the Spinners' Union, or are under its protection; the

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remainder are non-unionists. Nearly 95 per cent. of the spinners are members of the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners. The 3,000 winders and warpers mostly belong to the Weavers' Association. Many of the miscellaneous hands belong to the respective unions in their own trades, but the proportion is not ascertainable.

The number of employers who locked up their mills was about 320, distributed as follows:-

Oldham	180	Manchester	12
Ashton	56	Heywood	12
Rochdale	20	Darwen	8
Hyde	12	Bury	8
Stockport	12		

The number of spindles rendered idle was about 16,000,000. With the exception of Bolton, most of the local employers' associations in the south-eastern portion of the county belong to the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations.

The towns principally affected directly by the lock-out were Oldham, Ashton, Mossley, Stalybridge, Roch-dale, Heywood, Bury, Droylsden, Hyde and Darwen. In the districts affected, about one third of the mills did not stop. Some of these did not belong to the Employers' Federation; the remainder paid a penalty of one farthing per spindle per week. The Bolton Spinning Mills were not affected by the dispute, the trade being different from that of Oldham.

The weaving districts of Lancashire were affected by the stoppage of the supply of yarn, but in very different degrees. Thus at Darwen, Church, Oswaldtwistle, and Great Harwood, about 60 per cent. of the looms were rendered idle. About half were stopped at Bury, Clitheroe, Rossendale Valley, and Heywood Valley, while at Accrington and Nelson not more than 30 per cent. were idle, and the Colne district, not being dependent on Oldham yarns, was not very greatly affected. At Blackburn one fourth of the mills ran full time, one fourth were entirely stopped, and one half were partially stopped. At Burnley production was reduced about 50 per cent., either by short time or stoppages, 8,000 looms being entirely stopped, and 30,000 running short time.

The causes of the dispute are not easy to state in a few words. The opinions expressed both by employers and workmen were that the dispute was unavoidable, that it was partly due to severe competition and the glut in the market, but that it had been in the air since the lock-out at Stalybridge in the earlier part of the year. In November last the Employers' Federation proposed a reduction of 5 per cent. in wages. The workmen proposed as an alternative a resort to short time, and as no agreement could be arrived at the lockout resulted. In the eleventh week of the lock-out the operatives offered to submit to a 2½ per cent. reduction, but this was declined by the Employers' Federation. Previous to the dispute, the following changes in the wages of spinners and card-room hands had taken place since 1877:-

1877		 	5 per cen	t. reduction.	
	(May)	 	"	"	
1878	(Nov.)	 	,,	,,	
1879		 	,,	,,	
1880		 	,,	advance.	
1881		 	,,		
1885		 	,,	reduction.	
1888		 	,,	advance.	
1801		 		aa ranco.	

It is to be remembered, as bearing on changes of spinners' wages, that, independently of any rise, the operatives in the Oldham District receive (according to the "list") half the advantage of improvements in machinery, while in the Bolton District they are stated to receive the whole of any such advantage. Besides the wages question, one cause of dispute was the alleged attempt of the unions (especially the Card-Room Workers) to compel the employers to engage none but unionists, between whom and non-unionists there was in some

workers, whose union had developed somewhat rapidly, there had been some friction, the general expression of opinion on the part of the employers was favourable to trade unions, the suggestion that they had a desire to crush the unions being strongly repudiated. The friendship existing between the officers of the unions and the secretaries and members of the committees of the employers' associations was most marked, it being quite customary for both parties to meet upon equal terms almost daily in places of public resort.

The absence of anything savouring of rowdyism or

drunkenness was also very noticeable, town after town exhibiting no outward sign of so many mills being stopped, and a large number of people thus necessarily idle. In proof of the improved morals of the workers, an employer's secretary stated that while in previous disputes he had received threatening letters by every post, and on one occasion had to fly for his life, nothing of the sort had happened during the dispute then pending, and he had been able to go about his duties in the ordinary way as though no dispute existed.

During the contest picketting was in no case resorted to, nor was any labour imported from other districts. Some of the locked out workers took the opportunity of emigrating to America or elsewhere, or of embarking in other industries, and a feeling was generally prevalent that a considerable number, from various causes, would not return to their former occupations.

From no source could information be obtained of any diversion of trade. Rumours were rife that German yarn had been imported to a limited extent, but there was no evidence of it, and the rumour was generally discredited.

The extent of the distress was most difficult to gauge, but in some districts there was no doubt it was most acute, though many preferred to bear it silently rather than make any outward or visible sign of their want. So far as the spinners were concerned, they were fairly well provided for by their union, in addition to which they were not without means of their own in many cases. On the other hand, the funds of the Card-room Operatives' Association were exhausted long before the end of the dispute, and an appeal was made by them to the trades of the country for assistance. The weavers rendered idle by the dispute were in some cases assisted from the local branch funds, not being entitled by the rules of the union to support when stopping through shortness of the supply of twist or weft. In no case did the unions make any provision for non-unionists, who were thus dependent upon public charity in the form of soup kitchens, &c., and upon poor law relief.

The dispute was brought to a close on March 25th, when both parties agreed to a reduction of wages of 7d. in the pound (a little less than 3 per cent.), to take effect immediately, no further change to take place for at least six months. As a rule (with the exception of the next rise), no future change of wages is to be of less amount than 5 per cent., and a clear year is to intervene between such changes. Conditions were also agreed to, defining the mutual relations of the Employers' and Operatives' Societies and Federations, and providing for a joint committee of the two federations to deal with matters affecting the Cotton Trade as a whole.

WAGES IN JEWISH TAILORING WORK-SHOPS IN LEEDS AND MANCHESTER.

THE following account of wages in Jewish tailoring workshops is based on inquiries made in Leeds and Manchester by one of the Labour Correspondents of the Department during March and April.

Leeds.-In 1888, the Superintendent of the Leeds Sanitary Department reported that there were 64 Jewish tailoring workshops in the Borough of Leeds, in which 2,128 people were employed. At the present time there are 98 of these tailoring workshops on the register, and the number of persons employed in them is estimated at 2,600. Of these, the workshops of 75 Jewish cases ill-feeling. But while in the case of the card-room employers, employing altogether about 2,250 persons, have been visited. In 44 of the workshops visited, over 1,700 persons were employed, and information was given by the employers as to the numbers and the daily rates of wages in the various branches of the trade in each workshop. These workshops may be divided into three classes, according to the number employed in them.

Class of Workshops.	Number Employed.	Number of Workshops.	Average Number in each Workshop
II.	40 and upwards	18	58
II.	25 to 40	14	33
III.	10 to 25	12	18

Omitting bastings pullers, and errand boys and girls, the numbers employed in each branch are given in the following table:

	MI	EN AND	BOYS	WOMEN AND GIRLS.				
Class.	Pressers.	Tailors.	Fixers.	Machinists.	Machinists.	Fellers.	Finishers.	Button- holers.
I. II.	107	180 67	19	268 114	55 29	169 88	65 33	133 72
III.	24	40	2	54	20	37	21	29
	174	287	29	436	104	294	119	234
		92	26			7	51	_

Owing to the larger numbers employed in Class I., the wages of each person employed in any particular branch were given in comparatively few cases; but the wages earned by the most skilled and the least skilled workers in each branch were, in nearly every case, given with sufficient detail to prove that the few workshops in which the wages of each person were given, were representative of the whole. In Class I., for example, the wages of machinists ranged from 7s. and 6s. for best hands, to 4s. 6d. to 3s. for lining machinists, down to 2s. 6d. and 2s. for sleeve machinists, in some cases greeners, but more frequently boys of 16 or 17. In Classes II. and III., the maximum paid was slightly lower. Wages of pressers in Class I. rose to 6s. 4d., 6s. 8d., and 7s., but never reached 7s. in Classes II. and III. Buttonholers are always, and fellers often, paid by the piece, and no exact statement can be given of their earnings. The usual rate paid for buttonholes was 5d. a dozen, and earnings varying as widely as the skill of the workers, seemed to range between 5s. and 2s. for a full day's work. With the exception of a few learners, the wages of the fellers, whether on day work or on piece work, ranged from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.; 2s. to 2s. 6d. being the most common rate. The following table is a summary of the information obtained in cases where full details were given :-

TABLE OF RATES OF WAGES FOR A DAY OF 101 HOURS.

Occupation.	Und'r	2S. to 3S.	3s. to 4s.	4s. to 5s.	5s. to 6s.	6s. to 7s.	7s. to 8s.	8s.	Total	Average Rate.
		MEN AND BOYS.								
* ** ** **	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	s. d.
I. Machinists		5 8	3	8	5 8	9	3		29	5 0 4 2
II. "	3		10		100	10	I		44	4 2
111. ,,	1	15	10	5	9	10	1		51	4 0
I. Pressers	-	I	IO	8	5	9	4	-	37	4 8
II. "	-	2	2	2	6	5 6	-	-	17	4 8
III. "	-	4	5	-	4	6	-	-	19	4 4
I. Tailors	_	_		8	7	3		I	19	5 0
II. ,,	_	I	2	15	7 8	2	_	_	28	4 5
III. "	-	6	6	9	5	5	-	-	31	4 2
I. Fixers	_	_	_	_	_	5	8	_	13	6 10
II. "	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	6 6
				WQ:	MEN	AND	GII	RLS.		,
I. Machinists		8	8	4	4	2	_	-	26	3 7
II.	_	6	8	3	2	-	-	-	19	3 7 3 3
III.	3	4	3	3	4	2	-	-	19	3 4
I. Finishers	ı	25	_		_	_	_	_	26	2 4
II. "	2	19	2	-	_	_	-	-	23	2 2
111. ",	I	II	I	_	-	-	-	-	13	2 2
	1		- 1						1 -3	

If the average for each class thus obtained be accepted as prevailing in all the workshops in the class, we have the following results:-

AVERAGE DAY WAGES IN FORTY-FOUR WORKSHOPS IN LEEDS

- 1	1100 0111		
	Branch.	Number Employed.	Average Wage.
	(Pressers	174	4s. 7d.
Males.	Tailors	287	4s. 9d.
Ia,	Fixers	29	6s. 9d.
4	Machini;ts	436	4s. 7d.
· is	(Machinists	104	3s. 5d
le le	Finishers	119	2s. 3d.
re- males	Fellers	294	2s. to 2s. 4d.

The weekly wages cannot be obtained by multiplying by six. Ocular demonstration was given of the slackness of trade in these workshops, and employers and inspectors were agreed that there was an unusual depression in the trade of the Jewish coatmakers; with but few exceptions, the average number of days' work in any branch since Christmas seemed to have been from 3 to 3½ days a week.

MANCHESTER.—The number of Jewish tailoring workshops in Manchester has not been ascertained. They are much more numerous than in Leeds, but are on a much smaller scale. Sixty were visited, and in the largest of these 27 persons were employed. In Leeds the majority of the Jewish employers are doing stock work; in Manchester very few are employed on stock work only, and sub-division is not so minute.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN SIXTY WORKSHOPS IN MANCHESTER.

Class.	Ma- chinists	Press- ers.	Tailors.		& Fin-	Errand Boys & Girls.	Se	Women	Works shops.
III.—(10 persons and upwards)	98	56	105	60	67	19	275	130	32
IVA.—(6 to 10 persons)	39	24	41	20	23	6	108	45	20
IVB.—(under 6 persons)	9	4	II	2	3	-	24	5	8
	146	84	157	82	93	25	407	180	60

Only 4 machinists were women; finishing is frequently done by the tailors themselves, or by women able to fell, finish, and make buttonholes if required.

Piecework was the rule. In nearly every workshop the head machinist was paid by the piece, but engaged one or more assistants himself, whom he paid by time; 13 machinists were paid day wages by the employer; of the remaining 133 machinists, 77 were assistants engaged and paid by piece-workers; several of those assistants or "seamers" were boys of 15 or 16 years of age. The head-pressers were also on piecework, and engaged their under-pressers on day wages. Buttonholers and fellers were on piecework, in most cases paid by the master of the workshop, but in a few cases where the tailors were on piecework the buttonholers were engaged and paid by them. In the smaller workshops the tailors were in many cases members of the employer's family, and in some cases they were on piecework, but in most of the shops the tailors were paid day wages by the employer; and their rate of wages alone admits of comparison with those paid in

TABLE OF RATES OF WAGES OF TAILORS FOR A DAY OF 101 HOURS.

Class.		Average								
Ciaosi	Under 25.	2s. to 3s.	3s. to 4s.	48. to 58.	59. to	6s. to 7s.	7s. to 8s.	8s. and upw'rds	Total.	Rate.
III.	2	3	3	8	8	22	5	2	53	5s. 4d.
IVA.	-	I	I	2	I	4	-	-	9	4s. 10d.

So far as could be gathered, the net earnings of the machinists and pressers on piecework were higher than in Leeds, although those of the seamers and underpressers seemed low. According to one Jewish employer, who had worked in Leeds as well as Manchester, earnings were less but work easier in Leeds under the daily-wage system than in Manchester under the piecework system. This statement was confirmed by other IO

TRADE DISPUTES OF THE MONTH.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1893.

		1.—Disputes which beam				I	
Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Firms or Es- tablish-	Approx- imate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Com- mence- ment.	Date of Termi- nation.	Result.
Building Trades.				25	April	April 29	Advance of ½d. per hour granted.
Painters Ditto	Wellingboro' Hartlepool and Middlesbro'	For advance in wages Ditto of id. per hour		35 150	1	21	Still in progress. Work resumed on original terms.
Builders' Labourers Brickmakers	Burnley Headington nr.	Ditto of 3d. per hour	7	80 43	I	4	Greater portion of demands conceded, equal to an advance of over 10 per cent.
Plasterers	Oxford Blackburn Grimsby	For advance in wages of \{d. per hour Ditto of rd. per hour with a code of working rules	34	120	3	17	Still in progress. Advance of id. per hour granted together with the code of working rules.
Carpenters and Joiners	Colne	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour	3	60 dir. 40 indir.	3	13	Advance conceded. Ditto.
Plasterers & Labourers	Newcastle-on- Tyne	Ditto	8	160	6	15	Advance of 1d. per hour granted, with
Painters	Halifax	Ditto o. rd. per hour with improved working conditions Against reduction in wages		13	7	22	overtime and other allowances. Replaced by non-unionists.
Builders' Labourers Stonemasons Builders' Labourers	Bristol Armley, Leeds	Refusal to work with a non-union man	I	9	10 13 14	17	Man consented to join Union. Ditto. No details of settlement.
Stenemasons	Okehampton Greenock	For advance in wages to 5d. per hour			17	21	Advance of \(\frac{1}{4} \)d. per hour granted. No details of settlement.
Ditto Stonemasons	Blackburn Halifax	For discharge of an alleged "blackleg" Against non-union men and quarrymen For advance in wages of 6d. per day, the	2	46	11	17	Demands conceded. No details of settlement.
Labourers (Water Works Construction) Painters	Buckingham Derby	employer offering 3d. Against withdrawal of an outworking allowance, simultaneously with a conceded		100	20	26	Compromised by grant of an increased lodging allowance when compelled to spend the night away from home.
Joiners Painters	Runcorn Kilkenny	advance in wages For advance in wages Ditto of 4s. per week	I	9	29	:::	Still in progress. Advance granted by employers with one exception.
Builders' Labourers	Hartlepool	For a uniform rate of 5d. per hour For advance in wages of 1d. per hour			3		Still in progress. No details of settlement. A Co-opera-
Painters	Ealing				16		tive Painters' Society has been formed. No details of settlement.
Brickmakers	Walthamstow, Tottenham & Ilford	Ditto of 5d. per 1,000			10		
Clothing Trades.	Forfar	For adoption of Scottish log, with an advance in wages of \(\frac{1}{2} \text{d.} \) per hour, from 4\(\frac{1}{2} \text{d.} \) to 5\(\text{d.} \)			3	10	Satisfactory arrangement arrived at.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Kilmarnock	Against a new statement of piecework wages,	Not	200	15	17	Still in progress. Demands conceded.
Ditto	Oldham Middlesbro'	For improved conditions o employment For adoption of the English log or time list	known	60	24	Not	Time log accepted by the employers,
Tailors	Middlesbro					known	with certain modifications suited to the local conditions. Demands conceded.
Bootmakers		For a fair rate of piecework wages upon the introduction of machinery	3	400	one	6 May week	Reduced hours granted.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Anstey, Leices- tershire	For reduction in hours for day men from 56 to 54 per week For payment according to the time log, and	2	30	26		No details of settlement.
Ditto Ditto	Widnes Oldham	against outworking For advance in wages For improved conditions of employment	I	:::	20	:::	Ditto. Still in progress.
Metal Trades. Engineers and	Newry	Against reduction in wages, consequent upon a	1	69	15		Ditto.
Labourers Engineers	Leeds	reduction in hours to 50 per week Against reduction in wages of 2s. per week Against employment of cabinet makers and	I	8 16	15		Ditto.
Patternmakers	Sunderland Silverdale, North Staffs.	wood turners upon pattern making Refusal to accept the 2½ per cent. reduction fixed by the Midland Wages Board	I	300	21	26	Reduction accepted, the men paying a sum as compensation for stopping without notice.
Cable Chainmakers	Cradley Heath	For advance in wages of 10 per cent			25		Still in progress.
Mining. Coal Miners	Houghton-le-	Against proposed withdrawal or rent allowance when living in other than colliery houses	1	1,000	10		No details of settlement.
Ditto Ditto	Spring, Durham Airdrie Coatbridge	Against reduction in wages of 6d. per day	2	200	11		Ditto. Ditto.
Shale Miners	Loanhead, Midlothian	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per	I	1,200	20	24	Reduction accepted.
Coal Miners	Jewbattle, Dalkeith	Against new rule prohibiting ascent from coal face till 2 o'clock on Saturdays Against proposed reduction in wages	1	800	21	24	Certain modifications made in the rule, men being allowed to ascend any time after 2 o'clock. No details of settlement.
Ditto	Denny, Stir- lingshire Lesmahagow,	Being required to fill 22 cwt. to the ton	1				Ditto.
Ditto	Co. Lanark Cumberland		Not				Ditto.
Ditto	Bathgate, N.B.	Against a scale of deductions put forward by employer	known	120			Ditto.
Quarrymen	Rossendale Valley	Against proposed reduction in wages of is. 9d.	1				Ditto.
Coal Miners	Ratcliffe, Lanc.	For advance in wages in changing from day to piece-work	I	26			Ditto.
Seafaring, Dock, &c. Labour. Salt Heavers, &c	Liverpool	Refusal to work cargo of a vessel in which the	1	20	4	4	Unionists only to be employed upon the
Dock Labourers, Sea- men, Lightermen and	Hull	crew were non-unionists Against the introduction of the "British Labour Exchange"	- 2	About 10,000	4		cargo. Still in progress.
others Dock Labourers	Liverpool	Refusal to work cargo with the quay labourers who were members of an unrecognised union	2	56	19	19	Agreement in one case to work the cargo and hand it over to the quay men, and in the other the members or rival union were withdrawn.
Seamen and Firemen Waterside Labourers	Ditto Victoria Docks,	Against reduction in wages of 10s. per month Against employment of "Federation" coal	1	700	21 29	24	Replaced by non-unionists. Coal winchmen returned to work.
Dock Labourers	Newcastle-on-	winchmen Refusal to unload a Hull owned vessel	1		29		No details of settlement.
Shipbuilding.	Tyne	The state of the second Coulty	1	20 dir		6	Work resumed upon a compromise.
Rivet Boys Ship Joiners	Paisley Renfrew	against riveters		60 indi	r	10	Dispute amicably settled.
Rivet Heaters Ditto	Dumbarton Belfast	joiners' work For employment of a man to break their fuel Refusal to work with others holding different religious and political views	1	:::	14 23		No details of settlement. Ditto.
		Tengious and pointed views		-	1	100	The state of the s

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object	Firms or Es- tablish-	Approx- imate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Com- mence- ments.	Date of Termi- nation.	Result.
Shipwrights	Govan	Against employment of joiners upon work	I		25		No details of settlement.
Ship Repairers	Cardiff	alleged to appertain to shipwrights Cause not stated	1				Ditto.
Riveters & Holders-up	Tilbury Docks	Against employment of drillers upon work	1				Ditto.
Riveters	Greenock	which latter claim to have always performed For advance in wages of 1s. per 100 rivets	I			6	Work in dispute to be done by day instead of piecework.
Rivet Boys	Govan	For employment of a man to assist in getting rivets from store	1		25		No details of settlement.
Textile Trades.	terr In						
Reelers and Winders	Stockport	Against discharge of two of their number for spoiled work	I	90	3	10	Work resumed as before by those whose places had not been filled up.
Woollen Weavers	Oxenhope, Yorks.	For advance in wages	I		A few	hours.	Advance of 10 per cent. granted.
Ditto Ropemakers	Haworth, ,, Sunderland	Ditto	I	300	Dit 7	to	Ditto. Work resumed on original terms.
Reelers	Oldham	on short time Alleged payment at 20 per cent. less than list prices	1		17	20	Amicably settled, full wages being paid in one section, the rate in others to
Weavers	Belfast	Refusal to work with members of another religious persuasion during a political agitation	1	300	26		be governed by local conditions. No details of settlement.
Miscellaneous	Marie Total			1		0. 104 3	Marie Bally and Landson
Road Construction	Brasclete, Car-	For advance in wages	I		3		Ditto.
Street Sweepers	Wolverh'mpt'n	Failure to pay full wages on holidays, owing to a misunderstanding on change of supervision	I	50	8	8	Work resumed upon payment of the ful amount.
Agricultural Labourers	Paston, Norfolk	For advance in wages to 12s. per week during summer season					No details of settlement.
Bottlemakers	Langley Mill, Notts.	For advance in wages to the prices of neighbourhood	I				Still in progress.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE APRIL, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

Boilermakers Ditto Woollen Weavers	Ebbw Vale Rhymney Holmfirth	For advance in wages	I I I	19 20 30	1892 Jan. Oct. Oct.	April 29 3 Not stated	Advance of 6s. per week granted. Advance of 4s. per week granted. Strike declared closed. Men placed on "victimised" pay.
Boot Operatives	Stafford	Against further subdivision of labour causing a reduction in wages	1	60	Jan.	End of month.	Points in dispute conceded, and lasters and finishers obtained an advance of is, per dozen.
Glass Bottle-makers Ditto	Yorkshire Lancashire	Against reduction in wages In sympathy with and for the same cause as the Yorkshire men	:::	5,000	Jan. 11 Feb.	22 29	Work resumed on original terms. Ditto.
Flax Roughers	Lisburn	For advance in wages of 2d. per cwt., or about 2s. per week	I	57	18 Jan.	24	Advance of id. per cwt. granted, and all strikers to be reinstated
Spelter Workers	Nr. Swansea	Against reduction in wages	1	99	Feb.	8	Employers' terms accepted.
Coal Miners	Hafod, Glam.	Alleged unsafe condition of roof of mine	I	80	28 Feb.	20	Work resumed, nature of settlement not known.
Coal Porters	Cork	For advance in wages, the employers desiring a reduction	2	130	4 Mar.	15	Reduction submitted to.
Dock Labourers	Saltport	Refusal of employer to engage union men	I	30	Mar.	3	Replaced by non-union men. Reduction accepted.
Quarrymen	Falkirk Bristol District	Against proposed reduction in wages For advances in wage and reduction in hours	6	400	25 Mar.	25	Advance of ½d. per hour to day men and 2½ per cent. to piece-workers, with reduction of half-an-hour per day.
Coal Miners Platers' Helpers	Cambuslang Thornaby-on- Tees.	Against proposed reduction in wages Against proposed reduction in wages of some	I	1.200	26 Mar. 29 Mar.	14	Reduction accepted. Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Plasterers	Belfast	Against sub-letting portions of a job	I	13	29 Mar.	16	Contractor paid £8 compensation to the Society, promising not to repeat the action complained of.
Wool Sorters	Bradford Limehouse, E.	For advance in wages	I	60	31 Mar. 1 Mar.	5	Advance of 2s. 6d. per pack conceded. Demands conceded.
					The same of the same of	1	

III.—Disputes which began previous to April, and were still in progress at the end of that month.

Trade.	Locality.	Date of Commence- ment.	Number of Persons concerned at beginning of Dispute.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Remarks.
(all branches at begin- ning of dispute. Now		May 1892	3,000	Against a clause in the general working conditions with regard to the powers of the employers in selecting men.	All sections of the trade have settled with exception of the masons.
only masons) Wire Drawers	Lindley, Yorkshire	Sep. 1892	34	Against reduction in wages.	
	Bristol		280	Refusal to accept piecework in place of day work.	
Quarrymen	Near Loughborough	Dec. 1892		For advance in wages.	
	Burton-on-Trent	200		For an improved list of prices.	
	Blackwall, E	The state of the s	110	Refusal to accept a reduction in wages simultaneously with a reduction in hours.	
French Polishers	Limehouse, E	Nov. 1892	50	Against piecework.	
	Rotherham	100 110 110 110		Against being required to tram coal from face.	Shall at the last

THE SHIPPING DISPUTE AT HULL.

12

THE most important dispute of the month has been the strike of Dock Labourers and others connected with the shipping industry at Hull which still continues.

The following summary of the causes and early stages of the strike has been prepared for the GAZETTE by the Commissioner for Labour, and is based on personal inquiries and on information obtained from both parties to the dispute, and from other sources.

It appears that Hull has for some time been a strong centre of the Dockers' Union (a national organisation, the head-quarters of which are in London), and the union includes the great majority of the dock labourers at the port. The Hull Dockers also belong to a local Federation of Trades and Labour Unions

connected with the Humber ports.

The dock labourers at Hull are for the most part employed by the shipowners, either directly (as in the case of Messrs. Wilson, Sons & Co., Ltd., the largest local employers of such labour) or through stevedores.* The stevedores, or lumpers, are a small body of men who act in concert, and have a working agreement with the Dockers' Union, with a view on the one hand of maintaining a uniform tariff and preventing underselling and overlapping, and on the other hand of giving sole employment to union labour at rates mutually agreed The incident of the "Provincia," which was intimately connected with the dispute, arose out of this arrangement, about which the shipowners allege that they were never consulted.

Previous to the present dispute the Wilson firm worked in harmony with the unions, but for some time there have been increasing signs of friction, ascribed by the shipowners to the irritating action of the Dockers' Union, or at least of some of its officials. The acts complained of, according to the shipowners' statements, include the alleged stoppage of cargoes, because the owners of the keels would not make their men members of the union, or pay up back subscriptions of union members in arrear; insisting that shore labourers should be employed to do certain work instead of the officers or crews of the ships; insisting on the employment of members of the Stevedores' Association in certain cases in which the employers deemed them unnecessary; and other acts tending in the opinion of the shipowners to impede the regular and rapid transaction of business. The dissatisfaction is stated to have been brought to a head in February by the "blocking" of some keel cargoes of coal, because a man employed in connection with the keel was in arrears, and in March by the insistence by the Stevedores and Dockers that the vessel "Provincia," which had previously been discharged by a stevedore working for a certain shipowner, but had been consigned to another shipowning firm, should be transferred back to the original firm, and discharged as hitherto through the stevedore working for that firm.

With regard to the acts complained of, the Dockers' Union officials assert that some (e.g., the alleged threat to stop a saw-mill) are altogether unfounded; others (e.g., collection of arrears through the shipowners) had not been demanded by the union, but had been acquiesced in without objection by some of the largest firms; while as regards the "Provincia," the union were following the custom of the port. It is not, however, denied that petty acts of indiscretion on the part of officials have taken place from time to time, but not more than could be amicably settled between the shipowners and the unions, while it is claimed that the union officials have continually been of service to the owners by smoothing over difficulties likely otherwise to lead to dispute.

With a view of putting an end to the alleged "union dictation," a labour registry was opened in Hull on March 20th, under the title of the "British Labour Exchange," similar to Exchanges already established in several other ports. The management of the "British Labour Exchange" is nominally distinct from the Shipping Federation (a powerful national federation of shipowners and shipowners' associations), inasmuch as

its committee includes other employers than shipowners. It is, however, an employers' organisation, supported by the Shipping Federation, and its secretary is also secretary of the local branch of the Federation. Each labourer desiring employment through the Exchange subscribes his name to a declaration of "his willingness to work in harmony with any other workman who may be engaged, whether he is a member of a trade union or Labourers signing this declaration receive a metal disc with a number, and are entitled by the Shipping Federation "free labourers." Registered men are offered preference of employment, but are not compelled to leave their union, and the Federation disclaims any intention of using the Exchange to break up the unions. The object of the Exchange is stated by the Federation to be the formation of a local reserve of labourers, pledged to work with non-unionists and unionists alike, which may be available in case of disputes with the unions arising out of the refusal on the part of unionists to continue at work. It is thus hoped to avoid the necessity of importing labourers from other ports, always an expensive and irritating proceeding. The Shipping Federation allege that they never interfere in a wages dispute.

The Dockers' Union and the Committee of the Federated Trades' Unions determined to resist the introduction of the Exchange on the ground that it was in reality an attempt to destroy the unions, or, at least, to cripple their power. It was felt that those who joined the Exchange became members of an Employers' Union, which offered them a preference that would make registration practically compulsory; that the registered men having thus secured preference of employment would tend to fall out of the union, which was unable to give them a similar advantage, and the subscription to which would apparently yield them no return; that the Shipping Federation might then proceed to add fresh conditions or attach fresh privileges to membership of the Labour Exchange which would make it more and more of the character of an "Employers' Trade Union," until having destroyed the men's unions the shipowners would reduce wages, and matters would revert to the state of things before the formation of the unions. The union leaders express no confidence in the statement that the Federation is neutral as between union and non-union men, and appeal to experience in other ports.

After some fruitless negotiation the dockers determined on a general strike against the introduction of free labour and to obtain the closing of the Labour Exchange; forcing the hand of their leaders, who represented to them that the union funds were exhausted and that

there was no prospect of strike pay.

The ballot of the men at which the strike was resolved on by an almost unanimous vote took place on April 5th, but the dispute may be said to have begun on the previous day.

The number of dock labourers affected is between 7,000 and 8,000, to whom must be added about 2,500 others (including sailors and firemen, lightermen, tugboat men, enginemen and cranemen, &c., &c.), who have struck in sympathy. The sailors also demand on their own account the abolition of the "Federation ticket."

At an early stage the union leaders offered to agree that union men should work with local non-unionists, provided no pressure or inducement was employed. They also agreed to raise no objection to tallymen and shipping clerks leaving the Dockers' Union, provided they were allowed to form an organisation of their own. They strongly objected, however, to the Labour Exchange, so long as it was under the exclusive control of the Employers' Association, while expressing willingness to agree to an Exchange under neutral management. Round the maintenance of the Exchange and the offer of preferential employment to registered men the contest has since centred.

On April 12th, at a special meeting of the Shipping Federation at York, it was decided to refuse further negotiations with the union leaders, a refusal which has been strongly resented by the men. Since then several attempts have been made, hitherto without success, to bring the dispute to an end.

The Shipping Federation bears the whole cost of the stoppage so far as the shipowners are concerned, and during the dispute has sent a large number of "free labourers" to Hull. On the other hand, large subscriptions have been sent by Trade Unions and others to the strike leaders, who have been able to distribute strike pay varying from 5s. to 6s. a week. Any account of the actual course of the dispute, its effects on the trade of the port, the various attempts at conciliation, and the broader aspects of the contest as a test dispute between two national organisations, must be deferred until the strike is at an end.

RAILWAY SERVANTS' (HOURS OF LABOUR) BILL.

This Bill, which is based upon the recommendation of a Select Committee of Inquiry into the alleged overwork of Railway Servants appointed by the House of Commons in 1891, has passed the House of Commons, and has now been read a second time in the House of Lords. It is designed to enable any servant, or any class of servants, of railway companies to make complaints to the Board of Trade that their hours of labour

I. are excessive;

II. or do not provide sufficient intervals of uninterrupted rest;

and to empower the Board of Trade to inquire into any such representation on the part of such servants.

When satisfied that there is a reasonable cause of complaint, the Board shall order a railway company to submit within a specified period a schedule of time for the duty of the servants interested, so framed as, in the opinion of the Board, to bring the actual hours of work within reasonable limits, regard being had to the circumstances of the traffic and the nature of the work performed.

Should any railway company fail to submit the required schedule, or to enforce the provisions of any approved schedule, the Board of Trade may refer the matter to the Railway and Canal Commissioners, who shall have jurisdiction in the matter (while the Board of Trade may appear in support of the reference). The Commissioners may then order the company to submit to them within a specified time such a schedule as will, in their opinion, bring the actual hours of work within reasonable limits.

Upon failure to render the schedule, or to enforce its provisions when approved, the company shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds for every day during which such default continues.

The Bill further provides that the Railway and Canal Traffic Act 1888, shall apply in the case of any jurisdic-

tion exercised or order made by the Commission, and the Board and the Commission may from time to time rescind or vary any order made, or make supplemental orders. A report of all proceedings under the Act shall be made annually to Parliament by the Board of Trade.

INQUIRIES INTO UNHEALTHY AND DANGEROUS EMPLOYMENTS.

The following particulars have been supplied to the Department by the Home Office:—

The Home Secretary has thought it desirable to institute special inquiries into certain occupations and manufactures where there is good reason for thinking that the processes are dangerous to the health of the workpeople. These inquiries relate to: (1) the various propotteries; (3) chemical works; and (4) quarries. They will be conducted by certain of H.M. Inspectors, assisted by medical and other experts. by medical and other experts. Their primary object is to assist the Home Secretary in the framing of special rules under Section 8 of the Factory Act of 1891, but the reference to each committee is wide enough to admit of a thorough investigation into the various processes concerned.

The following gentlemen will compose the Commit-

No. 1.—Lead, White-Lead, &-c.—J. Henderson, Esq., H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories and Workshops; E. Gould, Esq., and H. J. Cameron, Esq., H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops; A. P. Laurie, Esq., Thomas Oliver, Esq., M.D., and Dr. Dupré, F.R.S. Mr. H. J. Tennant acts as secretary to this Committee; his address is Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.

No. 2.—Potteries, &-c.—Captain May, R.N., and W. D. Cramp, Esq., H.M. Superintending Inspectors of Factories and Workshops; J. H. Walmsley, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops; Dr. Aldridge, A. P. Laurie, Esq., and Dr. Spanton. Mr. W. D. Cramp acts as secretary to this Committee; his address is Factory Department, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.

London, S.W.

No. 3.—Production of Chemical Compounds.—A. E.
Fletcher, Esq., H.M. Chief Inspector of Alkali Works;
J. Henderson, Esq., H.M. Superintending Inspector of
Factories and Workshops; H. S. Richmond, Esq.,
H.M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops; Professor
Simpson, and Dr. O'Neill. Mr. Richmond acts as secretary to this Committee; his address is Factory Department, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.

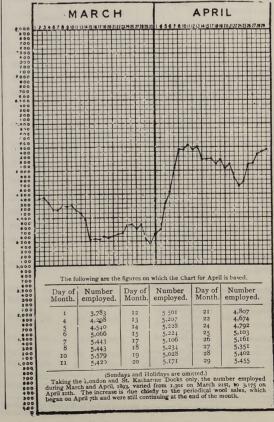
This Committee is not yet finally settled.

No. 4.—Quarries.— C. Le Neve Foster, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Mines; J. Henderson, Esq., H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories and Workshops; H. S. Richmond, Esq., H.M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops; H. S. shops. Mr. Richmond acts as secretary to this Committee; his address is Factory Department, Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.

The above Committee is not yet finally settled; additional members, representative of quarry owners and quarry-men, will be added.

DOCK EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

Note.—This chart is constructed in continuation of the charts prepared by Mr. Charles Booth for the Royal Commission on Labour, from figures supplied by the courtesy of the London and India Docks Joint Committee. It shows the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warchouses, for each day during the month. The corresponding diagram for the previous month is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.



^{*} i.e. Master Stevedores, not Labourers as the term signifies in London.

May, 1893.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

By the courtesy of the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office, the Department is able to give particulars of the number of paupers, both indoor and outdoor, in London and the chief industrial districts of the country, on one day in the second week in April 1893, together with the total number for the corresponding date in 1892.

The main (but not the only) consideration kept in view in the grouping of the Poor Law Unions or Parishes has been the character of the staple trades of the districts.

The last column in the table shows the proportion of paupers per 10,000 of population (as given in Census for 1891) who received relief on the one day in the second week of April 1893.

14

I.—METROPOLITAN.

DISTRICT.			VAG	RANTS.				PAU	PERS.*		Total in	Rate per 10,000 of Popula-
(The figures show the population as	Unions included in District.		elieved o		st day of l 1893.	Total in corresponding	In-door.	Out-door.		Total.	corres- ponding week of	tion on last day in the 2n
given in the Preliminary Report of the Census 1891.)		Men.	Wo- men.	Chil- dren.	TOTAL.	week of 1892.	Adults and Children.	Adults.	Children under 16.	TOTAL.	1892.	week of April 1893.
Yest {	Kensington, Fulham, Paddington, Chelsea, St. George's and West-	121	38	1	160	110	9,426	1,336	512	11,274	11,068	152
(740,725) \ orth \	minster St. Marylebone, Hampstead, St.	156	40	1	197	180	12,614	5,024	3,423	21,061	20,220	212
(994,207) { entral { (247,140) {	Pancras, Islington and Hackney St. Giles and St. George, Strand, Holborn and City of London	156	48	3	207	201	7,176	2,178	1,179	10,533	10,514	426
ast	Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, White- chapel, St. George's-in-the-East, Stepney, Mile End Old Town	106	27		133	167	12,182	2,839	1,316	16,337	16,021	232
outh (1,523,972)	and Poplar St. Saviour's, St. Olave's, Lambeth, Wandsworth and Clapham, Cam- berwell, Greenwich, Woolwich and Lewisham	186	34	21	241	184	18,635	9,922	5,491	34,048	32,668	223
Total of the Metr	opolis (4.211,056)	725	187	26	938	842	60,033	21,299	11,921	93,253	90,491	221
Vest Ham	1 WY at YYam		N	o partici	ılars.		1,450	3,497	3,258	8,205	6,346	225

^{*} Exclusive of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

II.—OTHER DISTRICTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

District.				In-Door.	luded.)		License	d Houses	and Vagra	ered Hospi ants, not in	tals, and cluded.)	Total of In-door and Out-	Total on	Rate per 10,000 of popula-
(The figures show the population as given in the	Unions included in	house ar	d Infirma	ers in the ary on the ek in Apri	last day	Total on cor-	Numb Relief o	n the last	pers in red day of the April 1893.	e second	Total on cor-	door Paupers,	ponding date of	tion on last day of second
Preliminary Report of the Census 1891.)	District.	Adu	lts.	Children		respond- ing date of	Adı	alts.	Children	Tomas	respond- ing date of	on one	1892.	week in April 1893.
		Not able- bodied.	Able- bodied.	of all Classes.	TOTAL.	1892.	Not able- bodied.	Able- bodied.	of all Classes.	TOTAL.	1892.	April 1893		
Newcastle District	Newcastle-on-Tyne	471	527	468	1,466	1,395	1,233	1,074	2,646	4,953	3,975	6,419	5,370	194
Stockton & Tees	and Tynemouth Stockton and Middlesbrough	503	201	360	1,064	1,008	1,505	1,703	3,199	6,407	11,853	7,471	12,861	408
(182,905) District Bolton, Oldham, &c.	Bolton, Bury, Roch-	1,440	753	627	2,820	2,639	3,076	1,409	3,467	7,952	6,649	10,772	9,288	156
Wigan District	Runcorn, Prescot, and Wigan	371	455	343	1,169	1,148	2,805	1,015	2,815	6,633	6,814	7,804	7,962	195
(350,206) Manchester District (798,997)	Manchester, Salford, Chorlton and Prestwich	2,951	2,326	1,635	6,912	7,107	1,434	1,183	3,663	6,280	5,950	13,192	13,057	165
Liverpool District (860,032)	Liverpool, Toxteth Park, West Derby and Birkenhead	4,832	1,616	2,030	8,478	8,120	2,935	1,277	4,226	8,438	8,520	16,916	16,640	197
Bradford District	Bradford and North Bierley	609	175	157	941	983	1,615	481	1,373	3,469	3,672	4,410	4,655	129
Halifax and Huddersfield	Halifax and Huddersfield	505	302	135	942	918	2,085	617	1,681	4,383	4,335	5,325	5,253	151
(353,672) Leeds District	Leeds, Bramley, Hol- beck and Hunslet	674	524	335	1,533	1,564	1,892	844	2,493	5,229	5,247	6,762	6,811	175
Barnsley District	Barnsley and Rother-	445	34	169	648	601	1,182	457	1,271	2,910	2,977	3,558	3,578	190
Sheffield District	Sheffield and Eccles- all-Bierlow	773	841	378	1,992	1,777	1,090	706	1,741	3,537	3,047	5,529	4,824	161
Hull District (213,607) N. Staffordshire	Kingston-on-Hulland Sculcoates Stoke - upon - Trent,	766	82	258	1,106	1,023	2,250	623	1,834	4,707	4,295	5,813	5,318	272
District (307,703)	Wolstanton and Burslem, New- castle-under-Lyme	620	486	425	1,539	1,379	2,002	963	2,553	5,518	5,311	7,057	6,690	229
Nottingham District	Stone and Leek Nottingham and Bas-	425	499	381	1,305	1,260	2,493	548	1,726	4,767	4,649	6,072	5,909	183
(331,307) Leicester (142,069)	Leicester	. 549	112	267	928	902	898	372	968	2,238	2,009	3,166	2,911	223
Wolverhampton District (522,883)	Wolverhampton, Dudley, West Bromwich and Walsall	1,658	727	693	3,078	2,998	7,055	1,603	5,246	13,904	13,913	16,982	16,911	325
Birmingham	Birmingham and	1,876	1,072	1,062	4,010	3,916	556	258	935	1,749	1,870	5,759	5,786	114
(504,412) District Bristol District	Distor Dediminstor	1,319	392	503	2,214	2,162	3,649	1,190	3,179	8,018	7,845	10,232	10,007	314
(326,230) Cardiff & Swansea (288,099)	and Barton Regis Cardiff and Swansea.	576	379	485	1,440	1,304	2,327	742	2,322	5,391	5,033	6,831	6,337	237
Total for the above	English and Welsh	21,371	11,503	10,711	43,585	42,204	42,082	17,065	47,338	106,485	107,964	150,070	150,168	201

^{*} It should be noted that when Medical Relief is obtained by a husband or father for his wife or child, he himself is counted as receiving relief as well as the person for whom it is actually obtained.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL—(Continued).

III.—SCOTLAND.

		(Lun	atics and	Door. d Vagran uded.)	its not	(Lun	atics and	Door. d Vagran uded)	ts not	Total of In-door	Total	Number of In-door and
DISTRICT. (Population in 1891.)	Parishes included in District.	mary on 14th April 1893.			Total on corres- ponding	Number of Paupers in receipt of Relief on 14th April 1893.		on 14th	Total on corres- ponding	Out-door Paupers on 14th April	on corres- ponding date of 1892.	Out-door Paupers on 14th April 1893,
		Paupers	Depen- dants.	TOTAL.	date of 1892.	Paupers	Dependants.	TOTAL.	1	1893.		per 10,000 of popu- lation.
Glasgow	Barony, Glasgow and Govan	2,787	371	3,158	3,132	5,994	6,530	12,524	12,274	15,682	15,406	203
(772,917) Paisley and Greenock	Combination Abbey, Paisley and Greenock	499	56	555	487	942	942	1,884	1,670	2,439	2,157	162
Edinburgh and Leith (332,655)	Edinburgh, St. Cuthbert's Combination, North Leith and South Leith	1,077	116	1,193	1,108	2,008	2,144	4,152	4,104	5,345	5,212	161
Dundee & Dunfermline	Dundee Combination and Dun-	673	86	759	759	1,297	902	2,193	2,189	2 938	2,948	159
(186,026) Aberdeen	fermline Aberdeen and Old Machar	299	44	343	316	954	865	1,819	1,762	2,162	2,078	175
Coatbridge and Airdrie	Old and New Monkland	201	33	234	174	405	575	980	938	1,214	1,112	155
Total for the above Scotti	sh Districts	5,536	706	6,242	5,976	11,600	11,958	23,558	22,937	29,800	28,913	181

IV.—IRELAND.

		Deaf ar	ing Casu	In-Door. als, but i institution , etc., who	ncluding s for the are class	persons Blind, sified as	close	er of pers	d week	The second	Total number of In-door	Total on	Number of In-door and Out- door
District. (Population in 1891.)	Unions.	Number etc., at	close of	thouse, Inf the 2nd il 1893.	irmary, l week	Total on cor-		Number of	3.	number of persons on corres-	Paupers at close of	ponding day in preceding	Paupers at close
		Adu	ilts.	Children		respond ing day in	than Orphans	Orphaus and deserted	TOTAL.	ponding day in 1892	2nd week in April 1893.	year.	April 1893 per 10,000 of popu-
	The street books	Not able- bodied.	Able- bodied.	not in Hospital.	TOTAL.	1892.	deserted children at nurse.						lation.
Dublin District	North Dublin and	3,719	1,102	640	5,461	5,571	1,842	568	2,410	2,732	7,871	8,303	225
Belfast District	South Dublin Belfast	2,373	327	331	3,031	2,880	93	221	314	320	3,345	3,200	115
Cork, Waterford and Limerick	Cork, Waterford and .	3,285	623	708	4,616	4,591	6,134	362	6,496	6,862	11,112	11,453	441
(252,092) Galway District (38,719)	Galway	229	28	65	322	354	329	12	341	309	663	663	171
Total for the above (930,376)	Irish Districts	9,606	2,080	1,744	13,430	13,396	8,398	1,163	9,561	10,223	22,991	23,619	247

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN APRIL.

(Sufflied by the Home Office.)

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCES.		No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.	Cases Withdrawn.	Cases Dismissed.	Total amount of Penalties.
Insanitary and Uncleanly Conditions.						£ s. d.
	•••	4	4	•••	•••	3 10 0
Allowing factory or workshop to be overcrowded	•••	I	1		***	0 5 0
Not keeping factory or workshop in cleanly condition	•••	1		***		0 3 0
Danger from Machinery, &c.	d and	16	16			47 0 0
Neglecting to fence		. 2	2		•••	0 15 0
Employment of Classes of Persons forbidden by Law. Under 14 without school certificates or under 16 without surgical certificates	•••	36	35		1	26 18 o
lilegal Hours or Times of Employment.		18	18			16 10 0
Before or after the legal hour		2	2			4 10 0
At night At night At night At night At night		10	10			8 10 0
		18	16	I	I	11 13 0
Beyond legal hours on Saturday of any substitute Saturdays		5	4	•••	I	4 10 0
(Children) Full time or otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c		3	3			0 16 0
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.				A COLUMN TO A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PART		
Not Keeping registers		1 15	14	I		5 10 6
" Affixing notices and abstracts		35	34		I	15 13 6
Specifying on abstract period of employment		I	I			0 5 0
"Specifying on abstract period of employment "" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "		2	2		•••	1 5 6
" Sending notice of opening factory or workshop		4	3	1		1 10 0
Prosecution of Parents		3	I	2		3 0 0
Obstructing an Inspector in the Execution of his Duty		1	1	•••		3 0 0

LABOUR CASES FOR APRIL.

THE following are among the more important legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

London.—Coal-porter injured by fall of tank of coals. Compensation awarded, £100.

Glasgow.-Woman injured in hand while working a "jollymachine" in pottery. Compensation awarded, £35.

Bristol.-Coal trimmer, fracture of skull from falling into hold of steamer. Compensation awarded, £300.

Stoke-on-Trent.—Collier killed by collision with trucks while ascending "jig-dip." Compensation awarded, (to widow) £120 and (for children) £40. (Appeal pending.)

Kirkcaldy.—Two labourers claimed £300 each compensation for injury from accidents received while in employ of a firm of contractors. The defence was that there was an accident fund, partly maintained by employers' contributions, partly by deductions from wages of employes, and that the labourers having accepted benefits from this fund were debarred from seeking compensation. Case

Manchester .- Goods guard killed during shunting operations by the train. Action by widow. Non-suited (evidence not conclusive)

Manchester.—Labourer injured by train while crossing a railway-bridge. Dismissed (caused by negligence of the plaintiff).

London.—Stevedore's labourer injured by fall of barrels from sling while loading a vessel. Jury disagreed.

Blackburn.—Labourer injured by fall of platform while excavating foundations of new chimney. Compensation awarded, £120.

Leeds.—Metaller killed by fall of pan from "steam-navvy." Action by widow. Dismissed.

North Shields .- Man killed at Howdon Dock. Action by father against coal company. Compensation, £100 (equally divided between plaintiff and wife).

Sunderland.—Lad working milling machine in cycle manufactory; hand entangled in machinery (lever defective). Compensation

London.—Labourer injured in building operation through negligence of other workmen. Compensation awarded, £20.

A claim was made in Queen's Bench at Common Law, for compensation for the death of a railway servant. Non-suited. (Appeal

(2) TRADE UNION ACTS.

During the month a further stage has been reached in the During the month a further stage has been reached in the important action Temperton v. Russell, which has now been in progress in various stages for a considerable time. This is an action brought by a Hull builder against the officials of the Hull branches of the Operative Bricklayers' Society, Operative Plasterers' Society, Builders' Labourers' Society, and the joint committee of these three branches, for inducing various firms to break their contracts with the plaintiff, and inducing the workmen in the employ of these firms to refuse to do work for his benefit, and to leave their employment if their employment fulfilled their extractions. leave their employment if their employers fulfilled their contracts with him. The plaintiff further claimed against the defendants

for conspiracy to do the acts complained of.

It was stated that the defendants, acting on behalf of the branches and the joint committee, had endeavoured to "block" the plaintiff from obtaining building materials, in order to compel him to cease dealing with a certain firm of builders, who did not conform to the rules agreed on between the local branches of the Unions and the rules agreed on between the local branches of the Unions and the Master Builders' Association. The defence was that the defendants were merely endeavouring to enforce a beneficial trade rule directed against sub-contracting, which had been agreed to by the Master Builders' Association, and that with this view they had a right to withhold their labour and induce others to do the same. On March 21st the case was decided in the High Court in favour of the plaintiff—damages £250. Defendants appealed, on the ground that there was no evidence of any actionable wrong. On April 17th the appeal was dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

(3) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Ayling v. The London and India Docks foint Committee.—This was a "test" claim for arrears of wages and damages on the part of a dock labourer against the London and India Docks Committee, and a counter-claim by the Committee against the plaintiff for wrong-fully absenting himself from work. Ayling had joined in the Dock fully absenting himself from work. Ayling had joined in the Dock Strike of 1889, leaving his situation as a "permanent" labourer without notice. At the end of the strike, which was settled by the agreement of September 14th, he presented himself for work, but was refused employment. In January 1893, when the case was tried in the City of London Court, the judge held that Ayling was entitled to be repaid the money that had been deducted from his wages for insurance, and that the Committee was entitled to claim a week's wages from him for illegally leaving his situation. The net result was to award the Committee 2s. 6d. Ayling appealed, and the appeal was heard in the Queen's Bench Division on April 22nd. It was claimed on the labourer's behalf that the clause of the agreement which ended the strike, requiring all strikers to

"return to work forthwith," implied an obligation on the Committee to give them employment. It was held, however, that the agreement only applied to the settlement of the general dispute, and could not settle claims by or against individuals, the signatories not acting as agents for individuals, but for the general benefit of the men. The appeal was therefore dismissed.

May, 1893.

On April 19th, a chain manufacturer of Cradley Heath was On April 19th, a chain manufacturer of Cradley Heath was summoned by two chainmakers in his employ for damages for breach of contract. It was stated that the secretary of the Chainmakers' Association had given the defendant 14 days' notice on behalf of the prosecutors to terminate the contract between them, that four days later the defendant gave prosecutors an order to execute which would last longer than the period of 14 days, and on their refusal to undertake it stated that he had no more work for them. £4 damages and costs were awarded.

for them. £4 damages and costs were awarded.

On April 19th, the Court of Appeal decided an action brought by a colliery company against a collier for damages for breach of contract by absenting himself from work. The original summons had come before the magistrates in March 1892, when defendant was ordered to pay 7s. 6d. damages, and this decision had been upheld upon a case stated for the opinion of the High Court. An important question arose as to the legality of the system of fines and forfeitures in force in the colliery with respect to dirt sent up with coal, it being contended that these rules contravened Section 12 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, and hence made illegal the whole contract of employment. The Court of Appeal held that the rules in question were illegal, but that this fact did not vitiate the whole contract of employment. Hence the plaintiff's promise not to leave work without notice was binding, and the appeal was dismissed.

(4) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

[See summary of prosecutions on page 15.]

(5) MINES REGULATION ACTS.

[A complete summary of prosecutions under these Acts will be supplied by the Home Office for insertion in future numbers.]

(6) TRUCK ACT.

On April 22nd, the final stage was reached in a test case under the Truck Act. A miner in Fife who had occupied a house owned by a colliery company left his situation, but retained occupation of the house. The defenders refused to pay the wages due to him until he left the house. The pursuer did not deny that this was in accordance with an agreement into which he had entered, but pleaded that under the Truck Act this agreement was void. The case was decided in favour of the colliery company, and this decision confirmed by the Sheriff Principal at Dunfermline on March 31st. On April 22nd the company obtained authority to retain the sum of £2 9s. 8d. (the amount of wages due) towards the extinction of their expenses.

(7) SHOP HOURS REGULATION ACT (1892). April 6th-Greenwich.-Dairyman, for employing a boy 93 hours

week. Fined 20s., and 5s. costs.

April 6th—New Cross.—Shopkeeper, for employing a boy for 87 hours a week. (It appeared that the boy was not continuously employed for the whole of this time.) Fined 2s. 6d., and 5s. costs.

April 14th—Canden Town.—Hairdresser, for employing apprentice from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. for five days a week, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. The boy ran away, and there was a cross-summons for breach of indentures. Fined 20s., and costs. (Indentures cancelled.)

(8) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS.

(i.) Board of Trade Prosecutions.

April 4th .- A person was convicted at Cardiff for demanding re-

April 4th.—A person was convicted at Cardiff for demanding remuneration for providing two seamen with employment, and fined £5 and £2 2s. costs.—M. S. Act, 1854, s. 147-8.

April 7th.—The master of a vessel was convicted at Fleetwood for carrying a deck load exceeding three feet in height. He was fined £5 and £1 18s. costs.—M. S. Act, 1876, s. 24.

April 10th.—The master of a vessel was convicted at Ipswich for not rendering assistance, and for not giving the name of his vessel to the master of another ship with which she had been in collision. He was fined £10 and £2 3s. 8d. costs.—M. S. Act, 1873, s. 16.

Convictions were also obtained against masters under s. 28,
M. S. Act, 1876, for loading so as to submerge the centre of the vessel's disc in salt water as follows:—

At Newastle, on April 11th and 18th fines of £30 and £10.

At Newcastle, on April 11th and 18th, fines of £30 and £10, costs of £1 13s. and £1 14s. respectively being inflicted.

At Cardiff, on April 11th, when a fine of £100, with £1 12s. 6d., was imposed; and at Liverpool on the following day, where a fine of £20, with £3 8s. 6d., was inflicted.

(ii.) Other Cascs.

At the Guildhall Police Court, on April 27th, a firm was summoned at the instance of several firemen and trimmers for neglecting to pay for 17 days' wage. The men contended that they were taken on a foreign vessel, whereas they believed they were to be engaged for vessels in English waters; on arriving at Hamburg they refused to go further, and claimed for wages up to the 20th of the month. The case was dismissed.

On April 27th, at Barry Dock, a fireman and donkeyman sued a captain for £4 compensation in lieu of a month's wages. It appeared that he had been engaged by an Agent of the Shipping Federation, who had given him an advance note for £2, with instructions to join a ship that night. When he did so, he was told that other men had been engaged. It was decided that as articles had not been signed he could not claim under the Merchant Shipping Act though he might have a law to the state of the same than the same Shipping Act, though he might have a locus standi under the general

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD SOLD BY CERTAIN WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

THE Retail Prices of articles of food given in the following table are published as an experiment, and with a view to criticism and extension. They are based on returns for March supplied to the Department by various workmen's co-operative societies. The present table is thus very partial and incomplete; it is hoped in future to extend widely the number of societies making returns, until the table becomes fairly representative of Retail Prices

charged by workmen's co-operative societies throughout the Country

Tables of comparative Retail Prices may be compiled on two different principles. They may aim either at comparing the current prices charged at different times or places for precisely similar articles, or at giving the true average price at each time or place of certain articles (regardless of variations of quality). The first method is only applicable to articles of definite standard quality, and it is then misleading, since it is impossible to strike an average of mere price list quotations. The second method (which is adopted below) is more useful in throwing light on cost of living, being based on records of actual transactions. In using its results, however, some caution is needed. It should be remembered that while the prices given represent the real average prices paid by members of each co-operative society for such qualities of each article as they are accustomed to purchase from the society, the qualities of various articles sold by different societies are not necessarily identical, while the result may be partially affected by the different practice of the societies in regard to the percentage returned to the members. The amount of dividend is therefore shown in the first column.

		Town.			Divide per £ by t Socie pu chas	paid he ty to r-	Piout	Bread per 4 lb.	Fresh Meat per lb.	Bacon per lb.	Sugar per lb.	Tea per lb.	Butter per lb.	Mar- garine per lb.	Cheese per lb.	Milk per quart.	Potatoes per stone of 14 lb.	Jams and Marma- lades per lb.
1777	EN	GLAN	:1)		S.	d -	s. d.	d.	d.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	s. d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bolton Greenfield Halifax Oldham Barnsley Wallsend Congleton Worksop Rugby Colchester Folkestone Portsea Islar Woolwich Newport		GLAS			2 2 2 3 2 2 3 2 2 1 2 2 2	9 712 7 0 6 6 1 8 1 8 8 3 4	s. d. 35 37 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	C. 5 4 4 4 5 4 4 5 5 4 4	7 7 9 9 8 7 1 2 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	0 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	(1) 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	2 14 2 14 2 14 2 2 4 2 2 0 2 4 2 3 1 1 10 4 1 1 7 1 8 8	1 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	8 77 8 9 8 9 9 8 9 1	81 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1	3	7 13 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8 6 8	430 45
T.C.I.Port	SC	OTLA	ND.	 		- 2		-3										
Edinburgh Galashiels Leith				 	3 3 3	7 2 6	1 8 1 9½ 1 8	51 5 5 51	7½ 9 7	0 10 1 0½ 0 10	2t 21 21 21	2 13 2 13 2 13 2 15	1 21 1 31 1 21	9 111 9	7100040014 74	3	7 7 7	3414
Average pric						{	1 47 197,104 stones.	45 658.914 4lb. loaves	7 § 351,707 lb.	0 93 159,168 lb.	2½ 1,585,218 lb.	2 0¾ 82 210 1b.	1 2 479,485 lb.	8½ 37,506 lb.	8½ 138,597 lb.	3} 60,108 qts.	67 166,404 stones.	37/8 86,188 lb.

* According to latest information to hand.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS OF 1891.*

THE Chief Labour Correspondent's report to the Board of Trade deals with the 893 strikes and 13 lock-outs which took place in the United Kingdom during 1891.

The number of persons affected by the strikes has been ascertained in 676 cases, giving a total of 266,885. The chief causes of dispute are classified, and the failures and successes in each group are given, a comparison with 1890 showing that strikes for an advance of wages were less numerous, and against a reduction of wages more numerous, in 1891 than in the previous year. In connection with the statistics of the duration of strikes, it appears that whereas in 1890 the average duration of strikes was 17.3 days, in 1891 it amounted to 24 days, and an analysis is given of the duration of strikes according as they involved a large or small number of persons. Some attempt has been made, as in the previous year, to estimate the elements of loss to employers and of loss or gain to workmen. Under the heading of general trade movements, recent changes in the composition of the Trade Union Congress are reviewed, and the most important transactions of the Newcastle and Glasgow congresses of 1891 and 1892 are noted. The official report of the third International Miners' Conference, which was held in London in 1892, is given in full, together with an account of the International Union of Glass Workers. With reference to public contracts and fair conditions of labour, Mr. Burnett gives a return of the forms issued by various government departments

In the chapter on "Labour Agencies," an account is given of the labour bureaux or registries at Ipswich, Egham, and Chelsea. Some of the more important legal

decisions affecting trade unions are also given. In the appendices to the reports are notes and observations on various strikes and lock-outs, made by employers and workmen engaged in them, and accounts of the regulations and action of a number of boards of conciliation and arbitration are added.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1891.*

In his fifth report on trade unions, the Chief Labour Correspondent notes that the total number of unions from whom returns have been obtained amounts to 431, with an aggregate membership of 1,109,014, and a capital of £1,723,480, or £1 11s. 1d. per head, compared with 259 societies in 1890, with an aggregate membership of 871,232, and a capital of £1,160,441, or £1 9s. 7d. per head. Of these unions, 236 made full returns both in 1890 and 1891, making possible a comparative statement of their position in the two years. A general detailed table is given, showing the number of branches and members, the number and percentage of members on chief benefits, particulars of annual income and expenditure, and annual balance of these societies. The report also contains tables of the changes in membership and in contributions per head from 1855 to 1891 so far as known, followed by tables of the amount per head of membership paid for different benefits. The kinds of accidents or diseases for which accidents or disablement benefits are paid by certain trade unions are classified. A list of trad unions, with the names and addresses of the secretaries, is inserted. The second half of the volume deals with the information as to standard rates of wages and hours of labour in different districts, supplied by 33 of the most important trade societies, and concludes with extracts from trade union reports.

^{*} Strikes and Lock-outs of 1891. (C. 6890 of 1893.—Price 4s. 4d.)

^{*}Report on Trade Unions in 1891. (C. 6990 of 1893.—Price 2s. 6d.)

REPORT ON CO-OPERATION FOR APRIL.

18

INFORMATION in another column, supplied by the Chief Registrar, shows that six new productive societies have been registered during the month, two of them being for the manufacture and distribution of boots and shoes, a trade that has produced the largest number of societies in recent years.

Five new distributive societies have been registered during the month, the names of which will be found on another page. Meetings have been held and new societies formed at West Cowes (Isle of Wight), Cleveden (Somerset), at Wyke Regis by the employés at the recently established torpedo factory, and at Liverpool by the tugboat men. New branches of existing societies have been opened at Darnall (near Sheffield), and at Swinton (near Barnsley).

A new departure in co-operation is contemplated in London, where the ordinary co-operative stores have to a large extent failed to take root. It appears that self-governing stores of the Rochdale type flourish most in factory districts, and the only stores which have been very successful in the neighbourhood of London are planted in the vicinity of the Woolwich Arsenal and the Stratford Railway Works. Statistics prepared by the Co-operative Union show that in the London district only about 6 per 1,000 of the population are co-operators, the corresponding figure for the whole of Great Britain being 36. Half the trade done by stores in the London district is done by the two societies in the outskirts (at Stratford and Woolwich), the remainder being divided up among 72 societies, of which a large majority are outside London proper. To meet the difficulty, a sub-committee of the United Board has now proposed to try the experiment of opening stores in London, nominally under a new society called the "People's Co operative Society," but practically under the guarantee and control of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. If at any time any of the stores insisted on becoming independent, they might be allowed to form a separate society. The project has been approved by the Central Co-operative Board and the Committee of the Wholesale Society, and steps are being taken by the latter to obtain authority to carry it

The Newcastle-on-Tyne Co-operative Society reports that owing to the scarcity of work in that district the society paid out withdrawals of capital and profits to the amount of £71,459 last year.

The recent Cotton Strike has seriously affected the sales of several of the co-operative societies in the Lancashire district. The sales of the Oldham Industrial for the quarter ending March 9th were £10,321 less than the previous quarter, and those of the Oldham Equitable £5,449 less. At the general meeting of the former society it was stated that £2,500 had been distributed by the co-operative societies in relief of distress.

The value of the products of the productive departments of the The value of the products of the productive departments of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society during the last quarter of 1892, as reported at the quarterly meeting on the 11th March, amounted to £215,396, upon which, after allowing for interest on capital employed, depreciation, and all other expenses, a net profit of £3,508 was made. Products amounting in value to £45,722 purchased by the society from independent producti

The products of the productive departments of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, during the same period, amounted to £80,983. The profit made was equal to 17 per cent. of the capital employed. 18 per cent. of the total profit was divided

Twenty-three of the Irish Co-operative Creameries produced during the past year 910 tons of butter, which realised an average of 108s. 9d. per cwt. The milk cost 4d. per gallon, and the cost of working the creameries—including interest on capital—was 10s. 2d. per cwt. of butter produced.

The sales of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society during the last quarter of 1892 amounted to £2,536,688, and of the Scottish Wholesale Society to £850,998.

An abstract of the report of a committee of the French Senate upon "Co-operation and Profit-Sharing in Foreign Countries," is published in the Board of Trade Journal for the current month.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons during April 1893. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

The only Accidents to be reported are the following: -

(a) Any accident which causes loss of life to any person employed in the factory or the workshop; and

in the factory or the workshop; and

Any accident which causes bodily injury to a person employed in the factory, and is produced either by machinery moved by steam, water, or other mechanical power, or in the factory or the workshop caused through a vat, pan, or other structure filled with hot liquid or molten metal or other substance, or by explosion, or by escape of gas, steam, or metal, and is of such a nature as to prevent the person injured by it from returning to his work in the factory or workshop, and doing five hours work on any day during the next three days after the occurrence of the accident.

	Adults Young Persons.			Chile	dren.	TOTAL.			
NATURE OR EFFECT OF INJURY.	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Male: & Fe male:
Causing death Amputation of right hand or	28		7	1	I		36	I	37
	3		2	I	1		6	I	7
Amputation of left hand or arm Amputation of part of right	3						3		3
hand	25	6	21	II	I	I	47	18	65
Amputation of part of left hand Amputation of any part of leg	27	8	12		I		40	8	48
or foot Loss of sight of one or both		I	4				4	I	5
eyes Fracture of limbs or bones of	I					I	I	I	2
trunk	20	1 2	6	2	I		27	4	31
Fracture of hand or foot	13	4	6	I		i	19	5 8	24 51
Injuries to head or face Lacerations, contusions, and other injuries not enumer-	39	1 4	4	3		I	43	8	51
ated above	226	37	127	34	8	2	361	73	434
TOTAL	385	62	189	53	13	5	587	120	707
Total for 4 months ended 30th April 1893	1345	202	659	207	59	15	2063	424	2487

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS. (Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

I.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies

		Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.								
CLASS OF SERVICE.	Killed	Ampu-	Frac-	Crush-es.	Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.	Total of In- juries.			
Brakesmen and Goods Guards	3	I	I	1 7	II	II	31			
Engine Drivers			2	I	9	10	22			
Firemen	I		I	4	5	16	26			
Guards (Passenger) Permanent Way Men (not			•••		1	4	5			
including labourers)	12		I	I	2	2	6			
Porters	3	I	I	5	8	10	25			
Shunters	2	I	I	4	6	7	19			
tractor's Servants)	8	I	2	7	7	23	40			
TOTAL	29	4	9	29	49	83	174			
Total for Year ended Dec. 31st 1892	534	98	204	451	718	1444	2915			

II.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured as above, in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, distinguishing accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents, in April 1893.

Sent Glaceral	Engla W	and and	Sco	tland.	Ire	land.	United Kingdom.		
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	
From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c By Accident from	1	ı					I	ı	
other causes*	25	150	3	22		t	28	173	
TOTAL	26	151	3	22		ī	29	174	
Total for year ended Dec. 31st 1892	426	2,615	89	274	19	26	534	2,915	

* Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

LABOUR ABROAD.

The paragraphs in large type are summaries of reports received through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Offices abroad. The small print paragraphs have been compiled from information in the Foreign Press.

FRANCE.

A circular was recently addressed by the French Minister of Commerce to the Prefects of Departments, urging them to use every endeavour to induce those engaged in strikes and disputes to have recourse to the new means provided by the law of December 22nd last, for the settlement of strikes, &c., by permissive arbitration, and instructing the prefects as to the application of the law. Sir Joseph Crowe, H.M. Commercial Attaché at Paris, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, states that little use has hitherto been made of the facilities afforded for restoring harmony, notwithstanding the frequent occurrence of strikes; most of which have terminated under arrangements made by employers and workmen among themselves.

In a despatch dated May 1st, Sir Joseph Crowe states that the Bill dealing with the Co-operative and Profitsharing Associations, which the Senate had sent back to the Chamber of Deputies in July last, has now undergone considerable alterations by the latter.

STRIKES IN FRANCE.*—The record of disputes for April in France shows strikes to have been of more frequent occurrence in the Textile Trades than in any other branch of industry.

On April 8th, 170 female operatives belonging to some spin-

ning mills at Angers struck work, demanding a uniform wage of 2.75 francs per day in lieu of piecework, twisters of wet yarn to receive 3 francs per day, and doffers 1.75 francs per day. The operatives are paid a premium of 10 per cent. of their total earnings each fortnight, provided they have lost no time during that period. The strikers demand one-third of a day per fortnight for rest. The movement quickly spread to other establishments until the number of participants had reached 2,000. settlement is yet reported.

The strike being carried on by the leather workers at Amiens originated in the Textile Trades. On April 4th, 400 operatives belonging to a velvet factory in the town went on strike demanding the application of the 11 hours' law, which was to have come into operation in the beginning of the year. About the middle of the month no less than 10,000 persons of both sexes were engaged in the strike, and drew up formal demands claiming for spinners, combers and weavers a working day of 11 hours, with a compensating increase of the scale of pay, while the dyers demanded a uniform minimum wage, an 11-hour working day, and the suppression of These demands having been conceded, work was resumed, but once more abandoned by the dyers, on the ground that the new scale had not been posted up in the factories. They then drew up a higher scale, which was accepted by three-fourths of the factory owners, work being again resumed. Several other branches of industry had meanwhile struck, including masons, shoemakers, dressmakers, and whalebone workers, by all of whom work was gradually resumed, with the exception of the shoemakers, who demand a 10-hour working day, and by whom the struggle is being still maintained.

On April 21st, the operatives engaged in a spinning mill at Lille struck for increased wages and reduced hours of labour. No settlement has yet been reported. A few days later, 800 weavers at Armentières struck work. The employers yielded on 6 out of the 8 points of dispute, but still decline to admit the claim of the employés that they should be at liberty to commence work at any hour of the day. The strike still continues. The women engaged in a spinning mill at Monoblet, near Nîmes, are on strike for an increase of wages from 1.35 to 1.50 francs per day.

Further strikes in the Textile Industry are reported at Rheims, where 255 weavers went on strike for a day owing to the dismissal of certain of their colleagues. At Roubaix, where 300 weavers struck on April 19th for a higher scale of pay on certain articles of manufacture, work was said to have been resumed after a day

Strikes in the Building Trades are reported at Lyons, where, on April 17th, the painters and plasterers to the number of 8,000 went on strike, demanding an increase of 10 centimes (about 1d.) per hour in their wages. The employers refuse to yield. The plasterers and house-painters of Arras are on strike for an increase of ½ france

(about 43d.) per day in wages. No settlement is yet reported. At Armentières the house-painters are striking for an increase of 5 centimes per hour. A strike of masons and stone-cutters which had been in progress at Brive for a long time, was ended on April 20th, a minimum wage of 36 centimes per hour being fixed. strike of slaters, joiners and carpenters is in progress at

Two strikes are reported in the French Mining Industry, one at Verpilleux, where 250 miners struck as a protest against the appointment of a new superintendent, and resumed work in the course of a few days; the second at Bernissart coal mines, where eleven hundred of the men went on strike for reasons not stated.

A strike of considerable magnitude is reported at Nantes. It originated in some manure works on April 24th, the workers, 400 in number, demanding an increase of wages from 35 to 40 centimes per hour. The movement spread rapidly to other establishments, so that on the 28th the strikers numbered 8,000, including many of the men engaged in the Loire navy yards. No settlement is reported.

A strike of the Paris wood and copper engravers which had lasted for two months was concluded at the end of April, the master engravers binding themselves to employ none but union men. Another strike which had been in progress for two months, and which was concluded on April 8th, was that of the leatherdressers of Milhau (Aveyron), whose daily wage has been raised from 3 fr. 50 c. to 4 fr. After a strike of 4 days' duration, the workers engaged by a firm of Paris trunk-makers obtained their demands. They claimed payment by piecework, or else a minimum wage of 61d. per hour.

GERMANY.

Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul for Westphalia and the Rhenish Provinces, reports under date of April 28th last that no changes of any importance appear to have taken place during that month. The chief strike worthy of notice since those of 1889 and 1891 in the Rhenish-Westphalian district was a general strike which lasted some weeks in the state-mining district of Saarbrücken at the commencement of this year. In the Westphalian district, in connection therewith, only about 15,000 men went out on strike for some eight or ten days; their petitions to the Mine-Owners' Association were not acceded to, and the agitation fell through without any result. The demands of the miners were for an eight hours' shift from bank to bank, and 25 to 33 per cent. increase in wages. New regulations and instructions to the workmen, under the new laws as to mines and factories, have been issued to all the mines which are connected with the Westphalian Mineowners' Association, and are being carried out without any difficulty.

Owing to the present dull state of trade, wages in general have a downward tendency; and, taken as a whole, the number of workpeople employed in industrial undertakings, especially, in the Westphalian district, in ironworks and coal mines, has been reduced.

The burden now laid upon employers by the system of compulsory insurance is illustrated by the following figures from a pamphlet issued by the Imperial Insurance

GENERAL STATEMENT FOR 1892 AS TO THE WORKPEOPLE'S INSURANCE IN THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

... 50,000,000 Total Population Working People

Insurance against Accident. Invalidity. Illness. 7.723,000 2,752,000 Marks * Persons Insured Compensated 210,000 Marks * Receipts ... Of which the Employ-32,000,000 68,000,000 108,200,000 54,000,000 47,375,000 ers pay f which the Employ-31,000,000 ed pay 54 000,000 124,000,000 Expenditure ... Of which, Costs of Com-32,500,000 95,000,000 22,400,000 pensation amount to Of which, Costs of Man-6 200.00 7,400,000 4,480,000 162,850,000 Capital in hand 110,000,000 Compensation per case Charge per insured ...

* Mark = IS.

This account is mainly based upon reports published in the Weekly Official alletin of the Paris Bourse du Travail, the Journal des Débats, and Le

Trade unions in the true English acceptation of the word can hardly be said to exist to any considerable extent, though there are, of course, many workmen's associations with a social democratic tendency.

It is stated in the Handels Museum that official labour registries are henceforward to be established in all towns in Silesia of more than 10,000 inhabitants. The same journal, referring to the number of unemployed in the German Book-printing Trade, states that the large deficit shown by the accounts for last year of the Local Sickness Fund of Berlin printers is attributed to the large number out of work. This is said to be due to the supplanting of local men by workers from other districts during the strike in the winter of 1891-2, since which the number of the unemployed in the German Book-printing Trade is said to have more than

Strikes.-The strike of firemen and trimmers of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company against a reduction of wages ended on the 18th of April, having lasted about four weeks. A number of men who had been brought from Southampton to replace the strikers, refused to work. The latest published information about the strike in the Berlin Tailoring Trade announced that the terms of the workers had been accepted by 149 establishments, and that the movement was extending to the smaller houses. The strikers numbered 400.

AUSTRIA.

Sir Augustus Paget, H.M. Ambassador at Vienna, reports, under date of 27th April, that a tailors' work men's strike at Brünn commenced on March 29th of this year. The strike only extended to a portion of the trade, the majority abstaining. The principal demands were (a) reduction of hours of labour to 10 per day, (b) increase of wages to a minimum wage of 2 florins per day, or about 3s. 4d., and (c) building of proper workshops. The actual number of those who went on strike was probably only about 60 or 70. The proprietors consented to a 10 per cent. increase in wages for good finished work, and all those employers who do not as yet possess proper workshops consented to establish such within six weeks.

The Gablonz district glass workers' strike, which began on March 3rd, and extended to about 500 men employed in the villages of Dessendorf, Polaun, Tieffen bach, and Wurzelsdorf, was concluded on March 23rd, when the workmen returned to their work at the same wages as before. The strike of carpenters in Vienna which began April 23rd, is not concluded. About 1,500 men have at present taken part. They demand a rise of wages to 2 florins, or 3s. 4d. per day of 10 hours' work as maximum. They complain of having at present to work II or more hours a day for 2s. 4d. or 2s. 8d. and of being left without work when the building season is over.

The works connected with the new bridge over the canal and the Zoological Gardens have been interrupted; the employers demand a full 10 hours' work for a maxi-

mum wage of 3s.

The Vienna locksmiths are on strike. They demand a 25 per cent. increase of wages with a reduction of work from 14 to 10 hours.

A curious strike has taken place at Aussig. Men and women engaged in loading coal had established the practice of carrying off one or two sacks from each wagon. They were warned to desist from this habit, upon which the men threatened to strike, and the owners were compelled to consent to the continuance of

A large number of men engaged in the Building Trades in Graz are on strike, demanding a 30 per cent. increase of wages. The employers have offered 15 per cent., but demand 11 hours' work a day instead of 10. The strike still continues.

The photographic implement makers in Vienna threaten a strike, demanding a 9-hour day, a minimum wage of 12 florins (£1) per week, and Saturday pay-

Strikes.—Owing to a proposal to increase the working day from 11 to 14 hours, and to reduce wages by 20 per cent., a strike broke out in a Cotton Spinnery at Pesth in the beginning of April. The weekly wages of the female operatives have hitherto

been from 3s. 4d. to 6s. 8d. The strikers number 300. The strike of Vienna Bone-Button Turners continues, and the employers refuse to accept the wage scale drawn up by the workers. The strikers number 50, and are subsisting on weekly allowances of 3s. 6d. to 5s. In addition to these, strikes were reported in the Austrian Press from Trübau, in Bohemia, where the operatives in a spinning and weaving establishment complain of very low wages; from Iglau, in Moravia, where the Tailors have struck; from Bozen, in the Tyrol, where the Joiners and Turners claim a 10-hour day; and from Siegersdorf, in Lower Austria, where 42 workmen in a wooden pipe factory demand a 10-hour working day, with two intervals of a quarter of an hour for meals, &c., retention of piece and time work, and freedom of action outside working hours. These demands have been refused.

ITALY.

Mr. Raikes, Second Secretary to the British Embassy at Rome, reports a strike of Cigar-makers at Naples affecting 800 women employed at a tobacco manufactory. The alleged cause was the severity of the director and his overseers. At the time of reporting the factory had been closed for ten days, and the women were stated to have no resources to continue the strike.

A dispute was also in progress among the journeymen bakers at Rome, of whom 200 struck on March 13th. The men had asked for a change of hands for 6 days in every 60, by substituting an unemployed workman, for whom the Mutual Relief Society among the operative bakers would stand guarantee. A trial was given to the scheme, but difficulties arose and the strike was the result. At the time of reporting an attempt was being made to settle the strike by two Commissioners, appointed by the employers and men respectively.

A labour bureau, "Camera di Lavoro," has recently been established in Rome, with the object of being the intermediary between supply and demand for labour. All workmen residing in the province of Rome may join it, and all of them, whether members or not-without reference to nationality-may avail themselves of the advantages offered by it.

A Bill for the prevention of accidents and protection the life and bodily safety of workmen is before the Italian Parliament, and another Bill is now before the Senate, having already passed the Chamber of Deputies, respecting "Probi Viri," viz., arbitrators, according to the provisions of which honest and respectable citizens would be called upon to form a Committee for settling disputes between employers and workmen. (A précis of this Bill will be given in the Board of Trade Fournal for June.)

As regards changes in wages and hours, and proportion of employed to unemployed in the chief trades, Mr. Reader, H.M. Consul at Genoa, reports a very large number of unemployed, especially in the skilled trades.

Mr. Gurney, writing from Spezia, says, that since the completion of the works of defence, &c., the number of unemployed is on the increase, and that suspension of shipbuilding has brought down wages considerably. The Government, who employ from 5,000 to 6,000 hands, have not reduced wages, but do not fill up vacancies when they occur.

Mr. Ponzone says, that in 1887 and 1888 there was work for 5,000 hands at Savona, but now regular employment can only be found for 1,500. He estimates the number of men without regular employment at present in Savona at about 800.

Mr. Beiner reports from Bari, that there has been no

recent change in wages and working hours in his district. A serious reduction took place in agricultural labourers' wages, after the rupture of the commercial treaty with France, when wages fell from 2s. 91/2d. to 2s. 1½d., and from 3s. 11½d. to 2s. 4½d.

In Genoa, there are about 100 workmen's societies. of which some, though called friendly or co-operative, are really formed to regulate labour and wages questions. There is a society called the "Consolato Operaio," whose object is to act as arbitrator and settle disputes between societies or their members.

In Spezia, there exist nearly a dozen friendly societies. which are chiefly political, however, in their tendencies;

two bona fide friendly societies there number 500 or 600 members each.

At Savona, there are several societies, but they are reported to be in a very poor way, members failing to pay their contributions. At Bari, there is a successful co-operative society of carriers, but friendly societies have not succeeded in this district owing to bad manage-

Whilst the only co-operative society which is reported to exist in Sardinia appears to be composed of foreign workmen in the French Zinc Mine at Buggorne, Sicily seems to contain a great number, there being seventy societies in Palermo alone, each trade having its own. A deputy or municipal councillor is generally President, and the society votes en bloc for him; thus they generally have a political colouring. No conciliation or arbitration boards exist at Palermo, strikes being very rare and disputes being generally settled by the Prefecture.

BELGIUM.

The recent strikes in Belgium have generally been due to political rather than economic causes. Only the industrial strikes are referred to below.

Mr. Adam, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Brussels, reports, under date of May 2nd, that the strike at the Tinchant Tobacco Factory, in Antwerp, which began last month, came to an end after a day's duration. upon the employers agreeing to let the Workmen's Syndicate conduct the search for tobacco or cigars in cases where workmen or workwomen were suspected of smuggling them out of the factory. The number of persons at present employed in the factory is 850, but at certain times of the year it rises to 1,200.

The report of the Commission appointed to prepare the Bill regulating the engagement of workmen and servants * has lately been laid before the Chamber.

Mr. Hallett, H.M. Vice-Consul at Ghent, reporting

on April 26th, states that relative tranquility has prevailed amongst the industrial classes belonging to the Flanders districts as regards distinctly local questions. This was due to the great interest they feel in the revision of the franchise.

At Roulers, however, about 100 weavers have struck, in protest against a reduction of 10 per cent. in wages; this is the only strike in Flanders which continued at

the time of reporting.

At Grammont, about 3,000 lucifer-match makers are suffering through the closing of the works during three or four days in the week, owing to a falling-off of trade. It would seem that the Government manufacturers are being left behind in competition with their German rivals through lack of the latest improvements in their establishments. The distress is being relieved by the town authorities.

HOLLAND.

Sir G. Bonham, H.M. Secretary of Legation at the Hague, reports, under date of April 27th, that no important labour dispute has taken place in the commercial centres of the Netherlands since the dock strike at Rotterdam in 1890. There are, however, disturbances not of a serious character in the Turf-cutting Industry in the Province of Drenthe in the north of Holland. which occur annually in spring time. In the early part of this year, moreover, there were disturbances among the agricultural and labouring population in the northern provinces, which assumed serious proportions, and led to an important unofficial inquiry into the social condition of labourers, the results of which are noted below.

The most recent legislation with regard to labour is contained in a Royal Decree of September 29th 1892, supplementing a previous decree of July 15th 1891.

A Bill, introduced by two private members, for the establishment of labour bureaux, has now reached the Committee stage. The main provisions are to institute in every parish a chamber of labour, and to enable a

register to be kept of all matters connected with labour in each district. The qualifications for membership are the attainment of 30 years of age, and a residence of two years in the district. The Government has further announced the intention of introducing at some future time a measure for insuring workmen against accidents, and it is understood that they are preparing a measure

of the nature of a Factory Act.

A department has lately been formed in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the object of procuring abour statistics, but it has not yet made much pro-

The growth and scope of friendly societies forms the subject of an interesting report, issued this month by the first division of the Royal Commission on the labour question, comprising the results of an investigation of the affairs of 840 institutions. Friendly societies in the Netherlands have not as yet been organised in the same complete manner as in England, but although the legislative enactments of 1855 and 1866 are quite inadequate, it is not generally considered that further legislation would be advisable.

H.M. Consul at Amsterdam reports that during the past two months his consular district has been free from any important labour disputes, and that there is not at present any such question pending between employers and workmen. He states that there have not ately been any important changes in legislation or administration with regard to labour.

There have been no changes in wages or hours of labour. The proportion of unemployed has very considerably diminished in nearly all trades, and the agricultural population is for the present, at least, fully

H.M. Consul at Amsterdam has prepared an account of the inquiry alluded to above into the conditions of labour in North Holland. The inquiry was conducted by a committee appointed by the Central Liberal Union of Appingedam in Groningen, and sub-committees for each district, consisting of two employers, two workmen, and one neutral person for each. The committee attribute the present unfortunate condition of the labourers very largely to neglect of education, fieldwork for children at too early an age, early marriages, and wretched house accommodation, and their proposals aim at the improvement of the moral condition of the labourer, the introduction of compulsory education up to the age of 13 or 14, prohibition of field work for children under 13, regulation of female labour, the appointment of labour councils, representing employers and employed, improved dwellings, more thorough inspection of dwelling-houses, and state pensions. committee were divided as to the desirability of prohibiting field-work for married women, and reported against a legal 8-hour day.

DENMARK.

Sir Francis Denys, Secretary of Legation at Copenhagen, reports under date of April 28th, there are no labour disputes of sufficient importance to deserve special attention, agriculture being the chief industry in Denmark. A strike for higher wages occurred lately at the sugar refining works at Elsinore, the workmen demanding an increase of pay from 2½ to 3 kroner* a day. After remaining out a few days most of the strikers returned to work on the old terms. The refinery employs 170 hands.

A strike for increased pay is also reported as in progress among the dock labourers at Esbjerg, whence a brisk trade in dead meat has just been started with the United Kingdom. Precise details are not forthcoming, but the movement would appear to be strictly local, and not of serious importance.

During the past winter the port of Copenhagen was closed in from January 12th to March 6th—in all, 54 days, thus entailing a cessation of work in the docks. the new Free Port Works, and other Building Trades, and causing an abnormal increase in the number of unemployed.

*I kroner = Is. Itd.

See Mr. Gosselin's Report on the State of the Labour Question in Belgium. Page 31. (F. O. Miscellaneous Series, 1891. No. 214.)

There have been no recent changes in labour legislation. Only in rare instances do wages show a decline during the last three years, while in some trades they have risen. There are no organised or permanent conciliation and arbitration boards in Denmark.

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NORWAY.

Mr. Michell, H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, in a despatch to the Foreign Office under date April 7th, reports that a Bill for the Insurance of Workmen against sickness was laid before the Storthing on the previous day. It proposes to establish compulsory insurance for factory hands, and similar regularly employed workmen, each of whom will have to pay into a general sick fund a weekly contribution from his wages, of 10 öre to 25 öre (1\frac{1}{3}d. to about 3d.) according to his age. In return he will be entitled to receive from the fund one-half of his daily wage so long as he is ill, but not for a period exceeding thirteen weeks in any one year. The State is to guarantee the payment of such compensation to workmen, and to administer the sick fund gratis.

In a further despatch, dated April 8th, Mr. Michell reports that a Special Committee of the Norwegian Storthing has been appointed to consider the proposals for the abolition of the contractor system in public works in accordance with workmen's demands.

The same Consul-General also reports, under date April 13th, an account of a recent strike of dockers at Christiania, resulting in the restoration of the piecework system which the Dockers' Union had been instrumental in abolishing in 1887. The immediate cause of the strike was the employment by the agents of a firm of Hull Shipowners of some men with whom the Unionists refused to work. Employment at the docks happened to be scarce at the time, and the agents had no difficulty in supplying the places of the strikers, who thereupon entered into negotiations with their employers and agreed to the re-introduction of payment by a fixed rate per ton as a condition of re-instatement.

SWEDEN.

Sir F. Plunkett, H. M. Minister at Stockholm, in a despatch dated April 8th, gives the outlines of a Bill now before the Riksdag for the compulsory assurance of workpeople, by which workmen on reaching the age of 60 years will be entitled to a pension. There will be three classes of pensions, the first class amounting to 250 kronor (£13 17s. 8d.), the second class to 150 kronor (£8 6s. 8d.), and the third class to 90 kronor (£5) per annum. The first class will include workmen earning from 500 to 1,800 kronor (£27 15s. 4d. to £100) per annum, the second class those paid chiefly in kind, while the third class will be for women. The weekly subscription to the pension fund will be 50, 30 and 20 öre (about $6\frac{1}{2}d$., 4d. and $2\frac{1}{2}d$.) for the three classes respectively, half to be paid by employers and half by employed. The Government is to pay an annual subvention.

PORTUGAL.

By a Royal Decree of the 9th of March last, the basis was fixed for the establishment of Labour Exchanges in Portugal. A Ministerial Decree was issued at the same time providing for the working of these Exchanges, and appointing a commission for organising them. A meeting of the Federation of Trades Unions of Lisbon on March 17th decided to reject the Decree in question as failing to give satisfaction to the working classes, to send a deputation to the Minister of Industry and Commerce to point out the defects of the law, and to propose amendments, taking as a basis the Paris Labour Exchange.—Official Bulletin of Paris Bourse Du Travail.

UNITED STATES.

Col. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reports, under date of April 17th, that a labour dispute, which

threatened to result in a strike of widespread importance, occurred in March last. The whole of the switchmen employed by the various railroads centreing in Chicago, combined and claimed increased wages on account of the greater cost of living, longer hours of labour, and greater liability to accidents arising from increased weight of equipment on railroads, and on other grounds. The matter was discussed between a joint committee appointed by the railroads, and committees appointed by the switchmen, with the result (after two weeks of discussion) of a refusal on the part of the railroads to make any concession in the matter of wages, but some concessions were agreed upon regarding hours of labour, matters affecting discharge and employment of men, and no strike occurred. The dispute involved about 4,000 men, who were backed by the Switchmen's Mutual Aid Association, one of the strongest unions extending over the whole country. The feature in this dispute was that the railroads would not meet the men in committee independently, but only as a committee representing all the railroads, and should any particular road be boycotted or suffer loss by a strike, the loss was to be borne by all the railroads. A number of men

were held ready to take the place of the strikers.

A strike of World's Fair employés, belonging to the Building Trades' Union, to the number of about 4,000, including 1,800 carpenters and 1,000 painters, occurred on April 10th, and lasted twelve hours. This strike was the sequel of a strike of carpenters, to the number of about 200, who quitted work on April 6th, when the Carpenters' Council made a demand on the Exhibition authorities that only union men should be employed. The authorities declined the demand, stating that two years ago an agreement had been made with organized abour, which was to hold good till the end of the Exhibition. The unions at that time demanded, (a) a day of eight hours, (b) a minimum wage, (c) arbitration on points of difference, and (d) employment of Union labour only; and the administration conceded "a" and "c," but refused the other demands, on the ground that, if they discriminated between different workmen, they would be subverting the rights and prerogatives of United States citizens. 200 carpenters who struck secured work with other contractors.

The Building Trades' Council (who are in the habit every spring of making arrangements with the employers of labour as to the basis on which they intend to work for the ensuing year) claimed that the Exhibition authorities had failed to settle certain points in dispute, and prevented the agents of the Council from communicating with the men. The Exhibition authorities, on the other hand, accused the Unions of bad faith. The strike lasted twelve hours, the following concessions being made:—(1) a minimum rate of wages prescribed for the trade in which the workmen happened to be employed; (2) passes to be granted to the Union delegates; while the Exhibition authorities gained their contention that there was to be no discrimination between union and non-union labour.

(Col. Hayes Sadler also gives a summary of the recent decision of a Court at Toledo, Ohio, with regard to the action of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, an account of which must be deferred for the present.)

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES AND SOUTH AMERICA.

(Monthly Report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official reports, answers by correspondents, and newspapers.)

During the quarter ended March 31st last there were 2,217 written and 974 personal applications at the Emigrants' Information Office, as against 1,994 and 892 respectively, in the corresponding quarter of 1892. More inquiries were directed to Canada than to any other colony. Of the callers, about 25 per cent. classed themselves as mechanics, 23 per cent. as general

labourers, and 19 per cent. as clerks and shopmen. Very few belonged to any trade or benefit society.

May, 1893.

Canada.—There is a good demand in Canada at this season of the year for farm hands. The Ontario Bureau of Industries reports April 22nd:—"Farm hands in most places in Western Ontario are not of the best quality, and wages are considered high. In Eastern Ontario a similar story is heard regarding the exodus of first-class farm hands, and female servants on the farm are harder than ever to get." Government officials now travel in the trains going to places West of Lake Superior, in order to give advice and protection to emigrants en route. The strike among the Tailors at Winnipeg, in Manitoba, is not yet settled.

New South Wales.—The depression in the Building and kindred trades still continues at Sydney and in other towns of the colony. According to the report of the Government Labour Bureau for the year ending February 1893. 8,154 people were sent to work during the year mostly in country districts. In February 1893 there were still 7,625 names on the books, and the applications were acreasing daily, the numbers being swelled by skilled mechanics (chiefly in the building line), clerks, accountants, and shop-keepers. The attendance averaged 400 to 600 a day, and last winter 500 to 600 persons slept nightly in a building which had been hired by Government for that purpose. A strike has recently taken place at a boot factory at Sydney, and also at one or two collieries in the south of the colony, the latter in consequence of a reduction in wages. The Builders' and Contractors' Association have, owing to the bad state of trade, resolved to reduce wages 10 per cent., 3 months' notice being given. The Employers' Liability Act has been extended to seamen on vessels when moored, but not on those in motion. A provision in the Coal Mines Regulation Bill, making it penal for anyone to work underground in any mine for more than 7 hours and 40 minutes in the day, has passed the Assembly, but has not yet come before the Council.

Victoria.-Work has been very bad at Melbourne, and hundreds of persons are stated to be unemployed. Owing to the falling off in the receipts of the tramways in Melbourne, the wages of all the employés earning more than 35s. a week have been reduced by 5 per cent. Masons at Footscray have struck against a reduction of their wages from 10s. 8d. to 10s. a day, caused by stagnation in the Building Trade. Tenders have been received there from gangs of labourers to fill in quarry holes at from 3s. a day per man. Fifteen labourers at Werribee, who were earning an average wage of 45s. a week, have struck for an extra 6d. a day, and have been dismissed. Disputes in the Chinese Furniture Trade, in the Milling Trade, and as to payment of the water rate at the Irrigation Colony of Mildura, have been compromised. With the view of settling the land and giving work to the unemployed, the Tucker Village settlement was lately initiated at Wonwondah, near Horsham (203 miles W.N.W. of Melbourne). Several families have already settled there, and some of the land is being cleared and irrigated, but operations are hindered by want of money. The new Quantong Irrigation Colony (11 miles from Horsham) is an experiment in co-operative settlement which promises well. The price of the land is £11 an acre on the system of deferred payments, and the main industry is fruit growing. With a similar object the Government have resolved to ask leave to construct three or four country railways, but a Bill for the initiation of village settlements on Crown lands has been thrown

South Australia.—A large number of masons and bricklayers being out of work in Adelaide, it has been proposed, on behalf of the men, that, with the view of spreading the work, hours should be reduced from 48 to 44 a week at the existing rate of 1s. 3d. an hour; the majority of men seem to favour the proposal. A Board of Conciliation, composed of representatives of employers and employed in the Boot Trade, has been re-arranging rates of payment, in consequence of recent alterations in the conditions of manufacture. The demand for labour is very small, especially in the Building Trades, and has been affected by the depression in the Mining Industry and the low price of wheat and wool. The Government are pushing on as many public works as their limited funds allow. A dispute has arisen in the Bakers' Trade at Adelaide; it partly turns upon the question as to whether the hours of work should be 50 or 54 per week.

Queensland.—There is great scarcity of work in Brisbane, Ipswich, Townsville, and in the country generally. The Building Trade has perhaps suffered the most, but there is no demand for any kind of labour, except for domestic servants. A dispute has arisen in the Bootmaking Trade at Brisbane.

Western Australia.—The Building Trade is dull, but there are few persons in the colony who are unable to find work. The 50 Female Servants who arrived last March were all hired at once.

Tasmania.—Depression exists here as in the other colonies. On the Government railways a reduction of 6d. to 2s. a day has been made in wages of 5s. a day and over, and yearly salaries have been reduced about 10 per cent. Plenty of good labour is to be had for 5s. a day.

New Zealand.—The arrivals in the Colony continue to exceed the departures, and there is a fair demand in many parts for farm and station hands. The Government are about to establish State Farms in connection with the Labour Bureau. The Government have adopted a system of carrying out public contracts, under which the work is let to parties of men at a schedule of prices. This system does away with the middleman, and is said to work well. A workman writes from Auckland: "There is no particular need of more hands, but, if any are wanting to come here who are able and willing to work, they will be sure to improve their condition."

Cape Colony.—There has been a strike of carpenters at Cape Town. They demanded that their wages should be increased from 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. a day. The dispute has been settled by the employers granting an increase of 6d. Trade has been very slack at Kimberley. A commission on labour has been inquiring into the alleged scarcity of farm and other labour at the Cape, and as to the advisability of encouraging the introduction of European immigrants.

Natal.—Trade continues to be inactive.

Argentine Republic.—As it is expected that the result of measures taken by the United States to discourage European immigration may be to divert some of it to the Argentine Republic, it may be well to state that the opinion of those best qualified to judge remains adverse to Argentine as a suitable field for the emigration of British workmen. A correspondent of experience writes: "In my opinion, and I believe in that of all Englishmen who have lived, as I have, over 20 years in this country, every effort should be made to prevent British emigration. The British agriculturist never does well, and ends by becoming a burden upon the British residents in the country." One of the British Vice-Consuls writes: "Intending emigrants (English) would do well to choose some other country where English is spoken, and where life and preperty are safer. Men with a thorough knowledge of agriculture and some capital, say not less than £500, would do fairly well."

Brazil.—Considering the disastrous effects that have attended in the past the emigration of British workmen to Brazil, it may be well to note, by way of warning, that a Belgian paper reports that an office to organise European immigration into Brazil will shortly be opened, its headquarters being at Brussels.

LABOUR IN THE UNITED STATES.*

The Royal Commission on Labour has published a Report, by Mr. Drage, on the Labour Question in the United States. The report contains a full account both of Employers' Associations and of Labour Organizations such as the Knights of Labour. Details are given of recent strikes, such as the strike of iron workers at Messrs. Carnegie's works at Homestead, 1892, the railway strike at Buffalo, and the miners' strike in Idaho in the same year. Attention is drawn to the prevalence of picketing and blacklisting, and to the American law on the subject of conspiracy. Special mention is made of the rates of wages, the hours and other conditions of labour in the chief American Industries. The employment of women and children, the Education Laws and the Sweating System are considered. The report further deals with arbitration and conciliation, with co-operation and profit-sharing, with foreign and convict labour, with the municipal employment of labour and the eight hours' movement. Lastly, an account is given of the Labour Department at Washington and the Labour Bureaux in the different States.

^{*} Royal Commission on Labour (Foreign Reports). Vol. I.— United States. (C 6792.—x of 1892.—Price 6d.)

THE COLONIES AND THE INDIAN EMPIRE*

THE Royal Commission on Labour has also published a Report, by Mr. Drage, on the Labour Question in the Colonies, to which is added an appendix on the migration of labour and a report forwarded by the Indian Government, on the conditions of labour in the

textile industries of India.

The Report deals with the Colonies in four groups :-The North American Colonies, the Australasian Colonies, the South African Colonies, and the Crown Following the method adopted in the American Report, the relations between employers and employed, the rates of wages and other conditions of labour, are set out at length, and an account is given of recent strikes, including the great Australian Strike of 1890, together with the methods proposed and adopted for the promotion of industrial peace. The whole is, like the American Report, based partly on the personal experience of the writer, and partly on a collection of official and other publications on the subject.

The appendix on the migration of labour shows the methods by which the Indian Government controls and regulates the supply of coolie labour to certain of the Crown and of the self-governing Colonies. Reference is also made to the experience of the United States and South America, and the legislation, both of these countries and of the Colonies and India, is given.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED DURING APRIL 1893.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

I.—SIX TRADE SOCIETIES :-

- (a) Agricultural :-
 - 1. Herefordsh. Agricultural & General Workers' (Kingsland).
 - 2. Hertfordsh. & Beds. Land & Labour League (Potter's Bar)
- (b) Building Trades :-
 - 1. Stockton and District Builders' Labourers' Union.
- (c) Miscellaneous :-
 - 1. Amalgamated Bill Posters of Great Britain (Manchester). 2. United L.C.C. Employés Labour Union (South Hackney)

 - 3. Liverpool and District Packing Case and Boxmakers'

II .- TWELVE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES :-

- (a) Four Productive Societies :-
 - 1. Walsall Bridle Bit Society.
 - 2. St. Crispin (Leicester) Boot and Shoe Operatives'.
 - 3. Nottingham Cabinet-makers' Guild Productive Society. 4. Boot and Shoe Workers' Co-operative (Hackney).
- (b) Five Distributive Stores :-
 - 1. Whitfield (Northants) Co-operative Society (Brackley)
 - 2. Wrawby Industrial Co-operative Society (Brigg).
 - 3. Briton Ferry Industrial Co-operative Society. 4. Scarborough and District Industrial Society.
 - 5. Winchester and District Provident Society.
- (c) Miscellaneous :-
 - 1. Grange Club and Institute Society.
 - 2. City and Suburban Mutual Loan (London, E.C.).
 - 3. Lancaster Freehold Land Society (Leicester).

III. - FRIENDLY SOCIETIES :-

- 1. Fourteen New Societies :-
 - (a) Ordinary Friendly Societies ... (b) Working Men's Clubs (c) Specially authorised Societies...
- (d) Dividing Societies
- 2. Forty New Branches of Existing Societie; :-(a) I.O. Rechabites (b) Sons of Phœnix ...
 - (c) L.O. Ancient Shepherds (d) Various others ... 16

Final Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the subject of Mining Royalties, with Appendices,

7893. [C.—6980.] Price 1s. 9d. The Royal Commission appointed in 1889 has issued its final report, in which the evidence given before it is summarised, mining statistics are given, the mining systems of India, the Colonies and Foreign Countries are described, and conclusions and suggestions are formulated. The report deals with the effect of Royalties on the miner and the effect of a reduction or abolition of Royalties on wages.

* Royal Commission on Labour (Foreign Reports). The Colonies and the Indian Empire. (Price 2s.)

EMIGRATION IN APRIL.

RETURN of the NUMBERS, NATIONALITIES, and DESTINATIONS of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of EUROPE during the Month ended April 30th 1893, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

N. d Nales	United	British North	Austral-	Cape of Good Hope	All	Total.		
Nationalities.	States.	Amer- ica.		and Natal.	Places.	1893	1892	
			Month 6	ended Ap	ril 30th.			
English	10,792	3,232	523	962	487	15,996	12,693	
Scotch	2,038	263	71	70	91	2,533	2,666	
Irish	10,346	225	55	8	13	10,647	12,349	
Total of British	23,176	3,720	649	1,040	591	29,176	27,708	
origin Foreigners	9,756	4,849	4	231	117	14,957	15,743	
Nationality not dis- tinguished					208	208	298	
Total, April 1893	32,932	8,569	653	1,271	916	44,341		
Total, April 1892	34,885	5,890	968	1,004	1,002		43,749	

IMMIGRATION IN APRIL.

RETURN of the Number of Aliens that arrived from the Continent at Ports* in the United Kingdom during the Month ended April 30th 1893, compared with the corresponding Period of the previous Year.

(Compiled from the ALIEN LISTS received by the Customs, under Act 6 Will. IV.,

and a state of	Gothen-	Ham-	Christi- ania, Aren	Other Con-	To	otal.
	burg.	burg.	dal, and Christi- ansand	Ports.	1893.	1892.
		M	onth end	ed April	30th.	
Aliens not stated to be en						
route to America: Arrived at London	96	586	20	605	1,307	853
Caimahu	17	138	20	110	265	139
Hull	15	34	80	166	205	293
Tyne Ports		31				
(Newcastle, North and	35	9	275	245	564	410
South Shields)						
Leith		44		57	101	184
", Other ports	27	62	127	362	578	602
Total	190	873	502	11,545	‡3,110	12,481
Aliens en route to America:						
Lived at Grimsby	2,003	300		1,688	3,991	2,298
., Hartlepool, \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \		7			7	761
LIvill	2,586	76	1,328	4,792	8,782	10.403
", Leith	2,500		12	473	485	1.171
,, Other ports				357	357	31
Total	4,589	383	1,340	7,310	13,622	14,664
Total of aliens en route and of aliens not stated to be en route to America.						
April 1893	4,779 5,113	1,256 4,371	1,842	†8,855 6,009	‡16,732	:17,14

^{*} The ports from which alien lists are received are Aberdeen, Belfast, Bristol, Dover, Dublin, Folkestone, Glasgow, Goole, Grangemouth, Granton, Greenock, Grimsby, Harwich, Hull, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Liverpool, London, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields, Southampton, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool. The lists received from Dover, Folkestone, Harwich, and Southampton, show only deck passengers and persons who, after landing, proceed by train as third-class passengers.

+ In addition, 846 aliens, who after landing proceeded by train as third-class passengers, were reported to have arrived at Newhaven in April 1893. Returns were not received from Newhaven in April 1892.

† The number of sailors included with the aliens who arrived at ports in the United Kingdom not en route to America in the month of April 1893 was 831, and 907 in the same month of 1892.

STATISTICAL TABLES RELATING TO EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION FROM AND IN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1892 [P.P. 138]. Price 51d. Emigration Statistics of Ireland for 1892. [C.-6977.] Price 2d.

From these tables it appears that the actual excess of emigrants from these tables it appears that the actual excess of enigrants from the United Kingdom over immigrants to it was 177,650 in 1892; the figures for 1891 and 1890 being 183,174 and 160,070 respectively. The maximum figures, within which must fall the number of foreigners coming here for permanent settlement, is found to be 22,137, as against 28,270 for 1891. The number of emigrants who left Irish ports in 1892 was 51,000, a decrease of 8,868 as compared with 1891. Of these emigrants, 46,550 went to the United States, 1,216 to Australia, and 989 to Canada.

Printed and Published for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Veale, Chieferiel & Co. Ltd., 31 to 37 Cursitor-street, London, E.C.-May, 1893.