

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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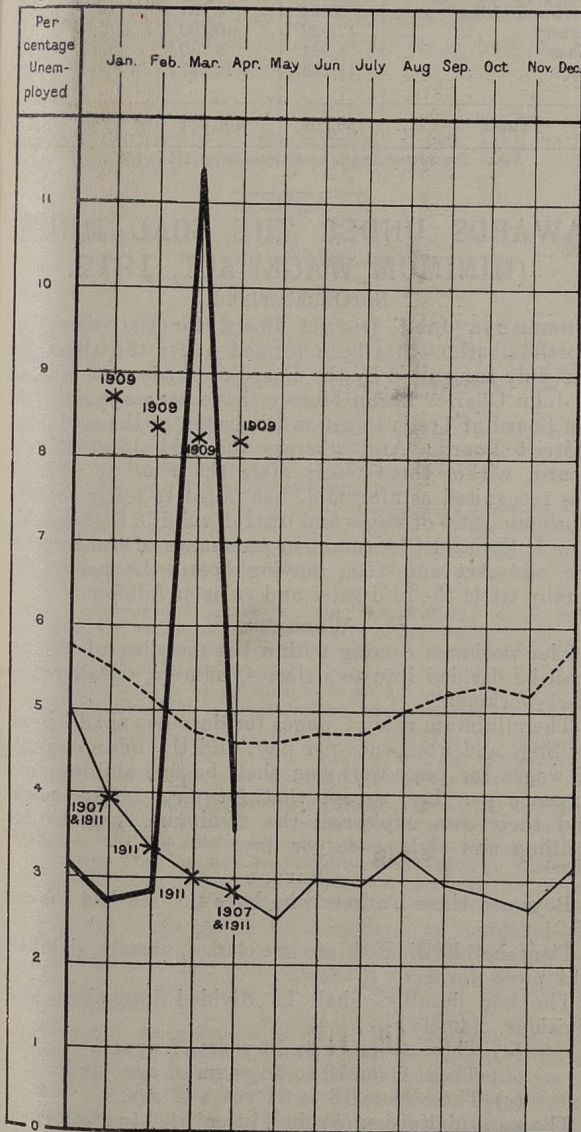
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— *Thick Curve*—1912. — *Thin Curve*—1911.
----- *Dotted Curve*—Mean of 1902-1911.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1902-1911.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT showed a satisfactory recovery in April from the effects of the recent coal dispute, and at the end of the month had nearly returned to the good conditions obtaining in February.

The precise course of employment after the end of the coal strike is obscured by Easter falling at the end of the first week in April. In a few cases the holidays were curtailed, in order that the earliest opportunity of resuming full work might not be missed; but in most cases they were considerably extended. The general result, in the trades for which particulars were obtained by the Labour Department, was that the decline in employment was continued and accentuated during the first two weeks of April; the lowest level was reached in the week ending April 13th. In the following week there was a pronounced improvement, and in the week ending April 27th employment may be regarded as having recovered from the effects of the dispute in most industries.

Of the trades noted in the April LABOUR GAZETTE as having been most severely affected, the pig-iron industry began to improve in the second week in April, but the improvement was very gradual until the fourth week, by the end of which the number of furnaces in blast had risen to within 25 per cent. of the number at the end of February; tinsplate and steel sheet mills were about a week earlier in resuming something like normal operations. The iron and steel trade was most severely affected in the first week of April, but from the end of the second week it showed a very rapid improvement. The pottery trade began to improve in the second week, and the brick trade in the third week of April; employment in the glass-bottle trade, on the other hand, remained very depressed until the fourth week, when it was still a good deal worse than at the end of February.

Compared with a year ago, there was an improvement in most of the principal industries, particularly in the iron and steel, cotton, lace, hosiery, and boot and shoe trades. On the other hand, the pig-iron industry was considerably worse than a year ago, and there was also a decline in the glass and brick trades, these industries being still affected by the recent coal dispute.

In the 394 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 833,019, making returns, 30,222 (or 3.6 per cent.) were returned as unemployed at the end of April, 1912, compared with 11.3 per cent. at the end of March, 1912, and 2.8 per cent. at the end of April, 1911.

Returns from firms employing 430,209 workpeople in the week ended April 27th, 1912, showed an increase of 11.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago, and of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages taking effect in April affected 273,000 workpeople, and resulted in a net increase of £2,700 per

week. Amongst those whose wages were increased were 190,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 11,500 ironstone miners and limestone quarriers in Cleveland and Durham, 6,900 blast furnacemen in Cleveland, Durham, and Cumberland, 3,400 ironworkers in the North of England, 8,750 iron and steelworkers in West Scotland, 8,500 light castings moulders, etc., in England, and 5,000 ironmoulders in Scotland. The principal decreases affected 21,400 coal miners, etc., in Cumberland, Somerset, Bristol, and the Forest of Dean, and 6,250 blast furnacemen and iron and steelworkers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Trade Disputes.—The national coal mining dispute continued into the early part of April, the other important disputes in progress during some part of the month affecting 24,000 jute spinners, weavers, &c., at Dundee, 1,200 iron and steel moulders at Sheffield, 1,100 engineers at Birkenhead, 1,000 pottery workers at Stoke-on-Trent, and 500 cabinet-makers, &c., at Nottingham. Forty-one disputes began during April, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes, new and old, was 1,045,499, as compared with 1,040,542 in March, 1912, and 40,290 in April, 1911. The time lost during the month by these workpeople amounted to 7,087,300 working days, as compared with 24,579,500 in March, 1912, and 512,400 in April, 1911.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Cases dealt with during the month include carters, Manchester; coal porters, London; glove makers, Dumfries; painters, Blackburn; building trade operatives, Cheltenham; carpenters and joiners, plumbers and painters, North Staffordshire, and joiners, Loughborough; boot and shoe operatives, Kettering; and boot and shoe operatives engaged on Government contract work in Northamptonshire. In connection with the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, awards were issued for Northumberland, North Staffordshire, and Leicestershire. Mr. Stanley O. Buckmaster, K.C., M.P., was also appointed umpire in connection with the Boot and Shoe Trades National Agreement.

EMPLOYMENT RETURNS FOR APRIL.

(This Summary is based on 2,992 Returns from Employers, relating to 1,200,433 workpeople, and 3,063 from Trade Unions, relating to 833,019 members.)

I.—TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade.	Membership of Unions reporting.	Percentage Unemployed at end of April, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Percentage Unemployed as compared with a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Building ...	65,286	4.9	- 1.3	- 0.2
Coal Mining* ...	153,015	2.5	- 46.0	+ 1.6
Iron and Steel ...	22,041	12.2	- 70.0	+ 8.4
Engineering ...	193,125	4.3	- 4.7	+ 1.1
Shipbuilding ...	68,879	3.8	- 0.6	+ 0.3
Miscellaneous Metal... Textiles* :-	28,419	2.2	- 6.4	+ 0.5
Cotton ...	79,604	2.2	- 2.3	- 0.3
Woolen and Worsted ...	7,295	1.3	- 11.5	+ 0.7
Other ...	45,604	0.9	- 14.9	- 1.2
Paper, Printing and Bookbinding.	65,127	6.1	- 0.5	+ 1.3
Furnishing and Wood-working.	41,381	3.0	- 2.0	+ 0.7
Clothing ...	49,373	2.6	- 0.8	- 1.0
Leather ...	3,082	5.0	- 2.7	- 0.7
Glass ...	954	0.5	- 7.9	- 0.4
Pottery ...	7,811	1.3	- 97.4	- 0.7
Tobacco ...	2,023	5.0	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Total... ..	833,019	3.6	- 7.7	+ 0.8

* In addition to the ordinary short time which occurs in all trades, it should be noted that in the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is more generally met by a reduction in the time worked per week by a large number of workpeople than by the discharge of a smaller number.

II.—EMPLOYERS' RETURNS.

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for Apr., 1912.	April, 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Days worked per week by Miners.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Coal Mining ...	612,989	5.52	On strike Mar. 1912	+ 0.52	
Iron	13,653	4.11		+ 1.10	- 1.75
Shale	3,409	5.71		- 0.04	- 0.08
		No. of Furnaces in Blast.	No.	No.	
Pig Iron ...	17,300	209		+ 171	- 92
		Mills Working.			
Tinplate & Steel Sheet	26,700	534		+ 458	+ 4
		Shifts Worked (One Week).	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Iron and Steel ...	96,173	541,000		+ 148.2	+ 5.9
		Earnings in one Week.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Cotton ...	125,354	128,302	+ 3.2	+ 3.8	
Woolen ...	26,854	25,824	+ 10.8	+ 3.2	
Worsted ...	40,745	31,709	+ 14.0	+ 0.0	
Linen ...	46,839	28,934	+ 1.6	+ 1.5	
Jute ...	8,459	6,223	+ 2.8	+ 2.8	
Hosiery ...	16,899	13,494	+ 2.3	+ 4.4	
Lace ...	6,293	6,232	- 1.0	+ 9.2	
Other Textiles ...	16,887	12,903	+ 5.8	- 0.1	
Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing & Finishing	32,083	39,872	+ 30.7	+ 7.8	
Boot and Shoe ...	66,493	67,207	+ 3.4	+ 9.9	
Shirt and Collar ...	6,222	4,154	+ 0.1	+ 5.9	
Pottery ...	17,522	16,700	+ 213.9	+ 1.2	
Glass ...	8,324	8,780	+ 33.6	- 13.9	
Brick ...	11,235	12,217	+ 47.6	- 13.2	
Total ...	430,209	400,551	+ 11.5	+ 3.4	

Note.—For further details see Articles on pp. 181 to 194.

AWARDS UNDER THE COAL MINES (MINIMUM WAGE) ACT, 1912.

Northumberland.

WHEREAS a Joint District Board for the district of Northumberland has been formed under the above Act and duly recognised by the Board of Trade, and whereas I, John Charles Baron Mersey, have been appointed by the Board of Trade to act as Chairman of the said Joint District Board: And whereas the said Joint District Board, within three weeks after the time at which it was recognised as aforesaid, has failed to settle the first minimum rates of wages and district rules in that district, now I, the said Chairman, in pursuance of the terms of the said Act and after having heard the parties, do hereby settle the said rates and rules as follows:—

WORKMEN.

The workmen coming within the meaning of the Act shall be divided into two classes, namely, datallers and piece-workmen.

The minimum rate of wages for datallers shall be four shillings and ninepence per day, and the minimum rate of wages for piece-workmen shall be five shillings and sixpence per day, except that for piece-workmen who find their own explosives the minimum shall be five shillings and eightpence per day.

BOYS.

Boys are those workers who have not reached the age of 21 years.

They shall be divided into two classes, namely, datallers and piece-workmen.

The boy datallers shall be divided into three subdivisions, namely:—

- Those from 14 to 16 years of age;
- Those from 16 to 18 years of age; and
- Those from 18 to 21 years of age.

Those in subdivision (a) shall be entitled to a minimum wage of two shillings per day; those in subdivision (b) shall be entitled to a minimum wage of two shillings and ninepence per day; and those in subdivision (c) shall be entitled to a minimum wage of three shillings and sixpence per day.

The boy piece-workers (putters) shall stand together, irrespective of age, and they shall be entitled to a minimum wage of four shillings per day.

DEPUTIES.

Deputies shall be regarded as within the Act, and shall be entitled to a minimum wage of five shillings and sixpence per day.

UNDERGROUND ENGINEMEN.

Underground engine-men shall be classed with piece-workmen, and shall be entitled to a minimum wage of five shillings and sixpence per day. Where the work is being done by a person under 21 years of age, that person shall be entitled to a minimum wage of four shillings per day.

MARRIED MEN.

The benefits at present allowed to married men in respect either of house accommodation or rent, and in respect of coal, shall continue as heretofore, and shall not affect the minimum rate of wages fixed as aforesaid. For the purpose of this clause, the expression "married men" shall include married persons who may be under 21.

SMALL COLLIERIES.

A small colliery is a colliery in which not more than 30 persons are employed underground. Special minimum wages shall be applicable to the men working in these mines, namely, four shillings per day for datallers, and five shillings per day for piece-workers.

No distinction shall otherwise be made between the small and the large collieries.

RULES.

The rules set out in the schedule hereto shall be the district rules applicable to Northumberland.

SCHEDULE.

JOINT DISTRICT BOARD FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

DISTRICT RULES.

- In these rules the word "workman" means any person to whom the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, applies; the word "hewer" includes filler, the word "pay" means the period in respect of which a workman's wages are payable, and the word "day" means a colliery working day.
- A piece workman who has reached the age of 57, and a dataller who has reached the age of 63, shall be regarded as aged workmen within the meaning of the Act, and shall be excluded from the right to wages at the minimum rate.
- A workman who from physical causes is unable to do the work ordinarily done by a man in his position in the mine shall be regarded as an infirm workman within the meaning of the Act, and shall be excluded from the right to wages at the minimum rate.
- A workman shall during working hours attend to his work with diligence and shall do his work in a workmanlike manner; in default (except in cases where such default is due to some cause over which he has no control, and of which he shall have given notice as soon as practicable to an official of the mine) he shall forfeit his right to wages at the minimum rate.
- A workman shall forfeit his right to wages at the minimum rate during any pay in which he has on any day been absent from work without leave or without reasonable excuse.
- A workman shall forfeit his right to wages at the minimum rate on any day on which he refuses or neglects to work in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the proper official, or to do any work he may be properly called upon to perform, or delays in going to his working place or work at the proper time, or leaves his working place or work before the proper time.
- Where it is the custom for a workman to provide proper and sufficient tools for his work, he shall forfeit his right to wages at the minimum rate on any day on which he fails to provide and use such tools and the efficiency of his work is thereby diminished.
- Where in accordance with custom the employer provides tools for the work, a workman shall forfeit his right to wages at the minimum rate on any day on which he fails to make use of such tools and the efficiency of his work is thereby diminished.
- If, by reason of any circumstances over which the employer has no control, a workman shall not on any day be required in the mine for a full shift, but only a proportion of such shift, he shall be entitled on such day to a corresponding proportion of the minimum rate and to no more.
- In the event of the total earnings of a workman during any pay being in excess of the aggregate amount of the minimum rates of wages for all the days worked by him during such pay,

he shall not be entitled to the minimum rate of wages of his class for any day during such pay.

11. Any workman who has not previously done hewing work shall be deemed to be inefficient as a hewer, and accordingly shall be excluded from the right to the minimum rate as a hewer until he has been employed as a hewer for three months. Any person who has previously been a hewer, but who has not been employed at hewing or at corresponding pick-work within six months, shall be deemed to be inefficient as a hewer and accordingly shall be excluded from the right to the minimum rate as a hewer for one month after recommencing to hew. Any person excluded under this rule shall continue entitled to any minimum rate to which he was entitled immediately before he was employed or re-employed as a hewer until he becomes entitled to the minimum rate applicable to hewers.

12. In cases where workmen are working in sets at one place and pooling their earnings, no member of such set shall be entitled to be made up to the minimum rate if the average earnings per day of the set over the whole pay shall amount to the minimum rate.

13. Should any question arise as to whether any particular workman employed underground is a workman to whom the minimum rate is to apply, or whether a workman has failed to comply with any of the conditions contained in these rules, or whether by non-compliance with any of these rules such workman has forfeited his right to the minimum rate, such question shall be decided in the following manner:—

- By agreement between the workman concerned and the official in charge of the mine.
- Failing agreement by the above, by two officials of the colliery representing the employer on the one side and by two members of the local lodge of the Workmen's Association on the other, or, in the event of the workman not being a member of an association, by the two representatives of the employer as above, and by two of the persons employed on the colliery and appointed by the persons employed underground.
- Still failing agreement, the question to be decided by an umpire to be selected from a panel to be nominated by the district board.
- If the parties are unable to agree as to the selection of an umpire from the panel, the selection shall be made from the panel by lot without delay.

14. A certificate in writing of any decision by any person or persons under the last preceding rule shall be given by such person or persons to both or either of the parties when requested, and such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the decision.

15. A certificate in writing other than a certificate under Rule 14 that any workman is excluded under these rules from the right to wages at any minimum rate settled under the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, shall be given to the employer or workman requesting the same and shall be conclusive. Such certificate shall, where there is no disagreement, be signed by the workman affected and the manager of the mine; but where there is any disagreement or refusal to sign such certificate, then it shall be given in the manner provided by these rules.

MERSEY.

North Staffordshire.

A.—The Joint District Board for the above District has recognised the following classes of workmen as being those to whom the Act applies in the said District:—

- Class 1. Colliers employing other Colliers to work under them, and hereinafter called Contracting Colliers.
2. Colliers other than Contracting Colliers.
3. Loaders.
4. Crutters.
5. Assistant Crutters.
6. Datallers and Timberers.
7. Datallers' Assistants.
8. Packers working under supervision.
9. Coal Cutters' Attendants.
10. Assistants to Coal Cutters' Attendants.
11. Onsetters.
12. Motormen and Enginemen.
13. Roadmen.
14. Boys aged 14 to 21, and until transferred into one of the Classes Numbered 1 to 13.

The said Board has resolved that the Act does not apply to the following Classes of persons:—

- Overmen,
- Firemen,
- Examiners,
- Shot Lighters,
- Horsekeepers, and
- Others having Statutory duties under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1911.

B.—The said Board has fixed the Minimum Wage in the said District for workmen included in Class 14 at the following rates:—

Age.		Basis rate per day.		Minimum wage per day.	
Years.	Months.	s.	d.	s.	d.
14	0	1	4	2	0
15	0	1	5	2	1½
15	4	1	6	2	3
15	8	1	7	2	4½
16	0	1	8	2	6
16	4	1	9	2	7½
16	8	1	10	2	9
17	0	1	11	2	10½
17	4	2	0	3	0
17	8	2	1	3	1½
18	0	2	2	3	3
18	4	2	3	3	4½
18	8	2	4	3	6
19	0	2	5	3	7½
19	4	2	6	3	9
19	8	2	7	3	10½
20	0	2	8	4	0
20	4	2	9	4	3
20	8	2	10	4	6
21 and until transferred to one of the Classes numbered 1 to 13.		3	0	4	6

Boys starting over 14 may be commenced at the 2s. rate, and after one year's service they shall, if competent, be paid at the Minimum Rate applying to their actual age.

Service at any Colliery to be reckoned in.

The above rates shall not in any case involve the reduction of the present wages rate of any boy now employed.

Contract wages to rise and fall with Conciliation Board decisions.

C.—The said Board has settled General District Rules for their District, and a copy of such rules is appended hereto.

D.—The said Board, having within three weeks after the time at which it was recognised under the above Act for the said District, failed to settle the first Minimum Rates of wages except as hereinbefore contained, the Chairman of the Joint District Board has settled the rates as follows:—

1. GENERAL MINIMUM RATES of wages to apply to All Coal Mines in the District and to All the Workmen employed therein, other than those Mines to which, and workmen to whom, special Minimum Rates are applied as hereinafter provided:—

	Minimum wage per day.
Class 1. Contracting Colliers	7s. 0d.
„ 2. Colliers other than Contracting Colliers	6s. 6d.
„ 3. Loaders	6s. 0d.
„ 4. Crutters	6s. 6d.
„ 5. Assistant Crutters	5s. 9d.
„ 6. Datallers and Timberers	5s. 6d.
„ 7. Datallers' Assistants	5s. 0d.
„ 8. Packers working under supervision	5s. 0d.
„ 9. Coal Cutters, Attendants	5s. 9d.
„ 10. Assistants to Coal Cutters' Attendants	5s. 0d.
„ 11. Onsetters	5s. 6d.
„ 12. Motormen and Enginemmen	5s. 0d.
„ 13. Roadmen	5s. 0d.

2. The following SPECIAL MINIMUM RATES shall apply to all Collieries in the Cheadle District:—

	Minimum wage per day.
Class 2. Colliers other than Contracting Colliers	6s. 0d.
„ 3. Loaders	5s. 6d.
„ 6. Datallers and Timberers	5s. 3d.
„ 7. Datallers' Assistants	4s. 6d.
„ 9. Coal Cutters' Attendants	5s. 6d.
„ 10. Assistants to Coal Cutters' Attendants	4s. 6d.
„ 11. Onsetters	4s. 6d.
„ 12. Motormen and Enginemmen	4s. 6d.
„ 13. Roadmen	5s. 0d.

3. The following SPECIAL MINIMUM RATES shall apply to all mines, that is to say, Seams, of Stratified Ironstone within the District, and to all Workmen employed in the said Seams.

	Minimum wage per day.
Class 2. Colliers other than Contracting Colliers	6s. 3d.
„ 3. Loaders	5s. 9d.

4. The following SPECIAL MINIMUM RATE shall apply to the West District, that is to say, the District to the West of the Blue line drawn on the Ordnance Map hereto annexed:—

	Minimum wage per day.
Class 3. Loaders	5s. 6d.

In all cases the above Minimum Rates for Colliers are nett rates, that is to say, free from all deductions for explosives or sharpening tools.

The above Rates for Classes 1 to 13 shall not be applicable to boys under the age of 21 working in the said classes or any of them.

SETTLED BY THE BOARD.

1. For the purposes of sub-section 2 of section 1 of the Act there shall be local Joint Committees, consisting of two representatives of the employers and two representatives of the workmen (selected from time to time as occasion may arise from the Joint District Board by the President and Vice-President), who, in case they disagree, shall call in a Chairman, whose decision shall be final. Such Chairman shall be selected by the local Joint Committee from a panel of persons chosen by the Joint District Board, and may, if he thinks fit, submit any question of construction or application of the rules to the Chairman of the Joint District Board, whose decision thereon shall be final.

2. No question shall be submitted to the local Joint Committees unless the workman and an authorised official of the mine have discussed and have endeavoured to settle the point in dispute, and in the event of their having failed to agree, the Manager of the mine and the District Miners' Agent (or other person nominated by the workman and approved by the employer) have also discussed and endeavoured to agree thereon.

Where an agreement is come to a certificate to that effect shall forthwith be signed by the workman and authorised official or the manager and the District Miners' Agent, as the case may be.

3. The expenses and charges of the Chairman of such local Joint Committees shall be paid by the Joint District Board and apportioned in the same manner as the expenses of the Joint District Board.

4. A local Joint Committee shall, when reference is made to it, decide (a) whether a workman is one to whom the minimum rate is applicable, (b) whether the workman has complied with the conditions laid down by the rules, and (c) whether he has or has not forfeited his right to wages at the minimum rate.

5. Each local Joint Committee, or, if it fails to agree, its Chairman, shall give a certificate of every decision. Any decision of a local Joint Committee may be varied by that Committee on the application of either party after the expiration of three months from the date of the certificate. A certificate of forfeiture of the minimum wage rate under this Act, if signed by an authorised official of the colliery and the workman, or alternatively by the Manager and the District Miners' Agent, shall be valid, and shall be substituted for a reference to the local Joint Committee.

6. An aged or infirm workman or one partially disabled by illness or accident shall be excluded from the right to wages at the minimum rate.

7. A workman who fails in any week to duly attend 80 per cent. of his available working days shall forfeit for that week the right to wages at the minimum rate (unless his attendance is prevented by illness or accident), and be paid at his existing contract rate.

If any workman voluntarily ceases work, or leaves his working place before the proper time at the end of his shift, the proportion of the payment for the time so lost shall be deducted from the amount of his minimum wage for that shift.

8. If a workman working at contract rates, in consequence of his own disregard of instructions, breach of colliery rules, or other wilful act or default, is prevented from earning an amount equal to his minimum wage, he shall forfeit the right to the minimum wage until any defect arising from such act or default has been remedied.

9. (a) If a workman, when he presents himself for work at the pit bottom or at a station within 300 yards therefrom, is informed that something has happened in or about the mine to prevent his working, he shall return to the surface (reasonable facilities being given), and not be entitled to claim any wage in respect of that shift.

Provided that if the emergency was known or might reasonably have been known to the management at the surface before the workman descended, and the workman was not informed thereof before descending the pit, this rule shall not apply.

(b) If a workman has travelled to his working place and finds that there is no work for him, he shall be entitled to the minimum wage for the proportion of the shift, unless he is offered other work and refuses it.

(c) In the event of any interruption of work due to an emergency, as, for example, shortness of tubs, the workman shall only be entitled to the proportion of the minimum wage up to the time at which he was informed of such emergency, but in such case he shall be entitled to leave his working place.

(d) If from any cause, e.g., shortness of waggons on the surface, it should become necessary to "knock off" the whole or a portion of the mine at an earlier hour than that at which the shift would ordinarily terminate, a workman shall only be entitled to a like proportion of the minimum wage, as the case may be, for that shift.

10. Where a contractor or a pieceworker does not perform the amount of work which calculated at the agreed rates would amount to the minimum wage he shall not receive the minimum unless the deficiency is due to any cause for which he is not responsible, as, for example, faults, bad roof, falls, water or other unusual conditions.

11. A period of not less than two weeks shall be taken for the purpose of ascertaining the earnings of a contractor or a pieceworker.

12. In the case of a pieceworker or a contractor employing other workmen, the owners shall only be responsible for the payment of the amount of wages at the minimum rates to the contractors and workmen employed by them, but this is without prejudice to the right of the workman to be paid by the contractor the agreed rates.

13. In any case where causes of a temporary nature (as, for example, holding up new drifts, or driving of cruts or tunnels) reduce the amount payable to a contractor to a sum below the minimum rate, any sums paid to bring the earnings up to the minimum shall be treated as advances or payments on account, to be deducted from subsequent earnings when such earnings are in excess of the minimum. Provided always that such deductions shall not exceed the amount of the advances made and shall not during any week reduce the daily wage below the minimum rate.

This rule shall not be held to cover any exceptional conditions, such as faults or defects of a similar nature.

14. Overmen, firemen, examiners, shot lighters, horsekeepers, and others having statutory duties under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1911, are not workmen to whom this Act applies.

J. K. BRADBURY.

Leicestershire.

GENERAL MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES, AND GENERAL DISTRICT RULES, AS SETTLED 13TH MAY, 1912.

Whereas a Joint District Board for the above-named District has been constituted for the purposes of the above Act, and duly recognised by the Board of Trade; And whereas I, Arthur O'Connor, K.C., have been appointed by the Board of Trade to act as Chairman of the said Joint District Board; and

Whereas the Joint District Board failed within three weeks from the time when it was so recognised by the Board of Trade to settle the Minimum Rates of Wages and the District Rules for the said District, but I, as Chairman of the said Board, under the powers given to me by the said Act, have directed that a specified longer period than three weeks, to wit, till the 25th May instant, be substituted for three weeks, and the said longer period has not yet expired:—

Now I, as such Chairman, having heard the parties, and having given, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, a casting vote where required by reason of difference between the two classes of members, do hereby Record, Award and Settle the said Minimum Rates and District Rules as follows, viz.:—

DISTRICT RULES.

[See Papers attached: Rules "1 (Aged Workman)" to "12 (Matters in Dispute)."]

GENERAL MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

	s.	d.
1. (a) Stallmen, working in the Stalls on Contract Rates	6	2
(b) Holers and Loaders on Contract Rates in Stalls worked by the day when requested by the Management; and Men brought out of the Stalls to do work on the Roads.	5	0
(a) Stallmen	7	2
(b) Holers and Loaders	5	8
3. Abnormal Stalls.		
(a) Stallmen	7	0
(b) Holers and Loaders	5	6
4. Chargemen Shifters	6	9
5. Shovelmen Shifters, being over 21 years of age	4	10

* Subject to variation under the Conciliation Board Agreement.

6. Onsetters, in charge of signals, and being over 21 years of age	5	0	a day.*
7. Corporals and General Roadmen, being over 21 years of age	4	10	a day.*
8. Boys of 13 years of age	1	7	a day.*
„ 14	2	0	a day.*
„ 15	2	5	a day.*
„ 16	2	10	a day.*
„ 17	3	2	a day.*
„ 18	3	7	a day.*
„ 19	4	0	a day.*
„ 20	4	5	a day.*
„ 21	4	10	a day.*

The following classes of employees are excluded from the definition of workmen, viz.:—

- Deputies,
- Examiners,
- Shot-firers,
- Horse-keepers.

By "Leicestershire" is to be understood that portion of the Coalfield of the County of Leicester which lies exclusively to the East of a line drawn from Ticknall on the north, through Ashby-de-la-Zouch to Swepstone on the South.

The above Rules and Rates of Wages will therefore not be applicable to that portion of the County of Leicester lying to the West of that line, as belonging, in the opinion of this Joint District Board, more properly to the South Derbyshire District.

ARTHUR O'CONNOR, K.C.,
Chairman.

DISTRICT RULES.

Made under the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Act.

1. Workmen who have attained the age of sixty-five years and upwards shall be excluded from the right to wages at the minimum rate.

2. Any workman, who it shall be agreed between the Manager of the pit and Miners' Agent as coming under either of these headings, shall be excluded from the right to wages at the minimum rate.

3. No workman shall be entitled to wages at the minimum rate of his class unless he performs with regularity and efficiency the work which he has to perform.

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 3, all workmen shall attend each day on which coal is turned, unless prevented by illness or accident (verified by a Doctor's certificate in cases of repeated absence), or other justifiable cause, or unless permission to be absent shall be granted, such permission not to be unreasonably withheld.

5. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 3, if a workman in a normal place fails to perform such an amount of work or to send out such a quantity of coal as calculated at the tonnage and other rates paid in the District of the pit shall amount to the minimum wage, he shall not be considered an efficient workman except in cases where he proves that his failure is due to some cause over which he has no control, in which event the amount payable to him shall be settled weekly.

A claim by any workman shall not be held to be valid unless made to the Manager within seven days of the pay day of the week in respect of which the claim is made.

6. If a workman when he presents himself for work at the pit bottom or at the first inspection station is informed that something has happened due to an emergency in or about the mine to prevent his working, he shall return and not be entitled to claim any wage in respect of that shift.

N.B.—When possible, notice to be given to the men at the pit top.

7. If a workman who is working at the minimum wage during any part of the shift from any emergency in his working place cannot continue his work, he shall only be entitled to that proportion of the minimum wage which the time during which he was at work bears to the total period of the full time of the shift.

8. In the case of any accident or breakdown of which the workman is informed, and which would prevent the further output of coal in that shift, the man working at the minimum wage shall only be entitled to that proportion of the minimum wage which the time during which he was at work bears to the total period of the full time of the shift.

9. If from any cause or emergency on the surface, it becomes necessary to "knock off" at an earlier hour than that at which the shift would ordinarily terminate, e.g., one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarters of the shift, a workman working at the minimum wage shall only be entitled to one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarters of the minimum wage, as the case may be, for that shift. Men working in abnormal places shall be notified,

* Subject to variation under the Conciliation Board Agreement.

in case of the pit working short time, whether they are to work pit time or otherwise.

10. Stock shifts will not be recognised for payment of the minimum wage, except in the case of men working by order of the Management.

11. Men working at night in the stalls shall be entitled to make the same time as men working on the day shift.

12. Should any question arise as to whether any workman in the District is a workman to whom the minimum rate of wages is applicable, or whether a workman has complied with the conditions laid down by these Rules, or whether a workman who has not complied with the conditions laid down by these Rules has forfeited his right to wages at the minimum rate, the following procedure shall be adopted, viz. :—

(a) An endeavour shall be made by the workman and the Colliery officials to settle the difference.

(b) Failing such settlement, the matter in dispute shall be submitted to the Manager of the pit and the Agent of the Miners' Association of the District.

(c) Failing a settlement by them, it shall be referred to a Joint Committee, consisting of five representatives of the Employers and five representatives of the Workmen, including their respective Secretaries, four on each side to form a quorum. Either side, in case they disagree, shall have power to call in an outside Chairman, whose decision shall be final. Each party to pay their own expenses, unless the outside Chairman otherwise determines.

(d) The outside Chairman to be selected from a panel of persons acceptable to both sides.

(e) Whenever a decision is arrived at by either of the above methods, a certificate embodying the said decision shall be given and sealed at a Meeting of the Joint Committee.

COAL TRADE DISPUTE.

In connection with the Joint District Boards under the Coal Mines (Minimum Wage) Act, 1912, the following chairmen have now been appointed in addition to those given on p. 127 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for April:—

By the Parties Concerned.

Forest of Dean: Mr. Russel J. Kerr, J.P.
Bristol: Mr. Alderman George Pearson.

By the Board of Trade.

West Yorkshire: His Honour Judge Amphlett.
Leicestershire: His Honour Judge O'Connor, K.C.
South Stafford (exclusive of Cannock Chase) and East Worcestershire: Sir Walter Lawrence, Bart., G.C.I.E.
Warwickshire: Sir Walter Lawrence, Bart., G.C.I.E.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS.

(1) UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Carters, Manchester.

A stoppage of work occurred on March 28th in connection with a dispute arising out of a demand for the reinstatement of a carter alleged to have been dismissed for objecting to commence at an earlier hour than had been decided upon in the Agreement of August 23rd, 1911.

The strike having been brought to the attention of Sir George Askwith, Mr. D. C. Cummings, of the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department, visited Manchester and further meetings with the parties were held in London by the Chief Industrial Commissioner. As a result, the question was reduced to one of re-instatement, upon which an arrangement was arrived at, and subsequently representatives of the Manchester Team Owners' Association and of the United Carters' Association laid the matter before Sir George Askwith, when the following agreement was arrived at:—

AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY TO AGREEMENT DATED 23RD AUGUST, 1911.

In order that stoppages may in future be avoided it is agreed between the parties as follows:—

Any alleged breach of the Agreement of August, 1911, by either party shall be first discussed by the secretaries of the two associations, failing agreement the matter to be referred to a committee consisting of six representatives of the Team Owners' Association and six representatives of the United Carters' Association of England, and if not then settled within seven days the matter to be referred to Sir George Askwith or an officer of the Board of Trade appointed by him, with a view to settlement. Work to be proceeded with pending discussion.

Coal Porters, Port of London.

A dispute having arisen between a certain firm and their employees as to the interpretation of Clause 11 of the Agreement made on August 10th, 1911, regarding the rates and conditions of employment for bunkering steamers at the Port of London, the parties laid the matter before Sir George Askwith for his decision.

It was claimed on the part of the men that they were entitled to receive travelling money for the time of returning from work as well as for the time of going to work, a demand to which the employers expressed themselves as unable to accede.

Sir George Askwith heard representatives of the firm concerned and of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union on April 30th, and, after discussion, decided that the men are entitled to the amount of travelling-time properly spent after leaving the ship to the time of returning for payment at the place of call.

Glove Makers, Dumfries.

Prof. Richard Lodge, the arbiter appointed in connection with a strike which had occurred at a glove works at Dumfries (*see LABOUR GAZETTE*, April, 1912, p. 129), issued his award on April 17th.

At the hearing an agreement was arrived at on certain points, and the arbiter gave his decision on the remaining points dealing with the price to be paid for fingering gloves with gusset, but without cotton, and also with the question of fines for unpunctuality.

Painters, Blackburn.

Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., the arbitrator appointed to determine certain points in dispute affecting painters at Blackburn (*see LABOUR GAZETTE*, April, 1912, p. 129), issued his Award on April 27th, in the form of a new code of working Rules for the Blackburn Painting and Decorating Trade.

By these Rules the rate of pay is advanced from 8½d. to 9½d. per hour, and a number of other alterations made. The new Rules are to date from April 1st, 1912, and to continue operative for two years from that date.

Building Trade Operatives, Cheltenham.

The question of an increase in wages having arisen in connection with proposed alterations in the Cheltenham and district working Rules for the building trades, the Cheltenham Master Builders' Association and the Cheltenham Building Trades' Joint Committee made joint application for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with the matter, and the Chief Industrial Commissioner appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, K.C., to act in that capacity.

At the hearing before Mr. Hudson on May 3rd an agreement was arrived at, whereby carpenters, wood-working machinists, bricklayers, plumbers, and painters received an increase of ¼d. per hour, and plasterers, labourers, drainers (when laying drains), scaffolders, and stone-sawyers an increase of ½d. per hour. A further increase of ½d., making 6d. per hour, to drainers, scaffolders, and stone-sawyers is to be paid when a full day has been worked.

Carpenters and Joiners, North Staffordshire, and Joiners, Loughborough.

In response to joint applications, dated April 29th and April 30th respectively, from the parties concerned, the Chief Industrial Commissioner has appointed Sir Stafford Howard, K.C.B., to act as arbitrator in connection with difficulties which have arisen affecting carpenters and joiners in North Staffordshire and joiners in the Loughborough district.

Plumbers and Painters, North Staffordshire.

Joint application having been made by the North Staffordshire Master and Operative Plumbers' and Painters' Associations for the appointment of an arbitrator to determine an application of the operatives for an advance in the rate of wages, the Chief Industrial Commissioner has appointed Sir Ernest Hatch, Bart., to act in that capacity.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Kettering.

In response to an application from the secretary of No. 1 Board of Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Kettering and District, the Chief Industrial Commissioner has appointed Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., to act as Umpire in connection with a claim by the operatives' side of the arbitration board for a piecework statement for lasting and making welted work, upon which matter the arbitration board was unable to arrive at any decision.

(2) OTHER CASES.

Boot and Shoe Operatives (Government Contract Work), Northamptonshire.

The Joint Standing Committee in connection with the Government Boot and Shoe Contractors having failed to agree upon the price to be paid for lasting and attaching through middle sole and slipping for a new pattern sea-boot for torpedo service, the question was referred to Sir George Askwith, as Umpire. Sir George, on the figures given to him, and after hearing the arguments of both parties, awarded, on May 3rd, that the proper price to be paid is 7½d. per pair.

Boot and Shoe Trade National Agreement—Appointment of Umpire.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Robson, G.C.M.G., the Umpire appointed by the trustees in place of the late Lord James of Hereford in connection with the Boot and Shoe Trade National Agreements (*see LABOUR GAZETTE*, November, 1911, p. 404), subsequent to his appointment, found himself unable to act, and Mr. Stanley Owen Buckmaster, K.C., M.P., has now been appointed to act as Umpire.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT DURING 1911.

THE Ninth Report of proceedings under the Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Act, 1896, has recently been published. Previous reports have dealt with the proceedings from the passing of the Act up to the end of 1910; the present report relates to cases occurring during the year 1911.

The number of cases in which action was taken during the year 1911 was 92, a number considerably greater than in any previous year since the Act came into force. The increase, as compared with 1910, previously the highest year, is in great part accounted for by disputes in the transport trade. Of the 92 cases, 57 were disputes involving a stoppage of work affecting in the aggregate about 565,000 workpeople. The number of cases dealt with in each year between August, 1896 (when the Act came into operation), and December 31st, 1911, is shown in the following Table:—

Year.	Number of Cases.			Year.	Number of Cases.		
	Total.	Involving Stoppage of Work.	Not involving Stoppage of Work.		Total.	Involving Stoppage of Work.	Not involving Stoppage of Work.
1896*	11	9	2	1904	12	4	8
1897	37	23	14	1905	14	3	11
1898	12	8	4	1906	20	8	12
1899	11	5	6	1907	39	15	24
1900	21	13	8	1908	69	24	36
1901	33	20	13	1909	57	24	33
1902	21	10	11	1910	67	27	40
1903	17	8	9	1911	92	57	35
				Total	524	258	266

* Five months only.

The most important disputes in which action was taken during 1911 were the general strike of seamen, dockers, and other transport workers, which commenced in June; the strike of dockers and other transport workers in London, in August; the national strike of railwaymen, also in August; and the lock-out of cotton operatives in North and North-east Lancashire, in December. Other important cases involving a stoppage of work included tramwaymen at Leeds, carters and dockers at Dundee, and dockers at Glasgow. Of the cases not involving a stoppage of work among the most important was that affecting colliery enginemen in Scotland.

During the year recourse was had in seven cases to the system of Courts of Arbitration, established in 1908, the Court in each case consisting of a chairman and two arbitrators. In the case of the London taxi-cab drivers and the dock workers at Cardiff, the reference to the Court was preceded by a stoppage of work. In none of the remaining four cases did a stoppage of work occur.

The transport trades constituted the industry in which the largest number of cases occurred during the year, 21 cases affecting workpeople employed in those trades being dealt with, as compared with three in the previous year and 27 in the whole of the period 1896-1910. In 18 of these cases a stoppage of work occurred estimated to have involved in the aggregate nearly 345,000 workpeople. The cases affected all branches of the transport trade, and occurred in all parts of the country. In 12 of the cases the Department took action on its own initiative, no application being received from the parties.

In the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades the number of cases (19) was above the average of previous years. Twelve of the cases involved a stoppage affecting about 10,000 workpeople.

The number of cases occurring in the building trades during the year was 13, as compared with 14 in the previous year. In none of these cases did a stoppage of work occur, and in all the cases an application was received from both parties, with the exception of the builders' labourers in London, where an application was made on behalf of the workpeople only.

The nine cases occurring in the textile trades all involved a stoppage of work, affecting in the aggregate about 190,000 workpeople, the most important being the lock-out of the cotton operatives in North and North-east Lancashire, commencing in December.

In appendices to the Report detailed particulars are given of each of the 92 cases occurring during the year. Particulars are also given of the establishment of the Industrial Council, of the Court of Arbitration, and of agreements between employers and workmen in various trades, which contain a clause providing that, in the event of failure to settle a dispute, application shall be made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire, arbitrator, or conciliator. Such clauses, so far as known to the Department, now exist in 97 cases, details of which are given.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN SWITZERLAND: ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT BOARD (BASLE-TOWN).

ACCORDING to information supplied by H.M. Minister at Berne the Cantonal Legislature of Basle-Town recently enacted a law* establishing a permanent State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the settlement of collective industrial disputes in that Canton.

A collective dispute within the meaning of the Act is any dispute in which at least 10 workpeople and one or more employers are involved. The Board in its capacity as a mediating and administrative body is composed of three members, who are appointed by the Cantonal Government for a period of three years, and who must be neither employers nor workmen. These "permanent" members are assisted, in each case in which the Board intervenes, by persons having expert knowledge of the questions at issue—from four to ten in number—appointed by the parties to the dispute. These must not be personally interested, but must belong to some vocation analogous to that of the contending parties. Each party must also appoint representatives—not exceeding five—to defend its interests before the Board.

Within ten days after differences have arisen, or immediately after the outbreak of a strike or lock-out, both parties must notify the Board, and when the latter mediates must submit their case in writing. The Board may subpoena witnesses, require the production of documents, and cause investigations to be made.

Failing a settlement by mediation, the Board may change itself into a Court of Arbitration. The parties are then required to submit to arbitration if the Govern-

*Gesetz betreffend das tändige staatliche Einigungsamt vom 9. Nov. 1911.

ment deems it to be in the public interest that they should do so. The award of the Arbitration Court, however, can only be legally enforced if both parties have declared themselves willing to abide by it. Copies of all collective agreements respecting questions arising between employers and employed, or of arbitration decisions, however such agreements have been arrived at, must be deposited with the Conciliation Board by both parties.

All procedure before the Board is free of cost. All expenses connected with its working, including remuneration of its members and clerks, and payments to witnesses and experts, are to be defrayed out of the Cantonal Treasury, and the Council of State is to make further provision for the applications of this clause.

An important feature of the law is the immediate publication by the Conciliation Board or the Court of Arbitration of a statement of its proceedings, as well as of the results attained. Thus an appeal is made to public opinion which, it is hoped, will bring pressure to bear on the party which is in the wrong. This takes the place of any penalties for refusal to accept proposals for a settlement drafted by the Board or to conform to an award pronounced by the Court. Fines are, however, incurred under the following circumstances:—

(a) Failure to give the prescribed notice of the existence of a collective dispute; (b) failure to deposit copies of collective agreements; (c) refusal to act when elected either as an expert assistant or as a substitute on the Board; (d) failure to comply with the obligations as regards the appointment of party representatives; (e) failure to attend proceedings before the Board when chosen as party representative; (f) failure to obey summons from Board to act either as witness or as expert; (g) non-fulfilment of obligation as regards appointing assistants and substitutes on the Board; (h) refusal to act when elected as a permanent member or substitute on the Conciliation Board.

The heaviest fine (£8) is incurred for persistent refusal to accept office when elected as a permanent member or substitute on the Conciliation Board. For most of the other contraventions the fines range from 3 fr. to 50 fr. (say 2s. 6d. to 40s.).

The Act came into operation on the 1st March, 1912.

INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1910.

The following particulars relating to Industrial and Agricultural Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom are based upon returns made direct by the Societies to the Labour Department, supplemented by information supplied by the Co-operative Union, the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

General Summary.

At the end of 1910 there were at work in the United Kingdom 2,273 Co-operative Productive and Distributive Societies, with an aggregate membership of 2,676,226, a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £51,193,395, a total trade (distributive and productive) of £136,293,737, and a total profit, before payment of interest on share capital, of £12,010,168. The total number of persons directly employed by the Societies was 125,394, and the total amount of wages paid during the year £7,213,050. This is an increase over 1909 of 40 Societies, 78,990 members, £1,641,550 in capital, £4,323,976 in sales, and £17,561 in profit.

The Societies are of various types, some being engaged only in distribution and some only in production, while others are engaged in both productive and distributive operations. It will be convenient to deal with production and distribution separately, and to sub-divide these into industrial and agricultural groups.

Production.

Summary.

In 1910 there were 1,457 Co-operative Societies of various types engaged in production. Of these, 1,121

were Industrial Societies and 336 Agricultural Societies. A total of 53,812 persons were employed in production, of whom 29,787 were men, 15,729 women, and 8,296 young persons under 18 years of age. The total wages paid during the year amounted to £2,985,049, and the total value of industrial and agricultural products was £28,275,467.

Industrial Production.

The 1,121 Industrial Societies engaged in production consisted of 984 retail and 2 wholesale distributive societies having productive departments, and of 135 associations for production—5 corn-milling societies, 34 bread-making and other consumers' societies, and 96 associations of workers. The total number of persons employed in production by these societies was 51,172, the amount of wages paid during the year being £2,865,466, and the value of productions £25,634,759.

In the following Table the sales of each group of societies, together with the totals for all the societies, are shown for each of the ten years 1901-10:—

YEAR.	SALES AND TRANSFERS OF PRODUCTIONS.*					Associations of Workers.	Grand Total of All Societies.
	Associations of Consumers.				Retail Societies.		
	Productive Departments of Distributive Societies.	Wholesale Societies.	Corn Milling Societies.	Baking and other Societies.			
1901	£ 4,648,722	£ 4,334,210	£ 1,234,311	£ 509,058	£ 1,153,433	£ 11,879,784	
1902	5,153,880	4,850,026	1,303,682	570,139	1,149,664	13,027,391	
1903	5,417,227	5,189,673	1,377,703	618,588	1,133,712	13,736,903	
1904	5,958,099	5,515,161	1,345,207	674,461	1,109,318	14,602,246	
1905	6,283,110	5,854,356	1,378,328	683,546	1,106,166	15,285,505	
1906	6,676,646	6,304,924	1,385,018	700,603	1,203,659	16,349,850	
1907	8,277,974†	8,102,980	1,543,733	762,949	1,319,117	19,417,753	
1908	11,085,095†	8,464,021	1,048,403	880,670	1,299,556	22,777,745	
1909	12,034,137	8,993,922	1,111,563	906,823	1,286,482	24,332,927	
1910	12,790,935	9,399,283	1,019,569	992,940	1,432,032	25,634,759	
Percentage increase in 1910 over 1901.	175.1	116.9	17.4	95.1	24.2	115.8	

The total value of productions has increased by no less than 115.8 per cent., the greatest increase being shown by the productive departments of the retail distributive societies with 175.1 per cent., followed by the productive departments of the wholesale societies with 116.9 per cent.; the baking and other consumers' societies show an increase of 95.1 per cent., and the associations of workers, one of 24.2 per cent. Corn-milling alone shows a decrease (17.4 per cent.), this being largely due to the fact that two of the mills at work in 1901 have been absorbed by the English Wholesale Society.

The next Table shows the number of persons employed, the amount of wages paid, and the amount of sales and transfers of productions in the year 1910 by associations of consumers and associations of workers respectively, arranged by groups of industries:—

Groups of Industries.	Associations of Consumers.			Associations of Workers.		
	No. of Employees.	Wages paid during 1910.	Sales and Transfers of Productions.*	No. of Employees.	Wages paid during 1910.	Sales of Productions.
Food and Tobacco ..	13,094	£ 877,825	£ 18,971,334	191	£ 11,920	£ 119,445
Clothing	21,367	1,037,718	2,833,690	3,221	150,570	551,244
Soap, Candles, and Starch.	971	58,153	837,589	—	—	—
Textiles	1,667	73,822	345,025	1,878	86,542	475,552
Building, Quarrying, and Woodworking.	3,506	280,426	704,231	322	23,499	60,962
Printing	1,818	95,271	279,175	905	58,969	150,805
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding.	567	37,022	110,768	515	27,162	64,972
Other Industries ..	1,098	43,301	120,915	52	3,286	9,062
Totals 1910 ..	44,088	2,503,538	24,202,727	7,084	361,928	1,432,032
„ 1909 ..	42,722	2,414,797	23,046,445	7,031	350,306	1,286,482

* The goods produced by the Distributive Societies are not usually sold direct by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

† A considerable part of the increase in the value of production by retail societies is due to a much larger number than formerly making returns of the slaughtering of cattle.

‡ Decrease.

A total profit of £400,798 was made upon industrial production by societies other than retail societies, the profit of the productive departments of the latter being merged in their general profits. Of the total, £202,301 was made by the wholesale societies, £23,498 by the corn mills, £108,724 by bread-making and other consumers' societies, and £66,275 by the associations of workers.

Profit-sharing with Employees.—Of the societies engaged in industrial production, 150, employing in production 14,978 persons, with wages amounting to £817,048, allotted a sum of £36,064 to their employees, this being equal to 4.4 per cent. upon wages. Of the total amount, £8,083 was allotted by 106 retail distributive societies, £9,666 by the Scottish Wholesale Society, £6,834 by 3 consumers' productive societies, and £11,481 by 40 associations of workers.

Associations of Workers: Share of Employees and Others in the Membership, Capital, and Management.—Seventy-eight of the associations of workers for production, with sales amounting to £1,354,597, or 94.6 per cent. of the total sales of the 96 associations at work in 1910, made returns showing the extent to which their employees and others shared in the membership, capital, and management of the associations. The returns show that the total membership of the 78 associations was 23,173, of which 3,699, or 16.0 per cent., consisted of employees, 15,510, or 66.9 per cent., of other individuals, and 3,964, or 17.1 per cent., of other societies. Thus of 6,358 persons employed by the associations, 58.2 per cent. were members of the associations employing them.

Of the £663,121 share and loan capital, £81,576, or 12.3 per cent., belonged to employees, £237,204, or 35.8 per cent., to other individual members, and £288,775, or 43.5 per cent., to other societies. The remaining £55,566, or 8.4 per cent., consisted of loans from non-members, including bank overdrafts.

The total number of directors or committeemen of the associations was 701, of whom 256, or 36.5 per cent., were employed by their societies, 297, or 42.4 per cent., were other individual members, and 148, or 21.1 per cent., were representatives of other (shareholding) societies.

Agricultural Production.

At the end of 1910 there were at work 335 Farming and Dairying Societies, with an aggregate membership of 48,494 and a total capital of £460,668, made up of £163,862 in shares, £156,290 in loans, and £140,516 in reserve funds. The total sales for the year amounted to £2,205,140, the profit shown upon which, before payment of interest on shares, was £25,296. These societies employed 1,843 persons, and paid wages during the year amounting to £74,039.

In addition to the production of these societies, there were 71 industrial societies and one agricultural distributive society which had farming and dairying departments employing 797 persons, to whom wages amounting to £45,544 were paid, the value of goods produced being £435,568. The amount of capital employed in these departments was, in most cases, not shown.

The following Table gives details of agricultural production for each of the ten years 1901-10:—

Year.	Special Farming and Dairying Societies.		Farming and Dairying Departments of Wholesale and Retail Distributive Societies.		Totals; Agricultural Production by all Classes of Societies.	
	No. of Societies at end of Year.	Sales.	No. of Societies at end of Year.	Sales and Transfers.*	No. of Societies at end of Year.	Sales and Transfers.*
1901	161	£ 917,981	42	£ 427,676	203	£ 1,345,657
1902	193	1,101,611	48	478,534	241	1,580,145
1903	225	1,181,056	52	427,594	277	1,608,650
1904	256	1,232,668	61	401,383	317	1,634,051
1905	260	1,372,552	56	402,639	316	1,775,191
1906	272	1,683,120	61	473,268	333	2,156,378
1907	287	1,829,279	64	477,379	351	2,306,658
1908	302	1,935,822	70†	494,889	372	2,430,711
1909	317	2,005,314	72†	467,967	389	2,473,281
1910	335	2,205,140	72†	435,568	407	2,640,708

* The goods produced by the Distributive Societies are not usually sold direct by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

† Including the productive department of one distributive agricultural society.

Profit-sharing with Employees.—Of the 335 agricultural productive societies at work in 1910, 45, employing 321 persons and paying wages during the year of £12,113, allotted a total of £748 as a bonus to their employees, this being equal to about 6.2 per cent. upon wages. Nine retail distributive societies employing 37 persons in agriculture, with wages of £2,533, paid bonus amounting to £121, or 4.8 per cent., on wages. The persons employed by the Scottish Wholesale Society in agriculture received bonus at the same rate (3.3 per cent. on wages) as the other employees of this society.

Distribution.

At the end of 1910 there were at work 1,803 societies engaged in distribution, 1,427 of these being industrial and 376 agricultural societies.

The industrial societies had an aggregate membership of 2,544,029, a total share, loan and reserve capital of £45,025,388,* sales amounting to £106,168,724, and a profit on distribution, before payment of interest on share capital, of £11,566,760,* while the total number of persons directly employed in distribution by these societies was 70,823, and the total wages paid £4,188,760.

The corresponding figures for the agricultural societies were:—Membership, 42,707; capital, £221,665; sales, £1,849,546; profit, £17,314; persons employed, 759; wages paid, £39,241.

In the following Table† the sales for each of the years 1901-10 are shown separately for the retail and wholesale industrial societies and for the agricultural societies:—

Year.	Industrial Societies.			Agricultural Trading, Egg and Poultry and Bee-keepers Societies.	
	Retail Societies.	Two Wholesale Societies.		Number.	Sales.
1901	1438	£ 52,761,171	£ 23,342,825	115	£ 393,950
1902	1454	55,319,262	24,456,678	156	460,672
1903	1455	57,512,887	25,728,630	186	524,272
1904	1454	59,311,885	26,610,468	222	563,127
1905	1452	61,086,991	27,725,207	237	632,175
1906	1441	63,353,772	29,650,218	280	859,509
1907	1432	68,109,376	32,390,028	296	1,137,844
1908	1418	69,785,798	32,433,968	307	1,320,531
1909	1430	70,423,359	33,133,074	336	1,603,858
1910	1421	71,861,363	34,306,992	376	1,849,546

Of the total profit of £11,584,074,‡ a sum of £10,926,490 was made by the retail industrial societies; £640,282 by the wholesale industrial societies, and £17,314 by the agricultural societies.

In the case of the retail societies, the greater part of the profit was distributed to the customers as a dividend upon purchases, at an average rate of 2s. 5½d. in the £1, and in the case of the wholesale societies, English and Scottish, as a dividend to customers of 4d. and 8d. in the £1 respectively. In the case of the agricultural societies, the greater part was carried to reserve funds or carried forward to the next year.

Profit-sharing with Employees.—Of 1,421 retail societies, 185, employing 14,411 persons in distributive departments, and paying wages in such departments amounting to £772,378, allotted a total of £34,694 to the employees as a bonus on wages, this being equal to about 4½ per cent. upon the wages. The Scottish Wholesale Society, with 1,859 distributive employees, and paying wages amounting to £141,000, allotted £4,700 as a bonus on wages, this being equal to 3.3 per cent. Of the 376 agricultural societies, 42, employing 191 persons, with wages amounting to £13,914, allotted £749 as a dividend for each of the ten years 1901-10:—

SMALL HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS SOCIETIES.

There were 83 Co-operative Small Holdings and Allotments Societies at work in 1910, with a total

* The figures include the capital used in the productive departments of Retail Societies and the profit upon the production of these societies, amounts not being available separately. The capital used in the productive departments of the Wholesale Societies (£3,626,826) and the profit (£202,301) are not included.

† In addition to the societies included in the Table, four Irish Home Industries Societies had sales amounting in 1910 to £1,349.

‡ The Home Industries Societies (see footnote †) suffered a loss of £12.

membership of 8,506, as compared with 64 societies and 6,056 members in 1909. The total share, loan, and reserve capital was £13,988, consisting of £5,506 in shares, £6,913 in loans, and £1,569 in reserve funds.

These societies held 8,557* acres of land, and land was let by the societies to 6,533† tenants; £12,613 was payable by the 83 societies in rent, rates and taxes for 1910, the amount receivable by the societies from the tenants being £15,270. The average size of holding in the case of 81 societies was 206 rods; in 31 of these societies, with 858 tenants, the average holding was over 8 acres, while in the remaining 50 societies, with 5,675 tenants, the average was 39 rods.

A number of the societies have established trading departments for the purchase and sale of members' requirements and produce; the total trade done in 1910 by these departments amounted to £4,658.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.

At the end of 1910 there were at work 238 Co-operative Credit Associations, with an aggregate membership of 21,928, as compared with 81 associations and 6,014 members in 1901. In 1910 45 societies, with 3,607 members, were in England and Wales (of which 20, with 2,962 members, were urban), one society (urban), with 355 members, was in Scotland, and 192 societies (all rural), with 17,966 members, were in Ireland.

The amount of loans granted to members in 1910 (£81,731) and the amount repaid, including interest, (£76,108), were in each case about four times as large as the corresponding figures for 1901. The total capital of the associations was £163,791, and the amount owing by borrowers was £111,213.

The associations are usually managed by unpaid officials, and the expenses are thus kept small, the total working expenses of the 238 associations in 1910 being only £7,118, including interest upon capital. The profit for 1910, after payment of interest, was £834.

CO-OPERATIVE CATTLE AND PIG INSURANCE SOCIETIES.

The Co-operative Cattle and Pig Insurance Societies are registered under the Friendly Societies Acts, but are distinguished from nearly all other societies registered under these Acts in that the contributions are legally recoverable, that the liability of members is not limited, and that the amount of the individual insurances is not limited by the Act, although in practice it is found that the insurances are for small amounts only.

The returns received for 1910 show that there were then 60 societies at work. The societies were all situated in England and Wales, about one-third being in Lincolnshire and the remainder being spread over eighteen other counties. The total membership of the societies was 4,057; income, £2,349; benefit expenditure, £1,757; working expenses, £388; and reserve funds, £8,108.

TENANTS' CO-PARTNERSHIP SOCIETIES.

Returns for 1910 show that 21 Tenants' Co-partnership Societies were at work in that year, with a total membership of 3,232, a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £951,362, and rent receipts for the year of £39,560, upon which the profit, before taking into account the question of payment of interest on share capital, amounted to £6,214. The total cost value of the land and buildings owned by the societies amounted to £938,319.

Out of the 21 societies, 10 made returns showing the extent to which their tenants share in the membership and capital. The total membership of the 10 societies was 1,194, of whom 494 were tenants; the total share capital amounting to £29,064, of which £6,049 belonged to tenant shareholders. Of the total loan capital (£160,325), £105,739 had been obtained from non-members, £1,550 from tenant shareholders, and £53,036 from other shareholders.

The 10 societies owned land and buildings costing £194,699, including 650 dwellings, of which 613 were

occupied at the end of the year. The mean weekly rents, including rates and taxes, paid by the tenants were as follows:—2 rooms, 3s. 9d.; 3 rooms, 4s. 9d.; 4 rooms, 6s. 4d.; 5 rooms, 7s. 2d.; 6 rooms, 9s. 3d.; more than 6 rooms, 10s. 6d.

The following Table shows the growth of Tenants' Co-partnership Societies from 1901 to 1910:—

Year.	No. of Societies.	Members.	Capital.			Rent Received.	Profit.†	Cost Value of Land and Buildings owned.
			Share.	Loan.	Reserve and Insurance.*			
1901	3	481	£ 7,756	£ 33,016	£ 1,490	£ 2,866	£ 324	£ 43,792
1902	4	540	8,384	36,943	1,424	3,166	454	51,206
1903	4	693	9,762	44,470	1,663	3,317	487	58,357
1904	5	678	12,413	55,627	1,845	4,423	679	70,483
1905	6	768	16,673	69,508	2,109	4,949	843	92,252
1906	9	917	25,418	109,718	1,848	7,522	1,300	145,387
1907	14	1,574	42,769	206,817	1,841	10,466	1,581	262,741
1908	15	1,971	70,080	362,776	1,717	16,050	2,118	433,632
1909	16	2,511	94,014	533,138	1,854	24,774	4,692	638,284
1910	21	3,232	131,556	814,904	4,902	39,560	6,214	938,319

* Exclusive of Sinking Funds. † Before payment of interest on share capital.

COST OF LIVING IN SWITZERLAND—OFFICIAL ENQUIRY.

THE Swiss Federal Railway Administration has published the results of an Enquiry into the relative cost of living in the various parts of Switzerland in 1911,* undertaken with the object of comparing the purchasing power of wages and salaries of the railway personnel in different towns and districts, 60 centres being comprised.

The following table shows the average annual rent for two, three, and four rooms for the 60 centres, together with the rents for similar dwellings at 8 of the 9 towns with a population exceeding 25,000 at the census of December 1st, 1910:—

Switzerland (Average for 60 Centres)	Population, Dec. 1, 1910. (Provisional).	Two Rooms.		Three Rooms.		Four Rooms.	
		£ s.	12 15	£ s.	18 6	£ s.	24 2
Zürich	189,088	18	8	26	16	35	4
Basle	131,914	16	0	27	0	34	0
Berne	85,264	20	0	28	0	36	0
Lausanne	63,926	18	0	26	0	32	0
Geneva	58,050	18	0	24	0	30	0
Lucerne	39,152	15	4	20	0	27	4
Chaux-de-Fonds	37,636	16	16	22	0	28	0
Winterthur	25,066	14	16	21	4	28	0

The following are the average prices for various articles of food at the 60 centres taken together:—

Beef per lb.	9½d.	Bread per 4lb.	6½d.
Veal "	11½d.	Wheaten flour per 7lb.	1s. 2½d.
Pork "	10½d.	Milk per qt.	2½d.
Bacon "	10½d.	Butter per lb.	1s. 3½d.
Lard "	9d.	Cheese a shilling	11
Kidney fat "	6½d.	Eggs per 7lb.	3½d.
		Potatoes per 7lb.	3½d.

For the purpose of estimating the amount spent by the average family on rent, taxes, food and fuel, the predominant type of family was considered—viz., a family consisting of father, mother, and two children, it having been found as a result of a previous enquiry that 77 per cent. of the railway staff receiving an annual wage or salary were married, and that the majority of these had two children. It was assumed that where the father's annual wage or salary was £60 to £92 two rooms were occupied, where it was £108 to £140 three rooms were occupied, and where it was £160 four rooms were occupied.

The following table shows for various classes of wages or salary the expenditure on rent, taxes, food and fuel, and the proportion this expenditure formed of the wage or salary, the figures being the averages for the 60 centres:—

* Schweizerische Bundesbahnen: Ergebnisse einer Enquete über die Preise der Wohnungen, der wichtigsten Lebensmittel, der Brennmaterialien, sowie über die Steuerverhältnisse in den verschiedenen Gegenden der Schweiz im Jahre 1911. (Berne, 1911).

Yearly Wages or Salary.	Expenditure on					
	Rent and Taxes.		Food and Fuel.		Rent, Taxes, Food and Fuel.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Wages or Salary.	Amount.	Percentage of Wages or Salary.	Amount.	Percentage of Wages or Salary.
£60	£ 14 1	23.4	£ 36 0	60.0	£ 50 1	83.4
£76	14 12	19.2	44 2	58.0	58 14	77.2
£92	15 7	16.7	51 10	56.0	66 17	72.7
£108	21 11	19.9	58 6	54.0	79 17	73.9
£124	22 4	17.9	64 10	52.0	86 14	69.9
£140	23 1	16.5	70 0	50.0	93 1	66.5
£160	29 17	18.7	76 16	48.0	106 13	66.7

In calculating the expenditure on food and fuel shown in the above table, the results of previous inquiries were utilised by assuming the percentage of wages or salary expended in this way to be 60 in the case of a wage or salary of £60 and 50 in that of one of £140, with corresponding figures for other salaries, as shown.

No comparisons are given showing the extent of the rise in the cost of living as compared with other years.

WORKMEN'S INSURANCE IN GERMANY, 1910.

The following particulars relating to compulsory accident, old age and infirmity, and sickness insurance in Germany in 1910 are based on reports recently issued by the Imperial Statistical Office and the Imperial Insurance Department.

I.—ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

The mean number of persons returned as being insured during 1910 under the laws relating to accident insurance was 27,553,572. It is estimated, however, that this figure exceeds the actual number by about 3,400,000 persons, who, being employed partly in agriculture and partly in some other industry, are both insured and counted twice over.

The number of persons to whom, or in respect of whom, compensation for accidents was paid for the first time in 1910 was 132,064, including 8,857 killed, 1,072 who suffered permanent total disablement, 47,696 who sustained permanent partial disablement, and 74,439 temporary disablement; in 1909 the corresponding total was 139,070.

The aggregate amount expended in compensation for new and old accidents was £8,030,235 in 1910, as compared with £7,932,201 in the preceding year. The greater part of this sum—viz., £5,802,688—consisted of pensions to 901,386 persons injured as the result of accidents; in 1909 a sum of £5,772,827 was received by 909,145 persons under similar circumstances. Pensions to the families of deceased workpeople who sustained fatal accidents amounted to £1,536,273, while 1,575 widows of insured persons were paid on re-marriage capital sums amounting in the aggregate to £50,082.

II.—OLD AGE AND INFIRMITY INSURANCE.

In 1910 the number of persons insured against old age and infirmity was estimated at approximately 15,659,700, while the number of pensions in course of payment at the end of the year was 1,034,047—viz., 98,336 for old age, 918,743 for permanent, and 16,968 for provisional infirmity. The number of new pensions granted during 1910 was 138,536, of which 11,612 were for old age, 114,661 for permanent, and 12,263 for provisional infirmity. The average annual value of a pension (including the addition of £2 10s. per annum granted by the State) was £8 1s. 7d. for old age, £8 14s. for permanent infirmity, and £8 12s. 10d. for provisional infirmity.

The total receipts of the various old age and infirmity insurance funds in 1910 amounted to £12,510,676, of which £9,703,236 consisted of contributions in equal shares from employers and workpeople. During the year the total expenditure of the funds was £8,181,681, in-

cluding £5,479,587 directly upon pensions. (To this sum must be added a total of £2,583,120 granted by the State partly in the form of an addition of £2 10s. to each pension, and partly in defraying the premiums of persons performing their military service.) Other items of expenditure by the insurance funds were £1,050,559 for cost of administration (including the arbitration of disputed claims), £1,075,420 for medical attendance and convalescent homes, and £463,638 for part return of premiums to women marrying, &c. At the close of the year the accumulated funds of the various offices amounted to £82,050,592, as compared with £77,709,436 at the end of 1909.

III.—SICKNESS INSURANCE.

The mean number of persons other than miners (see below) insured under the sickness insurance laws in 1910 was 13,069,375, as compared with 12,519,785 in the preceding year. The total number of "cases" compensated during the year (persons who received compensation more than once being counted each time as a separate "case") was 5,197,080, and the average amount of compensation per case was £3 0s. 7d. Contributions from workpeople and employers in the form of premiums—the former paying two-thirds and the latter one-third—amounted to £17,419,591 in 1910, and the total income—including under this term cash balances in hand at the beginning of the year, withdrawals from reserve fund, and sums realised from the sale of securities—to £21,893,619. The total expenses during the year amounted to £20,827,530, including £3,169,856 placed to the reserve fund. At the end of the year the accumulated funds reached an aggregate of £14,574,807.

In the funds for the compulsory insurance of miners 885,598 persons were insured, as compared with 865,505 in 1909. The number of cases of sickness recorded was 507,349. Out of total receipts amounting to £2,063,385 a sum of £1,002,934 represented the contributions of workpeople, while the employers' contributions came to £974,881. The total expenditure during the year amounted to £1,846,590, of which £1,755,844 was for sick relief. Costs of administration amounted to £77,907. At the end of the year the total property of the funds amounted to £1,088,390.

COMPULSORY OLD AGE AND INFIRMITY INSURANCE IN FRANCE.

Amendment of Law.

THE French Finance Act, 1912, signed on February 27th last,* amends in certain respects the provisions of the law of April 5th, 1910, relating to compulsory insurance against old-age and infirmity (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, April, 1910, pp. 116-7). The amendments come into force on August 1st next, the principal being as below.

Under the law as originally passed the State added to the annuity purchased by an insured person £2 8s. per annum on his attaining the age of 65. The new law raises the State addition to £4 per annum, and provides for its payment from the age of 60. Furthermore, this £4 is to be increased by 8s. for every insured person who has brought up at least three children to reach the age of 16, while each birth of a child to an insured woman counts as one year in reckoning the period of contribution determining the amount of her pension.

The age at which pensions are normally payable is decreased from 65 to 60, although an insured person may defer receipt of his pension until the later age. Should a person desire his pension to be paid after the age of 60, the State addition will still be paid annually from the age of 60.

The age at which the pension becomes payable is also lowered from 65 to 60 in the case of persons voluntarily insured, who have likewise the option of deferring its receipt until 65.

* Journal Officiel de la République Française. February 28th, 1912.

* Particulars are for 80 societies only. † Particulars are for 81 societies only.

SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN SWITZERLAND: NEW LAW.

A NEW Swiss law on insurance against sickness and accidents, passed on June 13th, 1911, was accepted by National Referendum on February 4th, 1912. The principal features of the measure* are summarised below:—

1.—Sickness Insurance.

The sickness insurance scheme is a system of Federal State grants to recognised sick funds conducted on a mutual basis. Generally the insurance is voluntary, but the Cantonal Governments may, subject to the approval of the Federal Government, (a) declare it obligatory either for all persons or for certain specified classes, (b) establish Public Sick Funds, while having due regard to Funds already in existence; and (c) compel the employers to see that the premiums of their employees compulsorily insured in such Public Funds are paid. (The power to compel the employers themselves to contribute is, however, expressly withheld from the Cantons.) These powers may be delegated by the Cantonal Governments to their Communes.

Among the conditions to be fulfilled by Recognised Sick Funds are the following:—The minimum benefit provided in case of sickness is either medical attendance (including the necessary drugs, &c.) or a daily allowance of not less than one franc (9.6d.) in the case of absolute inability to work. The medical attendance must start from the first, and the alternative money allowance from the third day of illness. The number of days on which an insured person is entitled to either benefit must be at least 180 in any 360 consecutive days. The Fund must also provide certain specified minimum benefits for women members during confinement.

The amounts of the yearly subsidies paid by the Federal Government to the Funds for each insured member are as follows:—(1) 2s. 9½d. for children up to the age of 14; (2) 2s. 9½d. for men and 3s. 2½d. for women when the Fund grants either the medical benefit or a money allowance of not less than 9½d. a day; 4s., irrespective of sex, when both forms of benefit are provided. These subsidies are increased by 4½d. whenever the fund provides the benefits for at least 360 days in any period of 540 days. Furthermore, a subsidy of 16s. is given for each confinement, which amount is doubled where the mother feeds the infant herself for 4 weeks beyond the minimum period for which she is entitled to confinement benefit from the Fund.

The aggregate subsidy received by a society in any year is not to exceed half the sum of the contributions of the insured persons plus voluntary donations (if any).

If a Canton or Commune declares the insurance obligatory for all or certain classes, and itself pays the contributions of needy persons, the Federal Government will grant it subsidies up to one-third of its expenses.

2.—Accident Insurance.

Under the second part of the law provision is made for a system of compulsory insurance against accidents, which, in certain respects, involves a notable departure as compared with schemes of compulsory accident insurance hitherto enacted in other countries. In the first place, the principle of compulsion is not confined to "occupational," but also extends to "non-occupational" accidents. In the second place, the State defrays part of the premiums for insurance, and it does so not only for those coming under the compulsory provisions of the law, but also for those voluntarily insured through the National Insurance Fund which the Act sets up. (See below.)

Those for whom the law declares insurance against accidents, whether "occupational" or not, to be obligatory, comprise all persons employed in Switzerland for a wage or salary in factories, workshops, mines, building, and transport by land or water (including the postal service).

The premiums due in respect of "occupational" accidents are to be paid in full by the employer; of those in respect of "non-occupational" accidents the insured

person will pay three-quarters and the State one-quarter. For the payment of both premiums into the National Insurance Fund the employer is declared responsible.

In the case of those voluntarily insured and earning not more than £120 per annum, the cost of one-eighth of the premium will be defrayed by the State.

The benefits assured consist of medical attendance, medicine, money allowances during temporary disablement, pensions for permanent disablement, funeral expenses, and pensions to survivors.

For the purpose of effecting the insurance provided for in this part of the law, an institution is to be established at Lucerne, known as the Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund. This institution will consist of a Council of Administration, a Board of Management, and at least one Branch Office in each Canton. The Council of Administration will be composed of 40 members, of whom 12 will represent the compulsorily insured, 16 the employers, and 4 the voluntarily insured, while 8 will represent the Government. The Council of Administration will (*inter alia*) determine the various classes and degrees of accident risk to which the insured shall be assigned, and will fix the scale of premiums. The members of the Board of Management will be appointed by the Cabinet on the recommendation of the Council of Administration. The duties of the Branch Offices, including the disbursement of the accident benefit for the first six weeks following the accident, may be assigned to Sickness Insurance Funds.

In addition to paying a certain proportion of the premiums for "non-occupational" and voluntary insurance (*see above*) the Government will give financial assistance as follows:—1. It will grant a sum of £40,000 for current expenses. 2. It will grant a further £40,000 towards the formation of a reserve. 3. It will defray all expenses (other than for acquisition of premises) incurred by the National Accident Insurance Fund prior to its commencing operations. 4. It will regularly pay half the cost of administration.

The above law was promulgated by a Decree, dated March 12th, but the date of its coming into operation has yet to be determined.

RECENT LABOUR LEGISLATION IN GREECE.

A DESPATCH from His Majesty's Minister at Athens, dated March 19th, transmits summaries or translations of four labour laws recently passed by the Greek Parliament. One of these, dated November 12th (o.s.), 1911, establishes a State Labour Department; a second, dated November 19th, 1911, deals with the health and safety and hours of labour of workpeople; while two others, dated January 24th, 1912, regulate respectively the payment of wages to workpeople and servants and of salaries to clerks, and the employment of women and children.

The following are the principal provisions of the law relating to the employment of women and children:—Children under 12 years of age may not be employed as workers or learners in factories, workshops, quarries, building or other similar outdoor work, transport, commercial establishments or shops, restaurants, coffee houses, taverns and similar establishments, or in hotels. Five years after the date of coming into force of the law (*i.e.*, from April, 1917) this prohibition will be extended to children between the ages of 12 and 14 who have not completed their course of elementary education.

In factories and workshops, quarries and building or other similar outdoor work, the hours of labour of children under 14 may not exceed six per day; in the case of young persons under 18 and women the maximum hours of labour are ten per day, and eight on Saturdays and the days preceding public holidays. Workpeople to whom the above regulations regarding hours of labour apply must be allowed one or more regular daily intervals lasting at least half an hour for children and two hours for young persons and women (one hour on Saturdays). Exceptions may be made by Royal Decree in certain classes of occupations, but in no case may more than six hours be worked without a break of at least one hour.

Work for execution outside the establishment or place of work may not be given by the employer to any of the above persons after such persons have performed the maximum number of hours allowed by the law on any day. When this maximum has not been reached, only so much work may be given as an ordinary workman of the same class would be able to do in the remainder of the statutory day.

Young persons under 16 and women may not, as a rule, be employed on Sundays and holidays in any of the classes of establishments covered by this law (the transport trades excepted); in certain cases another weekly day of rest in lieu of Sunday may be fixed by the Local Authorities.

Young persons under 18 and women (except women over 18 engaged in occupations where nightwork is indispensable to prevent the destruction of raw material or products of labour) may not be employed in factories, workshops, quarries, building, commercial establishment or shops, between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m., and must have an uninterrupted night's rest of at least 11 hours; the employment of children under 14 in restaurants, coffee houses, taverns, confectioners' shops and similar establishments and hotels may be prolonged up to 10 p.m., but must not begin before 5 a.m., and there must also be an uninterrupted night's rest of 11 hours.

In season trades and in cases of exceptional accumulation of work, the Local Police Authorities may grant permission for the employment of young persons and women up to 12 hours a day (except on Saturdays) and the reduction of the uninterrupted night's rest to 10 hours (which may start at 10 p.m.). Such permission may be granted for eight days in any one year; but for a greater number of days (not exceeding four weeks), the permit must be obtained from the Prefect.

Children under 14 may not offer articles for sale in the streets, squares or public places, or from house to house, without special permission. Such street trading is also prohibited after 9 p.m. and before 5 a.m. in the case of young persons under 16. Male newspaper vendors over 12 are, however, exempted from this provision.

Children under 14 may not, as a rule, be employed at theatrical and similar public performances. Persons under 15 and women may not be employed at underground work in mines or quarries. Women may not be employed for eight weeks in all before and after childbirth (or during the four weeks following childbirth); during this period they are to be considered as on leave, and may not be definitely replaced.

On the initiative of the Minister of National Economy, acting upon the advice of the Labour Department, Royal Decrees may be issued prohibiting or restricting the employment of children, young persons and women at work out of proportion to their strength or dangerous to their health or morals.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN 1911.

DURING the year 1911 the total number of cases of lead poisoning was 669, an increase of 164 as compared with 1910, and of 79 on the average for the five years 1907-11. The percentage of deaths to cases was 5.5 in 1911 as compared with 7.5 in 1910. In addition to the above-mentioned cases contracted in factories or workshops, 263 cases (48 deaths), affecting house painters and plumbers, were reported in 1911 as compared with 232 cases (35 deaths) in 1910.

Of the 669 cases of lead poisoning, 104 occurred in the coachmaking industry, 92 in the china and earthenware industry, 48 in the metal smelting industry, and 41 in the white lead industry. Of the total number of cases, 73 (including 47 at china and earthenware works) occurred among females and 596 among males; the mortality rate of the females was 1.4 per cent. and of the males 6.0 per cent.

The cases of other forms of poisoning (mercurial, phosphorus, and arsenical) numbered 22 in 1911 as compared with 17 in 1910.

The number of cases of anthrax in 1911 was 64, an increase of 13 on 1910. The number of deaths was 11 during 1911 as compared with 9 in 1910.

The following statistics are extracted from the Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Factories, with the exception of the particulars for 1911, which have been compiled from a preliminary Table issued by the Home Office. The number of cases shown for any one year is the same as the number of persons attacked, second notifications of persons already included in a return within the preceding 12 months not being regarded as fresh cases. Such cases numbered 12 in 1911:—

Analysis by Industries.

INDUSTRY.	CASES.					DEATHS.				
	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Lead Poisoning.										
Smelting of Metals	28	70	66	34	48	2	2	5	5	2
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ..	6	14	9	4	12	—	—	2	—	—
Printing	26	30	21	33	32	3	2	1	4	1
Tinning of Metals	31	17	29	34	13	—	—	—	—	—
File Cutting	10	9	8	9	18	—	—	—	1	2
White Lead	71	79	32	34	41	—	3	2	1	3
Red Lead	7	12	10	10	13	—	—	—	—	6
China and Earthenware	103	117	58	77	92	9	12	5	11	1
Litho-Transfers	10	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ..	4	3	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Electric Accumulators	21	25	27	31	24	—	—	—	2	—
Paints and Colours	35	25	39	17	21	1	—	—	—	—
Coach and Car Painting	70	70	95	70	104	3	3	6	6	5
Shipbuilding	22	15	27	21	36	1	—	—	2	—
Paints used in other Industries ..	49	47	42	51	56	2	1	—	3	1
Other Industries	85	111	85	79	153	5	5	2	4	8
Total, Lead Poisoning*	578	646	553	505	669	26	32	30	38	37
House Painting & Plumbing† ..	174	239	241	232	263	39	44	47	35	48
Other Forms of Poisoning.										
Mercurial Poisoning—										
Barometer and Thermometer ..	—	2	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Making	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes	5	5	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	2	3	4	4	7	—	—	—	1	—
Total.. .. .	7	10	9	10	12	—	—	—	1	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	1	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—										
Paints, Colours, and Extraction ..	4	16	4	5	7	—	1	—	—	—
Of Arsenic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	5	7	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	1
Total.. .. .	9	23	4	7	10	2	1	—	—	1
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning" ..	17	34	16	17	22	3	1	—	1	1
Anthrax.										
Wool	23	18	28	28	35	3	3	3	3	10
Handling of Horsehair	17	10	8	6	8	4	—	2	1	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ..	12	13	18	14	20	2	1	6	3	—
Other Industries	6	6	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	—
Total, Anthrax	58	47	56	51	64	11	7	12	9	11
Total reported under Factory and Workshop Act	653	727	625	573	755	40	40	42	48	49
Grand Total	827	966	866	805	1,018	79	84	89	83	97

* Reportable under the Factory and Workshop Act.

† Not compulsorily reportable under the Factory and Workshop Act.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 34, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, &c.†

Canada.

ALL emigrants landing in Canada between March 1st and October 30th must possess \$25 (£5 4s.), and children \$12.50 (£2 12s.) each (and between November 1st and last day of February \$50 (£10 8s.) and \$25 (£5 4s.) respectively), and sufficient travelling money, except that the following need have sufficient travelling money only: (1) Farm labourers and female servants, if going to assured employment as such, (2) persons going to

† Handbooks (with maps) on the different British Dominions Oversea may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office at a penny each post free.

* Recueil des Lois Fédérales. No. 9. March 20th, 1912. (Feuille Fédérale Suisse).

assured permanent employment of any kind, if they arrive in Canada by July 31st, 1912; (3) competent labourers going to assured permanent employment at railroad construction work, if they arrive between May 1st and September 30th, 1912; and (4) certain relatives of residents in Canada. All emigrants pecuniarily assisted to Canada by British charitable societies or public funds must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration Authorities, Charing Cross, London.

This is the best season of the year for emigrants to go to Canada, and they should start as soon as possible. There is a large demand in all parts during spring and summer for farm labourers, for railway navvies, for mechanics in outdoor trades, and for female servants at all times both in towns and on farms.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Passages.—Assisted or nominated passages are granted by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania. The new rates for these passages are usually £6 for males, £3 for females, 30s. for children from 3 to 12 years of age, and infants under 3 years old free.

New South Wales.—In Sydney and suburbs the building, furniture, milling, electrical, timber, boot and clothing trades, and compositors have been well employed; and competent men in these trades can get work. At Newcastle there has been a good demand for skilled labour. The strike of iron workers at Lithgow has been settled. In the country employment is generally good, and there is a demand for farm and dairy hands. There is a good demand for female servants, and tailoresses (factory).

Victoria.—Employment continues to be good, and there is a considerable demand for farmers, farm labourers, generally useful men and mechanics in the building and several other trades. There is also a good demand for female servants, and for female operatives at 20s. to 35s. a week in the clothing, hat and boot trades.

South Australia.—Work of nearly all kinds is plentiful, and a large amount of money is being spent on public works. There is a good demand for plasterers, masons, bricklayers, tinsmiths, iron-workers, brass-finishers, painters, blacksmiths, coppersmiths, pattern-makers, boiler-makers, carriage-makers, female servants, women and girls in the clothing and bootmaking trades, and for pick and shovel men in the country.

Queensland.—There is a good demand for farm labourers, dairy hands, female servants, and in many parts for mechanics. At Maryborough fitters, iron turners, cabinet and furniture makers, and carpenters are wanted.

Western Australia.—The principal demand is for farmers, farm labourers, and female servants; but competent mechanics also have usually little difficulty in obtaining employment. There is little demand for more miners.

New Zealand.

Work in all trades in New Zealand is fair to good, but there is little demand for more mechanics. There is a good demand for a limited number of coal miners at Westport at 12s. a day. Women and girls are wanted in the woollen mills, clothing and boot trades, confectionery, laundries, and dressmaking. Reduced passages are granted to farmers, agricultural labourers, shepherds and female servants.

Union of South Africa.

The building trades in Johannesburg continue in a flourishing condition; but the supply of labour is sufficient. In Pretoria the supply in all trades exceeds the demand, and many skilled and unskilled labourers are out of regular work. In Cape Town employment has been good, and there has been a demand for a few plumbers, granite masons, tailors, and girls for box-making and book-binding; but bricklayers, plasterers, and paper-hangers should not go there now. Women workers should apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 15, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on pp. 165-166 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see pp. xxiv.-xxvi. and 8-20 of the Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics, Cd. 5415 of 1911.)]

FRANCE.

*Employment in March.**—In the building trades the seasonal recovery continued, accompanied by the usual decrease in the number of persons unemployed. In the metal trades employment continued good, and was better than a month ago. The textile trades showed scarcely any change compared with February, and unemployment in the Nord department continued at a high level. Employment in the printing trades continued good. There was again a considerable degree of unemployment in the skin and leather trades, though a slight improvement was reported as compared with February. In vineyards in the South of France there was a marked revival in employment, the fine weather favouring the continuation of fumigation, lime-washing, grafting, &c. For woodmen, on the contrary, employment continued unfavourable; the level of unemployment was high owing to the completion of forestry work and the absence of compensating agricultural work. Gardeners in the Paris district were well employed.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed at the middle of the month were received by the French Labour Department from 886 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 252,093. Excluding returns from the miners' unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 6.2 per cent. of the members were unemployed in March, as compared with 8.5 per cent. in February and 6.3 per cent. in March, 1911.

*Coal Mining in March.**—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground was 5.82 in March, as compared with 5.97 in the previous month and 5.93 in March, 1911. Taking surface and underground workers together, 26.98 per cent. worked full time (6 days or over per week), and 72.96 per cent. from 5 to 6 days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 81.23 and 18.70, and in March, 1911, 81.10 and 18.20.

*Labour Disputes in March.**—One hundred and five labour disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in March, as compared with 88 in the previous month and 211 in March, 1911. In 97 of the new disputes 62,779 workpeople took part, as compared with 5,545 who took part in 82 disputes in the previous month and 17,021 in 198 disputes in March, 1911. The groups of trades in which the greatest number of disputes occurred were building (36 disputes), textile (14), metal (13), and transport (9). Of 104 new and old disputes reported to have terminated 17 ended wholly in favour of the workpeople and 52 wholly in favour of the employers, while 35 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in March.—Eighteen instances of recourse to the law of 1892 on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department during March, the initiative being taken in one case by the two parties jointly, in 3 cases by the workpeople, and in 14 by the Justice of the Peace. In 7 cases the proffered intervention was declined by the employers, in one case by the workpeople, and in 3 cases by both parties, while in the remaining 7 cases committees of conciliation were formed, resulting in the settlement of 2 of the disputes, collective agreements being signed.

Night Work of Women: Amendment of Law.—A law, dated December 22nd last, amends Article 4 of the law of November 2nd, 1892, on the labour of women

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 165-166.
‡ Journal Officiel de la République Française, December 25th, 1911.

and children in industrial establishments, so as to bring it into accordance with the Berne Convention on the night work of women (see 1906 GAZETTE, p. 354).

The provision of the earlier law prescribing that young persons of less than 18, and women, may not be employed between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. is retained, and in addition it is now laid down that such persons must have not less than eleven consecutive hours of rest at night. In the case of lads and boys working underground in mines and quarries work may, as before, be authorised from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m., provided that it is divided into two shifts of not more than nine hours each, broken by an interval of at least one hour.

For women over 18 employed in certain trades, to be determined by ordinance, and on due notice being given, work may continue up to 10 p.m. (formerly 11 p.m.) at certain periods of the year for not more than sixty days in the year, but in no case must the number of hours worked per day exceed twelve. In these trades and in trades in which, under Article 7 of the law of 1892, the restrictions as to the length of the daily hours of labour may be temporarily suspended by ordinance, the consecutive rest period may be reduced to ten hours. Temporary exemptions may be made in the case of certain industries determined by ordinance, and, as before, permission to work beyond the usual hours, or to shorten the period of nightly rest, may also be granted in the case of stoppages due to accident or unforeseen occurrences. The law entered into force on January 1st.

HOLLAND.

*Employment in March.**—Returns relating to unemployment among their members in March were received by the Dutch Central Statistical Office from trade unions and municipal unemployment funds with 50,373 members entitled to benefit. The percentage of these out of work in March, 1912, was 4.5, as compared with 5.8 in February and 2.1 in March, 1911.† This percentage is obtained by taking, for each of the four (or five) weeks in the month under consideration, the number of persons unemployed on one or more days of the week. The proportion of the average of these four (or five) numbers to the number of members entitled to benefit gives the percentage.

The average number of days lost in the week per member unemployed on one or more days of the week was 5.8 in March, compared with 5.4 in the previous month and 5.3 a year ago.

The following Table shows the above figures, together with corresponding particulars for the larger trade groups:—

Group of Trades.	Number of Members entitled to Benefit in Mar., 1912.	Percentage unemployed.†			Average Days lost per Week.		
		Mar., 1912.	Feb., 1912.	Mar., 1911.	Mar., 1912.	Feb., 1912.	Mar., 1911.
All Unions and Municipal Unemployment Funds making returns	50,373	4.5	5.8	2.1	5.8	5.4	5.3
PRINCIPAL TRADES:—							
Diamond Workers ..	10,282	15.6	11.5	2.5	6.0	6.0	6.0
Printing Trades ..	5,739	0.5	0.7	0.5	6.0	5.8	5.9
Building Trades ..	9,461	3.9	13.2	4.2	5.0	4.8	4.7
Bricklayers and Masons ..	953	6.3	21.0	6.1	5.0	4.2	4.7
Painters ..	1,941	5.3	20.4	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.7
Carpenters ..	4,596	3.2	6.4	2.8	4.7	4.9	4.3
Mining (Metal and Coal) and Peat-getting ..	2,164	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	5,402	0.6	1.1	1.2	5.8	5.8	5.8
Textile Trades ..	2,753	0.1	0.2	0.3	5.5	4.7	3.9
Tobacco Workers and Cigar Makers ..	5,624	1.1	1.3	2.0	5.5	5.5	5.2

Increased Wages for State Coalminers.—H.M. Minister at The Hague, in a despatch of April 2nd, reports that it has been decided to increase the wages of workpeople employed in the State mines by an average of 7 to 8 per cent. in the case of surface workers and 5 per cent. in the case of underground workers. For the majority of

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).
† These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 165-166. For reasons see Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics.
‡ Relates only to persons unemployed throughout the whole week.

the latter category the increase had already been introduced as from March 1st, for other workpeople it was to begin from April 1st. Certain other improvements as regards the annual leave of absence with pay were also announced.

The above official announcement was made in reply to a more comprehensive list of demands put forward by the General Union of Christian Miners. Petitions urging a general increase in wages and improvements in the conditions regulating the holidays of miners had also been addressed to the managers of mines in Holland by the Netherlands Socialist Miners' Union and the Neutral General Netherlands Miners' Union.

GERMANY.

Employment in March.—According to the *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department), employment on the whole showed a further improvement in March, and for the majority of industries it was reported as "good." Coalmining in the Ruhr district was influenced by the strike (see below) and its after-effects, but not to a serious extent, as the dispute lasted only a short time, and production was in a certain measure maintained by the mines; the Coal Syndicate was able in part to draw on its large stocks. In Upper and Lower Silesia the demand was abnormally large, owing to the English and Westphalian mining strikes, so that not only was the total output of coal disposed of, but great quantities of coal were drawn from stocks. In lignite mining in Central Germany employment continued satisfactory, and the market was on the whole better than in February. The mines and coal briquette factories in the Rhenish lignite district were more busily employed in February and March than a year ago. Employment was again good in potash mining, in the chemical and electrical trades, and at blastfurnaces, iron foundries and engineering works. In cotton-spinning mills employment continued satisfactory; in woollen cloth manufacture it was again very quiet, but the reports from Western Germany were more favourable. The ready-made branches of the men and women's clothing trades were satisfactorily employed on the whole, and the paper and printing trades were well employed. Owing to seasonal causes employment continued slack in the building trades.

Returns relating to unemployment were furnished to the German Labour Department by 50 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 1,965,546. Omitting branches which failed to make returns, the membership covered was 1,919,012, of whom 30,521, or 1.6 per cent., were stated to be unemployed at the end of March, 1912. Further particulars for each of the principal unions for which statistics are available are given in the following Table:—

UNION.	Membership reported on at end of March, 1912.	Percentage of Membership returned as unemployed at end of month*		
		Mar., 1912.	Feb., 1912.	Mar., 1911.
All Unions making Returns ..	1,919,012	1.6	2.6	1.9
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Miners ..	49,265†	†	0.7	0.1
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.) ..	523,185	1.3	1.8	2.5
Engineers and Metal Workers .. (Hirsch-Duncker)	45,186	0.9	1.7	1.1
Metal Workers (Christian) ..	44,412	0.5	1.0	0.5
Textile Workers (Soc. Dem.) ..	137,611	0.5	0.7	†
Textile Workers (Christian) ..	39,048	0.5	0.9	0.8
Boot and Shoe Makers ..	44,500	1.4	2.0	1.1
Printers ..	200,574	1.4	4.4	1.9
Bookbinders ..	63,784	2.1	2.3	1.8
Woodworkers ..	31,064	2.2	3.1	2.4
Brewery and Mill Workers ..	187,831	2.7	3.5	2.6
Tobacco Workers ..	42,972	1.2	2.6	1.4
Factory Workers (irrespective of trade)	33,384	1.7	1.9	†
State and Municipal Workers ..	196,337	1.3	3.4	1.1
	48,866	0.6	1.2	0.8

The percentage of unemployed among those unions which made returns at all three periods was 1.7 at the end of

* These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 165-166. For reasons see Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics.
† Membership relates to February; no return for March.
‡ No return.

March, as compared with 2.7 in the previous month, and 2.0 per cent. in March, 1911.

The number of days lost owing to unemployment during the first quarter of 1912 by members of Trade Unions making returns was calculated to be 1.8 per cent. of the possible working days during that period, as compared with 1.1 per cent. in the previous quarter and 1.8 per cent. in the first quarter of 1911.

*Strikes of Coal Miners in Rhenish-Westphalia, Saxony, &c.**—On March 19th at a conference of the delegates of the Social-Democratic, Hirsh-Duncker and Polish trade unions, it was decided to stop the strike throughout the Rhenish-Westphalian district (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1912, p. 93), and on March 21st work was fully resumed. The termination of the dispute in Lorraine was also reported, the men accepting concessions made by the owners from the beginning.

On March 5th the miners of the Lugau-Oelsnitz-Zwickau district, in Saxony, presented demands for a uniform increase of the shift wage by 30 pfennige (3½d.) for both underground and surface workers, owing to the increased cost of living; the abolition of piecework; an eight-hour bank-to-bank working shift, reduced to six and seven at certain temperatures; arbitration courts, &c. These demands were refused, and on March 18th a strike started. It was stated on March 20th that 70 per cent. of the underground miners were out.

An attempt was made by the men to obtain the intervention of the Government in their favour, but the mine-owners declared that wages had already risen considerably of late years, and that a further rise would not be justified by existing prices and conditions in the industry.

On April 19th the strike was declared at an end, and it was stated that work would be resumed on the 22nd, although it was not unlikely that the resumption would be slow.

Dispute in Tailoring Trade.—H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, reporting on March 21st, stated that a serious strike in the tailoring industry was in progress throughout Germany. The national agreement under which wages were regulated expired on March 1st, and the workpeople then demanded regular working hours, larger workshops and an increase of about 25 per cent. in wages. The first two of these demands were dropped, however, and the question at issue became that of wages. At the date of reporting the dispute had spread to 147 towns, 23,000 strikers being involved. A later despatch, dated April 12th, reported the termination of the dispute, the men having obtained an advance of 8½ per cent.

[The total number of workpeople affected by the dispute in its final stage, when both a strike and lockout were in progress, was estimated in the press at 45,000, employed in 158 towns.]

AUSTRIA.†

Employment of Women and Children in Mines: Amendment of Law.—A law dated December 26th, 1911, introduces certain amendments into the Austrian law of June 21st, 1884, in which, *inter alia*, the conditions governing the employment of women and children in mines were laid down. The exceptions to the provisions prohibiting the employment of children under 14 formerly permitted are no longer recognised. As before, women and girls may be employed only at surface work, but a new provision prohibits their employment at night—i.e., between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. Where two day shifts are worked, however, women over 18 may be employed up to 10 p.m. Young girls under 18 may still only be employed in a manner not injurious to their bodily development, but the extension of the maximum working day of 10 hours permitted in mountain mines in the earlier law may now only be allowed in the case of women over 18, and then only on condition that a night rest of at least 11 hours is given. Furthermore, the extra shifts previously allowed in exceptional circumstances or during temporary pressure may now only be worked by women over 18, and at most for 40 days in the year, and on condition that at least 10 hours night rest is allowed. In this case the night rest may begin at 10 p.m.

* Based on despatches from H.M. Vice-Consul at Leipzig and press reports. *Soziale Rundschau* (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department) December 1911.

Under the earlier law women were allowed to return to work after a confinement when a period of four weeks had elapsed on the production of a doctor's certificate stating that they were fit to resume their employment, or after 6 weeks without such certificate; the legal minimum period of absence is now 6 weeks without exception. The above clauses entered into operation at various dates during January, 1912.

DENMARK.*

Employment in February.—According to returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Office, 13.3 per cent. of the 85,200 members of trade unions reporting were unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 18.2 per cent. at the end of the preceding month, and 16.6 per cent. a year ago.† The average number of days lost by such members during February owing to unemployment was 3.2 per member, as compared with 3.7 in January.

NORWAY.‡

Employment in March.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of March in certain trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Labour Department, comparative figures relating to the same unions being added for the previous month and for March, 1911:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.†		
	Mar. 31st, 1912.	Feb. 29th, 1912.	Mar. 31st, 1911.	Mar. 31st, 1912.	Feb. 29th, 1912.	Mar. 31st, 1911.
Bricklayers and Masons ..	568	564	484	10.4	20.7	24.2
Carpenters, &c. ..	1,246	1,207	1,061	4.2	9.5	3.6
Painters ..	287	280	250	2.1	10.4	5.2
Metal Workers ..	7,924	7,124	6,447	1.5	2.3	1.5
Boot and Shoe Makers ..	691	686	651	0.9	2.2	2.5
Printers ..	1,963	1,943	1,600	1.1	0.4	0.9
Bookbinders ..	455	450	340	0.2	0.2	—
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers ..	799	791	785	0.5	0.5	0.4
Sawyers and Planers ..	516	492	422	3.7	10.4	9.0
Cabinet Makers ..	506	525	469	0.4	1.0	1.1
Bakers ..	346	336	330	6.2	3.9	5.2
Tinned Goods ..	474	446	264	1.7	0.9	7.2
Total ..	15,813	14,894	13,103	2.0	3.5	2.9

UNITED STATES.

Recent Advances in Wages of Railwaymen.—A despatch from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated April 10th, 1912, transmits a statement prepared by the Bureau of Railway Economics, giving certain particulars as to recent advances in wages of railwaymen in the United States. The eighty-three railways to which the returns relate cover practically all those over 500 miles in length, the total mileage represented being 188,760, or 77.4 per cent. of the total steam railway mileage in the States. The aggregate wages paid to employees during the year ended June 30th, 1911, amounted to £209,432,760, an increase of 4.3 per cent. over the amount that would have been received by the men had they been paid at the rates for 1910, and of 7.4 per cent. over the sum they would have had if remunerated at the 1909 rates. In the above comparisons increases or decreases in wages due to variations in the number employed are disregarded.

Increases in the aggregate amount of wages paid accrued to all classes of railway employees except that of "general and other officers"; the wages of that class are, nevertheless, included in the above figures. The greatest increases were received by the train staffs (engine-drivers, firemen, guards, &c.), whose total wages amounted to £58,754,288 in 1911, or 28.1 per cent. of the total wages bill. On the comparative basis explained above, this total showed increases of 6.7 per cent. on 1910 and 10.4 per cent. on 1909.

As regards absolute increases, the total wages received during the year ended June 30th, 1911, were greater than in 1910 by £10,411,712, or 5.2 per cent., in spite of a decrease in the numbers employed of 31,037, or 2.1 per cent. The increase in gross revenue was £5,704,395, or only 5.4 per cent. of the increase in wages, the decline in net revenue amounting to £8,539,279.

* *Statistiske Efterretninger* (Journal of the Danish Statistical Office).

† These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 165-166. For reasons see Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics.

‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Labour Department.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES DURING APRIL.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 491 Returns—435 from Employers, 43 from Trade Unions and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

DURING the whole of March and the early part of April the collieries were at a standstill, owing to the national dispute. The pits re-opened in most districts during the second week in April, and by the end of the month employment was good generally.

Returns relating to 1,260 pits employing 612,989 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the fortnight ended April 27th, 1912, was 5.52, compared with 5.00 a year ago, when the averages were affected by holidays to the extent of about 0.75 of a day per week.

Of the 612,989 workpeople covered by the returns 550,784 (or 90.0 per cent.) were employed at pits working 10 or more days during the fortnight ended April 27th, 1912, while 463,164 (or 75.0 per cent. of the total) were employed at pits working 11 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week were in North Wales (5.90 days), and in South Wales and Monmouth (5.84 days). The lowest average was in Warwick, Worcester and Salop (4.61 days).

The following Table shows the average number of days worked during the fortnight ended April 27th, 1912, together with the figures for a similar period in April, 1911. Collieries at which there were disputes causing stoppage of work are excluded from the figures:—

Districts.	No. of Work-people employed in April, 1912, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a Year ago.
		April 27th, 1912.	April 25th, 1911.†	
ENGLAND & WALES.				
Northumberland ..	15,997	5.47	5.25	+ 0.22
Durham ..	115,260	5.33	5.22	+ 0.11
Cumberland ..	7,319	5.69	5.16	+ 0.53
South Yorkshire ..	77,827	5.79	4.91	+ 0.88
West Yorkshire ..	25,949	5.74	4.84	+ 0.90
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	59,633	5.61	5.31	+ 0.30
Derbyshire ..	42,648	5.39	4.85	+ 0.54
Nottingham and Leicester ..	38,456	4.92	4.13	+ 0.79
Staffordshire ..	30,231	5.32	4.84	+ 0.48
Warwick, Worcester and Salop ..	8,470	4.61	4.82	- 0.21
Goucester and Somerset ..	7,412	5.48	4.98	+ 0.50
North Wales ..	11,303	5.90	5.46	+ 0.44
South Wales and Mon. ..	122,430	5.84	4.77	+ 1.07
ENGLAND AND WALES	562,935	5.54	4.96	+ 0.58
SCOTLAND.				
West Scotland ..	23,410	5.20	5.25	- 0.05
The Lothians ..	3,579	5.41	5.04	+ 0.37
Fife ..	22,497	5.51	5.56	- 0.05
SCOTLAND	49,486	5.36	5.38	- 0.02
IRELAND				
..	568	5.21	5.25	- 0.04
United Kingdom	612,989	5.52	5.00	+ 0.52

The following reports on the various districts refer in all cases to the state of employment at the end of the month, when the adverse effects of the dispute had generally ceased.

In Northumberland and Cumberland employment was good, and about the same as a year ago; in Durham it was fairly good. In Yorkshire employment was very good, and better than a year ago. In Lancashire and Cheshire it was, on the whole, fair; in the Wigan and Oldham districts, however, it was good. In Derbyshire employment was good; in Nottingham and Leicester there was some slackness. Employment in Staffordshire was fair, and rather better than a year ago; it was dull in Warwick, Worcester, and Salop, and worse than a year ago. In Gloucester and

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

† The averages for April, 1911, are reduced on account of the Easter Holidays.

Strike of Coal Miners.—A despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Chicago, dated April 26th, 1912, reports that, as a result of the formal signing of the Cleveland wages agreement on that day by representatives of the United Mine Workers of America and the bituminous coal mine owners, peace was established in the central competitive field for the next two years, so far as wages were concerned. (See BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, April, 1912, p. 133.)

Textile Workers' Dispute at Lowell (Mass.).—H.M. Consul-General at Boston, in despatches dated March 26th to April 16th, reports a strike of 15,000 textile operatives at Lowell and Newton (Mass.). The demands of the workpeople were for a minimum increase in wages of 15 per cent., but the dispute terminated on April 16th by the strikers accepting an increase of 10 per cent. The dispute is regarded as having been organised by the "Industrial Workers of the World" Society.

Unemployment in San Francisco.—In a despatch, dated April 11th, His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at San Francisco sends a summary of a Report issued by the State of California Labour Commissioner on the subject of the unemployed in San Francisco (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, April, 1912, p. 133).

The Report shows that the scarcity of work in San Francisco is lessening as the season advances. Compared with 32,000 unemployed in the city during January and February, it was found that the number had fallen to about 21,000 on April 11th. According to the Labour Commissioner's estimate, there were about 20 per cent. more unemployed this winter than last.

The Report concludes that "the opening up of the various industries in the next month will take the bulk of the unemployed from our city. For those remaining it is desirable that the Municipal State and Exhibition projects should be put in operation as soon as possible."

New York State.

Employment, July to December, 1911.—The Bulletin of the New York State Department of Labour for March contains statistics of unemployment in the State based upon returns received from 188 representative Trade Unions. The membership of such Unions reporting, and the proportion returned as unemployed owing to causes other than labour disputes or disability—e.g., lack of work, shortage of materials, or weather conditions—are shown in the following Table:—

Month.	Membership reporting in 1911.	Percentage reported unemployed owing to causes other than disputes or disability.*	
		1911.	1910.
July ..	116,801	13.1	8.1
August ..	118,445	9.5	7.5
September ..	118,724	8.9	8.4
October ..	118,007	9.8	13.4
November ..	117,826	17.6	15.0
December ..	115,430	31.9	25.6

The following Table classifies the particulars given for the end of December, 1911, according to groups of trades, corresponding percentages for the previous month, and for December, 1910, being added for comparison:—

Group of Trades.	Membership reporting at end of December, 1911.	Percentage reported unemployed owing to causes other than disputes or disability at end of*		
		Dec. 1911.	Nov. 1911.	Dec. 1910.
Building, Stoneworking, etc.	33,376	31.9	23.1	29.1
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	8,082	15.1	14.7	6.6
Clothing ..	30,037	59.7	28.5	47.8
Transport ..	14,121	29.3	8.6	20.7
Printing, Book-binding, etc. ..	7,232	3.6	3.5	1.1
Woodworking and Furniture ..	3,302	18.9	16.6	14.8
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	7,124	22.7	5.2	6.9
Hotels and Restaurants ..	2,256	6.8	5.5	6.7
Stationary Employment ..	3,100	1.2	1.3	1.8
Public Employment ..	2,687	4.4	3.6	3.0
Other ..	4,133	—	—	—
Total ..	115,430	31.9	17.6	25.6

* These figures are not comparable with the Unemployment Percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 165-166. For reasons see Fourth Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics.

Somerset employment was fair, and in North Wales, South Wales and Monmouthshire it was good. Employment was fair in West Scotland, and good in the Lothians and in Fife.

The following Table shows the number employed and the average number of days worked per week, distributed according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged:—

Description of Coal.	No. of Work-people employed in April, 1912, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in Fortnight ended		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a
		Apr. 27th, 1912.	Apr. 29th, 1911.*		Year ago.
Anthracite	6,130	Days. 5.27	Days. 4.67	+ 0.60
Coking	32,645	5.44	5.23	+ 0.21
Gas	44,390	5.44	5.19	+ 0.25
House	78,182	5.20	4.75	+ 0.45
Steam	223,192	5.66	4.83	+ 0.73
Mixed	228,550	5.54	5.09	+ 0.45
All Descriptions ..	612,989	5.52	5.00	+ 0.52

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel during April, 1912, amounted to 1,527,508 tons, or 127,637 tons less than in March, 1912, and 3,503,062 tons less than in April, 1911.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 71 Returns—58 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union and 12 from Local Correspondents.) EMPLOYMENT in iron mines, though much better than a month ago, had not recovered from the effects of the coal strike; and in the Cleveland district, in which there was a complete stoppage of work during March, an average of only 2.65 days per week were worked in the second fortnight of April. Employment continued fairly good in shale mines; compared with a year ago these mines worked less time per week on the average, but employed more men.

Employment was fairly good in tin and lead mines, work generally being resumed at those mines where there was a stoppage in March. Employment on the whole was moderate in quarries, while good with setmakers and china clay workers; it still suffered somewhat from the effects of the coal strike in quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the fortnight ended April 27th the weekly average number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the returns was 4.11, as compared with 3.01 (exclusive of Cleveland, where employment was completely suspended) a month ago, and 5.86 a year ago.

Districts.	Work-people employed in April, 1912.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
		Apr. 27th, 1912.	Mar. 23rd, 1912.	Apr. 29th, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland	6,240	Days. 2.65	†	5.94	†	- 3.29
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,014	5.71	3.82	5.98	+ 1.89	- 0.27
Scotland	479†	4.55	0.32	5.73	+ 4.23	- 1.18
Other Districts	1,920	4.55	1.75	5.63	+ 2.80	- 1.08
All Districts	13,653	4.11	3.01	5.86	+ 1.10	- 1.75

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns 40.5 per cent. were employed at mines working 11 or more days during the fortnight ended April 27th, as compared with 91.8 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—According to the returns received there were 3,409 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended April 27th, who worked on an average 5.71 days per week, as compared with 3,429 workpeople in March, who worked 5.75 days, and 3,181 in April, 1911, who worked 5.79 days.

Tin Mining.—Employment generally was fair in Cornwall, and better than a month ago, when it was affected by the coal strike, full time having been resumed in April at most of the mines.

* The averages for April, 1911, are reduced on account of the Easter Holidays.
† Miners out on strike.
‡ This number is exclusive of workpeople employed at mines stopped on account of disputes.

Lead Mining.—Employment showed a considerable improvement after the termination of the coal strike; it was reported as good in the Weardale district, and fairly good in the Matlock district and in North Wales.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was generally fair in North Wales; in the Festiniog district it was fairly good, but in the Nantlle district it was bad. Employment continued good at Delabole (Cornwall).

Granite.—Employment was dull in the Penryn district and fair elsewhere in Cornwall; it was fair and better than a month ago at Princetown. In Leicestershire it was good and better than a month ago. In the Aberdeen district it was described as fair, but affected by the setmakers' strike.

Limestone.—In the Weardale district the quarries were idle for the first part of the month in consequence of the coal strike; in the latter part employment was fair at Stanhope and Westgate, but bad at Frosterley, where only two days per week were worked on an average. Employment was dull in the Buxton district, where also the quarries were closed until the middle of the month. In the Plymouth district employment was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago. In North Wales it was good.

Other Stone.—Chert quarrymen continued well employed at Bakewell, where overtime was worked. In grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was moderate and still affected by the coal strike, short time being worked. Short time was also worked in consequence of the coal strike in the Cleve Hill road-material (basalt) quarries. Employment was bad, with short time, in sandstone quarries in Forfarshire. In sandstone and road-material quarries in North Wales employment was good. It was good at whinstone quarries in Upper Weardale and fair at freestone quarries on the Tyne.

Settmaking, &c.—Employment was generally good with setmakers in the Glasgow district and in the West of Scotland; quarries in the Aberdeen district were closed owing to a strike. Employment was good and better than a month ago with setmakers in Leicestershire. It was also good in North Wales. In the Cleve Hill district it was affected by the coal strike, and short time was worked. Employment was dull, but better than a month ago, with monumental granite cutters in the Aberdeen district.

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

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 117 Returns—110 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry, which was very seriously affected by the coal strike, had recovered to a large extent by the end of April, but was still much worse than it was in February before the strike commenced.

The returns show that 209 furnaces were in blast at the end of April, compared with 38 at the end of March, 1912, and 301 at the end of April, 1911.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces, included in the Returns, in blast at the end of April, 1912, together with the increase and decrease as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
	April, 1912.	March, 1912.	April, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—Cleveland	66	13	81	+ 53	- 15
Cumberland & Lancashire	18	5	26	+ 18	- 8
S. and S.W. Yorks.	6	7	10	+ 1	- 4
Derby & Nottingham	25	7	33	+ 18	- 8
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	17	1	28	+ 16	- 11
Stafford & Worcester	27	8	34	+ 19	- 7
S. Wales & Monmouth	3	1	12	+ 2	- 3
Other districts	3	—	6	+ 3	—
England and Wales ..	165	35	230	+ 130	- 65
Scotland	44	3	71	+ 41	- 27
Total	209	38	301	+ 171	- 92

The Imports of iron ore in April, 1912, amounted to 255,799 tons, or 172,708 tons less than in March, 1912, and 339,927 tons less than in April, 1911.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in April, 1912, amounted to 91,447 tons, or 71,240 tons less than in March, 1912, and 9,296 tons less than in April, 1911.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 203 Returns—190 from Employers, received partly direct, and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 2 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works at the end of April showed a considerable recovery from the effects of the dispute in the coal mining industry, and was better than a year ago. According to returns covering 96,173 workpeople the volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended April 27th, 1912, showed an increase of 148.2 per cent. on a month ago, and of 5.9 per cent. on a year ago. The total number of shifts worked during the week ended April 27th, 1912, was about 541,000, or 323,000 more than a month ago, and 30,000 more than a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
IRON :						
Puddling Forges	9,179	+ 8,258	+ 357	5.32	+ 1.36	+ 0.56
Rolling Mills	3,483	+ 3,103	+ 37	5.19	+ 1.35	+ 0.43
Forging	395	+ 333	+ 22	5.60	+ 2.42	+ 0.45
Founding	1,976	+ 1,393	+ 153	5.93	+ 1.25	+ 0.15
Other Departments	646	+ 337	+ 25	5.79	+ 0.23	- 0.02
Mechanics, Labourers	2,096	+ 1,097	+ 313	5.71	+ 0.90	+ 0.23
Total, Iron	17,775	+ 14,521	+ 863	5.43	+ 0.96	+ 0.44
STEEL :						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	9,271	+ 6,620	+ 378	5.84	+ 0.64	+ 0.12
Crucible Furnaces	474	+ 57	+ 25	5.71	+ 2.77	+ 0.44
Bessemer Converters	1,317	+ 666	+ 219	4.99	+ 0.56	+ 0.04
Rolling Mills	15,332	+ 11,064	+ 71	5.54	+ 2.42	+ 0.45
Forging and Pressing	3,410	+ 1,333	+ 146	5.64	+ 0.69	+ 0.09
Founding	8,846	+ 2,513	+ 591	5.82	+ 0.07	- 0.02
Other Departments	8,227	+ 1,169	+ 172	5.80	+ 0.42	+ 0.02
Mechanics, Labourers	8,280	+ 2,064	+ 31	5.93	+ 0.40	..
Total, Steel	55,217	+ 25,786	+ 597	5.73	+ 0.39	+ 0.12
IRON or STEEL (not distinguished) :						
Rolling Mills	11,604	+ 9,668	+ 370	5.29	+ 0.44	+ 0.25
Forging and Pressing	643	+ 369	+ 2	5.51	+ 0.12	- 0.01
Founding	794	+ 93	+ 47	5.90	+ 0.12	- 0.03
Other Departments	3,900	+ 2,446	+ 395	5.73	+ 0.28	- 0.08
Mechanics, Labourers	6,240	+ 1,921	+ 150	5.81	+ 0.44	+ 0.07
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished) ..	23,181	+ 14,497	+ 660	5.53	+ 0.22	+ 0.13
Grand Total	96,173	+ 54,804	+ 2,420	5.63	+ 0.36	+ 0.18
Districts.						
Northumberland & Durham	10,884	+ 5,533	+ 195	5.68	+ 0.16	+ 0.15
Cleveland	7,777	+ 5,371	+ 509	5.74	+ 0.49	+ 0.12
Sheffield and Rotherham	18,306	+ 3,621	+ 191	5.75	+ 0.47	+ 0.10
Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns	4,386	+ 3,280	+ 49	5.59	+ 1.76	+ 0.08
Cumberland, Lancas. & Ches.	8,074	+ 5,708	+ 957	5.39	+ 0.15	+ 0.16
Staffordshire	9,330	+ 6,349	+ 95	5.36	+ 0.26	+ 0.04
Other Midland Counties	5,341	+ 4,169	+ 157	5.59	+ 0.14	+ 0.26
Wales and Monmouth	13,473	+ 8,600	+ 819	5.61	+ 0.32	+ 0.23
Total, England and Wales ..	77,581	+ 42,631	+ 1,466	5.61	+ 0.35	+ 0.14
Scotland	18,592	+ 12,173	+ 954	5.68	+ 0.36	+ 0.34
Total	96,173	+ 54,804	+ 2,420	5.63	+ 0.36	+ 0.18

Compared with a month ago every district showed a great improvement in employment, owing to the settlement of the coal mining dispute; the largest percentage increases were in Leeds, Bradford, &c., and in Other Midland Counties, and affected all departments. The total number of workpeople employed increased by 54,804 (132.5 per cent.), and the number of shifts worked by 0.36 of a shift.

Compared with a year ago employment showed considerable improvement in Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, Wales and Monmouth, and in Scotland; while in the Cleveland district there was a decline. The improvement chiefly affected iron puddling forges and

rolling mills, iron foundries and steel forges and presses. The total number of workpeople employed increased by 2,420 (or 2.6 per cent.), and the number of shifts worked by 0.18 of a shift.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during April, 1912, amounted to 115,140 tons, or 18,363 tons less than in March, 1912, and 38,528 tons less than in April, 1911.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron and tinned plates and black plates) during April, 1912, amounted to 166,782 tons, or 123,008 tons less than in March, 1912, and 63,773 tons less than in April, 1911.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry at the end of April was good, and practically all the mills which had stopped for some weeks on account of the coal strike were in operation.

At the end of April 467 tinplate mills were in operation, an increase of 391 compared with the end of March, but a decrease of 3 compared with a year ago. The steel sheet mills working numbered 67, compared with none at the end of March and 60 a year ago.

The works to which these figures relate are chiefly in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employed about 26,700 workpeople.

The following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet works open and the number of mills in operation at the end of April, 1912, together with the increase or decrease compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

	Number of Works open.		Number of Mills in operation.	
	At end of April, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of April, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Tinplate Works	75	+ 62	467	+ 391
Steel Sheet Works	11	+ 11	67	+ 67
Total	85	+ 73	534	+ 458

Exports.

As will be seen from the next Table the exports of tinned plates and sheets in April decreased by 21,361 tons as compared with March and 16,103 tons as compared with a year ago.

	April, 1912.		Mar., 1912.		April, 1911.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.								
To United States	123	100	716	—	23	—	593	—
British East Indies	2,132	5,781	3,621	—	3,649	—	—	—
Germany	2,865	4,377	3,641	—	1,514	—	778	—
France	2,238	2,900	1,569	—	662	—	669	—
Netherlands	2,931	4,069	4,594	—	1,138	—	1,663	—
China and Japan	936	2,553	4,275	—	1,617	—	3,339	—
Australia	421	3,565	—	—	3,758	—	3,062	—
Canada	294	695	815	—	401	—	521	—
Other Countries	14,383	23,026	17,530	—	8,643	—	3,147	—
Total	26,383	47,744	42,486	—	21,361	—	16,103	—
Black Plates.								
Total	3,205	6,151	6,220	—	2,946	—	3,015	—

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 359 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 337 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during April was good, and showed an improvement on the previous month; it was about the same as a year ago. Iron and steel shipbuilders suffered a little loss of time in some centres owing to a shortage of iron and steel.

Trade unions with a membership of 68,879 reported 3.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4.4 per cent. a month ago, and 3.5 per cent. a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of April, 1912.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
		April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	10,344	3.2	2.9	4.0	+ 0.3	- 0.8
Wear	5,706	6.3	4.6	6.5	+ 1.7	- 0.2
Tees and Hartlepool .. .	5,579	7.6	11.7	3.4	- 4.1	+ 4.2
Humber	2,828	6.8	3.6	1.7	+ 3.2	+ 5.1
Thames and Medway .. .	4,740	3.0	4.7	3.0	- 1.7	.. .
South Coast	5,178	2.4	2.2	2.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Bristol Channel Ports .. .	2,792	10.7	17.1	11.1	- 6.4	- 0.4
Mersey	4,973	2.5	5.2	7.6	- 2.7	- 5.1
Clyde	16,799	2.3	2.5	1.5	- 0.2	+ 0.8
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen .. .	2,332	3.6	3.4	3.7	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Belfast	3,897	1.3	1.0	0.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Other Districts	3,706	1.8	1.7	1.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
United Kingdom	68,879	3.8	4.4	3.5	- 0.6	+ 0.3

Compared with a month ago, the most marked decreases in the percentage unemployed occurred in the British Channel, Tees, Mersey, and Thames districts, while the Clyde also showed a slight decrease; the other districts showed increases which were very small, except in the case of the Humber and Wear districts.

Compared with a year ago, there was, on the whole, a slight increase in the number unemployed; the only marked increase, however, occurred in the Humber and Tees districts, while a marked decrease was shown in the Mersey district.

Employment generally continued good in the Tyne and Blyth district, though shortage of material caused a little slackness with shipbuilders at Walker and Wallsend; employment was not so good as a month ago at Elswick. Employment was fairly good, on the whole, on the Wear; it was not so good as a month ago with shipwrights; but better than a month ago with iron shipbuilders; ship joiners and plumbers reported it as bad. Employment was good and better than a month ago at the Hartlepoons, and fair at Middlesbrough and Stockton, except with joiners, with whom it was bad.

Employment was generally fair on the Humber, but showed a decline on both a month ago and a year ago; it was bad at Selby owing to lack of material.

Employment was good, on the whole, in the Thames and Medway districts, and showed an improvement on the previous month; slackness on new work was reported in the London district. Employment continued very good in Government yards on the South Coast, and was fair at Southampton. At the Bristol Channel ports employment showed a marked improvement on a month ago.

Employment was very good and better than a month ago on the Mersey, where overtime was reported. It continued good, with overtime, at Barrow.

Employment continued very good on the Clyde, where, however, there was some loss of time among platers owing to lack of material. Employment was generally good on the East Coast of Scotland, though dull with shipwrights at Dundee. Employment continued very good at Belfast.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,077 Returns—4 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1,044 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 29 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was affected by the coal strike during part of April, but recovered towards the end of the month, when it was better than a month ago. It was not quite so good as a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions with a membership of 193,125 show that the percentage unemployed at the end of April was 4.3, as compared with 9.0 a month ago and 3.2 at the end of April, 1911. Compared with a month ago there was a decrease in the percentage unemployed in every district, the improvement being, as a rule, most marked in the districts most seriously affected by the coal strike; in Glasgow and district, however,

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

the percentage of unemployed remained high at the end of the month. Compared with a year ago four districts showed a slight decrease in the percentage unemployed, and all the others showed an increase, the highest being in Glasgow and district.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of April, 1912.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
		Apr., 1912.	Mar., 1912.	Apr., 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	15,879	4.9	11.7	5.1	- 6.8	- 0.2
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,908	3.7	10.4	3.1	- 6.7	+ 0.6
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District .. .	12,759	5.1	14.0	5.3	- 8.9	- 0.2
West Riding Towns .. .	12,856	5.6	17.0	3.3	- 11.4	+ 2.3
Hull and Lincolnshire District .. .	4,657	2.4	4.2	2.6	- 1.8	- 0.2
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District .. .	8,462	3.5	4.1	2.9	- 0.6	+ 0.6
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,637	4.3	6.9	3.5	- 2.6	+ 0.3
London and neighbouring District	12,011	2.1	2.5	1.6	- 0.4	+ 0.5
South Coast	4,639	2.0	3.3	1.5	- 1.3	+ 0.5
South Wales and Bristol District	7,310	5.7	12.4	2.0	- 6.7	+ 3.7
Glasgow and District	18,725	9.8	12.9	3.4	- 3.1	+ 6.4
East of Scotland	3,752	6.1	10.9	7.9	- 4.8	- 1.3
Belfast and Dublin	3,971	5.7	7.0	2.3	- 1.3	+ 3.4
Other Districts	6,082	2.9	5.5	1.7	- 2.6	+ 1.2
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available) .. .	193,125	4.3	9.0	3.2	- 4.7	+ 1.1

Employment in the latter half of the month was good on the Tyne and Wear, and night shifts and overtime were worked in some cases. On repair work employment was fairly good on the Tyne. It was fairly good on the Tees and at Hartlepool.

In Lancashire employment was good in the latter part of the month in general engineering shops, but some short time was worked by ironfounders. With textile machinery workers short time continued to be worked. At Birkenhead employment on new work was adversely affected by the continuance of a dispute. It continued good at Barrow, with overtime, and slack at Crewe.

In the West Riding of Yorkshire the effect of the coal strike was felt almost throughout the month, but at the end of the month normal conditions were generally reached. At Sheffield, however, recovery was delayed by a dispute affecting moulders. In Hull and Lincolnshire employment was, on the whole, fair.

At Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry employment was good, especially in the motor industry. Some short time was, however, worked in Birmingham and district owing to want of material. Employment was good at Derby, moderate at Nottingham and fairly good on the whole at Leicester. In the Eastern Counties some works were closed in the early part of the month, but employment improved later. Short time was, however, worked at Ipswich and Colchester.

In the London district employment continued good. At Southampton it was fair on new work and bad on repair work, and at the Royal Dockyards it was quiet. Employment at Swindon was moderate, at Bristol good, and in South Wales fair.

In the Glasgow district employment was better than a month ago, but continued bad with certain branches of ironmoulders. At Edinburgh employment was good; at Falkirk, owing to the coal strike, it was slack. At Dundee employment was fairly good on the whole, and at Aberdeen it was good generally.

At Belfast employment continued dull, and at Dublin it was moderate.

The Imports of machinery in April, 1912, amounted to £582,055 or £25,912 less than in March, 1912, but £9,533 more than in April, 1911.

The Exports of machinery in April, 1912, amounted to £2,557,766, or £241,406 less than in March, 1912, and £57,153 less than in April, 1911.

* Exclusive of superannuated members.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 88 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 64 from Trade Unions, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good generally, though still adversely affected, in some branches, by the recent coal strike. It was not quite so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with 28,419 members reported 2.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of April compared with 8.6 per cent. a month ago and 1.7 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, &c.—Employment was good generally with brassworkers, and at the end of April had recovered from the effects of the coal strike. It was about the same as a year ago. Bedstead makers at Birmingham reported employment fair.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—In the Darlaston district employment was moderate; at Blackheath it was good in the nut and bolt trade, and fair with nail makers. At Birmingham employment was fair with cut-nail makers, and fairly good with nut, bolt, wire-nail and shoe rivet makers. On the Tyne employment was good with nut and bolt makers.

Wire.—Employment was fairly good generally, and about the same as a year ago; at Middlesbrough it was reported bad, and with wire workers in London quiet.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—With hollowware workers employment was good at Wolverhampton and fairly good at West Bromwich. Lock and latch makers reported employment at Wolverhampton and Willenhall as fairly good.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—At Falkirk employment was good, and better than a year ago. In England it was reported bad, and still affected by the recent coal strike, a large number of workpeople being still on short time; at Sheffield, however, employment was fair.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups, &c.—At Sheffield the various branches of the cutlery trade were reported as fair generally, and rather better than a month ago; with seissors-grinders and pen and pocket-blade forgers employment was good. At Birmingham it was good with edge-tool makers, and at Wednesbury a great improvement was reported, following the termination of the coal strike. With makers of stirrups, bits, and other harness and saddlery parts at Walsall employment was good. It continued good in the needle and fish-hook trades at Redditch. The watch trade at Coventry continued quiet.

Tubes.—Makers of brass and copper tubes reported employment as improving at Birmingham. The South Staffordshire tube trade was reported to be still suffering from the effects of the coal strike.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—At Cradley Heath employment continued bad with chain makers and anchor smiths; on the Tyne and Wear it was fair with anchor smiths. With anvil and vice makers at Dudley it was good, and about the same as a year ago. At West Bromwich employment was fair in the spring trade.

Sheet-Metal Workers.—With braziers and sheet-metal workers employment was fairly good generally; at Manchester and in London it was good. Tinplate makers-up were well employed at Wolverhampton and Oldham; at Birmingham they reported employment as moderate, and at Hull, fair. At Edinburgh employment continued good with tinsmiths.

Gold, Silver, and Britannia Metal.—In Sheffield employment was quiet, with a good deal of short time, and was worse than a year ago. In London employment with goldsmiths and jewellers was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Birmingham employment with silversmiths was quiet; with jewellers it had improved; Britannia metal workers reported it as quiet.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cutlery	£ 12,272	£ 16,643	£ 15,033	- 4,371	- 2,761
Hardware	112,869	107,088	89,589	+ 5,781	+ 23,270
Exports:—					
Cutlery	65,570	62,069	64,059	+ 3,501	+ 1,511
Hardware	230,582	232,035	215,181	- 1,453	+ 15,401
Implements and Tools .. .	215,315	217,594	194,352	- 2,279	+ 20,963

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 469 Returns—372 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 90 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued to be adversely affected by the coal dispute in the early part of April, but by the end of the month it was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 125,354 workpeople in the week ended April 27th, 1912, showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Compared with a month ago the improvement was more marked in the preparing and spinning departments than in weaving, but compared with a year ago the improvement was uniform in all the departments.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Preparing	16,181	+ 2.3	£ 15,133	+ 5.4
Spinning	27,887	+ 1.8	28,140	+ 5.5
Weaving	57,441	+ 0.2	56,554	+ 0.7
Other	9,828	- 0.2	11,995	+ 0.7
Not specified	14,017	+ 6.4	14,480	+ 8.6
Total	125,354	+ 1.5	126,302	+ 3.2

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Ashton	6,397	+ 1.5	6,711	+ 5.4	+ 2.1
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,845	+ 0.6	6,532	+ 1.1	+ 9.9
Oldham	12,966	+ 3.1	14,501	+ 5.5	+ 2.6
Bolton and Leigh .. .	17,135	+ 0.7	16,323	+ 2.2	+ 3.4
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden .. .	9,909	+ 0.0	10,183	+ 1.6	+ 6.6
Manchester	10,160	+ 0.2	8,760	+ 6.4	+ 4.8
Preston and Chorley .. .	11,733	+ 3.2	11,282	+ 4.4	+ 5.6
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	18,055	- 0.1	18,626	+ 0.9	+ 2.5
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	14,895	+ 0.1	17,879	+ 0.8	+ 3.8
Other Lancashire Towns .. .	5,989	+ 5.0	4,885	+ 5.5	+ 10.3
Yorkshire Towns	4,668	+ 13.5	4,538	+ 19.9	- 4.7
Other Districts	6,802	+ 0.6	6,082	+ 2.9	+ 1.3
Total	125,354	+ 1.5	126,302	+ 3.2	+ 3.8

In the Oldham and Bolton districts, in both the spinning and weaving branches, slackness at the beginning of the month gave way to good employment at the end, when trade was reported to be again normal.

With weavers in the Blackburn district employment was good throughout the month.

In the Stockport, Bury, and Manchester districts there was a marked improvement compared with a year ago.

Cotton forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.

Description of Cotton.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American	Bales. 255,925	Bales. 300,801	Bales. 229,705	- 44,876	+ 26,220
Brazilian	4,855	5,445	4,209	- 590	+ 646
East Indian	3,529	4,660	8,047	- 1,131	- 4,518
Egyptian	29,131	32,917	22,934	- 3,786	+ 6,197
Miscellaneous	5,485	5,067	6,223	+ 418	- 738
Total	298,925	348,890	271,118	- 49,965	+ 27,807

Prices of Raw Cotton at Liverpool.

Description.	April, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Middling American:—			
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	6.47	+ 0.40	- 1.52
Highest Price on any one day	6.67	+ 0.47	- 1.64
Lowest " " "	6.17	+ 0.32	- 1.47
Good Fair Egyptian:—			
Monthly average of Daily Quotations	9.07	+ 0.37	- 0.46
Highest Price on any one day	9.25	+ 0.50	- 0.66
Lowest " " "	8.81	+ 0.18	- 0.44

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on May 3rd, 1912, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,399,620 bales, as compared with 879,070 bales on May 5th, 1911.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

Description.	April, 1912.			April, 1911.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Cotton Yarn and Twist—	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	
Grey	15,520	19,743	14,437	- 4,223	+ 1,083			
Bleached and Dyed ..	3,496	3,958	3,107	- 472	+ 379			
Total	19,003	23,701	17,544	- 4,696	+ 1,462			
Cotton—								
Thread for Sewing ..	1,874	2,115	1,851	- 241	+ 23			
Cotton Piece Goods—	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	
Grey or Unbleached ..	178,329	198,540	176,497	- 20,191	+ 1,852			
Bleached	162,160	193,071	143,637	- 30,911	+ 18,523			
Printed	91,448	115,746	97,414	- 24,288	- 5,968			
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ..	92,174	114,984	103,456	- 22,810	+ 11,282			
Total	524,131	622,341	521,004	- 98,210	+ 3,127			

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES

(Based on 375 Returns—345 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 20 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was good at the end of April, and much better than a month ago, when it was affected by the coal dispute; it was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 26,854 workpeople in the week ending April 27th showed an increase of 4.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 10.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Description.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.						
Wool Sorting	701	+ 0.3	- 2.0	720	+ 1.7	+ 1.3
Spinning	5,621	+ 5.4	+ 1.4	5,413	+ 13.8	+ 2.5
Weaving	11,364	+ 5.8	+ 1.0	10,400	+ 9.5	+ 2.9
Other Departments ..	7,265	+ 2.5	+ 2.1	7,706	+ 7.8	+ 4.8
Not specified	1,903	+ 3.0	- 1.6	1,580	+ 12.9	+ 1.6
Total	26,854	+ 4.5	+ 1.1	25,824	+ 10.8	+ 3.2
Districts.						
Huddersfield District ..	3,122	+ 5.2	+ 5.1	3,373	+ 15.5	+ 5.9
Leeds District	2,786	+ 20.8	+ 0.4	2,722	+ 32.3	+ 4.3
Dewsbury & Batley District	4,657	+ 8.8	- 0.2	4,921	+ 22.2	+ 4.6
Other Parts of West Riding	2,472	+ 1.4	+ 1.6	2,646	+ 11.4	+ 4.6
Total, West Riding ..	13,037	+ 8.7	+ 1.5	13,662	+ 20.0	+ 4.9
Scotland	7,429	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	6,975	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Other Districts	6,388	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	5,187	+ 5.2	+ 3.4
Total	26,854	+ 4.5	+ 1.1	25,824	+ 10.8	+ 3.2

In the Huddersfield, Leeds and Dewsbury and Batley districts employment at the beginning of the month was affected by the coal dispute, but at the end it was good, and showed a marked improvement compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago.

Worsted Trade.

Employment recovered from the effects of the coal dispute, and was good at the end of April; it was about the same as a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 40,745 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 14.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and no change in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Wool Sorting & Combing ..	5,091	+ 8.6	- 4.8	5,582	+ 14.3	- 4.8
Spinning	21,711	+ 1.4	+ 1.4	12,747	+ 12.3	+ 2.6
Weaving	8,018	+ 1.9	- 2.4	7,442	+ 17.9	- 1.0
Other Departments	4,217	+ 1.2	- 1.0	4,527	+ 10.4	+ 0.2
Not specified	1,708	+ 2.0	+ 1.7	1,411	+ 19.6	+ 2.5
Total	40,745	+ 2.3	- 0.4	31,709	+ 14.0	+ 0.0
Districts.						
Bradford District	19,708	+ 2.3	+ 0.4	15,406	+ 13.8	- 0.6
Keighley District	6,669	+ 2.0	- 1.0	5,375	+ 11.9	- 0.4
Halifax District	4,680	+ 0.1	- 0.9	3,319	+ 11.4	+ 1.1
Huddersfield District ..	3,727	+ 4.1	- 0.1	3,435	+ 25.5	+ 4.0
Other Parts of West Riding	2,514	+ 7.7	- 8.2	1,638	+ 16.3	- 7.8
Total, West Riding ..	37,298	+ 2.5	- 0.7	29,173	+ 14.6	- 0.3
Other Districts	3,447	+ 0.7	+ 2.7	2,536	+ 7.4	+ 4.0
Total	40,745	+ 2.3	- 0.4	31,709	+ 14.0	+ 0.0

Employment at the end of the month was good in the Bradford, Halifax, Keighley and Huddersfield districts, and had to a great extent recovered from the effects of the coal dispute, though some slackness was still reported in Bradford and the surrounding districts.

Prices of Raw Wool.

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

	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	10½	10½	10½
40's Crossbred tops ..	13½	13½	14
60's Super Botany tops ..	25½	25½	27
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	10½	10, 10½	10, 10½
40's Crossbred tops ..	13, 13½, 13½	13½, 13½	13½, 14
60's Super Botany tops ..	25½, 25½, 25½	25½, 25½	27, 27½

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS).						
Imports .. 1,000 lbs.	124,238	93,280	87,885	+ 30,958	+ 36,353	
British Exports	3,611	3,983	2,460	- 372	+ 1,151	
Re-Exports of Imported Wool .. 1,000 lbs.	23,736	25,661	48,399	- 1,925	- 24,663	
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.						
Yarn:						
Woolen .. 1,000 lbs.	520	458	442	+ 62	+ 78	
Worsted	3,939	5,514	4,559	- 1,675	- 650	
Alpaca and Mohair ..	1,027	1,451	1,359	- 424	- 332	
Total, Yarn	5,486	7,423	6,390	- 1,937	- 904	
Piece Goods:						
Woolen .. 1,000 yds.	4,439	7,093	6,623	- 2,654	- 2,184	
Worsted	3,524	6,347	5,612	- 2,823	- 2,088	
Total Piece Goods ..	7,963	13,440	12,235	- 5,477	- 4,272	

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 113 Returns—103 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.) EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Description.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.						
Preparing	6,204	+ 1.1	+ 0.7	3,635	+ 2.5	- 0.4
Spinning	11,502	- 0.1	- 1.2	5,982	+ 3.1	+ 0.8
Weaving	18,226	- 0.5	- 1.7	10,295	+ 0.1	+ 1.7
Other	7,053	+ 1.2	+ 2.6	5,570	+ 2.6	+ 2.1
Not specified	5,784	+ 0.1	+ 0.4	3,482	+ 1.0	+ 6.0
Total	46,839	+ 0.2	- 0.4	28,934	+ 1.6	+ 1.5
Districts.						
Belfast	18,241	- 0.4	- 0.4	11,480	+ 2.0	+ 1.8
Other Places in Ireland ..	13,824	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	7,886	- 1.8	+ 1.6
Total, Ireland	32,065	- 0.0	- 0.2	19,366	+ 0.4	+ 1.4
Fifehire	6,183	+ 0.3	- 2.1	4,024	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Other Places in Scotland ..	6,527	+ 1.2	+ 0.5	4,234	+ 4.3	+ 4.5
Total, Scotland	12,710	+ 0.8	- 0.8	8,258	+ 2.3	+ 2.9
England	2,064	- 0.4	- 1.5	1,310	+ 15.7	- 4.6
United Kingdom	46,839	+ 0.2	- 0.4	28,934	+ 1.6	+ 1.5

Returns from firms employing 46,839 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In Belfast employment was fairly good, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago; with flax dressers it was good, and with flax roughers it was fair. In Fifehire employment was good, and slightly better than a year ago; a deficiency of women workers was reported.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:						
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) tons	18,730	14,519	8,823	+ 4,211	+ 9,907	
Exports:						
Linen Yarn .. 100 lbs.	14,973	16,827	15,421	- 1,854	- 448	
Linen Piece Goods .. 100 yds.	164,010	223,545	164,984	- 59,535	- 974	

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 35 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT has been good since the settlement of the Dundee dispute, and better than a year ago.

Returns from firms, not directly involved in the dispute, employing 8,459 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Description.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.						
Preparing	1,734	+ 2.2	- 4.2	1,240	+ 2.8	- 0.8
Spinning	2,335	+ 0.4	+ 1.0	1,548	+ 0.5	+ 2.2
Weaving	2,851	+ 0.2	+ 5.9	2,060	+ 6.2	+ 5.4
Other	649	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	662	..	- 2.6
Not specified	890	- 0.3	+ 2.1	713	+ 1.0	+ 8.5
Total	8,459	+ 0.6	+ 1.5	6,223	+ 2.8	+ 2.8

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:						
Jute tons	24,686	35,345	22,644	- 10,659	+ 2,042	
Exports:						
Jute Yarn .. 100 lbs.	29,726	40,037	35,833	- 10,311	- 6,107	
Jute Piece Goods 100 yds	101,306	138,584	127,823	- 37,278	- 26,517	

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 67 Returns—59 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fair; it showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 6,293 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 9.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment in the levers branch continued bad, but was better than a year ago; in the curtain branch it was good, and in the plain net branch fair. In the Long Eaton district employment showed an improvement compared with a month ago and a year

ago. In the West of England employment showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago in both the levers and plain net branches. In Scotland employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago or a year ago.

Description.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Branches.						
Levers	1,500	+ 1.1	+ 7.8	2,134	+ 0.5	+ 33.8
Curtain	2,434	- 0.9	- 4.1	2,437	- 0.7	+ 0.5
Plain Net	1,633	+ 0.1	- 4.8	1,143	- 5.3	- 0.5
Others	364	+ 2.5	- 5.0	255	- 0.4	- 2.8
Not Specified	362	+ 0.6	- 5.0	258	+ 3.2	+ 9.6
Total	6,293	+ 0.1	- 1.8	6,232	- 1.0	+ 9.2
Districts.						
Nottingham City	1,531					

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 61 Returns—53 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair and better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 9,023 workpeople in the week ended April, 1912, showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	1,027	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	468	+ 8.6	- 3.3
Spinning	2,532	- 1.1	- 2.4	1,956	+ 3.8	- 2.6
Weaving	3,338	+ 0.5	- 0.5	2,672	+ 3.0	- 4.0
Other	749	+ 0.8	- 1.7	610	+ 5.4	+ 9.3
Not specified	777	- 7.1	- 5.5	562	- 3.3	- 4.1
Total	9,023	- 0.6	- 1.5	£2,688	+ 3.3	- 2.4
Districts.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,240	- 0.8	- 0.9	2,633	+ 4.0	+ 0.5
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	961	- 3.8	- 1.4	725	+ 2.5	- 2.9
Eastern Counties	3,001	- 1.3	- 3.8	1,775	+ 3.4	- 6.8
Other Districts, including Scotland and Leek	1,821	+ 2.8	+ 1.6	1,135	+ 1.8	- 1.1
Total	9,023	- 0.6	- 1.5	£2,688	+ 3.3	- 2.4

Employment with throwsters and spinners continued moderate at Macclesfield; a good deal of short time was worked at the beginning of the month owing to shortage of coal; at Leek employment was bad at the beginning of the month, and some mills were closed, but there was a recovery towards the end of the month; at Congleton employment continued fair with throwsters and moderate with spinners. At Macclesfield employment was fair with hand-loom weavers in factories and moderate with power-loom weavers; in both cases it was worse than a month ago, and continued bad with outside hand-loom workers. In the Bradford district employment was good. In the Eastern Counties employment was fair and better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk .. lbs	49,012	114,475	88,672	- 65,463	- 39,660
Thrown Silk .. lbs	45,833	48,023	33,913	- 2,190	+ 11,920
Spun Silk Yarn .. lbs	72,618	62,050	48,836	+ 12,568	+ 23,782
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	6,074,007	7,153,564	5,817,919	- 1,079,557	+ 256,088
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk .. lbs	7,992	7,449	5,808	+ 543	+ 2,184
Spun Silk Yarn .. lbs	79,863	102,558	114,998	- 22,695	- 35,135
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	373,523	457,786	364,337	- 84,263	+ 9,186

CARPET TRADE.

(Based on 33 Returns—24 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry, which during March was adversely affected by the coal dispute, showed an improvement during April, and at the end of the month was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 7,864 workpeople and paying £6,635 in wages in the week ended April 27th, 1912, showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 8.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Kidderminster district it was reported that much short time was worked, and employment had hardly recovered from the effects of the coal strike. In the West Riding employment had become fair by the end of the month. In Scotland employment was slack, and about the same as a month ago.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

(Based on 335 Returns—317 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 10 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at the end of April was good, and much better than a month ago, when it was considerably affected by the coal dispute; it was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 32,083 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 8.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 30.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Trades:—	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended April, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bleaching	3,631	+ 0.2	- 0.1	3,855	+ 5.4	+ 5.3
Printing	1,007	+ 12.5	+ 5.3	1,252	+ 31.9	+ 11.7
Dyeing	16,234	+ 11.4	+ 2.1	22,920	+ 46.4	+ 9.9
Trimming, Finishing, and Other Departments	10,512	+ 8.3	+ 2.4	11,037	+ 15.6	+ 3.9
Not specified	699	+ 8.0	+ 4.3	808	+ 18.6	+ 10.8
Total	32,083	+ 8.9	+ 2.1	39,872	+ 30.7	+ 7.8
Districts:—						
Yorkshire	14,269	+ 16.1	+ 2.7	20,440	+ 61.9	+ 10.8
Lancashire	9,752	+ 6.8	+ 1.6	11,541	+ 11.5	+ 4.9
Scotland	3,686	- 0.7	- 2.4	3,292	+ 2.4	- 2.0
Ireland	763	+ 0.4	+ 4.7	581	- 4.3	+ 7.6
Other Districts	3,613	+ 1.4	+ 4.8	4,018	+ 8.6	+ 10.4
Total	32,083	+ 8.9	+ 2.1	39,872	+ 30.7	+ 7.8

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire was affected by the coal dispute at the beginning of the month, but at the end it was better than a month ago and a year ago. At Basford and Bulwell it was reported as quiet. In Dundee it was good.

Printing.—Employment with machine calico printers was good at the end of April. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it was good. In Scotland employment was bad during the first fortnight, but good during the latter part of the month.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers was good, and better than a month ago. With cotton dyers in Lancashire and Yorkshire employment was better than a month ago and a year ago. With silk dyers employment was reported as good at Macclesfield and Congleton, and fair at Leek. With lace dyers at Nottingham it was fair.

Trimming, Finishing, etc.—At Leicester employment was fairly good; at Hinckley and Loughborough it was good; at Basford it was fair. With calenderers employment at Glasgow improved at the end of the month; at Dundee it was good.

LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 35 Returns—23 from Trade Unions and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during April was fair generally and better than a month ago. It was also rather better than a year ago. Trade Unions with 3,082 members reported 5.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, compared with 7.6 per cent. a month ago and 5.7 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, &c.—With skinner at Leeds employment was good; in London it was bad. With curriers at Glasgow employment was good; at Birmingham quiet, and in London bad. Leather workers at Bolton, Bury and Wigan were fairly well employed.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—At Walsall employment was bad with brown saddlers and slack with gig saddlers. In London it was quiet with saddle and harness makers and about the same as a month ago. At Glasgow and Dublin employment was reported fair.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—Employment with

portmanteau makers was fair in London. With fancy leather workers it was dull generally and rather worse than a year ago, some short time being reported.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry .. cwts.	51,030	51,988	38,284	- 958	+ 12,746
Ditto, wet	88,354	56,867	47,539	+ 31,467	+ 40,715
Total Hides, dry and wet	139,384	108,855	85,823	+ 30,529	+ 53,461
Goat skins, undressed, No. 206,836	1,300,475	1,388,782	1,007,606	- 88,307	+ 292,869
Leather*	115,010	136,290	104,330	- 21,280	+ 10,680
Exports:					
Gloves	16,022	19,474	18,350	- 3,452	- 2,328
Machinery Belting .. cwts.	14,572	18,283	11,239	- 3,711	+ 3,333
Saddlery and Harness .. (value) £	3,733	3,302	3,904	+ 431	- 171
Other Sorts .. (value) £	53,467	50,400	42,637	+ 3,067	+ 10,830

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 11 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during April in the silk hat trade continued quiet, and was slightly worse than a year ago.

In the felt hat trade employment was still unsettled owing to the dispute in the coal trade. The percentage of trade union members unemployed at the end of April was 1.2, compared with 2.5 a month ago and 3.4 a year ago. At Denton and Stockport short time was reported; in Warwickshire employment continued good.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds .. dozens	77,951	92,024	39,302	- 14,073	+ 38,649
Exports:					
Hats, Felt	48,572	76,892	49,309	- 28,320	- 737
Straw	68,956	68,777	47,828	+ 219	+ 21,168
Other sorts	14,967	17,438	9,251	- 2,471	+ 5,716
Total	132,535	163,107	106,388	- 30,572	+ 26,147

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 112 Returns—85 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during April was fair, and showed a further seasonal improvement; it was not so good as a year ago.

Returns from firms paying £10,317 to their workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 11.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as good at Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin and Belfast.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Returns from firms employing 9,104 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 8.5 compared with a year ago; employment in this branch was good. The Jewish operatives reported a great improvement at the end of the month.

Other Centres.—At Bristol employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. At Manchester it was fair. At Glasgow and Norwich it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in April, * Includes hides tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheepskins tanned or dressed as leather.

1912, were valued at £297,597, as compared with £371,255 in March, 1912, and £290,568 in April, 1911; and the Exports for the same months at £573,108, £704,963, and £533,678 respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 510 Returns—450 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 50 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good at the end of the month, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 66,493 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 5.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended April 27th, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	3,360	+ 1.1	+ 11.5	3,868	+ 4.3	+ 12.6
Leicester	13,276	+ 0.9	+ 3.9	15,568	+ 5.3	+ 9.7
Leicester Country District	3,055	- 0.7	- 2.3	3,036	- 0.7	+ 4.6
Northampton	9,746	- 0.8	+ 6.1	9,940	+ 2.0	+ 9.7
Northampton Country District	9,210	+ 0.6	+ 7.4	8,925	+ 0.8	+ 9.5
Kettering	4,108	- 0.2	+ 3.2	4,232	+ 3.1	+ 5.4
Stafford & District	2,740	+ 0.3	+ 2.9	2,768	+ 4.5	+ 10.1
Norwich & District	3,935	+ 1.4	+ 12.4	3,422	- 0.4	+ 15.2
Bristol & District	1,431	- 0.7	+ 4.8	1,203	+ 8.0	+ 7.0
Kingswood	1,706	- 1.6	+ 0.6	1,465	+ 10.3	+ 8.6
Leeds & District	2,281	+ 2.5	+ 3.5	2,058	+ 10.3	+ 1.6
Manchester & District	3,282	+ 1.7	+ 11.6	3,101	+ 2.1	+ 38.3
Birmingham & District	1,901	+ 0.2	+ 1.5	334	+ 2.1	+ 28.7
Other parts of England and Wales	3,479	+ 2.1	+ 1.2	3,102	+ 3.1	+ 7.7
ENGLAND & WALES	62,593	+ 0.5	+ 5.3	63,562	+ 3.3	+ 10.1
SCOTLAND						
Scotland	3,494	- 0.7	+ 7.0	3,390	+ 3.0	+ 5.8
Ireland	406	+ 0.5	+ 0.5	255	+ 22.6	+ 5.4
UNITED KINGDOM	66,493	+ 0.4	+ 5.4	67,207	+ 3.4	+ 9.9

At Leicester employment was good at the end of the month and better than a year ago. At Northampton and Kettering employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago; with army bootmakers in Northamptonshire there was a slight decline. At Norwich employment continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago. At Bristol, Kingswood and Leeds employment was better than a month ago, when it was affected by the coal dispute, but some short time was worked during the month; there was an improvement in these three districts compared with a year ago. In Scotland employment was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less re-exports):					
Leather .. doz. pairs	18,029	19,819	12,690	- 1,790	+ 5,349
.. value £	70,487	80,716	55,899	- 10,229	+ 14,588
Rubber .. doz. pairs	11,434	8,506	12,119	+ 2,929	- 665
.. value £	11,700	9,689	16,369	+ 2,001	- 4,669
Other materials doz. pairs	6,902	8,369	9,845	- 1,467	- 2,943
.. value £	2,909	2,842	2,366	+ 67	+ 543
Exports (British & Irish):					
Leather .. doz. pairs	106,618	113,203	86,550	- 6,585	+ 20,068
.. value £	320,800	321,689	264,434	- 289	+ 56,366
Rubber .. doz. pairs	8,514	11,172	3,885	- 2,658	- 1,171
.. value £	9,485	11,179	10,183	- 1,694	- 698
Other materials doz. pairs	9,530	11,688	5,164	- 2,058	+ 4,366
.. value £	6,719	7,232	3,192	+ 604	+ 3,527

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 219 Returns—210 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trades was fairly good with retail firms, and better than a year ago; with court and private dressmakers it was moderate, and not so good as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it was fairly good. Employment generally was fairly good also in the shirt and collar trade and in the corset trade.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West End, employing 2,152 dressmakers in the week ended April 27th, showed an increase of 7.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good. Court and private dressmakers employing 1,218 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 4.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 9.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West End employment was fairly good.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,513 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended April 27th showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade continued fair, and was better than a year ago. In the costume, skirt and blouse trades firms employing 2,662 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,849 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) and paying £4,922 in wages in the week ended April 27th, showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fairly good.

Corset Trade.—Returns from corset manufacturers employing 7,059 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended April 27th showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was fairly good.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 428 Returns—115 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 292 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was good, apart from stoppages in the early part of the month owing to the dispute in the coal mining industry. At the end of the month it was much better than at the end of March and rather better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 19,113 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 9.4 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed by them as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

	Workpeople paid Wages in last week of April, 1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	5,560	+ 29.3	+ 1.7
Midlands, Wales and Ireland ..	1,446	+ 7.3	+ 4.5
Southern Counties	6,076	+ 0.3	+ 2.1
Scotland	5,264	+ 4.9	+ 1.0
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	18,346	+ 9.7	+ 1.8
Hand-made Paper	763	+ 3.5	- 0.1
Total	19,113	+ 9.4	+ 1.8

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,187 members had 4.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 18.2 per cent. a month ago and 2.3 per cent. (out of 1,534 members) a year ago.

In the hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 534 members had 9.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6.6 in March and 5.2 in April, 1911.

The Imports of paper in April, 1912, were valued at £575,262, as compared with £591,485 in March, 1912, and £487,132 in April, 1911; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £278,694, £286,460, and £274,663 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was slack on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1912.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	22,608	6.9	6.9	5.3	-	+ 1.6
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,668	5.6	6.0	4.6	- 0.4	+ 1.0
Lancs. and Cheshire ..	7,140	7.1	6.5	5.9	+ 0.6	+ 1.2
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,746	4.2	6.8	2.5	- 2.6	+ 1.7
West Midlands	2,776	6.8	4.9	5.2	+ 1.9	+ 1.6
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	4,401	3.3	3.0	2.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
Scotland	6,079	4.9	4.7	3.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.9
Ireland	2,546	7.2	7.8	8.0	- 0.6	- 0.8
United Kingdom ..	53,963	6.1	6.1	4.8	..	+ 1.3

London.—Employment was slack, and worse than a year ago. With lithographic artists, however, it was fair, and better than in March.

Other Centres.—Employment was slack on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was fair with compositors at Edinburgh, Dundee, Dublin and Derby, and in the Eastern, Southern and South-Western counties and Wales. With lithographic printers it was good at Manchester and Birmingham, and better than a month ago at Glasgow, Leeds and Bradford.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In London short time was reported. At Manchester, Birmingham, and Bradford, however, employment was good.

	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1912.	Percentage Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,448	8.4	5.6	5.4	+ 2.8	+ 3.0
Other Districts	3,966	4.3	4.1	4.7	+ 0.2	- 0.4
United Kingdom ..	7,413	6.2	4.8	5.0	+ 1.4	+ 1.2

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 187 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 153 from Trade Unions, and 29 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair generally in these trades; with coachmakers it was good. It was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 41,381 reported 3.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, compared with 5.0 per cent. a month ago and 2.3 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment was fair generally and better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 3.9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, compared with 5.9 per cent. a month ago and 2.2 per cent. a year ago. Employment was fairly good at Glasgow; good at Belfast and Edinburgh; and quiet at Newcastle.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in April, 1912, were valued at £38,810 as compared with £33,057, in March, 1912, and £36,281 in April, 1911; and the Exports for the same months were valued at £101,423, £113,749, and £100,700 respectively.

Mill Sawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment in these trades was fair, and better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 4.4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April compared with 8.2 per cent. a month ago and 3.2 per cent. at the end of April, 1911.

In London and at Liverpool employment was dull; at Birmingham and Edinburgh it was quiet; at Belfast and Dundee good.

Imports.

Description.	April, 1912.		Mar., 1912.		April, 1911.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
	Loads.	Value.	Loads.	Value.	Loads.	Value.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	174,865	142,338	142,338	214,671	178,179	214,671	+ 32,327	- 40,006
" sawn	144,620	117,509	117,509	178,179	178,179	178,179	+ 27,111	- 33,569
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 13,027	£ 16,240	£ 16,240	£ 12,630	£ 12,630	£ 12,630	- £ 3,213	+ £ 397

Coopers.

Employment during April was fair and better than a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. At Burton and Bristol employment was quiet; at Belfast bad; and at Edinburgh good.

Coachbuilding.

Employment was good; it was better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 1.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.3 per cent. a month ago and 1.3 per cent. a year ago. At Leicester and Dublin employment was fair; at the other principal centres it was good, especially at Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Glasgow.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmaking.—Employment was good and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 1.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.6 per cent. a month ago and 2.5 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in April, 1912, were valued at £33,806, as compared with £36,145 in March, 1912, and £36,636 in April, 1911; the Exports for the same months were valued at £19,732, £20,039, and £17,169 respectively.

Other Trades.—General wheelwrights and smiths reported employment as moderate, better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. With packing case makers in London employment was quiet, and still affected by the March dispute; at Manchester and Glasgow it was slack, and at Bradford fair. With basket makers employment in London was fairly good, and at Oldham good.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,576 Returns—1,140 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,407 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 29 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during April was quiet on the whole. It was good with painters and bad with plasterers. At the end of the month employment was better in all branches than at the end of March. As compared with a year ago there was little general change; an improvement was reported by bricklayers, slaters and painters, and a decline by plumbers and plasterers.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of April was 4.2, as compared with 5.6 a month ago and 4.1 a year ago. For plumbers at the same dates the percentages were 7.8, 8.3 and 4.1 respectively.

For London the Trade Union returns show that the percentage of carpenters and joiners unemployed was 3.3, as compared with 3.9 a month ago and 1.6 a year ago; the corresponding figures for plumbers were 9.2, 7.4 and 1.6 respectively. With masons in London employment continued fair.

Returns received from 1,082 firms, employing 57,747 workpeople at the end of April, showed that in the London district there was a decrease in the number employed of 1.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 10.2 per cent., as compared with a year ago. In other districts there was an increase of 4.0 per cent., as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.6 per cent., as compared with a year ago.

District.	No. paid on last pay-day in Apr., 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		No. paid on last pay-day in Apr., 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	Skilled Tradesmen.		Labourers.					
London	9,686	+ 101	- 1,318	7,351	- 315	- 597		
Northern Counties & Yorks.	2,402	+ 33	- 333	2,136	+ 133	+ 24		
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	4,383	+ 80	+ 110	3,645	+ 232	+ 224		
Midland & Eastern Counties	4,012	+ 224	+ 308	3,361	+ 237	+ 488		
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	5,288	+ 205	- 106	3,131	+ 5	+ 161		
Other Districts	742	+ 10	- 22	509	+ 9	- 64		
England and Wales ..	26,513	+ 653	- 1,361	20,133	+ 301	+ 258		
Scotland	3,841	+ 389	- 228	2,190	+ 20	- 341		
Ireland	651	- 45	- 71	567	- 10	- 128		
United Kingdom ..	31,005	+ 997	- 1,669	22,890	+ 311	- 211		
	Lads and Boys.		Total.					
London	444	- 9	- 73	17,481	- 223	- 1,988		
Northern Counties & Yorks.	453	+ 3	- 70	4,991	+ 169	- 387		
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	884	- 12	- 63	8,912	+ 300	+ 271		
Midland & Eastern Counties	419	+ 4	+ 2	7,792	+ 465	+ 798		
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	604	+ 9	- 139	9,023	+ 218	- 84		
Other Districts	69	- 1	+ 11	1,820	+ 16	- 78		
England and Wales ..	2,873	- 6	- 332	49,519	+ 948	- 1,436		
Scotland	857	+ 25	- 28	6,888	+ 534	- 607		
Ireland	122	+ 2	- 5	1,340	+ 63	- 204		
United Kingdom ..	3,852	+ 21	- 365	57,747	+ 1,329	- 2,286		

The principal exceptions to the general state of employment in the provinces are as indicated below:—

In the Northern Counties and Yorkshire employment with carpenters was fair, except in the Tyne district, where it was slack.

At Leeds employment was good with bricklayers and plasterers, and at Huddersfield it was fair generally, except with plumbers. With slaters employment was good at Sunderland and fair in the Tees district and at Hull.

Employment declined with carpenters and plumbers at Liverpool and with plumbers and plasterers at Manchester. It was fair in most branches at Oldham, Stockport and St. Helens. It was fair with plasterers and good with bricklayers at Bolton. It was fair with bricklayers at Blackburn, Bury and Rochdale, with carpenters at Burnley, Preston and Barrow, and with plumbers at Barrow, and Ashton-under-Lyne. With painters at Wigan it was slack. With plumbers at Preston a decline in employment was reported.

Employment was fair in most branches at Birmingham, Coventry, Stoke-on-Trent, Cambridge and Ipswich, but at Stoke-on-Trent it was not so good as a month ago. It was fair with bricklayers and carpenters at Lincoln and with carpenters at Northampton, Walsall and Oxford. With plumbers at Leicester employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago.

Employment was fair with bricklayers and carpenters at Portsmouth, with bricklayers and masons at Swansea, and with carpenters at Chatham, Brighton, Plymouth, Bath, Cheltenham and Cardiff. With bricklayers and masons at Plymouth it was worse than a month ago. At Bristol employment declined with bricklayers, but was fair with carpenters and good with plasterers.

Employment was good with bricklayers and fair with carpenters at Glasgow and Edinburgh. It was fair with plumbers at Edinburgh and with plasterers at Dundee. With plumbers at Glasgow and Dundee a decline was reported. At Aberdeen employment was fair generally.

Employment was fair at Belfast, and with plasterers at Dublin and Cork. With plumbers it declined at Dublin, but was fair at Cork.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 85 Returns—53 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 22 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at the beginning of April was affected by the coal strike. Work was resumed generally as soon as coal supplies became available, but a considerable amount of short time was worked, and at the end of the month a number of men were still unemployed.

Returns received from firms employing 8,324 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed increases of 36.1 per cent. in the number employed and 38.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.				Earnings.				
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended April 27th, 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Glass Bottle	5,620	+ 61.8	- 3.1	5,739	+ 65.1	- 19.5	4,076	+ 59.3	- 22.0
Plate Glass	696	+ 2.1	+ 5.0	887	+ 2.5	+ 4.2	1,871	+ 9.5	- 4.0
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,761	+ 2.6	- 0.6	1,871	+ 9.5	- 4.0	283	- 0.4	+ 1.8
Other Branches	247	+ 2.1	+ 4.2	283	- 0.4	+ 1.8	8,780	+ 38.6	- 13.9
Total	8,324	+ 36.1	- 1.7	8,780	+ 38.6	- 13.9			

Glass bottle makers in Yorkshire and Lancashire were unemployed generally in the earlier part of the month. At the end of the month employment was good at Leeds, but at other Yorkshire centres and in Lancashire it had not been fully resumed. In the North of England work was resumed towards the end of the month, but a good deal of short time was worked. In Scotland and at Bristol employment was good at the end of April; at Dublin it was bad. With flint glass makers at Birmingham, Wordsley, and Stourbridge employment was fair. With flint glass cutters at Birmingham it was quiet, and with plate glass bevellers and silverers it was fair. At St. Helens work with sheet glass flatteners was suspended during the first week of April, and gradually resumed thereafter, while a large proportion of the sheet and plate glass workers were out of work for the greater part of the month, and at the end were working short time. Pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear resumed work generally in the latter half of the month, but were working short time. Employment with glass blowers in London was fair.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Window and German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	95,135	120,306	87,938	- 25,171	+ 7,197
Plate	27,556	25,659	31,043	+ 1,897	- 3,487
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	64,820	69,743	62,580	+ 4,923	+ 2,240
Manufactures, other sorts	1,548	865	274	+ 683	+ 1,274
Bottles	157,094	158,938	111,367	- 1,904	+ 45,727
Exports:					
Plate	15,477	17,886	17,626	- 2,409	- 2,149
Flint	6,043	7,874	6,518	- 1,831	- 475
Manufactures, other sorts	35,660	54,061	44,009	- 18,401	- 8,349
Bottles	64,260	86,327	74,681	- 22,067	- 10,421

POTTERY TRADES.

(Based on 106 Returns—94 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.) THIS industry, which was very seriously affected by the coal strike during March, had almost completely recovered by the end of April, when it was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 17,522 workpeople in the week ended April 27th, 1912, showed an increase of 2.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a year ago. No useful statistical comparison is possible with a month ago, as a large number of works were closed during the greater part of that month.

Branches.—	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.		Increase on a Year ago.	Week ended April 27th, 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Year ago.
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.
China Manufacture ..	2,388	+ 1.8		2,405	+ 12.4	
Earthenware Manufacture	10,767	+ 2.3		9,938	+ 0.6	
Other Branches (including unspecified)	4,367	+ 4.1		4,357	- 2.8	
Total	17,522	+ 2.7		16,700	+ 1.2	

In the Potteries there was an improvement on a year ago, but in other districts there was a decline.

The Imports of chinaware and earthenware in April, 1912, were valued at £73,187, as compared with £86,228 in March, 1912, and £99,151 in April, 1911; the Exports for the same months were valued at £171,916, £253,872, and £246,729 respectively.

BRICK TRADE.

(Based on 150 Returns—138 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.) EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole, and although it improved considerably after the end of the coal strike, a number of works were adversely affected throughout the month.

Returns from firms employing 11,235 workpeople in the week ended April 27th, 1912, showed an increase of 28.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 47.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 8.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Districts.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended April 27th, 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended April 27th, 1912.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,566	+ 23.8	- 7.2	2,899	+ 33.8	- 8.7		
Midland and Eastern Counties	3,449	+ 43.7	- 10.5	3,614	+ 69.4	- 15.6		
Southern & South-Western Counties and Wales	3,094	+ 28.6	- 4.7	3,670	+ 53.5	- 4.3		
Scotland	1,405	+ 15.4	- 11.9	1,287	+ 35.3	- 30.6		
Other Districts	721	+ 7.6	- 16.0	747	+ 17.8	- 16.9		
Total	11,235	+ 28.1	- 8.8	12,217	+ 47.6	- 13.2		

In the Northern Counties, Yorkshire and Lancashire employment was moderate on the whole. In the Midland and Eastern Counties employment showed variations at different works, in some cases it was good and in others bad; at Nottingham it was reported as busy after the coal strike terminated; at Peterborough it was bad. The effects of the coal strike were still felt in the Southern and South-Western Counties, where employment was quiet. In Scotland employment was moderate on the whole.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 218 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.) THE weather during April was exceptionally dry, and most agricultural labourers were in regular employment. Men were wanted outside the regular farm staff for such work as potato-planting, preparing the land for the root crops, carting and spreading manure, and hoeing corn. The hard state of the land somewhat reduced the demand for these extra men in many districts by rendering hoeing backward, and in some districts, particularly in the Eastern Counties, there was an over-supply. There was still some scarcity of men for permanent situations in parts of the Midland and Southern and South-Western Counties.

Northern Counties.—The supply of extra labourers was generally equalled by the demand in these counties throughout April. The demand for such men was small in Northumberland and Durham, but in the other counties it was fairly good, on account of such work as potato-planting, carting and spreading manure, cleaning the land for the root crops, and hedging. There was some scarcity of men for permanent situations in the Sherburn (Yorkshire) Rural District, while a demand for cowmen was reported in the Doncaster Rural District in the same county.

Midland Counties.—The continuous dry weather, while affording regular employment to most extra labourers in these counties, somewhat curtailed the employment of some by rendering the land too hard for hoeing. A surplus of men was reported in several districts, including parts of the Hayfield (Derbyshire), Melton Mowbray (Leicestershire), and Buckingham Rural Districts. There was still some scarcity of men for permanent situations in certain districts in the Bucklow (Cheshire), Pershore and Upton-on-Severn (Worcestershire), and Crowmarsh (Oxfordshire) Rural Districts.

Eastern Counties.—Extra labourers were in demand for carting and spreading manure, preparing the land for the root crops, threshing, potato-planting, and hoeing corn. Fewer men than usual, however, were wanted for hoeing on account of the dry weather, and some men of this class were consequently unemployed in the Bourne (Lincolnshire), Henstead and Swaffham (Norfolk), Thingoe (Suffolk), and Orsett and Saffron Walden (Essex) Rural Districts. In the Spilsby (Lincolnshire) Rural District a scarcity of extra men was reported.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Some time was lost by extra labourers, as in other parts of the country, through the effect of the dry weather on the land, but employment generally was fair, and mention of any marked surplus of men was exceptional in the reports. Correspondents in the Winchester (Hampshire), Tisbury (Wiltshire), and South Molton (Devonshire) Rural Districts reported an insufficient supply of such men. There was some scarcity of men for permanent situations in parts of the Godstone (Surrey), Chailey and Petworth (Sussex), Wantage (Berkshire), Chippenham and Tisbury (Wiltshire), Bromyard and Hereford (Herefordshire), Gloucester (Gloucestershire), Kingsbridge and Newton Abbot (Devonshire), and Camelford (Cornwall) Rural Districts.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 127 Returns—109 from Employers, 8 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole during April, and rather better than a month ago, though adversely affected, particularly in the first part of the month, in consequence of the coal strike.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.*			
	In Docks.			Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.	
Week ended April 6th	4,749	2,480	7,229	6,122
" " 13th	5,020	2,964	7,984	6,068
" " 20th	5,285	3,928	9,213	6,146
" " 27th	5,859	3,631	9,490	6,296
Average for 4 weeks ended April 27th, 1912	5,259	3,299	8,558	6,164
Average for Mar. 1912	4,806	3,059	7,865	6,309
" " April, 1911	4,332	2,671	7,003	6,327

London.*—Employment was moderate in the first week, and afterwards improved to fair, partly on account of the wool sales; it was generally better than a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended April 27th was 14,722, an increase of 7.7 per

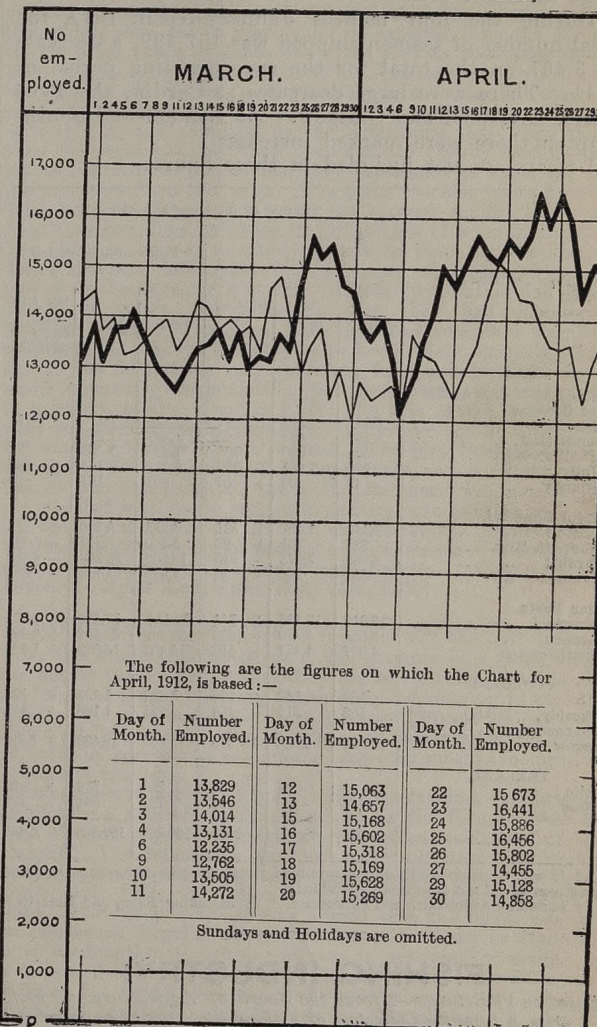
* Exclusive of Tilbury.

cent. compared with a month ago, and of 10.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

During April, 1912, the maximum number employed was on the 25th (16,456), and the minimum number on the 6th (12,235). During April, 1911, the maximum number occurred on the 1st (15,156), and the minimum number on the 20th (12,268).

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 104 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of March and April, 1912. The corresponding curve for March and April, 1911, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1912, and the thin curve to 1911.]



The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,473 during April, 1912, as compared with 1,654 during the previous month, and 1,460 during April, 1911.

Liverpool.—Employment was moderate at the Central Docks and slack at the North-End and South-End docks. It was generally slack with quay and railway carters.

Other Ports.—Employment was generally fairly good and better than a month ago on the Tyne and Wear; an improvement with trimmers and teamers was reported as commencing from the second week of the month. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was reported as moderate during the first half of the month and bad at the end. Employment was moderate at Hull and bad at Grimsby, but generally better than a month ago at both ports; at Goole it was fair with dock labourers and bad with coal workers. Employment was slack at Yarmouth and Lowestoft, though somewhat better towards the end of the month. It was fair at Harwich and Parkeston, and bad at Ipswich. Employment improved towards the end of the month at Plymouth, and was fair. It was moderate on the whole at Avonmouth and Swansea; at Newport it was bad in the early part of the month, but good later. It showed a further decline at Leith, and was slack at Grangemouth and Dundee. It was generally fair at Glasgow and at Belfast.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN APRIL.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during April 45,490 seamen,* of whom 3,862 (or 8.5 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. Compared with April, 1911, there was a net increase of 3,471. The chief increases were at London, Glasgow, Southampton and Liverpool; at Cardiff there was a large decrease.

During the four months January-April, 1912, the total number of seamen shipped was 157,429, a decrease of 3,467 on the total for the corresponding period of 1911. There were large decreases at Cardiff, the Tyne Ports, Liverpool and Glasgow. At London and Southampton there were marked increases.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	April,			Four months ended April,		
	1911.	1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1912.	1911.	1912.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1912.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,132	2,219	+ 87	10,225	7,490	- 2,735
Sunderland	395	487	+ 92	1,267	1,272	+ 5
Middlesbrough	325	220	- 105	1,390	1,358	- 32
Hull	988	1,261	+ 273	4,492	5,183	+ 691
Grimsby	42	99	+ 57	203	183	- 20
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	1,140	1,452	+ 312	3,913	4,186	+ 273
Newport, Mon.	638	701	+ 63	3,440	2,717	- 723
Cardiff	3,988	3,073	- 915	16,600	12,260	- 4,340
Swansea	333	248	- 85	1,473	1,112	- 361
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	16,849	17,193	+ 344	69,149	57,478	- 1,671
London	6,551	8,180	+ 1,629	27,249	32,089	+ 4,840
Southampton	4,027	4,437	+ 410	14,403	16,042	+ 1,639
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	369	562	+ 193	1,617	1,492	- 125
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	156	315	+ 159	727	1,168	+ 441
Glasgow	3,827	4,800	+ 973	13,808	12,489	- 1,319
IRELAND.						
Dublin	85	57	- 28	220	319	+ 99
Belfast	174	186	+ 12	720	591	- 129
Total	42,019	45,490	+ 3,471	160,896	157,429	- 3,467

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

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

THE fish landed in April, 1912, showed a decrease in both quantity and value as compared with April, 1911.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in April, 1912 and 1911:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Apr., 1912.	Apr., 1911.	Apr., 1912.	Apr., 1911.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	637,472	869,126	591,636	638,435
Scotland	239,189	316,950	138,572	140,187
Ireland	30,830	17,933	16,110	10,860
Total	907,501	1,203,109	746,318	788,982
Shell Fish	—	—	40,699	26,364
Total Value	—	—	787,017	815,346

Employment at the principal ports was fair on the whole. At Grimsby it was fair with all classes. At Hull it was moderate with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and good with fish curers. Employment at Lowestoft was fair generally, and about the same as a month ago. At Yarmouth it was moderate with fishermen, bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Aberdeen employment was moderate with all classes and worse than a year ago. At Macduff it was fair generally and better than a year ago. Employment at Peterhead

was fair with fishermen and fish curers, and bad with fish dock labourers. At Fraserburgh it was moderate with fishermen, bad with fish dock labourers, and fair with fish curers. Off the South-western coast of England fishing operations were moderately successful.

The Exports of cured and salted herrings in April, 1912, were valued at £31,708, as compared with £67,439 in March, 1912, and £41,235 in April, 1911.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: HERNIA: SUDDEN DEVELOPMENT.

By the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, compensation for injury is payable to a workman only where the injury was caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment.

A man was employed as an underground haulier at a colliery, his work being to regulate the supply of empty tubs near the pit bottom. While at work one night he was heard to call out, and he complained of being very ill, and that he had a lump coming in the groin. He was taken to a hospital, and found to be suffering from strangulation of a hernia. He was operated upon, but eventually died from heart failure, bronchitis, and lowered vitality following the operation. His widow claimed compensation under the Act, and the only question at issue was whether the strangulation of the hernia was due to any strain while at work. It was alleged that he suffered the injury while lifting a tub in the course of his employment. The judge found that the hernia was an old complaint, and that, to some extent, it had come down before; but that the strangulation which took place during his work was in all probability the result of some act of exertion by the deceased. He, therefore, made an award in favour of the applicant. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that although the judge may act upon indirect evidence in drawing his conclusions, he could not base those conclusions on mere probabilities. Therefore, it had not been proved that the injury was caused by an accident arising out of and in the course of the employment, and the award could not be supported. The appeal was, therefore, allowed.—*Parry v. Ocean Coal Company*.—*Court of Appeal*. 30th March, 1912. (Reported 6th April, 1912.)

AGREEMENT TO PAY COMPENSATION DURING TOTAL INCAPACITY: INCAPACITY AT AN END: RIGHT TO HAVE AGREEMENT RECORDED.

Where the amount of compensation under the Act has been ascertained by agreement or otherwise, a memorandum of such agreement must be sent to the registrar of the County Court, who, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, must record it, and thereupon the agreement becomes enforceable.

A workman, having been injured, agreed with his employers for the payment of a certain weekly sum during total incapacity. Subsequently, when the total incapacity had ceased, the workman applied to have a memorandum of the agreement recorded. At the time of the application all payments due under the agreement had been made. The Court of Appeal held that the workman was not entitled to have a memorandum of the agreement recorded, as it was not a subsisting agreement under which either arrears or future payments were, or might become, due.—*Popple v. Frodingham Iron Company*.—*Court of Appeal*. (Reported, 20th April, 1912.)

FATAL ACCIDENT: NEGLIGENCE OF THIRD PARTY: AWARD IN FAVOUR OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILD: EMPLOYER'S RIGHT TO INDEMNITY.

It is provided by the Act that where injury, for which compensation is payable, was caused under circumstances creating legal liability in some third person, the workman may proceed both against that person for damages and against his employer for compensation; but he is not entitled to both damages and compensation. If the workman has recovered compensation, the employer paying such compensation is entitled to be indemnified by the third person liable to pay damages. Under the Fatal Accidents Act, 1856, when a person has been killed by negligence certain of that person's near relations have a right to recover damages, in respect of their pecuniary loss by the death, against the person guilty of the negligence. An illegitimate child, however, is not within the class entitled to recover such damages.

A company of shipbuilders and repairers contracted with a company of dock-owners for the use of a dry dock. During the work of repairing a ship in that dry dock a workman in the employment of the dock-owners was injured, and shortly afterwards died, through the negligence of a servant of the shipbuilders. Subsequently a claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act for compensation was made against the dock-owners by an illegitimate daughter of the deceased, and an award was made in her favour by the County Court judge. The amount of compensation awarded was paid by the employers. The employers then brought an action against the shipbuilders to recover the amount they had paid under the award, and claiming an indemnity under the Act. It was argued for the plaintiffs that, as the death was caused under circumstances creating a legal liability in the defendants, the plaintiffs, having paid the amount of

compensation awarded, were entitled under the Act to an indemnity. It was contended, on the other side, that there must be some person, either the deceased or his representative, capable of choosing between the alternative remedies of an action for damages or compensation. Here the only dependant, being illegitimate, could not make such choice, as she was not entitled to bring any action for damages, and the deceased had made no choice before his death. The judge held that the moment the workman was injured through the negligence of the defendants, the defendants became legally liable to pay damages to him, and that, therefore, the plaintiffs were entitled to the indemnity they claimed. Judgment was, therefore, given for the plaintiffs for the amount of compensation they had paid.—*Smith's Dock Company v. John Readhead and Sons, Limited*.—*King's Bench Division*. 25th April, 1912.

(2) Factory Acts.

LAUNDRIES: AFFIXING ABSTRACT AND NOTICES: PUBLIC INSTITUTION: BOYS' SCHOOL.

By the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, there must be affixed at the entrance of every factory and workshop, and in such other parts as the inspector directs, a prescribed abstract of the Act, together with certain notices. By the Factory and Workshop Act, 1907, laundries are brought under the Act of 1901, and are regarded as non-textile factories if steam, water, or other mechanical power is used, otherwise as workshops. Laundries carried on incidentally to the service of any public institution are included, as well as those carried on for purposes of gain.

A school was maintained by the Freemasons of England for boys being sons of Freemasons. The school was almost entirely maintained by the subscriptions of Freemasons. No appeal was made for subscriptions to the general public, though a very small sum, voluntarily offered, was accepted from persons other than Freemasons, and a grant was made by the Board of Education to the institution as a secondary school. The grounds and premises were strictly private. There was a laundry driven by mechanical power attached to the school. It was used exclusively as a laundry for the inmates, and worked by six resident servants. No abstract of the Act or notices were affixed. An inspector of factories took proceedings against the trustees for contravention of the Act in failing to affix the prescribed abstract and notices. It was contended in defence that the school was not a "public institution," and that the Act did not apply to it. The justices decided that the laundry was used incidentally to the purposes of a public institution. They accordingly convicted, but stated a case for appeal to the High Court.

The High Court held that the justices were right, and dismissed the appeal.—*Trustees of the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys v. Parkes*.—*King's Bench Division*. (Reported 6th April, 1912.)

(3) Trade Union Acts.

TRADE DISPUTES ACT: LIABILITY OF TRADE UNION FOR LIBEL.

By the Trades Disputes Act, 1906, an action against a trade union, or against any members or officials thereof on behalf of themselves and all other members of the trade union, in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the trade union shall not be entertained by any Court.

The plaintiff company brought an action against a trade union and certain persons who were its officials for libel, and for conspiracy to publish libels concerning the plaintiffs and to induce persons not to deal with the plaintiffs. The union applied to a Master to strike out the name of the union on the ground that the action was not maintainable against them. The Master made the order asked, and the plaintiffs appealed to a judge. The judge reversed the order of the Master, being of opinion that the point ought to be dealt with at the trial, not previously. The trade union appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that under the Act the word "trade union" must be read as referring to a trade union acting as such, and not to a trade union which might choose to commit acts entirely outside the sphere of such a body's functions. In the present case, however, the libels complained of plainly related to matters affecting trade unions, and therefore under the Act the action could not be entertained by any Court. This being so, the union had a right to be struck out of the proceedings at an early stage, and without waiting for the trial.—*Vacher & Sons, Ltd. v. London Society of Compositors and others*.—*Court of Appeal*. 3rd April, 1912.

ACT IN FURTHERANCE OF TRADE DISPUTES: INDUCING PERSONS TO BREAK CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT: SLANDER AND CONSPIRACY.

It is further provided by the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, that an act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable on the ground only that it induces some other person to break a contract of employment, or that it is an interference with the trade, business or employment of some other person, or with the right of some other person to dispose of his capital or his labour as he wills.

A bandmaster had arranged to give a concert at a theatre on Sunday, October 1st, 1911, and had engaged 58 performers for the occasion at agreed rates of remuneration. An attempt was made by officials of the Musicians' Trade Union to induce the members of this band to refuse to play as agreed except for remuneration higher than they had contracted to receive. It was asserted that this attempt was made by printed circular, by verbal statements, and by threats that if the musicians took part in the performance they would be expelled from the union or fined. In consequence it was alleged that there was a disturbance outside the theatre through pickets being placed at the

doors; and that to prevent the concert from being a fiasco the bandmaster had to pay the musicians more than he had agreed to, or than they were quite prepared and willing to accept. The bandmaster then brought an action against two of the officials of the union claiming damages for inducing persons in his employment to break their contracts with him, for libel, for slander, and for conspiracy to injure him by preventing him from obtaining fit persons to enter his employment. The plaintiff also asked for an injunction. It was alleged on behalf of the plaintiff that there was no minimum rate of wages and that the rate paid by the union itself for an engagement such as the concert in question was 7s. 6d. a night, while the lowest rate the plaintiff paid was 8s. It was further alleged that the defendants had given notice to the members of the band by circular and otherwise, after they had already made their contracts, that they must demand 10s. 6d. as a minimum fee, and that threats were made that unless they did so they would be expelled from the union. On the other hand, evidence was given that on September 28th, 1911, at a meeting of the executive of the union a resolution was carried that a minimum fee for playing on the stage for Sunday concerts should be 10s. 6d., such price to be put into operation at once. It was admitted by the defendants that when they fixed this minimum they knew contracts had already been made; but the defendants denied that they threatened to expel any of the musicians from the union. The point was also taken for the defendants that the action could not succeed against them, as what they had done had been in furtherance of a trade dispute. The jury, in answer to questions left to them by the judge, found that the defendants had procured the plaintiff's employees to break their contracts without justification and with intent to injure the plaintiff; that they had interfered with the plaintiff's business; that they had conspired together to induce the plaintiff's employees to break their contracts; that one of the defendants had published false and libellous statements concerning the plaintiff; that there was no trade dispute in existence at the time; and that the acts of the defendants were not done in contemplation or in furtherance of a dispute, but out of spite against the plaintiff. The jury further assessed damages at £450 as against both defendants, and at £100 against the one who had published the libel. Judgment was entered for the plaintiff with costs, and an injunction was granted restraining them from repeating the acts of interference complained of "otherwise than in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute."—*Dallimore v. Williams and Jessons*.—*King's Bench Division*. April 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 1912.

ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION: LIABILITY TO BE SUED FOR BENEFITS.

By the Trade Union Act, 1871, the purposes of a trade union are not by reason merely that they are in restraint of trade unlawful so to render void any agreement; but nothing in the Act enables any court to entertain any proceedings instituted with the object of directly enforcing, or recovering damages for the breach of, certain agreements—including any agreement to provide benefits to members.

An action was brought in the County Court against a trade union to recover a sum of money alleged to be due to a member by way of sick pay; and judgment was given in favour of the plaintiff. The defendants appealed, contending that they were a body illegal at common law, and that therefore under the Trade Union Act, 1871, the action could not be maintained against them. For the plaintiff it was argued that the union was not an association illegal at common law, as it could not be described as a combination to achieve objects in restraint of trade. It was proved that by the rules of the association a member who violated the trade bye-laws of the port where he was working might be expelled; that no member was allowed to sign an agreement with an employer which had not been previously sanctioned by the executive, under pain of expulsion; and that a member might be fined or expelled if he called at a yard where a dispute was in progress after being informed of the existence of the dispute. The court held that, looking at the rules generally, although there were many which dealt only with benefits, there were many which were in restraint of trade, as they limited the free will of the workman, and imposed a restriction on his liberty. Therefore the trade union was protected from liability to be sued for benefits. The court also expressed an opinion that whether a trade union was of a legal or illegal nature, whether it was in restraint of trade or not, no action would lie against it to recover benefits. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Thomas v. Portsmouth "A" Branch of the Ship Constructive Association*.—*King's Bench Division*. April 17th, 1912.

(4) Merchant Shipping Acts.

SHIP INJURED BY COLLISION: RETURN TO PORT: SEAMEN DISCHARGED: RIGHT TO WAGES.

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, that if a seaman, having signed an agreement, is discharged otherwise than in accordance with the agreement before a month's wages are earned, without fault on his part, he shall be entitled, in addition to any wages he may have earned, to compensation for such discharge not exceeding one month's wages. But where the services of the seamen terminate before the date contemplated in the agreement by reason of the wreck or loss of the ship, he is only entitled to wages up to the time of such termination.

Members of the crew of the steamship Olympic signed articles for a voyage from England to America and back. They joined the ship on September 20th, 1911, and the vessel sailed from Southampton. But soon after sailing she came into collision with H.M.S. Hawke, and was so seriously damaged that she

had to go back to Southampton and discharge her passengers and cargo. She was not repaired sufficiently to resume her voyage for over two months. The crew claimed wages for a month, but the shipowners would only pay them up to September 22nd, the time of their discharge after the collision. Two of the crew accordingly took proceedings by way of a test case to determine their rights. The shipowners alleged that the ship had been "wrecked" within the meaning of the Act, and that therefore they were not liable to pay the sums demanded. The court held that the Olympic had been so seriously damaged as to cease to be a navigable ship. She was wrecked therefore within the meaning of the Act, and the master was justified in discharging the crew. Hence the crew were only entitled to wages up to the date of their discharge.—*The Olympic.—Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division. 1st, April, 1912.*

(5) Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

SPECIAL RULES: REFUSAL TO WORK: OFFENCE.

Under the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, in every mine special rules must be made for the conduct and guidance of the persons acting in the management of such mine and of those employed in the mine, such as according to the circumstances of the mine may appear best calculated to prevent accidents and provide for safety and discipline. Any person acting in contravention of, or failing to comply with, any of such special rules is guilty of an offence against the Act, and is punishable.

Among the special rules relating to a colliery there was one at the end providing generally that all persons employed in the mine should be under the control of the manager, under-manager or deputies, and should at all times obey their lawful commands. Certain boys (known as trammers) employed in the colliery, after being at work in the pit for 3½ hours, refused to work any longer, and demanded to be brought up. The reason they gave for their conduct was that they could not obtain sufficient tubs. The under-manager ordered the boys to resume their work, but they refused; and in consequence the men working at the face of the coal were obliged to stop. The colliery owners then took proceedings before magistrates against the boys for disobedience to the special rules. The magistrates convicted the boys, finding as a fact that a sufficient number of tubs had been supplied for them, and stating that they convicted them in the interests of discipline with regard to what was necessary to the safety of those employed in the mine. They stated a case for appeal.

It was argued on behalf of the boys that although the particular order by the under-manager to do a particular act in the course of the employment might have come within the rule, what the boys had done here was to go on strike and to put an end to their employment altogether; and what the magistrates had done was to convict persons for going on strike. The High Court held that the boys were properly convicted. The rule in question was added to the other rules to make provision for some unforeseen thing that might happen in the mine and not be covered by any particular rule. Here the boys put their judgment against that of the under-manager. It was of the utmost importance that discipline and authority should be maintained in mines, and the magistrates were right. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Colbeck v. Whitwham.—King's Bench Division. April 25th, 1912.*

(6) Miscellaneous.

AGREEMENT IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE: SHOP ASSISTANT: REASONABLENESS OF RESTRAINT.

By the common law of England an agreement entered into by any person which has the effect of restraining that person from carrying on his trade or business is illegal, unless such restraint is no greater than is reasonably necessary to protect the interests of the other party to the agreement.

A company which owned several shops made an agreement with a shop assistant by which the latter undertook that he would not engage directly or indirectly in any other business of a similar character for a period of two years after leaving the employment, within two miles of any shop belonging to the company at which he had been employed within twelve months prior to leaving their employ. The assistant left the employment in April, 1911, and shortly afterwards entered the employment of a rival company, carrying on a similar business close to a shop of his former employers, where he had served them shortly before leaving. The former employers brought an action against the assistant to restrain him from continuing to commit a breach of his agreement with them. The judge held that as the defendant had no confidential duties towards the plaintiffs, and as such an agreement (although common in the case of managers) was unusual and unnecessary in the case of shop assistants, the restrictive agreement was not reasonably necessary for the protection of the plaintiffs' business, and therefore it could not be enforced. Judgment was therefore given for the defendant.—*Pearks Ltd. v. Cullen.—King's Bench Division. April 16th, 1912.*

COAL MINE: ABNORMAL PLACE: AGREEMENT TO PAY A MINIMUM WAGE.

An agreement was made between colliery owners and the miners employed at a certain colliery by which it was provided that the minimum wages for colliers working in abnormal places, or unusually hard or difficult places, should be fixed at 4s. a day, together with certain percentages which raised the minimum to 6s. a day. A dispute arose between the miners claiming to have been engaged in an abnormal place and the employers as to the amount of wages payable under the agreement. A test case was accordingly brought by certain of the miners

in the County Court by way of settling the dispute. On the evidence given, the County Court judge found as a fact that the men had been working in an abnormal place, and gave judgment in their favour. But instead of awarding them the difference between what they had been paid and the minimum of 6s. a day, he gave them the difference between what they had received and what they would have earned if they had been working in a normal place, which latter sum he fixed at 5s. a day. He also deprived the plaintiffs of costs on the ground that they had allowed so long a time to elapse before bringing their action that the defendants had a difficulty in calling evidence as to the nature of the place in which the plaintiffs had been working. The men appealed against this decision. For the employers it was pointed out that the result of the agreement was extraordinary in this case, as the 6s. minimum in relation to work in abnormal places turned out to be greater than the average weekly earnings of 6s. in normal places. The court held that the judgment appealed against could not stand, since it had the effect of making a new contract between the parties. The County Court judge ought to have given the plaintiffs the 6s. a day which was theirs under the agreement—less the amount they had been paid; they should also have had the costs in the County Court. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Jones and others v. Phoenix Colliery Company.—King's Bench Division. April 18th, 1912.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lbs. of bread on May 1st, 1912, have been received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	May 1st, 1912.			April 1st, 1912.			May 1st, 1911.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W.	6	5½	5·8	6	5½	5·9	5½	5	5·3
E. & N.E.	6	5½	5·7	6	5½	5·7	5½	5	5·3
S.E.	6	5½	5·5	6	5½	5·5	6	5	5·2
S.W.	6	5½	5·8	6	5½	5·7	6	5	5·3
W. & W.C.	6	6	6·0	6	6	6·0	6	5½	5·6
N. Counties & Yorks.	6½	5½	6·0	6½	5½	5·7	6½	5	5·6
Lancs. & Cheshire.	6	5	5·5	6	5	5·3	6½	4½	5·3
Midlands	6	5	5·6	6	5	5·4	6	5	5·4
Eastern Counties	6½	5	6·1	6½	5	6·0	6	5	5·9
Southern Counties	6	5	5·7	6	5	5·8	6	5	5·7
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5·6	6	5	5·6	6	5	5·7
Scotland	7	5½	6·3	7	5½	6·2	6½	5	5·7
Great Britain	7	5	5·8	7	5	5·7	6½	4½	5·5

Compared with a month ago the mean of the predominant prices shows a slight increase. Compared with May 1st, 1911, an increase of 3d. per 4 lbs. is shown.

Of the various prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns the predominant price (i.e., the price at which the greatest quantity was sold) was as under:—

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lb. on May 1st, 1912.*	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London	5½ & 6	..	+ ½	Feb. '12	+ ½
Birmingham	6	+ ½	+ ½	April '12	+ ½
Bolton	6	+ ½	+ ½	April '12	+ ½
Bristol	6	..	+ ½	Feb. '12	+ ½
Cardiff	6	..	+ ½	1st Apl. '12	+ ½
Derby	6	+ ½	+ ½	April '12	+ ½
Hull	5½	..	..	June '10	- ½
Ipswich	6	..	+ ½	March '12	+ ½
Leeds	6	..	..	May '10	- ½
Leicester	5½	+ ½	+ ½	April '12	+ ½
Liverpool	5½	..	+ ½	Feb. '12	+ ½
Manchester	5½	..	+ ½	Oct. '11	+ ½
Middlesbrough	5 & 5½	..	..	March '11	- ½
Norwich	5	..	..	Nov. '09	- ½
Nottingham	5½	..	..	June '10	- ½
Oldham	5	+ ½	+ ½	April '12	+ ½
Plymouth	6	..	..	June '10	- ½
Portsmouth	6	+ ½	+ ½	Oct. '10	+ ½
Potteries	5½	..	+ 1	April '12	+ ½
Southampton	5 & 6	..	..	March '12	+ ½
Wolverhampton	5½	..	+ ½	March '12	+ ½
Aberdeen	5	..	+ ½	Sept. '11	+ ½
Dundee	6	+ ½	+ 1	April '12	+ ½
Edinburgh	7	+ ½	+ 1	April '12	+ ½
Glasgow	6	..	+ ½	Oct. '11	+ ½
Belfast	6	..	+ ½	1st Jan. '12	+ ½
Dublin	6½	+ ½	+ ½	April '12	+ ½

As compared with a month ago, the price of bread has risen ½d. per 4 lbs. in Bolton, Derby, Leicester, Oldham,

* Where two prices are quoted, about equal quantities were sold at each price.

the Potteries, Dundee, Edinburgh and Dublin. In Birmingham the predominant price on May 1st, 1912, was 6d.; on April 1st, 1912, it was 5½d. and 6d. per 4 lbs. As compared with May 1st, 1911, the price is higher in 19 of the towns; in the remaining 8 towns no change is shown.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	British Wheat Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households ex Mill for Cash).
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1911.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
April	7 1	7 9½	10 4	10 4
1912.	7 11½	8 7	10 7	11 9
March	7 5½	8 8	10 8½	11 10

The imports of wheat during September, 1911—April, 1912, amounted to 62,619,460 cwts., or 1,480,416 cwts. less than in the corresponding months of 1910-1911. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1911—April, 1912, amounted to 6,700,817 cwts., or 130,826 cwts. less than in September, 1910—April, 1911.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT, 1911.

PART II.—UNEMPLOYMENT.

Applications to the Umpire.

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

11. Bedstead casters, described as engaged in the carrying of hot metal from the cupola into the casting shop where it is poured into the chills.
12. Gun press workers, described as engaged in the making of tubes or covers for guns.
13. Brickworks—persons employed in: (a) Making stock bricks by machinery; (b) the burning of bricks in open clamp kilns.
14. Men employed in: (a) Road-making; (b) road maintenance; (c) sewer laying; (d) sewer repairs; (e) street cleaning; (f) men employed as water inspectors for town supply.
15. Persons engaged in the manufacturing of: (a) Steel ship and boiler plates, steel bars and sheets; (b) iron plates, bars, sheets and strips; (c) pig-iron from the ore; (d) tubes from strips; (e) rivets, bolts, and nuts from the steel and iron.
16. Smiths, mill mechanics, and engine tenters in textile mills.
17. Fitters, smiths, and lathe hands working at small machines in tramway company's shops—drilling and turning, boring, and fitting parts required for supplying men repairing vehicles.
18. Paviers, platelayers, labourers, and carters employed in repairing and maintaining tramway tracks and at times renewing same.
19. Bricklayers, slaters, labourers, and carters engaged at times in the maintenance and repair of tramway depôts and other buildings the property of the company.
20. Men working at small circular saws cutting out small timber to size for framing and repair of tramcars.
21. Men employed: (a) in saw mills entirely in making packing cases, and (b) joiners, carpenters, and mechanics, and mechanics in engineer's department of soap works.
22. Men engaged in dye works: (a) as gas engine and well pump hands; (b) as stokers and engine drivers; (c) as painters; (d) as electricians; (e) as "barbe" machine hands.
23. Wire drawers and galvanisers, wire cleaners and testers, bar, strip, hoop, and wire rod rollers.
24. Workmen employed by timber merchants owning and working sawmills, in the conversion of timber.
25. Persons employed in brass foundries (including the casting of white metal, gun metal, and other copper alloys) engaged in: (i.) The manufacture of castings; (ii.) in machine shops in connection therewith; (iii.) in the trade of brass fitting. Such brass, &c., foundries: (a) Forming part of an engineering establishment; (b) not forming part of an engineering establishment, but (i.) engaged in the manufacture of castings for the use of such; (ii.) engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of castings for use other than in connection with the products of an engineering establishment.
26. Masons engaged partly on monumental memorials and partly on building fronts.
27. Masons engaged in monumental work with mallet or hammer and chisel, preparing monuments and erecting same in cemeteries or public places.
28. Masons engaged with hammer and chisel in preparing paving stones for footpaths and setts for carriage ways.
29. Men engaged in polishing granite and marble for use in connection with buildings.
30. Stone sawyers (machine) and other machinists employed in dressing stone. Cutting stone with hand saws for use in connection with buildings or works of construction: (a) In quarries; (b) in stone dressing yards attached to quarries; (c) in stone dressing yards carried on as separate businesses or in connection with the business of a builder; (d) on building jobs.

31. Men engaged in quarrying stone, including the process of scabbling or other rough dressing.

31A. Cabinet making, men employed in making (1) staircases, wall, and ceiling panelling, and general house fittings in hard wood made in shops by those who may or may not be employed to fix the same in the house; (2) fittings for ships, as panelling, fixed furniture to fit shape of ship, all kinds of woodwork, which may or may not be fixed by the same men. Made (a) in town shops, (b) in shipyard shops inside the yard.

32. Wood carving. Carving for ships or houses mostly done in shops or on the job.

33. Wood cutting. Machinists working machines on ship or house fittings, in shipyard shop or town shop, whether joiners and cabinet makers are employed or not.

34. Furniture polishers. Polishing fixtures for houses and ships in (a) town shops, (b) on the buildings, (c) board ship or in shipyard shop.

35. Fibrous plasterers in casting shops, making fibrous plaster ornaments, &c., in shop to be fixed in buildings.

36. Steel bar and tin plate works. Fitters, turners, machinists, smiths, strikers, millwrights, carpenters, joiners, masons, plate-layers, &c., and all the unskilled labour which assists in these trades in steel bar and tin plate works, solely for the purpose of carrying out the necessary repairs, maintenance, and the general upkeep of all plant and machinery, buildings, roofs, sidings, &c.

37. Persons employed by ammunition manufacturers: (a) In filling and packing ammunition of all types and components of the same, including percussion caps, fuzes, &c.; (b) on joinery work, including instrument cases, chests, &c., in hardwood, and repair and additions to own buildings; (c) sawmilling in connection with the above; (d) engineers, machinists, engine-drivers, and stokers in connection with the above, and heating arrangements of the works.

38. Stone carvers, carving figures and architectural ornaments in stone for the decoration of buildings.

39. Chain makers and anchor makers.

40. Cabinet makers and fitters engaged in machining and putting together school furniture of a movable description and not usually made in a joiner's shop, also church furniture of the same description that does not form part and parcel of the building fabric.

41. Men engaged in the manufacture of perambulators, mail carts, and folding cars.

42. Men engaged in cleaning, overhauling, repair, and general maintenance of arc lamps and incandescent lamps used for public street lighting.

43. Workpeople employed by electric supply company: (a) Labourers excavating for new runs of mains and replacing old mains; (b) service layers laying pipes for new service work to consumers' premises; (c) jointers engaged in the general jointing of mains and service work; (d) cable gangs drawing in new cable, drawing out old cable, and temporarily jointing same; (e) watchmen watching firm's work in progress during the night and at week-ends; (f) bricklayers building boxes, manholes, and fitting box covers; (g) smiths engaged in general constructional ironwork; (h) turners and fitters employed part of their time on arc lighting maintenance work, and the remainder on constructional ironwork.

44. Workpeople employed by electric supply company: (a) Carpenters making meter brackets and doing all carpentering repair work in connection with meter section; (b) meter fixers fixing all meter brackets and meters in consumers' premises, helping to make meter brackets and assisting meter readers when necessary; (c) fuse hands making the ordinary fuses used by the company, and repairing small faults in wires and fuses in consumers' premises; (d) boys assisting meter fixers and carpenters; (e) clock hands testing, cleaning, repairing, and adjusting meters; (f) bench hands connecting rivetting labels, scaling, and painting meters.

45. Workpeople employed by electric supply company: Boiler cleaners, described as cleaning out the inside of boilers and removing scale.

Any representations with reference to any of the above applications should be forwarded to the Registrar, office of the Umpire, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Decisions by the Umpire.

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

A.—The umpire has decided that contributions ARE PAYABLE in respect of—

- i. Workmen, not being usually members of a ship's crew, employed in the construction, alteration, repair or decoration of barges, whether of wood or iron.
- ii. Workmen employed in the construction, repair or decoration of railway wagons, goods vans, brake vans and cattle vans.
- iii. Workmen employed in washing ceilings, stripping of paper in buildings, whitening, colouring, repairing, pumicing woodwork and general preparations for painting.

B.—The umpire has decided that contributions are NOT PAYABLE in respect of—

- i. Workmen employed in the manufacture of rubber tyres for motors, cycles, or other vehicles, including the manufacture of elastic air tubes.
- ii. Workmen employed in the manufacture of accumulators and electrical batteries.
- iii. Workmen employed in the making of stock bricks by machinery, and in the burning of bricks in open clamp kilns.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during April, 1912, was 28, of which 23 were due to lead poisoning and 4 to anthrax; 3 deaths, all due to lead poisoning, were also reported. In addition 11 cases of lead poisoning (2 of which were fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers. During the four months ended April, 1912, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 205, as compared with 191 in the corresponding period of 1911. The number of deaths was 14 in 1912, as compared with 13 in 1911. In addition there were 63 cases of lead poisoning (including 8 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first four months of 1912, as compared with 68 cases (including 18 deaths) in the corresponding period of 1911.

No cases of phosphorus poisoning were reported for any of the periods covered by the Table.

Cases include all attacks reported during the month, and not previously reported during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

Analysis by Industries.

INDUSTRY.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of April, 1912.	Four months ended April, 1912.	Month of April, 1911.	Four months ended April, 1911.
Lead Poisoning.				
Among Operatives engaged in—				
Smelting of Metals	—	17	6	1
Brass Works	2	2	3	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ..	—	1	3	—
Plumbing and Soldering	3	12	8	2
Printing	—	3	14	1
File Cutting	—	2	7	—
Tinning of Metals	1	6	6	1
White Lead Works	2	13	4	—
Red Lead Works	—	1	5	—
China and Earthenware	2	26	31	5
Litho-Transfer Works	—	1	—	1
Glass Cutting and Polishing ..	—	—	1	—
Vitreous Enamelling	—	—	9	1
Electrical Accumulator Works	—	9	5	—
Paint and Colour Works	—	5	3	—
Coachmaking	1	24	27	—
Shipbuilding	2	14	8	1
Paint used in other Industries..	2	14	9	1
Other Industries	3	16	20	3
Total in Factories & Workshops	23	177	169	3
House Painting and Plumbing	11	63	68	2
Other Forms of Poisoning.				
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer Making	1	2	2	—
Furriers' Processes	—	3	—	—
Other Industries	—	6	3	—
Total.. .. .	1	11	5	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	—	3	—
Other Industries	—	1	—	—
Total.. .. .	—	1	3	—
Total "Other Forms of Poisoning"	1	12	8	—
Anthrax.				
Wool	—	10	5	2
Handling of Horsehair	2	4	2	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	2	2	6	—
Other Industries	—	—	1	—
Total Anthrax*	4	16	14	3
Total reported under Factory and Workshop Act	28	205	191	3
Grand Total	39	268	259	5

* In addition, 3 cases (1 fatal) among dock labourers were reported. † The 2 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry were males.

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

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during April, 1912, was 189, an increase of 37 as compared with March, 1912, and a decrease of 39 as compared with April, 1911. The mean number for April during the five years 1907-1911 was 223, the maximum year being 1909 with 236 deaths, and the minimum year 1910 with 203 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines in April, 1912, was 78, an increase of 55 on a month ago and a decrease of 31 on a year ago. The fatal accidents at quarries numbered 6 during April, 1912, a decrease of 4 on March, 1912, and of 3 on April, 1911. The total number of accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in April, 1912, was 79 as compared with 90 in March, 1912, and 78 in April, 1911.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in April, 1912, was 874 as compared with 153 in March, 1912, and 55 in April, 1911. The high figure for April, 1912, is due to the loss of life caused by the disaster to the "Titanic."

During the four months ended April, 1912, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 867 as compared with 942 in 1911. The number of seamen killed in the same period was 1,402 in 1912 and 557 in 1911.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in April, 1912, on a	
	April, 1912.	March, 1912.	April, 1911.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen & Goods Guards	1	3	4	- 2	- 3
Engine Drivers	2	2	2	—	—
Firemen	—	1	—	—	—
Guards (Passenger)	1	—	2	+ 1	- 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	4	8	6	- 4	- 2
Porters	4	4	4	—	—
Shunters	—	2	2	- 2	- 2
Miscellaneous	11	7	9	+ 4	+ 2
Contractors' Servants	1	—	2	+ 1	- 1
Total, Railway Service	24	27	31	- 3	- 7
Mines—					
Underground	67	20	96	+ 47	- 29
Surface	11	3	13	+ 8	- 2
Total, Mines	78	23	109	+ 55	- 31
Quarries over 20 feet deep ..	6	10	9	- 4	- 3
Factories and Workshops—					
<i>Textile—</i>					
Cotton	2	7	5	- 5	- 3
Wool and Worsted	2	—	4	+ 2	- 2
Other Textiles	1	1	4	—	- 3
<i>Non-Textile—</i>					
Extraction of Metals	1	3	2	- 2	- 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	8	15	8	- 7	—
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	5	2	4	+ 3	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building	6	12	8	- 6	- 2
Wood	—	2	5	- 2	- 5
Chemicals	8	2	2	+ 6	+ 6
Laundries	1	—	—	+ 1	+ 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	32	29	21	+ 3	+ 11
Total, Factories and Workshops.	66	73	63	- 7	+ 3
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 104-5.	6	8	9	- 2	- 3
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	—	1	—	—	—
Warehouses	—	—	6	—	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies ..	7	8	—	- 1	+ 1
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 104-5.	13	17	15	- 4	- 2
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	2	2	1	—	+ 1
Total, excluding Seamen	189	152	228	+ 37	- 39
Seamen—					
<i>On Trading Vessels—</i>					
Sailing	16	19	12	- 3	+ 4
Steam	853	131	41	+722	+812
<i>On Fishing Vessels—</i>					
Sailing	3	1	—	+ 2	+ 3
Steam	2	2	2	—	—
Total, Seamen	874	153	55	+721	+819
Total, including Seamen	1,063	305	283	+758	+780

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN APRIL.

The total number who received employment relief was 10,201, of whom 2,997 were in London and "Outer London," 6,489 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 584 in Scotland, and 131 in Ireland. The average duration of employment relief was 8.4 days per person employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 26s. per head, or about 3s. 1½d. per day.

The net total number of applicants remaining on the registers at the end of April (after deduction of practicable persons disqualified, those who had found work, &c.) was 24,506, of whom 4,470 were in "Outer London," 16,438 in the provincial towns of England and Wales, 714 in Scotland, and 2,884 in Ireland.

The registers of the London Committees were closed for ordinary purposes (i.e., except for women emigration cases, and special "colony" cases) on April 4th. Committees at Bristol, Dudley, Hastings, Northampton, Portsmouth, Tottenham and Tynemouth also closed their registers for the season. During the month registration was resumed at West Hartlepool.

The total number of Distress Committees in operation at the end of April, 1912, was 49, as compared with 81 at the end of March, 1912, and 52 at the end of April, 1911. Of the Distress Committees in operation at the end of April, 1912, 11 were in "Outer London," 31 in other places in England and Wales, 6 in Scotland, and 1 in Ireland.

The following Table summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees.

Districts.	No. of Applicants given Employment Relief.			Aggregate Duration of Employment Relief.		
	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.
London—						
County	1,900	2,272	1,629	24,580	37,160	22,417
Outer	1,097	1,971	1,165	10,642	16,051	9,386
Total, London	2,997	4,243	2,794	35,222	53,211	31,803
Northern Counties	286	90	174	1,304	819	1,173
Lancs. and Cheshire	37	43	197	357	423	2,605
Yorkshire	953	627	754	4,129	2,175	2,733
Midlands	711	182	186	3,393	537	1,066
Eastern Counties	382	927	684	7,359	10,133	6,121
Southern Counties	722	1,162	542	10,610	15,007	4,656
Wales and Monmouth	3,398	1,161	210	11,060	9,380	3,153
England and Wales	9,486	8,435	5,541	73,444	91,685	53,320
Scotland	584	519	786	10,740	8,114	11,361
Ireland	131	656	298	1,572	7,680	3,576
United Kingdom	10,201	9,610	6,825	85,756	107,479	68,257
Districts.	Total Amount of Wages Paid.			Net No. of Applicants Remaining on the Registers at end of		
	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.	April, 1912.	Mar., 1912.	April, 1911.
London—						
County	£ 4,374	£ 6,852	£ 4,239	Closed.	14,153†	Closed.
Outer	1,912	2,974	1,706	4,470	5,773	5,005
Total, London	6,286	9,826	5,945	4,470	19,926	5,005
Northern Counties	226	177	223	452	261	357
Lancs. and Cheshire	32	39	333	655	919	1,025
Yorkshire	799	424	519	3,744	3,743	5,316
Midlands	632	116	310	2,545	1,219	1,586
Eastern Counties	1,015	1,200	746	1,932	2,085	2,685
Southern Counties	1,015	1,570	778	1,622	3,747	1,164
Wales and Monmouth	2,223	971	604	5,488	3,002	936
England and Wales	11,959	14,323	9,458	20,908	34,912	18,084
Scotland	1,101	947	1,378	714	1,049	1,155
Ireland	218	985	475	2,884	2,773	3,035
United Kingdom	13,278	16,255	11,311	24,506	38,734	22,274

In addition there were certain cases in which men and women were given employment by arrangement with Local Authorities or with contractors, or were engaged on piecework.

Of the 24,506 applicants remaining on the registers at the end of April, 1912, 16,318 were stated to be labourers, porters, &c.; 4,220 were connected with the building trades; 748 were carters, &c.; 294 were clerks, shop assistants, &c.; and the occupations of the remainder were not specified.

* In some cases it has been necessary to take the actual number on the registers, as the Distress Committees were unable to furnish the particulars necessary for deducting persons disqualified, &c.

† This figure shows the number on the registers of the 29 London Committees on the 4th April, on which date their registers were closed.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

The number of paupers relieved on one day in April, 1912, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 220 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with March, 1912, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 17,376 (or 4.7 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 10. The number of outdoor paupers relieved increased by 18,993 (or 10.0 per cent.), whilst the number of indoor paupers decreased by 1,617 (or 0.9 per cent.). There were increases in 19 districts, decreases in 15 districts, and in the remaining district there was no change. The most marked increases were in the Stockton and Tees District (260 per 10,000), in the Birmingham District (68 per 10,000), in the Wigan District (45 per 10,000), and in North Staffordshire (32 per 10,000).

Compared with April, 1911, the rate per 10,000 increased by 13. The number of outdoor paupers increased by 25,545 (or 14.0 per cent.), and the number of indoor paupers increased by 930 (or 0.5 per cent.). There were increases in 24 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees District (244 per 10,000), in the Birmingham District (70 per 10,000), in the Wigan District (52 per 10,000), and in North Staffordshire (50 per 10,000). There were decreases in 9 districts, while in the remaining 2 districts there was no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of April, 1912.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population on a	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolises.						
West District	12,160	2,312	14,472	181	- 5	- 1
North District	16,781	8,536	25,317	248	- 5	+ 12
Central District	6,447	1,470	7,917	463	- 7	- 5
East District	15,133	5,413	20,546	302	- 3	- 3
South District	26,819	14,370	41,189	222	- 6	+ 2
Total, Metropolises	77,340	32,101	109,441	242	- 5	+ 1
West Ham	5,241	11,543	16,784	235	+ 5	+ 17
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,973	5,627	8,600	186	+ 8	+ 11
Stockton & Tees District	1,520	9,815	11,335	473	+260	+244
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,812	6,952				

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes which began in April was 41, as compared with 36 in the previous month, and 27 in April, 1911. In these new disputes 10,167 workpeople were directly, and 952 indirectly involved, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before April, including the general coal dispute, give a total of 1,045,499 workpeople involved in trade disputes in April, 1912, as compared with 1,040,542 in March, 1912, and 40,290 in April, 1911.

New Disputes in April, 1912.—In the following table the new disputes for April are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	6	1,033	5	1,038
Coal Mining	7	5,753	642	6,395
Engineering	4	419	—	419
Shipbuilding	2	215	34	249
Other Metal	2	144	176	320
Textile	4	116	62	178
Foot and Shoe	3	280	—	280
Transport	5	675	—	675
Other Trades	7	1,137	33	1,170
Employees of Local Authorities ..	1	335	—	335
Total, April, 1912	41	10,167	952	11,119
Total, March, 1912	36	857,030	151,431	1,008,461
Total, April 1911	27	8,513	1,514	10,027

Causes.—Of the new disputes 24 arose on various wages questions—viz., 13, directly involving 2,028 workpeople, on demands for increased wages, and 11, directly involving 3,833 workpeople, on other wages questions. Of the remaining disputes, 7, directly involving 2,974 persons, arose on questions concerning details of working arrangements; 6, directly involving 470 persons, on questions relating to the employment of particular classes or persons; 3, directly involving 840 persons, on questions of trade union principles; and 1, directly involving 22 persons, on a question respecting hours of labour.

Principal Disputes that began or were settled in April.

Occupations. §	Locality.	Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object. §	Result §
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Building— Painters and decorators	Nottingham ..	260	—	1912. 1 Apr.	16	For advance in wages of ¼d. per hour.	Advance granted.
Coal Mining— Underground and bankworkers, and other surface workers.	Mansfield ..	749	9	18 Apr.	1	Dissatisfaction with amount of money earned since the general coal strike.	Stallmen's wages to be made up to 6s. 6d. per shift and daymen and lads to be paid the usual rates, pending the fixing of a Minimum Wage.
Miners, datallers, boys, and surface-men.	Wakefield (nr.)	850	350	18 Apr.	—	Dissatisfaction with certain alterations in method of working.	No settlement reported.
Miners and surface workers	Motherwell ..	265	30	1911. 24 Apr.	259	For advance in wages of oncost labour.	Work resumed on old terms pending decision of Joint District Board.
Engineering— Iron and steel moulders	Sheffield ..	1,200	—	1912. 26 Feb.	42	Against alleged practice of giving to core-makers work claimed by moulders.	Matter in dispute to be referred to joint meetings of the parties for settlement, and demarcation board for the trades concerned to be established.
Textile— Jute spinners, weavers, &c.	Dundee ..	28,000	—	26 Feb.	42	Strike for advance in wages of 15 per cent. to those earning under £1 per week, and 10 per cent. to those over £1, followed by lock-out on 4th April of workpeople employed by members of Dundee and District Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, owing to a number of workpeople failing to resume work between 27th March and 3rd April.	Dundee and District Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association to recommend its members to give an advance in wages paid in actual process of preparing and spinning of 2½ per cent. from 28th June.
Glove makers, assistants, &c.	Dumfries ..	129	21	22 Mar.	23	Dispute as to price for certain work.	(See p. 170.)
Transport— Carters	Manchester ..	500	—	23 Mar.	23	Dispute arising out of dismissal of a carter.	(See p. 170.)
Other Trades— Cabinet-makers, french polishers, upholsterers, &c.	Nottingham ..	522	—	15 Apr.	—	Demand for advances in wages and reduction in hours of labour.	No settlement reported.
Pottery workers	Stoke-on-Trent	895	194	25 Mar.	18	Alleged victimisation of certain workpeople.	Mutual arrangement effected.
Employees of Local Authorities— Tramway motormen, conductors, and cleaners.	Cardiff ..	335	—	24 Apr.	3	Dispute as to payment for Good Friday and Easter Monday.	Men's demand conceded.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
 † Exclusive of the coal strike, the termination of which was reported in the April LABOUR GAZETTE.
 ‡ In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information.
 § The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Changes in Wages in April.

THE net result of all the changes taking effect in April was an increase of £2,708 per week, as compared with an increase of £581 per week in March, 1912, and a decrease of £1,346 per week in April, 1911. The number of workpeople affected was 273,367, of whom 244,947 received increases amounting to £4,142 per week, and 28,420 sustained decreases amounting to £1,434 per week. The total number affected in March, 1912, was 10,950, and in April, 1911, 97,053.

Three changes, affecting 957 workpeople, were settled by arbitration; eight changes, affecting 213,899 workpeople, were arranged by conciliation boards or mediation; and twenty-two changes, affecting 28,902 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 29,609 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In six cases, affecting 675 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Changes in Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in April affected 4,192 workpeople, whose working time was reduced by 20,559 hours per week. In the four months ended April 30th the number of workpeople whose hours were reduced was 17,921, and the aggregate amount of the reduction 40,613 hours per week.

Changes in Wages—January to April.

The following Table summarises by trades the number of workpeople affected, and the net effect of the changes on their weekly wages:—

Groups of Trades.	January—April.			
	1911.		1912.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	1,632	+ 99	16,308	+ 1,548
Coal Mining	194,550	- 5,877	260,790	+ 2,730
Iron, &c., Mining ..	10,309	- 126	9,000	+ 107
Quarrying	2,909	- 25	2,613	+ 25
Pig Iron Manufacture ..	12,251	+ 10	14,682	+ 256
Iron and Steel Manufacture ..	35,480	+ 1,116	47,152	+ 1,328
Engineering and Shipbuilding ..	67,845	+ 5,869	40,283	+ 2,206
Other Metal Trades ..	594	+ 104	3,898	+ 504
Textile Trades	2,861	+ 192	10,988	+ 440
Clothing Trades	2,171	+ 113	601	+ 34
Printing, &c., Trades ..	40	+ 3	1,276	+ 106
Glass, &c., Trades	363	+ 39	4,911	+ 268
Transport Trades	1,731	+ 178	8,190	+ 628
Other Trades	1,275	+ 214	537	+ 48
Employees of Local Authorities ..	2,155	+ 157	2,757	+ 173
Total	336,176	+ 2,066	423,986	+ 10,401

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN APRIL.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect in 1912.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)	
					Increase.	Decrease.

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Building ..	Blackburn ..	1 Apr	Carpenters and joiners	320	Increase of ¼d. per hour (¾d. to 9¼d.)
			Painters	207	Increase of ¼d. per hour (¾d. to 9¼d.)
			Plasterers	280	Increase of ¼d. per hour (10d. to 10¼d.)
			Nottingham ..	1 Apr	Painters .. .. .	2,000	Increase of ¼d. per hour (¾d. to 9d.)
Mining and Quarrying ..	Durham ..	22 April	Painters	550	Increase of ¼d. per hour (¾d. to 9d.)
			Colliery Enginemn	740	Increase of 4d. per shift in basis rate to winding enginemn and increase to 4s. per day to surface stationary wagon-hauling enginemn.
	Cleveland ..	22 April	Ironstone miners	9,000	Increase of 1 per cent., making wages 26 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
			Limestone quarrymen	2,500	
	Cumberland ..	8 April	Hewers and other underground workers	7,000	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages of hewers 45 per cent. and of other underground workers 35 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
			Surface workers	2,000	Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages of handlers of coal 22½ per cent., and of non-handlers of coal 15 per cent. above the standard of 1910.
	Forest of Dean ..	22 April	Coke workers	300	Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 10 per cent. above the standard of 1910.
			Hewers and other underground and surface workers (including enginemn and mechanics)	5,500	Decrease of 15 per cent., leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888.†
	Bristol	8 April	Hewers, other underground workers and banksmen	2,500	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 37½ per cent. above the standard on the Gloucester side and 42½ per cent. and 45 per cent. respectively on the Somerset side.
			Hewers, other underground workers, banksmen, enginemn and stokers	4,100	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 31½ per cent. above the standard of 1888.
Radstock District ..	8 April	Miners, etc.	190,000	Increase of 1¼ per cent., making wages 51¼ per cent. above the standard of 1879 and 36¼ per cent. above the standard of 1877.	
		South Wales and Mon. ..	April §	Miners, etc.	190,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d.). Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland ..	1 April	Iron puddlers	750		
		Iron and steel millmen	2,650		
Cleveland and Durham ..	7 April	Blastfurnacemen	5,500	Increase, under sliding scale, of 1¼ per cent., making wages 20¼ per cent. above the standard of 1879.	
		West Cumberland ..	1 April	Blastfurnacemen	1,400	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2¼ per cent., making wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1889.
Fig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture ..	South Wales and Mon. ..	1 April	Blastfurnacemen	1,250	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3½ per cent., leaving wages 10¾ per cent. above the standard of 1895.
			Iron and steel workers and mechanics	5,000	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 9d.). Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
West Scotland ..	1 April	Iron puddlers	3,000		
		Iron millmen	2,750		
England	8 April	Steel millmen	2,750		
		Enginemn, cranimen, etc.	1,750	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.	
Engineering ..	England	1 April	Gas producermen and charge wheelers	1,000	
			Other workpeople	250	Increase of 2½ per cent.
Scotland	1 April	Moulders and others engaged in the manufacture of light castings	8,500	Increase of 2½ per cent. on piece rates and of 1s. per week or ¼d. per hour on time rates.	
		Ironmoulders (piecework)	5,000	Increase of 2½ per cent.	

II.—CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

Building ..	Blackburn ..	13 April	Painters	207	Decrease of 2½ hours per week (51½ to 49.)
			Birmingham ..	1 April	Plasterers .. .. .	280	Decrease of ½ hour per week in summer months (51 to 50½.)
Mining	Durham	April	Colliery enginemn	1,549	Decrease to 9 hours per shift for surface hauling enginemn at 3-shift pits and to 10 hours for other surface enginemn and boilerminders (except fan enginemn).

* Exclusive of Seamen, Agricultural Labourers and Railway Servants. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ‡ At some of the collieries wages are 45 per cent. above the standard. § This change was arranged to take effect from 1st March, but it did not actually operate until the men resumed work after the dispute. ¶ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

WORK OF BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES IN APRIL.

Summary.—The total number of workpeople's applications on both the General and Casual Registers* of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges at the end of April was 87,776, compared with 84,440 a month previously, and 78,100 a year ago.

The number of Exchanges open at April 26th was 285, compared with 279 a month ago, and 200 in April, 1911. The work of the Exchanges, especially during the first two weeks of the month, continued to be affected by the national coal dispute.

GENERAL REGISTER.

Applications Received.—The number of applications received during the period was 146,511 (men 87,523, women 34,117, boys 14,133, and girls 10,738), a daily average of 6,660, compared with 5,944 in March. The total number of applications on the register at some time or other during the period was 229,209 (men 142,219, women 51,452, boys 19,953, and girls 15,585). These figures are exclusive of re-applications from persons already placed in vacancies by the Exchanges during the period, which numbered 6,749 in April, and represent separate individuals, except in so far as there may have been duplicate registration in London and other places where more than one Exchange is easy of access to the same person.

Of the men's applications on the register at some time during the month, the largest percentages occur in the following groups of trades:—General Labourers, 17.0; Conveyance of Men, Goods, and Messages, 16.4; Metals, Machines, Implements, and Conveyances, 16.3; Building, 15.7 (labourers 3.3, others 12.4). Of the women's applications, the largest percentages occur in Domestic (Outdoor) Service, 49.0; Food, Tobacco, Drink, and Lodging, 10.7; Textiles, 8.4; and Dress, 5.1.

The total number of applications remaining on the register at April 26th was 85,509 (men 55,317, women 18,775, boys 5,907, and girls 5,510), as compared with 82,698 (men 54,696, women 17,335, boys 5,820, and girls 4,847), at March 29th, and 76,146 at April 28th, 1911.

The following Table shows the number of applicants on the register at the end of each week during April, 1912, March, 1912, and April, 1911.

Table with 4 columns: Month, April, 1912, Mar., 1912, April, 1911. Rows for 1st week, 2nd week, 3rd week, 4th week, 5th week.

Vacancies Notified.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 58,010 (men 30,545, women 13,528, boys 8,571, and girls 5,366), a daily average of 2,637, compared with 2,422 in March, and 2,309 in April, 1911.

Of the men's vacancies notified during April, the largest percentages occur in Building, 23.0 (labourers 3.8, others 19.2); Metals, Machines, Implements, and Conveyances, 17.4; General Labourers, 11.4; and Conveyance of Men, Goods, and Messages, 8.9. Of the women's vacancies notified, the largest percentages occur in Domestic (Outdoor) Service, 42.6; Food, Tobacco, Drink, and Lodging, 14.0; Textiles, 13.3; and Dress, 9.3.

Vacancies Filled.—The number of vacancies filled during the period was 43,224 (men 23,843, women 9,589, boys 5,997, and girls 3,795), a daily average of 1,965, compared with 1,855 in March, and 1,822 in April, 1911.

Of the vacancies filled during April, 6,308 (men 4,374, women 1,458, boys 308, and girls 168) were temporary, in the sense of being known to be for less than a week's employment.

The vacancies filled during April include 5,482 cases in which persons were placed by the Exchanges in districts other than those in which they were registered. Of the total number of such transferences 2,369 were in

* Certain employments of a peculiarly casual nature followed by men and women are dealt with on a separate register, described as the Casual Register, and the statistics for these employments are shown in Table V., Tables I. to IV. below relating only to applications and vacancies on the General Register.

London, 517 in the Yorkshire and East Midlands Division, 890 in Scotland and the North of England, 933 in the North-Western Division, and 335 in the West Midlands Division, representing respectively 23.0, 8.3, 11.1, 12.3, and 10.7 per cent. of the vacancies filled in these areas.

The proportion of vacancies filled by the Exchanges to vacancies notified by employers was 74.5 per cent. (men 78.1, women 70.9, boys 70.0, and girls 70.7), as compared with 76.6 per cent. during March.

Of the men's vacancies filled during April, the largest percentages occur in Building, 22.9 (labourers 4.0, others 18.9); Metals, Machines, Implements, and Conveyances, 16.8; General Labourers, 14.0; and Conveyance of Men, Goods, and Messages, 8.7. Of the women's vacancies filled, the largest percentages occur in Domestic (Outdoor) Service, 41.6; Food, Tobacco, Drink, and Lodging, 15.6; Textiles, 14.0; and Dress, 7.0.

Of the 9,792 vacancies for boys and girls filled during April, 3,188 (boys 1,724 and girls 1,464) were filled by applicants who obtained their first situation since leaving school, representing 32.6 per cent. (boys 28.7 and girls 38.6) of the vacancies filled by juveniles.

The following Table gives the figures for the 196 Exchanges which have been open for a year or more:—

Table with 4 columns: April, 1912, March, 1912, April, 1911. Rows for Applications received during month, Vacancies notified during month, Vacancies filled during month, Applications remaining on register at beginning of month, Applications remaining on register at end of month.

CASUAL REGISTER.

The total number of applicants given work in the casual employments included in the Casual Register was 2,843 (men 1,670, women 1,173). The total number of separate jobs given in such employments was 8,395 (men 6,944, women 1,451), a daily average of 382, as compared with a daily average of 352 a month ago, and 425 in April, 1911.

Unsatisfied Demand for Labour.

The demand for workers during the month exceeded the supply in the case of the Cotton, Woollen and Worsted trades, and in the case of women in the Clothing trade and in Laundry work. In the Building trade there was a large demand for all classes of workmen, particularly painters and decorators, and during the month there was still a scarcity in some districts of workers in the Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal trades.

New Exchanges.—The following 6 Exchanges were opened during April, and their returns are incorporated in the Tables:—Abertillery, 4, Carmel Buildings; Hanley, 13, Parliament Row; King's Lynn, 21, New Conduit Street; Kirkcaldy, 369, High Street; Leek, 61, Derby Street; Treorchy, 222, High Street.

The business of the Soho Exchange has been transferred to 60, Great Marlborough Street, W.

The following Exchanges are now open, or are expected to be opened before the end of May, making a total of 303 Exchanges:—Barnstaple, 24, Boutport Street; Basford, 219-221, Vernon Road, Basford, Notts; Boston, 20, West Street; Brightside, 534-536, Brightside Lane, Sheffield; Cannock, Market Place; Garston, 95, St. Mary's Road, Garston, Liverpool; Great Harwood, 19, Church Street; Haydock, 404, Clipsley Lane; Hinckley, 13, Regent Street; Mossley, 127 and 129, Manchester Road; Oswestry, 24, Oswald Road; Prescott, 48, Market Street; Rugby, Castle Street; South Shields, Old Post Office, Dean Street; Southwick-on-Wear, 2, Cross Street; Swindon, 17 and 17A, Regent Circus; Tipton, 1, Horseley Heath; Torquay, 27, Fleet Street.

ADULTS—DISTRICT TABLE.*

Table I.—Applications for Employment, Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the period of four weeks ended April 26th, 1912. (General Register.)

Large table with columns for Districts, Applications for Employment (On Live Register at Beginning of Period, Received during Period, On Live Register at End of Period), and Vacancies (Notified during Period, Filled during Period). Rows list various districts like London and South-Eastern, West Midlands, etc.

* Exclusive of Casual Employments. † Including re-applications from persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period. ‡ These figures do not include the Manchester Cloth Porters Exchange, which deals only with Casual Employment.

JUVENILES—DISTRICT TABLE.

Table II.—Applications for Employment, Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled in the period of four weeks ended April 26th, 1912.

Districts.	APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT.									VACANCIES.								
	On Live Register at Beginning of Period.			Received during Period.†			On Live Register at End of Period.			Notified during Period.			Filled during Period.					
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.			
London and South Eastern (47)	2,088	1,278	3,366	5,208	3,417	8,625	1,916	1,308	3,224	2,844	1,888	4,732	2,048	1,271	3,319			
South Western (16)	461	152	613	838	326	1,164	491	185	676	501	185	686	369	117	486			
West Midlands (55)	727	512	1,239	1,543	1,269	2,812	695	752	1,447	887	482	1,369	629	356	985			
Yorkshire and East Midlands (53)	716	911	1,627	2,077	1,806	3,883	870	1,072	1,942	1,381	1,058	2,439	962	747	1,709			
North Western (57)‡	563	647	1,210	1,757	1,294	3,051	557	709	1,266	1,311	756	2,067	785	501	1,286			
Scotland and North of England (42)	740	1,002	1,742	2,113	2,256	4,369	748	1,080	1,828	1,227	847	2,074	891	624	1,515			
Wales (including Mon.) (20)	124	193	317	392	388	780	230	252	482	151	78	229	95	68	163			
Ireland (14)	401	152	553	638	187	825	400	152	552	269	72	341	218	51	269			
Total (284)†	8,820	4,847	13,667	18,566	10,543	29,109	5,927	5,810	11,737	8,571	5,366	13,937	5,997	3,795	9,792			
Total a month ago (278)†	6,278	4,997	11,275	17,999	13,176	31,175	5,820	4,847	10,667	11,090	6,391	17,481	7,777	4,838	12,615			
Total a year ago (197)†	5,339	3,832	9,171	11,773	6,987	18,760	5,074	3,955	9,029	7,228	3,606	10,834	5,373	2,845	8,218			
TOWNS.																		
Population 500,000 and over:—																		
London (30)	1,666	1,019	2,685	4,547	2,971	7,518	1,575	1,073	2,648	2,520	1,606	4,126	1,800	1,064	2,864			
Glasgow, Govan, Partick (6)	102	127	229	685	724	1,409	160	151	311	315	350	665	247	307	554			
Liverpool and Bootle (5)	171	277	448	511	476	987	148	285	433	271	149	420	224	134	358			
Manchester (2)	38	20	58	226	104	330	33	35	68	218	84	302	133	43	176			
Birmingham (5)	173	126	299	475	323	798	201	146	347	334	224	558	215	151	366			
Population 250,000 and over:—																		
Sheffield (2)	35	52	87	180	176	356	55	82	137	124	61	185	80	162	132			
Leeds (4)	50	34	84	245	188	433	60	118	169	121	290	149	93	242				
Edinburgh and Leith (2)	220	186	406	143	122	265	149	153	302	166	80	246	86	134				
Belfast	78	26	104	107	8	115	77	30	107	41	3	44	33	36				
Bristol (2)	106	51	156	273	130	403	154	76	230	154	62	216	106	39				
Dublin	91	33	124	208	93	301	73	48	121	102	21	123	87	22				
Bradford	15	5	20	37	16	53	13	2	15	44	8	52	23	6				
Hull	80	213	293	167	271	438	70	230	300	54	96	150	38	74				
Newcastle-on-Tyne	18	67	85	84	223	307	17	92	109	64	55	119	38	41				
Nottingham	77	40	117	203	187	390	89	55	144	156	145	301	120	228				
Salford and Eccles (2)	18	12	30	99	52	151	19	12	31	51	53	104	35	67				
Population 100,000 and over:—																		
Stoke-on-Trent (4)	35	27	62	145	202	347	79	88	167	43	44	87	29	31				
Portsmouth	112	8	120	119	24	143	96	7	103	45	12	57	45	12				
Liverpool	17	12	29	119	27	146	17	17	34	89	27	116	67	12				
Cardiff (3)	24	46	70	163	106	269	101	51	152	55	13	68	32	13				
Bolton	6	6	12	33	19	52	9	6	15	36	16	52	13	8				
Dundee	29	18	47	55	36	91	16	8	24	25	9	34	15	9				
Aberdeen	25	35	60	150	111	261	25	33	58	95	40	135	74	34				
Sunderland	22	57	79	74	18	92	66	93	160	16	18	34	5	12				
Oldham	15	5	20	35	20	55	10	2	12	20	4	24	10	11				
Blackburn	13	5	18	20	4	24	10	2	12	20	4	24	10	11				
Brighton	18	22	40	71	52	123	25	21	46	49	40	89	37	25				
Birkenhead (2)	36	56	92	63	77	140	18	44	62	52	28	80	20	19				
Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham	146	17	163	82	21	103	101	11	112	19	4	23	16	2				
Derby	20	16	36	97	85	182	36	7	43	60	33	93	40	20				
Norwich	34	26	60	75	44	119	32	24	56	37	11	48	33	8				
Southampton (2)	33	18	51	43	24	67	16	32	48	30	13	43	13	17				
Preston	14	8	22	37	108	145	24	67	91	15	24	39	11	18				
Gateshead	18	50	68	45	56	101	20	41	61	32	11	43	18	10				
Swansea	119	45	164	241	79	320	147	45	192	121	33	154	94	25				
Plymouth and Devonport (3)	8	1	9	27	19	46	10	4	14	26	11	37	15	11				
Stockport	23	48	71	54	77	131	22	54	76	29	24	53	29	24				
South Shields (2)	25	7	32	72	33	105	21	9	30	29	48	102	47	22				
Huddersfield	9	7	16	61	14	75	6	2	8	21	11	32	3	3				
Coventry	4	4	8	13	6	19	6	6	12	6	2	18	6	6				
Burnley (2)	33	45	78	72	85	157	42	51	93	31	17	48	31	16				
Middlesbrough	4	4	8	32	14	46	10	6	16	58	63	121	20	9				
Halifax	3	7	10	35	33	68	11	28	39	19	4	23	14	1				
Population 50,000 and over:—																		
St. Helens	43	63	106	97	117	214	49	110	159	59	28	87	37	15				
Wolverhampton	17	10	27	67	41	108	18	24	42	35	14	49	13	47				
Walsall	8	1	9	28	14	42	11	5	16	28	6	34	10	3				
Rochdale	13	8	21	45	38	83	7	12	19	38	55	151	35	22				
Northampton	22	4	26	74	18	92	21	6	27	62	7	69	46	3				
Paisley	21	14	35	60	13	73	31	7	38	30	18	48	15	13				
Wigan	15	24	39	68	68	136	21	34	55	20	20	40	16	18				
Newport (Mon.)	79	5	84	123	44	167	112	12	124	59	41	100	45	34				
York	2	4	6	4	5	9	2	6	8	1	1	2	1	1				
Merthyr Tydvil	108	39	147	112	20	132	120	26	146	47	12	59	38	8				
Cork	47	67	114	91	70	161	42	37	79	26	65	91	26	16				
Reading	12	19	31	76	72	148	12	24	36	24	17	41	28	16				
Greenock	33	31	64	118	56	174	43	31	74	19	66	45	18	63				
Grimsby	27	28	55	73	54	127	22	28	50	43	35	78	31	29				
Ipswich	12	52	64	68	87	155	21	88	110	32	15	47	25	13				
Warrington	17	8	25	32	16	48	13	9	22	38	15	53	19	8				
Bath	15	19	34	62	45	107	31	30	61	15	2	17	14	2				
West Bromwich	29	34	63	62	65	127	36	30	66	36	23	59	18	12				
West Hartlepool (2)	31	20	51	26	26	52	21	21	42	26	26	52	15	15				
Barnsley	22	20	42	45	31	76	31	17	48	29	4	53	20	9				
Rotherham	3	3	6	19	6	25	4	1	5	20	7	27	9	3				
Bury	8	22	30	15	24	39	3	3	6	17	15	33	18	7				
Lincoln	7	17	24	33	25	58	14	17	31	17	14	33	18	7				
Darlington	7	3	10	38	17	55	9	27	36	15	4	20	9	3				
Dewsbury	19	36	55	47	32	79	25	30	55	25	9	34	21	9				
Stockton and Thornaby	14	20	34	41	39	80	11	22	33	24	22	46	15	15				
Wakefield	12	27	39	53	50	103	24	45	69	13	4	17	8	4				
Dudley	12	27	39	53	50	103	24	45	69	13	4	17	8	4				
Barnsley	12	27	39	53	50	103	24	45	69	13	4	17	8	4				
Glossop	12	27	39	53	50	103	24											

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN APRIL, 1912.

(NOTE.—These are not connected with the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges.) DURING April 750 fresh applications (398 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 10 bureaux furnishing returns, and 824 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 193 persons, of whom 116 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 193 situations found for applicants, 150 were of a more or less permanent character, while 43 were temporary only. The demand for cooks, parlourmaids and housemaids much exceeded the supply; the supply of ladies' maids, children's nurses and companions exceeded the demand.

	Applications by Work-people during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
	Apr. 1912.	Apr. 1911.	Apr. 1912.	Apr. 1911.	Permanently.		Temporarily.	
					Apr. 1912.	Apr. 1911.	Apr. 1912.	Apr. 1911.
Summary by Bureaux.								
Central Bureau — 5, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.	94	78	71	58	24	19	5	3
Y.W.C.A. — 26, George Street, (1) .. Hanover Sq. (2) ..	300	261	461	415	54	54	21	23
Dublin: — 30, Molesworth Street ..	19	23	30	17	2	5	..	2
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, and Glasgow) ..	243	195	121	114	57	49	8	8
Total of 10 Bureaux ..	750	629	824	749	150	154	43	49
Summary by Occupations.								
Superintendents, Forewomen, &c.	52	40	34	22	10	5	..	1
Shop Assistants ..	26	7	7	5	2	3	..	..
Dressmakers, Milliners, &c.	21	31	102	112	7	19	6	11
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	96	62	33	29	12	11	9	10
Apprentices and Learners	12	9	32	30	8	9	..	..
Domestic Servants ..	338	373	546	503	89	90	27	27
Miscellaneous ..	145	107	70	48	22	17	1	..
Total of 10 Bureaux ..	750	629	824	749	150	154	43	49

In addition to the above registered applications, the returns show that 40 persons in London and 56 in the provinces were referred to other agencies; 242 persons in London and 87 in the provinces were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.*

THE total number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe in the three months January-March, 1912, was 118,869, of whom 89,204 were British subjects. The corresponding number for January-March, 1911, was 114,312, of whom 85,481 were British subjects. The total number of passengers who arrived in the United Kingdom from places out of Europe in January-March, 1912, was 45,940, of whom 27,874 were British subjects. The corresponding number for January-March, 1911, was 43,335, of whom 23,347 were British subjects. The balance outward during January-March, 1912, was 72,929, as compared with 70,977 in January-March, 1911, and an annual average of 54,145 in January-March for the five years 1907-11. The corresponding numbers for British subjects only were 61,350 and 62,134, and an average of 40,915. Of the balance outward of British subjects 40 per cent. left for British North America in January-March, 1912, as compared with 48 per cent. in January-March, 1911, and 47 per cent. in January-March, 1907-11, while for the United States the corresponding percentages were 20, 22, and 28 respectively.

	Three months, Jan.-Mar., 1912		Three months, Jan.-Mar., 1911.		Average for Jan.-Mar., 1907-1911.	
	British.	Total.	British.	Total.	British.	Total.
Outward:						
Total ..	89,204	118,869	85,481	114,312	63,766	97,538
To British N. America ..	28,998	33,640	33,724	38,309	22,842	27,474
To Australia ..	19,167	19,257	13,197	13,294	..	..
To United States ..	22,513	45,186	22,446	44,319	20,382	47,634
Inward:						
Total ..	27,874	45,940	23,347	43,335	22,851	43,393
From British N. America	4,761	7,752	5,709	5,890	3,698	6,043
From Australia ..	2,129	2,172	1,649	1,684	..	..
From United States ..	10,102	23,162	8,975	25,199	9,019	25,462
Balance Outward:						
Total ..	61,330	72,929	62,134	70,977	40,915	54,145
To British N. America ..	24,237	25,888	30,015	32,419	19,144	21,431
To Australia ..	17,028	17,085	11,548	11,610	..	..
To United States ..	12,411	22,024	13,471	19,120	11,363	22,172

* Exclusive of passengers travelling indirectly *via* Continental ports.
† Not shown separately previous to 1910.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for April, 1912, and for the Four Months ended April, 1912.

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

	April, 1912.			Four Months ended April, 1912		
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with		Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with	
		1911.	1910.		1911.	1910.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	21,470	+ 2,007	+ 261	86,331	+ 8,263	+ 2,877
II.—Raw Materials & Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	24,173	+ 5,453	- 1,022	100,802	+ 5,421	+ 11,969
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	14,553	+ 1,055	+ 1,578	60,137	+ 5,286	+ 8,557
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcels Post)	219	+ 49	+ 42	976	+ 146	+ 138
Total value of Imports	60,415	+ 8,564	+ 889	248,246	+ 19,121	+ 23,541

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

	April, 1912.			Four Months ended April, 1912		
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with		Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with	
		1911.	1910.		1911.	1910.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	2,522	+ 736	+ 591	9,658	+ 1,755	+ 2,690
II.—Raw Materials & Articles mainly Unmanufactured‡	2,403	- 1,674	- 2,254	14,872	- 2,306	- 2,025
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured§	27,220	- 1,922	- 833	123,951	+ 1,656	+ 13,882
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcels Post)	742	+ 55	+ 91	3,027	+ 463	+ 772
Total value of Exports of British Produce	32,887	- 2,805	- 2,405	151,508	+ 1,568	+ 15,329

The exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise amounted to £10,084,000 during April, 1912, an increase of £595,000 on April, 1911, but a decrease of £1,775,000 on April, 1910. During the four months January-April, 1912, they amounted to £41,270,000, an increase of £3,971,000 and of £2,656,000 on the amounts for the corresponding period of 1911 and 1910 respectively.

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.
‡ Coal, wool, oil, seeds, &c., hides and skins.
§ Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

Based on information published weekly in the "Times." THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during April, 1912, again show heavy decreases, due to the loss of traffic in the first half of the month on account of the coal dispute. The receipts during the four weeks ended April 27th, 1912, amounted to £3,359,370, a decrease of £1,084,898 (or 24.4 per cent.) on the corresponding period of 1911.

	4 weeks ended April 27th, 1912.		17 weeks ended April 27th, 1912.	
	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1911.	Amount.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on 1911.
English Lines:—	£	£	£	£
L. & N. W., Midland, N. London, and N. Staffs ..	1,063,393	- 336,618	5,314,807	- 960,903
Gt. Northern, Gt. Central, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury ..	506,447	- 204,765	2,660,793	- 521,446
Lancs and Yorks, and N. Eastern ..	575,318	- 237,122	2,912,478	- 599,096
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	528,690	- 146,400	2,577,000	- 353,700
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	116,224	- 38,251	581,691	- 80,843
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian ..	448,100	- 114,700	1,976,500	- 332,100
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland Gt. Western, and Gt. Northern ..	124,288	- 7,042	526,566	- 14,760
Total ..	3,359,370	- 1,084,898	16,549,835	- 2,882,848

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS DURING APRIL, 1912.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.*
Raslow (Derby)	R. S. C. Edleston, Ashenfell ..	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Bilsforth (Northants)	D. Jeaffreson	Surgery, Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Braemar (Aberdeen)	G. F. Thomson	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Conway (Carnarvon)	J. R. Williams, 5, High-street ..	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Donaghmore (Down)	J. P. J. McGivern	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Drum (Co. Monaghan)	W. W. Moore	Surgery, weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Frome ..	J. M. Rattray, Rook Lane House	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Holywood (Down)	W. D. Donnan	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-4 p.m.
Kilbeggan (Westmeath)	W. Mooney	Wednesday, 10-11 a.m.
Llandudno (Carnarvon)	G. L. Travis, Town Hall	Llandudno Town Hall, Saturday, 9.30-11 a.m.
Morley ..	S. T. Steele, Manor House	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Newcastle (Fimerick)	D. J. Hurley, Newcastle West ..	Newcastle West Dispensary, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-12 noon
Penygroes (Carnarvon)	H. J. Roberts	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Rockcorry (Co. Monaghan)	W. Canning	Tuesday, 9-10 a.m.
Rye (Sussex) ..	M. B. S. Button, Undercliff	Surgery, High-street, Rye, weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Salisbury ..	W. Gordon, 123, Castle-street ..	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
South Molton ..	E. E. Nicholl, Molford House ..	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Tranent (Haddington)	W. C. McEwan, Walford Lodge, Prestonpans	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.
Wolston (Warwick)	E. G. Ford	Tuesday, 9-10 a.m.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.
* i.e., of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Factory Acts: Particulars of Work and Wages: Chocolates and Sweetmeats.—It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that in any textile factory, in order to enable piece-workers to compute the wages payable, the occupier must publish in the prescribed manner particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work to be done, and also particulars of the work to which that rate is to be applied. On being satisfied that these provisions are applicable to any class of non-textile factories or to any class of workshops, the Home Secretary has power to issue a Special Order to apply them to any such class or to any class of outworkers of whom lists have to be kept, subject to the necessary modifications.

In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary by Special Order*, dated February 27th, 1912, and coming into operation on April 1st, 1912, has applied the provisions to factories or workshops in which the manufacture of chocolates or sweetmeats and any work incidental thereto is carried on, and to outworkers employed in such processes. So much of the Order of November 15th, 1909, as relates to the manufacture of chocolates and sweetmeats is repealed. By the new Order every worker must be furnished with written particulars either (i) on each occasion when work is given out to him; or (ii) at or before the time of his first employment on any class of work and on every subsequent occasion when new rates are fixed; or (iii) in the case of persons employed in the factory or workshop, by notice exhibited in the place where the work is done. Special provisions are contained in the Order to meet the cases of work done in common by a gang of workers, and of a worker being required to hand on particulars to another worker. Provisions are also made for the protection of employers in respect of trade secrets.

Cotton Cloth Factories: Hygrometers.—In pursuance of the power given to him by the Act and of the Regulations for Cotton Cloth Factories, the Home Secretary has prescribed by Order† certain conditions for the construction and maintenance of hygrometers. A distinctive number must be indelibly marked upon each thermometer; and a dated certificate of examination of the thermometer and of its compliance with the conditions given by the National Physical Laboratory, or by some other authority approved by the Chief Inspector of Factories, must be attached to the Humidity Register. Every hygrometer must be constructed according to the conditions laid down, and must be maintained in efficient working order and properly protected. The Inspector of the district, however, in any particular case may by certificate, in writing, defer until April 1st, 1914, the application of certain of the conditions, where a hygrometer is furnished with a certificate from the National Physical Laboratory of a date not earlier than January 1st, 1910.

Coal Mines: Accidents: Rescue Brigades.—By the Mines Accidents (Rescue and Aid) Act, 1910, the Home Secretary is given power by Order to require such provision to be made as he thinks necessary, at all mines or any class of mines, for the supply and maintenance of appliances for use in rescue work and ambulance work, and for the formation and training of rescue brigades and the training of men in ambulance work. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has

made an Order*, dated April 2nd, 1912, applying to all mines in which coal is worked, subject to his powers to exempt any mine with less than 100 underground employees which is so situated that it cannot be served from a central rescue station. A central rescue station is one which is established to serve several collieries. The Order provides for the organisation of rescue brigades from amongst the men employed in every mine. A brigade is to consist of not less than five men selected on account of their knowledge of underground work and other qualities. One of the number is to be chosen as captain of the brigade. A majority of the men must have had First-Aid training, and the brigade must be regularly trained and practised in the use and construction of breathing apparatus, the detection of poisonous or inflammable gases, the reading of mine plans, and in the various appliances used in connection with rescue work. If the number of underground employees in a mine is 250 or less 1 brigade is required; if it is between 250 and 700, 2 brigades; between 700 and 1,000, 3 brigades; and if it is more than 1,000, 4 brigades. If the number of such employees is less than 100 it is sufficient to acquire the privilege of calling for a brigade from a central rescue station. Where mine owners endeavour to the best of their ability to form brigades and fail so to do through the men refusing to join or refusing to become competent, they are not liable to any penalty provided they have made a *bona-fide* attempt to arrange for the supply from a central rescue station of such rescue brigades as they are unable to provide; otherwise they are liable under the Act to penalties for failing to comply with the Order. Trainings of the workings of various appliances for use in rescue work must be kept at every mine which maintains a brigade, and suits of breathing apparatus must also be kept, unless the mine owner has acquired the right to call upon a central rescue station within a radius of 10 miles from, and in telephonic communication with the mine, to supply them. At every central rescue station there must be at least 15 complete suits of breathing apparatus ready for use, together with a number of other appliances, and a motor-car must be kept in constant readiness. Where, owing to lack of supply, it is not possible for mine owners to obtain breathing apparatus immediately, they are to be deemed to have complied with the Order if they procure the same as soon as reasonably practicable.

Factory Acts: Limewashing: Special Exception: Lace-making.—It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that the inside walls of a factory must be limewashed once at least within every fourteen months, unless they are painted or varnished. Where, however, the Home Secretary is satisfied that in regard to any class of factories, or parts of factories, such limewashing is not required for purposes of cleanliness, or is inapplicable because of any special circumstances, he may by special order grant to such class of factories, or parts of factories, a special exception. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order†, dated April 19th, 1912, granting a special exception to parts of factories which are rooms in which lace making by machinery is carried on. By this Order the period within which limewashing must be done is extended to twenty-six months; but the exception is not to extend to any room of less than 800 cubic feet capacity for each person employed therein. Provision is made that the rooms excepted are to be thoroughly swept; and an inspector may require the occupier to limewash rooms which are not kept in a cleanly state.

Factory Acts: Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries: Bronzing: Lithographic Printing.—Where the Home Secretary is satisfied that any manufacture or process of manual labour is dangerous or injurious to health or dangerous to life or limb, he has power, under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to certify such manufacture or process to be dangerous, and thereupon he may make regulations such as appear to be reasonably practicable to meet the necessity of the case. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made Regulations‡, dated 11th April, 1912, and to come into force on 1st June, 1912, to apply to all factories and workshops in which is carried on the process known as "bronzing"—i.e., of applying dry metallic powders to surfaces previously prepared—in *letterpress printing*, or *lithograph printing*, or *coating of metal sheets*. By these Regulations provision is made for working under an efficient exhaust draught, for the provision and use of lavatories, overalls and head coverings, for the storing of clothing during working hours, and regulating the consumption of food or of tobacco in any place where bronzing is carried on. There are certain "Exceptions" to the rules as to working under exhaust draught, where bronzing is done by hand for the purpose of proof-pulling, and for certain limited periods.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES.

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING APRIL.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

Trade Unions (3).—England and Wales.—3, viz.: Cardiff Master Carters' Assoc., Gresham Chambers, Kingsway, Cardiff; Internatl. Sailors', Firemen's, Cooks', Stewards' and General Workers' Union, Victoria Bldgs., King St., Liverpool; Cloth-workers' Trade Union, Fox and Grapes Tavern, Brewer St., Golden Sq., W. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—Nil.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1912. No. 347. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.
† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1912. No. 404. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.
‡ Regulations for Bronzing with Dry Metallic Powders. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 234. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.
† Regulations for Cotton Cloth Factories. Hygrometers Order. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

Friendly Societies (26).—*England and Wales.*—26:—Longstone Social Inst., Great Longstone, Bakewell; Willesden W.M. Club and Inst., Willesden; Rhymney Band Inst. and Gwent W.M. Club, Rhymney, Cardiff; Newport Carlton W.M. Social Club, Newport, Mon.; Thorpe Parish Rooms W.M. Club and Inst., Chertsey; Amalg. Soc. of Carpenters and Joiners Bradford Dist. Social Club and Inst., Bradford; Gelli and Ton Pentre Hibernia W.M. Club and Inst., Pentre, Glam.; William Morris Socialist W.M. Club and Inst., Abercynon, Pontypridd; Barry Dockers' Band and Athletic Inst., Barry, Glam.; Newton (Hyde) Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Newton, Hyde; Swinton Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc.; Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester; Shirebrook Taylor-Mills Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Mansfield; West Row Credit Soc., Mildenhall, Suffolk; "Do What I Can" Sick and Provident Soc., Islington, N.; Junction Benefit Soc., Kentish Town, N.W.; Pembury Grove Sick and Provident Soc., Hackney, N.E.; Annuity Fund of the United Kingdom Commercial Travellers' Assoc., Russell Sq., W.C.; Hornsey Rise W.M. Benefit Soc., Upper Holloway, N.; St. George's Campden Hill Sick and Benefit Soc., Kensington, W.; Chiswick Urban Dist. Council Superannuation Fund, Chiswick; South Tottenham Slate Club, South Tottenham, N.; Goat Friendly Benefit and Dividing Soc., Enfield; Fore St. Slate Club, Edmonton, N.; Wealdstone and Dis. Sick Benefit Friendly Soc., Wealdstone, Middlesex; Sirhowy Valley Provident Friendly Soc., Tredegar; Criterion Sick and Dividend Friendly Soc., Birmingham. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—Nil.

Industrial and Provident Societies (15).—*England and Wales.* 12, viz.:—*Working Men's Clubs* (5): York City Brass Band Club and Inst., Ltd., 63 and 64, Aldwark, York; Greenhithe Conservative W.M. Club, Ltd., The Hollies, Greenhithe, Kent; Christchurch Conservative Club, Ltd., 13, Bargates, Christchurch; Polesloe and Priory Conservative Club, Ltd., 97 and 98, Park Rd., Heavitree, Exeter; Hoylelake Conservative Club, Ltd., The Quadrant, Hoylelake, Birkenhead. *Co-operative Distributive* (1): Rivals Co-operative Soc., Ltd., Llanaelhaiarn, Chivilog, Carnarvonshire. *Agricultural Distributive* (1): Weardale Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Mayfield, Wolsingham, co. Durham. *Agricultural Productive* (1): Long Clawson Dairy, Ltd., The Dairy, Long Clawson, Melton Mowbray. *Small Holdings* (1): Wigmore and Smallholders' Co-op. Colony, Ltd., Wigmore Estate Office, Hoath Lane, Chatham. *Tenants' Society* (1): Knebworth Tenants, Ltd., "Hazel Elm," Deards End, Knebworth, Stevenage. *Miscellaneous* (2): *Scotland.*—3, viz.:—*Agricultural Distributive* (2): Mid-Yell Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Mid-Yell, Shetland; Whithorn Farmers' Co-op. Assoc., Ltd., Whithorn, Wigtown. *Miscellaneous* (1). *Ireland.*—Nil.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Class of Society.	Notices received in April of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions	2	..
Industrial and Provident Societies	..	2	6
Friendly Societies	43	5
" Branches	11	..
Building "	2	6	..

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING APRIL.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Census of 1911. Ireland: Leinster, County of Carlow. [Cd. 6049: pp. 71: price 8½d.] County of Longford. [Cd. 6049—VI.: pp. 73: price 8½d.] County of Louth. [Cd. 6049—VII.: pp. 75: price 8½d.] County of Kilkenny. [Cd. 6049—IV.: pp. 133: price 1s. 3d.] County of Westmeath. [Cd. 6049—X.: pp. 114: price 1s.] Munster, County of Kerry. [Cd. 6050—II.: pp. 167: price 1s. 5d.] Ulster, County of Fermanagh. [Cd. 6051—VI.: pp. 115: price 1s.] County and City of Londonderry. [Cd. 6051—VII.: pp. 122: price 1s. 1d.] *Scotland:* City of Glasgow. [Cd. 6097—I.: pp. 38: price 4½d.] Dundee. [Cd. 6097—II.: pp. 32: price 3½d.] Aberdeen. [Cd. 6097—III.: pp. 44: price 5d.]

Railway Accidents. Return of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies of the United Kingdom during the year ending December 31st, 1911. [Cd. 6139: pp. 39: price 4d.]

Report upon the Working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, for the year ending June 30th, 1911. [Cd. 6129: pp. 20: price 2½d.]

Explosion in Corning House at Factory, No. 40, Lancashire, on December 14th, 1911. Report to Home Office by Capt. R. A. Thomas. [Cd. 6161: pp. 6: price 1d.]

Explosion in the Jamage Pit of the Bignall Hill Colliery on November 25th, 1911. Report to Home Office by R. A. S. Redmayne. [Cd. 6152: pp. 17: price 1s. 3d.]

Thirty-fourth Annual Report of H.M. Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, for the year ended December 31st, 1911. Strength of the forces; census of vagrants, beggars, &c.; analysis of census of vagrants, 1902-1911. [Cd. 6134: pp. 78: price 8½d.]

Fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Registrar-General of

Births, Deaths and Marriages, Scotland, 1911. [Cd. 6143: pp. xxxiii. + 111: price 8½d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada.—*The Labour Gazette, March, 1912.* Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during February, prices (wholesale and retail), trade disputes and industrial accidents during February, &c. [Ottawa: C. H. Parmelee, King's Printer: pp. 100.]

New South Wales.—Report of Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Hours and General Conditions of Employment of Female and Juvenile Labour in Factories and Shops, and the effect on such Employees. Sectional report. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 118: price 5s.]

—*Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records, 1911.* Vol. X., parts 1, 2 and 3. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

—*Sixth Annual Report of the Director of Labour (State Labour Bureau) for year ended June 30th, 1911.* Strikes and lock-outs, compulsory labour colony, assistance to the unemployed, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 59.]

Victoria.—*Wages Board Determinations. Tea Packing Board,* dated January 8th, 1912. *Undertakers Board,* dated January 8th, 1912. *Woodworkers Board,* dated February 16th, 1912, amending that of July 5th, 1911. *Men's Clothing Board,* dated February 12th, 1912, amending that of November 7th, 1910. *Paper Bag Trade Board,* dated February 23rd, 1912, amending that of February 7th, 1911.

Queensland.—*Wages Board Determinations. Shore Engine Drivers and Boiler Attendants* for the South-Eastern Division, dated November 10th, 1911, cancelling that of May, 1911. *Rope Making Industry,* dated January 24th, 1912. *Printing Trade Board for the Northern Division,* dated February 12th, 1912.

New Zealand.—*Journal of the Department of Labour, February, 1912.* Condition of trade and employment as at January 31st, 1912, persons assisted to employment, co-operative works, accidents reported, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 87.]

—*Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.* Vol. XII. Part 10. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 113.]

—*Official Year Book, 1911.* 20th issue. [Wellington, John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 1005.]

South Africa.—*Report of the Labour Department for the Month of February, 1912.* Applications for employment, employment found, building plans, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

International.—*Bulletin of the International Labour Office. English edition.* Vol. VI., No. 3, 1911. [London: Pioneer Press.]

International Co-operative Bulletin, April, 1912. Trade of co-operative wholesale societies in 1911. [Zürich: Hadlaubstrasse 86.]

An Outline of the European Co-operative Credit Systems. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome, 1912: pp. 62.]

Rules of the International Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Societies. [Darmstadt, 1909.]

United States.—*Reports on Conditions of Women and Child Wage Earners in the United States.* Vol. XV.—Relation between Occupation and Criminality of Women (pp. 119.) Vol. XVI.—Family Budgets of typical Cotton Mill Workers (pp. 255.) [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Interstate Commerce Commission.* 25th Annual Report, 1911. Railway accidents, safety appliances, hours of service, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 355.]

—*New York.*—*Annual Report of the State Department of Labour, 1909-10.* Vol. II. Bureau of Labour Statistics. Wages and earnings, hours of labour, progress towards shorter hours, 1900-1910, labour organisations in 1910. [Albany: State Department of Labour: pp. lviii + 653.]

—*Bulletin of the Department of Labour, March, 1912.* Unemployment during 1911, strikes and lock-outs in fourth quarter of 1911, State intervention in disputes, working conditions in New York City laundries, &c. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., State Printers: pp. 94.]

—*First Annual Report of the Bureau of Industries and Immigration for the year ended September 30th, 1911.* Distribution of labour, transportation, labour and living conditions. [Albany: State Department of Labour: pp. 184.]

—*Massachusetts.*—*Labour Bulletin, 90, March, 1912.* Immigrant Aliens destined for, and Emigrant Aliens despatched from Massachusetts, 1911. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co.]

—*Maryland.*—*20th Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Information of Maryland, 1911.* Free employment bureau, strikes and lock-outs, factory inspection, prices and cost of living, &c. [Baltimore: King Brothers, State Printers: pp. 368.]

France.—*Journal of the French Labour Department, March, 1912.* Employment and labour disputes in February; report of commission on industrial crises: social insurance in Europe, I.—sickness insurance; statistics of the coal industry, from 1907 to 1910, in France, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium and the United States. [Paris: Berger-Levrault: price 2d.]

Report on Application of Laws regulating Labour in 1910. French Ministry of Labour, 1911. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. clxviii. + 540.]

Journal of the French Ministry of Agriculture, March, 1912. Prices in February. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: price 6d.]

—*Practical Guide to Profit Sharing.* By Albert Trombert. New edition, 1912. [Paris: Librairie Chaix: pp. xvi. + 319: price 4s. 10d.]

Germany.—*Strikes and Lock-Outs in Germany in 1911.* Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: pp. 68: price 1s.]

Statistical Year Book of Wurtemberg, 1911. (2 Parts.) Royal Statistical Office. Labour registries in 1910, &c. Prices in 1910 and previous years. [Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer: Part I., pp. 190; Part II., pp. xxviii. + 451.]

Journal of the Statistical Office of Wurtemberg, No. 3, 1912. Prices of cereals in 1911. [Stuttgart: J. Fink.]

Journal of the Imperial Insurance Office, March 15th, 1912. [Berlin: Behrend & Co.]

Statistical Journal of Alsace-Lorraine, January, 1912. Labour exchanges in 1911. [Strassburg: Freihen & Weber.]

Statistics of Strassburg (Alsace). Vol. IX.—Cost of living and housing statistics in Strassburg, By Dr. K. Eichelmann. Municipal Statistical Office, 1912. [Strassburg: M. Du Mont Schauberg: pp. 43.]

Statistics of Hamburg. Vol. XXVI.—Movement of population, 1904-1908. Hamburg Bureau of Statistics, 1912. [Hamburg: Otto Meissner: pp. 115.]

The Industrial Year 1908. By Richard Calwer. Part I.—Production, industrial conditions, trade and navigation, movement of prices, &c. [Jena, 1912: Gustav Fischer: pp. vii + 349.]

Die Legal Regulation of Collective Agreements. By Theodor Leipart. General Commission of German Trade Unions, 1912. [Berlin: Paul Singer: pp. 80.]

Austria-Hungary.—*Journal of Trade and Industrial Regulations, No. 3, 1912.* Austrian Ministry of Commerce [Vienna: Verlag der Manzschon K. K. Hof-, Verlags- und Universitäts-Buchhandlung: price 10d.]

—*Statistics of Bohemia.* Vol. XV., Parts 1 and 2. (Part 1 contains statistics of co-operative societies in 1907 and 1908 and on January 1st, 1911); Vol. XVIII., Part 1; Vol. XX., Part 1 (contains report on labour exchanges and relief stations in 1908, 1909, and 1910). [Prague, 1911: K. K. Hof- und Universitäts-Buchhandlung: prices 5s., 1s., 6d., and 1s. 8d. respectively.]

—*Journal of Workpeople's Accident and Sickness Insurance, April, 1912.* Austrian Ministry of the Interior. Also Supplement giving statistics of workpeople's accident and sickness insurance in 1909. [Vienna: K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei.]

—*Journal of the Austrian Central Statistical Commission, March, 1912.* [Brünn: F. Irrgang.]

—*Statistics of Workmen's Sickness Insurance in 1909.* Austrian Ministry of the Interior, 1912. [Vienna: K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei: pp. iv. + 161.]

—*Statistics of Workmen's Accident Insurance in 1909.* Austrian Ministry of the Interior, 1912. [Vienna: K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei: pp. iii. + 221.]

—*Austrian Mining Statistics for 1910.* Ministry of Public Works. Wages and hours of miners. 1911. [Vienna: K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 386.]

Italy.—*Journal of the Italian Labour Department, March, 1912.* Labour exchanges, labour disputes and retail prices of food in February. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 4d.]

—*Journal of the Italian Emigration Department, Nos. 10 and 11, 1911.* [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d. each.]

—*Annals of Industry and Commerce, 1910.* Proceedings of the Council of Industry and Commerce, ordinary session, 1910. Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: pp. 428: price 1s. 7d.]

Belgium.—*Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, March 31st, 1912.* Strikes and lock-outs in Belgium in 1911 and in February, 1912. [Brussels: E. Daem: price 1d.]

Holland.—*Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, March 30th, 1912.* Employment; labour exchanges; unemployment insurance, and strikes and lock-outs in February; home work in food and tobacco industries; savings banks in 1909. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

—*Inquiry relating to Sick Benefit Societies.* Dutch Labour Department. [The Hague, 1912: Naamlooze Vennootschap "Drukkerij Trio": pp. v. + 92: price 8d.]

Switzerland.—*Report of the Federation of Swiss Co-operative Societies for 1911.* [Basle: Buchdruckerei des Verbandes schweizerischer Konsumvereine: pp. 84.]

—*Increase in the Cost of Living in Switzerland.* Swiss Federation of Trade Unions, 1910. [Berne: pp. 120.]

Sweden.—*Post Office Savings Banks in Sweden in 1910.* [Stockholm: K. L. Beckmann: pp. 22.]

—*Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, No. 3, 1912.* Labour exchanges in the third quarter of 1911 and in February, 1912; prices; unemployment in November and December, 1911. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: price 2d.]

Norway.—*Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office, Nos. 9 and 10, 1911.* Employment in Norway in September and October, 1911; cost of living (retail prices) in August and September; wholesale prices, 1880-1910; wages of persons employed through the Christiania Labour Exchange, 1907-1910. [Christiania: Steenske Bogtrykkeri.]

Denmark.—*Journal of the Danish Statistical Office, April, 1912.* Unemployment in 1911 and in January, 1912. [Copenhagen: Bianco Lunos Bogtrykkeri: price 1½d.]

Spain.—*Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, March, 1912.* Prices from October, 1910, to March, 1911, in certain provinces and towns; statistics of industrial accidents, 1910. [Madrid: D. V. Suarez: price 2½d.]

Portugal.—*Journal of the Portuguese Labour Department, No. 63.* Industrial statistics of the second factory inspection district, 1911. [Lisbon: Imprensa Nacional: pp. 52.]

Russia (Finland).—*Journal of the Finnish Industrial Department, No. 1, 1912.* Labour disputes in Russia in 1911; prices

in Finland, 1907-1911. [Helsingfors: Kejsarliga Senatens Tryckeri: price 2½d.]

Bulgaria.—*Journal of the Bulgarian Statistical Department, January, 1912.* Prices of food, &c.; wages of bricklayers, masons and labourers in December in principal towns. [Sofia: Imprimerie de l'Etat: price 2½d.]

—*Census of the Population of Bulgaria, December 31st, 1905.* Part II.—Population grouped by occupations. [Sofia, 1912: Imprimerie de l'Etat: pp. vii. + 551: price 8s.]

Chile.—*Statistical Year Book of Chile, 1910.* Central Statistical Office, 1912. [Santiago de Chile: Litografia Universo: pp. ix. + 689 + charts.]

Japan.—*Twenty-seventh Statistical Report of the Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce.* Statistics of wages and co-operative societies. [Tokio: pp. 769.]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, APRIL, 1912.

ADMIRALTY: WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CRANES (2) STEAM TRAVELLING, for Portland.—*Stothert & Pitt, Ltd., Bath.*

EXPLOSIVES for Admiralty Harbour, Dover (Running Contract).—*Marpal, Ltd., 49, Leadenhall St., E.C.*

HORSE HIRE, Devonport District (Running Contract).—*J. Cleave & Son, 25, Harbour Avenue, Camel's Head, Devonport.*

STOVES AND RANGES, &c., for Coast Guard Stations in Great Britain (Running Contract).—*Falkirk Iron Co., Craven House, Kingsway, W.C.*

TIMBER for Admiralty Harbour, Dover.—*W. Crundall & Co., Wood St., Dover.*

WORKS SERVICE.—Additional Coast Guard Houses at Kilconan.—*R. Aitkenhead & Son, 37, Trafalgar St., Greenock.*

ADMIRALTY: CONTRACT DEPARTMENT.

BOOTS, SEA.—*Adams Bros., Raunds, Wellingboro'; J. Horrell & Son, Raunds, Wellingboro'; W. Nichols & Son, Ltd., Kettering; St. Crispin Prod. Society, Ltd., Raunds, Wellingboro'; O. Smith, Raunds, Wellingboro'.*

BRONZE, MANGANESE.—*Manganese Bronze & Brass Co., Ltd., St. George's Wharf, Deptford, S.E.*

BRUSHES, PAINTERS.—*S. Clark & Sons, Stafford St., Walsall; G. B. Kent & Sons, Ltd., 75, Farringdon Rd., E.C.; S. D. Page & Sons, Ltd., Norwich; A. Reid & Sons, Tabard St., Borough, S.E.; W. H. Vowles & Sons, Ltd., Broad Weir, Bristol.*

BUTTONS.—*Firmin & Son, Ltd., 108, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.; Smith & Wright, Ltd., Brearley St., Birmingham.*

CABINET WORK.—*E. Aldridge & Son, Ltd., Regent Parade, Birmingham; W. Bartlett & Son, Sheraton Works, High Wycombe; A. Blain & Son, 35, Paradise St., Liverpool; Brownlee & Co., Ltd., City Saw Mills, Glasgow; J. Cox & Son, Ltd., High Wycombe; C. Gibbons, Oxford Rd., High Wycombe; Groves & Sons, 15, Fore St., Devonport; O. C. Hawkes, Ltd., Globe Works, Birmingham; Joyson, Holland & Co., High Wycombe; S. Snauden, The Factory, Yealmp-ton; Spooner & Co., Bedford St., Plymouth.*

CANDLES, STEARINE.—*New Patent Candle Co., Ltd., Plymouth.*

CANVAS, SCENE PAINTING.—*Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.*

DRYERS, GROUND.—*Craig & Rose, Ltd., Bankside, S.E.*

GLASS, TABLE.—*Edinburgh & Leith Flint Glass Co., Norton Park, Edinburgh; T. Webb & Sons, Ltd., Denn's Glass Works, Stourbridge.*

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SUET, REFINED BEEF.—*Hugon & Co., Ltd.*, Pendleton, Manchester.

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FLANNELETTE.—*Bailey & Berry, Ltd.*, Spring Mill, Earby, nr. Colne; *Pickles Bros., Ltd.*, Pendleview Shed, Brierfield, nr. Burnley; *Scholfield, Preston & Co., Ltd.*, Manor Mill, Nelson.

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Erection of Forges and Shoeing Sheds, Longmore Camp.—*Wigginton & Sons*, St. Thomas St., Portsmouth.

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BRACES.—*F. W. Duerdorth*, Chesham.
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