Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

Vol. XXIII.—No. 4.]

APRIL, 1915.

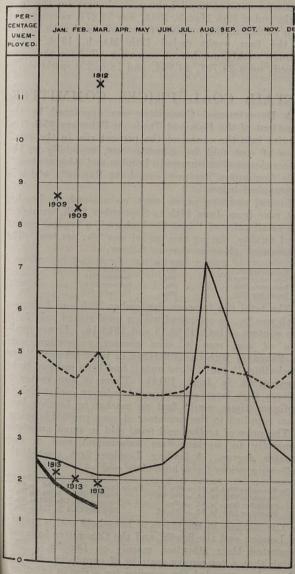
[PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1915. — Thin Curve = 1914. ----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1905-14

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1905-14.



NOTE TO CHART.

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

THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[For detailed reports on the principal industries see pp.125 to 140.] Employment in March showed a general improvement, and there was a shortage of male labour in many industries, especially in engineering and ship building, coal mining and agriculture, and of female labour in some branches of the clothing trade.

The trades affected by war contracts continued to be very busy. There was a further improvement in the iron and steel, cotton, linen, jute, lace, silk, bleaching and dyeing, food preparation and pottery trades. There was also some improvement in the furnishing and woodworking trades, and a seasonal advance in the building and brickmaking industries. The coal mining, pig-iron, tinplate and glass trades showed little change.

The upward movement in wages became very pro-

nounced during March.

Compared with a year ago there was a great improvement in all trades affected by war contracts, especially the engineering, shipbuilding, woollen, hosiery, boot and men's clothing trades. Employment also improved in the iron and steel, building, and woodworking trades. On the other hand the tinplate, cotton, linen, lace, silk, bleaching and dyeing, pottery, brick and glass trades were considerably below the level of March, 1914. The number of days worked by the collieries was about the same as a year ago, but the number of men employed was greatly reduced by enlistments.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 914,100 reported 11,511 (or 1.3 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of March, 1915, compared with 1.6 per cent. at the end of February, 1915, and 2.1 per cent. at the end of March, 1914.

The State of State	Membership at end of Mar., 1915, exclusive of	Unemployed at end of Mar., 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a		
Trade.	those serving with H.M. Forces.	Num- ber.	Per- cent- age.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Building*	82 096	2,181	2.7	+ 0.1	- 1.6	
Coal Miningt	135,155	338	0.3	- 0.6	- 0.2	
Iron and Steel	33,679	553	1.6	- 0.6	- 1.3	
Engineering	233,906	1,337	0.6	- 0.1	- 1.8	
Shipbuilding	67,031	377	06	- 0.2	- 1.2	
Miscellaneous Metal	33,644	186	0.6	- 0.2	- 1.0	
Textiles +:-						
E Cotton	80,341	2,012	2.5	+ 03	+ 0.2	
Woollen & Worsted	8,440	63	0.7	- 0.2	- 1.9	
- Other	51,989	554	1.1	- 1:1	- 0.5	
Printing, Bookbinding	61,603	2,260	3.7	- 0.5	+ 0.9	
and Paper. § Furnishing	17,704	816	4.6	- 1.9	+ 2.8	
TTT 1 1	28,810	324	1.1	- 05	- 0.6	
M1 11:	66,003	318	05	- 0.2	- 1.7	
The state of the s	4,481	60	1.3	02	- 4.41	
CI.	874	-20	2.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.9	
D 11	6,053	30	0.5	1 03	- 0.2	
Tobacco	2,291	82	3.6	- 0.1	- 02	
Total	914,100	11,511	1.3	- 0.3	- 0.8	

*The Trade Union Returns relate mainly to carpenters and

† In the textile and mining industries a contraction in the demand for labour is usually met by short time working.

‡ Revised figure,

116

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of March, 1915, was 1.4, compared with 2:0 at the end of February, 1915, and 2:6 at the end of March, 1914.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those	Unemployed at end of Mar., 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage un- employed on a		
	serving with H.M. Forces	Number	Per- centage	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Building and Con- struction of Works.	895,029	19,946	2.2	- 1.3	- 2.4	
Engineering and Iron- founding.	741,855	5,477	0.7	- 0.2	- 2.3	
Shipbuilding	246,027	2,287	0.9	- 0.2	- 2.6	
Construction of	186,291	1,898	1.0	- 0.4	- 1.5	
CI 1111	11,257	160	1.4	- 0.1	- 2.1	
Other Insured Work- people.	55,568	317	0.6	- 0.1	- 1.1	
All Insured Work- people	2,136,027	30,085	1.4	- 0.6	- 2.2	

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: -MINING AND METAL TRADES. The following table summarises the returns from firms employing 696,918 workpeople in March in the industries mentioned:

Trade.	Workpeople included in the	March,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		
A Trade	Returns for 27th Mar., 1915.	1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Technical Van December		Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Days.	
Coal Mining	530,141	5:67	+ 0.05	+ 0.12	
Iron ,,	11,842	5.91	- 0.01	+ 0.17	
Shale ,,	3,196	5.88	- 0.12	+ 0.16	
		Furnaces in Blast.	No.	No.	
Pig Iron	24,409	272	- 1*	- 5	
	第 200 年	Mills Working.		gista	
Tinplate and SteelSheet	24,640	448	4.4	- 158	
The second contract of	AND REPORTS	Shifts Worked	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Iron and Steel	102,690	(One Week). 585,905	+ 2.6	+ 3.6	

* Figures for February revised.

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: -TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES. Returns from firms employing 496,727 workpeople in the week ended 27th March, 1915, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 4.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.8 per cent. in the number of 1.3 per cent in wages paid.

	Number	r Emplo	yed.	Wages Paid.			
Trade.	Week	Inc. (Dec. (-	+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Textiles :-						F.0	
Cotton	100,765	+ 0.1		99,248	+ 3.3	- 7.0	
Woollen	24 313	- 0.3		26,140	+ 2.3	+ 13.7	
Worsted	36,664		- 2.2	31,772	+ 6.8		
Linen	43,018	- 0.7		26,363	+ 3.9		
Jute	13,554	+ 0.7			+ 12.0	+ 13.9	
Hosiery		+ 1.2		18,038	+ 6.5	- 24.8	
Lace			-17:3	6,461	+ 6.2	- 12.9	
Other Textiles		+ 2.9	- 10.0	11,247 32,336	+ 4.3	- 9.5	
Bleaching, Dye- ing, etc.	25,006	+ 1.6	-11.4	32,330	+ 43	_ 30	
Total, Textiles .	285,173	+ 0.5	- 5.5	264,927	+ 4.4	- 3.7	
Boot and Shoe	64,225	+ 03	- 0.4		+ 3.7		
Clothing (Ready-made).	36,718		+12.0		+ 3.4	1 3 4 5 1 7	
Shirt and Collar	. 21.623		- 1.5		+ 5.1		
Pottery	. 18,717		- 9.2				
Glass			-184		- 2.0		
Brick			-24.0				
Food Preparation	54,167	+ 2.1	+ 0.5	52,640	+ 6.4	+ 13.5	
Grand Total .	496 727	+ 0:	5 - 3	8 482,050	+ 4.4	+ 1:	

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.—The advances in wages during March were very numerous, the total increase

amounting to £73,000 in the weekly wages of nearly 450,000 workpeople, or, on the average, 3s. 2d. per head. In the shipbuilding industry practically the whole of the operatives throughout the Kingdom received an increase and in the engineering trades increases were granted on the North-East Coast and the Clyde, and other centres, at Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, Southampton and Belfast. The linen and jute operatives at Dundee received a war bonus, whilst there were several important increases to dock labourers and carters.

TRADE DISPUTES.—The number of disputes beginning in March was 74, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 33,903, as compared with 31,060 in February, 1915, and 92,788 in March, 1914. The estimated number of working days lost by disputes during the month was 151,200, as compared with 208,600 in February, 1915, and 1,016,100 in March, 1914.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.—Cases dealt with during the month include boot, shoe and slipper operatives at Rushden, Kettering and Rossendale; plumbers, London; cranedrivers, Darlington; electrical workers, Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent; tramwaymen, Musselburgh; bobbin workers, Garston; brassmoulders, Clyde district; motor-cab oilers and washers, London; joiners, Glasgow; canal porters and checkers, Liverpool; watermen, etc., Port of London; and labourers, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire.

LABOUR EXCHANGES.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended 12th March, 1915, was 34,477, as compared with 34,006 in the previous four weeks and with 24,774 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914. The average weekly number of vacancies *filled* for the same periods were 24,797, 24,966, and 18,642 respectively.

RETAIL COAL PRICES COMMITTEE.

A Departmental Committee was appointed by the President of the Board of Trade on February 25th "to inquire into the causes of the present rise in the retail price of coal sold for domestic use, especially to the poorer classes of consumers in London and other centres." This Committee has now issued its Report*, which is summarised below.

Lowest summer prices were maintained in London last year from June 16th to September 25th, inclusive; the retail price of "best Derbyshire," a typical coal of good quality, during this period was 26s. per ton. The

bsequent adv	ances	s W	ere as	TOHOWS.		
-		1/2	Per Ton.		Per Tor	1.
September 796th			278.	January 7th	 31s.	
November 21st			28s.	January 28th	 32s.	
December 12th			298.	January 29th	 33s.	
December 10th			30c	February 17th	 358.	

The total rise between September 25th and February 17th was 9s., as compared with a total rise of only 2s. in the winters of both 1912-13 and 1913-14. Lower qualities of coal rose in even greater proportion, until on February 20th the difference in price between "best Derbyshire" and "stove nuts" had been reduced to 1s. (against 6s. in June, 1914). There is also reason to believe that large quantities of inferior coal which in ordinary times would find no market in London have been supplied to the consumer at very profitable prices.

The price of trolley coal (coal sold in small quantities generally to working-class consumers) rose in even greater degree. A leading London firm quoted the following prices for a high-class coal:-

Per Cwt. Per Ton.
Up to November 23rd vs. 4d = 26s. 8d.
November 74th 1s. 5d. = 29s. 4d.
December 4th 1s. 6d. = 30s.
December 19th 1s. 7d. = 31s. 8d.

Per Cwt. Per Ton.
Up to January 5th 1s. 8d. = 33s. 4d.
January 26th 1s. 9d. = 36s. 8d.
February 1st 1s 10d. = 36s. 8d.
February 22nd 1s. 11d. = 38s. 4d.

The increase in the prices of household coal is greatest in London and the South, and the Committee have concentrated their attention mainly on London. think that a temporary scarcity of supply in and after November provided the occasion for a rise in price, and that the scarcity was due, first, to the general reduction of output arising mainly from the enlistment of miners; secondly, to the decrease of sea-borne supplies of nonhousehold coal, resulting in abnormal pressure on the

* Cd. 7866; price 1½d.

railways; thirdly, to congestion on the railways and to shortage of wagons arising from military requirements and fourthly to lack of storage accommodation at the depots and among consumers. The daily arrivals of rail-borne coal have now, however, become normal, and the employment in the sea-borne coal trade of interned steamers has sensibly relieved the pressure on the railways. The Committee add that the demand in London has been at certain periods, if not greater than usual, at least greater than it need have been, by reason of

The Committee direct particular attention to the operation of the "sliding-scale" in certain contracts between Midland colliery owners and London coal merchants. While the high prices are not attributable to definitely constituted "rings" or close Corporations, nevertheless the advertised "public prices" are in fact fixed by a few leading firms, and upon these public prices" the price charged by the owner to the London merchant is based, the owner getting half of any increase in the "public prices," but suffering no reduction in the event of a decrease below the agreed minimum of the sliding-scale. Thus owners and merchants have a common interest in high prices, and the leading merchants are to some extent secured against undercutting by outside firms. Also, if the costs of either owner or merchant rise by 6d. per ton, the price to the consumer must be increased by 1s. The Committee regard this arrangement as indefensible. The rise above normal winter prices has been 7s. to 11s. a ton, whereas the total rise in the cost of production and distribution has been, they consider, at the most, 3s.

The Committee direct attention to the fact that certain owners have made a practice of reducing their deliveries under contract, on the ground of reduction of output. The Committee have grave doubts as to the legality of this practice, and cannot but regard it as highly questionable when it enables the coal owner to sell a larger quantity of "free coal" at greatly enhanced

The Committee regard the outlook for next winter as serious and requiring immediate consideration. They consider that the question can only be dealt with by measures affecting the coal industry as a whole (including gas and industrial coal as well as household coal); and they recommend:-

(a) The temporary restriction of exports to neutral

(b) Consultation with the London County Council and other public bodies concerned, with a view to considering whether those bodies should not, during the coming summer, acquire and store in or near London stocks of household coal to be sold to traders supplying small consumers during next winter;

(c) A further reduction of freights on the interned steamers now being used to convey coals, especially gas coals, from the North;

(d) Use for coal transport of suitable enemy ships condemned by prize courts;

(e) "If prices do not shortly return to a reasonable level, the Government should consider a scheme for assuming control of the output of collieries during the continuance of the war."

EMPLOYMENT IN DENMARK,*

THE fourth special investigation into unemployment among trade unionists in Denmark (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for February, p. 40) was undertaken on 20th March. Returns relating to 138,000 work-people were received, this being the largest number in respect of whom information has been given in the course of the special investigations. The number of persons unemployed on 20th March was 20,500, or 14'8 per cent., as compared with 176 per cent. on 23rd January, about 10 per cent. on 24th October, and 116 on 22nd August. It is stated that, on a comparison of March with January,

* Statistiske Efterretninger (journal of the Danish Statistical Office), 31st

the reduction in the percentage unemployed is less than that usually recorded as having taken place between those periods in normal times.*

The following Table summarises the results both of the regular and the special investigations into unemployment among trade unionists in Denmark which have been made since the middle of 1914:-

I	Proportion of Trade Unionists ascertained to be Unemployed.			
				79
End of July				Per cent.
ond of July	 			3.9
2nd August	 			11.6
and of August	 			105
and of September	 			10.2
4th October				10.0
and of October				9.9
nd of November				
and of Movember	 			11.2
3rd January, 1915	 			17.6
Oth March		16.000		14.8

EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY IN FEBRUARY. †

FOLLOWING is a translation of the general conclusion arrived at by the Department of Labour Statistics in Germany as to the state of employment in that country in February:-

"The high level of employment which has prevailed for some months in the many trades occupied on war contracts was generally maintained in February. In some directions there was a further increase of activity, which compensated for a slight slackening observable in other directions.

"According to reports received from employers and their associations the strong demand for products of the coal-mining industry continued undiminished, and in some districts this demand was even greater than in January. The average daily output of pig-iron exceeded that of the previous month, and employment in steel works and rolling mills also showed a further improvement. The engineering trades as a whole showed no marked change in the level of employment; a further improvement was, nevertheless, noticeable in certain branches. The same remark applies to the electrical trades. Employment in the textile industry declined somewhat. In the building trades the depression previously reported continued unrelieved in

The German Department of Labour Statistics bases its conclusions as to the state of employment each month on statistical data obtained from (1) Employers of Labour. (2) Trade Unions, (3) Public Labour Exchanges, and (4) Sickness Insurance Societies. The returns obtained for the month of February from each of these sources are summarised below:

(1) Returns from Employers of Labour.—Returns from 271 industrial concerns showed a total of 240,314 workpeople employed on the last day of February, as compared with 315,127 on the corresponding day of February, 1914, a decrease of 74,813, or 23.7 per cent. The decrease was wholly confined to males, and is stated to have been principally due to men being called up for military service. The decline in the number of persons employed was greatest in the glass and porcelain industry (35 per cent.), chemical industry (34 per cent.), mining, &c. (31 per cent.), paper and printing (29 per cent.), and wood-working (21 per cent.)

(2) Returns from Trade Unions.—Returns were furnished to the German Department of Labour Statistics by 35 Trade Unions, having an aggregate membership of 1,266,386, exclusive of those serving with the military and naval forces. Omitting branches which failed to make returns, the membership covered was 1,192,049, of whom 60,888, or 5.1 per cent., were unemployed at the end of February, compared with 6.5 per cent at the end of the previous month and 3.7 per cent. in February, 1914. The percentages reported unemployed at the end

* In 1914 the percentage of trade unionists unemployed was 17.5 at the end of January, and 8.3 at the end of March.
† Reichsarbeitsbiatt (The Journal of the German Department of Labour Statistics) for March.

of February in the principal Trade Unions were as shown below:-

a digit minera with a	Member- ship reported	Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed at end of Month.				
Unions.	on at end of Feb., 1915.	February, 1915.	January, 1915.	February, 1914.		
All Unions making Returns	1,192,049	5.1	6.5	3.7		
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:— Building trade operatives Metal workers (Soc. Dem.)	126,863 298,854 14,821	11·5 2·3 2·3	13·9 3·0 3·1	3·9 4·7		
Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch-Duncker) Metal workers (Christian). Textile workers (Soc. Dem.) Boot and shoe makers Transport workers. Printers (book and job) Lithographers Bookbinders. Leather workers Saddlers and bag makers Wood workers (Soc. Dem.). Glass workers Porcelain workers Bakers.	22,829 89,872 26,571 116,022 43,100 11,459 22,724 8,639 13,790 107,540 8,121 10,119 16,364 29,599	2·1 5·1 2·3 2·9 90 10·5 9·6 3·5 0·6 9·6 10·4 15·1 6·2	2.6 5.3 2.7 3.9 12.4 12.1 12.8 7.3 1.0 13.4 13.9 16.7 6.1 1.2	1.3 1.7 0.6 3.7 3.6 3.5 2.7 4.7 6.1 2.4 7.4		
Brewery and corn mill workers Tobacco workers Factory workers (Soc. Dem.) State and municipal workers	19,955 119,802 33,520	1·1 3·9 0 9	1·1 4·8 1·2	2·1 3·4 1·6		

Amongst male members the proportion unemployed at the end of February was 4.5 per cent., as compared with 5.8 per cent. in the previous month and 3.9 per cent. in February, 1914. Amongst women members the corresponding percentages were 9.4, 11.1, and 2.1 respectively.

(3) Returns from Labour Exchanges .- Returns furnished by 909 Labour Exchanges for February showed the number of applicants for work to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been:-

to a following test to		Feb., 1915.	Jan., 1915.	Feb., 1914.
Among males Among females		113 172	125 167	218 97

(4) Returns from Sickness Insurance Societies .- Returns of membership of Sickness Insurance Societies are obtained each month by the Imperial Department of Labour Statistics as a means of measuring fluctuations in the level of employment. The usefulness of the returns in this connection is derived from the legal obligation imposed on every person working for a wage or salary to be insured against sickness, i.e., to be on the membership roll of a recognised Sickness Insurance Society so long as he (or she) is in work. The obligation to pay the weekly insurance premium ceases and membership is assumed to lapse with loss of employment from any cause. Thus, subject to certain reservations, for which allowance is made, the number of persons actually on the membership roll of a recognised Sickness Insurance Society at any given time is taken as representing as many persons actually having employment. Returns as to the situation at March 1st, 1915, were furnished by 5,688 Sickness Insurance Societies. The aggregate membership of these societies on that date was 7,559,197, as compared with 7,490,745 at the beginning of February. Among male members there was a decline from 4,521,737 to 4,512,914 (0.2 per cent.), but among female members an increase from 2,969,008 to 3,046,283 (2.6 per cent.).

RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THERE was but little movement in the retail prices of food generally during March. Small increases were recorded for meat, fish, cheese and tea, which were counterbalanced by a considerable seasonal fall in the price of eggs. The prices of bread, flour, potatoes, sugar, milk, butter, margarine and bacon at 1st April were practically the same as a month ago.

The average percentage change between 1st March and 1st April in the prices of each of the articles included in the returns was as shown in the following Table:-

Article.	Average Percentage Change.	Article.	Average Percentage Change,
Beef, English , Chilled or Frozen Mutton, English Frozen Bacon Fish Flour Bread	+ 2 + 1 + 3 + 1 Nil + 4 + 1 + 1	Sugar (Granulated) Milk Potatoes Margarine Butter Cheese	Nil + 1 Nil + 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Taking all the articles together, and allowing for their relative importance in working-class household expenditure, there was practically no change in the general level of prices on 1st April as compared with a month earlier.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN VIENNA IN MARCH.

The following particulars respecting retail food prices in Vienna on March 1st as compared with prices in the middle of February are based upon information published to the Price of Table March. lished in the Neue Freie Presse of 7th March: -

-	-	Middle of February, 1915.	Beginning of March, 1915.	Increase.
Wheat flour Beef suet Lard Butter Milk Potatoes Lentils Rice Beef Pork Eggs	per 7 lb, per lb. "per quart per 7 lb. per lb. "" per doz.	s. d. 2 4 1 4 1 4½ 1 6½ 3 5 4 7½ 4½ 11 1 4 1 2½	s. d 2 734 1 634 1 834 1 834 6 774 6 11 1 4	Per cent. 18:4 14:1 26:2 12:3 25:0 20:0 No change No change 11:1 No change No change

The journal states that during the past few weeks some important articles of consumption have risen considerably in price. The extraordinarily high price of lard has caused beef suet to be diverted from the margarine factories and used as a substitute for it.

Within the last few days the price of milk is stated to have increased. This is the result of the dearth of feeding stuffs, owing to which milch cows have to be slaughtered. The wholesale price of butter also increased during the last week of February. The imports of Danish butter have fallen off considerably, and the amounts brought into the Vienna market from Moravia and Hungary are not sufficient to meet the demand.

The very high prices of pulse and rice have resulted in a diminished consumption of these commodities; the upward tendency has, therefore, ceased for the moment.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN BERLIN IN FEBRUARY.

During February food prices in Berlin were 8.9 per cent. above the level of the previous month. The comparison with January is, however, complicated by the fact that, under an Order which came into force on the 15th of that month, the quality of the flour to be used in making bread, whether from wheat or from rye, has been lowered in various ways. Thus millers may no longer deliver "wheat flour" except in a blend of which 30 per cent. consists of rye flour; and in the making of "wheat bread" the aforesaid blend of flour may be replaced to the extent of 20 per cent. of its weight by potato flour. Rye bread must now contain at least 10 per cent, and may contain as much as 30 per cent., of potato prepara-tions. Under an Order of the Federal Council, dated 25th January, the stock of corn has been taken over by the Government.

The advances on January prices were greatest in the case of rye bread (27 per cent.), rice (25.3 per cent.), lard (18.2 per cent.), bacon (15.5 per cent.), potatoes (12.5 per cent.), rye flour (11.6 per cent.), pork (10.4 per cent.), and milk (9.1 per cent.). On the other hand, eggs, butter, beef, veal and lentils were somewhat cheaper in February than in January, the first two by 15.4 and 4.4 per cent. respectively, and the last three by 0.5, 1.4, and 0.7 per cent. respectively.

The percentage changes in the retail prices of the various articles in February, as compared with January, are tabulated below:-

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

April, 1915.

_		Fercentage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Price in February ascompared with January.		Percei tage Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Price in February as compared with January.
Rye bread Wheat bread	::	+ 27·0 + 7·5	Veal Pork	- 1·4 + 10·4
Rye flour Wheat flour	::	+ 11.6	Bacon	+ 15 5 + 12 5
Butter		- 4.4	Rice	+ 25.3
Lard		+ 18.2	Split peas	+ 5.7
Sugar		+ 6.0	Haricot beans	+ 78
Coffee		No change	Lentils	- 0.7
Eggs		- 15.4		
Milk		+ 91	ALL ABOVE ARTICLES	+ 8.9
Beef		- 0.5	(WEIGHTED NET PER-	
Mutton		+ 1.4	CENTAGE INCREASE)	

The prices from which the above percentages have been computed are the monthly averages published in the Prussian official Statistische Korrespondenz. The general net increase has been obtained by weighting the prices of the articles by consumption data derived from various German sources.

STANDARDISATION OF BREAD IN ITALY.

THE Journal of the Italian Labour Department for 16th March contains the text of a Royal Decree, dated 7th March, which provides that from the 22nd of that month the only kind of bread which may be baked in Italy shall be a loaf made from wheat meal which has been sifted until 80 per cent. has passed and only 20 per cent. is left behind. The loaf produced shall weigh not more than 500 grams (about 17½ oz.), and the maximum amount of water contained shall be 35 per cent., this being measured within 12 hours after the bread has been withdrawn from the oven.

In general, no other form of loaf will be allowed to be sold, stored for selling, or supplied as remuneration for work or services; but Prefects of Provinces are authorised to permit certain specified bakeries to produce bread from flour of a superior quality for use in hospitals and for persons who are sick in their own homes and in respect of whom medical certificates are issued. The maximum daily allowance of bread in such cases may not exceed 200 grams (about 7 ozs.) per sick person.

Remarking on the above measure, H.M. Ambassador at Rome, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated 12th March, states that in the case of white bread it has nitherto been the custom in Italy to sift meal until about 74 or (at most) 75 per cent. has fallen through the sieve, leaving 25 to 26 per cent. to be used as food for horses and other animals. The gain on every quintal (220 lbs.) of dry meal will, therefore, be from 5 to 6 kilograms (11 to 13 lbs.), representing about 10 kilograms 22 lbs.) in actual bread. In other words, the gain to the country's grain supplies in respect of all the white bread baked may be taken as about 10 per cent.

It will be seen, states H.M. Ambassador, that the new measure is not a severe one, but rather one of precaution to ensure having a sufficient store of grain in the country to last until the harvest.

CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE IN 1913.

DISTRIBUTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES. At the end of 1913 there were 906 registered co-operative societies engaged in agricultural production and distribution in the United Kingdom.

Of these 833 were societies engaged wholly in agricultural operations, 465 being engaged in the distribution of seeds, manures, implements, &c., and 368 mainly in the production of butter. The 833 societies had an aggregate membership of 112,146, or an increase of 4.4 per cent. over the previous year and of 85 per cent. over 1903

The total capital—share, loan, and reserve—amounted to £1,031,397, or an increase of 12 9 per cent. over 1912, and of 1971 per cent. over 1903. The aggregate sales of these 833 societies amounted to £6,070,260, an increase of 9.2 per cent. over 1912, and of 256 per cent. over 1903, while the profit amounted to £39,923, a decrease of £11,294 on 1912 and an increase of £33,090 on 1903. They employed 3,295 persons, and paid £162,673 in wages, as compared with 3,071 persons and £146,669 in wages in 1912.

119

In addition to the 833 societies mentioned above, there were 73 industrial co-operative societies having farming and dairying departments. These departments employed 699 persons, paid £38,616 in wages during 1913, and had sales amounting in that year to £307.015.

The following Table shows, for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, the sales of all the 906 distributing and productive societies and depart-

	Agricultural Distributive	Agricultural Productive	Total.	
	Societies.	Societies and Departments	Amount.	Per- centage.
England and Wales Scotland	£ 1,822,050 417,742 694,841	£ 378,322 285,988 2 778,332	£ 2,200 372 703.730 3,473,173	34 5 11·0 54·5
UNITED KINGDOM	2,934,633	3,442,642	6,377,275	100.0

The great predominance of the Irish societies in agricultural production is the outstanding feature of this Table, nearly 81 per cent. of the sales of productive societies and departments being in that country. In agricultural distribution the societies in England and Wales predominate with over 62 per cent. of the total

DISTRIBUTION.

The following Table shows for the years 1903-13 the sales of agricultural distributive societies in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively:-

	England	England and Wales.		land.	I. eland.		
Year.	No. of Sccieties.	Sales.	No. of Societies	Sales	No. of Societies	Sales.	
1903 1504 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913	48 65 82 111 121 131 145 165 217 228 242	£ 87,970 146,197 214,292 357,775 572,735 751,445 885,633 1,036,515 1,325,547 1,623,805 1,822,050	2 2 5 8 12 19 31 43 43 45 69 73	£ 42,760 44,850 46 610 51,511 80,338 99,532 227,141 291,838 335,470 367,273 417,742	136 155 150 161 163 157 160 168 159 153 150	393,542 372,080 371,273 420,223 484,771 469,564 491,034 £21,193 525,580 641,239 694,841	

In 1903 the sales in Ireland were about three times those of England and Wales and Scotland combined, but the growth in Great Britain has since been so rapid that in 1913 the sales there amounted to more than three times those in Ireland. Compared with 1912, the total sales in 1913 showed an increase in England and Wales of 12.2 per cent., in Scotland of 13.7 per cent., and in Ireland of 8.4 per cent.

PRODUCTION.

The following Table gives the number of societies, with the amount of their sales and transfers, engaged in productive operations during the years 1903-1913:—

	Year	•	Special Farming and Dairying Societies.		Farming and Dairying Departments of Wholesale and Retail Industrial Distributive Societies.		Total Agricultural Production by all Classes of Societies.	
			No. of Socie- ties.	Sales.	No. of Socie- ties.	Sales and Transfers.*	No. of Societies.	Sales and Transfers.*
1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913			225 256 260 272 287 303 318 336 338 352 368	£, 1,181,056 1,232,668 1,372,552 1,683,120 1,829,279 1,969,562 2,044,917 2,255,047 2,387,642 2,925,432 3,175,627	51 60 56 61 64 69 71 71 72 76 73	£ 427,564 401,383 402,639 473,258 477,379 494,889 467,667 435,568 330,267 301,069 307,015	276 316 316 313 351 372 389 407 410 428 441	1,608,650 1,634,051 1,775,191 2,155,378 2,306,658 2,464,471 2,512,884 2,690,615 2,717,909 3,226,501 3,442,642

The goods produced by the productive departments of Industrial Co. operative Societies are usually not sold direct, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

The total sales in 1913 were £3,442,642, an increase over those of 1912 of 6.7 per cent. . The sales of the special farming and dairying societies increased 165.5 per cent., while the agricultural departments of industrial societies decreased 28.2 per cent. between 1903

/ 120

Of the total production in 1913, 11 per cent. was in England and Wales, 8.3 per cent. in Scotland, and 80.7 per cent. in Ireland.

PROFIT-SHARING.

The returns made to the Department show that of the 465 agricultural distributive societies 46, employing 262 persons and paying £14,538 in wages, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to £650, which was equal to 4.5 per cent. upon the wages of the participants.

Of the 368 agricultural productive societies 67, employing 432 persons and paying £19,225 in wages, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to a total of £1,042, or 5.4 per cent., upon the wages of the

participants.

Of the 73 departments of industrial societies 13, employing 181 persons and paying wages amounting to £11,459, paid bonuses to their employees amounting to a total of £352, or about 3 per cent., upon wages; of this total £252, or about 72 per cent., was accounted for by the farming department of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

STATE GRANTS TO UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS IN DENMARK; AMEND-MENT OF LAW.*

STATE assistance to recognised Unemployed Benefit Societies in Denmark was first granted under a law dated April 9th, 1907 (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1907, p. 197). This law contained a clause stating that an amending Bill would be presented to the Riksdag in 1912. In accordance with this the original Act has now been subjected to certain revision, under a law passed on April 8th, 1914. The provisions of the new measure came into force on April 1st, 1915.

Under the law of 1907 the only persons entitled to receive benefit as members of a recognised Unemployment Society were those whose economic position made them eligible for State aid through the medium of a recognised Sick Fund. The new law states that only workpeople "without means" may be accepted by Unemployment Societies as members entitled to benefit, the expression "without means" being used in a sense which admits to benefit those who possess property not exceeding £278 if the person is unmarried or £556 if married.

The amount of the State grant was at first equal to one-third of the total premiums paid by members, with a maximum limit of £12,889. The new law fixes onehalf as the proportion to be paid for the future from State resources. The grants made to societies by the communes in which they are situated were formerly limited to one-sixth of the premiums paid by members.

These grants may now amount to one-third.

The new law provides that an Unemployment Society may form a special fund, by putting aside a definite proportion of the premiums paid by members, such special fund to be applied in granting benefit beyond the ordinary period, during times of exceptional unemployment. The special benefit is only to be paid to persons belonging to a trade which is declared by the Minister of the Interior to be suffering from exceptional unemployment, and may not exceed, during a year, the equivalent of daily unemployed pay (an amount varying from 63d. to 2s. 3d. per diem) for seventy days. Societies which form such special funds will receive a further subsidy from the State equal to half the amount set aside. The total of all State contributions to Unemployment Societies, however, is in no year to exceed the amount of the total subsidy to be granted by the State in respect of the financial year 1913-14, and the State grant to the special funds must, if necessary, be proportionately reduced or wholly withheld. Communes may also contri-

Sociat Forsory, May 1914.— he monthly jour at of the Danish Workmen's Insurance Council and the Unemployment Inspector's Department. Published at Hellerup, 25, Ahlmanns Alle.

bute to the special funds of Unemployment Societies within their district amounts equal to one-third of the total contributions of full members.

The constitution of the Unemployment Committee which acts as a central body for the whole of the Unemployment Societies, remains unchanged, except that the number of members is to be increased by the addition of four representatives of the Danish Parliament, two to be selected from each Chamber for a period of six

GOVERNMENT WORK.

COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION IN ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments working for Government purposes (see Labour Gazette for March, 1915, p. 83) have issued the following further decisions on cases referred to them: -

(1) ARMY AND NAVY BOOTS AND SHOES: (Issued MARCH 12TH).

The Committee, acting in accordance with the direction of His Majesty's Government respecting the procedure to be adopted with a view to the avoidance of stoppages of work on Government contracts, have had under consideration questions that had arisen as to the wages payable by contractors engaged in the manufacture of

boots and shoes for the Army and Navy.

The Committee have heard the statements of the Government Boot and Shoe Contractors' Association, of certain non-associated contractors, and of representatives of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, and after full consideration of the special circumstances of the case the Committee find that during the war the Government Departments concerned should require that on Government work on boots and shoes in England and Wales the rates of wages embodied in the Statement of Wages, dated March 3rd, 1915, settled by agreement or arbitration by the Standing Committee of Army Contractors and Representatives of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives should be paid, as from and including the first full pay week following the date of this finding. In districts where higher rates than those in the statement are being paid at the present time this decision shall not affect the payment of such higher rates.

(2) MESSRS. J. S. WHITE & CO., LTD., MESSRS. S. E. SAUNDERS, LTD., AND MR. GEORGE MARVIN, SHIP-BUILDERS AND ENGINEERS, EAST COWES: (ISSUED

The Committee, acting in accordance with the directions of His Majesty's Government respecting the procedure to be adopted with a view to the avoidance of stoppages of work on Government contracts, have had referred to them by consent a claim for an advance of wages to joiners in the employ of Messrs. J. S. White & Co., Ltd., Messrs. S. E. Saunders, Ltd., and Mr. George Marvin, shipbuilders and engineers, East Cowes.

The Committee on March 12th heard representatives of Messrs. White & Co. on behalf of the three firms, and representatives of the workpeople employed, and they have given careful consideration to the statements laid before them and to all the circumstances of the case.

The Committee's finding is that the rate of wages of joiners should be advanced 4s. per week, the advance to come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay week following the date of this decision, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

(3) MESSRS BROTHERHOOD, LTD., PETERBOROUGH. (Issued March 15th).

The Committee, acting in accordance with the directions of His Majesty's Government respecting the procedure to be adopted with a view to the avoidance of stoppages of work on Government contracts, have had referred to them by consent claims for advances of wages to the employees of Messrs. Brotherhood, Ltd., engineers, Peterborough.

The Committee on March 8th heard a representative of the employers and representatives of the workpeople, and hey have given careful consideration to the statements aid before them and to all the circumstances of the case, cluding the fact that an advance of wages has been ven by the firm since the outbreak of war.

The Committee's finding is that the wages of mechanics hould be advanced 3s. per week in the case of time workers and 7½ per cent. in the case of piece workers, and hat the wages of labourers should be advanced 2s. per ek, the advances to come into operation as from the ginning of the first pay week following the date of this ision, and to be regarded as war wages and recognised due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal onditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

(4) ENGINEERS' WAGES, CLYDE DISTRICT.

The engineers in the Clyde District decided by a ballot ote to refer the wages dispute to the Committee sitting a court of arbitration (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 85), and accordingly the Committee heard the parties March 22nd, and issued the following decision on

We have given full consideration to the arguments advanced by the respective representatives and to all the ircumstances of the case, and our finding is that in ettlement of the application for an advance the wages of the workers in the trades represented should be increased as follows, viz.: -1d. per hour or 4s. per week (according to the custom of payment in the various shops) on time rates, and 10 per cent. on piece rates, the advances to ome into operation as from the beginning of the first full ay week after February 12th, 1915, and to be regarded war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on he existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing n consequence of the war."

WAGES OF PATTERNMAKERS, BLACKSMITHS AND BRASSFINISHERS, CLYDE DISTRICT: (ISSUED ON

The following finding is in respect of an application for n advance of wages made on December 23rd to the North West Engineering Trades Employers' Association nd the Scottish Brassfounders and Finishers Employers' Association by the United Patternmakers' Association, ne Associated Blacksmiths' and Iron Workers' Society, the West of Scotland Brassfinishers' Society, and the United Journeymen Brassfounders' and Finishers' Association

The application was considered by the parties at a conerence held on January 25th, and, no settlement having een arrived at, the matter was again considered at a urther conference on February 22nd. An offer made at his conference on behalf of the employers was subseuently rejected by a ballot vote of the men concerned.

After further negotiations between the parties it was greed that the question should be referred to this Comnittee for settlement, and accordingly on March 22nd we

eard representatives of the parties.

We have given full consideration to the arguments dvanced by the respective representatives and to all the ircumstances of the case, and our finding is that in ettlement of the application for an advance the wages of he workers in the trades represented should be increased as follows, viz.: -1d. per hour or 4s. per week (according o the custom of payment in the various shops) on time rates, and 10 per cent. on piece rates, the advances to ome into operation as from the beginning of the first full bay week after February 22nd, 1915, and to be regarded war wages and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

(6) CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN-ADMIRALTY DOCK-YARDS AT HOME: (ISSUED ON MARCH 25TH).

The Committee, acting in accordance with the direcons of His Majesty's Government, have had referred to hem claims that have been put forward for advances in wages on behalf of certain classes of dockyard employees.

(1) WAGES.

Our finding is that the following additions should be

made to the existing rates of pay of employees in His Majesty's dockyards at home:

Time Rates

(1) Shipwrights, fitters, boilermakers, smiths, and other classes of mechanics, skilled labourers, and all adult male employees of superior grades to labourers, but excluding clerical staff 3s. per week.

(2) Labourers and other employees of correspond-

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

2s.

Piece Work.

Increase of 7½ per cent. on existing rates.

These increases should come into force on and from Sunday, March 28th, 1915, and be independent of the increases approved by Admiralty Letter of February 23rd, 1915 (No. D 30925/14), to take effect as from September 28th, 1914. They should apply to persons in receipt of allowances in respect of special or extra duties, but not to those in receipt of temporary augmentations of wages. The increases should be regarded as war wages, and recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

It was stated to us most strongly by the representatives of the men that the present scale of overtime payment in the dockyards is a source of constant dissatisfaction on the part of the employees. We think that the reference to this Committee may not entitle us to give a finding on this matter, but we consider it necessary to state the opinion that it is desirable, in the interests of the smooth and efficient working of the dockyards, particularly at this time, when there is such active competition for labour between the Government establishments and the private yards, that this grievance should be removed.

In our view the substitution of a revised scale of overtime payment would add more to the satisfaction of the men and to the relative attractiveness of employment in His Majesty's dockyards than a decision to grant the full increase of wages recommended for and adopted by the

private shipyards.

If our suggestion on this matter is adopted, the revised scale of overtime payment should come into force on and from the same date as our finding in regard to increased wages, i.e., Sunday, March 28th.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

BOOT, SHOE AND SLIPPER OPERATIVES.

Rushden.-Mr. Alderman T. Smith, J.P., the Umpire appointed to settle the question of a statement for clicking upon which the Arbitration Board of the Rushden, Higham and Irthlingborough Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and Operatives had been unable to agree (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 85), issued his award on 10th March, 1915, deciding, inter alia, that the Kettering Clicking Statements for cutting ordinary hand work and Army work should apply to the Rushden District.

Kettering.—(a) On a question referred to him from the No. 2 Board of Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Kettering and District (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 85), Mr. Smith issued an award on 11th March, 1915, deciding that the percentage of reduction for cutting ordinary and Army work by clicking press should be 331 per cent. and 45 per cent. less than the prices in the Kettering Clickers' Statements for hand cutting ordinary and Army work, respectively.

(b) In response to a request from the No. 2 Board of Arbitration, dated 3rd April, 1915, Mr. Smith has been appointed Umpire to decide a question respecting the leathers that come under the lower price fixed for cutting

Rossendale.—On 18th March the Rossendale Shoe and Slipper Manufacturers' Association received from the Rossendale Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives' Union a demand for various increases in wages owing to the increased cost of living. Joint meetings of the parties were subsequently held, but no agreement was arrived at, and accordingly on 24th March the Union handed in 14 122

PLUMBERS-LONDON.

Mr. Ernest Moon, K.C., the Arbitrator appointed to settle a dispute affecting London plumbers on a job at Brockenhurst, Hants (see Labour Gazette for March, p. 85), issued his award on 18th March, deciding that payment should be made in respect of the hours from 6.30 to 8 of the same amount as would have been paid if the work had been done at the end of each day which was actually worked instead of before 8 a.m.

CRANEDRIVERS-DARLINGTON.

A dispute having arisen between an engineering firm at Darlington and their cranedrivers, joint application was made for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide the matter. A court consisting of Sir David Harrel, K.C.B. (chairman), Sir A. Kaye Butterworth, and the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., was accordingly appointed, and awarded as follows: -(1) That in the opinion of the Court the present standard rates should not be disturbed during the war; (2) that a special increase of 4s. a week be made on account of war conditions, to remain in force during the continuance of such

ELECTRICAL, &c., WORKERS—BIRMINGHAM.

A dispute having occurred between a Birmingham electric and ordnance accessories firm and their workpeople respecting an alleged reduction in piece rates, joint application was made by the parties for the appointment of an Arbitrator to decide the matter, and Mr. F. A. Greer, K.C., has accordingly been appointed to

TRAMWAYMEN-MUSSELBURGH.

On 2nd March a number of motormen and conductors employed by the Musselburgh and District Electric Light and Traction Co., Ltd., came out on strike in sympathy with certain men dismissed in connection with grievances respecting working conditions. The matter having been brought to the attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, Prof. Richard Lodge was appointed to act as Conciliator, and on 19th March he presided at a joint conference of the parties, when an understanding was arrived at on a number of points in dispute. No agreement was reached, however, on the question of reinstatement, but on 23rd March Professor Lodge was informed that the directors had decided, on further consideration of the position, to reinstate all the men as vacancies occur, with the sole exception of the late inspector.

BOBBIN WORKERS-GARSTON, LIVERPOOL.

The Garston Bobbin Workers' Conciliation Board, having been unable to agree on a question respecting a grievance of the workpeople employed in the paint and varnish department at Garston in relation to the time allowed to them for washing their hands in advance of the general hours for leaving work, applied on 11th March for the appointment of an independent chairman to decide the matter. The Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., was duly appointed, and, at a meeting of the Conciliation Board held on 24th March, over which he presided, the parties agreed to accept the chairman's suggestion that the washing time should be seven minutes, provided that adequate washing accommodation existed.

CANAL PORTERS AND CHECKERS-LIVERPOOL.

On 1st March about forty porters and checkers in the employment of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Co. struck work for an advance in wages in excess of a war bonus granted generally by the Company and for certain other concessions. On 7th March work was resumed, pending reference to arbitration, and on 25th March the Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., the arbitrator appointed, awarded an increase of 1s. per week apart and distinct from the war bonus, and also certain concessions as regards overtime and stopping-time on Saturday.

JOINERS-GLASGOW.

The Conciliation Board for the Joiner Trade in the Glasgow district, having been t able to agree upon various questions affecting hours of labour, wages, and other conditions of employment, applied on 17th March for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration to decide the matter. A Court, consisting of Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C. (chairman), Mr. James Currie, J.P., and Mr. James Gavin, J.P., was accordingly appointed, and on 8th April issued an award altering the joiners' working rules in certain particulars.

BRASSMOULDERS-CLYDE DISTRICT.

On 26th February about 550 brassmoulders in the Clyde District came out on strike in support of their demand for an advance in wages of 2d. per hour as against the employers' offer of an increase of 3d. per hour. The continued absence from work of these men resulted in a serious curtailment of the production of war material, and efforts were made by the Committee on Production in Engineering and Shipbuilding Establishments to secure a resumption of work pending reference of the dispute to arbitration. After much negotiation, the men agreed to refer the question to an Arbitration Court upon which labour would be equally represented with the employers, with an independent chairman selected by the Board of Trade. Work was resumed on 24th March, and a Court of Arbitration was appointed, consisting of Sheriff A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C. (chairman), Sir Thomas Mason, and Mr. W. Adamson, M.P. The Court had to consider of only the general question, but also the particular case of a non-federated firm whose brassmoulders were involved in the strike, but whose conditions of employment were different from those prevailing in federated firms.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS—STOKE-ON-TRENT.

A claim having been made by the electrical workers in the employment of a Stoke-on-Trent firm for an advance in wages of 5s. per week, it was agreed to refer the matter to an Arbitrator for decision, and Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., has been appointed to act in that capacity.

MOTOR-CAB OILERS AND WASHERS-LONDON.

Arising out of a demand for increased wages to oilers and washers in the employment of a firm of motor-cab proprietors in London, a strike began at one of the garages on 20th March, and ended on 26th March. It was eventually agreed by the parties to refer the question to arbitration, and Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., was accordingly appointed to decide the matter.

WATERMEN, &c .- PORT OF LONDON.

Differences having arisen between the Association of Master Lightermen and Bargeowners and the Amalgamated Society of Watermen, Lightermen and Bargemen respecting claims for increased wages, joint application was made by the parties for the appointment of an Arbitrator. Mr. Ernest Moon, K.C., was accordingly appointed, and on 24th March awarded that the follow-

ig incicasos snoara so	Pound	,				
To licensed Watermen						a day.
Watchmen					7d.	"
6th and 7th year a	ppren	tices			6d.	"
3rd, 4th, and 5th y	ear a	pprent	ices		4d.	"
Other apprentices					3d.	"
The Award to take	effect	from	7th	Marc	h, 19	915.

A question arose subsequently as to payment of increased wages for Sunday work, and this was also referred to Mr. Moon, who awarded on 7th April as

To watchmen and apprentices the amounts required by my award of 24th March, 1915, to be paid on other days shall be

award of 24th March, 1915, to be paid on other days shall be paid on Sundays.

To lightermen the sum of 8d. shall be paid in addition to the Sunday pay specified in the rules now current of the Amalgamated Society of Watermen, Lightermen, and Bargemen for starting a fresh job on Sunday, working full Sunday or commencing work after 12 noon on Sunday, but not more than 8d. shall be paid to any lighterman in respect of work done on any one Sunday in addition to Sunday pay.

And I award and determine that no increase shall be paid in addition to the Sunday pay for finishing a night's job

in addition to the Sunday pay for finishing a night's job specified in the said rules.

Further, that this, my award, shall take effect on and from Sunday, 7th March, 1915.

LABOURERS-PEMBREY, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

April, 1915.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

A dispute having arisen between a firm engaged on a building contract at Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, and their labourers respecting a claim by the latter for increased wages, it was ultimately agreed to refer the matter to arbitration. Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed to inquire into the dispute, and as a result of his intervention an amicable settlement was effected on

EMPLOYMENT IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEA.

[Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 34, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, &c.—Free quarterly circulars on Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and Handbooks (with maps) at 1d. each, may be obtained from the Office post free; and all enquiries about emigration addressed to the Office will be answered.]

WARNING .- Owing to the war (1) labour conditions oversea are uncertain, and openings for emigrants are greatly restricted; and (2) steamers are liable to delay

CANADA.

Large numbers of skilled and unskilled labourers are out of work in the Dominion at the present time, and t is undesirable for any emigrant, except competent farm labourers and female servants, to go there now. There has been a slight improvement since the commencement of spring, and some factories, especially metal establishments, have re-opened, or are employing a larger staff; but the supply of labour is ample. Coalmining at Sydney (Nova Scotia) has been fairly brisk, but dull at Lethbridge (Alberta) and Fernie (British Columbia), as well as metal mining at Cobalt (Ontario). A certain mount of railroad construction is being carried on in the West, but there is no demand for more men. No nore female factory hands, urses or clerks are wanted: he demand for female servants continues (except at Vancouver), but many wor n help to supply it, who are out of work in other industries.

AUSTRALIA.

Labour conditions are unsettled owing to the war, and here is no present demand for more labour, except for emale servants. Assisted emigration to South Australia and Western Australia has been stopped; but the ther States still grant reduced passages to emigrants. But in order to avoid interference with recruiting for le war, assisted passages to New South Wales, Victoria r Queensland are not available, except under special rcumstances, for men between the ages of eighteen and hirty-five. The demand for experienced female serants continues, and specially cheap passages are offered widows and young women who will take up domestic

According to a cablegram just received from Sydney, ere is no improvement in labour conditions in Australia, there being a surplus of labour available in all oranches.

NEW ZEALAND.

During the war reduced-rate passages are granted to narried farmers and farm hands and bona fide female mestic servants, and also to single farmers and farm hands who are not eligible for military service.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Owing to the war the labour market in South Africa disorganised and no one should go there now.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

LABOUR STATISTICS: THIRD QUARTER OF 1914.* Employment.—The percentage of persons unemployed the Commonwealth owing to lack of work, according

* Labour Bulletia. No. 7, July-September, 1914, the quarterly journal of the ureau of Census and Statistics of the Commonwealth of Australia.

to returns received from trade unions, rose from 4.3* in the second quarter of 1914 to 9.6* in the quarter under review. The particulars for the third quarter refer to the last working week in August, and therefore reflect the adverse effect on employment of the prevailing conditions arising both from the war and from drought. Compared with the preceding quarter of 1914, the proportion of workpeople unemployed increased in all the States, the upward movement being particularly marked in Queensland and Tasmania. The percentage in the third quarter of 1913 was 5.3.*

During July, August and September, 1914, the total number of applications for employment by workpeople in the six State Free Employment Bureaux was 33,805; while 11,509 applications for workpeople were made by employers, and 8,360 situations were filled. In the second quarter of the year the corresponding figure? were 26,691, 10,662, and 9,161.

Industrial Disputes.—The total number of labour disputes which began in the Commonwealth during July, August and September was 63 (49 of which took place in New South Wales), as compared with 83 in the preceding quarter, and 60 in the third quarter of 1913. In the new disputes 10,630 workpeople were either directly or indirectly involved, the corresponding total for the preceding quarter being 16,859, and, for the third quarter of 1913, 11,673. The number of working days lost through new disputes amounted to 38,661, as compared with 261,741 and 80,249 respectively. The number of days lost by disputes which commenced prior to the beginning of the quarter and continued into the quarter under review was 187,376.

Changes in Rates of Wages .- During the third quarter of 1914 particulars were collected concerning 82 changes in rates of wages, 38 of which occurred in New South Wales. The total number of workpeople affected was 28,749 and the aggregate increase amounted to £6,684, or an average of 4s. 8d. per head per week. The largest number of persons affected in any single industry was in the clothing, hats, boots, &c., group, in which 7,750 persons obtained increases aggregating £977 per week. Other trades largely affected were the food, drink, tobacco, &c., group (2,908), and the shipping, wharflabour, &c., group (2,384).

Variations in Prices and Cost of Living .- The cost of living (retail prices and house rent) index number for 30 of the more important towns in the Commonwealth showed a slight decrease in the third quarter of 1914 as compared with the index for the preceding quarter. Assuming the cost of living for the whole of the year 1912 be represented by 100, the corresponding figure for the third quarter of 1914 was 104.0, as compared with 104.3 for the second quarter, and with 99.8 for the third quarter of 1913. Thus there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. as compared with the preceding quarter, but an increase of 4.2 per cent. as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1913. The index numbers show that the cost of living was greater than a year ago in all the States of the Commonwealth: compared with the previous quarter, it was less in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, but greater in Queensland and Western Australia. In Tasmania it was the same as in the previous quarter. Taking the six capital towns only, the amount necessary, on the average, to purchase what would have cost £1 in the year 1911 was £1 3s. during the quarter under review, £1 3s. 1d. in the previous quarter, and £1 2s. 1d. in the third quarter of 1913.

Immigration.—During the quarter 5,025 assisted immigrants (including 2,033 dependants) arrived in the Commonwealth. The greatest numbers were reported by New South Wales (1,766) and Victoria (1,690). As regards occupations, 1,660 males were classified as following agricultural, pastoral, rural, &c., industries, while 690 of the females were attached to the domestic, hotel, &c., group.

* These percentages are based, not on the numbers unemployed on a given day, but on the numbers unemployed "for any three days or more during a specified week." For this reason, apart from the fact tha accurate and complete records of unemployment are difficult to obtain in Australia, owing to few of the unions paying unemployed benefit, the figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentages for the United Kingdom shown on pp. 115-116.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAY COMMISSION.

A DESPATCH to the Board of Trade from H.M. Trade Commissioner in South Africa, dated 11th March, states that the special commission appointed in October, 1913, by the South African Government to enquire into the grievances of the railwaymen (see Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE for February, 1914, p. 50) have now issued their report.

The majority report, signed by two of the Commissioners, finds that it is not proved that a shortening of hours would lead to the employment of those out of work at no increase of expense to the administration; but it recommends that generally, where work is continuous and arduous, effort should be made to reduce the hours to eight per diem, and that, in the case of the running staff, overtime should be reduced, and twenty-four hours' rest given, if practicable, once weekly. With regard to wages, the report recommends that, when data as to the cost of living have been collected, the question of a minimum wage should be again considered. It recommends that the commencing wage for white labourers be 4s. 6d. per diem, rising to 5s., with free quarters; but it is suggested that no change be made in the existing scale of local allowances for a period of two years to permit of the collection of statistics as to the cost of living. The report does not recommend the abolition of piece-work, but suggests certain alterations for the purpose of making the work more profitable to the pieceworkers. The pay of the salaried staff is found to be fair and reasonable; but recommendations are made with a view to facilitating promotion in some cases and the granting of service increases in others.

The minority report, signed by the representative of the railway men, recommends the immediate adoption of an eight hours day, the payment of a minimum wage of at least 8s. per diem to all Europeans, the abolition of piece work, the better payment of the salaried staff, the repeal of all laws prohibiting combination and strikes among workmen, public or private, and the elimination as quickly as possible of overtime and payment for overtime.

LABOUR IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Note.—Since the publication of the last issue of the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE no official data for the preparation of the usual monthly summaries relative to the state of employment, &c., have reached the Department from France, or Belgium. As regards employment in Germany and Denmark, see page 117.

NORWAY.*

Employment in February. - The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of February in certain Trade Unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries, comparative figures relating to the same Unions being added for the previous month and for February, 1914:-

all you proposed	Me	Membership. Percentag Unemployee					
Group of Trades.	28th Feb., 1915.	31st Jan 1915.	28th Feb., 1914.	28th Feb., 1915.	31st Jan., 1915	28th Feb., 1914.	
Bricklavers and Masons (Christiania)	650	669	647	5.1	8.5	14.7	
Carpenters, &c	1,252 396 8,227	1,160 381 8,102	1,226 428 8,526	13·9 16·9 1·9	12·6 29·1 1·5	3·8 5·6 1·6	
Boot and Shoe Makers Woodpulp and Paper Makers	784 546	788 533	756 576	2.0	2·2 5·3	15	
Printers Bookbinders (Christiania) Planers and Sawyers Cabinet Makers	2,123 606 468 578	2,115 597 456 628	2173 589 516 600	2·8 17 21 4 2·9	2·6 1·3 6·4 5·3	0·4 0·5 2·3 2·3	
Bakers (Christiania)	441	440	442	14 3	13.9	7.9	
TOTAL	16.071	15,869	16,479	44	4.2	2.	

^{*} Information furnished by the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department

HOLLAND.*

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

Employment in January .- Returns relating to unemployment in January were received by the Dutch Government Statistical Office from trade unions and municipal unemployment funds with a total membership of 88,275. The percentage of members out of work during the month was 27.1, as compared with 28.7 in the previous month, and 11.0 in January, 1914. 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 total membership of the funds gives the

The following Table shows, for each of the principal groups of trades, the percentage reported unemployed, together with the average number of working days lost per week by each member unemployed in January, as compared with the previous month, and with January,

The state of the s	Number of Mem- bers en- titled to		ercenta		Average Days Lost per Week per Member Unemployed.		
Group of Trades.	Benefit in Jan., 1915.	Jan., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Jan., 1914.	Jan., 1915.	Dec., 1914.	Jan. 1914
All Unions paying Un- employed Benefit and all Municipal Unem- ployment Funds which made Returns	88 275	27:1	28.7	11.0	4.8	4.7	5.7
Do. do., excluding Diamond Workers	78,061	18.2	19.5	4.9	3.9	3.8	-
Working in Diamonds and other Precious Stones	10,214	89.7	92.1	46.8	6.0	6.0	6.0
Printing and Lithography,	10,622	22.0	25-9	0.5	2.8	2.9	5.8
&c Building Trades (includ-	15,851	28.9	26.5	19.1	5.2	5.3	5.1
ing Roadmaking) Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	11,221	20.0	22.2	1.0	3.2	3.2	5.4
Textile	5,279 14,716 2,542 1,944	19·1 6·2 32·1 10·0	21·6 9·2 34·9 13·5	0·2 0·4 0·1	2·4 3·3 4 4 3·0	2·4 3·0 4·3 2·9	5.6

The comparison between January, 1915, and December, 1914, yields slightly different results when based upon data furnished by trade unions only (irrespective of whether they pay unemployed benefit or not), and when further limited to returns received from unions making returns for both months. On this basis the percentage unemployed is found to be 25.5 in January, as compared with 26.5 in December. Among the members of these unions the average number of working days lost owing to unemployment was, in January, 20.5 per cent., and in December 21.1 per cent. of the total number of days that might have been worked in the respective months.

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK STATE.

Employment of Aliens on Public Works .- A despatch from H.M. Consul-General at New York, ated 26th February, states that a question has arisen on the subject of the New York State Labour Law, which contains a clause prohibiting the employment of aliens on public works. This clause has been practically dormant for some years, but it was lately enforced by the Public Service Commission, the result being that an action was brought to restrain the Commission from forfeiting contracts for the construction of public works owing to the employment of aliens. The Court of Appeals, however, upheld the law in question, and the case was thereupon carried to the Supreme Court. A further despatch from H.M. Consul-General, dated 5th March, reports that the Supreme Court of the United States has suspended the law pending the final decision of the case. It is stated that the matter is of grave importance to contractors, in view of the great number of public works being carried on, the major portion of the manual labour on which is done by aliens.

MASSACHUSETTS *

Employment at End f December, 1914.—For the quarter ending 31st December, 1914, returns were received from 1,024 labour organisations in Massachusetts, with an aggregate membership of 165,762, or about 70 per cent. of the total membership of local trade unions in the Commonwealth. The proportion of such members unemployed on 31st December, owing to causes other than labour disputes or disablement—e.g., lack of work, shortage of materials, weather conditions, holidays and temporary shut-downs-was 16.7 per cent.

While the above data relate only to organised wage-earners, the results of a supplementary investigation undertaken by the Lureau of Labour Statistics among representative employers, chambers of commerce, employers' associations, and other authoritative sources in the leading industrial cities of Massachusetts, are stated to indicate that the conclusions relative to unemployment of organised workmen at the close of the quarter would, in general, hold true also of unorganised workmen.

As regards the boot and shoe trade, reports from employers in Brockton showed that conditions were had for the season of the year, the output of boots and shoes being estimated at 30 per cent. below normal. The manufacturers, who are said to produce largely medium and high-grade men's boots, were reported to be unable

to undertake contracts for boots for the European armies because of the expensive alterations in machinery that would be necessary in order to manufacture the cheaper army boot. At Lynn and Haverhill also large numbers of boot and shoe operatives were reported out of work, but in the last-named city conditions were improving.

Some depression was reported in the textile industry of New Bedford, where the mills had not been operating to their full capacity for some months. This was stated to be partly due to the fact that many additional looms had been put in and new mills equipped in recent years with the expectation (not realised) of an increased demand for cotton goods. At Fall River the curtailment in the manufacture of cotton cloth was estimated at about 30 per cent. A number of the mills were closed for two days a week, while in others, which were running full time, some of the machinery was idle.

The following table shows the percentage of unemployment, owing to causes other than labour disputes or disablement, among organized workers at the end of each quarter during the years 1912, 1913 and 1914:—

		1388			1912.	1913.	1914.
March June Sentember December		::		::	65 36 3.2 73	8 3 4 5 5·0 8·5	10·7 8·0 9·0 16·7
	MEAN	FOR	YEAR		5.2	6.6	11.1

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING MARCH.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE,

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT was very good during March, but showed little change compared with a month and a year ago as regards the number of days worked in the collieries. The number employed, however, showed a falling off of nearly 15 per cent. as compared with March, 1914.

Returns received for each of the three periods, relating to the same 1,080 pits, show that the average number days* worked per week was 5.67, as compared with 5.62 in the previous month, and 5.55 a year ago.

Districts.	No of Work- people employed in Mar., 1915,	work	e number ed per w Collierie	eek by	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a		
	at the Collieries included in the Table.	Mar., 27th, 1915	Feb., 20th, 1915.	Mar., 28th, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND AND WALES. Northumberland Durham Cumberland South Yorkshire West Yorkshire Lancashire and Cheshire . Derbyshire . Nottingham and Leicester Staffordshire Warwick, Worcester, and Salop Gloucester and Somerset . North Wales South Wales and Mon.	43,911 97,884 5,248 58,432 25,408 41,902 34,821 30,702 26,382 8,896 5,848 9,003 101,103	Days. 5 48 5 50 5 64 5 85 5 66 5 87 5 69 5 22 5 81 5 69 5 91 5 88 5 98	Days. 6 34 5 36 6 67 6 89 6 66 5 83 5 70 5 10 5 69 5 66 5 79 5 90 5 94	Days. 5.40 5.40 5.75 5.85 5.69 5.62 5.75 5.21 5.70 5.84 5.74	Days. + 0·14 + 0·14 - 0·03 - 0·04 + 0·04 - 0 01 + 0·12 + 0·13 + 0·12 - 0·02 + 0·04	Days. + 0.08 + 0.10 - 0.11 - 0.03 + 0.25 - 0.06 + 0.01 + 0.11 + 0.01 + 0.99 + 0.04 + 0.24	
ENGLAND AND WALES	489,540	5.71	5 64	5.60	+ 0.07	+ 0.11	
SCOTLAND. West Scotland The Lothians	18,488 2,431 19,132	5·05 5·07 5·33	5·20 5·29 5·47	5·12 5·00 4·74	- 0.15 - 0.22 - 0.14	- 0·07 + 0·07 + 0·59	
SCOTLAND	40 051	5-19	5.31	4.94	- 0.15	+ 0.25	
IRELAND	550	4 55	4.84	4 81	- 0 29	- 0.26	
UNITED KINGDOM	530,141	5.67	5.62	5.55	+ 0.05	+ 0 12	

The number of workpeople employed in March, 530,141, showed a decrease of 1,555 (or 0.3 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 92,160 (or 14'8 per cent.) on a year ago. Of the 530,141 workpeople employed in March, 437,143 (or 82.5 per cent.) were at pits working 11 or more days during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while 73,995 (or 14 per cent.) worked from 10 to 11 days. The highest average was in South Wales and Monmouth (5.98 days), and the lowest averages were in Ireland (4.55 days), and in West Scotland (5.05 days).

In Northumberland and in Durham employment continued good, and showed an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago. In Cumberland it was very good, but not quite so good as a year ago. In Yorkshire it continued very good, owing to the activity in the engineering and other trades; difficulties of transport were again reported. In Lancashire and Cheshire it was very good, and better than a year ago. In Derbyshire it was very good. In Nottingham and Leicester, it was fairly good, and better than a month ago, except in the Coalville district, which showed a slight decline on account of shortage of railway trucks. In Staffordshire employment was very good, and better than either a month ago or a year ago. In Warwick, Worcester, and Salop, and in Gloucester and Somerset, it was very good, and better than a month ago; in Gloucester and Somerset it showed a great improvement on a year ago. In North and South Wales and Monmouth it was very good; in South Wales and Monmouth it was better than

In Scotland employment was good, and much better than a year ago, in Fifeshire, and steady in the other districts; in every district, however, it showed a decline on a month ago, partly owing to difficulties of transport.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked, distributed according to the principal kind of coal raised at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged: -

Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Government Statistical Office).

^{*} Twenty-eighth Quarterly Report on Unemployment among Organised Wage wass, December 31st, 1914. Missachusetts Bureau of Statistics.

Description of Coal.	No. of Work- people employed in Mar., 1915, at the	worked	number per week ies in For ended	by the	Inc. (Dec. (Mar.,	-) in 1915,
	Collieries included in the Table.	27th Mar., 1915.	20th Feb., 1915.	28th Mar., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite	5,808 27,884 38,955 63,379 206,343 187,772	Days. 5.77 5.78 5.40 5.54 5.78 5.63	Days. 6 62 5 61 5 37 5 48 5 72 5 62 5 62	Days. 5·52 5 67 5·35 5·47 5 64 5·50	Days. + 0·15 + 0·11 + 0·03 + 0·06 + 0·06 + 0·01 + 0·05	Days. + 0.25 + 0.11 + 0.05 + 0.07 + 0.14 + 0.13

126

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago, employment showed an improvement at pits producing all classes of coal; the improvement in both cases was most marked at anthracite, coking, and steam coal pits.

The exports of coal in March amounted to 3,977,273 tons; this was nearly 350,000 tons more than in February, and 67 per cent. of the exports in March last year.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND

Full time was again worked in the principal iron mining districts. Employment was good also in shale mines, though it showed some decline on the previous month. It was generally moderate in tin mines and good in lead

Employment continued fair, on the whole, in and about quarries, with the exception of slate quarries. It was still dull with china clay workers.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods in the Table below, relating to the same mines and open works in each case, show that the number of workpeople employed in March (11,842) decreased by 50 (0.4 per cent.) on a month ago, and by 2,183 (15.6 per cent.) on a year ago. Of the total number of workpeople employed in March, 1915, 11,189 (94.5 per cent.) were at mines and open works working 11 or more days during the fortnight to which the returns relate.

The weekly average number of days* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.91, as compared with 5.92 a month ago and 5.74 a year ago. Full time was worked in Cleveland and in the Cumberland and Lancashire districts:-

Districts.	Work- people	worke Mines a	Number d per we and Open ortnight e	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar. 1915, on a		
Districts.	employed in Mar., 1915.	27th Mar., 1915.	20th Feb., 1915.	28th Mar., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland Cumberland and Lanca-	6,040 3,039	Days. 6.00 6.00	Days. 6.00 6.00	Days. 5.62 5.97	Days.	Days. + 0.38 + 0.03
shire Scotland Other Districts	717 2.046	4·69 5·93	5·28 5·78	5·70 5·77	- 0.59 + 0.15	- 1·01 + 0·16
ALL DISTRICTS	11,842	5.91	5.92	5.74	- 0.01	+ 0.17

Shale .- According to the returns received, there were 3,196 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 27th March, at mines working an average of 5.88 days* per week, as compared with 3,301 workpeople in February, at mines working 6:00 days, and 3,640 workpeople in March, 1914, at mines working 5.72 days.

Tin.-Employment was moderate on the whole in Cornwall. It was reported as fairly good in the Camborne and Redruth districts, but bad in the Calstock

• The figures in this article show only the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which iron ore or shale was got and drawn at the mines and open works included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these mines or open works worked the whole number of days.

and Liskeard districts. In the Dartmoor mines it was quiet.

Lead .- Employment was reported as very good in North Wales, and it continued good in Weardale and at Darley Dale (Matlock).

QUARRYING.

Slate.—Employment continued very slack in North Wales, where the majority of quarries were on short time; a large number of the men were reported to have joined the Army, while others have found work in other industries. Employment was reported as slack at Delabole (Cornwall), though full time was worked.

Granite.—Employment continued good in Leicestershire; at Stoney Stanton it showed an improvement on the previous month. It generally continued fair in Cornwall, and was quiet, but better than a month ago, at Princetown (Dartmoor). Employment was good at Rowley Regis (Staffs).

Limestone.—A shortage of railway trucks affected employment in the Weardale district, where it was worse than both a month ago and a year ago, short time being worked. Employment was good in Cleveland. At Buxton it continued good, and was better than a year

Other Stone.—The increased cost of production was said to have affected employment in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district, employment being especially slack in the building stone branch. In chert quarries at Bakewell employment was good, and a scarcity of men was reported. Employment was good, and better than both a month ago and a year ago, in the Clee Hill road-material (basalt) quarries. It continued fair in freestone quarries on the Tyne, and moderate in whinstone quarries in Upper Weardale. It was still bad in sandstone quarries in Forfarshire.

Settmaking &c.—Settmakers were generally well employed throughout March; employment was about the same as a month ago in Scotland and Leicestershire, and showed an improvement in the Clee Hill district. With monumental masons at Aberdeen employment was bad, and adversely affected by the increased cost of granite and other materials.

China Clay .- There was an extension of short time in the St. Austell district, where employment was reported as bad. In the Lee Moor and Shaugh district it continued fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT continued good generally, very few firms reporting it as below fair. A scarcity of men was again experienced, and great difficulty in getting supplies of fuel and of raw materials, partly owing to a shortage of railway wagons.

The returns show that 272 furnaces were in blast at the end of March, 1915, as compared with 273* at the end of the previous month, and 277 a year ago. Four furnaces were relit during the month (one in South Yorkshire, two in Staffordshire, and one in Denbighshire). Five furnaces were either damped down or blown out (one in the Cleveland district, two in Derbyshire, one in Leicestershire, and one in Monmouthshire)

	Number of the Retu	f Furnaces i rns in Blast	included in at end of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a		
District.	March, 1915.	Feb., 1915.	March, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES: Cleveland Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks Derby & Nottingham Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton Staffs & Worcester S. Wales & Monmouth Other districts ENGLAND & WALES -	69 27 11 32 28 31 11 4	70 27 10 34 29 29 12 3	75 28 10 34 26 29 9 5	- 1 + 1 - 2 - 1 + 2 - 1 + 1	- 6 - 1 + 1 - 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 - 1	
SCOTLAND	59	59	61		- 2	
TOTAL	272	273*	277	- 1	- 5	

The imports of iron ore in March amounted to

* Revised figure.

548,823 tons, 168,000 tons more than in February, and over 30,000 tons more than in March last year. exports of pig-iron were rgain very small (only 20,172 tons), and were little greater than the imports.

April, 1915.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

AT iron and steel works employment showed an improvement, on the whole, in March, compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In every district a shortage of fuel and raw material was again reported; there was also a general scarcity of labour.

According to returns from employers relating to 102,690 workpeople, the aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended 27th March, 1915, was 585,905, showing an increase of 14,593 (or 2.6 per cent.) on the previous month, and of 20,612 (or 3.6 per cent.) on a year ago: -

	No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns.			Aggre	Aggregate number of shifts worked.			
1 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	Week ended 27th	Dec.	(+) or (-) as pared th a	Week ending 27th	ding compared with a			
	Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
DEPARTMENTS. Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	10,173	Per cent. + 0.4	Per cent. + 0.2	60,352	Per cent. + 0.7	Per cent. + 0.9		
Crucible Furnaces	485 1,627 7.582 30,836 5,158	+ 3.6 + 0.8 - 0.4 - 1.5 + 1.5	- 12·1 - 9·4 - 8·9 - 3·8 + 2·4	2,673 8,420 38.116 164,952	+ 4.9 + 1.8 + 0.2 - 1.3	- 6·8 - 8·3 + 2·0 + 0·2		
Founding Other Departments	13,867 14,822 18,140	+ 60 + 0.4 + 1.6	+ 12·5 + 0·3 - 1·5	28,852 90,066 86,502 105,972	+ 1·3 + 17·5 + 0 4 + 1·9	+ 4·0 + 25·7 + 0·8 - 0·3		
TOTAL	102.690	+ 0.8	- 0.7	585,905	+ 2.6	+ 3.6		
DISTRICTS. Northumberland & Durham Cleveland Sheffield and Rotherham Leeds, Bradford, &c Cumberland Lancashire, and Cheshire	11,794 8,621 23,667 4,294 8,465	+ 0·3 - 1·3 + 4·6 - 1·2 - 6·3	+ 0.9 - 6.7 + 9.9 - 12.1 - 16.2	66,592 50.101 146,127 23,155 45,767	- 0.0 - 0.2 + 11.8 - 0.7 - 6.5	+ 1.8 - 3.4 + 21.7 - 14.9 - 14.4		
Staffordshire Other Midland Counties Wales and Monmouth	9,561 4,940 12,042	+ 0·3 + 1·5 + 18	- 5·4 - 7·0 - 1·4	51,584 27,331 65,661	- 0.5 + 1.7 + 1.8	- 2·3 - 1·4 - 3·8		
Scotland	83,384 19,306	+ 0.8	- 2·0 + 5·1	476,318 109,587	+ 2.9	+ 2·0 + 11·3		
TOTAL	102,690	+ 08	- 0.7	585,905	+ 2.6	+ 3.6		

Employment showed a great improvement on the previous month in the Sheffield and Rotherham district; it also showed some improvement in the "other Midland counties" district, in Wales and Monmouth, and in Scotland, but a decline in Cumberland and Lancashire. The other districts showed little change. The improvement affected all the departments except rolling mills, and was especially marked at foundries. total number of workpeople employed increased by 795 (or 0.8 per cent.).

On the Tyne and Wear employment in this district was good, with some overtime. Employment was fairly good at Stockton and Thornaby; it also continued fair at chair, pipe, and general foundries in the Tees and Hartlepools district; in other departments throughout this district it continued to be good, and in some cases very good. At Barrow the plate mills were reported to be closed owing to a shortage of workpeople; the other departments were busy. At Leeds employment was very good with steel workers. At Sheffield and at Stocksbridge it was also very good, overtime being worked at the week-ends. At Rotherham it continued very good with steel workers; with iron workers an improvement was reported at Rotherham and Parkgate, but at Masborough employment was still quiet. It was very good at Scunthorpe. In South Staffordshire and Shropshire employment was very good with steel workers, and good (showing an improvement on February) with ironworkers. It was still only fairly good at Smethwick and West Bromwich. In the Potteries and in North Wales it continued very good. In South Wales full time was worked, except by steel smelters at Morriston and in March, 1914.

Pontardawe. In the Glasgow and West of Scotland district employment was very good.

Compared with a year ago, employment showed a great improvement in the Sheffield and Rotherham district and in Scotland; there was a slight improvement in the Northumberland and Durham district. On the other hand, there was a great decline in the Leeds and Bradford district, and a slight decline in Wales and Monmouth. The other districts showed considerably fewer workpeople in employment, but those who were employed worked an increased number of shifts; the net result was a decline in the aggregate number of shifts worked in these districts, but the decline was not marked except in Cumberland and Lancashire. All the departments except crucible furnaces and Bessemer converters showed an improvement, which was most marked at foundries. The total number of workpeople employed decreased by 758 (or 0.7 per cent.).

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig iron) in March were 50,969 tons, little more than a quarter of those in March, 1914. There were no imports of sheet bars and tinplate bars, and there was a great reduction in other semi-manufactured material, such as bars, angles and sections; steel billets; plates and sheet for ship and bridge building &c.; and hoops and strips.

The exports (British and Irish), excluding pig iron, tinplates and galvanised sheets, amounted to 149,967 tons, or about 74 per cent. of the exports in March last year. Rails showed a great decline, as in previous months. Steel bars, angles, sections &c., on the other hand, showed an increase of nearly 100 per cent., owing to a heavy export to France.

TINPLATE, AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

THE following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of March, 1915, and the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 26,880 workpeople:-

	Numbe	er of Work	s open.	Number o	Number of Mills in operation.			
Works.	At end of	At end of Mar., 1915. Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month Year ago. ago		At end of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
STATE OF THE				Mar, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
Tinplate Steel Sheet	71 13	- 1 + 1	- 4 + 1	362 86	- 5 + 5	- 110 - 48		
TOTAL	81		- 3	448		- 158		

Tinplate.—Employment was about the same as a month ago, but much worse than a year ago. Industry was said to be much hindered by the high price of coal and the difficulty of obtaining timber for making the boxes in which the plates are packed; some difficulty in getting railway vans was also reported, but in general transport facilities were said to have improved. The number of mills working at the end of March, 1915, was 362, compared with 367 a month ago, and 472 at the end of March, 1914.

The pooling of orders by employers and the system of short shifts of four or six hours continued, with the result that there was practically no total unemployment. A shortage of young men owing to enlistments was again reported.

Exports of Tinned Plates, Tinned Sheets, and Black Plates.

The exports of tinplates and tinned sheets increased by 44 per cent. as compared with February, chiefly on account of the larger amounts sent to the British East Indies, to France, to Norway, and to China and Japan. Exports to Norway were over three times what they were

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY	Mar.,	Feb.,	Mar.,	Inc. (+) o in Mar., l	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a		
tang a terr ada dia tang disensa madra	1915.	1915.	1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
end die desenstui	Т	inned Plat	es and Tir	nned Sheets.			
ro United States British East Indies Germany France Netherlands Russia Norway Belgium Portugal Italy Roumania China and Japan Australia Canada Argentina Other Countries	Tons. 47 6.013 5,774 602 16 6,336 1,160 1,144 22 4,985 4,491 158 2,389 3,033	Tons. 71 2,487 3,312 1,975 12 3,730 581 1,740 1.182 5.121 199 458 4,233	Tons. 3,870 5 820 2,028 2,583 2,936 147 1,828 7,78 1,088 1,373 3,044 6,627 1,850 7,398	Tons. - 24 + 3 526 + 2,462 - 1,373 + 4 + 2,606 - 596 + 22 + 3,803 - 401 + 1,931 - 1,200	Tons 3,823 + 193 - 2,078 + 3,191 - 2,334 - 131 + 4,603 + 72 - 229 - 3,022 - 642 + 2,641 - 155 + 2,209 - 4,365		
TOTAL	36,170	25,101	40,863	+ 11,069	- 4,693		
-Util and ESC O	Annes d	В	lack Plate	s	Linkson'		
TOTAL	2,403	1,827	4,531	+ 576	- 2,128		

Steel and Galvanised Sheets.—Although the number of sheet mills in operation at the end of March showed a small increase, the trade as a whole was still dull. In March the number of mills working was 86, compared with 81 in February and 134 in March, 1914. There was little improvement in the foreign trade, which usually accounts for the bulk of the output, but the home trade was maintained. It was reported that many of the sheet mills that ordinarily roll sheets for galvanising are now engaged in producing finished black plates.

The exports (British and Irish) of galvanised sheets in March amounted to 29,669 tons, or 43 per cent. of those in March, 1914, a higher proportion than in February. India accounted for more than half the decrease.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THE demand for labour continued to exceed the supply, and much overtime, night shifts and Sunday work were reported in connection with the completion of Government orders.

Trade Unions with 233,906 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, compared with 0.7 per cent. at the end of February, and 2.4 per cent. at the end of March, 1914.

The number of workpeople in these trades who were insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act was 741,855. According to the comprehensive statistics compiled on this basis, the percentage unemployed at the end of March was 0.7, compared with 0.9 in February, and 3.0 in March, 1914. The particulars for the several insurance districts are given in the following Table:—

as educable ence; le To arga of had John	Number		centage mployi is lodge	ment	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1915, on a		
Division.	Insured.	26th Mar., 1915.	26th Feb, 1915.	27th Mar., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
London Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands Eastern and S.E. Counties South Western Wales Scotland Ireland	75.309 150,460 92.091 56,353 73,924 38,455 36,692 14,782	12 0·3 08 05 07 07 07 07 09 1·1 0·5 2·6	1.3 0.4 1.0 0.9 0.8 0.7 0.7 0.9 1.0 0.8 2.7	4·4 2·2 3·7 2·7 2·5 3·1 3·3 3·3 1·8 2·4 4·3	- 0·1 - 0·1 - 0·2 - 0·4 - 0·1 + 0·1 - 0·3 - 0·1	- 32 - 19 - 29 - 22 - 18 - 24 - 26 - 24 - 07 - 19 - 17	
UNITED KINGDOM	741,855	0.7	0.9	3.0	- 0.5	- 2.3	

The only important exception to the general state of employment as described above was the textile machinery branch, in which employment was quiet, with some short time, especially at Oldham and Nottingham. At a few

places in the Eastern Counties also employment was quiet.

The imports of machinery during March, 1915, were valued at £582,000, as compared with £725,000 in March, 1914. Exports fell from £3,569,000 to £1,590,000. The decline was greatest in the case of textile and agricultural machinery. There was some improvement in most classes of machinery, however, as compared with February.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good in all branches, and was generally better than a year ago. A large amount of overtime was worked. With the exception of painters and joiners, there was a shortage of all classes of labour, particularly for mercantile work, many of those employed on which had been transferred to yards engaged on Admiralty contracts.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and of shipwrights, with 67,031 members, reported 0.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, compared with 0.8 per cent. a month ago and 1.8 per cent.

The percentage unemployed among the 246,027 work-people who were insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act at the end of March was 0.9, compared with 1.1 a month ago and 3.5 a year ago. The details for the various divisions are given in the following

Division.	Number	Percentage of Unem- ployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar, 1915, com- pared with a		
Division,	Insured.	26th Mar., 1915.	26th Feb., 1915.	27th Mar., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Northern Counties North Western Yorkshire East Midlands West Midlands West Midlands Western Wales South Western Wales Scotland Ireland	10,458 59,367 36,615 6,382 1,432 408 7,943 24,479 11,045 70,881 17,017	1.6 0.5 0.4 0.4 5.3 1.0 0.8 1.8 0.9 0.7 2.8	2·1 0·6 0·6 0·6 5·0 1·0 1·1 1·9 1·0 0·9 3·3	7·8 2·2 2·8 2·2 2·0 2·3 2·9 11·2 3·9 2·2 3·6	- 0.5 - 0.1 - 0.2 - 0.2 + 0.3 - 0.3 - 0.1 - 0.1 - 0.2 - 0.5	- 6·2 - 1·7 - 2·4 - 1·8 + 3·3 - 1·3 - 2·1 - 9·4 - 3·0 - 1·5 - 0·8	
UNITED KINGDOM	246,027	09	1:1	3.5	- 0.2	- 2.6	

MERCHANT VESSELS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to *Lloyd's Register* there were at the end of March decreases in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction of 39,849 tons gross (2.4 per cent.), compared with December, 1914, and of 303,389 (16.0 per cent.), compared with the end of March, 1914.

The sections of	End of	End of	End of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on		
District.	March, 1915.	Dec., 1914.	March, 1914.	Dec., 1914.	March, 1914.	
Clyde	Tons gross. 589,488 280,180 300,997 161,342 61,830 86,915 29,794 2,685 28,330 45,906	Tons gross. 592,731 329 050 267,226 187,051 71,610 72,035 25,437 2,685 32,634 46,857	Tons gross. 716,738 334,920 319 227 204,066 83,750 83,315 32,220 9,726 £6,699 £0,135	Tons gross. - 3,243 - 48,870 + 33,771 - 25,708 - 9,780 + 14,880 + 4,387 - 4,304 - 961	Tons gross. - 127,250 - 54,800 - 18,230 - 42,724 - 21,920 + 3,600 - 2,426 - 7,041 - 28,369 - 4,229	
TOTAL	1,587,467	1,627,316	1,890,856	- 39,849	- 303,389	

Compared with the previous quarter, the tonnage under construction showed a decrease in all the principal districts except the Tyne and the Tees. Compared with a year ago, there were substantial decreases in most districts, the Clyde showing an especially large decrease; only the Tees showed an increase. The Register points out that the rate of progress in merchant ship construction is very much reduced owing to the present circumstances, and that the immediate output is considerably less than would be the case under normal conditions.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

Most of the trades included in this group continued very busy during March. A good deal of overtime was worked, and in some cases a shortage of labour—especially skilled labour—was reported. Trade Unions with 33,644 members reported only 0.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, this being even less than in February, when the percentage was 0.8. The corresponding figure for a year ago was 1.6 per cent.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—Employment with brassworkers continued very good, and was much better than a year ago. Overtime was reported at Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, London and (except in the cycle trade) at Nottingham. At Exeter there was some short time, though employment was generally good. At Sheffield employment continued slack and was worse than a year ago. Bedstead makers at Birmingham worked overtime on Government orders and reported employment as better than either a month ago or a year ago.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails &c.—With makers of nuts, bolts, rivets and spikes at Black Heath and Halesowen employment was good, and at Darlaston it was fairly good; in both districts it showed some improvement on a month ago. At Birmingham and Smethwick nut and bolt makers were fully employed, and shoe rivet and wire nail makers were on overtime; but employment with cut nail makers was only fair. On the Tyne employment continued good.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups &c.—Most branches of the cutlery trades in Sheffield continued busy during March. Saw grinders, machine grinders, and file forgers (machine) reported an improvement on February, but some short time was still worked. With wool shear makers employment was still slack, short time being worked. At Wolverhampton, filesmiths reported employment as fair, and better than a month At Birmingham it continued moderate with edge tool makers; at Wednesbury it was good in the edge tool trade on military orders, but only fair in the ordinary edge tool trade and in the hoe trade. At Walsall it was good with bit and stirrup makers, and much better than a month ago; in the harness and saddlery furniture trade it continued slack. Fish-hook makers at Redditch reported employment as quiet, with short time; many of the workpeople in this trade have gone into other occupations. In the fishing tackle trade there was some improvement. With needle makers employment con-

Tubes.—At Wednesbury employment was good. At Birmingham makers of brass and copper tubes continued very busy, and much overtime was worked; there was a scarcity of skilled labour. In the other tube trades employment was good.

Chains, Anchors, Springs &c.—Employment was very good with chain makers at Cradley Heath and at South Hylton, better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. With anchor smiths it was also good. It was very good in the motor chain trade at Walsall. In the anvil and vice trades at Dudley only 3½ days per week were still being worked. Spring makers at West Bromwich and at Redditch continued well employed; at Wednesbury employment was also good. Employment was good with spring makers at Rotherham; at Sheffield men were finding employment in other trades.

Sheet Metal Workers.—Employment continued good at most of the principal centres, and much overtime was worked. Employment was quiet, however, at Nottingham and at Warrington, and with stampers and piercers at Wolverhampton; and some short time was worked at Exeter. Ironplate workers at the Lye and at Bilston, Dudley and Wolverhampton continued very busy. Employment was also good at Birmingham.

Wire.—Employment with wire workers continued fair, and was not so good as a year ago. Wire drawers at Sheffield and at Warrington reported employment as moderate, and at Halifax as fair, with short time at all three places. At Norwich employment was slack with

wire weavers, and worse than a year ago. Employment was good on the Tyne and Wear and at Manchester.

Locks, Hollow-ware &c.—In the lock and latch trade at Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment was fair, better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At Wolverhampton it was still slack with cast-iron hollow-ware makers, but very good with tin and enamelled hollow-ware makers. It was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, on builders' ironmongery; makers of galvanised tanks were well employed. Aluminium workers in the Potteries were fully employed.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—At Falkirk and Glasgow, and on the Tyne, employment continued very good; at Leeds and Luton it was fair; and at Rotherham and Thornaby it was slack, and worse than a year ago. In England generally about 30 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time.

Jewellery, Plated Ware &c.—With silversmiths and electro-platers at Birmingham employment, though still quiet, tended to improve, and less short time was worked than in February. With jewellers employment was fair, principally on the cheaper classes of goods. The gold and silver trades in London and Sheffield continued very depressed, and much short time was worked. In London a large number of operatives were employed in other occupations on Government work.

COTTON TRADE.

THERE was a further slight improvement in the cotton trade, chiefly in the weaving branch, during March; but employment was still below the level of a year ago. The trade as a whole worked about 49 hours a week on the average during March.

Firms spinning coarse counts were fairly well employed, but there was much slackness with those engaged on finer counts. Output was curtailed by the general shortage of male labour due to enlistment—a difficulty which has been partly met in the Bolton district by the introduction of girls as little piecers.

In the weaving branch about 18 per cent. of the looms were standing idle, and about 10 per cent. in addition were on short time at the end of March. There has been a gradual improvement since the beginning of the year, the corresponding figures for December being 37 per cent. and 27 per cent. respectively.

Returns from firms employing 100,765 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed and 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 6.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 7.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

	W	orkpeop	le.		Earnings.	id the
o association of	Week ended 27th	Inc. (+)	or Dec.	Week ended :27th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
Tallow the set to	Mar., 1915	Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing Spinning Weaving Other Not specified	12,865 21,007 47,978 8,387 10,528	Per cent. + 0·1 - 0·4 + 0·3 + 0·2 + 0·4	Per cent 4.8 - 8.6 - 4.3 - 5.3 - 12.8	£ 11,953 20,845 45,951 9,888 10,611	Per cent. + 1.5 + 1.4 + 5.4 + 0.6 + 3.1	Per cent 6·1 - 9·2 - 6·6 - 3·8 - 8·2
TOTAL	100,765	+ 0.1	- 6.3	99,248	+ 3.3	- 7.0
DISTRICTS.	-		1			
Ashton Stockport, Glossop and Hyde	5,768 6,275	+ 1.1 + 0.7	- 7·0 - 2·3	5,965 5,829	+ 2·2 + 6·3	- 6·2 - 4·5
Oldham Bolton and Leigh	11,250 12,327 8,096	- 0.2 + 0.4 - 0.6	- 2·2 - 5·1 - 7·4	12,004 11,394 8,323	- 0.2 + 3.3 + 4.6	- 4·4 - 1·2 - 9·5
Manchester Preston and Chorley Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen	9,169 9,868 13,793	- 1.8 + 0.4 + 0.4	- 3·1 - 11·2 - 4·8	7,798 9,084 14,515	+ 0.2 + 8.7 + 1.1	- 3·1 - 15·7 - 6·6
Burnley, Padiham, Colne and Nelson	10,511	+ 1.4	- 8.0	12,129	+ 5.1	- 9.2
Other Lancashire Towns Vorkshire Towns Other Districts	4,499 3,490 5,719	+ 0·3 + 1·0 - 0 9	- 12·2 - 14·3 - 5·2	3,768 3,296 5,143	+ 4·3 + 4·5 + 4·4	- 13·3 - 11·7 - 0·4
TOTAL	100,765	+ 0.1	- 6.3	99,248	+ 3.3	- 7:0

In the Oldham district employment continued fair, and the majority of the operatives were on full time during the month. Production was still affected by a shortage of male labour.

Employment in the Bolton district was fair, and better than a month ago. About 20 per cent. of the work-people covered by the returns were on short time, as compared with 24 per cent. last month. In the Manchester district overtime and nightwork were reported on Government contracts.

At Blackburn and Darwen employment with spinners was reported as fair; with weavers it was moderate and better than a month ago at Blackburn, but showed a falling off at the end of the month at Darwen.

In the Preston district employment with weavers was still slack; about 33 per cent. of the operatives were working reduced hours during the month, as compared with 40 per cent. a month ago.

A further improvement was shown in the Burnley district, but there was a good deal of short time and slackness. At the end of the month about 24 per cent. of the looms in the district were running 40 hours with full warps, 4 per cent. were running 34 hours with full warps, while the remainder were only partially employed or standing idle.

PRICES OF COTTON AT LIVERPOOL.

The price of Egyptian cotton continued to rise during March, and the average for the month was 7.09d. per lb., or .61d. higher than in February; it was still, however, over 1½d. lower than the average for March, 1914. At the beginning of the month the price was 6.55d., and the rise continued steadily throughout, until the price at the end was 7.60d. American cotton also showed an almost continuous rise from 4.95d. at the beginning to 5.52d. at the end, and the average was 5.22d., or .21d. higher than in February, but over 1¾d. lower than the average for March, 1914.

The following Table shows the average prices of cotton at Liverpool in March, 1915, compared with those in February, 1915, and in March, 1914:—

anial all to Jun 187 th	March, 1915	Inc. (+) or March,	Dec. (-) in 1915, on a
resided ones a month	March, 1910	Month ago.	Year ago.
MIDDLING AMERICAN:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Monthly average of Daily Quota-	5.22	+ 0.51	- 1.83
Highest price on any one day Lowest ", " " GOOD FAIR EGYPTIAN:	5.52	+ 0.41 + 0.03	- 1.69 - 2.02
Monthly average of Daily Quota- tions	7 09	+ 0.61	- 1.55
Highest price on any one day	7·60 6.55	+ 1 05 + 0 25	- 1 25 - 1·90

COTTON FORWARDED FROM PORTS TO INLAND TOWNS.

The receipts of cotton at inland towns during March fell by about 0.7 per cent. as compared with February, but compared with March, 1914, there was an increase of 4.8 per cent., almost entirely due to the large increase in the receipts of American cotton:—

	Mar, Feb.,		Mar.,	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a		
Description of Cotton.	1915.	1915.	1914.	Month ago,	Year ago.	
American	Bales. 277,972 5,372 10,461 31,933 7,216	Pales. 284,605 6,494 5,869 31,867 6,357	Bales. 244,979 19,128 6,979 34,474 12,086	Bales 6,633 - 1,122 + 4,592 + 66 + 859	Bales. + 32,993 - 13,756 + 3,482 - 2,541 - 4,870	
TOTAL	332,954	335,192	317,646	- 2,238	+ 15,308	

EXPORTS OF COTTON MANUFACTURES.

The exports of cotton yarns showed a decrease of 22 per cent. as compared with March, 1914. This is almost entirely accounted for by the cessation of exports to Germany, which was one of the largest buyers. Compared with a month ago also there was some decline, chiefly owing to a decrease in exports to the Netherlands, which now takes almost one-third of the total quantity exported. The exports

of cotton piece goods only amounted to about 41 per cent. of the exports in March, 1914. Exports to almost all countries declined, but the decrease was most noticeable in the case of Turkey, which used to be a large importer, and in the cases of China and of India. The exports of cotton sewing thread were 1,615,600 lb., compared with 1,872,400 lb. a year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

WOOLLEN TRADE.

ALL available labour was fully employed during the month, largely on Government contracts; and employment was much better than a year ago, especially in the spinning branch. The average earnings per head of those employed have risen from 18s. 8d. in July to 21s. 6d. in March

There was a general shortage of labour in every district, especially of night workers. For Scotland the figures again show a large decline in numbers employed compared with a year ago, partly owing to enlistments.

Returns from firms employing 24,313 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed but an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 13.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 22 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were working overtime during the month, as compared with 27 per cent. during February:—

	Workpeople.				Earnings.	
257 <u> </u>	Week		(+) or -) on a	Week ended	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DFPARTMENTS. Wool Sorting	572 5,869 9,604 6,289 1,979 24,313	Per cent. + 2·0 + 1 0 - 1 0 - 0·9 + 0·2 - 0·3	Per cent 4.8 + 14.4 + 1.4 - 8.1 + 0.2 + 1.2	£ 641 6,627 9,534 7,560 2 078 26,140	Per cent. + 3.9 + 2.8 + 1.5 + 3.0 + 1.4 + 2.3	Per cent. + 46 + 32.8 + 10.7 + 5.0 + 11.5
DISTRICTS. Huddersfield District Leeds District Dewsbury & Batley District Other Parts of West Riding	3,844 2,673 2,586 2,580	+ 0.6 - 1.1 - 2.2 + 2.6	+11·2 + 5·4 + 1·9 + 8·9	4,945 3,091 2,922 2,980	+ 5·0 + 0·3 - 2·1 - 3·7	+29·7 +21·0 +10·2 +22·3
Scotland Other Districts	11,683 6,113 6,517	+ 00 - 2·3 + 10	+ 7·2 - 13·6 + 7·7	13,938 5,978 6,224	+ 2·1 + 0·6 + 4·5	+ 22·3 - 8·3 + 22 6
TOTAL	24,313	- 03	+ 1.2	26,1.0	+ 2.3	+ 13.7

All the manufacturers in the Huddersfield district are still principally engaged in making Army cloth, and many of them are running their machinery day and night. In the heavy woollen district employment was not quite so brisk as a month ago, but was much better than last year; about 21 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns worked overtime during the month as compared with 39 per cent. during February.

At Leeds employment continued very good, and at most of the mills overtime was worked until 8 p.m.; production, however, was slightly curtailed owing to some delay in the delivery of yarns. Some large orders have been placed in this district for blue-greys for the French Government.

In Scotland employment continued good, but less overtime was reported than during February, 8 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns being thus affected as compared with 15 per cent. a month ago.

WORSTED TRADE.

Employment was good during March, and better than a month ago and a year ago. A considerable shortage of labour was reported, especially of men for nightwork, milling and scouring.

Returns from firms employing 36,664 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 4.7

per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 12 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on overtime during March, as compared with 14 per cent. in February:—

April, 1915.

	V	Vorkpeop	ole.	1	Earnings	
	Week ended 27th	Inc. Dec. ((+) or -) on a	Week ended 27th	Inc. ((+) or -) on a
	Mar. 1915	Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Wool Sorting & Combing Spinning Weaving Other Departments Not specified	4,546 18,224 8,182 3.712 2,090 36,664	Per cent. + 3·0 + 0·4 + 1·6 + 4·0 + 4·0 + 1·1	Per cent 2.8 - 2.0 - 1.1 - 8.6 + 6.4 - 2.2	£ 5,460 12,167 8,141 4,300 1,704	Per cent. + 10 6 + 5·1 + 8·1 + 7·0 + 1·2 + 6·8	Per cent. + 37 + 69 + 36 + 1.5 + 62 + 4.7
DISTRICTS. Bradford District Keighley District Halifax District Huddersfield District Other Parts of West Riding TOTAL, WEST RIDING Other Districts TOTAL	19,667 5,919 2,681 3,750 2,250 34,207 2,357	+ 1·2 + 2·1 + 0·6 + 1·3 + 0·6 + 1·3 - 1·0 + 1·1	- 1.8 - 0.6 + 0.7 - 4.6 - 1.0 - 1.6 - 9.6 - 2.2	17,257 5,206 2,103 3 655 1,771 29,992 1,780	+ 8·1 + 7·9 + 3·1 + 5·1 + 4·7 + 7·1 + 2·1	+ 40 + 65 + 8.8 + 5.8 + 8.7 + 5.2 - 3.6

At Bradford there was an improvement in every department compared with a month ago, and a good deal of overtime and night work were reported. At Keighley employment continued good, and was better than a month ago; about 22 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime, as compared with 20 per cent. a month ago. At Halifax the improvement shown as compared with a year ago was in the spinning department; about 17 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime, as compared with 11 per cent. during January and February.

In the Huddersfield district employment continued good, and there was an improvement in both spinning and weaving as compared with both periods under review.

PRICES OF WOOL AT BRADFORD.

The average price of wool (Lincoln hoggs) at Bradford in March showed a further increase of nearly 2d. per lb. on that for February, which was itself a record price. The average prices of tops were also higher by $2\frac{1}{2}d$. and 2d. respectively. Never before, so far as the records of the Department show, except in February, has the price for 40's crossbred tops exceeded 20d. per lb.:—

2 5 M (C -22 10)	Crossbred tops		Mar., 1915.	Feb., 1915	Mar., 1914.
AVERAGE PRICES: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops			Pence per lb. 111/2 241/2 31	Pence per lb. 15% 22 29	Pence per lb. 1234 165% 294
COURSE OF PRICES: Lincoln Hoggs 40's Crossbred tops 60's Super Botany tops			17, 18 23, 26 30, 32	14¾ 17 21, 23 28, 30	123/ ₄ 163/ ₄ , 161/ ₂ 291/ ₂

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The imports of wool in March, 1915, amounted to over 134 million lb., and exceeded by over 44 million lb. the imports in March, 1914. They were also considerably in excess of those in February, 1915. Re-exports fell from 37 million lb. in March, 1914, to 8 million lb. in March, 1915. Exports of British and Irish wool amounted to 2,285,800 lb., as compared with 3,669,000 lb. a year ago. Hence the total amount available for consumption exceeded that for March, 1914, by $74\frac{1}{3}$ million lb., a much greater excess than even in January and February.

Exports of tops and woollen and worsted yarns fell from about 9 million lb. to about 2 million, chiefly owing to the cessation of export to Germany. The exports of woollen tissues amounted to 7,774,900 yards, as compared with 6,615,400 yards a month ago. Exports to enemy countries had ceased, and to most other countries had decreased; but this was more than counterbalanced by the increase in exports to France, which rose from some 320,000 yards to over 4 million yards. Exports of worsted tissues amounted to 4,071,700 yards, as compared with 6,193,100 yards in March, 1914, the decrease being due chiefly to the falling off in exports to the United States, by far the largest importer.

LINEN TRADE.

THERE was a little improvement in the linen trade on a month ago, but short time continued general. In both Ireland and Scotland employment was much worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 43,018 workpeople in the week ended 27th March, 1915, showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed but an increase of 3.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 6.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 10.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

	W	orkpeop	le.		Earnings	1.
	Week ended 27th	Inc. (+) or Dec.	Week ended 27th) or Dec. on a
(A) + Set + Set of 1	Mar 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Маг., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
DEPARTMENTS. Preparing Spinning Weavin Other Not specified TOTAL	5,844 10.914 13,848 6,600 5,812 43,018	Per cent 0.6 - 0.7 - 0.8 - 0.6 - 0.9 - 0.7	Per cent 72 - 4:1 - 8:7 - 4:3 - 8:7 - 6:7	£ 3,431 5,499 8,748 5,496 3,190 26,363	Per cent. + 56 + 7.4 + 2.3 + 2.8 + 2.5 + 3.9	Per cent 9.7 - 7.2 - 14.6 - 4.5 - 15.3
DISTRICTS. Belfast	17,654 13,289	- 0·5 - 2·0	- 5·4 - 7·9	10 664 7 369	+ 5·1 + 3·9	- 10·5 - 12·5
TOTAL, IRELAND	30.943	- 1.1	- 6.5	18,033	+ 4.6	- 11.3
Other places in Scotland	5.771 5,591	+ 03	- 4·8 - 7·1	3 712 4 125	- 0·2 + 4·0	- 12·7 - 4·2
TOTAL, SCOTLAND	11 362	+ 0.1	- 60	7,837	+ 2.0	- 8.4
England	713	+ 4.1	- 22.7	493	+ 7.9	- 18:1
UNITED KINGDOM	43 018	- 0.7	- 67	26,363	+ 3.9	- 10.6

At Belfast employment was still much worse than a year ago, but was rather better than a month ago. Short time continued general, and nearly all the operatives covered by the returns were working from 6 to 25½ hours less than normal. With flax dressers employment was dull, and worse than a month ago; with flax roughers it was fair, mainly owing to enlistment. In other parts of Ireland short time continued general, but employment was rather better than a month ago.

At Dunfermline the home trade continued good, and all workpeople were fairly busy. At Brechin employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago.

The *imports* of flax were about half those in March, 1914; imports of tow, however, were slightly larger than a year ago. This represents, taking the two together, an improvement of nearly 90 per cent. as compared with February, almost entirely due to increased imports from Russia. Imports of linen yarn fell from over 2 million b. in March last year to 22,000 lb.

Exports of linen piece-goods amounted to 10,059,000 yards, or 53 per cent. of those for March, 1914. This decline is mainly accounted for by the decrease in exports to the United States, which usually amount to two-thirds of the total. Exports to France increased largely.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in the principal districts, and a scarcity of labour was reported at Dundee. In some cases overtime was worked on Government contracts.

Returns from firms employing 13,554 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 5.2 per cent. in the number employed but an increase of 13.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. The comparison in wages with a month ago is affected by the concession of a war bonus in the Dundee district during March, and that with a year ago by the bonus and also by an increase in rates of wages in February, 1915.

In the Dundee district, in which are employed 91 per cent. of the total number of workpeople covered by the

returns, employment was very good; and in some cases there was, in spite of the introduction of old men to fill the places of younger ones, insufficient labour to keep the machinery going. At Arbroath, Forfar and Kirkcaldy also employment continued good, and in all districts overtime was worked on Government contracts for bags, sacking, tarpaulin, &c .:-

132

		Workpeople.			Earnings.		
de la communicación de la		Week ended	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week	Inc. (Dec. (-	
		27th Mar. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Spinning Weaving	s	2,963 3,746 4,840 2,000 13,554	Per cent. + 0.9 + 0.9 + 0.7 + 0.2	Per cent 9·1 - 4·0 - 5·9 + 0·6	£ 2.825 3.229 4.797 2.471	Per cent. + 13·1 + 13·4 + 14·1 + 8·3 + 12·6	Per cent. + 12.2 + 13.3 + 13.9 + 16.9 - 13.9

The quantity of jute imported during March was nearly twice that imported during February, and nearly three times the amount imported during March, 1914.

Exports of jute piece goods amounted to 13,722,000 yards, showing a further great improvement on February, and being nearly equal to the exports in March, 1914.

SILK TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was better than in February, but showed a marked decline on a year ago. A number of firms reported difficulty in obtaining delivery of raw materials, and employment was also affected by the high prices of

Returns from firms employing 6,436 workpeople in the week ended 27th March, 1915, showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 7.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 9.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:-

The state of the	W	orkpeopl	e.	of the land	Earnings.			
· ·	Week	Inc. (Dec. (-		Week ended	Inc. (- Dec. (-			
-galayna, halin ili sa	27th Mar., 1915	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago		
BRANCHES. Throwing Spinning Weaving Other Not specified	650 1,643 2,852 461 830	Per cent 11 - 02 + 12 + 34 + 52	Per cent 16·7 - 9·1 - 2·5 - 16 2 - 4·6	£ 317 1,312 1,911 445 740	Per cent 03 + 1.7 + 25 + 16.2 + 7.9	Per cent 15·2 - 14·4 - 9 2 - 12 4 + 7·4		
TOTAL	6 436	+ 1.2	- 71	4,725	+ 40	- 9.3		
DISTRICTS. Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	1,961	+ 0.2	- 64	1,642	+ 45	- 11-3		
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	490	- 1.8	- 14.9	387	+ 4.0	- 15.9		
Eastern Counties	2,350 1,635	+ 3.1 + 0.7	- 2·5 - 11·7	1 661 1,035	+ 3.9 + 3.5	- 13.9		
TOTAL	6,436	+ 12	- 7.1	4,725	+ 40	- 9:		

At Macclesfield employment with throwsters and spinners was good. With power loom weavers it was also good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Certain firms continued busy during the month on Admiralty orders for black silk squares; in consequence there was some shortage of labour, and overtime was worked. In the making-up trade employment was slack. With hand loom weavers in factories it was bad, but with outside hand loom weavers it was fair.

At Leek employment with throwsters and spinners was good; with trimming weavers, pickers and twisters it was fair. At Congleton all branches were reported as fairly well employed. In the Lancashire and West Riding district employment showed a further improvement, only about 15 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns being on short

February. In the Eastern counties employment continued fair, rather better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At Coventry employment continued moderate with artificial silk workers and fair with ribbon

Imports of silk broadstuffs showed a great decline as compared with March, 1914; imports of broadstuffs partly composed of silk, however, showed a great

Exports of broadstuffs wholly of silk increased greatly, while those of broadstuffs partly made of silk showed a considerable decline.

HOSIERY TRADE.

THE demand for naval and military requirements kept a great deal of machinery running to its full capacity during March. There was some slackness in the fine branch of the trade, but employment on the whole was better than a year ago. Production was still affected by the shortage in the supply of needles and yarn.

Returns from firms employing 21,188 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 8.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:

Anches to engle	W	orkpeopl	e.	NE OIL	Earnings.		
District.	Week	ed Dec. (-) on a		Week	Inc. (Dec. (-	inc. (+) or ec. (-) on a	
	27th Mar. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar. 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Leicester Leicester Country District Notts and Derbyshire Scotland Other Districts	10,860 2,440 5,058 2,543 287	Per cent. + 1.9 + 0.4 + 0.9 + 0.2 - 5.0	Per cent. + 5·1 - 1·0 + 4·9 + 5·6 - 8·0	£ 9,724 2,029 3,952 2,134 199	Per cent. + 2.9 + 4.3 + 2.6 + 0.6 - 2.5	Per cent. + 11.7 + 0.8 + 3.1 + 11.9 - 2.9	
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	21,188	+ 1.2	+ 4.1	18,038	+ 2.7	+ 8.2	

At Leicester employment continued very good with makers of Army and Navy goods; in the finer and fancy branches of the trade it was below normal owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable yarn: a scarcity of girl labour was reported in this town. At Hinckley employment was good on Government contracts and seamless hose, and fairly good on fashioned hose; at Loughborough the operatives were fairly busy. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment was fair with power-frame workers, about 20 per cent. of the operatives were losing one to three days per week, and about 15 per cent. were on overtime to the extent of 5 to 8 hours per week. With hand-frame workers in the country districts of Nottinghamshire, who are mainly employed on fine hosiery work, employment was bad, only about half time being worked during the month.

In Scotland employment continued good and was much better than a year ago.

LACE TRADE.

THERE was an improvement in this trade as compared with a month ago, especially in the levers and plain net branches, but it was still much worse than a year ago.

At Nottingham there was a great deal of short and irregular time in all sections, about one-third of the operatives covered by the returns working reduced hours during the month; there was, however, a general improvement on a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decline. Recruiting has reduced the number of unemployed in this district. At Long Eaton employment showed an improvement on a month ago, but was much worse than a year ago; about 43 per cent. of the operatives reported on, chiefly in the levers branch, were on short time in March, compared with 50 per cent. in February and 64 per cent. in January. In time during March as compared with 35 per cent, during I other parts of England there was an improvement on a

month ago, but a marked decline on a year ago; short time was worked during March by 37 per cent. of the workpeople reported on; in February the corresponding percentage was 44.

Returns from firms employing 7,050 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 6.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 17.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 24.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	V	Vorkpeor	ole.		Earnings	
	Week ended 27th	Inc. ((+) or -) on a	Week ended 27th	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
end trade one	Mar., 1915	Month ago.	Year ago.	Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES. Levers	1,964 1,421 2,692 435 538	Per cent 0.2 + 0.3 + 2.0 + 1.2 + 1.5	Per cent 26·2 - 17·5 - 16·5 + 18·5 - 2·0	£ 1,872 1,454 2,346 375 414	Per cent. + 8.6 + 1.1 + 9.5 + 5.3 + 1.7	Per cent 35.7 - 20.5 - 25.2 + 11.9 + 8.7
TOTAL	7,050	+ 1.0	- 17:3	6,461	+ 65	- 24.8
DISTRIOTS. Nottingham City Long Eaton and other outlying districts Other Districts	3,095 939 3,016	+ 1·2 + 0·4 + 0·9	- 8·7 - 30·2 - 20·4	2,696 1,114 2,651	+ 5·9 + 10·7 + 5·4	- 11·8 - 40·9 - 27·5
TOTAL	7,050	+ 1.0	- 17:3	6,461	+ 6.5	- 24.8

The exports of cotton lace in March were £194,549, or less than half the exports in March, 1914; the imports of cotton lace fell from £176,121 to £94,223. The imports of silk lace were practically nil, but the exports (almost entirely to the United States) rose from £2,424 to £11,720.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in this trade showed an improvement during March as compared with February, though it was much worse than a year ago. A number of firms continued busy on Government orders for goods other than carpets, but the regular carpet trade also improved. It was reported that the high prices of dye stuffs and other raw materials had a serious adverse effect on the trade.

Returns from firms employing 7,179 workpeople and paying £6,522 in wages in the week ended 27th March howed an increase of 4.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 7.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 12.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 15.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 20 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns were on short time during both February and March.

In the Kidderminster district there was but little short time, and manufacturers had a fair amount of work, though there was not anything approaching a full output of carpets. The output of military blankets, however, continued to the full extent of the producing power. The yarn trade was affected by difficulties in obtaining supplies and by a shortage of labour.

In the West Riding employment continued about the same. A number of looms were occupied on goods other than carpets, thus reducing, to some extent, the amount of unemployment amongst carpet workers.

In Scotland employment was good, and better than a

The *imports* of carpets and carpet rugs in March were 46,265 square yards, showing a further advance on February: they were still, however, less than a quarter of the imports in March, 1914.

Exports of carpets and carpet rugs during March amounted to 398,500 square yards, as compared with 451,500 square yards in February and 721,100 square yards in March, 1914.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades showed a further improvement, but was worse than a year ago. Government contracts provided full employment and some overtime in certain of the dyeing and finishing branches, but in other sections short time and total unemployment were reported. Unemployment, however, was relieved by enlistment, and in some sections there was a shortage of labour.

Returns from firms employing 25,006 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 11.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 9.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

	V	Workpeo	ple.	8300	Earnings.		
Application of the same of the	Week) or Dec. on a	Week			
10 (4) DEL DESEMBLE	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
TRADES: Bleaching Printing Dyeing Trimming, Finishing and other Departments Not specified TOTAL	3,031 764 12,213 8 019 989	Per cent. + 04 - 1.8 + 2.4 + 1.1 + 1.6 + 1.6	cent. + 0 4 - 12·2 - 1·8 - 13·0 + 2·4 - 11·4 + 1·1 - 11·2 + 1·6 - 9·1	£ 3,308 854 17,592 9,189 1 393 32,336	Per cent. + 7·2 - 0·2 + 2·9 + 6·1 + 6·8 + 4·3	Per cent 8.8 - 23.3 - 10.6 - 8.0 + 4.7 - 9.5	
DISTRICTS: Yorkshire Lancashire Scotland Ireland Other Districts	11,545 7,265 2,499 823 2,874	+ 2·7 + 1·4 - 0·8 - 3·5 + 1·3	- 9·8 - 14·3 - 12·8 - 15·3 - 7·4	16,974 9,035 2,413 628 3,286	+ 26 + 8·6 + 2·1 - 1·7 + 4·3	- 80 - 12·1 - 9·4 - 22·3 - 7·2	
TOTAL	25,006	+ 1.6	- 11.4	32,336	+ 4.3	- 9.5	

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire showed a further improvement compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. At Basford employment with lace workers was better than last month, and in the hosiery section some overtime was reported; on the whole employment in this district was better than a year ago. At Dundee operatives continued fairly well employed.

Printing.—Employment with machine calico printers and engravers in England was very slack and much worse than a year ago; there was, however, a slight improvement in some districts compared with a month ago. In Scotland employment was reported as fair with machine printers and block printers, but very slack with engravers and calico printers; the various shops in the last-mentioned section were only working 30 to 40 hours per week. The machine printers reported a shortage of labourers. owing to enlistment.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers was reported as fair, and better than a month ago, although worse than a year ago. About 43 per cent. of the Trade Union dyers were on short time during the month, and about 38 per cent. were on overtime on Government contracts; the corresponding figures for February were 54 per cent. and 27 per cent. respectively. With cotton dyers in Lancashire and Yorkshire employment was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. With silk dyers at Macclesfield and Leek employment was good; at Congleton it was bad. With lace and hosiery dyers at Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell, overtime was reported and employment was better than a year ago.

Trimming, Finishing, &c .- At Leicester employment with hosiery trimmers, &c., was slack, except in the dressed department, where it was fairly good. At Hinckley it was fairly good, but not so good as a month ago. At Loughborough only about three-quarter time was worked in the half-hose and stocking departments. but in the heavy branches of the trade employment was fairly good. At Basford employment continued fair. Calender workers at Dundee were reported to be very busy, especially women machinists.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

134

In consequence of the continued pressure of Government orders employment in March remained very good. It was slightly better on the whole than in February, and much better than a year ago. There was very little unemployment, either total or partial; on the contrary, overtime was general, and the amount of wages paid, compared with a year ago, showed a substantial increase in most districts.

Returns from firms employing 64,225 workpeople in the week ended 27th March, showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with February; as compared with March, 1914, there was, owing to enlistments, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed but an increase of 12.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

The state of the s	V	Vorkpeop	le.	Earnings.			
District.	Week	Inc. (Dec. (-		Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES. London Leicester Country District Northampton Northampton Country District Kettering Stafford & District Norwich & District Norwich & District Norwich & District Leeds & District Manchester & District Simmingham & District Other parts of England and Wales	2,305 12,085 3,194 10,158 9,520 4,085 2,787 4,179 1,604 2,073 2,367 3,186 979 2,049	Per cent. + 1'9 + 0'0 + 1'5 + 0'7 + 0'3 + 2'0 + 1'1 + 1'1 + 1'5 - 2'3 - 1'4 + 1'7 - 0'6	Per cent 6.3 + 1.2 - 0.5 - 0.6 + 2.1 - 6.8 + 7.9 1 + 2.0 - 2.6 - 5.5	2,917 15,825 3,636 12,396 11,260 5,088 3,055 3,932 1,707 2,384 2,784 2,784 2,784 2,784 2,784 2,784 2,784	Per cent. + 5.5 + 3.26 + 1.8 + 6.9 + 10.0 + 3.1 + 2.3 + 2.4 + 4.7 - 0.3	Per cent. + 5: + 13: + 13: + 17: + 18: + 2: - 4: + 30: + 17: + 9: + 7: + 3:	
ENGLAND & WALES	60,571	+ 0.4	- 03	71,123	+ 3.9	+ 12	
SCOTLAND	3,321 333	- 1·5 + 1·2	- 1·0 - 9·5	3,865 245	- 0·1 + 1·2	+ 8	
UNITED KINGDOM	€4,225	+ 0.3	- 0.4	75,233	+ 3.7	+12	

The only important exceptions to the general state of employment as described above were:—

Employment was said to have improved considerably in West London as compared with February. In the Leicester district female closing machinists were reported as being hindered by the scarcity of male labour in the lasting and finishing departments; clickers and pressmen were only moderately employed at Norwich. At Manchester employment was only moderate, except on army work.

Exports of boots and shoes amounted during March to 130,855 dozen pairs, as compared with 154,025 dozen pairs in March, 1914. There was a considerable decline in exports to most countries, but those to France increased nearly five-fold.

LEATHER TRADES.

MUCH overtime continued to be worked on Government orders, and employment was again very good, and much better than a year ago.

Trade Unions with a membership of 4,481 reported 1.3 per cent. unemployed at the end both of March and of February, 1915, compared with 5.7* per cent. at the end of March, 1914. Most of the workpeople unemployed were skinners or finishers of light leather.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Leather Dressers etc.— Employment with tanners and curriers continued very good on Government orders. With skinners and finishers of light leather it was fair on the whole and better than a month ago.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment continued very good, with much overtime, on Government orders

Miscellaneous Trades.—Workpeople ordinarily employed in the making of purses, handbags, portmanteaux, etc., were fully employed upon Government work.

The *imports* of raw hides during March, 1915, showed an increase from 118,428 cwts. to 163,878 cwts., and of undressed leather from 79,079 cwts. to 119,766 cwts. Imports of dressed leather also showed a considerable increase. *Exports* of leather and manufactures thereof, on the other hand, showed a decline in value of about 62 per cent.

HAT TRADE.

DURING March employment in the silk hat trade continued bad in London and the provincial centres, and much short time was reported; compared with a year ago there was a marked decline.

In the felt hat trade employment was very slack, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago; comparison with a year ago is affected by the fact that a considerable number of felt hatters have enlisted or obtained work in the engineering or other trades. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 2.7, compared with 4.8 a month ago and 5.2 a year ago.

At Denton employment was reported as quiet, about 75 per cent. of the operatives being on short time as compared with 90 per cent. a month ago; at Stockport employment was bad, but better than a month ago, 80 per cent. of the operatives being on short time as compared with 100 per cent. last month. In Warwickshire employment continued very quiet, and was much worse than a year ago.

Imports of hats showed a large increase on February, and also exceeded those in March, 1914. Exports amounted to 89,163 dozen, compared with 99,188 dozen in February and 129,089 dozen in March, 1914.

TAILORING TRADE.

BESPOKE.

London.—Employment showed a further seasonal improvement during March, but was considerably worse than a year ago; the military trade was fairly good, but the general trade was poor.

Returns from firms paying £9,764 to their work-people (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 27th March showed an increase of 15.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 10.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Liverpool employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Glasgow there was also an improvement, and some overtime was reported. At Belfast employment was good, and showed an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago.

READY-MADE AND WHOLESALE BESPOKE.

Employment continued very brisk, and was very much better than a year ago, especially in London, Manchester, and the North and West Midland district.

Returns from firms employing 36,718 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 27th March 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 12.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 27.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Fifty-four per cent. of the operatives were reported to be working more than the normal hours during March, as compared with 55 per cent. during February.

	Indoor Workpeople.								
		Number		Earnings.					
District.	Week ended Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a				
	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago			
Leeds	10.704	Per cent.		£.	Percent	Percent.			
Manchester Other places in York- shire, Lancs & Cheshire	10,784 2,321 5,461	- 0.2 - 5.1 + 0.6	+ 1 0 +42·3 + 8·4	10,036 2,253 5,030	+ 2·2 - 8·5 + 7·1	+ 6.5 +42.1 +19.7			
Bristol North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	2,105 4,058	- 0·5 - 0·6	- 2·5 +11·9	1,657 3,760	+ 4·4 + 8·3	+ 9·0 +40·8			
outh Midland & Eastern Counties	2,815	+ 3.5	+ 4.0	2,692	+ 5.9	+11.3			
ondon	3,941 2,411 2,822	+ 2·2 + 0·2 + 3·8	+59·4 + 8·4 +26·1	4,850 2,225 2,244	+ 42 - 0·1 + 5·5	+125·4 +33·2 +37 0			
OTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	36,718	+ 04	+12.0	34,757	+ 3.4	+27.4			

April, 1915.

The outworkers employed by the above firms received over £8,000 in wages in the week ended 27th March, showing an increase of 10 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 134 per cent. compared with a year

At Leeds employment continued very good; nearly half the operatives covered by the returns were still working overtime during the month. Outworkers' earnings showed an increase of 37 per cent. compared with a year ago. There was still a difficulty in securing all the female labour required in this district. At Manchester there was not so much pressure as a month ago, but employment was much better than a year ago, the numbers employed and the wages paid both showing increases of over 40 per cent. as compared with that date. At Liverpool, Hebden Bridge, and Huddersfield employment was good on army work, and the civilian trade showed an improvement. At Wigan employment, on the whole, was only fairly good.

At Bristol employment continued good, except with outworkers engaged on vests, etc., who reported employment as only moderate. At Stroud overtime was worked on Government contracts, and also on the ordinary spring trade. At Walsall and Tamworth employment continued good.

At Norwich there was less overtime than a month ago, but there was a great improvement compared with last year. At Colchester all the clothing factories were on full time, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked.

In London there was an increase of 59 per cent. in the number of indoor workers and of 125 per cent. in their wages compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid to outworkers showed an increase of 292 per cent. compared with March, 1914.

At Glasgow employment continued good, and half the operatives were working overtime.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was good with makers of army shirts but bad in the collar department, and only moderate in the white shirt branch. Compared with a month ago, there was a general improvement, and compared with a year ago there was an improvement on the whole in England and Scotland, but a decline in Ireland. A scarcity of workers was reported in several districts, especially of women machinists in the Manchester district.

Returns from firms employing 21,623 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 5.1 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, but an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

	Indoo	or Workp	eople.	Earnings.			
District.	Week Inc. (+) or nded Dec. (-) on a		Week en ted	en ted Dec. (
	27th 11 rch, 1915.	Mon h	Year ago.	27th March, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
London Manchester Rest of Yorkshire, Lanca- shire and Cheshire.	5,389 3,491 2,149	rer cent. + 0·1 + 0·9 + 2·0	rer cent. - 3.9 + 9.2 + 11.4	4,198 2,913 1,404	rer cent. + 5.7 + 2.7 + 7.3	rer cent. - 04 + 15.2 + 10.3	
Lest of England and Wales hargow	1,889 1,514 2,836 2,861 850 644	+ 1·2 + 0·2 - 0·4 + 0·2 - 1·2 + 4·0	- 5·7 - 3·3 - 6·8 - 7·6 - 8·8 + 9·3	1,247 1,016 2,048 1,604 597 285	+ 5·2 + 5·2 + 6·4 + 4·2 + 5·5 + 2·9	- 4.4 - 3.0 + 4.9 - 12.3 - 10.1 + 8.0	
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	21,623	+ 0.6	- 1.5	15,312	+ 5.1	+ 1.5	

In London employment was moderate on the whole, but not so good as a year ago. It was good with makers of army shirts but bad in the collar branch; about 14 per cent. of the workers were on short time during the month.

In Manchester employment was good, and much better han a year ago, the wages paid showing an increase of 15 per cent.

In the South-Western Counties employment was fair on the whole, but rather slack with collar workers at Bideford and Exeter.

At Glasgow employment was affected by transport lifficulties, but was fairly good; about 12 per cent. of he workers were on short time during March.

In Londonderry and Belfast employment was worse han a year ago; it was good with army shirt workers, out bad in the collar department, and only moderate in the white shirt branch; about 23 per cent. of the workers were on short time at the former place and about 27 per cent. at the latter.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

RETURNS from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West End, employing 2,322 dressmakers in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 18.3 per cent. In the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 15.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Only about 18 per cent. of the workpeople were on short time, as compared with 52 per cent. a month ago.

With Court and private dressmakers there was also a seasonal improvement. Firms employing 1,192 work-people in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 20.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 28.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 17 per cent. of the operatives were on short time, as compared with 53 per cent. during February.

With milliners in the West End employment showed a seasonal improvement, and was fair, although not so good as a year ago. Practically no short time was worked during the month, and several firms reported a scarcity of labour.

MANTLE, COSTUME, BLOUSE, ETC., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing, and millinery trades, firms in London employing 5,175 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 4.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 10 per cent. of the workpeople, chiefly in the blouse and costume branches, worked overtime during the month.

Every branch showed an improvement compared with a month ago, except the mantle branch, which was still hampered by difficulty in obtaining materials. A scarcity of workers, especially machinists, was reported.

At Manchester firms employing 5,182 workpeople in the week ended 27th March in the costume, blouse, mantle, etc., trades showed an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago

and of 6.3 per cent. c mpared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good: about 26 per cent. of the workpeople were on overtime during the month, and full time was worked by the remainder. Workers engaged on Government work were busy, and the ordinary trade showed an improvement. There was some difficulty in obtaining material, and the supply of female labour was insufficient.

136

At Glasgow employment in the mantle, costume, and underclothing trades continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 2,263 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 8.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. About 12 per cent. of the workpeople were on overtime during March, as compared with 11 per cent. during February, and no short time was reported. Employment was somewhat affected by difficulty in getting material delivered.

CORSET TRADE.

Returns from corset manufacturers, mainly in England, employing 5,943 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 27th March showed an increase of 4.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was good; about 14 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns were on overtime during the month, as compared with 12 per cent. in February. Output was still restricted by transport difficulties and by a deficiency of men and women workers.

WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES.

MILL SAWING AND MACHINING.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, and showed little change in general as compared with the previous month; it was better than a year ago. Overtime on Government work was reported from some districts, but in others men were losing time.

The percentage unemployed at the end of the month among workpeople engaged in mill sawing, and insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, was 1.4, as compared with 1.5 in February, and 3.5 in March, 1914.

Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 7,054 reported 1.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 1.4 per cent. in February, and 2.1 per cent. in March, 1914.

The most important exceptions to the general state of employment as described above were:—

Employment at Birmingham was especially good in railway and wagon shops. In the Potteries district 50 per cent. of the men were on three-quarter time. Employment was slack at Hull, quiet at Bradford and Preston, and bad at Dublin.

The *imports* of hewn and sawn timber showed an increase of 20,461 loads (or 6 per cent.) on a year ago, the total for March, 1915, being 348,498 loads.

FURNISHING.

Employment in the furnishing trades was on the whole fair, and showed an improvement on the previous month. With cabinetmakers Government orders provided a good deal of employment in certain districts. Employment with upholsterers was reported generally as fair, but with short time at several centres.

Trade Unions with a total membership of 17,704 reported 4.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 6.5 per cent. a month ago, and 1.8 per cent. a year ago.

The chief exceptions to the general state of employment were as follows:—At Birmingham and Dundee employment was reported as very good, with overtime on Government work at the latter town. Overtime was worked by shopfitters at Leeds. A shortage of labour was reported from London in the cabinetmaking trades.

On the other hand, short time was worked in the Potteries district and at Manchester, and employment was dull generally at Hull, quiet at Glasgow, and slack with cabinetmakers at Norwich.

The *Imports* of furniture woods were less than a third of those in March, 1914. *Exports* of furniture and cabinet ware were valued at £39,599, whereas in March, 1914, the corresponding figure was £78,119.

COACHBUILDING.

Employment was fairly good on the whole, showing an improvement on the previous month. Some overtime was worked on Government orders, but in a few districts there was a certain amount of short time on private work. Trade Unions with 12,430 members reported 1.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 2.5 per cent. a month ago, and 1.2 per cent. a year ago. Employment was good in the London area, but at Salford and Belfast it was only moderate, and at Loughborough and Aberdeen it was slack.

COOPERING.

Coopers reported employment as fair in the general trade, but dull in the brewers' branch. A further improvement was reported from Birmingham.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Brushmaking.—Brushmakers were well employed, and a good deal of overtime was reported. Trade Unions reported 0.1 per cent. of their members out of employment at the end of the month, as compared with 0.2 per cent. in February, and 1.2 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment was moderate on the whole with general wheelwrights and smiths. Packing case makers were again well employed, except at Bradford, where short time was worked. Employment was fairly good with basket makers.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

There was some seasonal improvement in these trades, especially in the case of painters. With carpenters, plumbers, slaters, navvies and labourers there was little change, employment in these occupations continuing to be good, partly owing to Government work and partly owing to enlistments. Apart from Government work, employment continued quiet. Bricklayers and masons showed little or no improvement on a year ago; while plasterers, though showing a considerable improvement on the previous month and on March, 1914, still had 6.2 per cent. of their number unemployed.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed among 895,029 workpeople insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act, in each of the principal occupations, at the end of March, 1915

	Number	Number Percentage Unem-		Decrease on a			
Occupations.	Insured.	ployed at end of March.	Month ago.	Year ago			
Bricklayers Masous Slaters Plasterers Plainters &c. Plumbers Other skilled occupations Navvies	139,101 73,355 43,859 7,321 22,544 139,649 38,792 32,927 115,673 281,808	2 0 3 4 4 6 1 7 6 2 2 4 1 9 1 8 1 2 1 8	0·1 1·3 1·4 2·3 5·0 0·4 0·4 0·2 0·5	14 1·0 3·6 2 9 1·0 2·2 2 4 2·8 3 9			
ALL OCCUPATIONS	. 895,029	2.2	1.3	2.4			

The appended Table shows in detail the percentage unemployed in various occupations in each geographical division. Except for Ireland (8·1 per cent.) the percentages unemployed at the end of March ranged between 1·1 (Northern Counties and West Midlands), and 3·1 (London). The improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago was common to all the districts, but was most marked in London.

April, 1915. THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

		10000						
Districts.	Number Insured.	Per- cent- age Un- em- pl'y'd	Inc. Dec. ((+) or -) on a Year ago.	Number Insured.	Per- cent- age Un- em- pl'y'd	M'ntl	(+) or -) on a Year ago.
e de sente	Ca	rpente	ers &c.			Brickla	yers.	
ondon Northern Counties North Western Orkshire East Midlands Vest Midlands Sastern&S. E. Count. outh Western Vales cotland reland	24,869 7,288 15,911 10,962 7,351 8,731 21,380 14,501 7,716 13,092 7,300	1.0 0.9 1.9	+ 0.5 - 0.5 - 0.4 + 0.1 - 0.2 + 0.1 - 0.3 + 0.1 + 1.3	- 4·4 + 0·7 - 2·7 - 0·9 - 1·1 - 1·8 - 0·7 - 1·4 - 0·7 + 0·1 - 0.5	12,672 4,203 8,813 6,002 5,800 7,784 15,351 6,091 2,500 2,104 2,030	5·0 2·1 3·5 2·5 4·2 1·4 3·4 2·5 2·0 1·8 8·0	- 2·3 - 0·8 - 2·1 - 1·0 - 1·1 - 1·0 - 0·1 - 1·3 - 0·5 - 1 8	+ 0 6 - 0 · 2 + 0 · 4 + 1 · 5 - 1 · 7 + 0 · 2 - 0 · 4
		Mason	s.]	Plaster	ers.	10000000
ondon orthern Counties orth Western orkshire ast Midlands 'est Midlands astern&S. E. Count. outh Western 'vales cotland reland	2,721 2,802 3,960 4,972 1,228 989 1,408 7,813 6,929 8,148 2,899	7·2 2·0 7·5 3·1 5·4 3·2 8·0 3·8 2·1 3·5 12·3		- 8.7 - 0.2 + 3.2 - 0.2 + 1.1 - 1.7 + 3.3 + 0.4 + 0.8 + 0.1 - 0.8	5,132 1,064 2,485 1,593 596 1,060 2,155 2,040 2,178 2,509 1,742	10·0 3·) 5·6 4·2 9·2 6·5 6·8 3·6 3·2 2·5 9·4	- 2.7 - 1.6 - 2.6 - 4.5 - 5.7 - 2.3 - 2.2 - 2.0 - 1.5	- 8·1 - 1·6 - 2·7 + 0·4 + 0·8 + 0·8 - 0·2 - 2·9 + 0·4 - 2·9 - 1.4
The State of the S	Pa	ainters	&c.]	Plumb	ers.	
ondon orthern Counties orth Western ortshire set Midlands est Midlands stern&S.E.Count uth Western ales otland	41,370 4,585 15,598 8,901 5,438 9,150 21,987 12,666 4,658 10,139 5,157	1.9 1.1 2.4 1.4 2.4 1.6 1.3 1.1	- 5·0 - 5·1 - 79 - 60 - 5·6 - 4·4 - 3·9 - 2·6 - 3·1 - 3·5 - 9·4	- 1.8 - 0.5 - 0.5 - 0.6 - 1.3 + 0.6 - 1.7 - 0.5 - 0.7 - 2.9	7,626 2,147 5,530 3,316 1,610 2,267 4,126 3,236 **985 6,421 1,528	0.7	- 1·0 + 0·1 - 0·1 - 0·8 - 0·3 - 0·3 - 0·3 + 0·1 - 0·5 + 1·5	- 3·1 - 2·5 - 2·7 - 1·8 - 0·9 - 2·6 - 1·6 - 1·9 - 1·9
anbath bea	L	aboure	rs.		All (Occupa	tions,*	
orthorn Counties orth Western orthshire orkshire orth didands orth didand orth did	62,164 14,403 41,637 21,646 12,571 18,815 33,570 24,253 16,395 17,167 14,187	0.5 1.0 1.5 0.8 1.8 1.5 1.2	- 0·2 - 0·5 - 0·6 - 0·3 - 0·3 - 0·1	- 7·0 - 1·8 - 2·6 - 3·2 - 3·5 - 3·1 - 4·1 - 1·2 - 2·1 - 3·4	177,068 48,353 120,958 72,631 42,984 57,876 119,496 80,644 66,021 79,705 39,293	2.4 1.1 2.2 1.8 1.2 1.3	- 2·2 - 0 6 - 1·5 - 1·4 - 1·1 - 1·1 - 1·0 - 0·5 - 0·5 - 0·9 - 1·3	- 5·1 - 0.9 - 1·9 - 1·7 - 1·5 - 2·4 - 1·4 - 2·7 - 0·7 - 1·1 - 2·4

Returns from Trade Unions show that of 70,842 carpenters and joiners the percentage unemployed at the end of March was 2.5, the same percentage as in February, 1915, and July, 1914. For 10,987 plumbers the corresponding percentages were 3.3, 3.1 and 6.9 respectively.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

PAPER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, and better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago. Some of the mills in Scotland, however, were still on short time and short time was reported also at several mills in the Southern counties of England.

Returns from firms employing 14,899 workpeople in the last week of the month showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, and of 7.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	Workpeople paid Wages in	Inc. (+) or	
The second second as	last week of March, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.
MACHINE-MADE PAPER AND MILLED BOARDS: Northern Counties Midlands, Wales, and Ireland Southern Counties Southand	3 522 1,301 5 539 3,881	Per cent 0·3 + 0·2 + 0·5 - 0·7	Per cent 68 - 5.0 - 4.4 - 118
TOTAL MACHINE-MADE PAPER, &C. Hand-made Paper	14,243 656	- 00 - 16	- 7·2 - 6·7
TOTAL	14,899	- 0.1	- 7.1

* Including slaters, "other skilled occupations," and navvies.

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,705 members had 0.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, compared with 0.7 per cent. a month ago, and 1.0 per cent. a year ago. In the hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 447 members had 2.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, compared with 4.0 per cent. at the end of February, 1915, and 3.7 per cent. at the end of March, 1914.

The *imports* of paper making materials amounted to 58,575 tons in March, 1915, compared with 58,772 tons in March, 1914. Of paper the imports were 900,000 cwts., compared with 1,063,000 cwts. a year ago, and the exports 218,000 cwts. and 303,000 cwts. respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was quiet on the whole; and short time was in operation to some extent in most places, though there was a general improvement compared with a month ago. In London little short time was reported, and the establishment of three additional newspapers increased the demand for workpeople. Compared with a year ago employment was worse.

District.	No. of Members of Unions		tage Uner at end of	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	at end of Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1915.	Feb., 1915.	Mar., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	22,802	3.9	4.8	2.6	- 0.9	+ 1.3
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,435	3.2	3.7	2.8	- 05	+ 0.4
Lancs and Cheshire East Midland and Eastern	6,801	50	5.2	35	- 0.2	+ 1.5
Counties Counties	2,680	2.4	2.7	2.1	- 0.3	+ 0.3
West Midlands	2,637	3.0	38	32	- 0.8	- 0.8
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,923	2.3	5.5	1.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Scotland	5,058	3.2	3.6	2.7	- 0.4	+ 0.5
Ireland	2,373	9.3	9.7	5.2	- 0.4	+ 41
UNITED KINGDOM	51,709	3.9	45	2.8	- 0.6	+ 1.1

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in London was dull, with much short time, and worse than a year ago. At other centres it was fair on the whole, showing little general change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

25/11/21/2		No. of Members of Unions at end of	Percent	age Uner	nployed	Increase Decrea on	se (-)
2 pc -}	17.19	Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1915.	Feb., 1915.	Mar., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London		3 036	3.9	4.4	4.5	- 05	- 06
Other Districts		2,706	3.2	2.2	2.2	+ 1.0	+ 1.0
UNITED KINGDOM		5,742	36	34	3.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.2

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was fair on the whole, and showed little general change compared with a month ago. A good deal of short time was still reported by flint glass cutters. Compared with a year ago, there was a great decrease in the number of workpeople employed in various branches of these trades.

In the ordinary glass bottle trade employment was fair in general, and in the flint glass bottle trade good. At Barnsley and Castleford, however, employment was slack, and at Sunderland it was only moderate. With flint glass makers at Birmingham it was very good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; but with flint glass cutters it was slack, with short time, though rather better than a month ago. In the Wordsley and Stourbeidge district employment was quiet with both flint glass makers and cutters. With sheet and plate glass workers at St. Helens employment continued good. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it continued fair.

Returns from firms employing 7,363 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed a decrease of 3.0 per cent, in the number of workpeople employed and of 2.0 per cent, in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there were

decreases of 18.4 per cent. and of 9.0 per cent. respec-

AND LEGISLANDS	W	orkpeopl	e.		Earnings.			
Ath The best of	Week		+) or -) on a	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a			
	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.		
Glass Bottle	5,645 1,382 336	Per cent 3·1 - 4·1 + 3·4	Per cent 19-9 - 13-5 - 10-6	£ 8,401 1,646 403	Per cent 2.5 - 0.7 + 4.9	Per cent 7.7 - 15.1 - 8.6		
TOTAL	7,363	- 3.0	- 18.4	10,449	- 2.0	- 9.0		
DISTRICTS. North of England Yorkshire Lancashire Worcestershire and	662 4,261 1,302 643	- 4·6 - 3·4 - 3·8	- 20·4 - 20·6 - 10·6 - 17·8	864 6,127 2,000 823	- 8·5 - 2·6 - 1·9 + 11·4	- 20·1 - 6·7 - 4·4 - 17·1		
Scotland	495	+ 0.2	- 15.8	635	- 1.4	- 15.1		
TOTAL	7,363	- 3.0	- 18.4	10,449	- 2.0	- 9.0		

The imports of glass and manufactures thereof were valued at £161,000, a decline of 42 per cent. as compared with March, 1914. The *exports* were valued at £104,000, a decline of 47 per cert.

POTTERY TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good and rather better than a month ago, although still worse than a year ago. It was bad, however, with makers of sanitary ware. Short time was reported to a considerable extent; but a deficiency of labour, due to enlistments, was again experienced in many centres. Employment was adversely affected by difficulties of transport and shortage of fuel.

Returns from firms employing 18,717 workpeople in the week ending 27th March showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 5.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 9.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 10.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:-

The state of the state of	W	Vorkpeop	le.	Earnings.			
	Week		or Dec.	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
BRANCHES. China Manufacture Earthenware Manufacture Other Branches (including unspecified)	3,137 11,38 9 4,191	Per cent. + 5·1 + 0·6 - 0·2	Per cent 7.3 - 8.1 - 13.5	3,626 10,556 3,412	Per cent. + 5.9 + 5.6 + 3.1	Per cent 11 3 - 5 8 - 21 4	
TOTAL	18,717	+ 1.2	- 9.2	17,594	+ 5.2	- 10	
DISTRICTS.							
Potteries Other Districts	14,428 4,289	+ 1.3	- 93 - 91	12,798 4,796	+ 4.9 + 6.0	- 10	
TOTAL	18,717	+ 1.2	- 9.2	17,594	+ 5.2	- 10	

In the Potteries employment was fairly good and better than a month ago in the china and earthenware sections, but was quiet with tile, etc., workers. Earthenware workers in other districts continued well employed on the whole.

Imports of chinaware, earthenware, and pottery amounted to 25,585 cwts., as compared with 17,944 cwts. in February, and 120,708 cwts. in March, 1914. Exports amounted to 220,638 cwts., compared with 170,376 cwts. a month ago and 335,000 cwts. a year ago.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES. BRICK TRADE.

Short time continued to be worked at several centres in the Northern and Midland counties, but to a much less extent than in the previous month. The amount of employ ent available was again diminished by the

means of transport; but a scarcity of labour, due to enlistments, was reported in many districts.

Returns from firms employing 8,741 workpeople in the week ended 27th March showed a decrease of 21 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 8.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 24.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 18.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:-

	V	Vorkpeop	ile.	Earnings.		
Districts.	Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915	Month ago.	Year ago.
Northern Counties, York- shire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2.918	Per cent.	Per cent. - 20.3	£ 4 031	Per cent. + 34	Per cent. - 14.9
Midland and Eastern Counties	2,895	+ 1.2	- 238	3,433	+ 15.5	- 187
S. and S.W. Counties and Wales	1,862	- 34	- 26.7	2,348	+ 13.6	- 17.3
Scotland Other Districts	660 406	- 14·8 - 0·2	- 31·5 - 34·8	836 484	- 8·4 + 13·6	- 26 1 - 26 9
TOTAL	8 741	- 2.1	- 24 6	11,138	+ 8.3	- 18.1

In the Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, employment was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago, the improvement chiefly taking the form of more time worked. There was also an improvement in the Midland and Eastern Counties, where also much less short time was reported than in February. Employment continued good with Stourbridge fire brick workers and in the Shropshire glazed brick and pipe trade. Employment improved in the Southern and South-Western Counties, full time being reported in general. Employment was slack in North Wales, chiefly owing to transport difficulties.

CEMENT TRADE.

Although employment on the Thames and Medway was hampered by the lack of fuel and of the means of transport, full time or overtime continued general, and at most works a shortage of labour was experienced. Employment was fair, and better than a month ago, in the Tees and Hartlepool district.

The exports of cement were 47,709 tons, only 4,000 tons less than in March, 1914.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades in March was very good on the whole, better than in the previous month, and much better than in March of last year. There was again a very general complaint of the scarcity of workpeople, both male and female, though more especially the former : -

LEAGUE UNION	w	orkpeop	le.	Earnings.			
Trade.	Week ended	Inc. (+) or Dec (-) on a		Week	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		
Sea mile buts in	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	27th Mar., 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Sugar Refining &c. Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery Biscuits, Cakes &c. Jam, Marmalade &c. Bacon and Preserved Meats Pickles, Sauces &c. TOTAL	4,939 25,791 11,093 4,965 5,915 1,464 54,167	Per cent. + 3·7 + 2·8 + 2·0 - 2·3 + 2·8 - 3·1 + 2·1	Per cent. + 11·3 - 5·6 - 10·1 + 14·6 + 46·2 - 8·4 + 0·2	£ 7,758 23,510 10,215 4,093 5,816 1,248 52,640	Per cent. + 6·9 + 7·5 + 5·1 + 0·4 + 10·1 + 0·2 + 6·4	Per cent. + 35·1 + 8·9 - 2·1 + 13·5 + 52·1 + 0·2 + 13·5	

Sugar Refining &c.-Employment was very good, and even better than in February. Some overtime was reported and there was a great shortage of male labour. Makers of brewing sugar reported trade as still below normal but better than in February.

Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery .- In the cocoa and chocolate branches employment was very good in the home trade, more than making up for a decline in the export trade. Overtime was general; a shortage of male labour was reported by many firms, and a shortage of female labour by a few. Employment was difficu y of obtaining fuel and by want of adequate also good on the whole in general sugar confectionery, with some overtime; though some firms complained of the effect of the high price of raw materials in diminishing their output, especially for export, and of the difficulty in getting supplies forwarded or goods shipped owing to congestion at the docks and

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

April, 1915.

Biscuits and Cakes .- Employment was good on the whole, with some overtime, owing partly to the Easter trade and partly to Government contracts. Some firms, however, especially those manufacturing high-class fancy biscuits, reported a reduction of demand owing to the high price n sicated by the cost of raw materials (sugar, flour &c.). Several firms reported a shortage of male labour and restriction of output owing to transport difficulties both inwards and outwards.

Jams, Marmalade &c.—Employment was good, espehally with firms holding Government contracts; some overtime was reported and a shortage of male labour.

Bacon and Preserved Meats.—Employment was very good, and much better than last year, principally owing o Government contracts; there was some decline in the ordinary home trade. Much overtime was worked and there was a considerable shortage of male labour.

Pickles, Sauces. &c .- The export trade was greatly reduced, but the home trade was fair generally, and good with firms holding military contracts. There was some shortage of labour, and transport difficulties were reported as very great.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

The fishing industry continued to be seriously affected by the war and small catches and high prices continued. East Coast.—With fishermen and fish dock labourers at Hull and Grimsby employment was good, but with fish curers it was only moderate at Hull and bad at Grimsby. At Yarmouth the fishing industry was practically at a standstill, all the fishermen being engaged in mine sweeping. At Lowestoft there was a decline with fish curers and fish dock labourers, but with fishermen employment was about the same as a month ago. There was very little doing with fishermen at Harwich and Southwold.

South Coast.—Fair catches were reported at Brixam during the month, but at Plymouth there was little shing, owing to port restrictions. At Newlyn, Mouse-nole and Padstow some good catches were obtained. With packers and curers employment was fair.

West Coast.—At Fleetwood the quantity of fish landed n March, 1915, was nearly twice that landed in the revious month, and at Milford there was also a coniderable increase. At both places, however, the quantity was below that of March, 1914.

Scotland.-With fishermen employment was good at Aberdeen and Macduff, and moderate at Peterhead and Fraserburgh. It was fair on the whole with fish dock bourers and fish curers at Aberdeen and Macduff, but bad at Fraserburgh. At Peterhead it was moderate with labourers and bad with curers. At Dundee employment generally was slack, but at Montrose line fishing was very regular.

FISH LANDED IN MARCH.

The quantity of fish (other than shell) landed in March, 1915, showed a decrease of 371,962 cwts. (or 32.3 er cent.) on March, 1914. Owing to high prices, wever, the decrease in total value of this quantity was ly £83,247 (or 9.6 per cent.).

	Qua	intity.	Value.		
	Mar., 1915.	Decrease on Mar., 1914	Mar., 1915.	Decrease on Mar., 1914.	
FISH (OTHER THAN SHELL): England and Wales Scotland	Cwts. 538,497 241,862	Cwts. 214,435 127,527	£ 610,511 175,675	£ 70,850 12,397	
Shell Fish TOTAL	780,359	371,962	786.186 26,378	83 247 5,926	
TOTAL VALUE	-	-	1 812,564	89,173	

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT was better than a month ago and was exceptionally good in London and Liverpool: elsewhere it was good on the whole.

LONDON AND TILBURY.

London.—The shortage of river craft and other means of transport continued to cause congestion at the docks and wharves, but the supply of labour was still good. Employment was again very good, and much better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended 27th March was 19,765, an increase of 3.0 per cent. on a month ago and of 31.5 per cent. on a

	Average D	aily Number and at Princip	of Labou	rers employe ves in Londo	ed in Docks	
Property and the second		In Docks		Marie San	PER PROPERTY.	
Period.	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	of London By Ship-owners &c.		At Wharves making Returns.	Total in Docks and at Principal Wharves.	
Week ended Mar. 6th ,, ,, 13th ,, ,, 20th ,, ,, 27th	7,704 7,455 7,660 7,8_0	4,294 3,970 3,896 4,365	11,998 11,425 11,556 12,185	8,198 7,869 7,960 7,871	20,196 19 294 19,516 20,056	
verage for 4 weeks ended 27th Mar., 1915	} 7,660	4,131	11,791	7,974	19,765	
verage for Feb., 1915	7,387	3,746	11,133	8,048	19,181	
,, ,, Mar., 1914	4 956	2,786	7.743	7,290	15,032	

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day* in March, 1915, were as follows :-

Day of W'nth	No. Em- ployed.	Day of M'nth	No. Em- ployed.	Day of M'nth	No. Em- ployed.	Day of M'nth	No. Employed.	Day of M'nth	No. Em- p'oyed.
1 2 3 4 5 6	20,290 20 412 20,500 20,453 20,427 19,091	8 9 10 11 12 13	19,110 19,125 19,587 19,239 19,557 19,143	15 16 17 18 19 20	19,410 20 059 19,365 19,830 19,144 19,291	22 23 24 25 26 27	20,001 20,199 20,482 20,058 20,704 18,893	29 30 31	18,979 18,939 18,838
Av. for we-k	20,196	Av. for week	19,294	Av. for week	19,516	Av. for week	20,056	_	-

The maximum daily number during the month was 20,704, an increase of 4,319 on March, 1914. The minimum number showed an increase of 5,093.

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during March was 2,310, compared with 2,308 a month ago, and 1,395 a year ago.

OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—Employment on the Tyne was good generally, except with trimmers and teemers, with whom it was only moderate, although better than a month ago; overtime was reported at timber yards on the Durham side of the river. There was an improvement in the Tees and Hartlepool district; employment with dock labourers was fair at Hartlepool and good at Middlesbrough, and with riverside labourers was fairly good generally. It was moderate at Hull and Grimsby and bad at Goole, where, however, there was some improvement on a month ago. Employment continued fair at Lowestoft and slack at Yarmouth, King's Lynn, and Harwich. A slight shortage of labour was reported at Ipswich, where employment remained good.

South and West Coasts.—Employment continued fairly good at Plymouth, and good at Dartmouth and Falmouth. Overtime was again worked at Bristol, but short time was reported at Gloucester, where there was a decline on the previous month. Employment at Newport and the South Wales ports was good on the whole, and showed little change compared with February. Much overtime was again worked at Liverpool both by dock labourers and carters, the congestion at this port

* Sundays are omitted.

140

SCOTLAND.

Employment was good, and rather better than a month ago, in the Glasgow district, and overtime was worked to some extent throughout the month. At Dundee it was fair and better than a month ago.

Employment continued fair at Cork and slack at Waterford. At Belfast it was fair and better than a month ago.

AGRICULTURE.*

A DEFICIENT supply of labour was reported in the great majority of districts in Great Britain during March, particularly as regards extra labour, for which there was a good demand in the latter part of the month, when the weather improved in most districts. Owing to the scarcity of this class of labour women were being engaged for potato planting in the place of men in some of the English districts. The scarcity of skilled labour proved a more or less serious hindrance to spring cultivation. Reference was made in a number of returns to horses standing idle on account of the scarcity of horsemen.

Wages were increased in a large number of districts during the month.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Extra labour was especially scarce in north Northum berland and east Durham, while there was generally some deficiency of labour in both these counties, and in Cumberland and Westmorland. The supply of labour was deficient in certain parts of Lancashire and Cheshire especially as regards extra men. In the East and North Ridings of Yorkshire the supply of men was reported to be greatly deficient, while there was a shortage of ploughmen and extra men in the West Riding.

There was again a very deficient supply of labour in Shropshire and Staffordshire, extra men being especially difficult to obtain. The deficiency of men applied chiefly in Derbyshire to milkers, and in Nottinghamshire to horsemen and stockmen. Milkers were scarce in Leicestershire, in which county and in Rutland there was generally a very short supply of labour. Men to attend live stock were especially wanted in Northamptonshire, and the supply of extra men was very short of the demand in parts of Warwickshire. A short supply of labour was reported in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The deficiency of labour is said to have hampered the progress of spring cultivation in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire; in the south of Oxfordshire the situation was reported to be relieved to a certain extent by some young men who had returned from Canada. Extra men were generally very hard to obtain in Hertfordshire

A shortage of horsemen was again reported in Lincolnshire. This class of labour was also particularly scarce in parts of Cambridgeshire. Some deficiency of labour occurred in Huntingdonshire, and the supply tended to be short of the demand in Norfolk and Suffolk. Extra men were very difficult to obtain in parts of Bedfordshire

There was a short supply of labour in most parts of Surrey and in east Kent and east Sussex. Extra labour was scarce generally in Hampshire. Employment on military works is said to have depleted the supply of labour in Wiltshire, and there was a general deficiency of men in Dorset and Somerset, milkers being especially scarce in the latter county. Extra men were especially scarce in Devonshire and Cornwall.

The supply of labour was as a rule below requirements in North Wales, with the exception of Anglesey. There was a very short supply in Montgomeryshire and parts of Radnorshire; but in Cardiganshire (except in the north) and Brecknockshire the supply was described as fairly satisfactory up to the present. A shortage of labour was reported in almost all districts in South Wales.

Numerous instances of increased wages being paid were again reported. They usually varied from 1s. to 2s. a week, and applied, during March, particularly to

Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

districts in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Derbyshire, Berkshire, Middlesex, Bedfordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somerset, and Glamorgan.

SCOTLAND.

Some deficiency of labour was generally reported from the northern and north-eastern counties, though in Orkney the supply was described as fairly good. There was a marked shortage of men in Kincardineshire and north-east Forfarshire. In north and east Perthshire it was stated that skilled labour could not be got, and an increasing scarcity of labour, especially of ploughmen, was reported in the rest of the county. In south-west Fifeshire, Clackmannanshire, and Kinross-shire the shortage of men was chiefly felt in the case of casual workers; but in north-east Fifeshire and the Lothians it was -general. Extra labourers were very scarce in Berwickshire.

There was a general scarcity of labour in Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire, and Kirkcudbrightshire. In Dumfries-shire young men and lads were particularly scarce, while out-workers and lads and girls for dairy work were very hard to get in Wigtownshire. The supply of extra labourers was below requirements in south Ayrshire. There was a general scarcity of labour throughout Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire, Stirlingshire, and Dumbartonshire. The supply was a'so deficient in central Argyllshire, while in Kintyre and Bute there was a certain shortage of horsemen.

SEAMEN.

RETURNS received from certain selected ports show that during March 41,309 seamen* were shipped on foreigngoing vessels. Compared with March, 1914, there was a net decrease of 2,772, or 6.3 per cent.

The decline was most marked at Southampton and the Tyne ports; at the port of London, on the other hand, and at Cardiff, Newport, and Belfast there were considerable increases. A shortage of men for ordinary mercantile ships was again reported at several ports, including London, Glasgow, Southampton, Bristol, Hull and Newcastle.

During the three months ended March, 1915, the total number of seamen shipped was 114,843, a decrease of 11,397, or 9.0 per cent., on the total for the corresponding period of 1914. The North-East Coast ports, Liverpool, and Southampton showed the most marked decline; whilst at Newport, Cardiff, London and Belfast there were considerable increases.

Lascars are not included in these figure

	Number of Seamen* shipped in							
Principal Ports.	The same	March.	460 A	Three months ended March.				
han heddenis I da al dash dali dase elodi tod Andrew box 20	1914.	1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1915	1914.	1915	lac. (+) or Oec. (-) in 1915.		
ENGLAND & WALES:			1 50			Mar		
Tyne Ports	2,557 484 243 1.011	1,905 194 155 1,069 61	- 652 - 290 - 88 + 58	7,461 1,468 759 3,766	5,331 800 475 3,820	- 2,130 - 668 - 289 + 59		
	11	01	+ 50	91	229	+ 138		
Bristol Channel— Bristol†	1,185 951 4,207 432	987 1,366 5,191 215	- 198 + 415 + 984 - 217	3,369 2,862 12,474 1,362	2,931 3,758 14,589 1,049	- 438 + 896 + 2,115 - 313		
Other Ports— Liverpool London Southampton	15,972 8,426 4,317	15,391 9,589 900	- 581 + 1,163 - 3,417	43,724 23,536 13,347	40,034 25,024 4,368	- 3,690 + 1,488 - 8,979		
SCOTLAND: Leith Burntisland, Methil, and Grangemouth	313 173	260 61	- 53 - 112	1.246 609	1,039 320	- 207 - 289		
Glasgow	3,672	3,318	- 354	9,502	8,587	- 915		
IRELAND:	48 79	71 576	+ 23 + 497	173 491	208 2,281	+ 35 + 1,750		
TOTAL	44,081	41,309	- 2,772	126,240	114,843	-11,39		

*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. Including Barry and Penarth.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

(a) DISPUTES IN MARCH.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes in March showed a considerable increase as compared with recent months. In all, 74 disputes began in March. 1915, as compared with 47 in the previous month, and 105 in March, 1914. In these new disputes 12.982 workpeople were directly, and 3,377 indirectly involved: and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 33,903 workpeople involved in trade disputes in March, 1915, as compared with 31,060 in the previous month, and 92,788 in March, 1914.

New Disputes in March, 1915.—In the following Table the new disputes for March are summarised by trades affected:

Groups			No. of	No. of Workpeople involved.			
of Trades.	Disputes.	Directly.	Indirectly	Total.			
Building Coal Mining Engineering Shipbuilding Other Metal Textile Boot and Shoe Transport Other Trades Employees of Local Author	ities		8 3 10 7 5 4 3 18 11	634 4,323 1,281 616 234 320 126 4,020 630 798	29 966 206 118 1,444 106 14 239 255	663 5,289 1,487 734 1,678 426 140 4,259 885 798	
TOTAL, MARCH, 1915			74	12,982	3,377	16,359	
total, february, 1915			47	26,129	2,878	29,007	
TOTAL, MARCH, 1914	H	300	105	17,625	13,270	30.895	

Causes.—Of the 74 new disputes, 54, directly involving 4,729 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 7, directly involving 4,091 workpeople, on other wages questions; 5, directly involving 2,707 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; 6, directly involving 458 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; and one each,

directly involving 697 and 300 workpeople, respectively, on details of working arrangements and questions of hours of labour

Results.—During the month settlements were effected in the case of 53 new disputes, directly involving 11,090 workpeople, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 1,937 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes 15, directly involving 2,763 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 16, directly involving 6,438 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 26, directly involving 3,826 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The number of working days lost in March by disputes which began or were settled in that month amounted to 137,700. In addition, 13,500 working days were lost in March owing to disputes which began before March and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total aggregate duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 151,200 days, as compared with 208,600 in the previous month, and 1,016,100 in March, 1914.

(b) DISPUTES IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1914

	J	an. to Man	r., 1914.	Jan. to Mar., 1915.			
Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Work- ing Days of all Disputes in progress.	No. of Disputes	Number of Work- people involved.	Aggregate Duration in Work- ing Days of all Disputes in progress.	
Building Mining and Quarrying Engineering Shipbuilding Other Metal Textile Clothing Transport Other Trades	34 40 19 27 20 40 18 14 35	16,870 69,863 2,345 6,362 4,896 9,509 1,390 7,160 4,600	844,000 556,000 306,500 41,600 76,100 244,900 16,900 29,500 227,100	11 9 27 20 7 14 8 35 30	6,188 7,929 11,594 2,467 1,829 5,356 1,074 12,608 2,512	51,000 47,800 129,500 20,800 8,000 78,500 4,800 66'800 18,700	
TOTAL	247	122,995	2,542,6001	161	51,557	425,900	

(c) PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN MARCH.

Occupations and Locality.	Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute	Duration in	Cause or Object, §	Result. \$	
and with the less of the first of the process at	Directly.	Indirectly.	began.	Working Days.	Cause or Object.	Doeuro, 3	
OOAL MINING:— Miners—Merthyr Tydvil	2,	136	29th Mar.	19:5.	Against employment of non-	Work resumed at the request of	
RON AND STEEL:— Rail shifters, iron and steel workers, mechanics, &c.—Dowlais	32	1,124	22nd Mar.	6	unionists For advance in wages	the Admiralty. Work resumed unconditionally.	
RIGINEERING:— Brassmoulders—Clyde District	550		26th Feb.	22	For advance in wages of 2d.	Work resumed pending reference t	
Engineers, boilermakers, moulders, labourers, &c.—Sandbach	464	•• 660	25th Mar.		per hour For recognition of Trade Unions in connection with demand for advance in	arbitration. (See also p. 122.) No settlement reported.	
OCK AND WATERSIDE LABOUR:— Dock workers—Birkenhead	2,000	ece 7450	6th Mar.	Competed	wages and other concessions Against enforcement of new Agreement between repre-	Work resumed on terms of the	
The series of the greet of the series of					sentatives of parties where- by wages earned after 5 p.m. Fridays are carried over to the following week	Agreement.	
Stevedores-London	1,500	. 002	16th Mar.	5	Refusal of certain shipowners to pay the amount of war	Shipowuers to pay the bonus.	
MPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES:-		24 . 100			bonus agreed to by the Master Stevedores' Associa- tion		
Scavengers and carters—Dundee	230		12th Mar.	19	For a war bonus of 2s. per week instead of 1s. as granted	Work resumed on employers' terms	

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—20 disputes, involving about 2,000 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going

Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been emitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days. I making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information. The aggregate duration in 1914 of the general dispute at Dublin (200,000 working days), is included in the total but not in the separate groups of trades. The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly involved, i.e., thrown out of work at establishments where the disputes occurred, Stoppage of work at week-ends from 6th March to 3rd April.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

marked. Not only was the number of increases or bonuses much above the average, but also the amounts were in most cases greater than those granted in previous periods of rising wages. In the engineering and shipbuilding group of trades the increase was the largest ever recorded in a single month; whilst, as will be seen from the Table below, the increase in certain other groups of trades was very considerable. With regard to this Table, it may be pointed out that wherever a change has been specifically designated as a war bonus it is so given; but nearly all the changes resulted from the combined effect of the increased cost of living and of the special demand for labour owing to the war.

142

The result of all the changes reported as taking effect during the month was an increase of £72,713 per week; no decreases being recorded. The number of workpeople who shared in the increase was 446,267. Of the total of £72,713 per week, engineering and shipbuilding accounted for £48,297, transport for £4,982, and the textile trades for £4,876.

During the three months ended 31st March, 1915, the total number of workpeople whose wages were reported to have been changed was 792,003, and the net effect of the changes an increase of £108,809 per week. In the corresponding period of 1914, 129,854 workpeople

During March the upward tendency in wages was very | received a net increase of £1,910 per week. Of the total amount of the increase in January-March, 1915, the building trades accounted for £2,068, the iron and steel trades for £3,517, engineering and shipbuilding for £56,688, the textile trades for £7,513, and the transport trades for £21,987. In the coal mining industry there was a net decrease of £1,644, resulting from a decline in the selling price of coal in certain districts towards the

All the amounts quoted are exclusive of increased earnings due to overtime, and also of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees. In this connection it may be mentioned that war bonuses have been granted of 2s. or 3s. per week to railway servants, of 2s. to members of the London Metropolitan and other police forces, and of 1s., 2s., or 3s. to workpeople in H.M. Dockyards; but particulars as to the numbers affected are not yet available. There has also been a widespread increase in the wages of agricultural labourers since the beginning of the year, the increases usually varying from 1s. to 2s. a week, and in some cases exceeding the latter amount. In the case of seamen further increases to cover war risks have been made since 1st January of 10s., 20s. or 30s. per month, notably at Liverpool and at the ports on the North-East Coast and the Bristol Channel.

PRINCIPAL WAR BONUSES AND INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH, 1915.

					CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE
Trade.	Locality.	from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
Building {	Leeds Edinburgh and	29 Mar. 17 Mar.	Painters Builders' labourers	400 1,500	Increase of ½d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.) Increase of ½d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.)
	Northumberland, Durham, and Cleveland	8 Mar.	Iron and steel workers	7,000	War bonus of 1s, per week to youths earning over 10s, and up to 20s.; of 4s, to men earning up to 30s,; of 3s, to men earning over 30s, and up to 40s.; and of 2s, to men earning over 40s, and up to 50s.
Manufac - ture.	South Wales and Monmouthshire	15 Mar.	lron and steel workers	5,700	War bonus of 1s. per week to those earning below 15s.; of 2s. to those at 15s. and under 20s.; of 3s. to those at 20s. and under 30s.; and of 2s. to those at 30s. and up to 40s.
		(Steel millmen	2,750 1,850 }	Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent.
	West of Scotland	8 Mar.	Enginemen, cranemen, &c Gas producermen & charge wheelers	1,850	
			Other workpeople	1,000 250 67,000	Increase of 10 per cent. Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates
	North-East Coast, Clyde, East of Scotland, Hull, Barrow, and Bir- kenhead	First pay after 1 Mar.	Angle-iron smiths, platers rivetters, caulkers, holders-up, shipwrights, ship joiners, ship painters, wood- cutting machinists, sheet metal workers, &c.	67,000	of 4s. per week, or 1d. per hour.
	Achioad	6 and 13 Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machine- men, patternmakers, boilermakers, - electrical workers, smiths' strikers	36,300	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week.
	North-East Coast	1 Mar.	Labourers in engineering, boiler-	4,500	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of
		1st pay	making and foundry departments Labourers in shipbuilding and ship- repairing yards	18,000	4s. per week. Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week.
		1 Mar. Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machine-	30,000	Increase on time rates of 3s. per week with equivalent increase on piece rates.
To be the state of	Lecds	25 Mar. 1st pay Mar.	men, patternmakers, labourers, &c Ironmoulders Fitters, turners, smiths, machine- men, patternmakers, bollermakers,	4,650	Increase of 3s. per week. Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week.
	Hull	6 Mar.	labourers, &c.	250	Increase of 3s. per week.
AN ELISABETH STATE	orton manage	1st pay after 7 Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, electricians, &c.	8,500	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week.
Engineering	Sheffield	3 Mar.	Ironmoulders	1,330	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week.
and Ship-		8 Mar.	Iron and steel dressers	900	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 3s. 6d per week.
24		1 Mar.	Labourers	12,000	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week.
400	Barrow - in - Fur-	4 Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, toolmakers, machinemen, patternmakers, electricians, &c.	4,000	Increase of 3s. per week.
	ness	11 Mar. 4 Mar.	Labourers	10,000 500	Increase of 4s. per week. Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of
	Wigan	6 Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machine-	600	4s. per week. Increase on piece rates of 5 per cent., and on time rates of 5 per cent.
	Widnes and	27 Mar.	men, patternmakers, &c. Fitters, turners, smiths, machine-	300	2s. ner week. Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of
	Runcorn Liverpool	1 Mar.	men. patternmakers, &c. Shipwrights	500	Js. per week. Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week.
	Bristol	after	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, &c.	1,500	Increase of 3s. per week.
	Derby -	5 Mar. 5 Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, toolmakers,	3,000	Increase on piece rates of 71/2 per cent., and on time rates 0
		(6 Ma	machinemen, patternmakers, &c. Fitters, turners, smiths, machine	450	3s. per week. Increase on place rates of 5 per cent, and on time rates of
	Potteries	8 Mar.	men, patternmakers, &c. Ironmoulders	200	2s per week. Increase on piece rates of 5 per cent., and on time rates of
	Stafford	. 27 Mar.			2s. per week. Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week.

^{*} Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees.

PRINCIPAL WAR BONUSES AND INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES TAKING EFFECT IN MARCH—continued.

Trade,	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
(Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham, &c.	Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, smiths' strikers, labourers. &c., employed by Admiralty contractors.	400	Increase of 4s. per week, except to strikers who received 1d. per hour, and labourers who received ½d. per hour.
	Wolverhampton	22 Mar. 4 Mar	Fitters, turners, smiths, machine- men, patternmakers, &c.	8,000 218	Increase on piece rates of 7½ per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week. Increase of 1s. per week, with additional war bonus of 3s.
		BORNES CO			per week.
	Southampton	13 Mar	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, toolmakers, iron moulders, brass mould rs, boilermakers, shipwrights, thip joiners, ship painters, sailmakers, labourers, &c.	8,000	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week.
Engineering	East Cowes Scotland	18 Mar. 11 Mar.	Ship joiners	250 5,800	Increase of 4s. per week. Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of
and Ship- building— cont.	Clyde -	*	Fitters, turners, smiths, machine- men, patternmakers, brass moul- ders and finishers, &c.	22,000	4s. per week, or ld. per hour. Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 4s. per week or ld. per hour.
		3 Mar.	Shipyard Libourers, platers' helpers, redleaders, &c.	14,000	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 3/d. per hour.
	Dundee	27 Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, &c.	600	Increase of 3s. per week.
	Belfast	lst pay Mar.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, angle-iron smiths, platers, rivetters, caulkers holders-up, &c.	8,000	Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of 3s. per week.
		18 Mar. 1st pay	Ironmoulders	800 6,000	Increase of 3s. per week. Increase on piece rates of 10 per cent., and on time rates of
	West Riding	Mar. 1 Mar.	Card clothing operatives	988	3s. per week. War bonus of 2s. per week to men over 21, and of 1s. to men
	Sheffield	15 Mar.	Spring knife cutlers, grinders and finishers.	1,900	under 21 and to women. Increase of 5 per cent.
	Redditch District	23 Mar.	Needle makers	4,000	War bonus on piece rates of 5 per cent., and on time rates of 1s. 6d. to males between 17 and 21; 9d. to females
	Blackheath and	(29 Mar.	Rivet makers	300	between 17 and 21; and 1s. to females over 21. Increase of 5 per cent.
Other Metal	Old Hill and District	1 Mar. Mar.	Nut and bolt hand forgers	600 500	Increase of 5 per cent. Increase of 10 per cent.
	Wolverhampton Cradley Heath	29 Mar. 29 Mar.	Chain makers (except hammered	460 1,400	Increase of 5 per cent. Increase of 10 per cent.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	22 Mar.	chains) Tinplate workers	6,700	War bonus of 1s. per week to those earning below 15s.; of 2s. to those between 15s. 1d. and 20s.; of 3s. to those between 20s. 1d. and 30s.; and of 2s. to those between 30s. 1d. and 40s.
(Bradford District Leeds and District	5 Mar. 13 Mar.	Warehousemen	1,400 250	Increase of 2s. per week. Increase of ½d. per hour.
m421-	Lancashire, C. eshire and Scotland	15 Mar.	Bleachers	10,000	War bonus of is. per week to women and girls, and to youths under 21; of 33 to men earning less than 20s.; and of 2s to men earning 20s, and under 40s.
Textile	Dundee District	19 Mar.	Linen and jute preparers, spinners, reelers, winders, weavers, &c.	35,000	War bonus of 2s. per week,
	Arbroath	5 Mar.	Linen and jute preparers, spinners, winders, weavers, &c.	1,650	Increase of 5 per cent.
Boot and Shoe	Northamptonshire		Boot and shoe op ratives on Government work.	14,500	War bonus of 10 per cent.
1	North-East Coast Tyneside	8 Mar.	Carters	1,650 1,000	War bonus of 12½ per cent. Increases of 1s. to 3s. per week.
	Middlesbrough Sheffield	1 Mar. 8 var.	Dock labourers	400 600	Increase of 1s. per day. Increase of 2s. per week,
	Oldham Liverpool and	1 Mar. 1 Mar.	Carters and motormen	1,300 8,000	Increase of 2s. per week. Increase of 4s. per week to teamsmen; of 3s. to one-horse
Transport	Birkenhead				drivers and motor and trailer men; of 1s. to juniors receiving 17s. or less, and of 2s. to those receiving over 17s. and under 27s.
	London	{7 Mar.	Lightermen, watchmen, and apprentices	3,000	Increase of 8d per day to lightermen; of 7d. to watchmen; and of 3d., 4d. or 6d. to apprentices.
	Plymouth	15 Mar. 1 Mar.	Stevedores	4,800 500	War bonus of 1s. per day. War bonus of 2s. per week to men, and of 1s. to boys.
130000000000000000000000000000000000000	Newport Greenock	23 Mar. 11 Mar.	Do k labourers and stevedores	5 0 0 300	Increase of 15 per cent. Increase of 1d. per hour.
	Belfast	1 Mar. 22 Mar.	Carters, yardmen and labourers	3,250 {	Increase of 1s. 6d. per week. Further increase of 6d. per week.
	Manchester and elsewhere	15 Mar.	Co-operative Society's employees	22,910	War bo us of 15 per cent, on wages up to and including 40s, per week and of 10 per cent, on those over 40s, and up to
	Sheffield	8 Mar.	Brewery workers	600	£200 a year. Increase of 2s. per week to inside male workers; of 3s. to carters and of 1s. to women.
Other Trades	Lancashire and Che-hire	15 Mar,	Skip and basket makers	350	War bonus of 10 per cent.
	Liverpool Kirkcaldy	1 Mar. 8 Mar	Coopers	581 1,500	War bonus of 10 per cent. Increase of 2s. per week to those receiving 21s. and over,
	Glasgow	1 Mar.	Bakers	1,000	and of 1s. to those receiving under 21s. War bonus of 1s. per week to regular hands under 18; of 2s. to those of 18 and under 25; of 3s to those of 25 and over earning up to and including 35s.; of 2s. to those earning over 35s. to 60s.; Jobbers to receive an extra 3d.
(Birmingham	1st pay	Corporation employees	6,644	per day for first five days and 6d. for Saturdays. Increase of 2s. p r week on rates up t and including 30s.; rates over 30s. and under 32s. to be raise a to 32s.
Employees of Local Au-	London	Mar. 1 Mar.	County Council employees	9,922†	War bonus of 3s. per week on rates under 30s.; rates of 30s. and under 33s. to be raised to 33s.
thorities	Dundee	20 Mar.	Municipal employees	400	War bonus of 2s. per week to those earning under 20s., and of 1s. to those earning 20s. and up to 30s.
	Clyde	3 Mar.	Labourers	1,800	Increase of 3s. 6d. per week.

Note.—In addition to the changes mentioned in the Table, increases in wages were granted to workpeople in H.M. Dockvards from 28th March as follows: -

Time Rates.—All adult male employees of superior grades to labourers, but excluding clerical staff. 3s. per week.

> Labourers and employees of corresponding grades, 2s. per week. Adult female employees, 2s. per week.

Apprentices and boys and girls, 1s. per week. Piece Rates.—Increase of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on existing rates.

* The advances were awarded on 24th March to date back to the first pay after 12th or 22nd February.

† The figure for one Department included in the total is approximate.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN MARCH.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INSURED TRADES.

RETURNS received from the Department of Labour Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance show a continued steady improvement in the state of employment in the insured trades during March.

The following Table shows by industries the proportion of unemployment books lodged* to the total current on each Friday during March, 1915:-

to other particular and the state of the state of	5th Mar.	12th Mar.	19th Mar.	26th Mar.
INDUSTRIES. Building and Construction of Works Shipbuilding	Per cent. 3·2 1·1 0·8 1·3 1·5 0·7	Per cent. 2.8 1.0 0.8 1.1 1.7 0.6	Per cent. 2·4 1·1 0·8 1·0 1·6 0·6	Per cent. 2:2 0:9 0:7 1:0 1:4 0:6
ALL INSURED WORKPEOPLE	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.4
DISTRICTS. London South Eastern South, Wes ern West Midlands East Midlands Yorkshire North-Western North-Western Northern Counties Scotland Wales UNITED KINGDOM	3-5 2-2 1-7 1-2 1-8 1-4 1-6 0-8 1-1 1-3 5-9	30 2:0 1:5 1:1 1:6 1:1 1:4 0.7 1:0 1:2 5:7	2.7 1.7 1.5 1.0 1.5 1.0 1.2 0.7 0.8 1.1 5.8	2·4 1·7 15 0 9 1·4 0 9 1·1 0·6 0·8 1·1 5 4
A Month ago	2.5	2.3		
A Year ago	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.6

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS

The total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the four weeks ended 26th March, 1915, was 32,916, as compared with 43,113 during the four weeks ended 26th February, 1915, and with 75,183 during the four weeks ended 27th March, 1914. Of the total of 32,916 claims, 19,950 (or 61 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 12,966 (or 39 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the four weeks was 9,771, 8,370, 7,670, and 7,105, the average being 8,229, as compared with 10,778 in the four preceding weeks, and with 18,796 in March, 1914.

The average weekly amount of unemployment benefit paid during the four weeks ended 26th March, 1915, was £3,146 as compared with £5,478 per week in the four preceding weeks, and with £10,624 per week in March, 1914; 64 per cent. of the amount was paid direct and 36 per cent. through associations.

Districts	Avera	ge Week laims M	ly No.	Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.			
Districts.	Mar., 1915.	Feb, 1915.	Mar., 1914.	Mar, 1915.	Feb., 1915	Mar., 1914,	
London South Bastern South Western West Midlands East Midlands Yorkshire North-Western Northern Scotland Wales Ireland	2,162 674 643 396 410 606 1,250 413 688 295 692	2,730 915 745 587 534 827 1,921 447 921 333 818	4,342 1,311 1.568 1 274 782 1,403 3,400 1,180 2,018 749 769	£ 585 329 185 160 169 205 588 131 280 76 438	£ 1,103 557 330 327 314 480 988 189 436 135 619	£ 3,145 796 713 696 404 758 1,769 473 1,018 175 677	
UNITED KINGDOM	8,229	10,778	18,796	3,146	5,478	10,624	

^{*} In accordance with the Regulations, every holder of an unemployment book has, when unemployed, to lodge it at a Labour Exchange or other local office of the Unemployment Fund.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

FOUR WEEKS ENDED 12TH MARCH.

THE total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers* of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges (403 in number) on 12th March was 87,004, as compared with 100,616 on 12th February, 1915, and 123,714 on 13th March, 1914.

The number of registrations of workpeople during the four weeks ended 12th March was 213,464, a daily average of 8,894, as compared with a daily average of 9,580 in the previous four weeks and of 9,259 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914.

Excluding re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges, there were on the Register at some time or other during the period 298,206 workpeople (men 169,333, women 85,848, boys 17,452, and girls 25,573), as compared with 325,715 in the four weeks ended 12th February, 1915, and 345,061 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914.

The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 137,908, a daily average of 5,746, as compared with 5,668 in the four weeks ended 12th February, 1915, and with 4,129 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 99,188, a daily average of 4,133, as compared with 4,161 in the previous four weeks, and with 3,107 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the period :-

The same of the same of the same	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
On Register at beginning of period Registrations during period Individuals registered Registrations On Register at end of period	55,723 124,741 113,610 11,131 44,356	31,653 57,974 54,195 3,779 30,326	4,189 13,765 13,268 502 3,887	9,051 16,984 16,522 462 8,435	100 616 213,464 197,590 15,874 87,004
Vacancies notified during period Vacancies filled during period Individuals placed Applicants placed in other districts.	82,750 60,855 51,400 14,754	29,613 22,281 17,955 3,035	14,568 8 307 7,462 1,377	10,977 7,745 7,106 1,125	137,908 99,188 83,908 20,291

Of the 20,291 cases in which persons were placed in Exchange districts other than those in which they were registered, 3,586 represent transferences from one division to another. Of the total vacancies filled, 15,898, or 16.0 per cent., were filled by applicants residing more than five miles from the place in which the work was to

In the following Table are shown, for men and women, the proportions of vacancies filled to vacancies notified, and of vacancies filled to registrations (including those on the Registers at the beginning of the period) in the principal groups of trades:-

Trades.	cies filled to	of Vacan- o Vacancies fied.	Proportion of Vacancies filled to Registrations.			
-	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.		
Insured Trades— Building, Construction of Works and Sawmilling Engineering, Shipbuilding and Construction of Vehicles.	Per cent. 84.4 69.6	Per cent.	Per cent. 26.5	Per cent. — 37·4		
Uninsured Trades— Textiles Dress Transport Agriculture. Paper, Prints, &c Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lod ing Commer tal	53·0 44·2 74·0 36·5 55·9 59·3	76·4 77·8 92·9 54·4 78·6 86·4	44 0 16 8 44 9 26 7 14 8 28 6	30.4 23.0 52.0 29.0 19.5 32.3		
Domestic General Labourers	51·4 82·0 73·5	70.5	23·8 30·5 33·7	27.4		

† Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less casual nature (i.e., dock labourers, cloth porters and cotton porters); these are dealt with in the last paragraph but one.

The average daily numbers of registrations and vacancies filled, for the periods stated, are shown in the following Table: -

April. 1915.

	- 616		Ins	ured Tra	des.	Uninsured Trades.					
District Departme			4 weeks ended 12 Mar., 1915.	ended	4 weeks ended 13 Mar., 1914.	4 weeks ended 12 Mar., 1915.	4 weeks ended 12 Feb., 1915.	4 weeks ended 13 Mar. 1914.			
ALLEY ST.				REGISTRATIONS.*							
London South-Eastern South-Western West Midlands East Mi-lands Yorkshire North-Western North-Hestern Socot'and Wales Ireland		:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	714 254 295 219 158 291 443 227 305 264 169	852 290 315 249 176 330 559 228 303 274 178	862 307 377 299 203 369 733 299 466 400 178	1,568 363 316 483 264 445 826 295 553 184 254	1,719 380 335 482 283 458 905 298 534 199 233	1,237 306 287 438 220 410 821 239 396 182 230			
Men Women Boys Girls	::	::	3 262 26 52 4	3,668 28 55 3	4,431 11 50 1	1,935 2,390 522 704	1,963 2,524 565 774	1,811 1,811 602 542			
TOTAL			3,344	3,754	4,493	5,551	5,826	4,766			
				VA	CANCIES	FILLE	D,				
London South-Fastern South-We tern West Midlands East Midlands Yorsshire North-Western Northern Scotland Wales Ureland			227 137 286 125 75 166 139 151 149 188 28	259 138 343 117 80 168 153 152 156 152 29	82 101 112 80 103 140 129 117 131 271 24	732 150 176 180 117 217 393 115 266 77 69	692 154 183 186 109 222 394 109 221 85 58	394 102 140 139 97 180 347 104 164 89 62			
Men Women Boys Girls	::	::::	1,586 19 44 2	1,678 21 46 2	1,248 5 36 1	949 910 803 821	968 831 314 306	597 674 300 247			
TOTAL			1,651	1,747	1,290	2,482	2,413	1,818			

The average daily number of vacancies notified in the insured trades during the four weeks ended 12th March was 2,145, as compared with 2,112 in the previous four weeks, and with 1,593 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914. The corresponding daily averages in the uninsured trades were 3,601, 3,555, and 2,536 respec-

INSURED TRADES.+

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 72,640 (men 70,730, women 599, boys 1,214, and girls 97). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 111,842 (men 108,941, women 1,162, boys 1,550, and girls 189). These figures exclude 7,612 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate indi-

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register on 12th March was 27,588, as compared with 39,202 on 12th February, and 70,462 on 13th March, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled .- The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 51,468, a daily average of 2,145, as compared with 2,112 in the previous four weeks, and 1,593 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 39,624, a daily average of 1,651, as compared with 1,747 in the previous four weeks, and 1,290 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914.

The following Table shows, for men, the proportion of registrations, vacancies notified and vacancies filled, respectively, in each group of occupations:-

Groups of Occupations.	Registrations.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
Building and Construction of Works Sawmilling Shipbuilding Mechanical Engineering Construction of Vehicles Cabinet Making, etc.	Per cent. 59·4 0·8 12·2 25·4 1·5 0·7	Per cent. 47.7 0.5 14.3 36.4 1.0 0.1	Per cent. 52:3 0:4 16:2 30:0 0:9 0:2
	100.0	100-0	100.0

* Including re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period.

† The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II of the National Insurance Act.

UNINSURED TRADES

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 124,950 (men 42,880, women 53,596, boys 12,049, and girls 16,425). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 186,364 (men 60,392, women 84,686, boys 15,902, and girls 25,384). These figures exclude 8,262 cases in which persons already placed in vacancies during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate indi-

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at 12th March was 59,416 (men 17,638, women 29,848, boys 3,587, and girls 8,343), as compared with 61,414 on 12th February and 52,252 on 13th March, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled .- The number of vacancies notified during the period was 86,440, a daily average of 3,601, as compared with 3,555 in the preceding four weeks, and 2,536 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 59,564, a daily average of 2,482, as compared with 2,413 in the preceding four weeks, and 1,817 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914.

Of the vacancies filled during the period, 7,588 (men 3,721, women 3,533, boys 197, and girls 137) were known to be for less than a week's employment; of these 2,158 were for men in conveyance of men, goods and messages, 614 were for general labourers, and 2,940 were for women in domestic offices or services.

Of the 14,956 vacancies filled by boys and girls, 3,739 (boys 1,657 and girls 2,082), or 25.0 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

The following Table shows the proportion of registrations, vacancies notified and vacancies filled in certain groups of trades to the total for the uninsured trades:

Trade Groups.	Registrations.	Vacancies Notified.	Vacancies Filled.
EN:— Conveyance of Men, Goods, &c. General Labourers Commercial Occupations Textiles.* Fo.d, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging Agriculture All others	Per cent. 23·2 31·1 8·5 5·0 2·7 2·7 26·8	Per cent. 26.9 21.7 4.4 7.3 2.4 3.6 33.7	Per cent. 29·3 25·8 4·9 5·6 2.1 1·9 30·4
vomen :	100.0	100.0	100.0
Domestic Offices or Services Textiles Food, Tobacco, Drink, &c. Dress Commercial Occupations Paper, Prints, &c. All others	50·2 8·6 4·6 9·8 4·8 2·0 20·0	55·7 10·3 5·6 10·7 2·7 1 6 13·4	52.6 10.5 6.5 11.1 3.0 1.7 14.6
	100.0	100.0	100.0

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men given casual employment through the Exchanges was 1,093, and the number of casual jobs given was 5,527, a daily average of 230, compared with 263 in the preceding four weeks, and 625 in the four weeks ended 13th March, 1914. Of the jobs given during the period, 3,957 were for dock labourers, 1,438 for cloth porters at Manchester, and 132 for cotton porters at Liverpool. During the period there were also 3,663 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House System for Dock Labourers at

UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

During the period covered by the returns there was a widespread demand for engineering and colliery workers. In shipbuilding and construction of works a shortage of labour was reported in many districts.

There was an increasing demand for agricultural workers, principally in Scotland and in the South of England. As regards women, the principal shortage was in the tailoring trade, the demand for workers at Leeds still being in excess of the supply.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES-FOUR WEEKS ENDED 12th MARCH, 1915.

A.-INSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 12th March, 1915.

							ADU	ILTS.			JUVEN	VILES.		
	- ano					RE	GISTRATIO	NS.	VACAN- CIEs.	REGISTRATIONS.			VACAN- CIES.	
OCCUPATIO		Total a	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.*	On Register at End of Period.	Filled during Period.	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registra- tions during Period.*	On Register at End of Period.	Filled during Period.				
Bricklayers Masons Painters, Decorators &c. Plumbers and Glaziers Other skilled occupations		::				2,952 3,178 2,284 11,742 803 1,868 4,072	10,243 4,383 1,980 8,648 1,603 2,354 11,073	3,516 2,519 1,839 4,391 733 1,475 3,089	5,004 968 280 2,702 403 385 5,336	18 	43 2 1 16 2 21 <u>4</u> 24	21 1 1 10 -6	24 1 1 21 12 12 1 39	
Construction of Works						1,407	6,182	1,405	4,844	1	15	-	8	
Sawmilling						265	657	263	163	7	11	-	18	
Shipwrights	: ::	::	::	::	:	700 134 998	2,859 1,333 5,343	534 140 785	1,777 820 3,555	17 1 32	66 4 97	11 36	44 7 87	
Smiths Erectors, Fitters and Turners Metal Machinists Wiremen Other skilled occupations				:: :: :: :: :: :: :: :: :: :: :: :: ::		855 329 1,771 565 308 1,131 1,639	1,712 752 5,484 1,875 813 2,693 6,583	615 312 1,306 459 272 850 1,324	594 266 3,566 876 409 956 4,738	6 5 144 25 13 19 16	60 20 442 160 30 66 109	9 6 119 16 14 14 21	45 12 315 131 36 113 80	
Making of Vehicles	: ::	::	::	.:	::	647 563	1,138 586	468 423	356 68	8 2	45 10	10 5	51 11	
TOTAL MALES	. 44.	WO!				38,211	78,294	26,718	38,066	336	1,242	300	1,057	
TOTAL FEMALES						563	619	478	440	92	97	92	39	
GRAND TOTAL						38,774	78,913	27,196	38,506	428	1,339	392	1,096	

^{*} Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.
† Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 12th March, 1915.

						AD	ULTS.						J	VENIL	ES.
TRADES.	Or Begi	n Register	r at Period.	Regi	strations Period.*	during		Register nd of Per		Vacau	cies Fille Period	d during	Vacanc	ies File Period.	d during
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying	262	1	263	901	7	908	251	2	253	391	-	391	32	_	32
Miscellaneous Metal Trades	248	454	702	792	833	1,625	269	485	754	731	492	1,223	272	367	639
Textiles:— Cotton Wool and Worsted Other Textiles Oress:—	290 169 137	1,477 190 966	1,767 359 1,103	1,276 573 472	3,029 547 1,344	4,305 1,120 1,816	252 137 182	1,145 214 853	1,397 351 1,035	756 327 201	1,388 229 680	2,144 556 881	132 44 83	175 79 299	307 123 382
Boot and Shoe Workers Others Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages:—	236 299	65 4,844	301 5,143	594 572	170 5,464	764 6,036	219 307	64 3,917	283 4,224	174 115	58 2,363	232 2,478	44 65	31 992	75 1,057
On Railways On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c Agriculture	276 3,806 427	} 164 118	4,246 545	{ 480 10296 1,188	} 393 329	11,169 { 1,517	183 3,831 536	} 139 177	4,153 713	{1,055 5,632 433	} 289 130	6,976 563	1,933 70	<pre>} 556 36</pre>	2,533 106
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	461	658	1,119	757	1,167	1,924	320	574	894	181	357	538	133	451	584
Wood, Furniture, Fittings and	393	171	564	826	292	1,118	355	170	525	227	202	429	181	83	264
Decorations. Chemicals, Oil, Grease, Soap &c	54	171	225	234	889	1,123	75	638	713	498	385	883	647	267	914
Bricks, Cement, Pottery and Glass	155	250	405	322	444	766	169	226	395	183	121	304	53	69	122
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging:— Bread, Biscuit, &c., Makers Others Skins, Leather, Hair, Feathers	133 314 72	65 1,682 111	198 1,996 183	317 916 233	101 2,555 323	418 3,471 £56	145 395 72	55 1,462 139	200 1,857 211	88 393 128	68 1,354 234	156 1,747 362	287 46	528 188	815 234
Precious Metals, Jewels, Watches,	122	103	225	231	317	548	142	198	340	51	151	202	62	149	211
Instruments and Games. Gas, Water, Electricity Supply and	40	-	40	140	21	161	44	4	48	254	8	262	11	3	14
Sanitary Service.	2,095	2,076	4,171	3,946	2,761	6,707	2,466	2,219	4,685	1,126	644	1,770	845	450	1,295
Domestic:— Laundry and Washing Service Others	1,140 4,830	{ 861 12,242	} 14,243 4,830	2,214 14,456	{ 2,012 26,802 —	} 31,028 14,456	1,222 4,319	{ 890 12,026 —	} 14,138 4,319	E02 5,888	{ 1,362 10,110 —	} 12,274 5,888	263	2,127	2,390
Shop Assistants	344	1,798	2,142	616	2,536	3,152	359	1,763	2,122	7	321	410	131	278	409
All Others	1,209	2,623	3,832	4,095	5,019	9,114	1,388	2,488	3,876	3,061	873	3,939	1,872	578	2,450
TOTAL	17,512	31,090	43,602	46,447	57,355	103,802	17,638	29,848	47,486	22,789	21,819	44.608	7,250	7,706	14,956
Casual Employments	1,326	01-01	1,326	682	-	682	1,365	-	1,365	5,527	-	5,527	-	-	-

^{*} Including re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the Exchanges during the period.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR

April, 1915.

I.—BREAD.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lb. of bread on April 1st, 1915, have been received from 127 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations, and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised in the following Tables:—

	Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on						
District.	1st April, 1915.	1st March, 1915.	1st April, 1914.				
N. & N.W. E. & N.E. S.E. S.W. W. & W.C. N. Counties & Yorks. Lancs. & Cheshire Midlands Eastern Counties Southern Counties S. Western Counties S. Western Counties and Wales Scotland	 d. 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 73/4 73/4 73/4 73/4 73/4 73/4	d. 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 734 734 734 734 734	d. 51/4 55/4 6 6 51/2 6 53/4 6 53/4				
GREAT BRITAIN	8	8	5½				

The mean of the predominant prices on April 1st, 1915, showed an increase of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 lb. as compared with April 1st, 1914.

PREDOMINANT PRICES IN PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under:—

Place.	Predominant Price* per 4 lbs.	com	se as pared th a	Last	Last Change.		
	on 1st April, 1915.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Amount per 4 lbs.		
London Birmingham Bristol Cardiff Derby Hull Ipswich Leeds Leicester Liverpool Manchester Middlesbrough Norwich Nottingham Plymouth Portsmouth Stoke-on-Trent Southampton Wolverhampton Aberdeen Dundee Edinburgh Glasgow Belfast	d. 8 7½ & 8½ 7½ & 8 8 8 7½ & 8½ 7½ & 8 8 7½ & 8½ 8 7½ & 8 8 8 7½ & 8 8 8 7½ & 8 8 8 7½ & 8 8 8 7½ & 8 8 8 7½ & 8 8 8 7½ & 8 8 8 8 7½ & 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	d	d. 2½4 2½4 2 2½4 2½4 2½4 2½4 2½4 2½4 2½4 2	Feb., '15	d. 12 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		

^{*} Where two prices are quoted about equal quantities were sold at each price.

Compared with a year ago, the predominant price of bread has risen in all the towns shown in the Table; the increases ranging from $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3d. per 4 lb. In London the predominant price on April 1st, 1915, was 8d.; on April 1st, 1914, it was $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 4 lb.

II.-WHEAT AND FLOUR

Mean London Gazette Price (England		Imp (Average De	Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households		
	and Wales).	Wheat.	Wheat-meal* and Flour.*	ex Mill for Cash).	
March 1914. March 1915. February March	: 1:	Per qr. of 480 lb. s. d. 31 5 55 0 54 8	Per qr. of 480 lb. s. d. 34 5	Per cwt. 8. d. 10 a34 15 314 15 734	Per sack of 280 lb. { s. d. 26 10 49 3 50 2

The Imports of wheat and flour* during September, 1914-March, 1915, amounted to 15,125,596 qrs., or 56,918 qrs. more than in the corresponding months of 1913-1914.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MARCH.

The total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of March, 1915, was 64, as compared with 73 at the end of February, 1915, and 58 at the end of March, 1914. During the month the Registers of the Committees at Barking, Bristol, Hastings, Hyde, Leyton, Norwich, Stoke-on-Trent, Tynemouth, and Willesden were closed.

The total number of persons who received employment relief during March, 1915, was 5,940, as compared with 4,773 a year ago, an increase of 1,167 persons. Employment was also provided for 207 persons by arrangement with employers and local authorities.

The aggregate duration of employment relief decreased from 57,151 days in March, 1914, to 53,567 in March, 1915, and the average duration of employment was 9.3 days, as compared with 12.4 days a year ago.

The total amount of wages paid during March, 1915, was £8,306, compared with £9,680 a year ago; the average earnings were 28s., compared with 40s. 7d. in March, 1914; those not on piecework received an average of 3s. 1d. a day, compared with 3s. 8d. a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Applicants given Employ- ment Relief.		Aggregate Duration of Em- ployment Relief.		Total Amount of Wages Paid.	
	Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1914.	Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1914.	Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1914.
London: County Outer	1,464 2,408	1 483 829	Days. 20,828 5,380	Days. 24.398 7.665	£ 3,168 1,022	£ 4,500 1,364
TOTAL, LONDON	3,872	2,312	26,208	32,063	4,190	6,264
Northern Counties Lancs, and Cheshire Yorkshire Midlands Eastern Counties Southern Counties Wales and Monmouth	266 139 323* 161 108 307	395 6 10 215 78	4,295 695 3,476 2,793 1,081 4,664	1,144 piecew'k. 56 1,800 847	. 459 139 503 297 187 1,140	226 8 12 423 183
ENGLAND AND WALES	5,176	3,016	43,212	35,910	6,915	7,116
Scotland	204 560†	201	5,315 5,040	4.537 16,704	320 1,071	235 2,229
UNITED KINGDOM	5.940	4,773	53,567	57.151	8,306	9,680

56 men on piecework. † Includes 140 women on riecework. † Includes 164 women on piecework.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

The number of applications registered in March, 1915, showed an increase of 20 per cent. compared with March, 1914, and the number of situations offered showed a slight decrease. More applications were received from servants in March, 1915, than a year ago, and fewer situations were offered by employers; but the supply of cooks, parlourmaids, and housemaids was still not nearly equal to the demand. The supply of ladies' maids, children's nurses, and companions exceeded the demand.

		Г	"	TO OAK	ccuci	i one	uem	anu.	
	Applications by Work-		offe	Situations offered by		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
-		cople		Employers during		rma- ntly.		em-	
	Mar., 1915.		Mar., 1915.	Mar. 1914	Mar., 1915	Mar. 1914	Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1914.	
- 1 - 1 - 1			SUMM	ARY BY	BURE	AUX.	23.2	1000	
Central Bureau :-		1					100000		
5, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W Y.W.C.A.:—	192	113	158	111	51.	28	36	6	
26, George Street, {(1) Hanover Sq., W. {(2) Girls' Friendly Society, 39,	339 157	707 126	504 154	529 138	63 52	£6 36	22 13	21 3	
Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds,	218	242	349	372	90	€6	7	4	
Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin Bureaux	294	212	162	227	80	64	9	7	
TOTAL of 11 Bureaux	1,200	1,000	1,327	1,377	336	250	87	41	
	SUMMARY BY OCCUPATIONS.								
Superintendents,	00			1	1		1		
Forewomen, &c.	89	75 15	55	45	13	15	3	9	
Dressmakers, Milliners, &c. Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	71	47	76	93	42	21	iz	1 2 7	
Apprentices and Learners	172	142	107	60	50	24	20	7	
Domestic Servants Miscellaneous	633	545 167	901 122	1,017	174 35	152 22	17 27 8	20 2	
TOTAL of 11 Bureaux	1,200	1,000	1,327	1,377	336	250	87	41	

^{*} The figures include the estimated weight of offal, &c.

The Central Offices of the Young Women's Christian Association and the Girls' Friendly Society received offers from employers for 162 cooks, 169 parlourmaids, and 156 housemaids; whereas the numbers available to fill these vacancies were respectively only 54, 27, and 120.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS

IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.]

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during March, 1915, was 32, of which 27 were due to lead poisoning and 5 to anthrax. Two deaths, one due to lead poisoning and one to anthrax, were also reported. In addition, 8 cases of lead poisoning (3 of which were fatal) among house painters and plumbers were reported.

During the three months ended March, 1915, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 86, as compared with 161 during the corresponding period of 1914. The number of deaths in 1915 was 4, as compared with 14 in 1914. In addition, there were 32 cases of lead poisoning (including 15 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first three months of 1915, as compared with 52 cases (including 10 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1914.

SACRED SON PROBLEMS	- Tolf	Cases.			Deaths.	
Industry.	Month Three Mo			Month		
	of Mar,. 1915.	Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1914.	of Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1915.	Mar., 1914.
		1	Lead Po	oisoning.		
MONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN— Smelting of Metals Brass Works Sheet Lead and Lead Piping Plumbing and Soldering. Printing File Cutting and Hardening Tinning of Metals White Lead Works Red and Yellow Lead Works China, Earthenware, and Litho- Transfer Works Glass Cutting and Polishing Vitreous Enamelling Electrical Accumulator Works Paint and Colour Works Coach and Car Painting. Shipbuilding Paint used in other Industries Othal In Factories & Workshops HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	4 1 2 3 2 7 4 4 2 7 8	9	7 3 3 9 6 4 4 7 1 16 13 9 9 4 25 9 13 18 18		1 2 - 2 - 1 3 15	1
		Other	Forms	of Pois	oning.	STOTE
Barometer and Thermometer Making Furriers' Processes	-	1 -	-	-	-	-
Other Industries	_	1 2	=	-	=	
ARSENIC POISONING— Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic		-	-	-	-	-
Other Industries	_	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	-	2	-	-	-	-
POISONING			Aı	thrax.		
Wool	1	5	10 3	1 =	1 =	3 _
Handling of Horsehair Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers &c.) Other Industries	4	7	2	1 -	1 -	-
Other Industries TOTAL ANTHRAX	5	12	19	1	1	3
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FAC-	32	86	161	2	4	14

^{*} In addition 3 cases (2 of which were fatal) were reported among dock an transport labouters.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

CASES REPORTED IN MARCH.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.]

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1915, was 234, a decrease of 36 on a month ago, and of 27 on a year ago. The mean number for March during the five years 1910-1914 was 221, the maximum being 261 and the minimum 152.

Fatal accidents in the railway service during March, 1915, numbered 48, an increase of 9 on a month ago, and of 4 on a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 88, a decrease of 33 on February, 1915, and of 20 on March, 1914. Fatal accidents at quarries numbered 7, compared with 4 a month ago, and 9 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in March, 1915, was 88, a decrease of 17 on February, 1915, and of 10 on March, 1914.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during March, 1915, was 305, compared with 167 a month ago, and 92 a year ago.

The world because	Number ki	r of Workp lled during	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1915, on a		
Trade.	Mar., 1915.	Feb., 1915.	Mar., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
RAILWAY SERVICE — Brakesmen & Goods Guards Engine Drivers	5 3 1 2 7	7 2 i0	3 2 2 2 8	- 2 + 1 + 1 + 2 - 3	+ 2 + 1 - 1 + 2 - 1
cluding labourers) Porters	5 6 4 3 11 1	7 i 11 11	8 3 2 5 7 4	- 2 + 6 + 4 + 2	- 3 + 3 + 2 - 2 + 4 - 3
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE MINES— Underground	78	109 12	95 13	+ 9 - 31 - 2	+ 4 - 17 - 3
Surface	10	121	103	- 33	- 20
Quarries over 20 feet deep	7	4	9	+ 3	- 2
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS— Textile— Cotton Wool and Worsted Other Textiles Non-Textile— Extraction of Metals Founding and Conversion of Metals Marine and Locomotive Engineering Ship and Boat Building Gas Wood Clay, Stone, &c. Chemicals Laundries Laundries Food Drink Paper, Printing, &c. Other Non-Textile Industries TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5. Docks, Wharves, and Quays Warehouses Buildings to which Act applies	5 1 4 1 9 4 3 2 3 5 5 4 1 22 - 69	3 3 10 10 1 4 2 7 1 7 2 1 23	 1 16 3 19 2 6 2 2 2 2 2 3 4 1 20	+ 2 + 1 + 4 - 2 - 1 + 4 - 7 + 1 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3	+ 5 + 1 + 3 - 7 + 1 - 16 - 3 - 2 + 3 - 11 + 1 + 1 - 1
TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT SS. 104-5.	19	31	18	- 12	+ 1
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
TOTAL, EXCLUDING SEAMEN.	234	270	261	- 36	- 27
SEAMEN— On Trading Vessels— Sailing Steam On Fishing Vessels— Sailing Steam	40 229 5 31	26 108 3 30	33 42 1 16	+ 14 +121 + 2 + 1	+ 7 +187 + 4 + 15
TOTAL, SEAMEN	305	167	92	+138	+213
TOTAL, INCLUDING SEAMEN.	539	437	353	+102	+186

PAUPERISM.

April, 1915.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in March, 1915, in the 35 urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 187 per 10,000 of the estimated

Compared with a month ago, the number of paupers relieved decreased by 2,797, or 0.8 per cent., and the rate per 10,000 by 1. Indoor paupers relieved showed decrease of 2,391 (15 per cent.), and outdoor paupers 406 (0.2 per cent.). The only important changes in the districts were decreases of 10 and of 20 per cent. in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district and in the Galway district respectively.

Compared with March, 1914, there was a decrease of 9,584, or 2.7 per cent., in the total number of paupers relieved. The decrease was entirely in indoor paupers, the outdoor paupers showing a slight increase. Of the 35 districts, 25 showed a decrease, the most marked being Central London (21 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (17 per 10,000), South London (16 per 10,000), East London (13 per 10,000), and the Manchester and Belfast districts (12 per 10,000). Of the remaining districts, 8 showed small increases and 2 showed no change.

			of Mar.,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in	
Selected Urban Districts.	In- door.			Rate per 10,000 of Esti-	per 10,000 o Population : compared wi	
		1330	10231	mated Popula- tion.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*	12.197	9110	14 700	170	in the same	
West District North District Central District East District South District	15,152 4,500 13,713 23,670	2,112 7,226 1,422 5,258 14,429	14 309 22,378 5,922 18,971 38,099	176 221 407 283 203	- 3 - 2 - 4 - 3 - 1	- 9 - 9 - 21 - 13 - 16
TOTAL, Metropolis	69,232	30,447	93,679	221	- 2	- 13
West Ham	5,068	11,064	16,132	215	- 1	- 8
Other Districts. Newcastle District Stockton & Tees District Polton, Oldham, &c. Wigan District Manchester District Liverpool District. Bradford District. Halifax & Huddersfield Leeds District Barnsley District Barnsley District Hull District North Staffordshire North Staffordshire Nottingham District Leicester District Leicester District Wolverhampton District Birmingham District Bristol District Cardiff & Swansea TOTAL, "Other Districts" SCOTLAND.* Glasgow District Paisley & Greenock District	2,465 1,322 4,416 2,238 10,332 11,616 2,243 1,283 2,782 925 3,295 2,018 2,377 1,482 3,723 7,020 2,906 2,376 66,961	4,804 3,808 4,178 5,211 7,091 11,683 1,752 2,910 3,486 2,848 3,819 6,620 6,572 4,577 3,015 7,794 6,175 3,998 6,274	7,269 5 130 8,594 17,449 17,423 23,299 3,995 4,193 6,263 3,773 7,114 7,638 7,909 4,497 11,522 13,195 6,904 8,650 161,576	151 206 103 171 170 205 107 109 131 124 145 244 193 167 193 167 195	-5 -2 -1 -2 +2 -1 -2 -1 -2 -1 -2 -1 -2 -1	- 5 + 6 + 1 - 12 - 1 - 1 + 5 + 3 + 6 + 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 7 + 1 - 9 - 10 - 2
Dundee and Dunfermline Aberdeen Coatbridge & Airdrie	1,565 736 640 343	5,162 2,271 2,756 1,670	3,519 6,727 3,007 3,396 2,013	167 150 204 196	- 2 - 2 - 3 - 10	- 6 - 5 + 3 + 1
Scottish Districts	8,324	32,980	41,304	205	- 3	- 6
IRELAND.† Dublin District Belfast District Cork, Waterford Limerick District Galway District	5.985 3,082 3,492 307	5,320 917 4,337 194	11,305 3,999 7,829 501	276 94 311	- 3 - 1 - 6 - 20	- 9 - 12 - 17 - 10
TOTAL for the above Irish }	12,866	10,768	23,634	212	- 2	- 10
TOTAL for above 35 Dis- tricts in Mar., 1915	162,451	179,874	342,325	187	- 1	- 6

^{*} Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards, and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

BUILDING PLANS.

RETURNS received by the Department from 95 of the principal urban districts in the United Kingdom (exclusive of the County of London), giving the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans were passed during the first quarter of 1915, show that there was a net decrease of £1,775,677 (or 44.8 per cent.) compared with the corresponding period of 1914. The population of the districts included in the Returns is over 12 millions:-

Shops Church- Other Build-

Population at Census of 1911.	Dwelling Houses.	and Work- shops.	other Business Pre- mises.	Public Build- ings.	Addi- tions and Altera- tions.	Total.
New York Company		Fi	irst Quar	ter of 191	.4.	
	£	£	£	ı £	£	£
Outer London (1,700,000) Northern Counties (725,000)	427.827 52,551	34,698 11,230	59,116 34,715	42,075 37,000	67,599 21,847	631,315 157,343
Yorkshire (1,925,000) Lancashire & Cheshire (2,375,000)	212,640 407,475	118,460 224,693	77,175 97,815	170.430 83,935	64,298 121,971	643,003 935,889
Midlands (1,200,000) Other Districts in England (1,145,000)	223,263 237,480	58,000 100,835	36,241 49,350	79,447 59,055	76,129 42,122	473,080 488,842
Wales & Mon. (430,000) Scotland (1,830,000) Ireland (825,000)	32,535 56,290 57,015	4,065 107,435 2,190	1,523 91,006 4,675	69,532 39,580	18,605 141.383 10,936	56,728 465,646 114,396
TOTAL	1,707,076	661,606	481,616	581,054	564,890	3,966,242
tool & Blow Design	to Jahoo	F	irst Quar	ter of 191	.5.	(A) (B)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Outer London (1,700,000) Northern Counties (725,000)*	97,305 18,200	80,984 42,045	8,078 1,775	29,800 29,640	30,139 18,519	246,306 110,179
Yorkshire (1,925,000) Lancashire & Cheshire (2,375,000)	85,849 110,899	204,072 77,515	58,115 126,615	89,760 55,250	46,075 69,740	483,871 440,019
Midlands (1,200,000) Other Districts in England (1,145,000)	101,548 68,765	81,731 4,980	15,917 4,450	18,072 3,350	58,702 34,165	275,970 115,710
Wales & Mon. (430,000) Scotland (1,830,000) Ireland (825,000)	18,300 41.380 74,660	132,171 5,850	3,650 6,480 44,565	91,896 3,575	6,134 77,576 12,273	28,084 349,503 140,523
TOTAL	616,903	629,348	289,645	321,343	353,323	2,190,565

All descriptions of buildings showed a decrease, which was most marked in the case of dwelling-houses (63.9 per cent.), churches, schools, and public buildings (44.7 per cent.), and shops and other business premises (40.3 per cent.). Factories and workshops showed little reduction, and in some districts, particularly in the Northern Counties and in Yorkshire, a marked

There was a considerable increase in Ireland (23.2) per cent.), but all the other districts showed large decreases, the most noticeable of which were in "Other districts in England " (76.3 per cent.), in Outer London (61.0 per cent.), in Lancashire and Cheshire (53.0 per cent.), and in Wales and Monmouthshire (50.5 per cent.).

The following Table shows, for each class of building and for each district, the increase or decrease in the quarter ended March 31st, 1915, compared with the corresponding quarter of 1914:-

OF SERVICE AND SERVICE STATE OF SERVICE	Increase (+) or	Decrease (
77.75 4 700.58 Sant 1	Amount.	Per cent
LASS OF BUILDING:	£	E-AR SHARE
Dwelling Houses	-1,090.170	07.0
Factories and Workshops	- 32,258	- 63·9 - 4·9
Shops and Other Business Premises	- 181,971	- 40
Churches, Schools and Public Buildings	- 259,711	- 447
Other Buildings, Additions and Alterations	- 211,567	- 37-6
Section 1990 State of Section 2	The second second	
TOTAL	-1,775,677	- 44.8
ISTRIOTS!: Outer London Northern Counties Yorkshire Lancashire and Cheshire Midlands Other Districts in England Wales and Monmouthshire Scotland Ireland	# 385 009 - 47.164 - 169.132 - 495,870 - 197.110 - 373 132 - 28.644 - 116,143 + 26,527	- 61·0 - 30·0 - 24·7 - 53·0 - 41·7 - 76·3 - 50·5 - 24·9 + 23·2
TOTAL	-1,775,677	- 44.8

 $[\]dagger$ Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

IMPORTS IN MARCH.

THE total value of the imports in March was £75,591,000, compared with £65,269,000 in February and £66,947,000 in March of last year. The increase over a year ago was largely due to higher prices, but there were also substantial increases in the quantity of many foodstuffs and raw materials.

FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO.

Grain and Flour.—The imports of wheat again showed a decline in quantity, but an increase in total value, as compared with last year. The United States, the Argentine Republic, and the British East Indies sent more wheat than in March, 1914, but the British East Indies sent more wheat than in March, 1914, but there was a reduction in the supplies from Canada and a continued stoppage of supplies from Australia and Russia, resulting in a decrease of 35 per cent. in the total quantity imported. Wheat meal and flour, which come principally from the United States, showed an increase in both quantity and value. The imports of maize were four times as large as in March, 1914, and all the other important cereals also showed increases.

Meat.—Beef and mutton both showed decreases in quantity, but increases in value, as compared with last year. Chilled beef from the Argentine showed a decline of 324,000 cwts., or 55 per from the Argentine showed a decline of 324,000 cwts., or 55 per cent.; but frozen beef from Australia increased by 90,000 cwts., or 64 per cent. In mutton, larger imports from Australia partly compensated for reduced imports from New Zealand and the Argentine. There was a great decline in the imports of pork, which comes almost entirely from the Netherlands. Bacon, hams and preserved meat showed great increases in both quantity and value. The total imports of meat of all kinds were 3½ per cent. less than in March, 1914, but the total value was higher by more than 31 per cent. more than 31 per cent.

Other Articles of Food, &c.—Eggs showed a reduction of 1,033,000 great hundreds, or 49 per cent., compared with a year ago. Butter showed practically no change in quantity, but an increase in value. Cheese showed a reduction in quantity, increased receipts from the United States and Canada being in sufficient to outweigh a heavy fall in imports from New Zealand; but the total value was greater than in March, 1914. Cocoa, tea, condensed milk, apples and bananas, hops, lard, refined oils, spices, and onions showed increases in both quantity and value; while coffee, wine and tobacco showed decreases. Fresh fish showed a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value; while canned salmon showed a decrease, and sardines an increase in both quantity and value. Sugar showed a decline in quantity in March; the total imports in the three months, January-March, however, were higher than in the corresponding periods of 1913 and 1914, owing to a heavy importation in January and February. Mauritius and Java, which sent only 100,000 cwts. in March, 1914, supplied 1,677,000 cwts. last month; the remainder came mostly from the Netherlands, Cuba, and the British West Indies.

RAW MATERIALS.

Textile Materials.—The imports of cotton amounted to 3,546,000 centals in March, compared with 2,458,000 and 1,306,000 centals, respectively, in March, 1914 and 1913. The total imports for the three months, January-March, also show substantial advances over the two previous years. Wool increased by over 44 million pounds, or 49 per cent., compared with a year ago, principally owing to the enormously larger receipts from Australia; New Zealand and the Argentine also sent more than in March of last year, but other countries sent reduced quantities, or none at all. Hemp showed a small increase, and jute and silk great increases; but mohair, alpaca, woollen rags, and flax all showed reductions.

Other Raw Materials.—The quantities of the other principal raw materials imported in March, 1915, are shown below, with the increases or reductions as compared with March, 1914:—

Article.	Quantity imported in March, 1915.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on March, 1914.
Iron ore	548,823 185,265 10,450 13,816 149,417 78,117 169,546 46,019 63,005,468	+ 31,703 + 8,789 - 22,674 - 16,726 + 28,459 + 6.161 - 170.003 + 35.342 +20,423,971
Other industrial oils (including turpentine). value Tallow cwts. Hides, raw cwts. She ps' skins, woolled lb. Wood pulp crntals Rubber	£689,590 225,530 163,87,8 13,643,982 43,147 227,460	+ £155.490 + 87.746 + 45,450 + 7,125 009 + 3,930 + 64.755

Iron ore showed an increase of nearly 170,000 tons over either January or February. In timber (other than furniture woods) the cessation of imports from Russia was counterbalanced by increased imports from Norway, Sweden and Canada. The decline in linseed was due to smaller receipts from the Argentine, the principal source of supply. In petroleum, the increase was principally in motor spirit and in fuel oils, the latter increasing from 13,470,024 gallons in March, 1914, to 29,641,789 gallons last month. In rubber the increase was almost entirely due to

larger imports from the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States and from Ceylon; these countries supplied nearly 70 per cent. of the total imports last month.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

In iron and steel and manufactures thereof there was a decline In iron and steel and manufactures thereof there was a decline from 217,000 tons to 65,000 tons; nearly half the reduction was in semi-manufactured steel (blooms, billets, sheet bars and tinplate bars, &c.). Copper and tin showed an increase; zinc showed a reduction in quantity, but an increase in value. Hardware, scientific instruments and apparatus, electrical goods and apparatus, and machinery, all showed great reductions. Cotton yarns and manufactures declined by £788,000, or 66 per cent.; and woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures by £875,000, or 79 per cent. Silk and linen manufactures also declined, but jute manufactures showed an increase. Nearly all the other categories of manufactured articles showed a reduction, except leather and certain chemicals and dyeing and tanning materials. certain chemicals and dyeing and tanning materials.

EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN MARCH.

[N.B.—Goods bought in the United Kingdom by, or on behalf of the Governments of the Allies are included in the exports, but not goods taken from British Government Stores and Depots, or goods bought by H.M. Government and shipped on Government vessels.]

The total value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures in March, 1915, was £30,176,000, compared with £26,177,000 in February, 1915, and with £44,519,000 in March, 1914. This is the first time since the outbreak of war that the British exports have exceeded £30,000,000 in value, as also the first time that they have exceeded two-thirds of the value in the corresponding month of the previous year.

FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO.

There was an increase in the exports of flour compared with March, 1914, but a decrease in fish, in beer and spirits, and in biscuits, confectionery, and jams.

RAW MATERIALS.

There was a total reduction of £1,513,000, or 26 per cent., in this group, principally owing to reduced exports of coal and of wool. Coal showed a reduction of 2,027,000 tons, or 33 per cent., a smaller reduction, however, than in January or February.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Manufactured Articles.

Textiles.—The only important increases in this group were in woollen tissues and in blankets; the increase in woollen tissues was entirely owing to an enormous increase in exports to France, all the other principal destinations, except Australia, showing a great decline. Cotton yarns declined by 4,271,000 lb., or 22 per cent., and cotton tissues by 237,940,000 yards, or 40 per cent.; the reduction in cotton tissues, however, was less than in January or February. France took 23,000,000 yards more than in March of last year, but all the other principal destinations showed great reductions, especially India (111,014,000 yards less), China (36,173,000 yards), and Turkey (31,965,000 yards). Worsted yarn decreased by 3,611,000 lb., or 80 per cent., and worsted tissues (principally owing to reduced exports to the United States) by 2,121,000 yards, or 34 per cent. Linen yarns and piece goods also showed great reductions. France again took greatly increased quantities of linen piece goods; but the exports to the United States, by far the most important market, fell to less than half the quantity exported in March of last year.

Other Articles.—The quantities or values of the other prin-

Other Articles.—The quantities or values of the other principal manufactured articles, and the increase or decrease compared with March, 1914, are shown below:—

Article.	Exports in March, 1915.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on March, 1914.	
Pig iron	20,172 29,669 17,767 32,035 36,170 22,237	- 72 192 - 38,979 - 23,668 + 18,849 - 4,693 - 4,320	
or cast Other manufactures of iron and steel ,,	71,968	- 44,357	
Total, iron and steel and manu-	235,978	- 169,360	
Copper and manufactures thereof, Tin, unwrought		- 2,226 + 110 - 23,170 - 84,718 + 366 - 42,110 - 1,978,165 - 262,360 + 25,400 - 94,258 - 216,772 - 153,490 - 191,100	
Motor cars, cycles, motor cycles and parts thereof. Books, piinted	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, TH	- 289,306 - 87,403	

The decline in machinery was, as in previous months, specially heavy in textile and agricultural machinery and in railway

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN JANUARY-MARCH, 1915.

April, 1915.

The imports in the three months ended March, 1915, were valued at £208,166,000, compared with £196,998,000 in the corresponding period of 1914. There were increases in the food group, in wool, in leather, in petroleum, and in tallow, but reductions in cotton, in iron and steel and manufactures thereof, in textile manufactures (especially woollen and worsted), and in motor-cars and parts thereof. The exports (British and Irish) were valued at £84,601,000, compared with £133,587,000 in the first quarter of 1914. The most marked reductions were in cotton manufactures, in machinery, in iron and steel and manufactures

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

THE results of the ascertainments of the selling prices of coal and iron in various districts are given below:

	Price according Audit		Increase of last Audit on		
Product and District.	Period Average selling price per ton.		Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	
COAL. (Average of all classes		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
of coal at pit's mouth) Northumberland	{Dec., 1914—} Feb., 1915}	9 3.87	0 1.50	*	
PIG IRON. Cleveland	1915. Jan.—Mar. Jan.—Mar.	52 8 ·95 82 9·619	1 11·42 18 2·059	1 3.82 21 9.619	
MANUFACTURED IRON. North of England (Rails, plates, bars and	Jan. — Feb.	141 11.80	0 10.42	3 2 21	
angles.) Midlands (Bars, angles, tees, sheets,	Jan.—Feb.	148 9:20	0 7:36	3 10-58	
plates, hoops, strips &c.) West of Scotland (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.)	Jan.—Feb.	142 3.75	3 6.95	8 7.28	

* No audit.

Coal.—In connexion with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, miners' wages were advanced under sliding scale by 1 per cent.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were increased by $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Cleveland and by $22\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in Cumberland.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England, the Midlands, and the West of Scotland the wages of puddlers and millmen remained unchanged as a result of the ascertainments of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED, DISSOLVED, &c., DURING MARCH.

[Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.]

In the following Tables particulars are given as to the number of each of the various classes of unions and societies which were (1) registered or certified or (2) removed from the register during

(1) REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED.

Class of Society.	Number Registered or Certified.	Class of Society.	Number Registered or Certified.
Trade Unions Industrial and Provident Societies.	1 18	Friendly Societies Building ", (Branches)	22 36 1

(2) REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER.

	Notices receiv		
Class of Society.	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Registry
Trade Unions Industrial and Provident Societies Friendly Societies Building " (Branches)	2	5 17 50 6	15 12

PASSENGER MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN FEBRUARY.

UNITED KINGDOM IN FEBRUARY.

In February, 1915, the total number of passengers who landed in the United Kingdom from other countries was 54,681, and the number who embarked for other countries was 49,484; these numbers compare with 69,855 and 76,461 respectively in February, 1914. In the two months ending February the passengers inward numbered 128,661, and the passengers outward 113,600, the inward being 20,047 and the outward 52,168 less than in the corresponding period of 1914.

The number of outward passengers to non-European countries in February was 8,865 in 1915, and 25,011 in 1914, these numbers including 7,165 and 17,269 British subjects respectively; the inward passengers from non-European countries in February numbered 10,445 in 1915 and 18,871 in 1914, of whom 8,441 and 10,837 respectively were British subjects. The numbers in the two months ending February were 20,542 outward, including 16,330 British, and 21,434 inward, including 17,005 British; the number of British subjects being less by 19,139 and 3,845 respectively than in the first two months of 1914.

The total of passengers of British nationality in February includes 4,961 passengers outward who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom, and intending to reside permanently in non-European countries; while 5,380 of the inward passengers were recorded as having been resident in such countries and intending to reside within the United Kingdom. The British passengers who were so recorded as changing their country of permanent residence during the two months ending February numbered 10,581 outward, and 10,794 inward, showing a decrease of 14,017, and an increase of 2,509 respectively, on the corresponding figures for 1914. The distribution of the migratory movement of British subjects during February and the two months ending February is shown below, so far as the principal countries are concerned.

Migrants of British Nationality.*	February		Two months ending February	
	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
EMIGRANTS TO— British North America	4,463 1,691 754 600 443 427 8,378	835 1,458 212 381 345 345 345	6,399 6,050 1,382 1,454 1,134 971	1,543 2,558 553 858 1,040 816
United States	3,330 622 12,330	1,144 241 4,961	5,786 1,422 24,598	2,552 661 10,581
IMMIGRANTS FROM— British North America Australia New Zealand British South Africa India (including Ceylon) Other British Colonies and Possessions	1,306 696 142 582 284 220	1,795 567 50 512 340 461	2,604 1,313 248 1,030 484 410	3,518 1,201 138 1,012 627 855
TOTAL, BRITISH EMPIRE	3,230	3,725	6,089	7,351
United States	749 393	876 779	1,463 733	1,906 1,537
TOTAL IMMIGRANTS	4,372	5,380	8,285	10,794
EXCESS OF EMIGRANTS	7,958	419†	16,313	213†

* Exclusive of persons travelling via Continental Ports.
† Excess of Immigrants.

EMERGENCY GRANTS TO TRADE UNIONS.

DURING the month of March a total sum of £7,077 1s. 5d. was paid to Trade Unions by way of emergency grants in aid of exceptional expenditure on unemployment benefit owing to the war.

The following statement shows the number of Unions, arranged in trade groups, to which grants have been made, and the total sum paid to the 31st March:—

		Applications Granted.			
Trade Gr	oup.	No. of Associations.	Membership.	Amounts Paid.	The second
Building Metal* Cotton† Other Textile Printing Woodwork Other Trades‡		1 18 133 7 6 8 9	61 8,372 220,954 5,402 23,260 17,302 8,427	£ s. d. 4 6 3 1,165 11 2 64,772 4 7 2,120 13 9 4,948 13 8 1,801 7 0 1,943 8 8	O I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
TOTAL		182	283,778	76,756 5 1	
		THE RESERVE TO SERVE	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	

Textile Machinery and Jewellery workers.
Including Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing in Cotton.
Leather workers, Basket makers, Hatters, Tobacco (Cigar) workers, etc.

LEGAL CASES, OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

152

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION: NOTICE OF ACCIDENT: SUBMISSION TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION: REPEATED MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Where a workman has given notice of an accident he must, if so required by the employer, submit himself for examination by a medical practitioner; and if he refuses to so submit himself his right to compensation and to prosecute any proceedings under the Act may be suspended until such examination has taken

place.

A workman was injured by accident in January, 1911, in circumstances which entitled him to compensation; and his employers paid him a weekly sum without any formal agreement or proceedings until June, 1911, when he resumed work. He continued to work as before the accident until August, 1912, receiving no payments by way of compensation after June, 1911. In August, 1912, he stopped work owing to an illness, which had nothing whatever to do with the accident. In June, 1913, he had recovered from his illness; but he then alleged partial incapacity as a result of the old injury from the accident. He accordingly recovered from his illness; but he then alleged partial incapacity as a result of the old injury from the accident. He accordingly served his employers with a notice of the accident and with notice that, unless they supplied him with some light work, he would take proceedings for compensation under the Act. The employers thereupon required him to submit himself for examination to their medical man. In pursuance of this request he was examined on 26th June, 1913. On 10th September, 1913, the examined on 26th June, 1913. On 10th September, 1915, the workman commenced proceedings in the county court, claiming compensation as from August, 1912. The employers denied any liability, and on 22nd September required him again to submit himself to medical examination. This request he refused. The employers then applied to the judge for an order suspending all proceedings by the workman until he had submitted himself to medical examination as required. The judge made the order asked for, and the Court of Appeal upheld his decision. The workman appealed further workman appealed further.

The House of Lords held that, although neither the Act nor the regulations made thereunder say how often a workman must submit himself to medical examination, it was not reasonable to read into the Act a provision limiting such examinations to one; neither was there anything in the Act or in good sense warranting such limitation. A workman must submit himself to medical examination whenever he is reasonably required by the employers so to submit himself, and the county court judge is the only person who can decide what is reasonable in the particular circumstances of each case. The appeal was therefore dismissed.

—Smith v. D. Davis & Sons, Ltd.—House of Lords.—29th March 1915

INDUSTRIAL DISEASE: REFUSAL OF CERTIFICATE BY CERTIFYING SURGEON: APPEAL TO MEDICAL REFEREE: FINALITY OF REFEREE'S

The Act applies to certain diseases called "industrial diseases, The Act applies to certain diseases called "industrial diseases, which are due to the nature of certain employments, as if any such disease were a personal injury caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment. Amongst such diseases is lead poisoning and its sequelæ. Where the certifying surgeon, appointed under the Factory Act, 1901, certifies that a workman is suffering from any such disease, and is thereby disabled from earning full wages, the workman becomes entitled to compensation under the Act, and the disablement is to be tracted as the harmoning of the accident: the date of disablement is to compensation under the Act, and the disablement is to be treated as the happening of the accident; the date of disablement is to be such date as the certifying surgeon certifies as the date upon which the disablement commenced. If either employer or workman is aggrieved by the action of any such certifying surgeon in giving or refusing to give a certificate of disablement, the matter may be referred to a medical referee, whose decision is to be final. On 30th January, 1914, a workman applied to the certifying surgeon for his district for a certificate of disablement on the ground that he was suffering from lead poisoning, and had been so suffering since 22nd May, 1913. The certifying surgeon refused to give a certificate, on the ground that he was not satisfied that the workman was suffering from the alleged disease so as to be disabled from earning full wages. The workman accordingly appealed to the medical referee, who took a different view from that of the certifying surgeon, and on 22nd April, 1914, gave the workman a certificate that he was disabled by the disease, and fixing the date of the accident as 24th May, 1913. The workman then claimed compensation, and his claim came before an arbitrator, who stated a special case for the decision of the county court judge. The questions raised for the decision of the judge were (a) whether the certificate of the medical before an arbitrator, who stated a special case for the decision of the county court judge. The questions raised for the decision of the judge were (a) whether the certificate of the medical referee was conclusive or binding on the employers as to the workman suffering from lead poisoning on and before 22nd April, 1914; and (b) whether the fact that the certificate omitted to state in terms that the workman was disabled by the disease from earning full wages invalidated the certificate. The judge decided both questions in favour of the workman, and the employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the decision of the medical

The Court of Appeal held that the decision of the medical referee was conclusive in every respect, and could not be questioned either as to the fact of the workman suffering from the particular disease named, or as to the date of disablement. The

appeal was therefore dismissed.—Chuter v. Ford & Sons, Ltd.—Court of Appeal.—29th January, 1915.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASE: RIGHT AGAINST LAST EMPLOYER: No EMPLOYER AT DATE OF DISABLEMENT.

Where a workman is entitled to compensation under the Act in respect of disablement by an industrial disease, such compensation is recoverable from the employer who last employed him during the period of twelve months previous to the date of the

during the period of twelve months previous to the date of the disablement in the employment to the nature of which the disease was due. Miner's nystagmus is an industrial disease. A miner in the employment of a colliery company left such employment on 2nd September, 1914, and joined the Army. He was discharged, however, on 29th September because of defective sight. When he left the employment of the company he had clear symptoms of nystagmus, and on 8th October he was duly certified as suffering from miner's nystagmus, the date of discountributes of the company of the contribute of the company and on the october he was duly certified as suffering from miner's nystagmus, the date of discountributes of the company of the contribute of the company and the contribute of the company and the contribute of the company of the company and the contribute of the company of the company and the contribute of the company of the company and the contribute of the company of the com certified as suffering from miner's nystagmus, the date of di ablement being certified as 2nd October, 1914. He was total incapacitated from earning wages down to 17th December, 1914 when he was able to do light work. He made a claim for compensation from his former employers, and an award in his favour was made by the Sheriff-Substitute for £1 a week from 2nd October to 19th December, and 17s. 6d. a week from the latter date. The employers denied all liability, and appealed against the

At the hearing of the appeal it was contended on behalf of the employers that it was necessary under the Act that a workman should be in the service of the employer from whom he claimed compensation at the date of the disablement in order to have a right to compensation. The Court of Session, however, held that there was no such necessity, and that the award was good. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—Keary v. Archibald Russell, Ltd.—Court of Session.—13th March, 1915.

(2) COAL MINES ACTS.

INSPECTOR APPOINTED BY WORKMEN: APPOINTMENT OF CHECK-WEIGHER AS INSPECTOR: ELIGIBILITY.

By the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, the persons employed in a coal mine who are paid by weight have the right to appoint a checkweigher, and to station him at each place where the coal is weighed to take a correct account in the interests of such persons employed. A checkweigher must not in any way impede or interrupt the working of the mine, or interfere with the management of the mine. By the Coal Mines Act, 1911, the workmen employed in a mine are given power, at their own cost to appoint two inspectors, who may be two of their own cost, to appoint two inspectors, who may be two of their own number or any two persons, not being mining engineers, who have had at least five years' practical experience under-ground as working miners. These inspectors have power to in-spect the mine and all the works at certain periods, and must be

spect the mine and all the works at certain periods, and must be given every facility for so doing.

At a certain coal mine the workmen, acting under the powers conferred upon them by the Act of 1911, appointed as one of their inspectors a man who already filled the post of checkweigher at the mine. No objection could be taken to the appointment of this man as inspector except that he was a checkweigher; but the owners of the mine refused to recognise him as inspector on the ground that a checkweigher was not eligible for appointment. Proceedings were taken in the High Court to test the validation of the appointment, and the judge held that a checkweigher was not disqualified from being appointed inspector. The mine owners appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that there was nothing to show that a checkweigher acting as inspector would necessarily interfere with the management of the mine, and that there were no words in the Act prohibiting him from Feing an inspector. If he were absent from the pithead for short periods while inspecting the mine, that was a matter affecting the interests of the workmen alone; if they were willing to run the risk there was nothing to prevent them. The appeal was therefore dismissed. prevent them. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—Date v. Gas Coal Collieries, Ltd.—Court of Appeal.—25th March, 1915.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1915. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

DECISIONS BY THE UMPIRE.

Pursuant to paragraph (5) of the Unemployment Insurance (Umpire) Regulations, 1912, the Board of Trade hereby give notice of the following decision by the Umpire on questions whether contributions are parable to whether contributions are payable:

A.—The Umpire has decided that contributions are payable

in respect of :1507. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of tubes for

shrapnel shells. Correction.—At the end of paragraph (c) in decision B 1477, and at the end of paragraph (b) in decision A 1478 (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1914), the words "within

two years" should be added.

Note.—Decisions relating to individual workmen which raise no question of general interest, or which merely apply a principle laid down in a previous decision, are not published.

TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

TAILORING TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN). FILLING OF ANNUAL VACANCIES ON THE TRADE BOARD. In accordance with the Regulations with respect to the onstitution and proceedings of the Tailoring Trade oard (Great Britain), seven representatives of emyers and seven representatives of workers retired on

d March, 1915. After considering names supplied employers and workers respectively, the Board of de selected the following persons to be members of the ade Board for the period commencing 23rd March,

Representatives of Employers.—Mr. G. W. Brown*, Mr. S. Hart*, Mr. C. J. Healy*, Mr. D. Little*, Mr. W. Peck*, Mr. E. Symonst, Mr. B. W. Vince* Representatives of Workers .- Mr. A. Headon*, Mr. Hillman, Mr. W. E. Jancey*, Mr. J. J. Mallon* Miss A. Morrison*, Mr. J. Samuel*, Mr. J. Young*.

HOLLOW-WARE TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN).

PROPOSAL TO FIX MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

The Hollow-ware Trade Board (Great Britain) has etermined to propose the following minimum rates of ges for female workers employed in those branches of Hollow-ware Trade which are engaged in the making hollow-ware from sheet iron or sheet steel, including he processes of galvanising, tinning, enamelling, paintng, japanning, lacquering and varnishing:-

(a) For Female Learners:

When employed under 15 years of age 6s. 0d. per week.

When employed at 15 and under 16 years of age When employed at 16 and under 17 years of age When employed at 17 and under 18 7s. 6d. ,, 9s. 0d. ,, ... 11s. 0d. ,, years of age

Provided that a female worker entering the trade over the ge of 16 may serve a period of one year as a learner at the ollowing minimum rates, that is to say:

First six months 8s. per week. Second six months 9s. ,,

Thereafter the minimum rate shall be that applicable to the orker's age.

(b) For Female Workers other than Learners: 13s. 6d. per week.

The above rates are based on a week of 54 hours and are subject to a proportionate deduction or increase cording as the number of hours spent by the worker in he factory or workshop in any week is less or more than

The Trade Board will consider any objections to the above proposals which may be lodged with it within three months from 21st April, 1915. Objections should be addressed to the Secretary of the Hollow-ware Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

TIN BOX AND CANISTER TRADE (GREAT BRITAIN). PROPOSAL TO FIX MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.

The Tin Box Trade Board (Great Britain) has resolved o propose the following minimum rates of wages for emale workers:-

(a) For Female Workers other than Learners: 14s. 1d. per week of 52 hours.

(b) For Female Learners:
When employed under 15 years of age 6s. 0d. per week.
When employed at 15 and under 16

years of age When employed at 16 and under 17 years of age When employed at 17 and under 18 8s. 0d. ,, 10s. 0d. ,,

years of age 12s. 0d. ,, (c) As regards workers over 18 years of age who have had no previous experience in the trade, it is proposed that the minimum rate for a period of 12 months shall be 12s. per week.

The Trade Board will consider any objections to the above proposals which may be lodged with it within three months from 21st April, 1915. Objections should be addressed to the Secretary, Tin Box Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

* Retiring member appointed for a further period.
† Mr. Symons has since resigned and Mr. I. Marks has been appointed in his

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

MARCH, 1915.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination *	
Ballinrobe	M. J. Hawkshaw, Ballinrobe	Tuesday, 10-11 a.m.	
(co. Mayo) Braunton (Devon)	F. R. E. Wright, Braunton	The Surgery, The Square Braunton, Weekdays, 9.10 a.m.	
Carnforth (Lancs)	F. W. Moss, 72, Lancaster Road, Carnforth	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.	
Clogher (co. Tyrone)	R. H. Ross, Clogher	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.	
Downpatrick	J. J. Murray, Irish Street,	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.	
(co. Down) Lerwick	Downpatrick A. C. McVittie, Lerwick	Weekdays, 9-10 a m.	
(Shetlands) Llansawel (Carmarthen)	D. T. G. Jones, Castle Green, Llansawel	Monday, 9.30—10.30 a.m.	
Ruldington (Nottingham)	J. W. M. Hunter, Oxford House, Ruddington	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.	
Southwold (Suffolk)	D. W. Collings, 3, Queen Street, Southwold	Weekdays, 9-10 a m.	
Stewartstown (co. Tyrone)	R. J. Spence, Stewartstown	Stewartstown Dispensar Tuesday and Saturda 10 a.m12 noon.	
Tarbert (Argyll)	W. P. A. Stewart, Tarbert, Loch Fyne	The Medical Hall, Tarbert Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.	
Turriff (Aberdeen)	A. S. Niven, Towie Cottage,	Wednesday, 9-10 a.m.	

Note.—Except where otherwise stated the place of examination is at the residence of the Oertifying Surgeon.

Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

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.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

UNITED KINGDOM.

[All the United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any Bookseller from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, Lond n, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H.M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 28, Forth Street, Edinburgh: vr E. Ponsonby, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

Report to the Board of Trade on the State of Employment in the United Kingdom in February, 1915. [Cd. 7850: price 2½d.]

Central Committee on Women's Employment. Interim Report.

Local Government Board. [Cd. 7848: price 4½d.]

General Abstract of Marriages, Births, and Deaths registered in England and Wales in the year 1914. Registrar-General.

General Abstract of Marriages, Britis, and Beatis registered in England and Wales in the year 1914. Registrar-General. [Cd. 7831: price 1d.]

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the Year ending 31st December, 1913. Part A. General Report. Friendly Societies, Industrial and Provident Societies, Trade Unions, &c. [H.C. 121: price 2s.]

Railway Companies (Staff and Wages). Return showing Staff Employed and Average Weekly Wages and Salaries during 1913. Board of Trade. [H.C. 470: price 2½d.]

Report of the Metropolitan Poor Law Inspectors' Advisory Committee on the Homeless Poor, 1914. Local Government Board. [Cd. 7840: price 1½d.]

Street Accidents caused by Vehicles. Return showing number of Accidents resulting in Death or Personal Injury, 1914. Home Office. [H.C. 150: price 2d.]

Annual Report of Proceedings under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908 and 1910, and other Acts. 1914. Part I. Small Holdings. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 7851: price 3d.]

Prices and Supplies of Grain, Live Stock, and other Agricultural Produce in Scotland. Agricultural Statistics, 1913. Vol. 11, Part III. Board of Agriculture for Scotland. [Cd. 7829:

Dominions Royal Commission. Fourth Interim Report of the Royal Commission on the Natural Resources, Trade, and Legislation of certain portions of His Majesty's Dominions. [Cd. 7711:

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

India.—Monthly Statistics of Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Indian Mills. November and December, 1914. Department of Statistics. [Calcutta: Government Printing Office.]

Canada.—The Labour Gazette, February, 1915. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during January, review of trade disputes in Canada during 1914, changes in wages and hours, trade disputes and industrial accidents in January, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—Census and Statistics Monthly, January, 1915. Field crops of Canada, final report for 1914. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

King's Printer.]

—Saskatchewan. The Public Service Monthly, February, 1915. [Regina: J. W. Reid, Government Printer.]

Commonwealth of Australia.—Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, November, 1914. Trade unions, unemployment, changes in wages, industrial disputes, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co.]

New South Wales.—The Industrial Gazette, January, 1915. Awards and Proceedings under the Industrial Arbitration Act, emergency legislation, dislocations in industries, employment and unemployment, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

Printer.]
—The Industrial Arbitration Reports, 1914. Vol XIII. Part 5.
[Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]
—Friendly Societies, Trade Unions, Building Societies, Cooperative Societies, and Transactions under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1910. Report of the Registrar for the year 1913.
[Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]
VICTORIA.—Determinations of Wages Boards. Tanners' Board, dated 7th January, 1915, cancelling that of 19th December, 1911.
Woodworkers' Board, dated 22nd January, 1915, cancelling that of 24th July, 1913.
QUEENSLAND.—Industrial Peace Act Awards. Plastering Trade, dated 17th December, 1914, cancelling that of 25rd June, 1911.
Western Australia.—Report of Proceedings by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ended 30th June, 1914. Friendly Societies, Benefit Building Societies, Co-operative and Provident Societies, Workers' Compensation, and Truck Acts. [Perth: F. W. Simpson, Government Printer.]

Societies, Benefit Building Societies, Co-operative and Provident Societies, Workers' Compensation, and Truck Acts. [Perth: F. W. Simpson, Government Printer.]

New Zealand.—Journal of the Department of Labour, January, 1915. Condition of trade and employment as at 31st December, 1914, persons assisted to employment, co-operative works, accidents, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

—Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Vol. XV. Parts 8 and 9. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—Annuaire International de Statistique Agricole en 1911 et 1912. Contains statistics of prices of stock, crops, &c. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome, 1914.]
—Monthly Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence, December, 1914. Co-operative legislation in Canada, recent progress of co-operative stores in Denmark, mutual credit societies in Russia on January 1st, 1914. Ditto, ditto, January, 1915. Distributive co-operative societies (stores) in Germany on January 1st, 1914. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

[Rome.]

—Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics, March,
1915. International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

—Bulletin des Internationalen Arbeitsamtes. No. 1-2. 1915.

[Jena: Gustav Fischer.]

[Jena: Gustav Fischer.]

—Bulletin of the International Labour Office. Nos. 4-7. 1914.

English Edition. [London: The Pioneer Press, Ltd.]

—International Co-operative Bulletin, February, 1915. International Co-operative Alliance. [London: H. J. May.]

UNITED STATES.—Bulletin of the Department of Labour, Bureau of Labour Statistics, No. 151. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Iron and Steel Industry in the United States. 1907 to 1912.

No. 154. Wages and Hours of Labour in the Boot and Shoe and Hosiery and Underwear Industries, 1907 to 1913. No. 163.

Wages and Hours of Labour in the Building and Repairing of Steam Railroad Cars, 1907 to 1913. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

wages and Hours of Labour in the Building and Repairing of Steam Railroad Cars, 1907 to 1913. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—Massachusetts. Forty-fifth Annual Report on the Statistics of Labour, 1914. Bureau of Statistics. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—Eighth Annual Report on the State Free Employment Offices for the year ending 30th November, 1914. Bureau of Statistics. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

—Twenty-eighth Quarterly Report on Unemployment in Massachusetts, December, 1914. Bureau of Statistics.

—Colorado. Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1913-14. Industrial disturbances, wages, trade unions, State free employment offices, child labour, &c. [Denver: Smith-Brooks Printing Co., State Printers.]

—State of Washington. First Biennial Report of the Industrial Welfare Commission, 1913-1914. Effect of Minimum Wage, cost of living, apprenticeships, Minimum Wage conferences, &c. [Olympia: Frank M. Lamborn.]

—Report on the Housing Conditions of Labourers in Porto Rico. 30th May, 1914. Department of Labour, Charities and Correction of Porto Rico. [San Juan: Bureau of Supplies, Printing and Transportation.]

—Renore.—Bulletin du Ministère du Travail et de la Prévoyance Sociale, Oct.-Nov.-Dec., 1914. The employment of French and Belgian refugees, productive co-operative societies on January 1st, 1914, labour disputes and conciliation in 1913, "economic indices" for second quarter of 1914, employment in mining industry August-November, labour disputes August-November. [Paris: Berger-Levraut: price 2d.

Germany.—Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, February, 1915. Employment in January. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

ITALY.—Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro, November-December, 1914. Detailed reports on recent industrial disputes; retail prices at co-operative stores in October. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves.]

—Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro (Fortnightl

Royal Decree relating to measures against high cost of living. Ditto, 1st March. Labour disputes and cost of living (retail food prices) in January. Ditto, 16th March. Labour disputes in second half of February, Royal Decree of March 7th on standard loaf. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves.]

—Censimento degli Onifici e dell' Impress Industry.

Fratelli Treves.]

—Censimento degli Opifici e dell' Imprese Industriali al 10 giugno, 1911. Volume IV. Dati analitici concernenti il numero, il personale e la forza motrice di tutti le imprese censite. Tavola IV. Census of Factories and Workshops, June 10th, 1911. Vol. IV. Number of establishments, persons employed and power used. Census Office of Department of Statistics and Labour. 1914. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 4s.]

—Bollettino di Notizie sul Credito sulla Previdenza. Mayang., 1914. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, Department of Credit and Thrift. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 9d.]

—Bollettino dell' Emigrazione. 15th February, 1915. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of Emigration). [Rome: Fratelli

of Foreign Affairs (Department of Emigration). [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

Austria-Hungary.—Soziale Rundschau, January, 1915. Unemployment in Trade Unions in August, September and October. Department of Labour Statistics, Ministry of Commerce. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d.]

Holland.—Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, February 27th, 1915. Employment and labour disputes in January, wages and hours of labour in metal trades in 1910. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

—Overzicht van de minimum-toonen der volwassen bekwame werklieden en van den maximum-arbeidsduur, volgens de bepalingen in de hestekken van gemeente en provinciale werken. Statistical

in de bestekken van gemeente en provinciale werken. Statistical report on minimum wages and maximum hours of labour of adult workers employed by municipal and provincial authorities, 1894-1914. [Supplement to January edition of above-mentioned "Maandschrift."]

"Maandschrift."]

—Bijdragen tot de Statistiek van Nederland, No. 213. Beknopt
overzicht van den omvang der Vakbeweging op 1 Januari, 1914.
Statistics of Trade Unions on January 1st, 1914. No. 214.
Statistiek van de berechting der overtredigen van de ArbeidsVeiligheids- en steenhouwerswetten in 1913. Statistics of contraventions of labour laws in 1913. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante.1

Switzerland.—Schweizerische Eisenbahn-Statistik, 1915. Statistics relating to Swiss Railways for 1913. Federal Department of Posts and Railways. 1915. [Berne: Hans Feuz: price 4s.] Norway.—Sociale Meddelelser, No. 6, 1914. Employment October-December, retail prices of necessaries in November. No. 1, 1915. Second report of Government Committee on Unemployment (1914). Department for Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.: price 7d. each part.]

part.]
—Fiskerforsikring for aar 1913. Statistik vedrorende Ulykkesforsikringen for Fiskere. Insurance against accidents in the fishing industry. Government Insurance Institute. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug: price 7d.]

Sweden.—Betänkande angaende Pensionering av Statens Jänvägers och Telegrafverkets Extra-Personal. Report on superannuation of State railway employees and telegraph staff. State Council and the Royal Department for Civil Affairs. [Stockholm, 1914: K. L. Beckman: pp. 142.]
—Modern Lönstatistiek af Nils Wohlin. Modern Methods of Wages Statistics. By Nils Wohlin. Statistical Bureau of Swedish Employers' Union. 1915. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

—Statistisk Arsbok for Sverige, 1915. Statistical Year Book of Sweden, 1915. Industrial accidents in 1911, labour exchanges, 1910-1914, unemployment among trade unionists 1911-1914, cooperative societies 1908-1911. labour disputes 1908-1913, collective labour agreements 1908-1911, prices of necessaries 1904-1914 wages of agricultural workers 1866-1912. Statistical Central Bureau. 1915. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

DENMARK.—Statistiske Efterretninger, March 9th and 24th, 1915. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske

Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag.]

—Social Forsorg. March, 1915. Danish Workmen's Insurance Office and the Unemployment Inspectors' Department. [Hellerup: V. L. Faber.]

SPAIN.—Boletin del Instituto de Reformas Sociales. February, 1915. Retail prices of food, &c., in certain provinces, April to September, 1914, labour disputes in January. Spanish Labour Department. [Madrid: D. V. Suarez: price 2½d.]

RUSSIA.—Svod Otchetov Fabrichnik Inspektorov za 1913 god.

Russia.—Svod Otchetov Fabrichnik Inspektorov za 1913 qod. Annual Report on Factory Inspection, 1913. Ministry of Commerce and Industry. [Petrograd.]

Bulgaria.—Bulletin Mensuel de la Direction Général de la Statistique du Royaume de Bulgarie. Prices of food, &c., in June, 1913, and 1914. [Sofia: B. N. Banka: price 2½d.]

Argentine Republic.—Year Book of the City of Buenos Aires, 1913. Labour disputes and industrial accidents 1907-1913. Statistical Department of Buenos Aires. [Buenos Aires.]

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lade, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; or HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE (Scottish Branch), 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. PONSONEY, LTD., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Agencies, in the British Colonies and Dependencies, the United States of America, the Continent of Europe and Abroad of T. FISHER UNWIN, LONGON, W.C. Printed by WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C.—Price 1d.—April, 1915.