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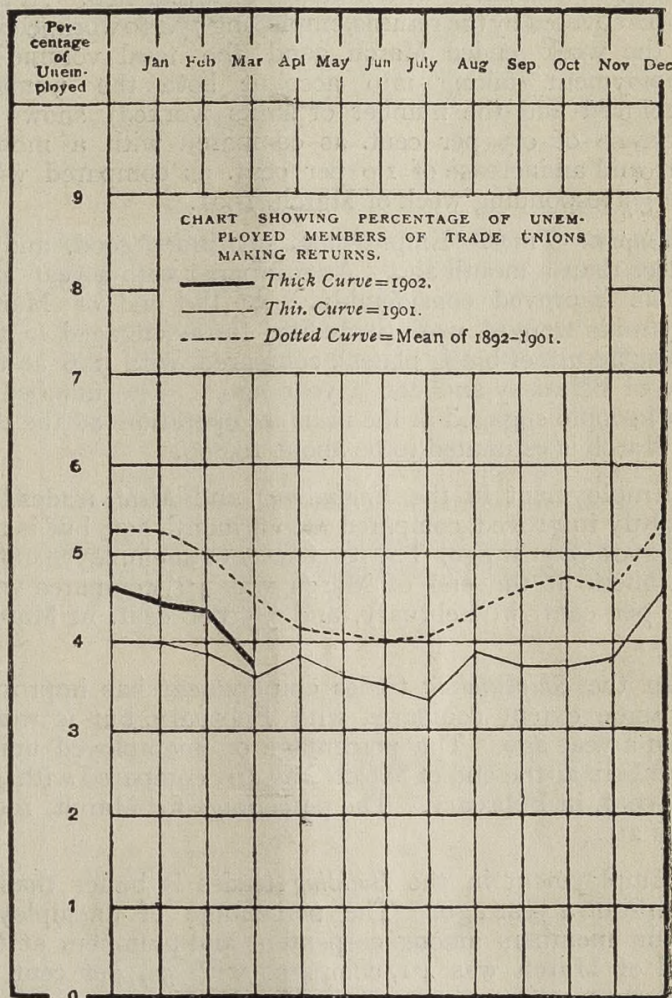
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EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[Based on 2,343 returns, viz.: 1,170 from Employers, 595 from Trade Unions, and 578 from other sources.]

The state of the labour market has somewhat improved during March in most of the important industries, and the general condition of employment is now almost as good as a year ago, a decline in engineering and ship-building being nearly balanced by an improvement in pig iron, tinplate, and certain other industries.

In the 224 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 551,270, making returns, 20,241 (or 3·7 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 4·3 per cent. in February, and with 3·6 per cent. in the 216 unions, with a membership of 544,688, from which returns were received for March, 1901. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of March during the 10 years 1892-1901 was 4·5.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in the four weeks ended March 22nd continued good. At collieries at which 488,239 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 5·35 days per week during the four weeks ended March 22nd, as compared with 5·39 days in February and 5·30 days in the four weeks ended March 23rd, 1901. The number employed at the pits was 2 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good, and is better than a year ago. In the 127 mines and open works covered by the returns, employing 15,332 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended March 22nd was 5.79 per week, as compared with 5.74 in February and 5.55 a year ago. As compared with a year ago the number of workpeople employed has decreased.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment shows little change as compared with a month ago, and is better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 114 ironmasters show that 314 furnaces, employing about 21,890 workpeople, were in blast at the end of March, compared with 315 at the end of February and 291 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment shows little change as compared with a month or a year ago. At 202 works covered by the returns, employing 77,290 workpeople, in the week ended March 22nd the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows a decrease of 0.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.0 per cent. as compared with the corresponding week of March, 1901.

Tinplate Trade.—Employment continues good, and is better than a month ago. As compared with a year ago it has improved considerably. At the end of March 395 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), compared with 386 at the end of February and 296 a year ago. The number of workpeople engaged at the mills in operation at the end of March is estimated to be about 19,800.

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has slightly improved, compared with a month ago, but is not so good as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 4.1, compared with 4.8 per cent. in February, and 3.5 per cent. in March, 1901.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has improved to some extent compared with February, but is worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 4.1, compared with 4.7 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1901, was 2.4.

Employment in the **Building** trades is better than a month or a year ago. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of March was 4.1, compared with 5.9 per cent. in February, and 4.7 per cent. in March of last year.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has continued to improve and is now fairly good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 3.2, compared with 5.7 per cent. in February and 3.6 per cent. in March, 1901.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has continued to improve and is now fairly good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 3.4, compared with 4.5 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1901, was 3.7.

Employment in the **Paper** trades is good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 1.8, compared with 2.0 per cent. in February and 3.1 per cent. in March of last year.

In the **Leather** trades employment has still further improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 2.5, compared with 3.3 per cent. in February, and 2.0 per cent. in March, 1901.

Employment in the **Glass** trades is not so good as in February, but is slightly better than a year ago.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade has been slack in most centres.

Employment has improved in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade; in the ready-made branch it shows a general improvement, and is fairly good.

Employment in the **Hat-making** trade is practically unchanged, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March being 2.7, compared with 2.8 in February and 2.0 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade is fair on the whole. It is worse in the Oldham district, but better in the Bolton district. In the **Weaving** branch it is still only moderate. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 79,600 women and girls shows that 88 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 92 per cent. in February, and with 79 per cent. a year ago. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 77 during March, compared with 79 per cent. in February and 70 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade continues fairly good. In the **Worsted** trade there is a marked improvement. In the **Hosiery** trade employment continues good.

Agricultural Labourers were, generally speaking, fully employed during the month, the weather being favourable for spring sowing and other outdoor operations.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—During the five weeks ended March 29th the number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves averaged 14,182, as compared with 14,696 in the preceding four weeks and 16,230 in March, 1901.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-one fresh disputes began in March, involving 6,285 workpeople, of whom 4,871 were directly, and 1,414 indirectly affected. The corresponding number of disputes in February was 18, affecting 6,950 workpeople, and in March, 1901, 52, affecting 20,779 workpeople. Of the new disputes in March, 1902, 3 took place in the building trades, 7 in the mining industry, 3 in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 3 in the textile trades, and 5 in other industries. Of the 22 new and old disputes, affecting 5,825 workpeople, of which definite results were reported, 6 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10 in favour of the employers, and 6 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages, reported during March, affected 198,499 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes was a decrease averaging 1s. 4½d. weekly per head. Of the total number, 4,728 received advances, and 193,771 sustained decreases. The changes of the previous month affected 111,751 workpeople, the net result being a decrease averaging 3d. weekly per head. During March, 1901, the number affected was 196,360, and the net weekly result was a decrease of ¼d. per head.

The principal decreases were those sustained by 177,000 coal miners in Northumberland and South Wales. One change, affecting 35,000 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and twelve changes, affecting 151,167 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Two changes, affecting 876 workpeople only, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting 11,456 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

East Scotland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under Manager of a mine will be held for this district on the 23rd May next. Intending candidates should communicate, on or before the 10th May, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. R. Calder, Fintry Place, Broughty Ferry.

Liverpool and North Wales District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will be held for this district on the 11th June, 1902, at Wigan. Intending candidates should communicate on or before the 7th June, 1902, with the secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King-street, Wigan.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT BANKS IN IRELAND.

A VOLUME,* which has just been published by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, contains an account of the Co-operative Credit Associations established in certain of the rural districts of that country. The first of these institutions was that inaugurated in February, 1894, at Doneraile, co. Cork, and the number registered at the end of 1901 was 103, with an aggregate membership estimated at 4,223. All of these associations except 3 have been established on the "Raiffeisen" plan. The essential features of the Raiffeisen organisation are that the bank is founded with unlimited liability, that the affairs of the association are managed entirely by volunteers, the members of the committee and the other officials receiving no salaries, and that the profits, so far as profits are earned, are, as a general rule, devoted to building up a reserve fund. But the making of profits is not aimed at, the object sought to be attained being to assist the members by loans, to be used for the purpose of earning money by their labour on the land, especially by rearing cattle, pigs, etc. "Most of the borrowers are small farmers on whose holdings—averaging from 10 to 30 acres—there is generally a disproportionately large percentage of more or less rough pasture. The credit facilities offered by the local banks enable them to buy young stock for this grazing, or an almost equally important boon, to hold over any stock they may have until such time as prices turn in their favour. . . . The value and the need of capital in the case of these poor land-holders (on such terms of interest and for such a period as they can afford to borrow it) are emphasised by the quite abnormal returns ('profits'), which in a very large number of cases are gratefully recorded."

The total amount returned as having been lent by these Credit Associations in 1898-1900 is £16,100 (£3,300 in 1898, £5,500 in 1899, and £7,300 in 1900), and the total amount of losses made by the societies on the working of these three years is no more than £4, these losses, it is explained, having arisen, "not from any defaults in payments on the part of borrowers, but from certain banks not being able to put into circulation all the capital they possessed." It is stated that "a very good record for punctuality in repayment of loans has been established. When it is remembered that there are no paid officials in these Credit Associations, and that all the services of management and control are cheerfully given without reward, the educational value of such organisations cannot be disputed."

It is stated that "most of the borrowers could profitably employ two or three times as much capital as the funds of the local bank place, at present, within their reach." Steps are, however, being taken to increase the capital at the disposal of the credit banks by granting them the assistance of the State. A large percentage of the banks are in congested districts; and the Congested Districts Board has allowed banks in such localities to borrow from it loan capital to the extent of £3,000. The amount lent to the individual societies varies from £50 to £200, on which they pay interest at 3½ per cent. "The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction also have decided to allocate certain sums to the purposes of the organisation and capitalisation of Raiffeisen credit associations in non-congested areas, so that the difficulty of insufficient capital will probably be a transitory one."

Labour Statistics of Massachusetts.—A labour chronology prepared by the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour, and relating to the nine months ended September 1901, deals with strikes and lock-outs, wages, hours of labour, trade unions, social and industrial benefits, and labour legislation. During this period 274 strikes took place, 32 of which occurred in Boston. In 62 cases the results were in favour of the workpeople, in 111 in favour of the employers, and 82 were compromised; the result in 9 cases was unknown; in 10 cases the dispute was still pending. In the section dealing with hours of labour it is stated that "the weekly half-holiday during the summer months has been quite generally adopted in almost all branches of trade, while the early closing movement for retail stores has met with much favour."

* Banking, Railway, and Canal Statistics, Ireland. [December, 1901.] Cd. 1032 of 1902 (Eyre & Spottiswoode). Price 1s. 1½d.

EMPLOYMENT OF MARRIED WOMEN IN LONDON.

FOR the first time the Census Report shows separately the occupations of unmarried women and girls and of married women or widows. As will be seen from the following Table, the proportion of unmarried women in London has increased since 1891. The Table shows the number of unmarried women and girls, married women and widows per 1,000 females living at age periods above 10 years in 1891 and 1901.

Age Period.	Proportion per 1,000 Females of each age period.					
	Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.	
	1891.	1901.	1891.	1901.	1891.	1901.
10 years and under 15 years	1,000	1,000	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20 "	979	983	21	17	—	—
20 " " 25 "	708	732	289	265	3	3
25 " " 35 "	356	378	619	601	25	21
35 " " 45 "	189	213	715	708	93	79
45 " " 55 "	147	158	643	648	210	194
55 years and upwards	139	143	371	379	490	478
Above 10 years	482	485	411	412	107	103

The number of married or widowed returned as occupied is greatest at the three age periods from 25 to 55; and in the two age periods from 25 to 35 and 35 to 45 large proportion of the "married or widowed" returned as occupied are married, not widowed. In the Table below are shown the numbers of unmarried and of married or widowed women engaged in the more important occupations in London at these three age periods, and also at all ages, so that the extent to which an occupation employs unmarried women and girls can be measured.

Number of Single and of Married and Widowed Women employed in the undermentioned Occupations in London at certain age periods.

Occupation.	Of 25 years and under 35 years		Of 35 years and under 45 years		Of 45 years and under 55 years		Of 10 years and above	
	Single	Married or Widowed	Single	Married or Widowed	Single	Married or Widowed	Single	Married or Widowed
General or Local Government of the Country	2,185	100	576	191	186	151	5,252	544
Nurses and Midwives	4,667	438	1,791	1,187	693	2,031	9,096	7,114
Teaching	5,912	562	3,046	872	1,204	495	18,077	2,267
Domestic Indoor Servants in Hotels, Lodging and Eating Houses	2,285	211	583	287	176	194	7,185	866
Other Domestic Indoor Servants	57,359	3,555	20,186	5,741	9,005	5,979	212,532	21,866
Charwomen	924	2,665	799	5,688	725	6,374	4,327	21,624
Laundry and Washing	3,153	5,101	1,335	6,620	745	6,782	20,158	27,204
Others in Service	1,834	875	987	1,740	590	1,735	6,307	6,268
Commercial Occupations	4,930	283	1,238	249	335	201	19,367	918
Wood, Furniture, Fittings, &c.	738	552	278	658	178	628	5,272	2,657
Skins, Leather, Hair and Feathers	861	630	342	791	137	637	6,662	2,506
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	3,708	1,703	1,178	1,607	504	1,265	27,051	6,309
Drapers, Dealers in Textile Fabrics	2,966	181	723	209	194	150	11,826	726
Milliners	2,012	236	691	301	325	316	9,998	1,162
Tailors	3,673	2,545	1,334	2,792	616	2,687	21,547	11,567
Dressmakers	11,185	2,422	4,768	3,590	2,401	3,452	48,668	13,098
Shirtmakers, Seamstresses	3,461	1,510	1,575	1,997	1,002	2,170	20,486	10,162
Boot and Shoe Makers	621	549	211	571	102	380	4,024	1,986
Other Workers and Dealers in Dress	1,610	759	697	1,022	372	928	9,286	4,036
Food	2,460	1,080	788	1,366	374	1,325	14,389	5,284
Tobacco	473	341	99	225	24	161	4,571	997
Barnmaids, Waitresses, &c.	2,057	199	192	111	39	43	7,211	421
Others providing Board, Lodging, &c.	2,243	1,040	944	1,584	744	1,621	10,286	6,529
General and Undefined	1,192	993	426	1,151	214	1,143	7,474	4,784
All other Occupations	7,793	2,401	3,394	2,345	1,708	1,982	37,030	9,615
Total Occupied	130,332	30,931	48,181	42,994	22,624	42,830	548,721	170,610
Without specified Occupations or Unoccupied	35,187	24,333	47,831	201,302	11,950	140,890	385,033	320,004
Total	165,519	272,244	66,012	244,386	34,574	183,720	933,754	990,614
	437,763		310,368		218,294		1,924,368	

From the above Table it will be seen that about one-ninth of the married and widowed women between 25 and 35 were returned as occupied, one-sixth of those between 35 and 45, and nearly one-fourth of those between 45 and 55. Of the total married and widowed women one-sixth

were returned as occupied. Washing, charing, domestic service, dressmaking, tailoring, needlework and nursing employed the largest number.

In various industries persons who work "At Home" have for the first time been required to state the fact in the Census returns. The following Table shows for the County of London the proportion of unmarried and of married or widowed women working at home in some of the larger industries in which opportunities for home work are afforded:—

	Unmarried.		Married or Widowed.	
	Number Occupied.	Percentage At Home.	Number Occupied.	Percentage At Home.
Laundry and Washing Service	20,158	13.9	27,204	28.0
Milliners	9,998	9.9	1,762	42.7
Tailors	21,547	16.7	11,567	39.5
Dressmakers	48,698	26.5	13,098	64.5
Shirtmakers, Seamstresses ...	20,486	21.0	10,162	53.8
Boot and Shoemakers	4,024	16.7	1,986	52.3
Paper Box, Paper Bag Makers	7,060	4.7	2,543	34.9
Brushmakers, etc.	1,173	19.3	887	59.2

As would be expected, there are great differences in the various boroughs in the percentage of married or widowed returned as occupied. In the City it was as high as 35.5, in Holborn 30.7, in Shoreditch 26.8, and in the City of Westminster 26.7, while in Woolwich it was only 9.7, in Lewisham 10.8, Greenwich 10.9, Wandsworth 11.0 and Deptford 11.3. For the whole of the County the percentage was 17.2.

PRINTERS' ASSISTANTS IN LONDON.

An agreement affecting printers' assistants employed on flat machines in the London machine-rooms was entered into between the Master Printers' and Allied Trades' Association and the Operative Printers' Assistants Society in March, 1901. (See GAZETTE, April, 1901, pp. 105-6.)

A further agreement between these two bodies and representatives of the London daily newspapers with respect to rotary machines was entered into on March 17th, 1902. This agreement provides, among other matters, "that proprietors have the right to fix number of men necessary on a machine, and to require such men to do any work, provided that, if they satisfactorily perform work which carries a higher rate of wage, they shall temporarily have such higher rate"; and also, "that the Society shall not interfere with any non-Union labour employed."

Minimum weekly rates of wages and rates for overtime have been agreed to, and working hours fixed for oilers, rotary assistants, and brake hands employed respectively in morning newspaper offices, evening newspaper offices, and by general printers. Thus rotary assistants employed on morning papers will in future receive a minimum rate of 32s. per week of 48 hours, with 9d. per hour overtime; those on evening papers and those employed by general printers a minimum of 27s. per week of 54 hours, with 8d. per hour overtime, oilers and brake hands in all offices receiving higher rates.

Rates of wages have also been fixed for assistants employed on bill machines and on wetting machines. The position of permanent hands, casual hands, and assistants employed in special houses, where the hours are mixed, is likewise defined.

The Master Printers' Association undertook to send out a similar recommendation to that made in the case of flat machines, viz., that employers should not, on account of this agreement, reduce the wage of any of their present employees, or alter any of the existing conditions under which they are employed.

It was further agreed that any causes of dispute as to the terms of this agreement, or as to any questions concerning rotary machine assistants may, at the request of either side of the parties concerned, be referred for arbitration to a committee consisting of eight employers' representatives and eight representatives of the Operative

Printers' Assistants Society (or less by arrangement), the nomination being in the hands of the Master Printers' and Allied Trades' Association and the Operative Printers' Assistants Society respectively, and that such committee shall have power to jointly appoint a referee to decide any points which they are unable to agree upon, whose decision shall be final.

This agreement, which affects about 1,000 men employed in 50 offices, is to come into operation in the week following the first pay day in July, 1902, and is to be binding, on both sides, for a term of five years.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN GERMANY IN 1900.

The following figures are based on statistics published in the January issue of the *Amtliche Nachrichten des Reichs-Versicherungsamts* (the official journal of the German Imperial Insurance Department).

The mean number of persons insured in 1900 under the Accident Insurance Laws was 18,892,891, as compared with 18,604,124 in 1899. These figures are exclusive of certain classes of persons employed in the building trades, for whom special insurance offices are provided, and whose number is not known. On the other hand, allowance must be made for the fact that some million and a half persons employed both in industry and agriculture are counted twice over.

The following Table shows the number, nature and results of the accidents for which compensation was fixed in each year from 1886 to 1900:—

Year.	Persons who met with Accidents resulting in				Total New Accidents Compensated.
	Death.	Permanent Disablement.		Temporary Disablement.	
		Total.	Partial.		
	NUMBER.				
1886	2,716	1,778	3,961	2,085	10,540
1887	3,270	3,166	2,204	2,204	17,102
1888	3,645	2,203	11,023	4,186	21,057
1889	5,135	2,882	16,337	6,615	31,019
1890	5,958	2,681	22,615	10,160	44,420
1891	6,346	2,561	27,788	13,812	50,507
1892	5,811	2,640	30,569	15,807	54,827
1893	6,245	2,487	36,236	16,906	61,874
1894	6,250	1,752	38,952	21,723	68,677
1895	6,335	1,668	40,527	25,927	74,467
1896	6,989	1,524	44,373	32,386	85,272
1897	7,287	1,452	46,489	35,943	91,171
1898	7,848	1,109	47,764	40,053	96,774
1899	7,999	1,297	51,240	44,275	104,811
1900	8,449	1,366	51,111	45,521	106,447
	PER 1,000 INSURED.				
1886	0.73	0.48	1.06	0.56	2.83
1887	0.79	0.77	0.54	0.54	4.15
1888	0.35	0.21	1.07	0.41	2.04
1889	0.29	0.22	1.22	0.49	2.32
1890	0.44	0.20	1.66	0.74	3.04
1891	0.35	0.14	1.54	0.77	2.80
1892	0.32	0.15	1.69	0.88	3.04
1893	0.34	0.14	2.00	0.93	3.41
1894	0.34	0.10	2.14	1.20	3.78
1895	0.35	0.09	2.41	1.05	4.05
1896	0.39	0.09	2.52	1.84	4.84
1897	0.41	0.08	2.59	2.00	5.08
1898	0.43	0.06	2.62	2.19	5.30
1899	0.43	0.07	2.75	2.38	5.63
1900	0.45	0.07	2.70	2.41	5.63

Accidents sustained by those insured in the special offices for the building trades, are not included in the Table. Compensation was fixed in respect of 1,207 such accidents in 1900. These resulted in the death of 118, the total permanent disablement of 24, the partial permanent disablement of 598, and the temporary disablement of 467 persons.

The total number of persons, in whose favour compensation with respect to fatal accidents was fixed in 1900, was 17,216, as compared with 16,076 the previous year. Of these 17,216 persons, 5,549 were widows, 11,338 children, and 329 parents of the deceased.

The total amount spent in 1900 in compensating new and old accidents was £4,332,497, as compared with £3,934,032 in 1899. (The expense of providing compensation during the first 13 weeks after the accident falls upon the Sickness Insurance Institutions, or failing such, on the employers of the injured men, and is not included in these figures.) The greater part of this amount, viz., £3,161,377, consisted of pensions paid to

persons injured by accidents. The number of persons drawing such pensions in 1900 was 524,591 (as compared with 479,593 the year before). Each of these persons accordingly received on an average £6 os. 6d. (as compared with £5 19s. 3d. the year before). The sum of £787,505 was spent in paying pensions to the families of deceased workpeople. There were 49,257 widows drawing on an average £6 18s. 11d. per annum each, 82,754 children drawing £5 2s. 8d. per annum each, and 2,928 parents, &c., drawing £7 1s. 9d. each. Capital sums amounting to £28,906 were paid to 1,176 pensioned widows who re-married, £24 11s. 7d. each on an average.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

The results of the last ascertainment show a further fall in the selling prices of coal and iron in every district for which figures are available.

In the case of South Wales the average price of coal has fallen by about one shilling per ton, and this has carried with it, under the sliding scale agreement, a reduction of 10 per cent. on standard in the wages of the miners. This is the largest reduction that has taken place under the scale. In Northumberland the Conciliation Board has agreed to a reduction of 2½ per cent. in hewers' wages.

In Cumberland and Cleveland the fall in prices of pig-iron has resulted in reductions of three-quarters and one per cent. respectively in the wages of the blastfurnacemen under the sliding scales operative in those districts. The West of Scotland figures (which resulted in a reduction in wages of 5 per cent.) have already been reported.

In the manufactured iron districts the decreases in average selling prices were not sufficient to affect wages in the Midlands and the West of Scotland, but in the North of England puddlers' wages were reduced by 3d. per ton and millmen's by 2½ per cent. under the sliding scale.

Compared with a year ago a considerable fall in the ascertained prices is shown, amounting in the case of Northumberland coal to 2½ per cent., and in that of pig iron to 2½ per cent. in Cumberland, 1½ per cent. in Cleveland, and 16 per cent. in Scotland. Manufactured iron has fallen 17 per cent., 13 per cent., and 7½ per cent. in the North of England, Midlands, and West of Scotland respectively.

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with	
		Last Audit.*	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.						
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Dec.-Feb.	s. d. 7 8'19	s. d. 8 1'74	s. d. 9 0'63	s. d. -0 5'55	s. d. -2 1'44
South Wales and Monmouth:— (Average for certain classes of coal free on board)	Jan.-Feb.	14 0'00 to	15 1'71 to	16 10'29 to	-1 1'7151	-2 10'291
Pig Iron.						
Cumberland	Jan.-Mar.	57 6'82	58 0'00	59 1'77	-0 5'18	-1 6'95
Cleveland ... ..	...	44 0'13	44 10'57	50 10'49	-0 10'44	-6 10'36
West of Scotland... ..	Nov.-Jan.	51 11'27	53 10'07	61 11'43	-1 10'80	-10 0'16
Manufact'd Iron.						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	...	125 2'23	128 8'10	150 9'53	-3 5'87	-25 7'30
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips, &c.)	Jan.-Feb.	137 10'14	139 5'30	159 0'42	-1 7'16	-21 2'28
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and rods)	...	125 0'18	125 11'43	135 3'11	-0 11'25	-10 2'93

* Under the various sliding scale agreements changes in wages, if any, resulting from these audits take place in the pig iron industry immediately after the period to which the audit relates, while in the manufactured iron trades, and in the South Wales coal trade they follow one month later. In Northumberland there is no sliding scale, but the ascertained prices are taken into consideration by the Coal Trade Conciliation Board when determining the rate of wages of the miners.

† Exclusive of export duty.
‡ This is the difference between the limits within which the average values fell. The exact amount of the difference in value cannot be stated.

WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

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

RETURNS for the year 1900 showing the division of their membership, capital, and management between employees, other individuals and Societies, have been made to the Department by 250 Workmen's Productive Societies out of 284 at work in the United Kingdom in that year.

The returns show that out of a total membership of 46,692, 8.1 per cent. were employees of the Societies, 84.1 per cent. other individual members, and 7.8 per cent. consisted of Societies, counting each Society as one member.

Of 8,497 persons employed by the Societies at the end of 1900, 44.4 per cent. were members and 55.6 non-members.

The total share and loan capital of these Societies was £995,175, of which 8 per cent. was owned by employees of the Societies, 34 per cent. by other individual members, and 40 per cent. by Societies. The remaining 18 per cent. consisted of non-members' loans—including bank overdrafts.

Of the total of 3,064 members of the management committees of the Societies, 11.2 per cent. were employees, 81.0 per cent. other individual members, and 7.8 per cent. representatives of shareholding Societies.

In the Table below the figures returned by 232 Societies for 1899 are appended for comparison.

In addition to the Societies dealt with, there were eight corn mill Societies at work, the returns from which show that out of a total membership of 5,760 at the end of 1900, 26 were employees, 5,321 other individuals and 413 Societies. Of their 429 employees 6.1 per cent. were members owning 0.2 per cent. of their total share and loan capital which amounted to £398,184. None of their employees were members of the management committees.

Table showing for each of the years 1899 and 1900 the returns made by workmen's productive Societies in the United Kingdom, as to the division of their membership, capital, and management between their employees, other individual members, and Societies, together with the proportion of their employees who were also members:—

I.—Membership:—The total membership consisted of:—	Particulars returned as to position on December 31st			
	1900 (by 250 Associations*)		1899. (by 232 Associations*)	
	Per-centage.	Per-centage.	Per-centage.	Per-centage.
1. Employees	3,772	8.1	3,394	7.8
2. Other Individuals	39,395	84.1	36,377	84.2
3. Societies	3,625	7.8	3,448	8.0
Total Membership	46,692	100.0	43,219	100.0
II.—Employees:—The persons employed consisted of:—				
1. Members	3,772	44.4	3,394	41.4
2. Non-members	4,725	55.6	4,796	58.6
Total Employees... ..	8,497	100.0	8,190	100.0
III.—Share and Loan Capital:— The Share and Loan Capital was held by:—				
1. Employees	£ 78,815	7.9	£ 76,948	8.1
2. Other Individual Members ...	339,457	34.1	311,412	32.6
3. Societies	397,364	40.0	385,234	40.4
4. Non-members (Loans)	179,539	18.0	180,752	18.9
Total Share & Loan Capital	995,175	100.0	954,346	100.0
IV.—Management:—The Management Committees consisted of:—				
1. Employees	343	11.2	348	12.9
2. Other Individual Members ...	2,483	81.0	2,111	78.0
3. Representatives of Societies ...	238	7.8	246	9.1
Total Number of Committeemen	3,064	100.0	2,705	100.0

* Excluding Corn Mill Societies.

CO-OPERATION IN GERMANY IN 1900.

THE year-book for 1900 of the Federation of German Co-operative Societies on the Schulze-Delitzsch system,* gives the total number of Co-operative Societies of all kinds in the German Empire on March 31st, 1901, as 19,557, showing an increase of 1,569, or 8·7 per cent. on the number existing twelve months previously.

The following Table, compiled from the volume under review and preceding year-books, shows the number of Co-operative Societies of various kinds in the German Empire in each of the last five years, so far as the figures are available:—

	Number of Societies on				
	May 31st, 1897.	Apr. 30th, 1898.	Mar. 31st, 1899.	Mar. 31st, 1900.	Mar. 31st, 1901.
Credit Associations ...	9,417	10,259	10,850	11,477	12,140
Supply (Materials) Associations—					
Industrial ...	66	73	82	95	145
Agricultural ...	1,128	1,167	1,193	1,237	1,394
Supply (Instruments of Production) Associations—					
Industrial ...	23	30	34	53	66
Agricultural ...	377	455	482	501	547
Productive Sale "Depôt" Associations—					
Industrial ...	68	70	67	73	79
Agricultural ...	45	83	106	127	154
Associations for Production—					
Industrial ...	172	179	193	203	255
Agricultural ...	1,765	1,932	2,017	2,186	2,507
Insurance, &c., Associations	207	233	271	310	357
Associations for Distribution (Stores)	1,409	1,396	1,373	1,404	1,528
Building Associations ...	165	192	244	322	385
Total ...	14,842	16,069	16,912	17,988	19,557

It will be seen that, as in former years, the bulk of the increase in the number of Co-operative Societies in 1900 was due to the formation of credit Societies.

The Federation of Schulze-Delitzsch Societies (the compilers of the Report under review) is one of 32 federations in which the Co-operative Societies of the German Empire are organised, and is composed of 1,712 Societies, of which 949 are credit, and 621 distributive (store) Societies.

Returns made to this Federation by 870 affiliated credit Societies showed a total membership of 511,061 for the year 1900. These 870 Societies had an aggregate paid-up share capital of £6,663,722, a loan capital of £30,496,303, and reserve funds amounting to £2,249,359 in 1900. The sums advanced by the same Societies in that year amounted to £113,842,793. The trade expenses reached a total of £1,532,775, viz. £1,120,116, interest payable to creditors; £383,267 expenses of administration, and £29,392 written off for depreciation. The losses and bad debts for the year amounted to £86,270, and the profits to £611,873, from which sum £205,883 was credited to reserve funds, £376,130 to dividend on shares, and £3,353 was spent on educational and similar purposes.

Returns from 568 distributive (store) Societies affiliated to the above Federation show an aggregate membership of 522,116 for the year 1900, a share capital of £542,113, a loan capital of £550,611, and reserve funds amounting to £195,927. The sales in 1900 amounted to £6,348,509, including sales to the value of £918,279 effected through outside tradesmen. The trade expenses amounted to £420,586 (including £26,014 depreciation), and the net profit (after allowing for depreciation but not for interest on shares) to £637,176, or 10·04 per cent. on sales. Sums amounting in the aggregate to £1,601 were spent on educational and similar purposes.

Out of the 568 distributive (store) Societies, to which the foregoing figures relate, 86 carry on productive departments, most of which are bakeries.

H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.

New Appointment.—Mr. Gilbert S. Ram, M.I.E.E., 82, Victoria Street, London, S.W., has been appointed Electrical Inspector of Factories and Workshops.

* Jahrbuch des Allgemeinen Verbandes der auf Selbsthilfe beruhenden deutschen Erwerbs- und Wirtschaftsgenossenschaften für 1900. Berlin: Guttentag, 1901.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

WHO IS A "DEPENDANT"?

The father of a workman, who met with his death owing to an accident which occurred while he was at work for a firm of tanners, claimed compensation from the employers of his son. The Sheriff-Substitute held that the father, at the time of his son's death, was, in part, dependent on his son's earnings, and awarded him compensation. The matter was brought, on a case stated, before the Court of Session. The employers contended that, as the deceased workman had had no employment for nine weeks before the accident, which occurred on the first day of his employment by them, and as he had during that time been dependent on his father, his father could not claim compensation as being a dependant of his son's. The Court of Session held that, since the deceased had, ever since he earned anything, contributed to the support of his father, his father was a dependant left by the deceased, within the meaning of the Acts, and affirmed the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute. —*Robert Legget & Sons v. William Burke, Court of Session, March 18th.*

REVIEW OF COMPENSATION: CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

A workman, who had been injured while working for a firm of engineers, claimed compensation from his employers. The Sheriff-Substitute ordered the employers to pay the workman 6s. 3d. a week until further orders. Subsequently the employers moved the Sheriff-Substitute to review the award, on the ground that the workman's incapacity had ceased. The Sheriff-Substitute referred the matter to a medical practitioner appointed under the Acts, who reported that the workman, though he would never be able for work for which unimpaired vision was essential, was quite able to undertake ordinary work as a labourer. The Sheriff-Substitute reduced the compensation to 5s. a week; and the employers appealed to the Court of Session for a decision that the report of the medical referee was in law sufficient evidence of the workman's complete recovery, and of his consequently having no further claim to compensation. The Court held that the report was conclusive, and that the workman was only entitled to a nominal sum (this sum being awarded to keep the matter open in case a change of circumstances supervened). The Court accordingly recalled the interlocutor of the Sheriff-Substitute, and remitted the case to him to reduce the compensation to 1d. a week. —*Gowriay, Brothers & Co. v. Ferrier, Court of Session, March 18th.*

(2) Employers' Liability Act.

JURY'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS: NEW TRIAL.

A labourer, whose hand was injured while he was employed in discharging a ship, brought an action against his employer, claiming damages on the ground that the injury was caused by defects in the crane used in the work. The cause of the accident was alleged to be the want of a handle to the wheel of the crane, and the want of a covering to the cogs on the wheel. The labourer was turning the large wheel with his hand, when he slipped, and his fingers were crushed in the cogs. At the trial several questions were left to the jury, who returned no answer to the questions whether the absence of a handle and of a covering to the cogs were defects in the machinery, but found that the crane was rusty and stiff, while they also found that the rustiness and stiffness of the crane did not cause the accident. The County Court Judge entered judgment for the employer; but on the ground that the answers of the jury were too wide, he granted a new trial, on condition of the payment into court of taxed costs, and of £15 as security for the costs of a new trial. Counsel on behalf of the employer moved the King's Bench Division that the order for a new trial be set aside, and that judgment be entered for the employer. The King's Bench Division held that the order of the County Court Judge ought to be set aside, and judgment entered for the employer, with costs, but, on the application of counsel for the labourer, sent the case back to the County Court Judge to assess the compensation to which the labourer was entitled under the Workmen's Compensation Act. —*Brick v. Wells, King's Bench Division, March 24th.*

(3) Truck Acts.

CONTRACT TO PAY WAGES OTHERWISE THAN IN COIN: VERBAL AGREEMENT.

The Truck Acts provide that it shall be an offence punishable (in the case of a first offence) by fine for an employer to enter into any contract with a workman in which the wages of such workman shall be made payable, in whole or in part, in any other manner than in current coin, or to pay any workman wages in respect of any labour done by him otherwise than in current coin (except as in the Acts mentioned). By Section 25 of the Truck Act, 1831, it is provided that, within the meaning and for the purposes of that Act, "any agreement, understanding, device, contrivance, collusion, or arrangement whatsoever on the subject of wages, whether written or oral, whether direct or indirect, to which the employer and artificer are parties or are assenting, or by which they are mutually bound to each other, or whereby either of them shall have endeavoured to impose an obligation on the other of them shall be and be deemed a 'contract'."

A lady engaged in farming was charged with having committed an offence under the Truck Acts by unlawfully paying to a wagoner certain wages otherwise than in current coin. The circumstances were as follows:—About March 1899 this wagoner, in consequence of an advertisement in a newspaper, applied to the farmer for a situation. He saw the farmer's son, and it was arranged that he should serve as wagoner at 14s. a week, with a cottage and garden rent free. It was alleged by the wagoner before the Justices that there was also an agreement that he was to receive three quarts of cider a day. This was denied by the farmer's son. A written agreement was drawn up; but, it having been lost, secondary evidence of its contents was given, and it was admitted that it contained all the terms above mentioned, except that with regard to the cider. The wagoner would not swear that cider was mentioned in the agreement, but stated that, if not, there was a verbal agreement relating to it at the same interview. On two subsequent occasions, when the wagoner was proposing to leave the farmer's employment, fresh written agreements were entered into, in which he agreed to remain at a higher rate of wages, but in which no mention was made of cider; and with regard to each of these agreements there was a conflict of testimony as to whether any verbal arrangement had been made as to the wagoner receiving a specified quantity of cider a day, the farmer's son denying that such was the case, and the wagoner stating that the arrangement was that things were to go on as before. In June 1901 the wagoner, having been dismissed from the farmer's service, sued his late employer before the Petty Sessional Court for wages due, and also for 6s. 8d. on account of cider. He obtained an order for the amount claimed as wages; but the amount claimed for cider was disallowed on the ground that for the purposes of the case the written agreement was conclusive as to what the terms of the agreement were. Evidence was given before the Magistrates to the effect that most of the workmen employed on the farm were supplied with cider, but that those who did not have it did not receive any additional wages in consequence; and the farmer contended that she could have discontinued the supply at any time. It was also proved that the wagoner usually had three quarts of cider a day, but that if he did not take his allowance he received no equivalent in money or otherwise. In these circumstances the Justices found that the cider supplied to the wagoner between the dates mentioned in the information was supplied in part payment of wages under a verbal arrangement or understanding existing between the parties at the time when the last written agreement between the parties was entered into, and convicted the farmer, subject to a special case, stated by the Justices. The matter then came before the King's Bench Division; and the question for the opinion of the Court was whether the Justices were right in receiving and acting upon evidence of a verbal arrangement to supply cider in part payment of wages, and in allowing such evidence to prevail in spite of the existence of a written agreement, which was admittedly not modified by any subsequent arrangement, verbal or other, and which, whilst containing other terms in relation to the employment of the wagoner, was wholly silent on the subject of cider.

The King's Bench Division held that the conviction could not be quashed, and dismissed the appeal. —*King's Bench Division, March 11th.*

(4) Trade Union Acts.

SECEDING BRANCH: RIGHTS OF UNION.

A branch of a Trade Union passed a resolution to sever connection with the Union, and to join certain suspended branches and so form a separate Society, and one of its members wrote to the Union to that effect. Subsequently, this branch declined to pay over a sum of £54, which they had in hand, or to part with the books at their offices. Thereupon the Union sued the member in question and another member of the branch, asking for an injunction restraining them from dealing with money in their hands, and for an order on them to deliver up all books, papers and documents at the offices of the branch, together with an account of moneys in their hands.

The Union was registered in 1894, and new rules were adopted in December 1901; but early in that year a large number of members were out of work. In consequence of a great strain on the funds, sick pay and out-of-work pay were reduced in amount. For the seceding branch it was contended that they had a right to withhold the money, because the Union had broken the rules by reducing the amount of the sick pay. The Judge directed an account of what the defendants were entitled to deduct for expenses of the branch out of the moneys in their hands, the balance to be paid over to the Union; and he granted an injunction restraining the defendants from dealing with the money, each party to pay its own costs. —*Amalgamated Society of French Polishers v. Sankey & Ley, Chancery Division, reported March 11th.*

(5) Merchant Shipping Acts.

INJURIES TO CREW: SHIPOWNER'S LIABILITY FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES.

By Section 207, sub-section (1) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, it is provided as follows: "If the master of, or a seaman or apprentice belonging to, a ship receives any hurt or injury in the service of the ship, the expense of providing the necessary surgical and medical advice and attendance and medicine, and also the expenses of the maintenance of the master, seaman, or apprentice until he is cured, or dies, or is brought back, if shipped in the United Kingdom, to a port of the United Kingdom, or if shipped in a British possession to a port of that possession, and of his conveyance to the port, and in case of death the expense (if any) of his burial, shall be defrayed by the owner of the ship, without any deduction on that account from his wages."

The master of a schooner claimed from the owners of the vessel the expenses of medical attendance and maintenance incurred in

consequence of injuries received while in their service, and also an amount in respect of the wages of a substitute provided by him during his own incapacity for work caused by these injuries.

The master was engaged on the two-thirds system, i.e. he collected the freights, and out of two-thirds of them he disbursed the ship, rendering periodical accounts to the owners and remitting the balance. He was assisting in tacking the ship, and was hauling on the topsail brace, when the rope broke, and he fell and fractured his right leg in two places. He was taken back to Liverpool, where he remained four months before he was able to return to his ship.

With respect to the claim for medical attendance and maintenance, the question arose whether, according to the true meaning of the provisions of the law cited above, the owner of the ship was required to bear the whole of the expenses, whether medical or for maintenance, incurred by a master, seaman, or apprentice in consequence of an injury received in the service of the ship, or whether the owner's liability for such expenses ceased when the injured man was brought back to port. The Judge was of opinion that the liability of the shipowner for medical advice, attendance and medicine was an absolute liability, while his liability for maintenance was not, and held that, so far as concerned the expenses of medical attendance, the owner's liability did not cease upon the man's return to port; he accordingly gave judgment for the amount claimed for these expenses, granting a stay of execution, with leave to appeal. The Judge also held that the question of deduction of wages did not arise in the present case, because this master was more in the position of a partner than of a paid servant, but the amounts paid to the master's substitute must be taken into account when distributing the profits of the venture. —*Anderson v. Rayner, Liverpool Assizes, March 1st.*

(6) Miscellaneous.

SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYEE: RIGHT OF EMPLOYER TO FORFEIT WAGES.

One of the rules of service of a railway company provided that "The company reserve the right to punish any servant by immediate dismissal, fine, or suspension from duty for intoxication, disobedience to orders, negligence, misconduct, or absence from duty without leave. They also reserve the right to deduct from the pay of their servants and retain the sums deducted as fines, and to withhold their wages during the time of their suspension or absence from duty from any cause."

One of the company's servants was suspended by the company for a fortnight pending inquiry into a charge made against him of having neglected, when his train came to a standstill, to go back to the nearest signal-box and see that the signalman warned approaching trains of the stoppage of the train of which he was guard. At the termination of the period of suspension he was summarily dismissed without notice; and the company forfeited his wages from the date of his suspension. He sued the company to recover £6 4s., being four weeks' wages (two weeks' wages in respect of the period of suspension, and two weeks' in lieu of notice). The County Court Judge held that the company was entitled to forfeit the whole of this sum. The servant appealed from the decision of the County Court Judge; and the King's Bench Division held that the Judge was wrong in deciding that the company was entitled to forfeit the man's wages during the period of suspension, and ordered judgment to be entered for him for £3 2s. with costs. —*Warburton v. The Taff Vale Railway Company, King's Bench Division, March 4th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, from official and other reports, newspapers, etc., mostly dated February and March last.)

Canada.—This is the best season for emigration to Canada. There is a good demand for competent men and boys who understand farm work and looking after stock, for female servants on farms and in towns, and for a limited number of carpenters, bricklayers, iron and steel workers, and miners. In British Columbia the shingle manufacturing industry is very busy, and many new mills are being erected.

New South Wales.—At Sydney the building trades have fallen off; the engineering trade is fairly well supplied with work, and there is a good demand for engineers; local shipping is good, and wharf labourers are well employed; plumbers are in very strong demand, especially for sanitary work; and there is a large demand for female servants. In mining districts there is a good demand for miners at collieries, but not at silver or gold mines. In country districts there is a good demand for farm labourers in the season, but the drought—which has now lasted some years—has seriously affected the demand for all kinds of country labour. At Young there is a good demand for bricklayers, carpenters, blacksmiths and female servants. At Orange and Jerilderie the only demand is for female servants. The cost of living has generally increased in the State owing to the new Tariff. A considerable number of men are being employed by Government on relief works.

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

Victoria.—The hours of bricklayers at Melbourne have been generally reduced from 48 to 44 a week, and their wages increased from 10s. to 11s. a day.

Western Australia.—The Annual Report of the Government Labour Bureau shows that there is a constant demand throughout the State for female servants; that mechanics—especially those in the building trades—are in demand at Perth and Northam, but not elsewhere; that there is no demand for miners on the gold fields, or at the coal mines; that labour is sometimes scarce at the timber mills; and that there is a good demand for farm labourers at 20s. to 25s. a week and board.

New Zealand.—With the exception of Dunedin, where many hands have been out of work, the building trades have been busy almost everywhere; carpenters and bricklayers being especially well employed. The engineering trades have been only fairly busy, and at Dunedin many men have been out of work. The boot trade has been doing well in the smaller towns, and in Auckland good machinists are said to be scarce. The clothing trade has been generally speaking very busy. General labourers have been obtaining good wages at shearing, harvesting, scrub-cutting, road work, &c., but there does not appear to be any special demand for more.

South Africa.—Trained clerks from 20 to 40 years of age are wanted for service in the Army Service Corps in South Africa during the continuance of the war. Preference will be given to discharged soldiers, and to single men. The pay is 5s. a day, and a free passage out and home. Candidates must present themselves to the nearest recruiting officer.

Cape Colony.—There is a demand for skilled mechanics. The General Manager of the Government Railways notifies that there is a limited number of vacancies for apprentices in the large locomotive workshops at Salt River.

Natal.—There has been a serious strike of several hundreds of railwaymen, on the Government refusing to raise their wages. The strikers have since resumed work, relying on the promise that their grievances will form the subject of a Parliamentary enquiry. The printers' strike has been compromised, the men accepting an extra 1s. a day, bringing the weekly wages up to 72s. The carpenters' strike continues, though about 100 men are working at the increased wage, viz., 16s. per day. There is stated to be a good demand for labour generally, especially for men in the building trades; but the great increase in the cost of food and rent—which has largely caused the above strikes—and the inability to land without a permit from the Permit Office, 47, Victoria Street, London, must be remembered by emigrants.

Orange River Colony and Transvaal.—Only refugees, Government employees, and persons engaged in a service of a public nature will be permitted to proceed to the Transvaal. Candidates for the South African Constabulary should apply to The Recruiting Officer, S.A.C. Recruiting Office, King's Court, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.; they must be good riders, good shots, single, strictly sober, and from 20 to 35 years of age; they will be given free passages to South Africa. Farriers also are wanted for this Force. The number of suitable candidates for the Civil Service of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony greatly exceeds the possible number of vacancies, and no further applications can be entertained. A mounted and unmounted police force is being recruited for the towns of the Orange River Colony, but the number of local candidates is more than sufficient.

Limewashing, etc. Order under the Factory Act.—The Home Secretary has made an Order, dated March 26th, 1902, exempting those parts of electric generating works and those frame dressing rooms of lace factories or lace warehouses, in which the number of cubic feet of space bears to the number of persons employed therein at one time a proportion of not less than 2,500 to every person, from the general regulations as to limewashing and washing contained in the Factory Act. The Order came into operation on April 1st.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in March.*—The state of employment in March continued satisfactory for the mining industry, and for those engaged in the coast fisheries and in forestry. A revival took place in the building trades, tailoring and dressmaking, and in agricultural labour. The printing trades were more actively employed, and an improvement was also shown in the minor engineering trades, hatmaking (bespoke branch), coach-building and woodworking (including the manufacture of fancy woodwares). The chief centres of the cotton spinning and weaving industries, and also the silk weaving industry (ribbon manufacture excepted) were reported as quiet. Employment in the chemical and pottery, food preparation and hide and skin working trades was on the whole satisfactory.

Out of 126,000 members of 892 trade unions (exclusive of those of coalminers in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made returns to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment of their members, 17,346, or nearly 14 per cent., were out of work; the corresponding proportion for February was 15 per cent., and for March, 1901, 12 per cent.

Coal Mining in February.—The average number of days worked per week by those employed underground in coal mines in February was 5.78, as compared with 5.94 in the previous month, and 5.95 in February, 1901. During the month, full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 47 per cent. and from 5 to 6 days by 52 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines, the corresponding percentages for the previous month being 80 and 20 respectively. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to about 145,000 workpeople, or over three-quarters of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in February.†—Thirty-one fresh disputes, 29 of which involved 3,902 workpeople, were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in February. The number of disputes in the preceding month was 40, in 37 of which 2,763 workpeople were involved, and in February, 1901, 45, in 42 of which 10,492 workpeople took part. Of the disputes of February last, 2 occurred in the building trades, 4 in mining and quarrying, 6 in the metal and shipbuilding trades, 7 in the textile trades, 2 in the printing and paper trades, 3 in chemical and pottery trades, 2 in the food, etc., preparation trades, and 2 in the hide and skin-working trades, the remaining 3 disputes being in trades not included within any of the foregoing groups. The termination is reported of 24 disputes, 7 of which ended in favour of the workpeople, 12 in favour of the employers, and 5 in a compromise.

Conciliation and Arbitration in February.†—Two cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported in February, the Justice of the Peace taking the initiative in both cases.

In one case (a strike of 83 golosh-makers against a reduction of piece-wages and the abolition of homework) the Conciliation Committee brought about an agreement under which the workpeople (who had struck on February 12th) resumed work on the old conditions until March 17th. In the other case (a strike of 150 women at a cork-cutting factory against a reduction of piece-wages) two unsuccessful meetings of the Conciliation Committee took place, and the strikers declined to submit the question to arbitration. On February 14th they resumed work, having gained their point after a strike of 3 weeks.

GERMANY.

Employment in March.—According to the Berlin journal *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment showed considerable improvement as compared with the preceding month, but was somewhat less favourable than a year ago. The number of applications for work per 100 situations offered at the public employment registries in

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department).

March was 148.9, as compared with 208.3 in February, and 139.7 in March, 1901.

Labour Disputes in March.—The same journal reports 37 disputes as having begun in March, as compared with 18 in the preceding month. Three of the March disputes occurred in the building trades, 2 in mining and quarrying, 7 in metal and engineering trades, 3 in textile trades, 12 in the clothing trades, 3 in woodworking trades, 4 in pottery, etc., trades, and 3 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups.

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children in Glass Works: New Special Rules.*—The period of 10 years fixed for the application of the code of special rules of March 11th, 1892, regulating the employment of women and children in glass works, being about to expire, the Federal Council, on March 5th, 1902, reissued those rules, with certain modifications, to be in force for a further period of 10 years.

The principal innovations introduced by the new rules are as follows:—The prohibition to work or stay in the rooms, in which work in front of furnaces is carried on, or where a very high temperature is maintained (hitherto applicable to women and girls only) has been extended to boys under 14 years of age. Women, young persons and children are now prohibited from working or remaining in any room in which raw material or glass *débris* is crushed or mixed, or in which hydrofluoric acid is used, and also from being employed at a sand blast. The prohibition as to employment in glass grinding (hitherto applicable to boys under 14 and girls under 16 years of age only) is now extended to include female operatives of any age employed in cases in which the wares are ground by the dry process, or the wheel is operated otherwise than by mechanical power; but permission may be granted for the employment of adult female operatives in connection with dry-process grinding, subject to proper arrangements being made for carrying off dust.

Quarries and Stonecutting Works: Special Rules.*—The Federal Council, under date of March 20th, has also issued special rules or quarries and stonecutting works, which contain the following, among other, provisions. In every quarry and stonecutting establishment, in which the number of persons habitually employed is 5 or more, it is required that shelters shall be provided, in which persons working in the open air may spend their intervals of rest. Such shelters must be of suitable dimensions, weatherproof, provided with stout flooring, and properly lighted. Every such shelter must be heated in cold weather, must contain seats (one seat for each person permanently employed), and must provide facilities for warming food.

For stonecutters working in the open air, roof structures, to cover the work on which they are engaged, or else working sheds, capable of being closed on three sides, must be provided for protection against the weather.

In regard to work in sandstone special precautions are prescribed for preventing injury from splinters and dust, e.g., in certain kinds of work a space of at least 6½ feet must intervene between one worker and another, and for all classes of work the stone being worked on, and in warm, dry weather also the floors, must, so far as practicable, be kept damp.

No workman may be employed in quarrying stone of any kind for more than 10 hours, or in dressing sandstone for more than 9 hours, in any one day.

The employment of women, young persons and children in quarrying or rough-dressing stone of any kind is prohibited; while it is forbidden to employ children or young persons under 16 in dry-working sandstone, or to employ girls or women of any age in any operations exposing them to the effects of stone dust.

Both in quarries and stonecutting works the employment of women, young persons, or children in the transport of stone is prohibited. In respect of slate quarries, permission may be granted for the employment of children and young persons under 16 in transport work of a kind suited to their strength.

These special rules (other than those forbidding the employment of adult female labour, which are not to take effect until October 1st, 1903), will come into force on October 1st, 1902; but the restrictions on the employment of children and young persons under 16 are not to apply to workpeople employed at the date of publication of the rules.

BELGIUM.†

Employment in February.—Employment in February, although considerably less plentiful than at the corresponding period of 1901, again improved slightly on the whole during the month. The average number of

* *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger*.

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

applications for work per situation offered (for males), as calculated from returns supplied by 13 free employment registries, fell from 2.64 in January to 2.42 in February.

In coal mining a normal state of activity prevailed, except in the Verviers district, where short time to the extent of a day to a day and a half per week was worked. Employment in quarrying was much interfered with by the inclement weather. A further improvement was noted in iron and steel manufacture; the engineering trades, however, had not yet felt the full benefit of this improvement, the best employed branches being those engaged in the manufacture of railway rolling-stock. The situation in the arms manufacturing trade was, on the whole, satisfactory. Seasonal slackness still prevailed in the building and garment-making trades; but while the building trades have in many districts had more than the usual amount of employment this year, garment-making has been abnormally slack.

Considerable slackness prevailed in the woodworking trades. Cornmilling and brewing reported a considerable decrease of activity. There was little change in the textile trades, save in cotton spinning, where fear of over-production again led to some restriction of output.

Labour Disputes in February.—Seven disputes, affecting 1,293 workpeople in the aggregate, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in February. The number of disputes, which began in the preceding month, was 5, involving 896 workpeople, and in February, 1901, 4, involving 1,665. Two of the new disputes occurred in the metal trades, 3 in the textile trades, 1 in coal mining, and 1 in quarrying. The most noteworthy of these disputes was that in the coal mining industry, 700 workpeople being locked-out for a week, because of their systematically reducing production. The men were re-instated on agreeing to perform the minimum task fixed by the employer. Of 4 other February disputes which terminated, 3 (involving 216 workpeople) resulted in favour of the employers and 1 (affecting 105 workpeople) was compromised.

HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM AND ROTTERDAM CONSULAR DISTRICTS.

Mr. A. F. G. Leveson-Gower, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at the Hague, has forwarded to the Foreign Office, under date of April 2nd, a despatch from Mr. W. C. Robinson, H. M. Consul at Amsterdam, relating to labour in that city during the first quarter of 1902. Mr. Robinson reports that, although there has been no serious distress among the labouring classes, there has been a decided increase in the number of the unemployed, and most trades are suffering for want of demand for labour. Several labour disputes were in progress at the time of reporting. One of the most considerable was a lock-out which had been in existence for several weeks at some large cotton spinning works at Enschedé. In this case the refusal of a comparatively small number of workers to accept a reduction in the rate paid them for piece-work of a special class brought about the stoppage of the entire manufactory, and the lock-out of the remaining workmen. The proprietors have refused to accept the proffered intervention of the Minister for Home Affairs, Dr. A. Kuyper.

In the diamond trade a dispute, caused by the refusal of a branch of the same to be any longer bound by the agreement not to employ workmen not members of the Diamond Operatives' Union, had caused a deadlock in this branch of the business. (See below.)

A strike for higher wages among a branch of the labourers in the building trade in Amsterdam and in Utrecht was also still unsettled at the time of reporting. There was considerable lack of employment among unskilled labourers.

With respect to Rotterdam, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires was informed by H.M. Consul at that city that nothing of any importance had occurred in the labour market during the quarter under review.

Dispute in the Diamond Trade.—With regard to this dispute, which is referred to above, *Sociaal Weekblad* of April 5th reports that a settlement has been brought about by a Committee of Mediation composed of prominent citizens of Amsterdam. The arrangement,

that members of the Diamond Workers' Union shall not work in the same workshops with non-members, is to hold good. It has been further agreed that, if any difference shall in future arise in respect thereto, then, should the matter not be settled by negotiations between the employer and the Trade Union, or between that Union and the Masters' Association, the questions at issue shall be submitted to the arbitration of a committee of the Chamber of Labour.

AUSTRIA.

Employment in February.*—The returns of the Labour Registries (public and private) furnishing reports to the Austrian Labour Department show that for every situation offered in February there were, on an average, 1.8 applicants, as against 1.7 in January. Taking the sexes separately, we find that, in the case of men, there were 3.0 applicants on an average for each situation, as compared with 3.1 in January, while in the case of women, there was one applicant per situation in February, as against 0.9 in the preceding month.

Labour Disputes in February.*—Eleven labour disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in February, the number of workpeople taking part being about 3,400, of whom 2,270 were involved in the strike at Trieste, of which an account appeared in the MARCH GAZETTE (p. 78). Of the remaining disputes, 4 occurred in the textile trades, and one took place in each of the following trades: building, stone cutting, clothing, transport, bent-wood furniture making and paper-making. In 4 cases the disputes terminated in favour of the workpeople, in 3 cases in favour of the employers, while one dispute was compromised; in 3 cases the results were unknown.

General Strike at Fiume.—Mr. G. L. Faber, H.M. Consul at Fiume, telegraphing to the Board of Trade on April 3rd and 4th, reported a strike, which caused a general suspension of business at that port. According to newspaper reports, the strike began on March 31st, the dock labourers and railway workmen being the first to come out, followed by stokers, carters, etc. This dispute terminated on April 3rd by the acceptance of the employers' proposals.

ITALY.

Diseases of Occupations: Appointment of Royal Commission.†—By a Royal Decree dated December 19th, 1901, a Royal Commission has been appointed to investigate the causes of diseases contracted by workpeople in the course of their employment in industrial establishments, and to propose measures for the prevention of such diseases.

SPAIN.

Eight Hours' Day in Government Establishments.—The *Gaceta de Madrid* of March 17th, 1902, publishes the text of a Royal Decree, dated March 11th, which provides that eight hours shall constitute the ordinary day's work in all Government domains, mines, factories, and other establishments coming under the control of the Ministry of Finance, and that each hour worked in excess of that limit shall be paid for at a rate equivalent to one-eighth of the stipulated daily wage.

Strike of Shipping Labourers at Cartagena.—In telegrams to the Board of Trade, dated April 2nd and 7th, Mr. Alexander Finn, H.M. Consul at Malaga, reports the commencement and termination respectively of a strike of shipping labourers at Cartagena. The demand made by the strikers was that the working day should consist of eight hours only in summer (the same as in winter). The strike was settled in favour of the shippers.

Strikes of Bakers and Barbers at Malaga.—A despatch from the same source, dated April 2nd, mentions two strikes which had occurred in Malaga during the previous 10 days. In one case the journeyman bakers struck, alleging that some of the master bakers had not kept faith as regarded some articles of their agreement with them. In the other case barbers and haircutters' assistants struck for a Sunday half-holiday. Both strikes only lasted a few days, and were unsuccessful.

* *Sociale Rundschau* (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department) and information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.
† *Bollettino di Notizie sul Credito e sulla Previdenza*. Anno xix. N. 12.

RUSSIA.

Accidents to Workpeople: Association of Employers for Mutual Assurance.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated March 20th, Sir C. S. Scott, H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg, encloses, in French translation, an article from a Russian newspaper regarding the formation of an Association of Employers at Ivanovo-Voznessensk* for mutual assurance against accidents to their workpeople. H.M. Ambassador states that this Society, formed under the initiative of the Imperial Authorities, is the first of its kind which has been permitted to exist in Russia.

The Association consists of 34 manufacturers, employing some 40,000 workpeople, in the Governments of Vladimir and Kostroma. Persons having less than 16 employees are not accepted as members. Each member is to pay an annual premium in respect of every employee whose annual wages do not exceed £190.

The Association proposes to pay compensation in all cases of personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment, provided that the accidents be not caused by unavoidable circumstances (*force majeure*), or by the personal negligence or wilful act of the injured workman.

The scale of compensation provided by the rules of the Association (such scale applying in all cases except those in which a judgment has been pronounced in legal proceedings in relation to the same matter) is as follows. In case of total disablement the injured person will receive during life, or for so long as the disablement may continue, a pension equal to his full yearly earnings, if these have not exceeded £31 13s. 4d. Where the annual earnings have exceeded that limit, the pension will be equivalent to three-fourths of such earnings if the injured workman is married, or two-thirds if he is single.

In the event of death from accident, the widow (or widower) of the deceased, if unable to support him (or her) self by labour, will receive a pension equivalent to 50 per cent. of the annual earnings of the deceased, if such earnings did not exceed £19, or 40 per cent., if over £19 up to £31 13s. 4d., or 30 per cent., if exceeding the last-named amount. Each child will also receive a pension until the age of 15, the amount of such pension varying according to the earnings of the deceased parent; but the combined pensions of all the members of a family must in no case exceed the earnings of the deceased, nor fall short of £19 per annum. Provision is made enabling a pension to be commuted for a lump sum. Under the rules of the Association its Executive Board is required to prepare a scheme for the adoption of measures for the prevention of accidents, in addition to those prescribed by the law; and power is given to the Board to penalise any member of the Association, who infringes any such rule, by exacting special premiums in excess of those paid by other members.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The National Civic Federation and the Settlement of Labour Disputes.—Reporting to the Foreign Office under date of February 20th, 1902, Sir Percy Sanderson, K.C.M.G., H.M. Consul-General at New York, encloses a cutting from a New York newspaper, detailing the bye-laws passed at a meeting of the Industrial Department of the National Civic Federation for the future government of its actions when arbitrating labour disputes (*See LABOUR GAZETTE*, January, 1902, p. 13.). These bye-laws provide for the appointment of a Conciliation Committee to consist of nine members, three to be selected from each group, that is to say from the employers of labour, the wage earners and the general public. If the efforts of this Committee prove ineffectual, two of the members of the Executive Committee representing employers and two representing wage earners may, if both parties to the dispute desire it, be appointed to serve as a Board of Arbitration. If necessary these

* Ivanovo-Voznessensk is a town of 22,000 inhabitants, in the Government of Vladimir, and is one of the chief centres of the Russian cotton industry.

may appoint as an umpire a fifth member of the Executive Committee, selected from the group representing the general public.

In case of emergency a meeting of the entire Executive Committee may be called.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.
(a) COAL MINING IN MARCH.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry in March continued good, showing a slight decline in the average number of days worked as compared with a month ago, and a slight improvement as compared with a year ago. The number of workpeople employed was greater than a year ago.

The average number of days worked per week in the four weeks ended March 22nd by collieries included in the returns was 5.35, as compared with 5.39 in the four weeks ended February 22nd, and with 5.30 in the four weeks ended March 23rd, 1901.

The following Table, relating to 1,354 pits, at which 488,239 workpeople were employed, gives the figures for March, 1902, in comparison with those for a month and a year ago:—

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1902, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		22nd Mar., 1902.	23rd Mar., 1901.	22nd Feb., 1902.
		Days.	Days.	Days.
England and Wales	445,708	5.36	5.31	5.40
Scotland	41,916	5.24	5.26	5.30
Ireland	615	5.11	5.72	5.22
United Kingdom	488,239	5.35	5.30	5.39

The number of workpeople employed at the pits from which returns have been received for both periods was 2.0 per cent. greater than a year ago.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 78.3 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in the four weeks ended March 22nd, as compared with 82.6 per cent. in February and 78.4 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	March, 1902.		Corresponding percentages in	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1901.	February, 1902.
24 days (full time)	149,070	30.5	22.7	28.9
20 and under 24 days	233,411	47.8	55.7	53.7
16 " " 20 " "	85,999	17.6	16.9	12.5
12 " " 16 " "	15,438	3.2	3.3	4.2
8 " " 12 " "	2,316	0.5	0.5	0.4
Under 8 days	2,005	0.4	0.9	0.3
Total	488,239	100.0	100.0	100.0

The next Table, which gives detailed particulars for the different mining districts, shows that the average number of days worked per week was greater than a year ago in five districts, the increase being greatest in South Wales and Monmouth. In eleven districts there was a decline.

As compared with a month ago four districts show a slight increase and twelve show a decline, amounting in the Salop, Worcester and Warwick, Gloucester and Somerset, and Derbyshire districts to about one-third of a day per week.

The highest averages during the month were worked in South Wales and Monmouth (5.87 days per week), and the Lothians (5.61 days). The lowest was worked in the Nottingham and Leicester district (4.88 days). In all the other districts the average time worked was between 5 and 5½ days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MARCH, 1902 AND 1901, AND IN FEBRUARY, 1902.

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1902, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Mar., 1902, as compared with	
		22nd Mar., 1902.	23rd Mar., 1901.	22nd Feb., 1902.	A year ago.	A month ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland	38,895	5.08	5.33	4.93	−.25	+ .15
Durham	92,700	5.41	5.19	5.24	+ .22	+ .17
Cumberland	7,246	5.48	5.65	5.50	−.17	−.02
Yorkshire	70,433	5.42	5.28	5.46	+ .14	−.04
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,789	5.23	5.43	5.36	−.20	−.13
Derbyshire	38,661	5.26	5.34	5.57	−.08	−.31
Nottingham and Leicester	26,896	4.88	4.76	5.16	+ .12	−.28
Staffordshire	27,623	5.29	5.36	5.38	−.07	−.09
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	9,676	5.24	5.62	5.60	−.38	−.36
Gloucester and Somerset...	8,646	5.20	5.54	5.56	−.34	−.36
North Wales... ..	12,238	5.28	5.51	5.53	−.23	−.25
South Wales and Mon. ...	61,905	5.87	5.42	5.80	+ .45	+ .07
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	22,293	5.30	5.40	5.38	−.18	−.08
The Lothians	4,283	5.61	5.75	5.49	−.14	+ .12
Fife	15,340	5.05	4.90	5.13	+ .15	−.08
IRELAND.	615	5.11	5.72	5.22	−.61	−.11
Grand Total & Averages	488,239	5.35	5.30	5.39	+ .05	−.04

Returns as to steam and house coal collieries in Northumberland show that they have averaged respectively 4.91 and 5.11 days per week for the four weeks ended March 22nd, as compared with 4.64 and 5.28 days in February. In Durham the gas, manufacturing, house and coking coal collieries have averaged respectively 5.41, 5.51, 5.22, and 5.52 days per week, as against 5.29, 5.27, 5.07, and 5.33 in February. A report from North Staffordshire states that employment is rather slack.

The **Exports** of coal, coke, cinders, and patent fuel during March amounted to 3,419,251 tons, as compared with 3,025,363 tons in February and 3,341,843 tons in March, 1901.

(b) IRON MINING IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues good, and is better than a year ago.

In the 127 mines and open works covered by the returns, the average number of days worked in the four weeks ended March 22nd, 1902, was 5.79 per week, as against 5.74 days in the four weeks ended February 22nd, and 5.55 days in March, 1901. The number of workpeople employed in March at the mines covered by the returns was 15,332 (or 417 less than were employed at the same mines a year ago), and of these 13,495, or 88.0 per cent., were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended March 22nd, as compared with 69.7 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1902, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Mar., 1902, as compared with	
		22nd Mar., 1902.	23rd Mar., 1901.	22nd Feb., 1902.	A year ago.	A month ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,900	5.93	5.92	5.92	+ .01	+ .01
Cleveland	6,363	5.80	5.25	5.67	+ .55	+ .13
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire	777	5.31	4.57	5.54	+ .74	− .23
Northamptonshire	615	5.90	5.32	5.85	+ .58	+ .05
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,255	5.35	5.62	5.36	−.27	−.01
Other places in England...	99	5.67	5.88	5.96	−.21	−.29
SCOTLAND	1,251	5.92	5.93	5.78	−.01	+ .14
IRELAND	72	5.90	6.00	6.00	−.10	−.10
Total and Averages	15,332	5.79	5.55	5.74	+ .24	+ .05

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT shows little change as compared with February, and is considerably better than a year ago.

At the works of 114 ironmasters covered by the

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—PIG-IRON; IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS; WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES.

returns received, there were 314 furnaces in blast at the end of March, as compared with 315 at the end of February, and 291 at the end of March, 1901. During the month two furnaces were re-lit in England and Wales, and four were blown out. In Scotland one furnace was re-lit.

The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 314 furnaces in blast at the end of March was 21,890.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast in different districts at the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	March, 1902.	March, 1901.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1902.	March, 1902.	Feb., 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1902.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	78	73	+ 5	78	78	...
Cumberland & Lancs.	42	39	+ 3	42	43	- 1
S. and S.W. Yorks...	15	14	+ 1	15	16	- 1
Lincolnshire	13	9	+ 4	13	12	+ 1
Midlands	81	74	+ 7	81	82	- 1
Glamorgan and Mon.	14	14	...	14	14	...
Other districts	7	6	+ 1	7	7	...
Total England and Wales...	250	229	+ 21	250	252	- 2
SCOTLAND	64	62	+ 2	64	63	+ 1
Total furnaces included in returns ...	314	291	+ 23	314	315	- 1

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS* IN MARCH.

THE returns received relating to this industry show a decrease in the number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago and with a year ago. The average number of shifts worked per man shows a slight increase on both periods.

At 202 works covered by the returns, 77,290 workpeople were employed in the week ended March 22nd, as against 77,878 in the week ended February 22nd, and 78,321 a year ago.

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

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1902, as compared with	
	Mar. 22nd, 1902.	Mar. 23rd, 1901.	Feb. 22nd, 1902.	A year ago.	A month ago.
England and Wales	64,619	65,650	64,937	- 1,031	- 318
Scotland	12,671	12,671	12,941	...	- 270
Total	77,290	78,321	77,878	- 1,031	- 588

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing 89 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below:—

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Mar., 1902, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			Mar., 1901.	Feb., 1902.
Under 5 per week	7,205	10.5	16.1	14.4
5 per week	24,660	31.8	34.8	33.7
5½ per week	830	1.1	1.1	1.0
6 per week	35,515	45.9	47.2	50.1
Over 6 per week	584	0.8	0.8	0.8
Total	68,794	100.0	100.0	100.0

The average number of shifts worked was 5.38 per man in the week ended March 22nd, as compared with 5.35 in the week ended February 22nd, and 5.25 in the corresponding week of March, 1901.

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this Table worked the same average number of shifts per

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

man as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first Table may be estimated at 415,434 in the week ended March 22nd, 416,664 in the week ended February 22nd, and 411,517 in the week ended March 23rd, 1901. Thus the volume of employment at the works included in the returns was 1.0 per cent. more than a year ago, and 0.3 per cent. less than a month ago.

As compared with a year ago the returns received show a decline in Northumberland and Durham, Yorkshire and the Midland Counties. As compared with a month ago nearly all of the principal districts show a decline, except Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire. A report received from North Staffordshire states that mills are working short time.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT continues to be good and is better than a month ago. As compared with a year ago it has improved considerably.

At the end of March (i.e. immediately before the Easter holidays) 47 works with 228 mills had all their mills in operation, whilst 32 others had 167 mills at work out of a total of 224. Thus in all 395 mills were working, as compared with 386 at the end of February, and 296 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at all the mills in operation at the end of March is estimated to be about 19,800.

Of the 395 mills at work, 383, employing about 19,200 workpeople, are in the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire districts, compared with 374 at the end of February, and 283 a year ago.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	47	228	...	228
Works giving partial employment	32	167	57	224
Total at end of March, 1902†	79	395	57	452
Corresponding Total for Feb., 1902†	78	386	61	447
Corresponding Total for Mar., 1901†	62	296	59	355

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

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	Mar., 1902.	Feb., 1902.	Mar., 1901.	Mar., 1902.	Feb., 1902.	Mar., 1901.
To United States	5,949	6,743	2,044	13	49	...
„ Other Countries	20,677	16,880	16,050	3,535	4,053	2,398
Total	26,626	23,623	18,094	3,548	4,102	2,398

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN MARCH.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women in March showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month in both branches of the cotton trade. In the woollen and worsted trades a marked improvement was apparent. Information has been received with regard to 599 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 100,500 women and girls, and is summarised in the following Table, which

* The figures relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates, but also to the manufacture of blackplates.
† It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.
‡ Amended figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time throughout the Month.*		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during Month for repairs, had trade disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
March, 1902	88	3	8	1
February, 1902	92	7	—	1
March, 1901	79	17	3	1
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
March, 1902	77	17	5	1
February, 1902	79	20	1	—
March, 1901	70	22	7	1
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
March, 1902	92	6	1	1
February, 1902	77	18	3	2
March, 1901	79	17	4	—
Total of above Trades—				
March, 1902	83	11	5	1
February, 1902	82	16	1	1
March, 1901	74	20	5	1

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton spinning mills reported on is 27,200; of these, 88 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 92 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in February, and with 79 per cent. in March, 1901.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton weaving factories reported on is 52,420; of these, 77 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 79 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in February, and with 70 per cent. in March, 1901.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 20,880; of these, 92 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 77 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in February, and with 79 per cent. in March, 1901.

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MARCH.†

FARM labourers were, generally speaking, in full employment during March. The weather was, for the most part mild, and although it was showery in the last fortnight of the month the rain did not interrupt out-door work to any appreciable extent. Good progress was made with spring sowing in most districts, and farm work generally is in a forward state. The supply of labour has been, on the whole, sufficient for the work in hand, but a scarcity of men is reported in certain districts, especially in the South Western counties.

Northern Counties.—Reports from Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland state that, although there were a few casual labourers in irregular employment in some districts, work on the farms was generally plentiful. A correspondent in the Hexham Union of Northumberland reports that, at a local hiring on April 1st, men were easier to engage, but good "double hinds" and lads were scarce. A report from the Chester-le-Street Union (Durham) states that, at hirings recently held, the wages of hinds fell 1s. a week on the average. Agricultural employment has been regular in Lancashire. A report from the southern part of the county states that the supply of extra men was insufficient at the end of the month. Farm labourers in Yorkshire have been well employed during the month at sowing corn, planting potatoes, and other work. In consequence of favourable weather, farm work is well advanced in most districts. The supply of men is generally equal to the demand, and some of the reports state that Irish labourers have commenced to arrive.

Exclusive of Easter Holidays.
† Based on 232 returns from correspondents in various parts of England.

Midland Counties.—Regularity of employment is reported in Derbyshire and Cheshire. A report from the latter county states that labourers from Ireland are commencing to arrive. In Nottinghamshire employment has been good with agricultural labourers. It is stated that the demand for labour has not been great, owing partly to the short turnip crop of last year, and the consequent diminution in numbers of live stock kept by farmers. Cowmen, however, are said to be scarce. Farm labourers in Leicestershire have been regularly employed, the weather being, on the whole, favourable for spring sowing. The supply of ordinary labour has been equal to the demand but there is a scarcity of skilled men. Employment has been generally regular in Staffordshire and Shropshire. The weather has been good for sowing and other work in the fields, and farming operations are well advanced. Some scarcity of labour is referred to in a few of the reports from these counties.

Regularity of employment is reported in Worcestershire and Warwickshire. The weather has been, on the whole, favourable, and the planting of corn has afforded a good deal of work. The supply of men has been generally equal to the demand, except in the case of stockmen. Agricultural labourers in Oxfordshire have been well employed, chiefly in connection with the sowing of spring corn, and very few men have been in irregular work. Labourers are said to be scarce in the Woodstock Union, but not in the other unions reported on. In Northamptonshire nearly all farm labourers are reported to have been fully employed. Some wet weather has been experienced, but it has caused very little hindrance to work in the fields, which is said to be in a forward state. Farm labourers have been, with very few exceptions, fully employed in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. With the aid of favourable weather, most of the corn has been sown, and work on the farms is well advanced. The supply of labour in these counties is generally stated to be quite sufficient, and more plentiful than a year ago.

Eastern Counties.—Agricultural employment has been generally regular in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire. A good deal of the corn was sown during March, and potatoes and roots were being put in at the end of the month. The supply of labour has been sufficient for the requirements of farmers. In Lincolnshire employment has been good for farm labourers. A correspondent in the Lincoln Union writes that during the last two weeks of March sowing has afforded employment to any extra men that were to be had. Farm labourers in Norfolk and Suffolk have, generally speaking, been regularly employed during the month. The weather, though unsettled in the latter part of the month, was, on the whole, favourable for the sowing of spring corn, and field work is generally well advanced. In a few districts, however, a small number of men have not been in full work, and some of the reports refer to a difficulty in finding suitable work for men on the farms. The supply of agricultural labour in these counties is said to be better than a year ago. Regularity of employment is reported in Essex, except in the case of a few casual labourers in certain districts. Showery weather was experienced during the month, but it did not affect employment appreciably. There has been no dearth of labour in the districts reported on.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Agricultural labourers in Kent have been, for the most part, in full employment during March. Out-door work was very little interrupted by bad weather, and farming operations, including work in the hop gardens, are in a forward state. Reports state that more labour is available than a year ago. Regularity of employment is reported in Surrey and Sussex, and the supply of labour is stated to be equal to the demand in most districts. In connection with the increased supply of labour, a report from the Battle Union (Sussex) states that wood cutting has been well finished up this season, which was not the case last year. Farm labourers have been well employed

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; SEAMEN.

in Hampshire. Outdoor work was interrupted to some extent by rain in the latter part of the month, but the regularity of employment was not affected. The supply of labour is reported to be more plentiful than of late. Reports from Berkshire state that agricultural employment has been regular during March, and that the supply of labour, though rather small, has proved about sufficient for the work in hand. Agricultural labourers have been fully employed in Wiltshire, the weather having been, on the whole, favourable. Many of the reports received state that there is a dearth of labour, and more especially of milkers, carters, and shepherds. In Dorsetshire employment has been good with farm labourers, corn sowing, hedging, ditching, and other work having afforded plenty of occupation for all. According to the reports received from this county there appears to be just sufficient labour available for present requirements.

Agricultural labourers in Somersetshire have been well employed during March. There was some rain in the latter part of the month, but not sufficient to interfere much with field work. Reports state that owing to the forward state of farming operations the hedges and ditches have received more attention than for years past. Regularity of employment is reported in Herefordshire and the supply of labour is stated to be rather short. Good progress has been made with ploughing and spring sowing. In Gloucestershire farm labourers have been fully employed, the weather being, on the whole, favourable. Many of the reports from this county refer to a scarcity of labour, more particularly in the case of carters, cowmen and milkers. Agricultural employment in Devonshire and Cornwall has been generally regular, and farm work is in a forward state. Some scarcity of labour is referred to in most of the districts reported on. A correspondent in the Holsworthy Union (Devon), writes as follows:—"The exodus to towns is large, and the labour question is a pressing difficulty for the farmers."

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves during March showed a slight decline as compared with February, and remains considerably worse than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended March 29th was 14,182, as compared with 14,696 in the preceding four weeks, and 16,230 in the corresponding period of 1901.

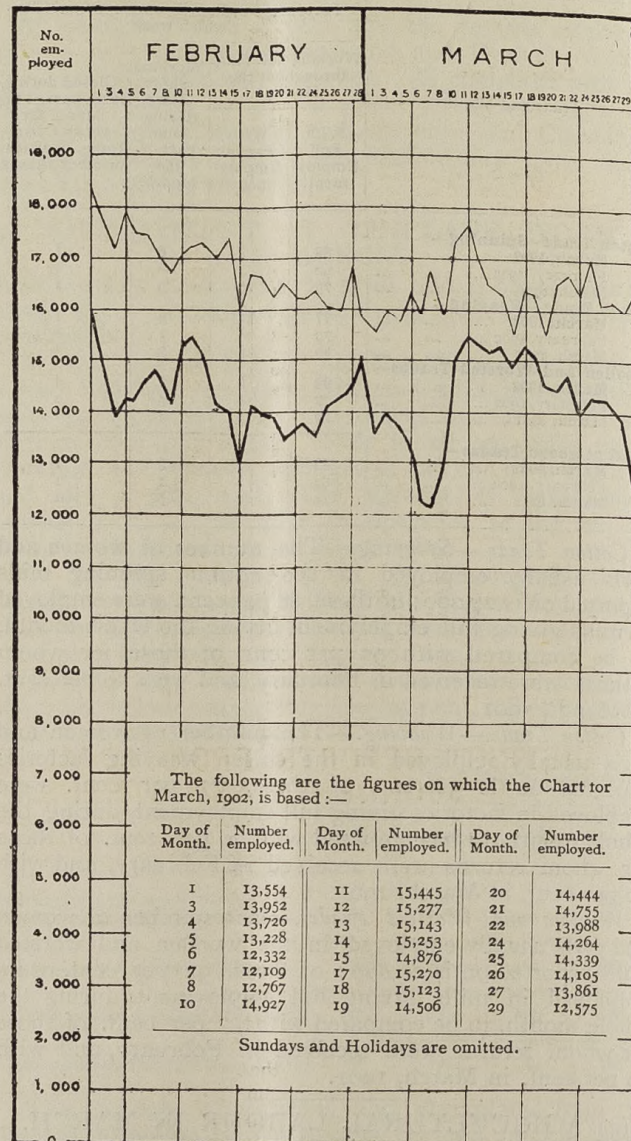
(1) Weekly Averages.—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Mar. 1	5,884	2,615	8,499	5,673	14,172
" " " 8	5,482	2,028	7,510	5,510	13,020
" " " 15	6,641	2,522	9,163	5,991	15,154
" " " 22	6,596	2,048	8,644	6,038	14,682
" " " 29	5,730	2,210	7,940	5,888	13,828
Average for 5 weeks ended Mar. 29th, 1902	6,077	2,287	8,364	5,818	14,182
Average for Mar., 1901	7,077	2,752	9,829	6,401	16,230
Average for Feb., 1902	6,152	2,328	8,480	6,216	14,696

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in March ranged from 12,109 on the 7th to 15,445 on the 11th.

During March, 1901, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 17,667 on the 12th to 14,593 on the 30th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of February and March, 1902. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1901, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1902, and the thin curve to 1901.]



Employment in mid-stream during March was only moderate. With coal porters, winchmen and lightermen employment was fair; with stevedores, lumpers, corn porters and deal porters moderate. Employment with fruit porters in Thames Street has been fair, the average number employed daily being 318, as compared with 322 in February, and 347 in March, 1901.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MARCH.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) The number of seamen shipped during March as the crews of foreign-going vessels, from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), was 29,744, or 3,425 less than during March, 1901. The supply of seamen at these ports is generally stated to be equal to or in excess of the demand.

During the three completed months of 1902, 93,038 men have been shipped, as compared with 97,959 in the corresponding period of 1901. The decrease is accounted for chiefly by a falling off in the number shipped at London.

Of the total number of seamen shipped during the three months, 15,451 (or 16.6 per cent.) were foreigners, the percentage for the corresponding period of 1901 being 15.8. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Decreases are reported in the rates of wages of A.B.'s and firemen at Cardiff and Barry and of firemen at Leith.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March, 1902 and 1901, respectively, together with the number shipped in the three months ended March in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in March, 1902.*			Total in March, 1901.*	Total number shipped in three months ended March.*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in March, 1902.		1902.	1901.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	29	2,157	2,186	2,744	7,263	7,709
Sunderland ...	...	301	301	281	1,049	1,213
Middlesbrough ...	...	239	239	103	492	467
Hull ...	21	771	792	938	2,840	2,719
Grimsby ...	3	24	27	39	124	107
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	...	478	478	628	1,347	1,246
Newport, Mon. ...	29	524	553	888	2,121	2,615
Cardiff ...	128	3,900	4,028	3,916	13,151	13,074
Swansea ...	1	304	305	349	1,196	1,730
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	102	10,493	10,595	10,990	31,182	31,372
London ...	120	5,142	5,262	6,410	16,753	18,793
Southampton ...	4	2,364	2,368	2,859	7,221	7,535
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grange-mouth ...						
...	...	413	413	627	1,347	1,511
Glasgow ...	85	1,815	1,900	2,162	6,021	6,433
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	...	158	158	124	323	417
Belfast ...	...	139	139	297	608	1,028
Total, March, 1902...	522	29,222	29,744	...	93,038	...
 Ditto, March, 1901...	754	32,415	...	33,169	...	97,959

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

NOTE.—Employment in the principal districts of the United Kingdom for Coal Miners, Iron Miners, Tinplate Workers, and Agricultural Labourers and for Dock Labour in London, is dealt with in Articles on pp. 107-110, and is not included in the District Reports which follow.

LONDON.
General.—Returns from 469 branches of 131 unions, having an aggregate membership of 80,011, show that 3,023 (or 3.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of March, compared with 4.5 per cent. in February and 3.4 per cent. in March, 1901.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding trades remains unchanged. Returns from 168 branches of 29 unions, with a membership of 24,295, show that 915 (or 3.8 per cent.) were unemployed, as in February. The percentage for March, 1901, was 2.4. Employment with sailmakers is slack.

In the Building trades employment has continued to improve. Returns from 178 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 13,134, show that 378 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.3 per cent. in February and 4.0 per cent. in March, 1901. The painters and decorators describe employment as good; the plumbers and stone carvers as moderate; the stonemasons and glaziers as fair; the bricklayers and carpenters and joiners as dull; the plasterers as bad.

Employment in the Furnishing trades has still further improved, and is now fairly good. Returns from 35 branches of 16 unions with a membership of 5,572, show that 171 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.3 per cent. in February and 4.4 per cent. in March, 1901.

In the Woodworking trades employment is not so good. Returns from 9 branches of 5 unions, with a membership of 1,056, show that 44 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.3 per cent. in February and 6.9 per cent. in March of last year.

With Coopers employment remains unchanged. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 1,070, show that 47 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, as in February. The percentage for March, 1901, was 1.1.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights are well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 1,536, show that 23 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.5 per cent. in February. The percentage for March of last year was also 1.5.

Employment in the Printing and Bookbinding trades has continued to improve, and is now fairly good on the whole. Returns from 26 unions, with a membership of 24,652, show that 921 (or 3.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.3 per cent. in February, and 3.6 per cent. in March, 1901.

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

Employment in the Clothing trades has somewhat improved. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as better; the East End clothiers' operatives as good; the tailors machinists and pressers as improving; the ladies' tailors and mantle makers as better; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses as quiet; with hatters employment is slightly better but dull; with capmakers it has improved slightly, but is still slack; with fur skin dressers it remains fair.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with the West End hand-sewn boot and shoemakers is better, and fair for the time of year; with the East End sewround shoemakers it is rather better, though still bad; with boot and shoe clickers it remains bad, short time being general; with boot and shoe operatives it is dull.

Employment in the Leather trades has still further improved. Returns from 10 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 1,785 show that 39 (or 2.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.0 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1901, was also 2.2.

In the Glass and Pottery trades, returns from 8 branches of 7 unions, with a membership of 1,245, show that 141 (or 11.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 9.0 per cent. in February and 9.6 per cent. in March of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 1,047, show that 10 (or 0.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.6 per cent. in February and 8.5 per cent. in March, 1901.

Goldsmiths, Jewellers, Silver and Electroplate workers report employment as quiet, with much short time. Diamond workers report employment as fair.

Employment in the Tobacco trades remains bad. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,241, show that 257 (or 11.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 8.0 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1901, was 3.1.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—See note at head of District Reports.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The steel plate mills have worked full time. Bar and angle mills at Consett and Jarrow have been more actively employed. Steel smelters report employment as generally fair; with blastfurnacemen it has not much improved. Employment at the finished steel and iron works has somewhat declined.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Employment in the repair yards and shops in the Blyth and Shields districts, has improved, although it is still rather quiet; with engine fitters higher up on the north side of the Tyne it remains fairly good. Boiler shops continue quiet. The demand for platers and riveters has been moderate. Ordnance, locomotive and electrical works are still busy. Branches with 13,128 members have 675 (or 5.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 763 (or 5.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. On the Wear.—Employment at two or three engine shops has much improved, and at others it is slightly better; with shipsmiths, caulkers and riveters, though quiet it remains good. Branches with 5,445 members have 227 (or 4.2 per cent.) idle, as compared with 257 (or 4.7 per cent. of their membership) in February. Pattern makers on the Tyne have been better employed. Iron and steel moulders continue slack on both rivers. Employment with the sailmakers is good on the Wear; bad on the Tyne. Whitesmiths and heating engineers are still fairly busy; drillers and hole cutters only moderately so. With engine men, smiths and strikers employment is fair.

Coal and Ironstone Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Lead Mining.—Lead ore miners continue to average 5 days per week.

Quarrying.—Employment in limestone quarries at Stanhope has been generally good. In quarries in the Gateshead and Blyth districts it has been fairly regular. At Ferryhill, Coxhoe and Haswell rather less time has been worked.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal porters and shippers have averaged slightly over five days per week. Employment of trimmers and teemers at Blyth is described as rather slack; on the Tyne as moderate; at Sunderland as fairly good. With tugboat and steam packet men it has improved. With Tyne watermen it remains quiet. It has been slightly better with quayside and dock labourers; with lumpers and riggers, pit prop carriers and deal porters it has been fairly good. The demand for sailors and firemen was much below the supply.

Building Trades.—Masons, painters, tilers, slaters and paviors

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

are busy; plasterers, bricklayers and plumbers are moderately employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders on both rivers have been well employed. Some paper mills are working half time.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers are still slack. With upholsterers, coopers and lath-renders employment continues quiet; it is improving with mill-sawyers on the Tyne; still bad on the Wear.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Bottlemakers on the Wear have not been so busy; employment is good at Seaham Harbour. Pressed glass makers have worked 4 and 5 shifts per week; flint glass makers rather less than 4 shifts. Chemical workers in the bleaching and caustic soda departments have averaged three-quarter time. Copper and lead factories have been fairly employed. With cement workers employment has been fair.

Fishing.—Good catches were landed by the trawl and line boats during March.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment generally is moderate at the iron and steel works. At bridge works it is fair at Darlington, moderate elsewhere; it is fair at metal expansion works; slightly improving with blast furnace men; moderate at pipe, chair and general foundries.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers is moderate at Bishop Auckland, Middlesbrough, Stockton and South Bank; bad at Hartlepool and Darlington; with ironfounders it is moderate at Middlesbrough, bad at Darlington, Stockton and Hartlepool; with pattern makers fair at Darlington and Stockton, dull at Middlesbrough, bad at Hartlepool; with enginemen and cranemen fair, with smiths and strikers moderate, with boiler-makers fair at Darlington, moderate elsewhere. Branches with 4,440 members, have 353 (or 8.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 366 (or 8.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as moderate or fair.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is fairly steady at Stockton, slack at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool; quiet at Whitby. Shipwrights report employment as fair at Stockton, slack at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool; ship joiners as moderate at Stockton, dull at Middlesbrough, bad at Hartlepool.

Ironstone Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fair at Middlesbrough, quiet at Hartlepool; dockers as moderate at Middlesbrough, quiet at Hartlepool; riverside workers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Darlington and Middlesbrough, fair at Stockton and Hartlepool. Employment with cement, concrete, brick and pulp workers is brisk; with wagon builders and tailors good; with mill sawyers and woodcutting machinists moderate; with cabinet makers quiet.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Short time is being worked at most of the cotton mills in Oldham and adjoining district. Employment is slightly worse in Ashton-under-Lyne and Dukinfield, whilst in Stalybridge, Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport it is reported as moderate; in Mossley as slack. Ring frame operatives report employment as fair. In the twining and carding branches, employment is reported as moderate. *Weaving.*—Employment in velvet weaving is reported as good; in calico weaving as moderate; and in fustian weaving as slack. Reelers, sectional warpers, winders, and ball warpers again report employment as moderate.

Woollen and Silk Trades.—Employment in the woollen industry in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport districts is reported as good. Employment with the silk dressers of Rochdale is still reported as bad.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as slack generally, but improving in the machine making trade; plate moulders as slack; tinplate workers, gasmeter makers, tool makers, ironfounders, pattern makers, iron grinders, glazers, and brass-founders as moderate; boiler makers and electrical workers are fairly well employed.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Building Trades.—Employment is slack with plasterers, plumbers, and joiners; moderate with other branches.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment in Bolton and district continues fairly good. In Bury, Ramsbottom and Farnworth spinners are reported as more regularly employed. In Chorley employment is better; in Wigan it has slightly improved. With cardroom operatives employment is better in Bolton and continues moderately good in Wigan, Chorley and Bury. *Weaving.*—Employment generally is better.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers is moderate; with steam engine makers irregular; with roller-makers improved; with machine fitters, griaders, spindle makers and iron moulders slack. In Heywood, Bury, Chorley, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom and Horwich ironworkers generally are reported as moderately employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is moderate.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with tailors, printers, leather workers, tanners and carters is fairly good; with shoemakers, cloggers and general labourers it is slightly better.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment in the Blackburn district is reported as improved; in Burnley and Accrington as fair; at Colne and Nelson as moderate; at Preston as bad; at Darwen as good. On coloured goods in the Colne district it is far from good. Hard waste weavers are slack; with twisters and drawers employment is reported as good at Burnley and Blackburn; warp dressers in the Colne, Nelson, and Brierfield districts are slack, the majority being on short time. Winders, warpers and tape sizers continue well employed. *Spinning.*—Spinners report employment as fair at Blackburn, Darwen, and Accrington, as only moderate at Burnley. Ring spinners and card room workers are fully employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers, and warp dressers, with 3,408 members, have 95 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 90 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Employment with painters has improved; with plasterers, masons and labourers it is moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as bad at Todmorden; moderate at Colne; machine makers are still slack.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet makers report employment as fair; tailors, letterpress printers, and calico printers and bleachers as moderate; woollen block printers, and brickmakers as slightly improved; quarrymen as fairly good.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 24,828 members have 1,357 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1,657 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as moderate generally, but slack at Macclesfield and Northwich; brass-founders, brassworkers and filesmiths as good; ironfounders and machine workers as quiet; sheet metal workers and boiler-makers as moderate; wire weavers as improved.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors are busy in the ready made and bespoke departments; felt hat makers and cloth cap makers report employment as quiet; boot and shoe makers as bad; shirt cutters as good; shirt and jacket makers as moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers report employment as moderate in railway shops and improving in the private trade; coopers and wheelwrights as slack; the furniture workers generally are quiet.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners, weavers, and machine printers report employment as moderate in Manchester; dyers as bad. In Macclesfield all branches of the cotton trade are busy. In the silk trade employment generally is moderate, but slack with throwers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and lithographic artists report employment as improved; stereotypers as good; bookbinders as moderate; pattern-card makers and lithographic printers as slack.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is bad. It is improving with stone masons, and concreters are fairly busy.

Transport Trades.—Employment continues fair.—*G. D. Kelley.*

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE; YORKSHIRE.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders report a decline; shipwrights report employment as good; ship joiners as slightly improved; brass and ironfounders as bad; pattern makers, fitters and turners, whitesmiths, and hammermen as dull; coppersmiths as fair.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers maintain the improvement reported last month; cabinet makers report employment as good; upholsterers as improving; French polishers as slack; coopers as fair; mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists as dull.

Building Trades.—All branches are rather better employed, but none are busy.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen report employment as fair; dock labourers, quay and railway carters and Mersey flatmen as dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers, stereotypers, and bookbinders report employment as good; lithographic printers as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as fairly good; ready made tailoring operatives as better; boot and shoe makers as still dull.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as moderate; glass makers and flatteners as good; decorative glass workers continue dull and chemical workers slack.

Quarrying.—Employment is not good.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from *Winsford* states that employment in the salt trade has been very dull; in the chemical trade at Middlewich it is moderate; it is dull in the building trades in both towns; good with shipwrights, boiler-makers and brassworkers, and with fustian cutters.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.—The whitesmiths report employment as good; engineers, braziers, and sheet-metal workers, brassfounders and finishers, boiler-makers, drillers and hole cutters, shipwrights and sailmakers as moderate; machine workers, smiths and strikers, pattern makers, ironfounders, platers' helpers, and general labourers as bad. At Doncaster the brassworkers report employment as good; brassfounders and finishers and boiler-makers as moderate; engineers as bad, short time being worked. Employment is moderate at Goole and Grimsby, good at New Holland, Scunthorpe and Selby.

Building Trades.—The stonemasons, slaters and tilers, and carpenters and joiners at Hull report employment as moderate; bricklayers as dull; other branches as bad. At Doncaster the bricklayers and painters report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners as slack.

Transport Trades.—The coal porters and trimmers, timber workers, and railway workers at Hull report employment as moderate; seamen and firemen, dock labourers, pit prop carriers, and lightermen as bad. At Grimsby the seamen and firemen report employment as moderate; dock and general labourers as bad.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen, steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen, curing house workers, and general fish trade labourers in Hull and Grimsby report employment as moderate.

Seed-crushing, Oil, Paint and Colour Trades.—Employment in Hull is reported as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—The lithographic printers report employment as good; bookbinders as fair; letterpress printers as moderate.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coopers and coach-builders at Hull report employment as good; cabinet makers as moderate; mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as bad; the coachbuilders at Doncaster as moderate; the wagon builders at Selby as good.

Miscellaneous.—Brush makers report employment as good; bakers and enginemen and cranemen as moderate; leather workers and tailors as bad. At Doncaster carriers report employment as bad; enginemen and cranemen as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 9,203 members have 579 (or 6.3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 606 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers report employment as quiet with a large number of unemployed; ironfounders as slightly

improved, but still slack; steelworkers and boiler-makers as moderate; pattern makers and hackle and gill makers as bad; machine workers, brassworkers, and sheet-metal workers as quiet. At Wakefield engineers and ironfounders are slack; at Stanningley engineers and boiler-makers are quiet.

Clothing Trades.—In the ready made tailoring factories employment has been fair; bespoke tailors are busier. Employment in the boot factories in Leeds is bad; at Bramley moderate; at Heckmondwike fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the mills in Leeds is quiet, short time being worked. Blanket raisers, linen workers, and warp-dressers and twisters report employment as dull; willeyers and fettlers as moderate. At Wakefield employment is slack; at Bramley fair.

Building Trades.—In Leeds joiners report employment as slack; masons, bricklayers and plasterers as moderate; plumbers as quiet; painters as fair. At Harrogate employment is quiet.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Leather Trades.—Employment with tanners, curriers and leather shavers is slack.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographers as improving; bookbinders and machine rulers as good; papermill workers as moderate.

Glass Trades.—Employment in the glass bottle trade at Leeds, Castleford and Wakefield is quiet.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers and polishers are well employed; brushmakers, coachmakers and wheelwrights moderately so.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in Bradford, Huddersfield and Halifax shows a slight improvement. The improvement in Keighley has been maintained. Woollsorters and woolcombers in Bradford report employment as good.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in Huddersfield and the Colne Valley continues fairly good. In the heavy woollen trade of Dewsbury and Batley it continues fair.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham is a little better, and at Halifax and Brighouse it is moderate. In the cotton trade it is fair. Dyers at Bradford report employment as only moderate, at Huddersfield as fairly good.

Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as moderate in Bradford and Huddersfield; fair in Dewsbury; improving in Keighley; bad in Halifax. Ironfounders in Huddersfield report employment as bad; in Dewsbury as quiet; in Keighley as fairly good; in Halifax as bad.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fair.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with letterpress printers, bookbinders and lithographers remains quiet; in the glass trade it is moderate; tailors are busy.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners and building trades) with 11,168 members, have 578 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 548 (or 4.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Branches with 6,371 members have 372 (or 5.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 360 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Employment in the engineering trade has further declined, and is reported as moderate. Ironfounders are slack. Machine workers report employment as bad. All sections of the iron and steel workers are slack, except stove grate workers, who are moderately employed. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders are fairly well employed; at Parkgate ironworkers are slack, steelworkers are moderately employed; at Masbro' ironworkers are moderately employed; at Eccles steelworkers and spring and axle makers are quiet.

Cutlery and Tool Trades.—Spring knife cutlers and pen and pocket blade forgers and grinders continue fairly well employed. In the table cutlery, edge tool and saw trades employment is quiet; in the file trade it is moderate. Saw handle makers and razor hafters are slack; handle and scale cutters and pressers, makers of miners' tools, and agricultural and horticultural tool makers are fairly busy.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment continues slack in the silver and Britannia metal trades, except with platers and gilders, who are fairly well employed. Brassworkers report employment as moderate; braziers and sheet metal workers as good. At Rotherham brass workers are fairly well employed.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE; MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Building Trades.—A slight improvement is reported in Sheffield. At Barnsley and Normanton employment is fairly good, at Rotherham bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as fair; bookbinders and machine rulers as good.

Linen Trade.—Employment at Barnsley is moderate and improving.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet makers are well employed. Woodsawyers report employment as moderate; coach-makers and wagon builders as quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is good; with ready made tailoring operatives fair. At Barnsley in the boot and hoe trade it is bad.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle makers at Mexbro' and Swinton report employment as bad; at Barnsley as improving. At Rotherham medicine bottle makers are fairly well employed; at Barnsley flint glass workers are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Gasworkers, tram and hackney carriage employees, electrical workers, bakers and confectioners are fairly busy; farriers, saddlers, harness makers, general labourers, paviors and street masons and shop assistants are slack. At Barnsley upholsterers, papermakers and quarrymen are well employed; at Normanton brickmakers, chemical workers and quarrymen are fully employed; at Rotherham employment is moderate with potters. S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and lace machine builders report employment as moderate; brass moulders and finishers, iron and steel dressers, smiths and strikers as quiet; iron-founders in Chesterfield as improving, in Derby as bad; boiler-makers as good; stove grate workers and wire drawers as fair; pipe moulders as good; electric wire and cable makers as improving. Branches with 2,051 members have 49 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 32 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen report employment as fair; chert quarrymen as good.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Textile Trades.—Cotton weavers, calico printers, elastic web weavers and hosiery workers report employment as fair; card and blowing room operatives as bad; calico printers and engravers as good; lace workers as improving; gimp and trimming workers as rather slack.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as improving; factory tailoring operatives, dress and mantle makers and milliners as good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is dull.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with railway carriage and wagon builders is reported as moderate in Derby, good in Long Eaton; with coopers in Burton-on-Trent as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers as good.

Miscellaneous.—Pit mechanics, stationary engine drivers and firemen and general labourers report employment as fair; railway workers and gasworkers as good.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment generally shows a marked improvement and is good on the whole.

Hosiery Trades.—Employment shows a further improvement, but is only moderate in some branches. It is reported as slack with elastic bandage makers.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as good with tool machinists, brassfounders, brass workers, bobbin and carriage makers, carriage straighteners, electrical workers and blast furnacemen; as moderate with fitters, mechanics, smiths and strikers, engine makers, tinplate workers, cycle makers, lace and hosiery machine builders, wheelwrights, blacksmiths and farriers; as slack with boiler-makers, ironfounders and fettlers. Employment is regular at Grantham and Newark, quiet at Retford and Mansfield, fairly good at Beeston and Netherfield. Branches of societies with 3,399 members, have 147 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 164 (or 4.9 per cent. of their membership), at the end of February.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as dull at Nottingham, as moderately good elsewhere.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is reported as good with brush makers, basket makers and coopers; as slack with mill sawyers, cabinet makers, packing case makers and upholsterers; as quiet with coach makers and French polishers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is reported as good with letterpress printers; as moderate with lithographic printers; as quiet with bookbinders and lithographic artists; as fair with printers' cutters and assistants.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as much improved with bespoke tailors; readymade tailoring operatives are well employed; blouse and mantle makers are busy. With boot and shoe operatives employment is moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as fairly good with gas workers, railway workers, colliery engine and firemen, stationary engine drivers, engine and cranemen, cab and hackney carriage drivers, saddle and harness makers, bakers and confectioners, and silk dressers and doublers; as slack with female cigar makers. W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment is not good for the season of the year, and throughout the district there are complaints of slackness.

Other Clothing Trades.—In the ready made and bespoke tailoring trade a further improvement is reported. Employment is brisk with corset makers, and fairly good with milliners and dressmakers.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—Employment is brisk at Leicester with shirt, pant, and plain hosiery workers; slack at Loughborough in the hose and half hose departments. It is good with trimmers and dyers and in the wool spinning mills.

Elastic Web Trade.—All branches report employment as fairly regular.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment has slightly improved with engine builders and needlemakers; it is fair with pattern makers, turners and shoe machinery builders; quiet with tool-makers; bad with ironfounders and boiler-makers; slack in all branches at Loughborough. Cycle and motor car makers are busier.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Quarrying.—Stone quarrymen continue busy. Ironstone and lime and cement workers are now more regularly employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is good with letterpress and lithographic printers; fairly good with bookbinders and machine rulers.

Building Trades.—Employment generally has improved slightly. It continues slack with carpenters and joiners.

Leather Trade.—Employment is slack in all branches.

Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment is fair with coachmakers, upholsterers and wood-cutting machinists; quiet with cabinet makers, wood carvers and French polishers; it is good with electric tram and road car builders, polishers and cabinet makers at Loughborough.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is rather slacker with railway workers; good with bakers and basket makers; quiet with cigar makers, brush makers and gas stokers; slack with button makers and farriers; slightly improved with sanitary ware and drain pipe makers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment during the early part of the month was scarce, but there was a slight improvement towards the end.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is reported to be fairly brisk.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers in the Potteries are well employed; moulders are slack. At Crewe all branches are busy, and moulders are working overtime. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are well employed. At Oakmoor and Froghall wire workers are slack, and short time prevails, but tube workers are working overtime.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Quarrying.—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are busy.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment generally in the silk trade continues quiet; but twisters, braiders, and dyers report an improvement. At Congleton silk dressers are well employed; fustian cutters continue busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report an improvement, and full time is general. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone are fairly busy, and overtime is being worked.

Building Trades.—Employment is fairly brisk.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries maintain the improvement reported last month. At Stafford

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MID., E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

employment is fair. Lithographic artists and printers are moderately busy.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers are busy; brushmakers report an improvement; bakers are well employed; gasworkers report a decline.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Steel smelters continue busy, and the improvement in the iron and steel trades has been maintained. At the mills and forges employment is fairly good.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Electrical engineers report employment as improved; engineers and makers of boilers, bridges, girders and tanks as moderate; moulders and gasometer makers as bad; cycle and motor makers as good. Employment at Coalbrookdale and Madeley is still slack. With malleable iron workers at Walsall it is bad.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of iron fences, hurdles, electrical fittings and castings, best gunlocks, and cycle castings, spectacle frames, and agricultural implements, and with stampers and piercers. It is fair with makers of Brazil and plantation hoes, nuts and bolts, cast and light hollow-ware, safes, builders' ironmongery, spades, tips and tacks, and with iron plate workers, cable chain makers and strikers, filesmiths, brass and tinplate workers, galvanisers and japanners. Employment is slack with makers of tubes, locks, latches, keys, anchors, cut nails, common gunlocks, edge tools, vermin traps, spikes, rivets and wrought nails and block chains, and with hollow-ware tinner and turners. At Wednesbury employment has improved. Anvil and vice makers at Dudley continue slack.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and carpenters at Wolverhampton report employment as dull; otherwise employment generally is fairly good.

Glass Trades.—At Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge employment in all branches of the flint glass trade is quiet.

Leather Trades.—At Walsall brown saddlers report employment as good; horse-collar makers, harness stitchers, and buckle, chain, cart gear, case hame, and spring hook makers as fair; gig saddlers and harness makers as quiet; bit and stirrup makers as slack.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster and Bridgnorth employment in the carpet trade is good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke and ready-made branches of the tailoring trade has improved; in the boot and shoe trade it is reported as quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good; other branches as improved.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 18,533 members have 579 (or 3.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 719 (or 4.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Engineers, pattern makers, tool-makers, ironfounders and motor makers report employment as moderate; electrical engineers, smiths and strikers as good. Engineers at Coventry and Redditch report employment as good; at West Bromwich as moderate. Cycle makers are busy.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate in the brass trades; as fairly good in the tube and metal trades; as quiet in the fender and fire brass trade.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Jewellers report employment in the gold trade as slack, in the silver trade as only moderate; silversmiths and electroplaters as moderate; Britannia metal workers as bad.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of constructional ironwork, axles, nuts and bolts, spades, shovels, and garden requisites, and steel and iron tubes report employment as good; makers of machine-made rivets, wrought iron and steel hinges, light and heavy steel toys, nails and weighing machines, and wire and tinplate workers as moderate; ironplate workers as quiet; bedstead makers and file cutters as bad. At West Bromwich nut and bolt makers and spring makers report employment as fairly good; automatic machine makers as moderate. At Redditch needle and fish hook makers are busy.

Building Trades.—Employment continues quiet throughout the district, except at Redditch, where it is reported as fair.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers, flint glass cutters, and plate glass bevellers and silverers report employment as bad. At West Bromwich it is reported as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is reported as quiet. Bespoke tailors and Jewish workers report it as fair.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and woodworking machinists and coachmakers report employment as fair; cabinet makers as improving; coopers, packing case makers, and carvers as bad. Employment in the railway and wagon shops is reported as fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Saddlers, military gun makers, ammunition makers, and gas workers report employment as good; letterpress printers, gas fitters, sporting gun makers, and general labourers as moderate. At Coventry with watchmakers employment is reported as good; with weavers as fair.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and Neighbouring Districts.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with boot and shoe operatives is not good in Norwich, in Cambridge it is fair; with dressmakers it has improved; with shirt and blouse makers it is fair. Bespoke tailors are fairly busy; ready made tailoring factories are working full time.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is dull; with painters it has improved.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical and general engineers are fairly busy; shipwrights are busy at Lowestoft; fairly so at Yarmouth and Gorleston.

Textile Trades.—Hosiery and cardigan jacket makers are not busy. Workers in some departments of silk factories are fairly busy; crape workers are slack.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing at Lowestoft and Yarmouth is fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers in Norwich is affected by a dispute, elsewhere it is fair. Bookbinders and machine rulers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Electric light workers, organ builders, tinplate workers, brush makers, and mat and matting weavers are fairly busy; coachbuilders report employment as bad; navvies and general labourers as fair; steam joinery, sawmill, and steam flour mill workers are well employed.—G. Cleverly.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—Engineers and boiler-makers report employment as moderate; shipwrights as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate; wholesale tailoring operatives as brisk; milliners, dress makers and corset-makers are well employed.

Textile Trades.—In the mat and matting industry employment is fairly good; horse hair weavers are busy. An improvement is reported with silk weavers, but employment is bad with hand-loom weavers at Sudbury.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fairly good; lithographers and bookbinders as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Dock labourers report employment as good. It is dull generally with labourers; quiet with brickmakers; fair with farriers; good with maltsters.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 10,045 members, have 526 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 713 (or 7.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—The stonemasons, bricklayers, painters, and some branches of the plasterers report employment as improved; carpenters and joiners as dull; plumbers as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders as dull. Paper-makers are fairly busy.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is moderate with ironfounders, railway coach builders, brass workers, and tinplate workers; dull with smiths and strikers; bad with tool-makers, wheelwrights, pattern makers, and shipwrights. Boiler makers report employment as good at Swindon, declining at Bristol. Five branches of engineers report it as moderate, five as dull, and two as bad.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Quarrying.—Stone quarrymen are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is fair with ready made tailoring operatives, bespoke tailors and hatters; moderate with glove makers; improving with corset makers. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is bad.

Furniture and Wood Trades.—The cabinet makers report employment as moderate; upholsterers, mill sawyers and woodcutting

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—S.W. COUNTIES; WALES; SCOTLAND.

machinists as dull; French polishers as fair; coopers as bad; box and packing case makers as good.

Textile Trades.—Employment at the cloth mills in and around Stroud is fairly good. At Twerton-on-Avon it is bad.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with cocoa and chocolate workers, tobacco workers and glass bottle makers; fair with oil and colour workers, potters, glass bevellers, basket makers, curriers and bakers; improving with brush makers; dull with saddle and harness makers; bad with seamen and quayside labourers.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Tin and copper mining is dull, with a smaller number of men in regular employment. Work is fair in granite quarries, good in the western quarries; moderate in slate quarries; improved in limestone quarries. China clay workers are fairly employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as moderate; boiler-makers, iron and steel ship builders, ironfounders and shipwrights as good; pattern makers, iron caulkers, brass and tinplate workers continue steadily employed. At Falmouth and Dartmouth ship and boat building is fair. Branches with 3,126 members have 32 (or 1.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 21 (or 0.7 per cent.) of their membership at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is quiet; at Bideford, Barnstaple, Dartmouth, Paignton and Torquay it is fair. Branches with 3,754 members have 117 (or 3.1 per cent.) unemployed, the same number at the end of February.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors and ready-made tailoring operatives are fully employed. Boot and shoe making continues dull. In shirt and collar factories work is moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; bookbinders and paper rulers as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists, French polishers, upholsterers and carriage builders report employment as quiet; in cabinet factories work is moderate.

Transport Trades.—Work has been moderate.

Fishing Industry.—Large trawlers are obtaining only moderate catches; smaller trawlers and hookers on home grounds are doing little; drift fishing is at a standstill.

Miscellaneous.—Excavators and navvies report employment as good; brickyard workers as moderate. In artificial manure works employment is fair. In market, fruit and flower gardens it is good.

W. Hedge.

WALES.

North Wales.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and engine men report employment as fair; steel workers, blast furnacemen and spelter workers as good; ironfounders as slack; wagon builders as steady.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Lead Mining.—Employment continues good at the Denbighshire mines, and is improving at the Flintshire mines.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good.

Building Trades.—Painters report employment as fairly good; other branches as slack.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment is dull in the woollen and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire. Bespoke tailors report employment as fairly good.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as fairly good.

Brick and Terra Cotta Trades.—Employment continues good.

G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment generally is good, but at one large works short time is being worked.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Employment generally is moderate. Branches of engineers and ironfounders, with 3,482 members, have 154 (or 4.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 97 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Employment at foundries and engineering works in the colliery and outlying districts is good; at Newport brisk. Ship cleaners and painters and boiler cleaners are not so fully employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Hobblers and general dock labourers report employment as scarce. The shipment of crews has not been brisk.

Building Trades.—Painters and decorators report employment as good; carpenters, masons, plasterers and plumbers as slack in the seaport towns; as moderately good in the inland districts.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Miscellaneous.—Employment at chemical works is quiet, at copper works moderate. In the patent fuel trade employment is moderate generally; brisk at Swansea. Wagon builders and repairers are fully employed. Lithographers and letterpress printers and bookbinders report an improvement.—*T. Davies.*

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 12,667 members have 436 (or 3.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 501 (or 4.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Shale Mining.—At the 25 mines covered by the returns, the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 22nd, was 5.51 per week, compared with 5.40 in February, and 5.93 in March, 1901. The number of workpeople employed in March, 1902, was 2,725, compared with 2,958 in February, and 3,268 a year ago.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,165 members, have 89 (or 4.1 per cent.) idle, as against 87 (or 4.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The brassfounders, horse-shoers, tinsmiths and hammermen report employment as bad; the engineers, pattern makers, ironmoulders and blacksmiths as quiet. Branches in Falkirk with 3,716 members, have 72 (or 1.9 per cent.) idle, as against 56 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The range and stove fitters report employment as good; the ironmoulders and pattern makers as fair.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 643 members, have 18 (or 2.8 per cent.) idle, as against 27 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The shipwrights report employment as good, the boiler-makers as fair.

Textile Trades. Employment in all branches of the woollen industry in Hawick, Galashiels and Selkirk continues good. A number of the mills are running overtime. The hosiery workers in Selkirk and Hawick are fully employed. Carpet weavers in Midlothian employed on broad looms are working only 5 days per week, those on narrow looms are fully employed.

Building Trades.—The painters and joiners report employment as fair; other branches as bad.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,071 members have 104 (or 9.7 per cent.) idle, as against 110 (or 10.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The French polishers and upholsterers report employment as fair; cabinet makers, sawmillers and coachmakers as quiet; coopers and lathsplitters as bad.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as bad; coal porters and dock labourers are fairly well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,428 members have 57 (or 2.3 per cent.) idle, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of February. The bookbinders report employment as good; the compositors, stereotypers and press and machine men as fair; the lithographic printers and typefounders as bad.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors and curriers report employment as good; settmakers, glass makers and shoemakers as fair; saddlers and glass cutters as bad.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment generally is fairly good with shipwrights, moderate with boiler-makers, dull with shipyard helpers and ship joiners. Branches with 15,580 members return 459 (or 2.9 per cent.) as idle, as against 578 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, brassfinishers, engine and cranemen, tinplate workers, ironmoulders and pattern makers report employment as fair; blacksmiths, iron grinders, brass moulders, iron drillers and iron, steel and brass dressers as good. Branches with 22,129 members return 1,245 (or 5.6 per cent.) as idle, as against 1,213 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Employment continues to improve.

Coal and Iron Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are busy; ready-made tailoring operatives report employment as dull in some branches, fair in others; with boot and shoe operatives and slipper makers it is dull; with knee boot and shoe makers quiet.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND; IRELAND.

Textile Trades.—Employment is still dull in Glasgow, but is good at Kilbirnie, Paisley, and Greenock. With lace, tapestry, and carpet workers employment is good; with chenille workers dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers, electrotypers and stereotypers are busy. Lithographic printers report employment as improved; lithographic artists and bookbinders as dull.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers and glass bottle makers are still busy; medical glass bottle makers, flint glass cutters and decorative glass workers are dull.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment has continued to improve.

Transport Trades.—Dock labourers, sailors and firemen, railway men and tramway men report employment as good; carters as improved; hackney carriage drivers as still dull.

Miscellaneous.—Labourers, saddlers, gilders, cork cutters, calico engravers, brush makers, tobacco-pipe makers and finishers, paviors, settmakers, stoneware throwers, and scale beam makers report employment as good; rope spinners, potters, curriers, dyers, spindle and flyer makers, bakers, and mattress makers as dull.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry is reported as quiet but steady; in the linen trade as still improving; in the linoleum and floor cloth trades as bad.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Two branches of engineers report employment as moderate, two as bad; boiler makers as moderate; shipwrights and blacksmiths as fair; ironmoulders and pattern makers as bad; brassfounders as quiet. Societies with 2,303 members return 159 (or 6.9 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 137 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the building trade continues bad. Wood machine men report employment as good; furniture workers as fair.

Fishing Industry.—The line boats have had fair success; trawlers had some exceptional takes.

Coal Mining.—See note at head of District Reports, page 111.

Dock Labour.—Employment declined, and was only moderate during the month.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good in the printing and allied trades; improved in the tailoring trade; quiet in the boot and shoe trade; moderate with bakers; slack with bleachfield workers.

J. Mann.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 3,114 members have 128 (or 4.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 186 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Quarrying.—The masons report employment as fair; settmakers as good; granite polishers as dull.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report employment as dull; masons as bad; plasterers as good; slaters as quiet; plumbers as moderate; painters as fair.

Transport Trades.—Railway workers report employment as good; carters as fair; hackney carriage drivers and dock labourers as dull.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers, iron and steel shipbuilders, blacksmiths, shipwrights, tinplate workers, ironmoulders and horseshoers report employment as fair; engineers as bad; pattern makers and brassfinishers as good. Branches of societies with 1,305 members, have 48 (or 3.7 per cent.) idle, as against 58 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Tailors report employment as fair; boot and shoe makers as bad; boot and shoe operatives as dull; mill and factory workers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as good; lithographic printers as fair.

Fishing.—At the port of Aberdeen in March trawl and line boats landed 123,784 cwt., valued at £70,139, an increase in quantity and value as compared with the previous month.

Miscellaneous.—Upholsterers, sawmillers, cabinet makers, engine and firemen, gas workers and general labourers report employment as fair; saddlers as dull; comb makers and bakers as bad.

W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Painters, glaziers, whiteners and slaters report employment as fair; plumbers as moderate; other branches as bad.

Metal Trades.—Employment is good with boiler-makers, steam engine-makers, hammermen, tinsmiths, farriers and electric workers; moderate with engineers and ironfounders; dull with brassfounders, smiths and whitesmiths. Branches of societies with 1,244 members have 62 (or 5.0 per cent.) unemployed as compared with 71 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coopers, brushmakers and basket-makers report employment as good; shipwrights, upholsterers and carpet planners as fair; saddlers and cart and wagon builders as dull; cabinet makers and coach builders as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as bad; other branches as busy.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment with tailors is improving; with boot and shoemakers it is fair.

Miscellaneous.—Bakers, butchers, confectioners and mineral water operatives report employment as fair; purveyors' assistants as bad; stationary engine drivers and carriage drivers as good.

E. L. Richardson.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches of societies with 8,904 members have 327 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 288 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as slack; carpenters and joiners, drillers and hole cutters and shipwrights as quiet; smiths and strikers and enginemen as moderate; ironfounders as dull; blacksmiths, brassfounders, sheet metal workers, machine workers, steam engine makers, enginemen, cranemen, and firemen, and the furnishing trades as fair; pattern-makers and sail-makers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 3,958 members have 146 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 126 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The power loom tenters and power loom yarn dressers report employment as bad; flax dressers, flax roughers, hackle and gill makers as dull; beetling engineers, linen lappers, and women workers as quiet.

Building Trades.—Branches with 2,830 members have 372 (or 13.1 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of February. The carpenters, joiners, and hodmen report employment as bad; plumbers as moderate; painters as quiet; plasterers and paviors as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 984 members have 51 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 59 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The coach-builders report employment as bad; mill sawyers and packing-case makers as dull; cabinet makers, coopers, and upholsterers as quiet; french polishers as fair; brushmakers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies with 894 members have 55 (or 6.2 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of February. The lithographic artists and printers, and bookbinders report employment as quiet; letterpress printers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and boot and shoe makers report an improvement.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,918 members have 50 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 44 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The carters report employment as slack; butchers as quiet; bakers and municipal employees as fair; railway workers as busy; locomotive engine drivers as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders and engineers report employment as fair in Cork, Haulbowline and Passage West; dull in Limerick and Waterford; shipwrights and ship joiners as good; riggers and sailmakers as fair.

Building Trades.—Carpenters, joiners, painters and glaziers report employment as good; stone cutters, plumbers and gasfitters as fair; other branches as quiet.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed and feather operatives report employment as good; boot and shoe operatives and tailors as dull.

Woodworking Trades.—Mill sawyers and wood working machinists, cabinet makers and coach builders report employment as good; coopers, brush and bellows makers, and cork cutters as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Railway and tramway employees and stationary engine men report employment as good; corporation and harbour employees, brewery and distillery workmen as fair; coal porters and quay labourers as dull. Fishing has been dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1902.

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

Summary.—The net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported during March was a decrease averaging 1s. 4½d. weekly per head in the wages of 198,499 workpeople. Of the total number, 4,728 received advances, and 193,771 sustained decreases. The changes of the previous month affected 111,751 workpeople, the net result being a decrease averaging 3d. weekly per head. During March, 1901, the net result of all the changes in wages was a decrease averaging ¼d. per head in the weekly wages of 196,360 workpeople.

The principal decreases were those sustained by 170,000 coal miners in Northumberland, South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Methods of Arrangement.—One change affecting 35,000 workpeople was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and twelve changes, affecting 151,167 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Two changes, affecting 876 workpeople only, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting 11,456 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

Summary for First Three Months of 1902.—For the three months, January to March, 1902, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have received advances or sustained decreases is 290,462, as compared with 774,767 for the corresponding period of 1901. Of these, 11,627 have obtained a net increase averaging 1s. 6½d. weekly per head, and 278,835 have sustained a net decrease averaging 1s. 4½d. weekly per head. The net effect of the changes in 1902 is a decrease averaging 1s. 3½d. weekly per head in the wages of those (290,462) affected, as compared with a decrease of 1½d. weekly per head of those (774,767) affected in the corresponding period of 1901.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change took effect in 1902.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*		Increase or Decrease in a full week.*	
			Inc.	Dec.		Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
1 Increase—500 Workpeople. BUILDING TRADES. 1 Decrease—700 Workpeople.									
Bradford	Stonemasons	1 Feb.	...	700	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (9½d. to 9d.)	s. d. 37 7	s. d. 35 7½	...	1
	Painters	1 Feb., 1903.	500	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.)	s. d. 30 10	s. d. 31 10	1 0	...
1 Increase—600 Workpeople. MINING AND QUARRYING. 7 Decreases—178,803 Workpeople.									
Northumberland	Coal Miners— Underground Workers (except Deputies, Mechanics, Enginemen, and Firemen)	April	...	35,000	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879	—	—	...	—
	Banksmen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dalton-in-Furness	Iron Ore Miners	7 April	...	253	Decrease of 2 per cent., leaving wages 24 per cent. above the standard of 1879	—	—	...	—
	...	...	...	...	Decrease of 1d. per day (5s. 4d. to 5s. 3d.) under sliding scale	32 0	31 6	0	...
Stainton-in-Furness	Limestone Quarrymen	1 April	...	74	Decrease of 1d. per day under sliding scale	—	—	...	—
Alfreton	Coal Miners	18 Feb.	...	600	Advance of 5 per cent. on tonnage rates	—	—	...	—
Bristol	Ditto (Underground and Surface)	27 Feb.	...	2,200	Decrease of 7½ per cent. to underground workers and of 2½ per cent. to surface workers	—	—	...	—
Forest of Dean	Ditto	1 April	...	5,500	Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving wages 35 per cent. above the standard of 1888†	—	—	...	—
South Wales and Mon.	Ditto	1 April	...	135,000	Decrease of 10 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 53½ per cent. above the standard of December, 1879	—	—	...	—
West Calder (1 firm)	Shale Miners	3 March	...	176	Decrease of 6d. per day	45 0	42 0	...	3 0
Increases—Nil. IRON TRADE. 5 Decreases—13,010 Workpeople.									
North of England, (Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland)	Ironworkers— Puddlers	31 Mar	...	1,450	Decrease of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 3d.) under sliding scale	—	—	...	—
	Millmen	...	...	4,000	Decrease 2½ per cent. under sliding scale	—	—	...	—
Cleveland	Blastfurnacemen	5 April	...	5,500	Decrease of 1 per cent. under sliding scale leaving wages 15 per cent. above standard	—	—	...	—
Workington	Ironworkers— Puddlers	31 Mar.	...	40	Decrease of 3d. per ton	—	—	...	—
	Millmen	...	...	120	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	—	—	...	—
West Cumberland	Blastfurnacemen	1 April	...	1,350	Decrease of ¾ per cent. under sliding scale leaving wages 19½ per cent. above standard	—	—	...	—
South Yorkshire (3 firms)	Ironworkers— Puddlers	31 Mar.	...	550	Decrease of 3d. per ton	—	—	...	—
	Millmen	...	...	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	—	—	...	—
2 Increases—1,630 Workpeople. STEEL TRADE. 3 Decreases—1,240 Workpeople.									
Teams (Gateshead)	Steel Workers	1 April	...	100	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	—	—	...	—
Stockton-on-Tees and W. Hartlepool	Steel Millmen	31 Mar.	...	1,100	Decrease of 2½ per cent.	—	—	...	—
Eston	Steel Workers	2 Mar.	...	1,130	Advance of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 19 per cent. above the standard	—	—	...	—
Workington	Steel Workers (except Enginemen, Cranemen, and Firemen)	Mar.	...	500	Advance of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 10½ per cent. above the standard	—	—	...	—
Doncaster (near)	Bricklayers (in Steel Works)	1 Mar.	...	40	Decrease of ¼d. per hour (8½d. to 8d.)	38 3	36 0	...	2 3
2 Increases—466 Workpeople. TEXTILE TRADES. Decreases—Nil.									
Bradford	Wool Sorters	1 March	...	56	Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	1 0	...
Colne	Cotton Weavers	12 Feb.	...	410	Re-adjustment in piece prices on certain classes of goods, stated to have resulted in a net advance	—	—	...	—

* Exclusive of overtime. Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the Table is the result of averaging the wages for the summer and winter periods. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. † At 4 collieries the percentage is stated to be 30 per cent. above standard.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH (continued).

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change took effect in 1902.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*		Increase or Decrease in a full week.*	
			Inc.	Dec.		Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
4 Increases—1,190 Workpeople. PRINTING TRADES. Decreases—Nil.									
Sheffield	Linotype Operators†	1 Jan.	...	19	Advance of 2s. per week	40 0	42 0	2 0	...

Bristol	Letterpress Printers†	1 July, 1903	...	19	Advance of 1s. 1d. per week	47 6	48 7	1 1	...
Edinburgh	Compositors (bookwork)	21 March	...	900	Advance of 1s. 5d. per week of 44 hours (48s. 7d. to 50s.)	48 7	50 0	1 5	...
2 Increases—342 Workpeople. EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Decreases—Nil.									
Bolton	Tramcar Cleaners	5 Feb.	...	24	Advance of 3d. per hour (4½d. to 5d.)	22 6	25 0	2 6	...
Southwark, S.E.	Scavengers, Carmen, Dust Collectors, Mechanics, Labourers, &c.†	28 March	...	318	Advances per week of 4s. to 2 men, 3s. to 32, 2s. 6d. to 2, 2s. 3d. to 1, 2s. to 19, 1s. 9d. to 80, 1s. 6d. to 68, 1s. 3d. to 24, 1s. to 40, and 9d. to 50 men	—	—	...	...
SEAMEN.									
Barry	Able Seamen	March	...	158†	Decrease of 5s. per month, 90s. to 85s.	—	—	...	—
	Firemen	March	...	161†	...	—	—	...	—
Cardiff	Able Seamen	March	...	136†	Decrease of 5s. per month, 80s. to 75s.	—	—	...	—
Leith	Firemen	March	...	17†	Decrease of 5s. per month, 95s. to 90s.	—	—	...	—

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ‡ The number given is that of men shipped at the reduced rate during March on voyages in which the predominant rate has been changed.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH, 1902.

The changes in hours of labour reported in March affected 499 workpeople, whose working time was reduced on the average by about 3¼ hours per week per head.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change took effect in 1902.	Approximate number of Workpeople affected.	Hours of labour in a full week.‡		Extent of Decrease per week.
				Before change.	After change.	
Sheffield	Linotype Operators (night work)	1 Jan.	19	45	44	Hours. 1
Southwark, S.E.	Night Scavengers and Carmen	28 March	28	52	50	2
Bristol	Letterpress Printers	1 March	250	54	52½	1½
Greenock	Letterpress Printers	10 March	50	52½	50	2½
Limerick	Bacon Curers	24 Feb.	152	58	51	7

LABOUR DISPUTES IN SWEDEN IN 1901.

Figures given in a recent number of the *Ekonomisk Tidskrift* by Hr. Dalkvist (member of the Stockholm Federation of Labour) show that the aggregate loss of working days due to labour disputes in Sweden was considerably smaller in 1901 than in the preceding year, though disputes were somewhat more frequent than in 1900. The following Table shows the figures for the two years. It will be seen that the reduction in the loss of working days occurred chiefly in regard to disputes classed as lock-outs:—

	1900	1901
Number of disputes:		
Strikes	90	112
Lock-outs	14	15
Total	104	127
Number of workpeople who took part in disputes:		
Strikes	6,170	5,203
Lock-outs	4,120	897
Total	10,290	6,200
Number of working days lost by workpeople who took part in disputes:		
Strikes	142,000	121,000
Lock-outs	189,600	89,300
Total	331,600	210,300

TRADE UNIONS IN VICTORIA.

In the article on this subject in the March number of the *LABOUR GAZETTE*, page 93, the Unions referred to were registered ones.

‡ Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March 593 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 878 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 206 persons, of whom 111 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

The number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 595 to 578, and the number of servants applying from 331 to 297; the number permanently engaged rose from 80 to 92. The demand for dress-makers, milliners, etc., rose from 98 to 153, and the number requiring such situations fell from 43 to 39; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 32, compared with 29 in February.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the seven Bureaux during March:—

WORK DONE IN MARCH.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C.	50	69	13	7
Society for Promoting Training and Employment— 22, Berners-street, W.	34	33	8	23
Y.W.C.A.— 26, George-street (1)	565	323	81	13
Hanover-square, W. (2)	190	81	24	17
Other Bureaux	39	87	17	3
Total of 7 Bureaux	878	593	143	63
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	28	68	8	—
Shop Assistants	5	7	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	153	39	19	13
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	26	55	7	24
Apprentices and Learners	32	15	6	4
Domestic Servants	578	297	92	19
Miscellaneous	56	112	11	3
Total Number in March, 1902	878	593	143	63
Total Number in Feb., 1902	813	632	123	50
Total Number in March, 1901	778	698	155	54

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-one disputes began in March, compared with 18 in February and 52 in the corresponding month of the previous year.

Trades affected.—In the following Table the new disputes in March are classified by trades affected:—

Summary of all New Disputes in March. Table with columns: Group of Trades, No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total).

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in March of all disputes, new and old, amounted to 95,700 days, as compared with 85,000 days in the

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with columns: Occupation, Locality, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

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

Table with columns: Month of March (1902, 1901), Three months ended March (1902, 1901), Bales, Bales.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended April 5th amounted to £6,773,061, an increase of £138,737 (or 2.1 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during March numbered 358, being 72 less than in March, 1901, 74 less than in March, 1900, and 65 less than in March, 1899.

previous month and 320,000 days in the corresponding month of last year.

Causes.—Of the 21 new disputes, 6 arose on demands for advances in wages, 8 on objections to reductions, 1 on other wages questions, 3 on questions of working arrangements, and 3 from miscellaneous causes.

Results.—Sixteen new disputes affecting 5,463 workpeople and 8 old disputes affecting 1,982 workpeople were reported as having terminated. Of these 24 new and old disputes, 6, involving 1,641 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10, affecting 2,419 persons, were decided in favour of the employers, and 6, affecting 1,765 persons, were compromised.

Summary for the First Three Months of 1902.—For the three completed months of 1902 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 89 disputes which commenced in these months was 41,901, as compared with 45,922 in the 123 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1901.

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

CANADA: REPORT OF ONTARIO BUREAU OF LABOUR.

The second report of the Bureau of Labour of the Province of Ontario states that 19 strikes and 1 lock-out were reported for the period September 1st, 1900, to August 31st, 1901, as against 35 strikes and 2 lock-outs reported for the previous twelve months.

The report also contains information with regard to the number of persons employed, the number of days worked, and the amount paid in wages by 305 establishments.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS

The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on April 1st, and contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages and cost of living.

Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the various colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to emigrants.

Copies of the circulars can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

The "Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended December 31st, 1901," has also been issued, and can be obtained of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, E.C. Price 1½d.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

The total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during March was 398, or 44 more than in February, and 220 less than in March, 1901.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary Table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,631,971 persons (according to the latest available figures), 370 persons were reported killed and 8,255 injured by accidents in March, 1902, as compared with 575 reported killed and 8,136 injured in March, 1901.

These figures give one death in March, 1902, for every 15,222 persons employed in those industries. During the quarter ended March, 1,043 persons were reported killed and 23,141 injured, as against 1,277 reported killed and 24,001 injured in the corresponding period of 1901.

In the remaining occupations included in the Tables, 28 persons were reported killed and 1,103 injured in March, 1902, as compared with 43 reported killed and 1,061 injured in March, 1901.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Summary Table with columns: Industry, Killed (Mar. 1902, Mar. 1901), Injured (Mar. 1902, Mar. 1901), Number Employed according to latest Returns.

DETAILED TABLES.

Detailed Tables with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total.

Shipping table with columns: Killed, Injured, Total.

Factories table with columns: Males, Females, Total.

Workshops table with columns: Killed, Injured, Total.

Factories & Workshops (classified by trades) table with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total.

Under Factory Act, 1901, Ss. 103-5 table with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total.

Under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 table with columns: Industry, Construction or Repair, Use or Working, Total.

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland. THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in March was 350,054, or 210 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1902.

Compared with February, 1902, there is a decrease of 6,134 in the number relieved, and of 4 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Decreases are shown in 25 districts, the falling off being most marked in the Central London district (15 per 10,000) and Manchester and Leicester districts (11 each). Each of the Metropolitan districts shows a decline, the total decrease for London being 7 per 10,000.

Compared with March, 1901, the number of persons relieved has increased by 6,149, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 2. Twenty of the 35 districts show increased rates, the largest increases being in Cork, Waterford and Limerick (20 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees district (16), Central London (13) and East London (10). In 13 districts the rates have decreased, the fall amounting to 10 per 10,000 of population in the Nottingham district.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of March, 1902 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

* The rates for March and February, 1902, are computed on the estimated populations in 1902, and the rate for March, 1901, upon the population in 1901. The 1901 census has been taken as the basis in the case of England and Scotland, but in the case of the Irish districts the population figures for 1901 are not yet available for Poor Law Unions, and the rates are therefore computed from the estimated populations based on the census of 1891.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March the six Bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,346 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,498 in March, 1901, a decrease of 152. Work was found by these Bureaux for 539 persons, of whom 415 (261 males and 154 females) were engaged by private employers, 12 by Local Authorities, and 112 by the Salvation Army. The number engaged by private employers in March, 1901, was 636.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of March was 625, as against 663 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in March.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities).

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during March, 1902.

Table with columns: Occupation, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total. Includes categories like Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of March.

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of March, 1902, March, 1901. Includes categories like Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls.

* Engaged by Salvation Army.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THERE were 55 cases* of lead poisoning and 4 of anthrax reported in March as occurring among workpeople employed in factories and workshops, none of which were fatal. In March, 1901, there were 85 cases of poisoning and anthrax reported and 6 deaths.

In the first three months of this year there were in all 182 cases reported and 7 deaths. Of the 7 deaths, 5 resulted from lead poisoning, 1 from phosphorus poisoning, and 1 from anthrax.

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, March, 1902 (Males, Females, Total), Total—3 months ending (Mar., 1902, Mar., 1901). Includes categories like Lead Poisoning, Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, Anthrax.

* "Cases" include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 12 cases of lead poisoning (including 5 deaths) were reported during March among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported for the three months ended March, 1902, was 27 (including 7 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1901, 30 (including 7 deaths).

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during March was 28,591, as compared with 22,719 in March, 1901. Comparing the three completed months of 1902 with the corresponding period of 1901, there is an increase of 8,718, viz., from 47,626 in 1901 to 56,344 in 1902.

British and Irish.—Of the 28,591 passengers in March, 13,250 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 2,680 as compared with a year ago. For the three months of 1902 the total number was 29,511, as compared with 24,710 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 4,801, chiefly accounted for by the larger numbers bound for South Africa and British North America.

The following Table gives the figures for the different periods:—

Table with columns: Destination (Country in which passengers contracted to land), Mar., 1902, Mar., 1901, Total for three months ended (Mar., 1902, Mar., 1901). Includes categories like United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Oth. places.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 28,591 passengers in March, viz., 15,341, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 3,192 more than in March, 1901. For the three months ended March, 1902, their number was 26,833, as against 22,916 in the corresponding period of 1901, the difference being chiefly due to an increase in the numbers proceeding to the United States.

Alien Immigration.—During March 18,615 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 12,577 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 3,287 as compared with March, 1901.

Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 6,038*, or 405 more than a year ago. The figures for March, 1902 and 1901, and also for the three months ended March in each year are as follows:—

Table with columns: Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, March, 1902, March, 1901, Total for three months ended (March, 1902, March, 1901).

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,334 in March, 1902; 1,233 in March, 1901; and 3,622 and 3,648 respectively for the three months ended March in each year.

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

The following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

Summary for March.

The trade returns for March, 1902, show a decrease as compared with the corresponding month of 1901 in the values of the imports into the United Kingdom, and also in the values of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and the exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the imports in March, 1902, was £40,897,861, a decrease of £5,528,195, or 11.9 per cent., as compared with those in March, 1901, whilst the total exports amounted to £26,531,709, showing a net decrease of £3,690,109. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures alone show a decrease of £2,804,055, or 11.2 per cent., as compared with March, 1901, whilst there is a decrease of £886,054, or 17.0 per cent. in the exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for March, 1902, as compared with the corresponding month of 1901 and 1900, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table with columns: Month ended 31st March (1900, 1901, 1902), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1902 as compared with 1901, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1902 as compared with 1900. Includes categories like I. Animals, living (for food), II. (A.) Articles of food and drink, dutiable, (B.) Articles of food and drink, dutiable, etc.

NOTE.—Sugar and other cognate articles became liable to duties on the 19th April, 1901, and are included in Section II. (B) of the above Table.

Comparing the imports of the principal articles last month with those of March 1901, we find that the chief decreases in foodstuffs were:—Corn (£921,759), sugar (£1,351,270), butter (£329,334), fresh beef and mutton (£300,858), and coffee (£233,535). Among metals, copper unwrought and part wrought shows an increase of £183,399, iron ore an increase of £97,704, whilst pig iron and unwrought steel also show increases, amounting to £15,170 and £69,825 respectively. In the class of chemicals, dye stuffs, &c., there is a decrease of £162,170 in the imports of indigo. Seed oil of all kinds also shows a falling off amounting to £82,880. As regards raw materials for textile manufactures, there has been a falling off of £1,376,388 in sheep and lambs' wool and increases of £175,172 in raw cotton, and of £90,110 in goats' wool. In the class of raw materials for sundry industries and manufactures, decreases amounting in all to £231,940 appear in the various categories of wood and timber; caoutchouc also shows a falling off of £77,592.

Exports.—The following table shows the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month of March, 1902, as compared with the corresponding period of 1901 and 1900, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month ended 31st March.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1902 as compared with 1901.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1902 as compared with 1900.
	1900.	1901.	1902.		
I. Animals, living ...	£ 54,070	£ 42,536	£ 56,076	+ 13,540	+ 2,026
II. Articles of food and drink ...	1,011,402	1,027,432	1,070,576	+ 43,144	+ 59,174
III. Raw materials ...	3,325,211	2,640,408	2,356,776	- 283,632	- 968,435
IV. Articles manufactured and partly manufactured, viz:—					
(A.) Yarns and textile fabrics ...	9,411,434	8,656,768	8,450,850	- 205,918	- 960,584
(B.) Metals and articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery and ships) ...	4,101,617	3,136,289	3,159,138	+ 22,849	- 942,479
(C.) Machinery & millwork ...	1,781,312	1,508,948	1,337,478	- 171,470	- 443,834
(D.) Ships, new (not registered as British) ...	315,343	2,773,851	606,626	- 2,167,225	+ 291,283
(E.) Apparel and articles of personal use ...	847,538	900,844	890,769	- 10,075	+ 43,231
(F.) Chemicals & chemical and medicinal preparations ...	933,498	849,341	879,926	+ 30,585	- 53,572
(G.) All other articles, either manufactured or partly manufactured ...	3,293,663	3,227,796	3,097,639	- 130,157	- 196,024
(H.) Parcel post ...	241,733	257,080	311,384	+ 54,304	+ 69,651
Total value ...	25,316,821	25,021,293	22,217,238	- 2,804,055	- 3,099,583

In the class of articles of food and drink, the exports of provisions (including meat) show an increase of £41,207 in March, 1902, as compared with March, 1901. Coal, coke and fuel show a falling off of £305,582. In the group of yarns and textiles decreases appear under the heads of cotton yarn (£53,415), and jute piece goods (£40,370). An increase of £208,825 under the head of iron, wrought and unwrought, and decreases of £49,982 in copper, unwrought and wrought, and of £69,898 in telegraphic wires and apparatus are noted in the group "Metals." Among chemicals, chemical manures have increased by £56,646, whilst under the head of "Other Articles" there are decreases in the categories of earthen and chinaware (£44,057), oil and floorcloth (£30,456), and paper (£43,594), and increases in seed oil (£43,564), and combed or carded wool (£37,083).

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended March, 1902, amounted to 2,663,443 tons and the tonnage cleared to 3,462,741 tons, as against 2,675,944 tons entered and 3,485,634 tons cleared in the month of March, 1901. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during March, 1902, amounted to 2,538,182 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,460,338 tons, as against 2,457,770 tons entered and 2,468,627 tons cleared in March, 1901.

REPORT OF CANADIAN LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE Department of Labour of the Dominion of Canada has issued its first Annual Report. It states that during the year ending June, 1901, there were in all five requests for the friendly intervention of the Department under the Conciliation Act to effect a settlement of industrial disputes. In four of the cases the dispute had already assumed the form of a strike or lock-out, and in one case the intervention of the Department was requested to avert a threatened strike. In all the cases where a strike or lock-out existed, the dispute was brought to an end within 24 hours after the arrival of the conciliators, and in the case of the threatened strike of the coal miners in Nova Scotia an agreement satisfactory to both parties was effected within a similarly short time. In all the establishments affected, work has since continued without any interruption. About 5,000 workpeople were directly or indirectly affected by the settlements made.

The Department is charged with the carrying out of the Fair Wages Resolution passed by the House of Commons in March, 1900. The Report gives a detailed account of the work done by the fair wages officers.

From a Table, showing the number of complaints of alleged violations of the Alien Labour Act, and the number of deportations made by the Department from September, 1900, to June, 1901, it is seen that 71 complaints in all were received. In 48 cases investigated it was found that the Act had not been violated; in 16 cases it was found that there were grounds for granting permission to

interested parties to commence proceedings under the Act. In all these cases deportations were voluntarily made by the parties alleged to have violated the Act; 52 persons were deported immediately after the investigations, and 19 left the country during their course. In 7 cases the investigation was discontinued because of the amendment to the Act.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MARCH.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in March it will be seen that 4 Trade Unions, 8 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 10 Co-operative Associations for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 30 Friendly Societies, and 37 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during the month. Two Trade Unions, 3 Industrial and Provident Societies, 28 Friendly Societies, 29 branches of Friendly Societies, and 5 Building Societies were reported as having dissolved, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Progressive French Polishers' Soc., Globe Tavern, Derby Street, King's Cross, N.; Colne District Amal. Assoc. of Twisters and Drawers, 2, Walton Street, Colne; Bristol and Dist. Wholesale and Retail Milk Vendors' Protec. Assoc., 1, Old Market Street, Bristol; Pontypridd and Rhondda Valleys Insurance Agents' Assoc., Imperial Hotel, Porth, Glam. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Heath and Williamthorpe Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Co-operative Stores, Heath, Chesterfield; Llandyssul Agric. Soc., Ltd., The Farmers' Stores, Llandyssul; Saffron Walden and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 41, Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden; St. Bride's Agric. Soc., Ltd., Hasguard Hall, Little Haven, co. Pembroke; Truro and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 92, Kenwyn Street, Truro. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Cloughmills Co-op. Poultry Soc., Cloughmills, Antrim; Newry Agric. Soc., 44, Hill Street, Newry; Thurles Agric. Soc., Thurles. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Haslemere Builders, Ltd., Station Road, Haslemere, Surrey; London and County Builders, Ltd., 29, Alma Road, Wandsworth, S.W. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Cloonyquin Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Borough View, Cloonyquin, Roscommon; Co-op. Producers, Ltd., 22, Lincoln Place, Dublin; Cross Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Cross, Cavan; Dromkeen Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Dromkeen, Pallasgreen, Limerick; Raven's Rock Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Raven's Rock, Cavan; Reenavana Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Reenavana, Doon, Limerick; Thurles Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Thurles, Tipperary; Toher Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Doon, Limerick. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Newark Steam Barge Owners, Ltd., 24, Castle Gate, Newark; Newfoundpool Co-op. Allotments Soc., Ltd., 35, Sylvan Street, Newfoundpool, Leicester.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 2; Dividing, 6; Specially Authorised, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 20. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—31. *Scotland.*—5. *Ireland.*—1.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Bishop Auckland Branch Builders' Labourers' Trade Soc., Station Hill, South Road, Bishop Auckland; East London Ropemakers' Union, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Chatsworth Social and Athletic Club, Ltd., 26, Brooksby's Walk, Homerton, N.; Willesden Reform Institute, Ltd., 152, Manor Park Road, Harlesden, N.W.; Worksop Working Men's Club and Institute, Ltd., Victoria Buildings, Worksop. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution.—Ordinary Friendly, 7; Dividing, 3; Collecting, 1; Registration cancelled.—Ordinary Friendly, 8; Dividing, 1; Female, 1; Juvenile, 1; Specially authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 2. *Dissolved otherwise.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Juvenile, 2; Branches, 29. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 2; notice of termination of dissolution, 3. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.