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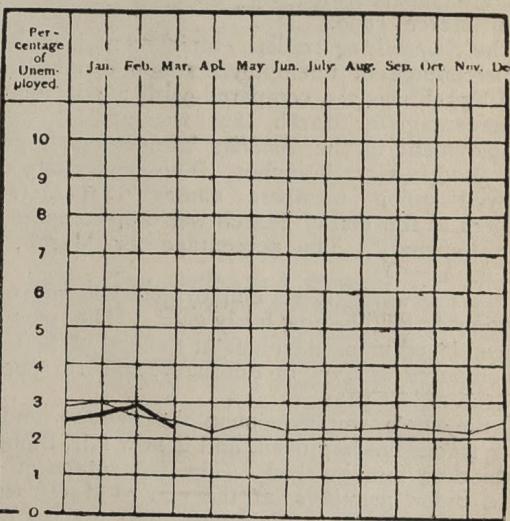
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EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1899-1900.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the Trade Unions making returns at the close of each complete month of 1899 and 1900.

[The thick line applies to 1900, the thin line to 1899.]



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[Based on 2,503 returns, viz.: 1,716 from Employers, 638 from Trade Unions, and 149 from other sources.]

In all the more important industries the general state of employment during March has remained good, and the percentage of unemployed returned by Trade Unions is lower than at the corresponding period of any year since 1890. A considerable number of coal miners and iron and steelworkers have received advances of wages during the month.

In the 137 Trade Unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 524,199, 11,821 (or 2·3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 2·9 per cent. in February, and with 2·5 per cent. in the 123 unions, with a membership of 494,394, from which returns were received for March, 1899.

Employment in Various Industries.—*Coal Mining.*—Employment in March has continued very good, and better than a year ago, although the average time worked has not quite reached the exceptionally high figure of February. At collieries at which 452,368 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 5·67 days per week in the four weeks ended March 24th, as compared with 5·69 days in February, and 5·62 days a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, and has improved, although still not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked by mines and open works, at which 16,744 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended March 24th, was 5·71 days per week, compared with 5·55 days in February, and 5·89 days a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment shows a slight decline, but is still good. At the works of 116 iron-masters, 377 furnaces were in blast at the end of March, employing about 25,759 workpeople, as compared with 383 furnaces with 25,887 workpeople.

employed at the end of February, and 380 furnaces with 24,918 workpeople employed at the end of March, 1899.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment has further improved, and is noticeably better than a year ago. At 209 works covered by the returns, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the numbers employed and the number of shifts worked) has increased by 2·3 per cent. as compared with February, and by 5·3 per cent. as compared with March, 1899.

Tinplate Trade.—Employment continues good, and is much better than a year ago. At the end of March 420 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), compared with 418 mills at the end of February, and 345 mills at the end of March, 1899. The number employed at the end of March, 1900, is estimated to be about 21,000.

Employment in the *Engineering* and *Metal* trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of March was 2·2, compared with 2·3 in February and 2·4 per cent. in March, 1899.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades, employment is still good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 2·5, compared with 2·9 in February. The percentage for March, 1899, was 3·0.

Employment in the *Building* trades has improved, and is good in most branches. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of March was 2·6, compared with 3·1 in February. The percentage for March, 1899, was 1·6.

In the *Furnishing* trades employment has improved in all branches, and is now fairly good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 2·4, compared with 6·9 in February, and 1·0 per cent. in March of last year.

On the whole, employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has improved, and is now fair, though the bookbinders remain slack. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 3·6, compared with 4·3 in February, and 3·3 per cent. in March, 1899.

In the *Paper* trade employment has remained good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March being 2·2, compared with 2·3 in February. The percentage for March, 1899, was 2·6.

In the *Glass* trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 9·3, compared with 10·9 in March, 1899.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was the same as in February, viz., 1·3. The percentage for March, 1899, was 3·6.

Employment in the *Boot and Shoe* trade has, on the whole, improved, and is fairly good.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade has improved, but is still quiet; in the ready-made branch it has improved in most centres, and is good.

Employment continues very good in the *Spinning* and *Weaving* branches of the *Cotton* trade. Information respecting *Cotton* factories employing about 83,500 women and girls shows that 100 per cent. of those in *Spinning* mills, and 96 per cent. of those in *Weaving* factories, were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 99 and 93 per cent. respectively in February, and with 96 and 87 per cent. respectively a year ago.

Employment in the *Woollen* and *Worsted* trades continues very good on the whole, but shows a slight decline. In the *Hosiery* trade it remains very good.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment at the docks and wharves has improved as compared with a year ago, and with February. During the five weeks ended March 31st, an average number of 14,937 were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 14,207 in February, and 13,618 in March, 1899.

Agricultural Labourers were generally well employed during March, and in a number of districts they were reported to be scarce.

Trade Disputes.—Forty fresh disputes occurred in March, 1900, involving 10,049 workpeople, of whom 8,159 were directly and 1,890 indirectly affected. The corresponding number of disputes in February was 33, involving 11,357 workpeople, and in March, 1899, 53, involving 13,827 workpeople. Of the 40 fresh disputes in March, 1900, the most important was a dispute, still unsettled, affecting about 4,000 workpeople in the pottery trade. Of the others, 9 occurred in the building trades, 5 in the coal mining industry, 9 in metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 10 in textile trades, and 6 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 38 new and old disputes, involving 5,691 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 13, involving 2,158 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 8, involving 886 persons, in favour of the employers; and 16, involving 2,487 workpeople, were compromised. With regard to the remaining dispute, involving 160 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 204,100 workpeople were reported during March, of which number 198,600 obtained advances, averaging 2s. 0d. weekly per head, and about 5,500 sustained decreases, averaging 1s. 11d. weekly per head. The net result was an increase of about 1s. 11d. per head in the weekly wages of the 204,100 workpeople affected. The principal increases were in the coal mining and iron and steel industries. The principal decrease was that sustained by 5,000 coal miners in the Forest of Dean. Changes affecting about 5,200 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 174,650 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and one change, affecting about 100 workpeople, was arranged by arbitration without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 24,150 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

DIRECTORY OF INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A DIRECTORY of Industrial Organisations embracing Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Trades Councils, Federations of Trade Unions and Trades Councils, Conciliation and Arbitration Boards and Joint Committees, Workmen's Co-operative Societies (Distributive and Productive), and Co-operative, Agricultural and Credit Banks, has just been published by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. In each section of the Directory the Associations connected with the same group of trades are brought together for convenience of reference.

The volume, which consists of 143 pages, can be obtained through any bookseller for 7d., or direct from the publishers, Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C., for 9d., including postage. The reference number is Cd. 120 of 1900.

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 1900, with comparative figures for 1899:

	Month of March.		Three months ended March—	
	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.
Imported ...	Bales. 39,526	Bales. 269,599	Bales. 1,070,552	Bales. 1,486,872
Forwarded from Ports to Inland ...	306,024	279,425	921,910	856,840
Towns Exported ...	27,567	60,766	98,889	163,450

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended March 31st, amounted to £6,430,146, an increase of £89,057 (or 1·4 per cent.), as compared with the corresponding period of 1899. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,425,434, a decrease of £13,195, and from goods and mineral traffic £4,004,712, an increase of £20,252.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during March numbered 432, being 9 more than in March, 1899, 31 more than in March, 1898, and 19 more than in March, 1897.

CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF PRICES IN 1899.

THE general level of prices rose somewhat in 1899. On the basis of the wholesale prices or declared values of a large number of staple commodities, mainly articles of food or raw materials of industry, it is estimated that prices generally were higher by about 1·4 per cent. than in 1898, and by about 4·2 per cent. than in 1897, although lower by nearly 8 per cent. than in 1889.

The details of the calculations on which these estimates are based are contained in a volume of tables relating to prices, which is now in preparation by the Department.

The rise, although small on the whole, was widespread, so far as the number of articles was concerned, although only in a few cases was it considerable in amount. The most noticeable rise occurred in the group of coal and metals, where the rise as between 1898 and 1899 amounted to about 16 per cent., and as between 1897 and 1899 to 27 per cent., whilst as compared with 10 years ago the rise amounted to 14 per cent. The principal exceptions to the general rise in prices were corn and British wool, the prices of which in 1899 were remarkably low. The prices of grains generally (including imported grains) were about 11 per cent. below those of 1898, about 1·4 per cent. below those of 1897, and 8 per cent. below those of 1899. Most other articles of food rose in price in 1899. The prices of raw textile materials, although higher by about 4 per cent. than in 1898, were 4 per cent. lower than in 1897, and 21 per cent. lower than in 1889.

Corn and Potatoes.—The prices of corn, which in the years immediately preceding had shown a tendency to increase, fell sharply in 1899. This was especially the case with wheat, the *London Gazette* average for the year being, with the exception of 1894 and 1895, the lowest of the century. The average declared value of imported wheat, however, while lower than in 1898, was not so low as in 1893-6.

The following Table shows the *London Gazette* price of British wheat, barley and oats, and the average declared value of imported wheat in each of the last three years:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
British Wheat, per quarter ...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
" Barley "	30 2	34 0	25 8
" Oats "	23 6	27 2	25 7
Imported Wheat, per cwt. ...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	7·45	8·02	6·69

As regards potatoes no statistics exist of the same importance as in the case of corn, the declared values of imported potatoes fluctuating considerably more than the prices of British potatoes. The average declared value was somewhat higher than in 1898, but lower than in most recent years. The contract price paid by St. Thomas' Hospital was lower than in all other recent years, except 1896 and 1897.

Dairy Produce.—In this class of produce there was also a distinct rise in price as compared with the preceding year. The price in the middle of the year (at the beginning of June) for butter of all qualities at the Cork Butter Market was higher than in 1898; the average contract prices at both the Bethlem and Greenwich Hospitals were higher; finally the average values of imports of both butter and margarine were higher. In none of these cases, however, is the rise considerable. The price of cheese also, as shown by both the import returns and the hospital contract prices, showed some tendency to rise; and the hospital contract prices for milk were slightly higher than in 1898.

A few of these prices are given below:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Price at beginning of June at Cork of best butter—	s.	s.	s.
Mild, per cwt. ...	75	76	79
Salt " ...	74	72	74
Imported butter, per cwt. ...	4·95	4·97	5·08
Imported cheese " ...	2·26	2·12	2·31

Meat and Fish.—A good indication of the movement in the prices of beef and mutton is afforded by the returns of the average wholesale prices of cattle and sheep (sinking the offal) at the Metropolitan Cattle Market, published in the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture*. From these figures it appears that there was in 1899 an increase in the price of both classes of meat. These figures are confirmed by the increased contract prices paid for beef and mutton by St. Thomas' Hospital. The average import values of fresh mutton and beef were also higher than in 1898. The average value of imported bacon was, however, slightly lower than in the previous year.

The average value of fish landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom was markedly higher than in recent years, as will be seen from the table below. The rise in the case of herrings was over 50 per cent. The average declared value per barrel of herrings exported shows a similar rise.

The following Table gives a few prices of meat and fish for each of the last three years:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Live Meat, per stone—			
Beef, 1st quality ...	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
" 3rd quality ...	2 5	2 4	2 6
Mutton, 1st quality ...	5 8	5 6	5 8
" 3rd quality ...	3 8	3 2	3 4
Bacon imported, per cwt. ...	35·44	36·14	35·84
Fish landed, per cwt. ...	10·81	10·08	11·99

Sugar, Tea, Coffee and Cocoa.—The price of sugar, so far as shown by the declared values of the imports, showed a marked rise, although it by no means touched the figures prevailing up to 1894. The average contract price for sugar paid by St. Thomas' Hospital (14s. 3d. per cwt.) was higher by about 5d. per cwt. than in 1898. The average value of imported tea was lower than any recorded since the adoption of the system of declared values in 1871. Both coffee and cocoa also show a decrease in price as compared with the preceding year. The following table gives particulars of the average declared values of these articles in the years 1897-1899, which, it must be remembered, in the case of the last three articles, are exclusive of the customs duty:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Unrefined Sugar—			
Beetroot, per cwt. ...	8·92	9·26	9·94
Other sorts " ...	9·65	10·23	11·80
Refined Sugar—			
Lumps or Loaves, per cwt. ...	13·41	13·24	13·49
Other sorts " ...	12·08	12·14	12·41
Tea,* per lb. ...	9·36	9·12	8·87
Coffee,* per cwt. ...	4·74	3·89	3·44
Cocoa,* per lb. ...	6·45	7·55	7·21

Coal and Metals.—The average prices of coal and iron, as ascertained periodically by accountants in various districts of Great Britain, have been published from time to time in the *LABOUR GAZ*

Textiles.—The average declared values of the imports of both United States and Egyptian cotton were slightly higher than in 1898 (when the average values were the lowest on record), but lower than in the years preceding. Much the same is true of the exports of plain piece goods, both bleached and unbleached, and of grey yarn. The average export values of cotton thread show a more noticeable rise and were higher than during the last few years.

In the case of wool it may be said generally that the prices of colonial and foreign wools were higher, and the prices of British wool lower, than in the last few years. The latter, indeed, as shown by the declared values of the exports, by the prices of Lincoln wool given in the *Bradford Observer* Tables, and by the prices struck by the Teviotdale Farmers' Club, Hawick, were the lowest on record.

The average declared values of the imports of flax were the lowest on record, but those of the imports of jute and raw silk were higher than in the few preceding years.

The following are a few of the import and export values above referred to in each of the three last years:—

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Imports of Raw Cotton:—			
From U.S.A., per cwt.	£ 1·99	£ 1·71	£ 1·74
From Egypt " " "	2·65	2·39	2·53
Imports of Sheep and Lambs' Wool, per lb.	7·97	8·16	8·58
Exports of British Wool, per lb.	9·19	8·59	7·72
Imports of Jute, per cwt.	11·70	10·50	12·75
" Flax " " "	35·60	32·38	32·25
" Raw Silk, per lb.	12·33	12·52	12·77

Miscellaneous.—The following are the average declared values for the last three years of a number of miscellaneous imports. It will be noticed that most of the average values in 1899 were greater than in the preceding year. The declared value of imported tobacco is exclusive of the duty.

	1897.	1898.	1899.
Unmanufactured Tobacco, * per lb.	d 6·07	d 7·35	d 7·22
Linseed, per quarter	£ 1·57	£ 1·73	£ 1·88
Petroleum, per gallon	4·31	4·09	4·57
Fir, hewn, per load	1·44	1·47	1·45
Fir, sawn, per load	2·35	2·35	2·42
Hides, per cwt.	2·30	2·35	2·30
Leather, per lb.	12·81	13·37	13·47
Caoutchouc, per cwt.	11·47	12·60	13·78

STRIKE OF BERLIN CABINETMAKERS.

OWING to the intervention of the Berlin Industrial Court, acting as a Board of Conciliation, the dispute in the Berlin cabinetmaking trade, begun on February 19th and referred to in last month's GAZETTE (p. 76), has been settled, the terms of the agreement providing for the resumption of work at all the establishments concerned (which are stated to have numbered about 600) on March 26th. According to employers' estimates the number of workmen involved in the dispute reached 12,000, while according to statements emanating from the workmen's side it did not exceed 7,750 (6,600 cabinetmakers, 350 joiners in the shop-fittings branch, and 800 wood machinists). The terms of the agreement arrived at (the full text of which is published in *Soziale Praxis* of March 29th) include the following provisions:—The weekly time-wage and the weekly payment on account in respect to piece-work shall not be less than 24s. (This does not apply in the case of workmen, who through youth or age or ill-health, etc., possess less than average efficiency; such persons are to make their own arrangements with their employers.) In establishments, in which wage conditions more favourable than the above standard obtained before the strike, those conditions shall be maintained. In places where the weekly time-wage or

* Exclusive of duty.

the weekly payment on account in respect to piece-work is less than 24s., it shall be open to the workmen to enter into negotiations with their employers with a view to securing an improvement. Should these negotiations threaten to lead to a renewal of the strike, the matter shall be referred to a Board consisting of 9 employers and 9 workmen, the former elected by the employers', and the latter by the workmen's organisations. One of the assessors of the Berlin Industrial Court will act as chairman. Appeal can be made within 3 days from the decision of this Board to the Industrial Court. Failing such appeal, the Board's decision is final. While proceedings are pending before the Board or Court, a final decision not yet having been pronounced, recourse must not be had to strikes or lock-outs. No workman is to be victimised for participation in the dispute. All workmen are to be re-instated in their previous employment. The *Reichs-Anzeiger* states that at a meeting of employers and workmen held on March 27th the strike was definitely declared to be ended.

STRIKE OF COAL MINERS IN AUSTRIA.

As stated in the account of this dispute contained in last month's GAZETTE (p. 68), various urgency motions, brought before the Reichsrath by the Social Democratic party relative to the shortening of the hours of labour in Austrian coal mines, were referred to a Social-Political Committee, which was to report on them by March 12th. In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated March 16th, Mr. A. P. Bennett, H.M. Commercial Attaché at Vienna, reports that at the first sitting of this Committee, a sub-committee was elected for the purpose of collecting expert evidence on the subject of mining hours and mining conditions throughout the various coal fields of the Empire, on the strength of which evidence the sub-committee was eventually to make definite proposals to the Committee *in plenum* for submission to the Reichsrath. Thirty-six experts were summoned, twelve of whom represented the interests of capital, and twenty-four those of labour.

On the 12th instant, the day appointed for reporting to the Reichsrath, the sub-committee was not in a position to lay any definite proposals before the Social-Political Committee *in plenum*; and a statement to this effect was made in the House by the Chairman of the Committee.

On the 14th instant, however, the draft of a Bill drawn up by Dr. Forscht, a member of the sub-committee, proposing "a nine-hours' shift from bank to bank," was laid before a general meeting of the Committee, with the suggestion that during the approaching Parliamentary recess the draft should be worked into definite shape and presented to the Reichsrath at the beginning of the next session, that is, immediately after Easter. This proposal was sanctioned, and the definite preparation of the Bill has been entrusted to Dr. Forscht and three other members of the Committee. Further, the Government has signified its willingness to co-operate with Dr. Forscht and his colleagues in the working up of the Bill.

It may be added that the Law of June 21st, 1884, at present in force, limits the mining day to ten hours, exclusive of the time occupied in descending and ascending the pits.

In a subsequent dispatch, dated March 30th, Mr. Bennett reports that the gradual break-up of the strike commenced on March 20th, when it had become clear that legislation as to the reduction of mining hours was out of the question until after the Easter recess. The miners of Northern and Western Bohemia were the first to resume work, and at the date of writing, the strikers in nearly all the affected districts had given in; only a few thousand miners in the Kladno district still remained on strike, and their numbers were daily diminishing. The men's demands for an eight-hours' shift (bank to bank) and for the fixing of a minimum

wage were not granted; but their demands for an increase of wages, for free light and fuel, and for the regular settlement of wages accounts were conceded by the employers five weeks earlier.

The total deficit in the output of coal caused by the eleven weeks' strike is estimated at 54,000,000 tons, and this is calculated to mean a loss to the miners in wages of some £400,000, and to the mine-owners in net profits about the same amount. Then there is the enormous loss to the industrial classes, inasmuch as during the last two months many factories were obliged to cease operations entirely, whilst others were only able to continue part-work by paying enormous prices for imported coal.

REGULATION OF HOURS OF LABOUR IN FRANCE.

UNDER the law (of November 2nd, 1892) regulating the hours of labour of children, young persons, and women in factories, workshops, and mines, hitherto in force in France the length of the working day was fixed differently: (a) For children under 16, (b) for young persons of 16 and under 18, and (c) for women of 18 and upwards; class (a) being restricted to 10 hours per day, class (b) to 11 hours (with a maximum of 60 hours per week), and class (c) to 11 hours (without a specified weekly maximum).

A new law, dated March 30th, 1900, fixes the maximum length of the working day at 11 hours for all the three classes of workpeople alike, and provides that, from April 1st, 1902, it shall be reduced to 10½ hours, and from April 1st, 1904, to 10 hours.

The working day must (as heretofore) be broken by periods of rest amounting to at least one hour in the aggregate; but in the future these rests must (except in establishments with fires kept going day and night continuously, and in mines and quarries) be taken simultaneously by all children, young persons, and women employed in any given establishment coming under the Law.

The law of 1892, which forbids, generally, the employment of women, young persons, and children at night (*i.e.*, between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.), contains a provision, under which their employment between 4 a.m. and 10 p.m. is permitted if two relays are employed working not more than nine hours each. This provision will cease to be operative after April 1st, 1902, save in the case of boys and youths employed underground in mines and quarries under the conditions imposed by the law. So far as concerns the employment of women, young persons, and children in relays generally (otherwise than under the system just referred to), such employment is prohibited, except in establishments with fires kept going day and night, and in certain other classes of establishments to be determined by Administrative Order (this prohibition taking effect as from July 1st, 1900).

It is provided that in all cases, in which work is carried on under a system of successive shifts, the employment of each shift shall be continuous, with no other break than a period or periods of rest. The new law further enacts, that in all establishments coming within the scope of the law of 1892, referred to above, in which adult males are employed together with women, young persons, and children in the same work-places, the hours of such adult males shall be restricted to 11 per day (to be reduced to 10½ from April 1st, 1902, and to 10 hours from April 1st, 1904).

Information for Intending Emigrants.

The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on the 1st inst., and contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages, and cost of living. Particulars are also given of the cost of reaching the various colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving immigrants, and as to other matters of interest to emigrants. Copies of the circulars can be obtained free on application to the Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

NEW LAW REGULATING EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PERSONS, AND WOMEN IN SPAIN.

A LAW in relation to the regulation of the labour of children, young persons, and women has been passed in Spain, dated March 13th, 1900.

Children under 10 years of age must not be employed in any kind of labour; if, however, they can read and write, they may be employed from the age of 9. Until their 14th year, they must not be employed for more than 6 hours per day in factories, or 8 hours per day in commercial establishments, and their daily working time must be broken by rests amounting to at least an hour in the aggregate. If they have not received elementary and religious instruction, and if there be a school within 2 kilometres (about 1½ miles) of the establishment in which they are employed, children under 14 years of age must be allowed at least two hours per day (not to be counted as working time) to attend school. When the distance from a school exceeds 2 kilometres, a factory or workshop regularly employing more than 20 children must maintain a school of its own.

Children under 14 years of age must not be employed at night (*i.e.*, between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m.). Night work is also prohibited for young persons of 14 and under 18 years of age in such trades as shall be determined by the local and provincial Councils, for the establishment of which the present law provides. In trades in which night work is not forbidden, every full night's work must be broken by intervals amounting, in the aggregate, to not less than 1½ hours, and the total amount of night work in any one week must not exceed 48 hours.

Children under 16 years of age must not be employed underground, or in establishments preparing or using inflammable substances, or in trades scheduled as dangerous or unhealthy, or in cleaning machinery in motion.

Except by permission of the Government Authorities, children under 16 years of age must not be employed in any kind of public performance, or in any establishment producing writings, advertisements, prints, etc., which might injure their morals. Women under age are included in the prohibition, so far as concerns the last-mentioned kinds of establishments.

Employment on Sundays and feast-days is forbidden for all persons to whom the present law applies.

Women must not be employed during the three weeks following their confinement. Before being admitted to industrial or commercial establishments, children, young persons, and women must produce certificates of vaccination and freedom from contagious disease.

The Government is to appoint local and provincial councils. The former will consist of equal numbers of employers and workmen, a representative of the civil authority (who will act as chairman), and a representative of the ecclesiastical authority. To these councils is to be assigned the duty of inspecting all places in which labour is carried on (such inspection to be in addition to inspection by the Government); of ensuring the existence of healthy conditions in such places; of organising labour statistics; of bringing about the formation of mixed tribunals of employers and workpeople; of hearing complaints submitted to them by either party; and, generally, of ensuring the observance of the present law.

The provincial Councils will consist of representatives of the local councils, the governor of the province acting as chairman, summoning the Council when he thinks fit, and determining the matters to be submitted to its consideration. Each provincial Council will include an expert competent to advise in matters pertaining to health and safety in factories, workshops, etc., who shall be nominated by the Royal Academy of Medicine.

The local and provincial Councils are to submit proposals for the adoption of such measures as will, within two years from the promulgation of this law, ensure the reduction to 11 hours per day of the hours of labour of persons to whom the law applies, and who may be working for longer hours than this limit.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Conciliation in the London Plastering Trade.

NEW working rules for plasterers in the London district were agreed to on March 16th, and were signed by representatives of the London Master Builders' Association and the National Association of Operative Plasterers. The following rule provides machinery for the settlement by conciliation of all disputes, including questions between the plasterers and other trades with regard to demarcation of work. Failing settlement by the Conciliation Board the Board of Trade may be applied to by either party to appoint a Conciliator, whose decision shall be final.

10. For the adjustment of all disputes and to avoid stoppage of work, it is agreed that upon a difference arising between an employer (being a member of the London Master Builders' Association), or upon the works of an employer (being a member of the London Master Builders' Association), and any of his workmen (being members of the National Association of Operative Plasterers), from any cause whatever, notice shall be given by the Association or Society of the complaining party to the Association or party representing the other side, and the subject matter of dispute shall thereupon be referred to the Board of Conciliation which shall be summoned within six working days (and either decide or refer the question within the five following days), proceeding in the following manner:

For all purposes of the foregoing rules the Board of Conciliation shall consist of three members nominated by the employers (being members of the London Master Builders' Association) and three by the workmen (being members of the National Association of Operative Plasterers). Each party shall send to the other party within one week from the date of signing these rules, and within one week from January 1st, in each year, the names of the persons nominated as their representatives on the Board of Conciliation for the current year ending December 31st, and in the event of the death or resignation of any member, either party shall appoint another member within one week, notice being given thereof. The number of representatives of the employers (being members of the London Master Builders' Association) and of the workmen (being members of the National Association of Operative Plasterers) on the Conciliation Board shall always be equal, and shall be so maintained during the sitting.

If the Board of Conciliation so constructed cannot arrive at a definite decision by a majority of the members of the Board, application may be made by either party to the Board of Trade under the "Conciliation Act, 1896," or apply for the appointment of a person to act as a Conciliator. The Board of Conciliation shall have power to decide all questions arising between the employer (being a member of the London Master Builders' Association) and the workmen (being members of the National Association of Operative Plasterers) including any questions between one trade and another as regards demarcation of labour or other matters, provided that for the decision of any question involving claims or rights of other trades a Joint Conciliation Board shall be constituted of the three representatives nominated by each trade involved and by a similar number of representatives of the employers, so that the members of the Joint Conciliation Board may be specially represented on such Board, and so that the number of representatives of the employers and the workmen on such Joint Conciliation Board shall be equal and be so maintained during the sitting.

A Joint Conciliation Board shall have the like powers as a Conciliation Board, and be regulated in the same manner.

The Conciliation Board or a Joint Conciliation Board shall have power to make such rules and regulations for the transaction of business as they may approve.

In the event of an application being made to the Board of Trade, or a person being appointed as a Conciliator, the decision of such person shall be final and binding on both parties, each Association undertaking to enforce such decision (or the decision of the Conciliation Board), together with all the foregoing rules amongst its members by fines, or, if necessary, by expulsion.

Arbitration in the Nottingham House-Painting Trade.

With reference to the report of the above arbitration case in the March LABOUR GAZETTE, page 73, a copy of the award has now been received by the Department from which it appears that the summary published was not quite accurate, and requires the following emenda-

tions. Mr. Simpson acted as the employers' arbitrator; the workmen chose Mr. Richardson as their arbitrator, and the two arbitrators chose his Honour Judge Masterman as umpire. The workmen's claim for advance of wages (which was made as a counter demand to the employers' claim for alterations in working rules) was withdrawn, and not considered by the arbitrators. Two of the proposed alterations in working rules were rejected (one by the arbitrators and one by the umpire), but the following new rule, proposed by the employers, was approved:—"That no operative shall seek work in any shop not mutually agreed to be a fair shop, and registered on the Fair Trade List as such."

Arbitration in the North Staffordshire Building Trades.

The operative painters in North Staffordshire having applied to the North Staffordshire Association of Master Plumbers and Painters for certain alterations in working rules and an advance of wages, the parties on March 19th made a joint application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator. The Board has appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, Barrister-at-Law.

Arbitration in the Coal Trade at Merthyr.

The arbitrators appointed by a colliery company and their workpeople at Merthyr to decide the prices for various items of labour in certain seams having failed to agree upon an umpire, applied to the Board of Trade on February 26th, in accordance with the terms of the original agreement between the parties. The Board appointed Mr. T. Bell, formerly H.M. Inspector of Mines.

Clickers' and Pressmen's Wages in the East of Scotland.

Various disputed points having been referred by the East of Scotland Boot Trade Arbitration Board to the arbitration of Mr. W. B. Hoffman, that gentleman issued his award on March 20th. The award advances the minimum wages of clickers and pressmen from 25s and 22s. per week to 28s. and 25s. respectively, adding:—"In all cases where workers, owing to age or infirmity, cannot properly be classed as fully competent workmen, such workers may agree with employers upon a lower rate; such agreement to be reported to, and ratified by the Conciliation Board shall always be equal, and shall be so maintained during the sitting."

If the Board of Conciliation so constructed cannot arrive at a definite decision by a majority of the members of the Board, application may be made by either party to the Board of Trade under the "Conciliation Act, 1896," or apply for the appointment of a person to act as a Conciliator. The Board of Conciliation shall have power to decide all questions arising between the employer (being a member of the London Master Builders' Association) and the workmen (being members of the National Association of Operative Plasterers) including any questions between one trade and another as regards demarcation of labour or other matters, provided that for the decision of any question involving claims or rights of other trades a Joint Conciliation Board shall be constituted of the three representatives nominated by each trade involved and by a similar number of representatives of the employers, so that the members of the Joint Conciliation Board may be specially represented on such Board, and so that the number of representatives of the employers and the workmen on such Joint Conciliation Board shall be equal and be so maintained during the sitting.

The remaining clauses of the award deal with the classification of shoes and materials and with certain extras and deductions.

South Wales Sheet Millworkers.

An uniform price list for the payment of sheet millmen in South Wales and Monmouthshire has been drawn up by the Tinplate Conciliation Board, and is signed by representative employers, and officials of the Sheet Millmen's Union, the Steel Smelters' Union, and the Dock, &c., Labourers' Union. The list came into operation on April 1st, and will regulate the wages of about 800 workpeople.

Saddleworth Weavers.

An uniform list for shawl weaving at Saddleworth was agreed to and signed on February 27th last by representatives of the Saddleworth Manufacturers' and the Saddleworth Weavers' Associations, and came into operation on March 1st. The list includes all classes of shawl weaving, and it is stated that about 260 workpeople are now being paid by the list. It was agreed that no amendment or alteration should be made to the list during the first 12 months, and that three months' notice in writing should be given of any amendment or alteration at any time thereafter.

Oldham Velvet Weavers.

At a conference between the Oldham Velvet Employers' Sub-committee and representatives of the Oldham Weavers' Association an advance in the prices to be paid for weaving coarse wefts in velvets was agreed to. About 3,000 weavers will be affected by this change, which will, it is stated, increase their earnings by about 5 per cent.

April, 1900.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 1,163 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,509,182, show total sales for the fourth quarter of 1899 amounting to £11,073,235, as compared with £10,191,336 in the corresponding period of 1898.

Of these societies 884 show an increase, 272 a decrease, and 7 the same amount as in the previous year, the net increase being £881,899, or 8·7 per cent.

Wales and Monmouth again show a large increase compared with 1898, when trade was depressed owing to the dispute in the coal trade.

Returns from three of the four wholesale federations for the same period show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £5,593,567, as compared with £4,985,603 in the corresponding period of 1898, an increase of 12·2 per cent. The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish wholesale societies amounted to £914,102, compared with £807,926 in the corresponding period of 1898, an increase of 13·1 per cent.

The following Table, based upon reports and balance sheets supplied direct to the Department, shows the progress in trade of the wholesale and retail distributive societies, grouped by districts.

Description of Societies and Districts.	Societies making Returns.		Sales.		
	No.	Membership.	In 4th quarter of 1899.	Increase in 1899 compared with 1898.	Per cent.
			1899.	1898.	Per cent. on Sales.

Retail Distributive Societies.					
ENGLAND AND WALES:—			£	£	£
Northern Counties	113	201,756*	1,804,251	1,650,062	144,189
Yorkshire ...	187	308,213	2,195,295	2,030,628	164,667
Lancashire and Cheshire	165	354,541	2,568,757	2,384,299	184,458
North and West Midlands	152	163,301	962,383	874,264	88,119
South Midland and Eastern Counties	101	73,914	421,263	389,122	32,141
London (12 miles radius)	32	35,957	180,377	167,430	12,947
South Eastern Counties	54	44,902	233,576	214,924	18,652
Southern and Western Counties	55	51,461	217,349	203,018	14,331
Wales and Monmouth	46	16,656	131,550	98,043	33,507
Total—England and Wales	905	1,250,701	8,714,801	8,021,790	693,011
SCOTLAND—North	100	96,626	797,218	744,397	52,621
" South	149	159,432	1,548,273	1,414,253	134,021
Total—Scotland	249	256,058	2,345,491	2,158,849	186,642
IRELAND ...	9	2,423	12,943	10,697	2,246
TOTAL RETAIL DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES	1,163	1,509,182	11,073,235	10,191,336	881,899

Wholesale Societies.					
ENGLAND AND WALES:—			£	£	£
Distributive Departments	1,079*	1,179,609*	{ 4,174,303	{ 3,629,472	{ 544,831
Manufacturing Departments			524,836†	442,347†	82,489
SCOTLAND:—					
Distributive Departments	290*	240,873*	{ 1,384,954	{ 1,324,806	{ 60,148
Manufacturing Departments			389,266†	365,597†	23,687
IRELAND:—					
Butter Agency (Distribution)	47*	Not stated.	34,310	31,325	2,985
Agricultural (Distribution)			No returns received.		

H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

New Appointments.—Mr. E. A. R. Werner, Burnside House, Easdale, near Oban, and Mr. E. L. Allhusen, Beadnell Tower, Chathill, Northumberland, have been appointed H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.

Mr. Leonard Dufield, 58, Merridale-road, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. Hirst, 96, Warner-street, Derby; Mr. F. C. Cook, 12, Grumann-road, Peckham, S.E.; and Mr. G. Dixon, Dawson Chambers, Dublin, have been appointed to the office of inspectors of factories and workshops under the title of inspector's assistants.

* Number and Membership of federated societies.
† Transfers from manufacturing to distributive departments.

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 Act.

"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT":
"SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT."

The Act provides, that if in any employment to which the Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as therein mentioned, be liable to pay compensation; and that, if it is proved that the injury to a workman is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of that workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall be disallowed.

The widow of a workman, who had met with a fatal accident at a steam joinery works where he was employed, claimed compensation from his employer. A belt having got loose, the deceased, who was sweeping up chips, went to the assistance of the man in charge, and, at his request, caught hold of the double belt stretched between the machine and gearing near the roof. His arm got entangled in the belt, causing him to be fatally injured. The work he was engaged to perform was labourer's work, and the man to whose assistance he went had no authority from the employer to ask the deceased to assist him, and had no control over the deceased. The sheriff-substitute held that the injury which the deceased sustained was caused by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment within the meaning of the Act, and was not attributable to serious and wilful misconduct on his part. He accordingly awarded the widow compensation. The employer appealed; but the Court of Session affirmed the decision of the sheriff substitute.—*Maggie Fulton or Menzies v. McQuibban, Court of Session, March 13th.*

TIME FOR TAKING PROCEEDINGS.

The Act provides that "Proceedings for the recovery under this Act of compensation for an injury shall not be maintainable unless the claim for compensation with respect to such accident has been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident causing the injury, or, in case of death, within six months from the time of death."

A workman in the employment of a colliery company was, on December 21st, 1898, injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. On May 2nd, 1899, he sent to the company a notice claiming compensation. The request for arbitration to assess compensation was filed on October 4th, 1899. The County Court judge awarded the workman £35. 1d. a week. The company appealed, on the ground that "the claim for compensation," which the Act requires to be made within six months, meant the filing of the request for arbitration in the County Court, and was not satisfied by a notice of claim for compensation being sent by the workman to his employers. The Court of Appeal decided in favour of this contention, held that the proceedings were taken too late, and allowed the appeal, but stayed execution pending an appeal to the House of Lords.—*Powell v. Main Colliery Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, March 16th.*

It is stated that five other cases in the list of the Appeal Court for the same day followed the result of the above decision, and in all of them the appeals were allowed.

WHAT IS A "FACTORY"? WHO ARE THE "UNDERTAKERS"?

The Act

"about" a dock, and consequently, if the dock itself was a factory, within the meaning of the Act, the widow had a claim. But, in order to bring a dock or wharf, which was not truly a factory, under the term factory, it must be shown that some of the provisions of the Factory Acts were applicable to it. In the present case the only provisions apparently applicable were that as to notice of accidents or that as to powers of inspection. But it had been held that the provision as to notice of accident did not apply unless and until the accident had occurred in a factory (in the statutory sense), and that if the accident only occurred about a factory, that provision did not apply. Upon this view the provision as to notice would not apply in the present case, since the accident occurred, not in a dock, but in a ship which was near to a dock. Apart from these considerations, there was another objection fatal to the claim of the widow—the fact that it was not established that the deceased was in the employment of the undertakers, within the meaning of the Act. The Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, declares that the person having the actual use or occupation of a dock and the person using the machinery shall be deemed to be the occupier of a factory. But the statement in the case did not appear to show that the employers of the deceased were the occupiers of the dock, in that sense. They were not owners of the steamship, nor was that ship in their possession; they simply, by their servants, wheeled goods on barrows from a shed on the quayside to the deck of the ship, from which the goods were lowered into the hold by the crew with appliances upon and belonging to the ship. They were not occupiers of either the dock or the ship. For these reasons the decision of the sheriff-substitute must be upheld, and the appeal dismissed.—*Bruce v. Henry and Company, Court of Session, March 8th.*

In another case an apprentice boilermaker, in the employment of a foundry company, who, while employed by them in repairing the boiler of a steamship lying in a repairing dock, had suffered injury by accident, claimed compensation from his employers. He was cutting out old rivets, inside the firebox of the boiler, when a piece of a rivet struck his right eye, causing the loss of the use of this eye and total disablement. The dock in question is about a mile distant from the works of the employers. The sheriff-substitute found that the employment of this workman was an employment to which the Act applied, and awarded him 4s. 9d. weekly, as compensation. The employers appealed; and the Court of Session re-called the finding of the sheriff-substitute, holding that the dock was not a factory, in the sense of the Act.—*Low v. Abernethy and Co., Court of Session, March 8th.*

In a third case a workman, in the employment of a firm of engineers and contractors, was engaged in assisting at the installation by them of electric lighting apparatus in an unfinished ship, which had been launched from the yard of a firm of shipbuilders, when he injured himself by falling down an opening in the deck of the vessel. He claimed compensation from his employers; and the sheriff-substitute found that they were liable to him for compensation. On appeal, the Court of Session recalled this interlocutor, and remitted to the sheriff-substitute to dismiss the case, holding that the defenders were not the undertakers, in the sense of the Act.—*Earnshaw, Paterson, Cooper and Co., Court of Session, March 13th.*

UNDERTAKERS: SUB-CONTRACTORS.

Section 4 of the Act provides that, "where, in an employment to which this Act applies, the undertakers as hereinafter defined contract with any person for the execution by or under such contractor of any work, and the undertakers would, if such work were executed by workmen immediately employed by them, be liable to pay compensation under this Act to those workmen in respect of any accident arising out of and in the course of their employment, the undertakers shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in the execution of the work any compensation which is payable to the workman (whether under this Act or in respect of personal negligence or wilful act independently of this Act) by such contractor, or would be so payable if such contractor were an employer to whom this Act applies. Provided that the undertakers shall be entitled to be indemnified by any other person who would have been liable independently of this section. This section shall not apply to any contract with any person for the execution by or under such contractor of any work which is merely ancillary or incidental to, and is no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by such undertakers respectively."

In a case, in which a claim for compensation was made against a builder by the widow of a workman employed by a master plumber, who had made with the builder a sub-contract to do the plumbing work, this builder then claiming to be indemnified by his sub-contractor, the County Court judge made an award in favour of the widow against the builder, and ordered the sub-contracting plumber to indemnify him. On appeal by the plumber, the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that a sub-contractor was not an undertaker, and was not liable to pay compensation under the Act. He was not, therefore, liable to indemnify another person liable under Section 4.—*Cooper v. Davenport, Winstanley, Third Party, Court of Appeal, March 10th.*

In another case three children of a lorryman, who had been killed by an accident at a goods' station of a railway company, while in the employment of a firm of carting contractors, claimed compensation from the railway company. The deceased was transferring a barrel of beer from a lorry to a train, when the barrel fell upon him. The employers of the deceased had a contract with the company for the collection and delivery of goods, and the through rate for the carriage of beer included the charges for collection and delivery. The sheriff-substitute held that the collection and delivery of goods under a contract between the company and the carting contractors

was a part of the business carried on by the company, within the meaning of the Act, and awarded two of the three children compensation. The company appealed, on the ground that carting was not an essential part of their work as railway carriers, but was merely ancillary or incidental to it, and that their liability only commenced when the beer was on board the train. The Court of Session negatived this contention, and affirmed the interlocutor of the sheriff-substitute.—*Anne Greenhill and Others v. Caledonian Railway Company, Court of Session, March 13th.*

ON OR IN OR ABOUT A RAILWAY: ACCIDENT IN REFRESHMENT ROOM.

In the Workmen's Compensation Act "railway" has the same meaning as in the Regulation of Railways Act, 1873, in which that term includes every station belonging to a railway and "used for the purposes of public traffic." A barmaid, in the employment of a railway company at a refreshment-room at a railway station, was injured, while engaged in her duties, by the fall of a heavily-framed advertisement. She claimed compensation under the Act from the company. The County Court judge made an award in favour of the barmaid. He found that the refreshment-room was under the same roof as, and was constructively part of the station. The only public entrance to the room was from the platform. The judge held that the barmaid was employed on or in or about a railway, within the meaning of the Act. The company appealed, contending that the accident had not happened on or in or about a railway, because the refreshment-room, though used for the accommodation and convenience of railway passengers, was not "used for the purposes of public traffic." The Court of Appeal held that the barmaid's employment was not on or in or about a railway, within the meaning of the Act, and allowed the appeal.—*Milner v. Great Northern Railway Company, Court of Appeal, March 3rd.*

EMPLOYMENT "ABOUT" A FACTORY.

A builder was building houses, and in connection with the work had two steam engines in sheds for the purpose of making mortar. A labourer in his employment had the duty of driving or conducting a water-cart and horse along a public road to a brook, to fetch water for the engines and the mortar mills. While this labourer was on his way back from the brook to the mills with his cart, the horse ran away, and knocked him down, and he was injured. He claimed compensation from his employer. The spot, where the accident happened, was about 150 to 160 yards distant from the nearest engine. The County Court judge found that the labourer was at the time of the accident employed "about" the engine-shed, and therefore "about" a factory, within the meaning of the Act, and made an award in his favour. The employer appealed, on the ground that, though it was admitted that the engines working the mortar mills were "factories," yet there was no evidence that the labourer was employed "about" the factory, when the accident happened. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that, under the circumstances, there was no evidence upon which the County Court judge could find that the labourer was employed about a factory, within the meaning of the Act.—*Fenn v. Miller, Court of Appeal, March 10th.*

BUILDING WHICH EXCEEDS 30 FT. IN HEIGHT.

A shop less than 30 ft. in height stood next to an inn exceeding 30 ft. in height. The landlord of the inn bought the shop, made internal communications between it and the inn, and used it as a part of the licensed premises on which his business was being carried on. The low building was being pulled down, with the intention that another more suitable to the business should be erected in its place, but no part of the inn itself was being demolished. In the course of his employment in connection with this work a workman suffered injury by accident. He claimed compensation from his employers. Upon the ground of the internal communication between the two buildings, the judge of the County Court held that the building being demolished exceeded 30 ft. in height; and he made an award in favour of the workman. The employers appealed; and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that there was no evidence before the County Court judge, which would justify his finding that the building being demolished exceeded 30 ft. in height.—*Rixson v. Pritchard and another, Court of Appeal, March 3rd.*

BUILDING BEING CONSTRUCTED BY MEANS OF A SCAFFOLDING.

A builder contracted to build a chimney shaft about 100 ft. high. The shaft stood on the top of a cliff about 20 ft. in height, and the builder erected a scaffolding on the lower level for the purpose of raising the building materials to the top of the cliff. The shaft was constructed by means of internal scaffolding. After the shaft had been finished, so far as the brickwork was concerned, a workman was employed by the builder to take down the first-mentioned scaffolding, and while so employed was accidentally injured. He claimed compensation from his employer. At the time of the accident the internal scaffolding had been taken out, all the pointing had been finished, and the chimney was actually in use as a chimney. A lightning conductor had been put up, but its connection with the earth had not been fully made. The County Court judge held that the shaft was a building, within the meaning of the Act, and that it was, at the time of the accident, being constructed by means of a scaffolding—namely, the staging erected from the lower level to the top of the foundations of the shaft. The shaft could not be said to be completed until the scaffolding was removed, the removal of this scaffolding being part of the work of construction. He made an award in favour of the workman. The employer appealed; but the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that the County Court judge was right.—*Frid v. Fenton, Court of Appeal, March 10th.*

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: EMPLOYMENT FOR LESS THAN TWO WEEKS.

The compensation provided by the Act where total or partial incapacity for work results from the injury is "a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding 50 per cent. of the workman's average weekly earnings during the previous twelve months, if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer, such weekly payment not to exceed £1." A workman went to work for a colliery company on July 18th, 1899, at a wage of 6s. for each day on which he should be employed. On July 19th there was a holiday at the pit; but on the 20th this man went to do another day's work, and suffered an injury by accident. The colliery week ended on the evening of the 19th. On the 21st he was paid 6s. for his work on the 18th; and on the 28th he received the same sum for his work on the 20th. He claimed compensation from the company; and the County Court judge, taking as a basis the fact that the workman had earned 12s. within seven days, awarded him a weekly payment of 6s.—one-half of that amount. The company appealed; and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that the Court had no jurisdiction to entertain the matter, and that the County Court judge had done his duty.—*Welland v. Great Western Railway Company, Court of Appeal, March 26th.*

APPEALS FROM ARBITRATOR'S AWARD IN SCOTLAND: REFUSAL OF SHERIFF TO STATE CASE.

The Act provides that in Scotland it shall be competent to either party to an arbitration as to compensation under the Act, "within the time, and in accordance with the conditions prescribed by act of sederunt to require the sheriff to state a case on any question of law determined by him, and his decision thereon in such case may be submitted to either division of the Court of Session, who may hear and determine the same finally, and remit to the sheriff, with instruction as to the judgment to be pronounced."

In another case compensation was claimed by a workman, who had been at work for a colliery company for three, or, at most, five days, when the accident occurred; and the County Court judge made an award in his favour. This decision was reversed on appeal.—*Bebbington v. The Waverley Coal Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, March 10th.*

AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION: DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EARNINGS BEFORE AND AFTER ACCIDENT.

With respect to the compensation payable, the Act provides that, "In fixing the amount of the weekly payment, regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident." A workman claimed compensation from his employers in respect of a severe injury to his hand, suffered by accident while in their employment. His weekly wages before the accident were £1 13s. 8d. For some time he was absent from his work and received a weekly payment equivalent to one-half of those earnings. When he resumed work, his wages were 15s. a week, and he continued at work at those wages until September 19th, 1899, when he filed a request for arbitration to assess compensation. The County Court judge, on October 25th, 1899, awarded him a lump sum of £9 13s. 6d., and 15s. a week from that date. The employers appealed, contending that, since the difference between the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the wages which he received on resuming work was 18s. 8d. a week, the judge could not award him more than one-half of that difference (*i.e.*, 9s. 4d. a week). The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that the provision in the Act, that regard was to be paid to the difference between the earnings before and after the accident, did not interfere with the maximum compensation (one-half of the average weekly earnings before the accident) provided by the Act.—*Illingworth v. Wardsley, Court of Appeal, March 16th.*

In another case compensation was claimed from his employers, a firm of bakers, by a lad, fourteen years of age, in respect of injury by accident, his right hand having been drawn into an almond-crushing machine. On his recovery the firm employed him as a messenger at a higher wage than he had previously received; but his injury precluded his promotion to be a packer (on piecework) at a still higher wage. The sheriff held that the claim must fail, because the Act did not take cognisance of the effect upon his future career of a workman's permanent disablement, but dealt only with its present effect as regards the earning of wages, and since the lad was, at the date of his application, able to earn, and was earning higher wages than before the accident, there arose no "difference" between his past and present earnings. The sheriff accordingly dismissed the application. The matter came, on a stated case, before the Court of Session, which recalled the sheriff's interlocutor, and remitted the case back to him for further procedure. The Court held that the fact that the lad was earning not less now than at the time of the accident, did not preclude the claim under the Act, but that the sheriff might dispose of the case either by awarding a nominal amount of compensation and keeping the pursuer's claim open, or by making a declaration of the liability of the employers, leaving the amount of compensation to be fixed at some future time, if it appeared that the pursuer's capacity to earn more wages had been diminished by reason of the accident.—*Robert Freeland, jun., v. Macfarlane, Lang and Co., Court of Session, March 20th.*

COSTS: DISCRETION OF ARBITRATOR.
By Rule 33, Sub-section 3, of the Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1898, "the judge or arbitrator, in dealing with the question of costs, may take into consideration any offer of compensation proved to have been made on behalf of the employer." A workman employed by a railway company, having been injured in the course of his employment, claimed compensation from the company, who offered him 7s. 6d. a week, which he refused. The County Court judge said that the applicant ought to have accepted the offer, and refused to make an award. The workman appealed, and the Court of Appeal remitted the case to the County Court judge to proceed further thereon, and ordered the company to pay to the workman his costs of the former hearing before the County Court judge. When the case came again before that judge, he made an award in favour of the workman for a weekly payment of 7s. 6d.;

(2) MISCELLANEOUS.

POOR LAW: RELIEF TO WORKMEN ON STRIKE.

During the dispute in the coal trade in South Wales in 1898, many colliers and also other men not parties to the dispute, but thrown out of employment in consequence of the dispute, in the Merthyr Tydfil Union applied for relief. The guardians established labour yards and relief works, and, partly by these yards and works, and partly by gifts of food or money, the necessitous workmen were relieved. So far as the colliers were concerned, work was offered to them at neighbouring collieries, of which the guardians were aware. Proceedings were taken at the relation of

certain large ratepayers in the Union, in which the plaintiffs claimed a declaration "that the establishment and maintenance by the defendants of labour yards or relief works for the purpose of providing outdoor relief for able-bodied persons, to the knowledge of the defendants otherwise able to maintain themselves and their families, and the expenditure by the defendants of parts of the common fund of the Union for the purpose of relieving such able-bodied persons and their families constituted a breach of the statutory duties of the defendants" as guardians. The Chancery Division held that the guardians had not exceeded their powers, and dismissed the action (see *Gazette*, April, 1899, p. 103). On appeal, the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, but declined to make the declaration asked for, making instead a declaration that the payment by the guardians out of the poor rates of any money for setting to work, or for the relief of able-bodied men, who were at the time able to obtain and perform work at wages sufficient to support themselves (and their wives and families, if any), was unlawful and ought to be disallowed by the auditor on auditing the accounts of the guardians. But this declaration did not include relief given to or for the wives and children of such men, and was without prejudice to the power of the Local Government Board to remit such disallowed payments, although unlawfully made. The Court held that, so far as concerned relief given (1) to wives and children reduced to destitution by the strike, and (2) to able-bodied men thrown out of work by the strike and unable to obtain work and maintain themselves while it lasted, such relief was lawful. But the colliers, who struck work, were able-bodied men, who might have obtained work and might have maintained themselves and their families; and relief given to them was unlawful.—*The Attorney-General (at the relation of the Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company, Limited, and all other the Ratepayers of the Merthyr Tydil Union) v. The Guardians of the Merthyr Tydil Union, Court of Appeal, February 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, and March 6th.*

In another case, arising out of the same dispute as the last case, and the circumstances in which were generally similar, a similar declaration was made by the Chancery Division, following the decision of the Court of Appeal just noted.—*The Attorney-General v. The Guardians of the Poor of Beddwellty Union, Chancery Division, March 17th,*

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

The average selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts, as ascertained at the last audits, are shown in the following Table, in which are also included, for purposes of comparison, the results of the previous audits:—

Product and District.	Number of work-people.	Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit.	Date from which last audit affects wages.	Average ascertained selling price per ton.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.
Coal.						
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	Dec. Jan. Feb.	9th & 16th April	8s. d. 8 9/29	s. d. 7 6/12	+ 1 3/17
Pig Iron.						
Cumberland ...	1,350	Jan. Feb. Mar.	1st Apr.	77 4/36	75 8/735	+ 1 7/701
Cleveland ...	5,500	Jan. Feb. Mar.	1st Apr.	66 8/56	64 1/41	+ 2 7/15
Manufact'rd Iron.						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	Jan. Feb.	2nd Apr.	146 10/51	137 10/27	+ 9 0/24
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets plates and strips, &c.)	20,000	Jan. Feb.	9th Apr.	174 7/97	163 9/57	+ 10 10/40
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and rods)	3,500	Jan. Feb.	2nd Apr.	160 11/26	148 7/73	+ 12 3/53

The ascertained selling prices of coal and iron continue to show marked advances. In South Wales the increase in the price of coal is sufficient to give an advance of 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. to the miners under the sliding scale agreement—the largest advance since April, 1890. In Northumberland miners' wages have been advanced 10 per cent. As a result of the increases in the prices of iron the blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Cumberland have received advances of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 per cent. respectively. In the manufactured iron districts the advance in wages under the sliding scales in operation is still greater, viz.: 5 per cent. to the millmen and 6d. per ton to the puddlers in the Midlands and the West of Scotland, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 3d. per ton in the North of England.

Compared with a year ago the increase in price is very marked—amounting in the case of coal to 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

* The exact amount of the difference cannot be stated.

per cent. in Northumberland and 28 6 per cent. in South Wales. Pig iron has advanced 48·8 per cent. in Cleveland and 30·9 per cent. in Cumberland. In the North of England, Midlands and West of Scotland the price of manufactured iron has increased by 29·7 per cent., 36·3 per cent. and 38·6 per cent. respectively.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—This is the best season of the year to emigrate to Canada. The chief demand is for ploughmen and farm labourers, general labourers, skilled miners, and female servants. There is a limited demand for mechanics such as carpenters, painters, etc.

New South Wales.—The coal trade is in an unsatisfactory condition owing to disputes; the men are trying to obtain an advance in the hewing rates. There has been some improvement in the building trade, but there is no general demand for more labour.

Victoria.—There is no demand for any kind of male labour at Castlemaine or Bendigo, but at Melbourne the demand has slightly improved.

South Australia.—There is a small demand for farm labourers, a fair demand for miners, and a good demand for female servants.

Queensland.—The demand for farm hands and female servants continues. There is also some demand for mechanics in the South.

Western Australia.—There is no demand for unskilled labour; the demand for mechanics is met by the local supply; there are openings for skilled miners in parts. There is an excellent demand for female servants.

Tasmania.—Mining on the West Coast continues to employ a large number of men, and skilled hands have little difficulty in finding work. In other parts of the colony the supply of all kinds of labour is sufficient.

New Zealand.—The last reports show that the clothing trade has been very busy at Auckland, Napier, Wellington, Blenheim, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin, Invercargill, and other places. The building and engineering trades have been very busy at Napier, Masterton, Greymouth, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin, and Invercargill. The boot trade also has been busy in several places. Unskilled labourers, if they are at all competent, have had no difficulty in procuring employment in most parts of the Colony.

South Africa.—Persons are warned against going to South Africa in search of work, so long as the war lasts.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Coal Mining in February.†—The average number of days per week worked by those employed underground in coal mines in February was 5·89 (compared with 5·86 in the previous month, and 5·88 in February, 1899). During the month, full time (six days and over per week) was worked by 65 per cent., and from five to six days by 33 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines; the percentages in the previous month being 80 and 13 respectively. The above particulars are supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the coal mines).

International Congress of Workmen's Co-operative Productive Societies.—Printed notices have been received at the Board of Trade from the Foreign Office with reference to an International Congress of Workmen's Co-operative Productive Societies, to take place in Paris from July 11th to 13th. Persons desirous of attending, and societies wishing to be represented at the Congress, should communicate with *M. le Secrétaire de la Chambre Consultative des Associations Ouvrières de Production* (27, boulevard Saint-Martin, Paris), before May 1st, and pay a subscription of 5fr. (about 4s.) towards the expenses of the Congress.

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

† Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, February and March, 1900, and March, 1899.

GERMANY.

Employment in March.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment was not so favourable as in March, 1899, the proportion, which the total number of applications for work bore to the total offers of situations offered at public employment registries throughout the Empire, being 94·8, as compared with 87·7 a year ago.

Labour Disputes in March.—The same journal reports 68 disputes as having begun in Germany in March, as compared with 36 in February. The group, in which the greatest number of disputes took place, was that of the building trades, which had 27 disputes; the clothing trades had 12 disputes; the woodworking trades, 10; the metal and engineering trades, 4; while the glass, pottery, &c., and the textile groups had each 2 disputes.

Industrial Employment of Women and Children in Baden.—The Report on Factory Inspection in Baden for the year 1899* shows that, while the total number of women and girls employed in industrial establishments subject to factory inspection in Baden has increased each year since 1895, there has been a steady decrease in their proportion to the total number of workpeople employed in such establishments.

This will be seen from the following Table:—

Year.	Women and Girls employed in Industrial Establishments subject to Factory Inspection in Baden.	
	Number.	Proportion per cent. of all Workpeople employed.
1895	48,300	30·10
1896	49,122	30·14
1897	51,579	29·69
1898	54,039	29·06
1899	55,075	28·42

The proportion of married women to the total number of adult women over 16 years of age employed has increased during the same period from 27·85 to 31·27 per cent., the figures on which these percentages are based being as follows:—

Year.	Adult Women (over 16 years of age) employed in Industrial Establishments subject to Factory Inspection in Baden.	
	Total Number.	Married.
1895	42,392	11,782
1896	42,913	12,345
1897	44,414	13,359
1898	46,913	14,108
1899	48,127	15,046

During the same period the number of girls of 16 years of age and under employed in establishments subject to inspection has increased from 5,908 to 7,559, while their proportion to the total number of workpeople employed in such establishments has fallen from 3·93 to 3·87 per cent. (In 1897 the proportion rose to 4·13 per cent.)

The proportion of boys of 16 years and under has, between 1895 and 1899, increased from 3·94 per cent. of all workpeople employed to 4·59 per cent.

SWITZERLAND.

Progress of Co-operation: Distributive (Store) Societies. Schweiz. Blätter für Wirtschafts und Sozialpolitik states that an inquiry undertaken by the Federation of Co-operative Distributive (Store) Societies of Switzerland has shown that there were on January 1st, 1900, 344 such societies in the country, as compared with 159 ten years ago, 82 in 1880, and 30 in 1870. The membership of the 344 societies existing at the beginning of 1900 was 117,493, as compared with 91,199 members in (approximately) 296 societies in 1898. Ninety-five of the 344 societies, besides being stores, exist for the common purchase of materials used in agriculture; and among the other societies are many which have baking departments. The aggregate sales of 300 of the Swiss store societies in the financial year 1898-99 amounted to £1,835.565.

HOLLAND.

The National Labour Secretariat.—According to *Sociaal Weekblad*, the membership of the federations and unions affiliated to this institution, after falling from 17,533 in 1896 to 12,950 in 1898, has risen slightly in 1899, when there were 13,050 members in the 45 affiliated organisations.

The sums paid in to the strike fund in 1899 amounted to £1,858, and the amount expended to £2,088, the excess of expenditure over income being defrayed out of the balance of £276, standing to the credit of this fund at the beginning of the year. (See *Gazette*, July, 1899, p. 201.)

The Diamond-workers' Federation.—*Sociaal Weekblad* of March 1899, published by Ferd. Thiergarten, Carlsruhe, 1900.

31st describes this Federation as the largest trade union organisation in Holland, its membership, as reported at its recent annual meeting, being 7,000. The members' contributions for the last year amounted to £15,502, and the total expenditure for the year to £12,260. Of the latter sum, £6,581 is accounted for as consisting of sick benefit (£2,400), funeral benefit (£221), dispute pay (£1,874), invalidity benefit (£354), and salaries (£1,732). The Federation has a reserve fund amounting to a little over £12,900.

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes, February 10th to March 10th.—With regard to the great coal miners' dispute *see ante*, pp. 100-101, notices of 19 disputes, which began in Austria between February 10th and March 10th, are contained in *Die Gewerkschaft* (the organ of the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee). Five of these disputes were in the clothing, 4 in the metal and engineering, 4 in the woodworking and 3 in the textile trades, while the building, printing, and india-rubber trades had one dispute each. Four out of the 5 disputes in the clothing branch were strikes of boot and shoe makers.

Employment in the Printing and Typefoundry Trades, 1899.—According to the Report of the Brünn Chamber of Commerce for 1899, the membership of the Printers' and Typefounders' Union of the Province of Moravia in 1899 was 680 (compared with 636 in 1898). Of these, 158 were out of work during some part of the year, their aggregate lost time from this cause being 6,824 days (as compared with 5,623 days lost by 137 members in 1898).

Unemployed benefit was paid in 1899 to 117 members in respect of 3,844 days (the remaining 41 unemployed members not being entitled to benefit).

Uniform conditions of Work in the Book-printing and Typefoundry trades; Renewal of Agreement.—In connection with the impending expiration of the agreement in the book-printing and typefoundry trades in Austria, negotiations took place last December, resulting in the signing of a revised agreement, the chief points of which, according to *Sociale Rundschau* (published by the Austrian Labour Department), are as follows:—The working hours are to be 9 per day, and must fall between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The minimum time-wage for compositors, pressmen, machine minders minding single machines, type-founders and stereotypers is fixed at 16s. 8d., 18s. 4d., 20s., 20s. rod., 21s. 8d., or 23s. 4d., per week according to locality, the highest of these rates being applied to Vienna. From January 1st, 1901, the three highest of these rates will be increased by 10d. per week. The new agreement has been in force since January 1st, and is binding on both sides until June 30th, 1905, except as regards the clauses having reference to the rates for machine composing, which are binding only until the end of 1901. The agreement provides for a Board

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of 20 cents (10d.) per hour. Men ordered to report for duty at a specified hour are to be paid from that hour until relieved. If not put on duty, they are to receive half-pay until relieved. Certain specified classes are to be paid for overtime, and any man, who has been discharged solely on the ground that he belonged to the Union, is to be re-instated.

Eight Hours' Law in Mines, Blast-furnaces and Smelting Works in Colorado.—The State of Colorado has passed a law (dated March 16th, 1899) which enacts that, except in cases of emergency where life or property is in danger, the period of employment of workmen shall be eight hours per day in underground mines or workings, and in smelters or other institutions for the reduction or refining of ores or metals. Infractions of this law are punishable by fine (50 dollars, say £20 8s. 4d., to 500 dollars, say £204 3s. 4d.) or imprisonment (up to six months), or both.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in March showed on the whole but little change, the average number of days worked by the collieries included in the returns being slightly less than in February, but greater than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,256 pits, at which 452,368 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5·67 days per week was worked by these pits in the four weeks ended March 24th, as compared with 5·69 days per week in February and 5·62 days in March, 1899.

The following Table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified. The falling off in Ireland is chiefly to be attributed to a dispute:

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1900, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		24th Mar., 1900.	25th Mar., 1899.	24th Feb., 1900.
England and Wales	414,557	5·68	5·64	5·70
Scotland	37,210	5·53	5·46	5·58
Ireland	601	4·89	5·08	5·33
United Kingdom	452,368	5·67	5·62	5·69

The number employed at the pits, from which returns have been received for both periods, was about 3·4 per cent. higher than in March, 1899.

In the following 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 93·9 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in March, compared with 93·6 per cent. a year ago and 95·6 per cent. in February.

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, 1900.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1899.	February, 1900.
24 days (full time)	189,465	41·9	37·2	36·8
20 and under 24 days	235,058	52·0	56·4	59·8
16 " " 20 "	21,774	4·8	5·4	4·3
12 " " 16 "	6,043	1·3	0·7	0·1
8 " " 12 "	...	0·0	0·2	0·0
Under 8 days	28	0·0	0·1	0·0
Total	452,368	100·0	100·0	100·0

From the Table below, which gives detailed particulars for the different mining districts, it will be seen that there was a falling off in Gloucester and Somerset of over $\frac{1}{4}$ day, as compared with both last month and a year ago, and a falling off of nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ day, as compared with last month in the Nottingham and Leicester district. The low average in the Irish district is, as stated above, chiefly attributable to a dispute. The changes in other districts were of minor importance.

The highest averages during the month were worked in South Wales and Monmouth and in Cumberland (5·89 days per week in each case), followed by Yorkshire with an average of 5·83 days per week. Except in Ireland, the average was over 5 days a week in all districts, and over 5½ days in most, the lowest average being that of 5·04 days in Nottingham and Leicester.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MARCH, 1900 AND 1899, AND IN FEBRUARY, 1900.

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1900, 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., 1900 as compared with year ago.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in month ago.
		24th Mar., 1900.	25th Mar., 1899.	24th Feb., 1900.		
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	35,669	5·51	5·37	5·49	+ 1·4	- 0·2
Durham	90,189	5·64	5·58	5·63	+ 0·6	+ 0·1
Cumberland	6,142	5·89	5·92	5·73	- 0·3	+ 1·6
Yorkshire	65,781	5·83	5·78	5·86	+ 0·5	- 0·3
Lancashire and Cheshire	47,426	5·75	5·61	5·71	+ 1·4	- 0·4
Derbyshire	33,511	5·66	5·76	5·77	- 1·0	- 1·1
Nottingham and Leicester	26,558	5·04	4·93	5·34	+ 1·1	- 3·0
Staffordshire	24,490	5·78	5·72	5·65	+ 0·6	+ 1·3
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	7,763	5·70	5·67	5·81	+ 0·2	- 1·1
Gloucester and Somerset	8,055	5·56	5·82	5·84	- 2·6	- 2·8
North Wales	11,150	5·64	5·79	5·77	- 1·5	- 1·3
South Wales & Mon.	58,420	5·89	5·87	5·83	+ 0·2	+ 0·6
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland	20,283	5·49	5·40	5·44	+ 0·9	+ 0·5
The Lothians	3,590	5·60	5·70	5·77	- 10	- 17
Fife	13,337	5·58	5·50	5·76	+ 0·8	- 1·8
IRELAND.	601	4·89	5·08	5·33	- 19	- 44
Grand Total & Averages	452,368	5·67	5·62	5·69	+ 0·3	- 0·2

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during March amounted to 3,853,549 tons, as compared with 3,333,664 tons in February, and 3,462,405 tons in March, 1899.

(b) IRON MINING IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in March showed an improvement in the number of days worked as compared with February, but a decline as compared with March, 1899. The number employed in March, 1899, was 465 more than in March, 1900.

Returns relating to 128 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 24th was 5·71 per week, as compared with 5·55 in February and 5·89 in March, 1900. The number of workpeople employed in March at these mines was 16,744, of whom 78·5 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 69·9 per cent. in February and 96·6 per cent. in March, 1899.

The following table summarises the returns received

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1900, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1900, as compared with	A year ago. A month ago.
		24th Mar., 1900.	25th Mar., 1899.	24th Feb., 1900.		
England and Wales	414,557	5·68	5·64	5·70		
Scotland	37,210	5·53	5·46	5·58		
Ireland	601	4·89	5·08	5·33		
Total	452,368	5·67	5·62	5·69		

The number employed at the pits, from which returns have been received for both periods, was about 3·4 per cent. higher than in March, 1899.

In the following 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 93·9 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in March, compared with 93·6 per cent. a year ago and 95·6 per cent. in February.

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.

No. of Workpeople employed.

Percentage proportion to total.

March, 1899.

February, 1900.

March, 1900.

April, 1900.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—PIG IRON, IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES; SEAMEN.

month. As compared with a year ago three furnaces fewer were in blast, but 841 more workpeople were employed.

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

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.		Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1899.	Mar., 1900.	Feb., 1900.	
ENGLAND & WALES					
Cleveland	94	98	- 4	94	95
Cumberland & Lancs.	51	52	- 1	51	55
S. and S.W. Yorks.	19	19	...	19	19
Lincolnshire	16	16	...	16	15
Midlands	103	99	+ 4	103	102
Glamorgan and Mon.	22	21	+ 1	22	21
Other districts	9	9	...	9	9
Total England and Wales ...	314	314	...	314	316
SCOTLAND	63	66	- 3</		

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SEAMEN; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

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, 1900 and 1899 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, 1900.*			Total number shipped in 3 months ended March*		
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Mar., 1900.	Total in Mar., 1899.*	1900.	1899.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	182	2,467	2,649	2,541	7,441	7,750
Sunderland	—	215	215	450	984	1,378
Middlesbrough	25	141	166	274	764	785
Hull	—	978	978	1,012	3,217	3,265
Grimsby	—	64	64	86	186	224
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	—	285	285	366	1,004	1,188
Newport, Mon.	26	674	700	1,037	2,428	3,457
Cardiff	303	4,182	4,485	5,220	13,946	16,731
Swansea	26	429	455	509	1,890	1,716
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	285	7,970	8,255	9,253	25,257	29,163
London	270	5,721	5,991	5,600	18,400	16,378
Southampton	—	3,069	3,069	1,296	7,874	4,209
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy,	—	437	437	378	1,745	1,756
Methil and Grangemouth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	60	2,161	2,221	2,269	6,244	5,887
IRELAND.						
Dublin	—	104	104	101	317	322
Belfast	5	438	443	315	1,017	880
Total, Mar., 1900	1,182	29,335	30,517	—	92,582	—
Ditto, Mar., 1899	841	29,886	—	30,727	—	95,082

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MARCH.

The Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 216 returns from various parts of England, reports as follows:—Agricultural labourers in March were, with few exceptions, generally regularly employed. The very wet weather in January and February had made farmwork backward, and during the first part of March the land was too wet for spring sowing, but in the latter part a fair amount was done, though it is stated to have been generally in arrears at the end of the month. On the whole March was fairly favourable for outdoor work, though there was some rain and snow, and a good deal of frost and cold, windy weather. Besides spring sowing, labourers were also engaged at ploughing, hedging, ditching, threshing, and potato planting. Many reports from all parts of the country state that agricultural labourers are scarce. A number of correspondents state that this is partly due to the calling out of the Reserves and the Militia.

Changes in the wages of ordinary agricultural labourers took place in March, in certain districts, amounting to a rise of 1s. a week, in the following counties. In each case the wages are now 1s. a week higher than they were at the corresponding period last year:—Berks, Cornwall, Cumberland, Derby, Essex, Herts, Leicester, Lincoln, Kent, Norfolk, Somerset, and Wilts. The rise which took place in Norfolk was general over a large portion of the county. A rise of 1s. 6d. a week took place in certain districts in Derbyshire and Kent.

Northern Counties.—Agricultural employment is said to have been regular in March in Northumberland, and also in Cumbria in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Penrith, and Whitehaven. A report from the Cockermouth Union states that, "March has been a dry, cold, backward month, and vegetation is very backward. Ploughing for spring corn has advanced rapidly, but very little grain is yet sown. All labourers have been fully employed at slightly increased wages." A large employer of labour in the Carlisle Union writes as follows:—"The weather has been most favourable for spring work; the arrears in ploughing well disposed of, all hands regularly employed." Reports from Westmorland state that agricultural labourers are fully employed, and in Lancashire in the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, Luneside,

* 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.

and Ulverston. A correspondent referring to North Lancashire reports as follows:—"Good weather and a fine dry seed bed, frosts at night, but not sufficient to stop sowing. Everyone capable of being employed has had full work. In Durham in the Unions of Chester-le-Street and Darlington (Durham and Yorks, N.R.), employment is said to be regular. A report from the Darlington Union states that on March 28th there were two or three inches of snow on the ground, and that "there are numbers of acres to plough, and I have never seen a drill at work yet."

Most reports from Yorkshire state that the weather during the greater part of the month, though cold, was fairly favourable for outdoor employment. Arable land is said to have been in good condition for spring seeding. In certain districts falls of snow interfered to some extent with outdoor work. Sowing is said to be backward, and labourers well employed and scarce. Reports have been received from the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Guisborough, Howden, Malton, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. In the Howden Union it is stated that in the earlier part of the month work was much delayed by floods. An employer in the Beverley Union writes that "weather during the last month has been bad and work very backward, nothing sown, and there is more work to be done this month than we have men for. Our only relief will be in the Irishmen if they come over." A report from the Ripon Union says that frequent snowstorms interrupted outdoor work a good deal.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire reports state that agricultural labourers were generally well employed in the Unions of Nantwich, Tarvin, and Macclesfield. Reports from the Nantwich, and Tarvin Unions state that outdoor work was interfered with to some extent by snow storms and frost, that seed sowing was delayed, work is in arrear, and vegetation backward. About the middle of March some men lost a little time owing to bad weather. In the Tarvin Union a report states that labourers are scarce and wages are rising. It is said that women dairy helpers are so scarce that in some cases dairying is being given up. Agricultural labourers in Derbyshire are said to be regularly employed in the Unions of Chesterfield, and Hayfield, and in the Derbyshire portions of the Worksop Union (Notts, Derby, and Yorks W.R.), of the Burton-on-Trent Union (Staffs and Derby) and the Mansfield Union (Notts and Derby). Reports from this county state that men are scarce. In Shropshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (Salop and Staffs), Oswestry, Wellington, and Wem, and in Staffordshire in the Leek and Tamworth Unions. Several reports state that men are scarce. A correspondent in the Wellington Union says that the bad weather has made the sowing of barley and oats backward.

Reports from Warwickshire state that employment is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and in the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants and Warwick). Most reports state that agricultural labourers are difficult to get. A report from an employer near to the town of Stratford-on-Avon says that a few men were in irregular work, as the month of March is the slackest time of year for farm work; another report from the same county in a different district states that all the men were fully employed. Agricultural employment is said to be generally regular in Leicestershire, in the Unions of Blaby, Loughborough, Lutterworth (Leicester and Warwick), Market Bosworth, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, and in Nottinghamshire in the Retford Union. Several reports state that the wet weather threw spring sowing back, and that on April 3rd the greater proportion had still to be done. All reports from this county refer to a scarcity of labour.

In Worcestershire employment is said to be regular, and labourers generally scarce in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Tenbury, and Upton-on-Severn. A correspondent in the Evesham Union writes as follows:—"Labourers scarce and all fully employed. Corn crops late and progressing very slowly, roots nearly all gone, and market gardeners busy." Reports from Oxfordshire state that agricultural labourers have generally been in regular work in the Unions of Thame, Witney, and Woodstock, and in the Oxfordshire portion of the Wallingford Union (Oxon and Berks). A correspondent in the Thame Union writes as follows:—"Till the last weeks of March the weather was hindering for working and sowing land. There were many changes of milkers at Lady Day, but no actual dearth of labour." Regularity of employment is reported in Northamptonshire in the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, and in the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick), spring sowing is said to be rather backward.

* 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 MARCH—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

A report from the Hardingshore Union states that "The dry weather of the last fortnight in March has made farmers very busy ploughing and drilling spring corn." Employment is said to be regular and labourers scarce in Huntingdonshire in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neots (Hunts and Beds.). A correspondent in the St. Neots Union writes as follows:—"All hands employed and more would be if obtainable. February had left a lot of arrears of work but on the whole March has helped to put things right and work generally is more forward than could have been expected." In Bedfordshire labourers are said to be generally well employed and scarce in the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton. Correspondents in the Bedford and Luton Unions state that there was a difficulty in obtaining sufficient men for threshing.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Sussex agricultural labourers are said to be generally in regular work in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. A correspondent in the Horsham Union writes as follows: "Throughout the Union labour is scarce. At the same time work is fairly forward. Sowing on the stiff soil is somewhat backward, owing to the wet, but with a few dry days and frosty nights matters will soon be righted." Favourable reports as to employment come from Hampshire from the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Havant, Kingsclere, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and from the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). The following report from the Havant Union, of April 3rd, fairly represents most of the others from this county: "Farm work is in arrears. Land was not dry enough to get on during the first fortnight. Some sowing has been done during the last 10 days." Several reports state that labourers are scarce. In Dorsetshire reports state that agricultural labourers generally had continuous employment in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne, and in Wiltshire in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, and Westbury and Whorwelldown. Reports from Dorsetshire and Wiltshire generally state that owing to the wet state of the ground from the heavy rain in January and February and also to the unsettled state of the weather in some portion of March, when there was snow and rain, spring sowing, ploughing and other farming operations were backward at the end of the month. Nevertheless a good deal of work was got through, and labourers were busy, several employers complaining that there was a scarcity. A farmer in the Chippenham Union writes that labourers are very scarce, a new railway line taking many of the farm hands away, paying them 5d. and 5½d. an hour. He adds that it is now so difficult to get men to attend to stock that some farmers in the district are reducing the number of their cows owing to the difficulty of getting milkers.

In Norfolk the greater part of the month was cold and dry, but snow and frost hindered work to some extent. Agricultural labourers are said to have been generally well employed, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Loddon and Claverling, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. Reports generally state that vegetation is very backward, and that spring sowing is late. Though sowing was delayed in the earlier part of the month, labourers were employed ploughing, threshing, and hedging, and at the latter part of the month they were busy sowing.

Agricultural labourers in Gloucestershire are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Barton Regis, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Thornbury, and Wheatenhurst. A few men in the Dursley Union are said to have been irregularly employed owing to wet weather. Several reports state that men are scarce, and that the war in South Africa is partly responsible for this. A correspondent in the Wheatenhurst Union writes as follows: "Not sufficient labour to meet the demand. In consequence of the continuous rain during the month of February, all spring planting was very much delayed, and the present month has been a busy one both for wheat and bean planting." Reports from Herefordshire state that men are generally well employed and difficult to obtain in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (Hereford and Monmouth) and Ross. Spring sowing and other farm work is said to be generally backward. Favourable reports as regards employment come from Somersettshire from the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells and Yeovil. Most reports state that labourers are scarce, which is partly attributed to the calling out of the Reserves and Militia, and that farm work is behindhand. A correspondent from the Yeovil Union writes as follows: "Corn sowing is very backward, warm weather is badly wanted. Men very busy cabbage planting and preparing the land for spring corn and mangolds." In Devonshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, and Torrington. All reports state that labourers are scarce, and farm work, especially spring sowing is backward. In Cornwall employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bodmin and Camelford. A report from the Bodmin Union states that "there is a general scarcity of labour. The cold and wet weather of the month has delayed spring tillage, but labourers are well employed."

Home Counties.—In Buckinghamshire reports state that there was generally continuous employment for agricultural labourers in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, and the Buckinghamshire portion of the Henley Union (Oxon. and Bucks.). A report from the Aylesbury Union states that it is difficult to get milkers and stockmen. Reports from Berkshire state that agricultural labourers are generally well employed in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage, and in Surrey, in the Hambledon Union. There is said to be regularity of work in Kent in the Unions of Bleas, Bridge, Cranbrook, Elham, Dartford, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. Several reports refer to a

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—TEXTILE TRADES; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN MARCH.
ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women has continued good in all branches of the textile trades, and shows a further improvement in the weaving branch of the cotton trade. Information has been received with regard to 605 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 105,100 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which 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.	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.
Cotton Trade—Spinning—			
March, 1900	100	—	—
February, 1900	99	—	—
March, 1899	96	2	1
Cotton Trade—Weaving—			
March, 1900	95	3	—
February, 1900	93	6	—
March, 1899	87	11	1
Woollen and Worsted Trades—			
March, 1900	97	2	—
February, 1900	98	1	1
March, 1899	75	16	7
Total of above Trades—			
March, 1900	97	2	—
February, 1900	96	3	—
March, 1899	87	10	2

Cotton Trade—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 27,130; of these 100 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 99 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in February, and with 96 per cent. in March, 1899.

Cotton Trade—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 56,390; of these, 95 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 93 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in February, and with 87 per cent. in March, 1899.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 21,580; of these 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 98 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in February, and with 75 per cent. in March, 1899.

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves showed an improvement as compared with February and with a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended March 31st was 14,937, as compared with averages of 14,207 in the preceding four weeks, and 13,618 in the corresponding period of 1899.

(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.		Total Dock Labourers employed at all the docks and principal wharves making Returns.	Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies	By Ship-owners, &c.		
Week ending Mar. 3	6,368	440	8,808	6,234
" " 10	7,213	2,530	9,743	6,503
" " 17	6,591	2,688	9,279	6,155
" " 24	6,212	2,145	8,357	5,963
" " 31	5,612	2,184	7,796	6,049
Average for 4 weeks ending Mar. 31st, 1900	6,390	2,397	8,796	6,141
Average for Mar., 1899*	6,535	2,890	7,826	5,793
Average for Feb., 1900	6,630	2,875	7,905	6,302

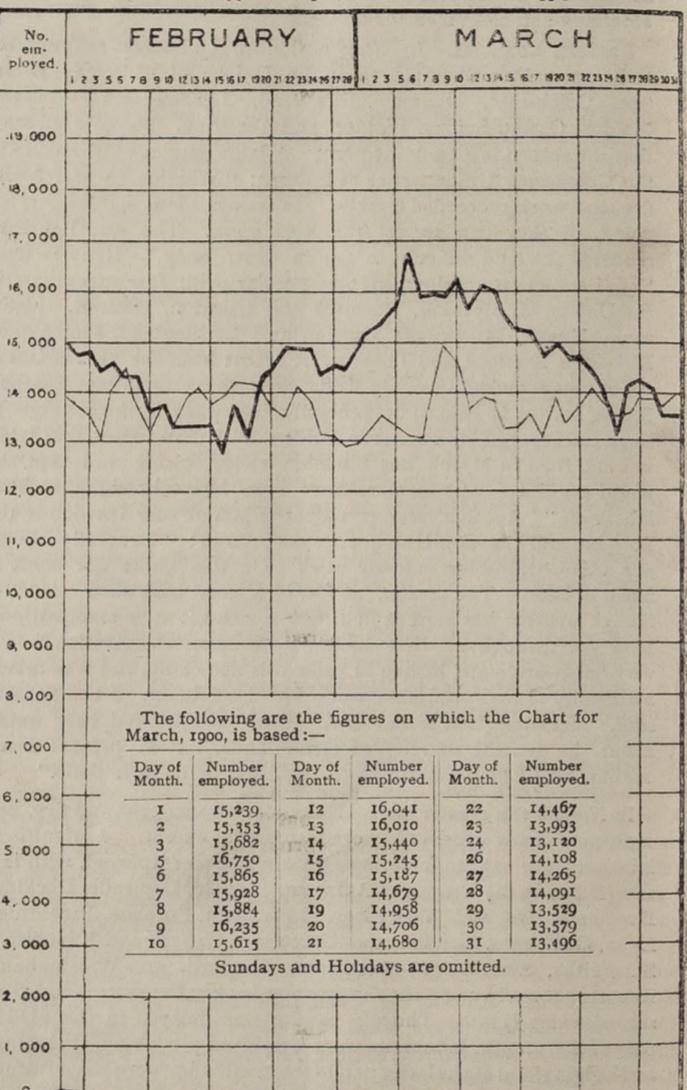
* Revised figures.

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves during February and March is shown on the chart below. The numbers in March ranged from 16,750 on the 5th to 13,120 on the 24th.

During March, 1899, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 12,953 on the 1st to 14,938 on the 9th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and Wharves for each day during the months of February and March, 1900. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1899, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1900, and the thin curve to 1899.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for March, 1900, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	15,239	12	16,041	22	14,667
2	15,353	13	16,010	23	13,993
3	15,682	14	15,440	24	13,120
5	16,750	15	15,745	26	14,108
6	15,865	16	15,187	27	14,265
7	15,928	17	14,679	28	14,091
8	15,884	19	14,058	29	13,529
9	16,235	20	14,706	30	13,570
10	15,615	21	14,680	31	13,496

Sundays and Holidays are omitted.

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

employment as fair; the bricklayers, stonemasons, plumbers, and painters and decorators as moderate, the latter as improving.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has improved, and is now fair. Reports from 45 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,428, show that 136 (or 2·1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 8·8 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1899, was 1·2.

The *Woodworking* trades continue well employed. Reports from 3 unions, with a membership of 717, show that 16 (or 2·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·8 per cent. in February.

Coopers still remain busy. Reports from 2 societies, with a membership of 1,054, show that in March, as in January and February, practically all the members were employed. In March, 1899, the percentage of unemployed was 1·3.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights are better employed and are now busy. Reports from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,456, show that 24 (or 1·6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·4 in February and 3·9 per cent. in March of last year.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades have somewhat improved, though the latter are still quiet. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,386, show that 827 (or 3·4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·2 in February and 3·9 per cent. in March of last year.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades has been fair on the whole. The West-end bespoke tailors describe employment as dull, but improving; the East-end bespoke, stock, and contract trades have been good; the East-end military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been better employed; with ladies' tailors and mantle makers employment has been good. Employment with hatters has remained quiet; with capmakers it has also been quiet; fur skin dressers have continued busy.

Boat and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West-end hand-sewn boot and shoe-makers has been fair, and was good at the end of the month; with the East-end sew-round trade it has been quiet; with boot and shoe operatives it has continued fair.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has continued to improve. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,542, show that 18 (or 1·2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·4 in February and 2·9 per cent. in March, 1899.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,530, show that 78 (or 5·1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5·0 per cent. in February and 7·0 per cent. in March of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Cane-workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 922, show that 9 (or 1·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·2 in February and 1·1 per cent. in March, 1899.

Gold and Silver Workers are only partially employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,115, show that 23 (or 2·1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·2 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1899, was 3·1.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades is still quiet. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,308, show that 161 (or 6·7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7·0 per cent. in February. The percentage for March of last year was 5·7.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 14,937 in the 5 weeks ended March 31st, as compared with averages of 14,207 in February, and 13,618 in March, 1899. Employment in mid-stream has been fair and steady during the month. With lightermen, stevedores and lumpers it has been fairly good; with coal porters and winchmen moderate; with corn porters fair. The fruit porters in Thames-street have been fairly well employed, the average daily number engaged being 324, compared with 352 in February.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland.*—The pits continue steadily employed, house and steam coal collieries averaging 5·5 and 5·43 days per week respectively for the four weeks ending March 24th, as against 5·43 and 5·42 days respectively in February. The 22,668 union miners have 13 unemployed. Colliery deputies, mechanics, engine and firemen, are all employed. *Durham.*—Manufacturing, house, gas and coking coal pits have averaged 5·73, 5·61, 5·48 and 5·85 days per week respectively, as against 5·68, 5·49, 5·33 and 5·85 days in February. At 135 pits, employing 64,682 men and boys, an average of 5·65 days per week, has been worked, as compared with 5·57 in February and 5·51 days a year ago. There are 84 (or 0·13 per cent.) of union miners idle through bad trade, as against 74 (or 0·11 per cent.) in February. The 4,293 union

miners report employment as still having sufficient work in hand, but owing to the weather employment has been somewhat interfered with. Shipwrights report employment as fair, joiners as moderate, smiths and strikers as fairly good.

Shipbuilding.—The yards are reported as still having sufficient work in hand, but owing to the weather employment has been somewhat interfered with. Shipwrights report employment as fair, joiners as moderate, smiths and strikers as fairly good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool;

colliery mechanics and enginemen have 5 unemployed. Coke-yard workers are exceptionally busy.

Metal Mining.—Both lead and iron ore miners continue fairly well employed.

Quarrying.—The quarries in Gateshead and district have worked irregularly owing to bad weather. In Weardale and Stanhope the limestone workers are busy, although the stormy weather has generally prevented full employment.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Platers, rivetters, frame benders, and men employed at engine shops are busier. At boiler shops and ordnance works employment continues good. Branches of these trades with 12,628 members have 214 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 403 (or 3·2 per cent.) in February.

Coopers still remain busy. Reports from 2 societies, with a membership of 1,054, show that in March, as in January and February, practically all the members were employed. In March, 1899, the percentage of unemployed was 1·3.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights are better employed and are now busy. Reports from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,456, show that 24 (or 1·6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·4 in February and 3·9 per cent. in March, 1899.

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Shipbuilding.—On the Wear.—One or two engine builders have suspended a few men. In all branches of iron shipbuilding employment has much improved. Shipsmiths on old work have been fairly busy. Branches of these trades with 5,226 members have 80 (or 1·5 per cent.) off work, as against 216 (or 4·1 per cent.) in February. Ship joiners on the Wear are rather dull; on the Tyne employment is less slack. On both rivers iron and steel moulderers, brass finishers, and pattern-makers report employment as good, shipwrights as fair. Of the 1,101 drillers and hole cutters 126 (or 11·4 per cent.) are idle. Sailmakers on the Wear are brisk. Chain and anchor smiths are steadily employed. Steel smelting shops, plate and angle mills at Consett, Newburn, and Jarrow have worked full time.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Shippers and coal porters have worked full time. Trimmers and teamers report employment as good on the Tyne, and on the Wear as above the average. Tug-boat men have not been quite so busy. The demand for seamen and firemen has been somewhat below the supply, although for sailing vessels seamen are reported as having been scarce. Quay-side labourers have had fairly regular employment.

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

dock labourers as slack at Hartlepool, fair at Middlesbrough. Riverside labour is fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as good at Darlington and Stockton, and fair at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough; cement, pulp and concrete workers as brisk; woodcutting machinists as fair; salt workers as steady.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining Industry.—Employment at the Cumberland coal mines is good, showing little change as compared with a year ago.

The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 24th at the 20 pits from which returns have been received was 5·89 per week, as compared with 5·92 in the corresponding period of last year, and 5·73 in February, 1900.

The number of workpeople employed in March was 6,142, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,166.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 24th at the 44 mines from which returns have been received was 5·93 per week, as compared with 5·90 days a year ago, and 5·82 days in February, 1900. The number of workpeople employed at these mines was 5,736, as against 5,979 a year ago.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces continues good. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of March was 51, being 4 less than in February and 1 less than a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 4,200, being 171 less than at the end of February, and 198 more than a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.**Oldham and District.**

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—At Oldham cotton operatives employed in the spinning and carding departments continue fully employed; employment in twining has improved. In Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Droylsden, Stockport, and Heywood employment is reported as good; ring and thrrostole frame workers report employment as good; winders as moderate. *Weaving.*—Employment is again reported as good in calicoes, as moderate in velvets, and as bad in fustians. Employment is reported as moderate with reelers and ball-warpers, and as good with twisters, drawers, and beam and sectional warpers.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—In Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport employment in the woollen industry is reported as good. Employment in the silk dressing trade of Rochdale shows a slight improvement, and is reported as moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as good at engineering firms, and as slack at machine-making shops. Boilermakers are busily employed. With ironfounders and brassfounders employment is reported as good, with toolmakers and tinplate workers as moderate, and with irongrinders, gas-meter makers, and plate and machine moulders as slack. Pattern-makers and spindle and flyer makers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Painters and decorators, bricklayers, plumbers, and carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate; plasterers as fair.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Weaving.*—Employment continues good at Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Darwen and Colne; at Nelson a few looms are stopped for want of warps. The hard waste weavers are less busy. Warp dressers are still slack; twisters and drawers, winders and warpers, tape sizers and overlookers are fully employed throughout the district. *Spinning.*—Employment is reported as good at Blackburn, Preston, Darwen and Accrington; as fair at Burnley. Ring spinners are fully employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warp dressers, with 3,099 members, have 107 (or 2·9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 94 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Painters and masons report employment as fair; bricklayers as moderate; plumbers as fairly good.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment is falling off, some short time being worked.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report employment as good. Stone quarrymen report an improvement.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors report employment as fair; boot, shoe and slipper makers as moderate; cabinetmakers as good; letterpress printers as good; calico printers and bleachers as fair; woollen block printers as moderate.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,443 members have 404 (or 1·8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 639 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—At Manchester engineers, boilermakers and sheet metal workers report employment as moderate; ironfounders, machine-workers and brassfounders as good. All branches at Northwich are busy. At Warrington engineers, sheet metal workers, boiler makers, blacksmiths and wire-weavers are fully employed; wire drawers moderately so. At Stockport and Macclesfield employment is fair.

Textile Trades.—Cotton operatives in general report employment as moderate. In Macclesfield silk workers are fully employed; dressers, finishers, bleachers and dyers describe employment as moderate. Fustian cutters are fairly busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke and wholesale tailoring departments is fair; ready-made mantle-makers and cap-makers are busy; shirt-makers and waterproof garment makers are rather slack. Boot and shoe makers and felt hat makers are moderately well employed.

Building Trades.—The decorative glassworkers are busy; the stone-masons are slack. Other branches throughout the district report employment as moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers in Manchester, Stockport, and Warrington are busy both in the railway and private shops. Cabinet makers on the better class of goods are fully employed; those on the common class report employment as improving. With upholsterers and French polishers employment is fair; wheelwrights and coopers are fully employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as better; lithographic artists and lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders and electrotypers as good; pattern card-makers as bad.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders, brassfounders, drillers and hole-cutters, shipwrights and ship joiners report employment as moderate; ironfounders, whitesmiths and hammermen as good; pattern-makers, turners and fitters as quiet; ship painters and ship scrapers as dull.

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

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners and plumbers report employment as moderate; painters as dull; other branches as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as improving; in the ready-made branch it is reported as moderate; with boot and shoe-makers as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers and French polishers report employment as good; upholsterers as improving; millsawyers and wood cutting machinists and coopers as fair; coachbuilders and painters as moderate.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen are fairly well employed. Dock labourers report employment as dull; quay and railway carters as quiet; flatmen as moderate.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass workers report employment as fair; chemical workers as moderate.

April, 1900.

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

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal-miners report employment as good. Quarrymen are fully employed.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has been dull at Winsford, moderate at Middlewich on bulk salt, good on block salt. Employment in the chemical trade at Middlewich has been moderate. In the building trades it is reported as dull at Winsford, moderate at Middlewich. Moulders at Winsford report employment as moderate; shipwrights, boilermakers, and brassworkers as regular; riveters as scarce. Fustian cutters are well employed.

YORKSHIRE.**Hull and District.**

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is fair on the smaller class of vessels and slack on the larger class; good in the engineering works and boilermakers; and moderate on general repairs. The engineers, machine workers, ironfounders, and sailmakers report employment as good; the brassfounders and finishers, smiths and strikers, iron and steel dressers, drillers and hole cutters, braziers and sheet metal workers, and general labourers as moderate; the shipwrights as dull; the pattern-makers and boilermakers and iron shipbuilders as bad. At Goole and Selby employment is good; at Grimsby fair; at Beverley slack; at Doncaster moderate.

Building Trades.—The plumbers and lath renders report employment as moderate; the painters as bad; other branches as good. At Selby, Goole and Grimsby employment is reported as good; at Beverley, Doncaster and Driffield as moderate.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and firemen at Goole and Grimsby report employment as good; at Hull as moderate; the dock labourers at Hull and Goole as moderate; at Grimsby as bad; the railway workers as good.

Fishing Industry.—The steam fishing vessel engineers and fremen at Hull report employment as fair; at Grimsby as moderate; the trawl and line fishermen, curing-house workers and general labourers as fair.

Sea Crushing, Oil Cake and Paint Trades.—Employment continues good in all branches.

Printing and allied Trades.—The lithographic printers and bookbinders at Hull report employment as good; the letterpress printers as bad but improving.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The millsawyers report employment as fair, the cabinet makers, coopers and coachbuilders as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers report employment as good; the tanners, leather lace cutters and beltmakers as fair; the brushmakers as moderate; the Jewish tailors, machinists, and pressers as bad.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,202 members have 195 (or 2·4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 187 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade in Leeds continues good. Ironmoulders, boilermakers, steel workers, and blastfurnace workers continue well employed. Machine workers and stove grate workers report employment as fair; brassfounders and finishers as moderate; timplate-workers as quiet. At Wakefield employment in the iron and engineering trades is good, overtime being general.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Leeds ready-made tailoring factories, although fairly good, has declined; Jewish operatives report employment as fairly steady; bespoke tailors as moderate. In the Leeds boot factories employment has been steady; at Pudsey good; at Bramley improved. Jewish slipper makers continue slack.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Leeds mills generally continues good. At Wakefield worsted and cloth mills are fairly employed.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, masons and plasterers report employment as good; joiners as quiet; plumbers as moderate. At Harrogate employment is good; at Castleford moderate.

Mining.—At the coal pits throughout the district full time continues to be worked. Ironstone miners are well employed.

Leather Trades.—Tanners, lace cutters and belt makers report employment as moderate; curriers as quiet; saddlers and harness-makers as busy.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate; lithographers as fair; bookbinders and machine-rulers as good. Paper mill workers are busy.

Glass Trades.—Glass workers report employment as fair in all branches.

Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers report employment as moderate, but improving; coachmakers and brushmakers as good.

O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in Bradford continues fairly good. In the Worth Valley and at Halifax and Huddersfield it is a little quieter. Woollsorters in the Bradford district report employment as fairly good.

Woolen Trade.—Employment in the Huddersfield district seems to have received a check, and one or two firms in the Colne Valley have looms standing for warps. One or two firms in the district, however, are still working night and day. In the heavy woolen trade of Dewsbury and Batley employment is still fairly good on the whole.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade is rather better at Manningham. It continues fairly good at Halifax and Brighouse. Cotton operatives are fairly busy at Halifax, Brighouse and Huddersfield. Dyers report employment as good at Bradford, fair at Huddersfield.

Metal Trades.—Engineers and ironfounders report employment as good throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Employment has fallen off slightly in the Huddersfield district. In Bradford it continues good. In Dewsbury and Batley it is only fair.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors are better employed; printers and bookbinders are still fairly busy; glassworkers and miners are well employed.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 14,437 members have 62 (or 0·4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 121 (or 0·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Railway spring, axle, and tyre makers, and stove grate workers report employment as fair. Other branches of the steel making, engineering and heavy metal trades are busy. Branches with 6,448 members have 21 (or 0·3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 46 (or 0·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment is active in the pen and pocket knife, razor and file trades, and with manufacture of all classes of tools. Saw makers report employment as fair; handle makers as quiet.

Other Metal Trades.—Platers and gilders report employment as fair. Other branches of the silver, Britannia metal and brass trades are slack.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 62 collieries show an average of 5·91 days worked per week during March, as against 5·94 in February.

Building Trades.—All branches in Sheffield and Rotherham are fairly well employed. At Barnsley employment has improved and is now moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—All branches are well employed.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—All classes of cabinet makers and upholsterers are busy at Sheffield; at Barnsley moderately so. Railway wagon and carriage builders and box and bobbin makers are well employed; coachmakers fairly so.

Linen Trade.—Employment has improved, although short time is still being made.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as slack; workpeople in the ready-made branch as good; boot and shoe makers as moderate.

Glass Trade.—Bottle makers throughout the district are busy, and flint glass workers report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—Brickmakers, chemical workers, railwaymen, quarrymen and potters are busy; quiltmakers are better employed.—S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.**Derbyshire District.**

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,578 members have 25 (or 0·3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 43 (or 0·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 68 collieries employing upwards of 26,300 men show an average of 5·8 days per week worked, as in February.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen are fairly well employed; chert quarrymen are busy, overtime being worked.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The engineers at Derby, Chesterfield and Burton report employment as good, elsewhere as moderate; cycle workers as bad; all other branches as good.

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

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and painters report employment as good; carpenters and joiners, plumbers and stonemasons as moderate; plasterers as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield; as good with factory tailoring operatives, and improved with bespoke tailors; as good with dress and mantle makers.

Textile Trades.—Employment is good with cotton weavers, surgical bandage makers, hard silk winders, drawers and doublers; moderate with elastic web weavers; good with lace workers, hosiery workers, dyers and bleachers; fair with calico printers and engravers.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton; with coopers it is quiet. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

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

C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment again shows an improvement, and is good generally throughout the district.

Hosiery Trade.—Framework knitters report employment on hose as moderate, and on half-hose as slack; otherwise employment generally is good throughout the district.

Iron and Metal Trades.—Engineers, fitters and mechanics report employment as moderate; ironfounders as good; tool machinists as improved at Nottingham and Beeston, good at Grantham; cyclomakers as more regular; lace and hosiery machine builders as busy; electrical workers as moderate. Blastfurnacemen at Bulwell are busy; brassfounders report employment as fairly good; brassworkers as slack; carriage straighteners, bobbin and carriage makers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths as good; farriers as moderate. Branches with 3,301 members have 49 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 61 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners, plumbers and painters report employment as moderate; bricklayers, slaters, and builders' labourers as good; masons as slack.

Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers and upholsterers report employment as improving; packing-case makers as moderate; coachmakers at Newark and Nottingham as good; coopers and boxmakers as fair; millsawyers as improved.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair, but declining; lithographic printers and lithographic artists as moderate; bookbinders as good.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as fair. In the ready-made tailoring department full time is being worked. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as improved at Nottingham, fair at Hucknall and Mansfield.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 27 collieries employing 16,609 men show an average of 5½ days worked during the month. Employment continues good.

Miscellaneous.—Railway employees throughout the county, colliery engine men, stationary engine drivers, engine men and cranemen report employment as good; gas workers at Nottingham as fair; saddle and harness makers, silk dressers, and female cigar makers as good; cab and hackney carriage drivers as improving.

W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—At Leicester, Rushden and Wellingborough employment in all branches continues generally good. At Kettering there has been a slight improvement, and at Northampton Desborough and Rothwell work is regular. Workpeople on army contracts are still busy.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in the wholesale tailoring trade, overtime being worked at Leicester and Kettering; it has improved in the bespoke branch. Corset-makers, milliners, and dressmakers, felt hatters and capmakers are busy; silk hatters are quiet.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—Nearly all branches of the hosiery trade are fully employed. In most departments dyers and trimmers are exceptionally busy. Woolspinning operatives are also fully engaged.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment is fairly good in the narrow webbing department; slack with the weavers of shoe elastics.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engine and shoe machinery builders and farriers are fairly employed. Turners are slack. Ironfounders, moulders, toolmakers, boilermakers and electrical dynamo builders are busy. Pattern-makers and winders are working overtime. Employment in the cycle trade has improved.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment has been less regular with coal miners. It continues good with stone quarrymen and lime, cement, and ironstone workers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers are fully employed, and letterpress printers moderately so. Bookbinders are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—Employment is moderately good with bricklayers, plasterers, stonemasons, joiners and builders' labourers, but rather slack at Northampton, Rugby and Kettering. Plumbers are busy, and work is improving with painters and decorators.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Cabinet makers, road and tram car builders and coachmakers are fully employed. French polishers are busy.

Leather Trades.—Curriers and leather dressers continue well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is not quite so good in a few branches of the railway service. It is good with cigar makers, brick and tile makers, boxmakers, gas and electric light fitters.

T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment in all branches is unsettled owing to a dispute. (See Table of Disputes, p. 124.)

Iron and Steel Trades.—The improvement reported has been well maintained in all departments throughout the district.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boilermakers and moulders in North Staffordshire are well employed. Wire workers at Oakamoor and Froghall report a decline; copper and brass workers continue busy. Employment at Crewe, Rugeley and Uttoxeter continues good.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners continue well employed throughout the district. At Alton and Hollington the stone quarry workers, when not interfered with by the weather, have been fully employed.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade continues good. At Congleton fustian cutters are busy. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as improving. Boot and shoe operatives at Stafford are better employed; at Stone employment has been bad, but is improving. Corset makers at Ashbourne and Uttoxeter are fully employed on best goods.

Building Trades.—Outdoor operations have been interfered with by the weather, but latterly all branches have been fairly busy.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers in the potteries report a slight decline; at Stafford employment continues fair. Lithographic artists and printers are moderately busy. Bookbinders and machine-rulers are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers report employment as good. Bakers are fairly employed. Brushmakers, basketmakers and gas workers report a decline.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire and Shropshire, all branches continue fully employed, except where they cannot obtain sufficient coal.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment continues moderate with engineers, and is good with moulders, boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers. There is an improvement in the cycle trade, some firms working overtime. At Walsall and Madesley employment is good, and also at Coalbrook Dale except on foundry work, which is slack.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences and hurdles, electrical and gas fittings, horse shoes, spring traps, black castings, edge tools, plantation and brazil hoes, gunlocks, malleable nails and protectors, and with stampers and piercers, and galvanizers. It is moderate with makers of stamped and light hollow-ware, electro-plating, cycle-castings, locks, keys and latches, builders' ironmongery, tips and cut nails, and with brass and tin-plate workers and filesmiths. Makers of steel toys and spectacle-frames are quiet. Employment in the iron-plate trade is quiet at Wolverhampton; moderate at Bilston, and fair at the Lye. The chainmakers and strikers at Old Hill and Cradley Heath are fairly employed, but large cable makers are slack. The block chainmakers and anchor-smiths at Cradley, and wrought nailmakers at Halesowen report employment as good. The anvil and vicemakers at Dudley are slack. At Wednesbury all branches continue brisk.

Coal Mining.—The pits throughout the district are working full time.

Building Trades.—Plasterers and plumbers report employment as good; bricklayers as improving; carpenters as moderate; painters as slack.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND (contd.); E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers at Wordsley and Stourbridge continue quiet.

Leather Trades.—Employment is fair with gig saddlers; good with other branches.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth is good. The Tamworth tape mills continue on full time.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trade has improved; in the boot and shoe trade it is good.

C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,176 members have 445 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 429 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering.—Six branches of engineers report employment as moderate, three as good, and one as fair; pattern-makers, ironfounders, smiths and strikers as good; tool makers as moderate. At West Bromwich employment is returned as good; at Coventry as fairly good; at Redditch as moderate. In the cycle industry employment at Coventry is reported as rather brisk, and continues fair at Redditch. In the motor trade it is reported as busy.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment in the brass trade is again reported as fair; with solid drawn brass and copper tube makers as good; with brass and copper wire drawers as moderate; with fenders and fire brass makers as quiet.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electroplaters.—Jewellers return employment as quiet; plate-glass bevelers and silverers as fair; Britannia metal workers and electro-platers as slack.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment with heavy and light steel toymakers, edge tool makers, iron and tinplate workers, and cut nailmakers is reported as fairly good; with makers of weighing machines, steel yards, coffee mills and wire nails as moderate; with file cutters and bedstead makers as bad. Nail and oddside casters are still well employed. At West Bromwich and Redditch employment continues good. In the Lye district the ironplate workers report it as fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment on the whole has improved. **Glass Trades.**—The flint-glass makers return employment as bad; flint-glass cutters as quiet. At West Bromwich employment is returned as good.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The shipwrights report employment as bad; other branches as fair or good.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good, with full time at nearly all the collieries in the Forest of Dean, Radstock and Bristol coalfields.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues fairly good.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally is brisk throughout the district.

Furnishing and Woodworking.—The cabinet makers, carvers and French polishers report employment as fair; the turners as good; the coopers and millsawyers and machinists as moderate.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers describe employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe makers return employment as quiet; bespoke tailors and Jewish tailors as improving.

Woodworking Trades.—The woodworking machinists and mill-sawyers again return employment as good; carvers, coopers, and coachmakers as fair; cabinetmakers as quiet. In the railway and wagon shops, employment is about the same as last month.

Miscellaneous.—Gasworkers and gasfitters report employment as good; harness-makers as busy; saddlers as quieter; letterpress printers as moderate; brickmakers as bad; gun workers as busy in the military, slack in the sporting section. At Coventry watchmakers are fairly occupied; weavers continue quiet.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are fairly busy in all departments. Bespoke tailors are well employed. Ready-made tailoring operatives are working full time at Norwich factories; the out-workers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical engineers are fairly busy in Norwich. General engineers, boilermakers, moulders, and iron workers generally are well employed throughout the district. Shipwrights and boat builders at Yarmouth, Gorleston and Lowestoft are fully employed.

Fishing Industry.—Several hundred boats have left Yarmouth and Lowestoft for the westward mackerel fishing. A good many others have commenced the spring herring fishing. Trawl fishing at Yarmouth and Lowestoft is not good.

Textile Trades.—Crape, silk, mat and matting, and horse hair weavers are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good in the flour, oilcake and sawmills. Horticultural builders, coachbuilders, navvies, and general labourers, riverside labourers, tramway constructors, cocoa and chocolate makers and confectioners generally are fairly busy. Organ-builders and brushmakers are on full time.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade is reported as good; moulders and boilermakers are busy; shipwrights are slack.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is

moderate. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is busy at Ipswich, declining in the Colchester and Bury St. Edmunds districts; in the bespoke branch it is quiet. It is moderate with corset-makers.

Textile Trades.—In the mat and matting industry employment is reported as good; silk factory operatives are well employed; hand-loom weavers are slack.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is satisfactory.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Chelmsford, moderate at Ipswich and Colchester, dull at Beccles. Lithographers are well employed, bookbinders moderately so.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with brickmakers and horticultural builders. Shipping and dock labourers have been fairly busy at Harwich and Parkstone; slack at Ipswich.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of boot and shoe operatives and miners) with 9,869 members have 136 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 151 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Clothing Trades.—Employment continues quiet with boot and shoe operatives. In the tailoring trade there is a good demand for workers in nearly all branches. Silk hatters are fairly well employed; glove makers are better employed; corset-makers are busy.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The shipwrights report employment as bad; other branches as fair or good.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good, with full time at nearly all the collieries in the Forest of Dean, Radstock and Bristol coalfields.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues fairly good.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally is brisk throughout the district.

Furnishing and Woodworking.—The cabinet makers, carvers and French polishers report employment as fair; the turners as good; the coopers and millsawyers and machinists as moderate.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers describe employment as good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Seagoing men report employment as fair; dock labourers as slack at Bristol and Gloucester.

Miscellaneous.—The saddle and harness makers, brushmakers, and oil and colour men report employment as good; the tobacco workers as fair; the wholesale provision workers as slack; the cocoa and chocolate workers as busy.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Employment in the tin and copper mines continues good. In the granite quarries employment is good; in the limestone and slate quarries moderate. China clay workers continue well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as moderate at Plymouth and Devonport; good at Exeter and Newton; fair at Redruth and other Cornish towns; all other branches as good or fair. In Government establishments work is brisk. Branches with 2,803 members have 8 unemployed, as compared with 10 in February.

Building Trades.—In Plymouth and district stonemasons and carpenters report employment as fair; plumbers as moderate; plasterers and painters as quiet; bricklayers as dull, but improving. In Exeter employment is moderate; in Torquay quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—News compositors continue busy, but book and general work is quiet with letterpress printers, and bad with lithographers. At the paper mills employment continues steady. Bookbinders and paper-rulers are quiet.

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

Miscellaneous.—Employment with navvies, excavators, quarrymen and brickyard workers, artificial manure workers, and brushmakers is good. In market and fruit gardens the work is being delayed by the weather.—*W. Hedge.*

WALES.
North Wales District.

Mining.—Except for a dispute at one colliery and an influx of water at another, employment at coal and lead mines throughout the district continues good.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good at all classes of quarries.

Building Trades.—At Wrexham bricklayers and carpenters report employment as fair; plasterers as good; painters as quiet. At Llandudno carpenters and painters report employment as fair, plasterers as good.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues moderate with the engineers at Ruabon, Oswestry, and Sandycroft; good at Cefn. Steelworkers and coachmakers report employment as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment in the flannel and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire continues good. The bespoke tailors at Bangor and Carnarvon report employment as good; at Wrexham as improving; at Oswestry as fair.

Brick and Terra Cotta and Chemical Trades.—Employment is reported as good at the brickfields. Chemical workers continue fully employed.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—The collieries throughout this district have again worked regularly. Some districts report a scarcity of experienced coal-cutters. The sliding-scale audit gives an advance of 13½ per cent. from April 2nd.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is very brisk throughout the district.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Most branches in the ship-repairing centres report employment as bad; but at engineering works in the inland iron works and colliery districts employment is good. Branches of engineers and ironfounders with 2,964 members have 117 (or 3·9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 79 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Nearly all branches report employment as bad. Branches of the carpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,774 members have 94 (or 5·3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 143 (or 8·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with dock labourers has been slack. The shipment of crews has not been brisk.

Miscellaneous.—Fuel workers, except at Swansea, report employment as quiet, wagon builders and repairers as good; chemical and metallurgical workers as still dull; lithographic and letterpress printers as moderate.—*T. Davies.*

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—Employment shows little change. At the end of March 407 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), compared with 405 mills at the end of February and 333 at the end of March, 1899. The number employed at the end of March, 1900, is estimated to be about 20,300.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.—Branches of societies (excluding the building trades) with 11,003 members have 260 (or 2·4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 332 (or 3·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 28 mines employing 3,117 workpeople show that 3,034 were employed in mines working full time during the four weeks ended March 24th.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,217 members have 61 (or 2·8 per cent.) idle, as against 44 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Branches in Falkirk with 3,599 members have 55 (or 1·5 per cent.) idle, as against 63 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Dock Labour.—Employment has been fairly steady.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing operations have been interrupted again by bad weather. The haddock boats have met with fair success when able to proceed to the fishing ground. The salmon fishing on the Tay and Earn has been poor.

Miscellaneous.—The printing and allied trades continue well employed. Tailors report employment as good; boot and shoe makers as fair. The floorcloth and linoleum makers and the bleachfield workers continue well employed.—*P. Reid.*

plasterers, who are fully employed. The masons have a large percentage of unemployed.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,286 members have 76 (or 6·0 per cent.) idle, as against 126 (or 9·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Most of the upholsterers are working short time.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen, dock labourers and coal porters continue to be fairly well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,290 members have 57 (or 2·5 per cent.) idle, as against 70 (or 3·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Miscellaneous.—The setmakers, saddlers, and curriers report employment as good; the shoemakers as fair; the tailors and bakers as quiet; the glassmakers and glass-cutters as bad.

J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—The output has hardly been up to the average, but employment may be said to be fairly satisfactory. Branches with 14,584 members return 308 (or 2·1 per cent.) as idle, as against 346 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues fairly good. Branches with 30,907 members return 763 (or 2·5 per cent.) as idle, the same proportion of their membership as at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Employment is hardly so good for the month except with the painters whose position is improved.

Mining.—Employment in Stirlingshire, Dumfriesshire, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, and Renfrewshire continues good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has improved with bespoke tailors, and is good in the ready-made branch; fair on waterproofs. Boot and shoe operatives and slipper makers are slightly quieter; knee boot and shoe makers report employment as fairly good; curriers as still good.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally is good in Glasgow, Galston, New Milns, Darvel, Kilbirnie, Port Glasgow and Paisley; it is still dull in Greenock.

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

Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers and cutters are still quiet. Decorative workers are slightly better employed. Glass bottle makers remain busy.

Transport Trades.—Employment has been good with railway men, tramway men and dock labourers; fair with carters and hackney carriage drivers; it has improved with sailors and firemen.

Miscellaneous.—Tobacco pipe makers and finishers, brushmakers, spindle and flyer makers, paviors, sett makers, scale beam makers, saddlers, bakers, mattress makers, potters, and general labourers are busy. Gilders and calico engravers, cigarette makers and gas workers are quiet.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute and linen industries remains good.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues steady at the Fifeshire collieries. Reports from pits employing 12,358 workpeople show an average of 5·5 days per week worked during the four weeks ending March 24th, as against 5·6 days per week during February.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment remains moderate in all branches of the engineering trade; at the shipbuilding yards it continues fairly steady. Branches of societies with 2,246 members return 45 (or 2·0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 65 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—Employment in the building trades, except with the masons affected by the dispute, has improved. In the furnishing trades it is still quiet. Branches, excluding masons, with 1,172 members report 26 (or 2·2 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 57 (or 5·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Dock Labour.—Employment has been fairly steady.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing operations have been interrupted again by bad weather. The haddock boats have met with fair success when able to proceed to the fishing ground. The salmon fishing on the Tay and Earn has been poor.

Miscellaneous.—The printing and allied trades continue well employed. Tailors report employment as good; boot and shoe makers as fair. The floorcloth and linoleum makers and the bleachfield workers continue well employed.—*P. Reid.*

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

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 5,759 members have 449 (or 7·8 per cent.) idle, the same proportion of their membership as at the end of February.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen, masons, sett-makers and granite polishers report employment as fair.

Building Trades.—The masons report employment as bad; carpenters and joiners as quiet, with 500 out through a dispute; plasterers and slaters as fair; plumbers as moderate; painters as dull.

Transport Trades.—The railway workers report employment as good; carters as fair; dock labourers as moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,390 members have 43 (or 3·1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 28 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The boilermakers and iron and steel shipbuilders, engineers, tinplate workers, blacksmiths, brassfounders, horse-shoers, pattern-makers, drillers and hole-cutters report employment as good; shipwrights as fair; and ironmoulders as dull.

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

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

Fishing.—In March at the Port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 77,680 cwts., with a value of £54,702, an increase both in quantity and value as compared with February.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers report employment as bad; upholsterers as quiet; sawmillers, combmakers and cabinet makers as good; saddlers as dull; hackney carriage drivers, gas workers and general labourers as fair.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.**Dublin and District.**

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners and painters have been busy, preparing for her Majesty's visit; bricklayers, plasterers and slaters and tilers report employment as fair.

Metal Trades.—The ironfounders, boilermakers and electrical workers report employment as good; the engineers as moderate; the gasfitters, tinsmiths and whitesmiths as fair; the brassfounders as slack.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The upholsterers report employment as improved; the lath splitters as bad; the cart and wagon builders as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as improved; the handsewn bootmakers as good.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as quiet; lithographers as bad; other branches as fair. Branches with 1,442 members have 106 (or 7·4 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of February.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-makers, brushmakers, bakers, dockers and paviors report employment as good; the corporation labourers and engine-drivers as fair.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 8,421 members have 223 (or 2·6 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of February. The carpenters and joiners report employment as dull; blacksmiths, strikers and engineers as moderate; brassfounders, furnishing trades, machine-workers, tinplate-workers, enginemen, firemen and cranemen as fair; ironfounders as quiet; pattern-makers as steady; drillers and hole-cutters, boilermakers, and iron ship-builders, shipwrights, general labourers and platers' helpers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,024 members have 45 (or 1·1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 47 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The women workers report employment as dull; tenters as improving; beetling enginemen and yarn bundlers as fair; flax dressers, flax roughers, linen lappers, huckles and gill makers, and yarn dressers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies with 2,174 members have 127 (or 5·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 140 (or 7·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Employment generally is dull.

Furnishing Trades.—Branches of societies with 831 members have 35 (or 4·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 54 (or 6·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The cabinet makers, upholsterers, and millers report employment as quiet; French

polishers and coopers as fair; coachbuilders as improving; packing case makers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 926 members have 69 (or 7·1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 62 (or 6·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; letterpress printers as dull; bookbinders, artists' designers and engravers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and boot and shoe operatives are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,975 members have 45 (or 2·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 58 (or 3·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The railway workers report employment as good; carters as fair; dock labourers as moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good in Cork, Passage West, and Haulbowline; fitters, turners, brassfounders, iron and brass moulders report employment as good; smiths, shipwrights, block and pump makers, and pattern-makers as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment is moderate with painters and decorators, plumbers and gas fitters; dull with other branches.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers and coopers, millers and woodworking machinists, and packing-case makers report employment as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment continues fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with flax, tweed and feather operatives in Cork, Blarney, Millfield, and Douglas; improved with ready-made and bespoke tailors; moderate with boot and shoe operatives.

Miscellaneous.—Railway and tramway workers, stationary engineers, brewery and corporation employees report employment as good; general quay labourers and coal porters as moderate.

P. O'Shea.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following table shows the number of cases* of lead and arsenic poisoning, and of anthrax reported during March, as having occurred in factories and workshops. Of the 101 cases of lead poisoning reported during the month, 40 (35 males and 5 females) occurred in white lead works, and 24 (14 males and 10 females) in the china and earthenware industry, the number of cases in these industries in March, 1899, being 26 and 27 respectively.

The death of one man from lead poisoning contracted 10 years previously in the china and earthenware industry was reported during the month.

In addition to the cases included in the Table, 8 cases of lead poisoning were reported among journeymen painters. In four of these cases lead poisoning is stated to have been a contributory cause of death.

Disease and Industry.	March, 1900.				Total Mar. 1899.
	Adults.	Young Persons.	M.†	F.‡</th	

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1900.

(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 changes in wages reported during March affected about 204,100 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the wages of those affected was an increase of about 1s. 11½d. per head. About 198,600 received advances averaging 2s. 0½d. weekly per head, and 5,500 sustained decreases averaging 1s. 11½d. weekly per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 125,000 miners in South Wales; to 7,950 surface-workers at collieries in West Yorkshire; to 34,500 ironworkers in the North and Midlands of England, and in South Wales and Scotland; to 8,900 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, Cumberland, Lancashire, and South Staffordshire; to 5,900 steel workers at Consett, Jarrow, Stockton-on-Tees, West Hartlepool, and Barrow-in-Furness; to 4,000 plasterers in London; and to 3,000 velvet weavers at Oldham.

Decreases.—The principal decrease was that sustained by 5,000 coal miners in the Forest of Dean.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 5,200 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 174,650 workpeople took effect under sliding scales; and one change, affecting about 100 workpeople, was arranged by arbitration, without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 24,150 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary for First Three Months of 1900.—For the three months, January–March, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 737,400. Of these 735,100 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 10½d. weekly per head, and 2,300 sustained a net average decrease of 2s. 3½d. weekly per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 1s. 10½d. weekly per head in the wages of the 737,400 workpeople affected.

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 takes effect in 1900.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.				Estimated Rate of wages in a full week,†	Increase or Decrease in a full week,‡	
				Inc.	Dec.	(Decreases in Italics.)	Before change.			
<i>20 Increases.—7,174 Workpeople.</i>										
Bradford & Shipley	Plumbers	26 Mar.	212	...	...	Advance of 1d. per hour (8d. to 9d.)	33 0	35 7	3 7	...
Huddersfield	Plasterers	2 April	45	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	31 11½	33 11½	2 0	...
Hull	Plumbers	15 April	150	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (8d. to 9d.)	36 4	38 5½	2 1½	...
Keighley	Painters	2 April	93	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (7d. to 7½d.)	28 7½	30 8	2 0½	...
Bacup	Painters	2 April	39	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (7d. to 8d.)	32 2½	34 4	2 1½	...
Blackburn	Painters	2 April	230	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	32 9	34 9½	2 0½	...
Haslingden	Painters	2 April	27	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (7d. to 8d.)	32 2½	34 4	2 1½	...
Southport	Plumbers	2 April	60	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (8d. to 9d.)	35 0½	36 2	1 1½	...
Birmingham	Painters	2 April	1,200	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	35 11½	38 2½	2 3	...
Leek	Plumbers	5 Mar.	13	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (7d. to 8d.)	32 7½	34 9½	2 2½	...
Sleaford (near)	Hod Carriers	9 Mar.	26	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (5d. to 6d.)	24 2	26 4½	2 2½	...
Sutton Coldfield	Painters	2 April	60	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (7d. to 8d.)	—	—	2 2½	...
Wolverhampton	Carpenters and Joiners	2 April	450	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (8d. to 9d.)	37 1½	39 3½	2 2½	...
Bury St. Edmunds	Bricklayers	12 Feb.	10	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.)	27 5½	29 6½	2 1½	...
Cromer	Carpenters and Joiners	Mar.	80	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (5d. to 4d.)	16 0½	18 2½	2 2	...
Newmarket	Painters	5 Mar.	100	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (6d. to 7d.)	31 6	33 11	2 5	...
Walton and Felixstowe	Navvies, Labourers, and Scaffolders	1 May	250	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (4½d. and 5d. to 5d. and 5½d.)	27 0½	29 3½	2 3	...
London	Plasterers	16 Mar.	4,000	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (10d. to 11d.)	40 9½	44 10½	4 1	...
Epsom	Plasterers	18 Mar.	29	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (10d. to 11d.)	40 9½	44 10½	4 1	...
Exeter	Plumbers	26 Mar.	34	...	...	Advance of 4d. per hour (6½d. and 7d. to 7d. and 7½d.)	—	—	2 0½	...
Blantyre & District	Carpenters and Joiners	10 Mar.	25	...	...	Decrease of 4d. per hour (9d. to 8½d.)	36 11½	34 11	2 0½	...
Dunfermline	Carpenters and Joiners	1 Mar.	70	...	...	Decrease of 4d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	35 0½	33 0	2 0½	...
Motherwell & Dist.	Carpenters and Joiners	2 April	250	...	...	Decrease of 4d. per hour (9d. to 8½d.)	36 11½	34 11	2 0½	...
<i>6 Increases—132,999 Workpeople.</i>										
<i>COAL MINING.**</i>										
<i>1 Decrease—5,000 Workpeople.</i>										
West Yorkshire	Surface Engineers and Firemen	6 Feb. & 13 Mar.	950	...	...	Advance of 5d. per day, and payment of time and a half for each 12 hours worked on Sundays	—	—	—	...
Forest of Dean	Underground and Surface Workers	13 Mar.	7,000	...	...	Advance of 5 per cent.	—	—	—	...
Burry Port (Carm.)	Coal Miners	26 Feb.	28	...	...	Decrease of 10 per cent., leaving wages 40 per cent. above standard of 1888	—	—	—	...
South Wales and Mon.	Coal Miners	2 April	125,000	...	...	Advance of 10 per cent.	—	—	—	...
Carrick-on-Shannon (near)	Coal Miners	22 Mar.	21	...	...	Advance of 13½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 48½ per cent. above standard of December, 1879	—	—	—	...
<i>26 Increases—50,822 Workpeople.</i>										
<i>IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE. Decreases—Nil.</i>										
North of England	Ironworkers:	Puddlers	2 April	1,600	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (gs. to gs. 3d.) under sliding scale	—	—	—	...
Cleveland and Durham	Millmen	1 April	4,400	...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale	—	—	—	...
Consett and Jarrow	Blastfurnacemen	1 April	5,500	...	...	Advance of 3½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 43½ per cent. above standard of November, 1879	—	—	—	...
Stockton-on-Tees & W. Hartlepool Teams (Gateshead)	Steel Millmen	1 April	1,100	...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 20 per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...
Wolsingham	Steel Millmen	2 April	2,700	...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent.	—	—	—	...
Wolsingham	Steelworkers	2 April	84	...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent.	—	—	—	...
Wolsingham	Enginemen, Cramenem, and Firemen	13 Mar.	21	...	...	Advance of 2s. per week	—	—	2 0	...
Wolsingham	Gas producer men	13 Mar.	8	...	...	Payment of time and a half for Sunday work, stated to be equal to an advance of 1s. 3d. per week	—	—	1 3	...

* Exclusive of overtime.

† Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer and two winter weeks. 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.

‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

§ Although about 40 plasterers were nominally affected by the raising of the standard rate from 10d. to 11d. under the Agreement of the 16th March, a considerable proportion of the men were already in receipt of the higher rate.

** Coal Miners, Northumberland.—Since the close of March an advance of 10 per cent. to 30,000 Northumberland miners has been arranged, to take effect from 9th and 16th April.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1900.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.		Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*	Increase or Decrease in full week.*			
				Inc.	Dec.			Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.—(continued.)</i>										
West Cumberland	Blastfurnacemen	1 April	1,350	...	...	Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 46 per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...
Workington	Ironworkers:	Puddlers	2 April	50	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (gs. 6d. to 9s. 9d.)	—	—	—	...
Workington	Millmen	2 April	200	...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent.	—	—	—	...
Barrow-in-Furness	Blastfurnacemen	1 April	530	...	...	Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 41½ per cent. above standard	—	—	—	...
Millom and Askam	Steelworkers	5 March	2,105	...	...	Advance of 4 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 30 per cent. above standard of October, 1895	—	—	—	...
Ulverston	Blastfurnacemen	1 April	250	...	...	Advance of				

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect in 1900.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.		Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*	Increase or Decrease in a full week.*	
				(Decreases in Italics.)	Before change.			
<i>3 Increases—377 Workpeople.</i>								
River Tyne ...	Stevedores' Labourers ...	1 Mar.	300	... Advance of 1d. per ton when discharging copper ore and precipitate	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	...
Middlesbrough ...	Dock Labourers ...	2 April	70	... Advance of 6d. per day (4s. to 4s. 6d.)	24 0	27 0	3 0	...
Hollinwood ...	Carters ...	10 Mar.	7	... Advance of 1s. per week	25 0	26 0	1 0	...
Liverpool ...	Dock Labourers ...	27 Mar.	150	Reduction in rates to those paid by other employers. Wages after change 5s per day daywork and 8s. 8d. nightwork	—	—	—	...
<i>6 Increases—333 Workpeople.</i>								
EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Decreases—Nil.								
Leeds ...	Foremen in ashpit cleaning department	9 Mar.	22	... Advance of 2s. per week	—	—	2 0	...
Morley ...	Flaggers ...	9 Mar.	9	... Advance of 2s. per week	—	—	2 0	...
Ipswich ...	Gas Stokers ...	8 Mar.	20	... Advance of 3d. per shift of 8 hours	35 0	36 9	1 9	...
Southampton ...	Pipelaying ...	4	...	... Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	1 0	...
Dumbarton ...	Horsemen ...	25	...	... Advance from an hourly rate of 4d. to a weekly rate of 19s.	—	—	—	...
Ipswich ...	Roadmen, Sewermen,	8 Mar.	172	... Advances of 4d. per hour to 22 men, 4d. to 142, 4d. to 2, rd. to 5, and of 1d. to 1	—	—	—	...
Southampton ...	Scavengers, &c.	31	...	Average advance of 3s. 6d. per week	—	—	3 6	...
Southampton ...	Motormen, Car and Bus Drivers	14 Mar.	34	Average advance of 4s. per week	—	—	4 0	...
Dumbarton ...	Conductors ...	17 Feb.	16	Advances of 1s. per week to 12 men and 2s. to 4...	—	—	—	...
<i>5 Increases—654 Workpeople.</i>								
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Decreases—Nil.								
Sunderland and Seaham Harbour ...	Glass Bottle Makers (dark metal workers)	26 Feb.	408	... Adoption of revised price list, stated to be equal to an average increase of 2s per cent. on previous earnings	—	—	—	...
Castleford ...	Lime Burners ...	3 Mar.	40	... Advance from a weekly rate of 20s. to an hourly rate of 6d.	—	—	—	...
Dewsbury (near) ...	Curriers ...	20 Feb.	21	... Advance of 1s. per week	—	—	1 0	...
Leeds ...	Glass Mould Makers ...	2 Mar.	6	... Advance of 4d. per day	30 0	32 0	2 0	...
Paisley ...	Bakers ...	26 Mar.	179	... Adoption of a minimum rate of 28s. per week, and an advance of 2s. per week to those earning 28s. per week	—	—	—	...

Agricultural Labour.—For recent advances in the cash rates of wages of agricultural labourers, see p. 110.

* Exclusive of overtime. + See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.
† These advances are due to the adoption of a scale of wages by which drivers receive 25s. per week for 12 months and 27s. 6d. afterwards, while 3rd class conductors receive 17s. 6d., 2nd class 20s., and 1st class, 22s. 6d. per week.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH, 1900.

The changes in hours of labour reported during March were all decreases, and affected 1,827 workpeople, the reductions averaging 1·47 hours per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect in 1900.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week.*†		Reduction per week.
				Before change.	After change.	
Building Trades:— Bradford and Shipley ...	Plumbers; ...	26 Mar.	212	Hrs. 49·50	Hrs. 48·78	Hrs. 0·72
Southport ...	Plumbers; ...	1 April	60	49·50	48·23	1·27
Bury St. Edmunds ...	Bricklayers, Carpenters and Joiners and Labourers; ...	23 Feb.	38	54·93	54·57	0·36
Printing Trades:— Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	Letterpress Printers, Bookbinders, &c.; ...	17 Mar.	1050	53·00	52·50	0·50
Blackburn ...	Bookbinders and Machine Rulers	5 Mar.	32	54·00	52·00	2·00
Barry ...	Compositors; ...	24 Mar.	15	54·00	52·50	1·50
Burnley and District ...	Compositors; ...	1 Mar.	90	54·00	52·00	2·00
Other Trades:— Leeds ...	Meter Repairers and Labourers (in Gasworks)	9 Mar.	130	54·00	50·00	4·00
Morley ...	Gas Stokers; ...	9 Mar.	20	84·00	56·00	28·00
Gorleston ...	Workpeople in Ship Yard	2 April	180	57·17	54·00	3·17

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire District

An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will shortly be held. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. John R. Jeffery, 5, Piccadilly, Bradford, Yorkshire.

* Exclusive of overtime.
† Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the hours for five summer and two winter weeks.

+ See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

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 657, or 286 more than in February, and 354 more than in March, 1899.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,447,140 persons (according to the latest available figures), 628 were reported killed, and 8,267 injured by accidents in March, as compared with 287 reported killed and 7,485 injured in March, 1899. These figures give one death in March, 1900, for every 8,674 persons employed in those industries. During the three completed months of 1900, 1,342 persons were reported killed and 22,630 injured, as against 1,068 reported killed and 21,143 injured in the corresponding period of 1899.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 29 persons were reported killed, and 1,072 injured in March, as compared with 16 killed and 976 injured in March, 1899.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1899.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1899.	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	48	36	461	396	534,141
Other Accidents	3	1	1,096	826	
Total Railway Service	51	37	1,557	1,222	534,141
Mines ...	88	73	424	372	741,125
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	12	14	112	103	134,478
Shipping ...	394	115	168	247	230,372*
Factories ...	83	48	6,006	5,541	3,807,024
Total of above ...	628	287	8,287	7,485	5,447,140
Workshops ...	1	1	20	12	
Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23	24	9	861	771	Cannot be stated.
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	4	6	191	193	

DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	Killed.	Injured.	
Railway Service—					
Brakesmen and Goods Guards	3	84	—	31	3,115
Engine Drivers	3	40	—	65	3,111
Firemen	—	45	—	87	3,132
Guards (Passenger)	—	10	—	4	14
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	11	15	—	94	1,109
Porters	3	73	—	292	3,365
Shunters	6	65	—	12	6,77
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	22	123	3	511	25,634
Total for March, 1900 ...	48	461	3	1,096	5,557
Total for March, 1899 ...	36	396	1	826	3,222
Mines—					
Explosions of Firedamp	2	16	—	2	16
Falls of ground	41	165	—	41	165
In shafts	7	8	—	7	8
Miscellaneous	26	179	12	56	38,235
Total for March, 1900 ...	76	368	12	56	88,424
Total for March, 1899 ...	67	326	6		

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.)

Number and Magnitude.—Forty fresh disputes were reported as having begun in March, 1900, compared with 33 in February, 1900, and 53 in March, 1899. In these disputes 8,159 workpeople were directly and 1,890 indirectly affected, a total of 10,049, which compares with 11,357 in February, 1900, and 13,827 in March, 1899.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades, 9 disputes took place, involving 1,722 workpeople; in the coal mining industry, 5 disputes, involving 919 workpeople; in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 9 disputes, involving 1,032 workpeople; in the textile trades, 10 disputes, involving 1,677 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades, 7 disputes, involving 4,699 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 40 disputes, 36 arose chiefly on questions of wages and 4 on other questions.

Results.—Thirty new disputes, involving 4,922 workpeople, and 8 old disputes, involving 769 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 38 new and old disputes terminated, 13, involving 2,158 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 8, involving 886 persons, in favour of the employers; and 16, involving 2,487 persons, resulted in compromise. With regard to the remaining 1 dispute, involving 160 persons, certain points were still under consideration. At the end of March, 8 old disputes were reported to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 1,000 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The aggregate duration in March of all the disputes, new and old, was about 140,000 days, compared with 70,000 in February, 1900, and 208,000 in March, 1899.

Summary for the First Three Months of 1900.—For the three completed months of 1900 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 115 disputes which commenced in these months was 35,619, as compared with 25,253 in the 133 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1899. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 310,000, as compared with 503,000 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.*				

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH, 1900.

9 Disputes. BUILDING TRADES. 1,722 Workpeople affected.							
Cadisie ...	Slaters and Tilers ...	12	...	Mar. 1	...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and adoption of new code of working rules	Still unsettled.
London ...	Plasterers ...	750	...	5	—	For adoption of new code of rules, involving advance in wages and other alterations in working rules	Amended code of rules mutually agreed to. See also p. 102.
Epsom ...	Plasterers ...	30	...	12	6	For advance in wages from 1d. to 1d. per hour	Advance granted.
Aberdeen ...	Carpenters and Joiners	650	...	1	...	Against proposed reduction in wages from 8d. to 8d. per hour and other alterations in working rules	Still unsettled.
Airdrie and Coatbridge	Carpenters and Joiners	100	...	5	...	Against proposed reduction in wages from 9d. to 8d. per hour	No settlement reported.
Barchead ...	Carpenters and Joiners	13	...	14	...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. per hour	Still unsettled.
Inverness ...	Painters ...	25	...	1	19	Against proposed reduction in wages from 7d. to 1d. per hour and alteration in date for expiry of working rules	Proposed reduction withdrawn; an alteration in date mutually agreed to.
Motherwell and District	Carpenters and Joiners	100	...	19	10	Against proposed reduction in wages from 9d. to 8d. per hour	Work resumed at the reduced wages.
Perth ...	Painters ...	42	...	5	13	For payment of Perth men at the same rate per hour as Glasgow men employed on the job	Work resumed pending award of arbitrator, who decided in favour of employers.

5 Disputes. COAL MINING. 919 Workpeople affected.

Rusdon ...	Miners ...	450	...	26	11	Various grievances as to wages, &c. ...	Settlement effected satisfactory to the parties.
Bury Port (Carmarthen)	Miners ...	35	...	13	2	For advance in wages ...	Work resumed pending further negotiations, which resulted in an advance.
Bo'ness ...	Hewers and Other Workpeople	300	50	15	12	Dispute as to tare of huchies, dirt scale, and other matters	Work resumed on old conditions; further negotiations, however, resulted in certain demands being granted.
Carrick-on-Shannon (near)	Hewers, &c., and Carters, &c.	40	23	8	...	For advance in wages ...	Still unsettled.
	Miners ...	21	...	8	8	For advance in wages of 4s. per week ...	Advance of 3s. per week granted.

9 Disputes. METAL, ENGINEERING, AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 1,032 Workpeople affected.

Barrow-in-Furness	Engineers' Labourers	154	...	7	11	For advance in wages from 18s. to 21s. per week	Advance of 1s. per week granted to some of the men.
Dewsbury ...	Fitters and Turners ...	12	...	27	6	Objection to the discharge of a fellow workman	Discharged man not reinstated; some men resumed work on employers' terms, others replaced.
Keighley ...	Foundry Labourers, Fettlers, Iron-founders, &c.	150	50	12	—	For advance in wages of 2s. per week ...	Advance of 1s. to labourers and 1s. to fettlers granted in most cases.
Leeds ...	Patternmakers and Ironfounders	100	24	23	...	For advance in wages from 37s. to 39s. per week	Still unsettled.
Birmingham ...	Fitters ...	29	...	17	...	For advance in wages, reduction in hours, and extra payment for overtime	Still unsettled.
Brierley Hill ...	Chainmakers ...	70	...	26	...	Objection to a workman having entered into a contract with employers	Still unsettled.
Annan ...	Boilermakers and Other Workpeople	30	20	13	2	For reinstatement of two workmen discharged for calling a meeting on employers' premises during working hours	Trade union officials ordered strikers to resume work; one of the discharged men reinstated.
Coatbridge ...	Puddlers and Other Iron and Steel Workers	103	72	14	3	Alleged bad quality of fuel, causing reduction in earnings	Better quality of fuel supplied.
Dumbarton ...	Helpers, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers, Drillers, &c.	40	173	2	—	For payment of some of their number for time lost owing to absence of platers	Platers paid helpers the amounts in dispute.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishment where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.*				

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH, 1900—(continued).

10 Disputes. TEXTILE TRADES. 1,677 Workpeople affected.							
Burnley ...	Cotton Weavers, &c., Spinners, &c.	296	97	5	13	Alleged bad material ...	Extra payment granted as compensation.
	Cotton Weavers, Winders, Beamers, &c.	127	33	12	9	Alleged bad material ...	Work resumed pending inquiry, workpeople not to strike in future until complaints have been investigated.
	Cotton Weavers, Overlookers, &c.	204	20	9	10	Alleged bad material ...	Better material promised.
Bolton ...	Cotton Weavers, Overlookers, &c.	115	6	9	12	Alleged bad material ...	Compensation granted.
	Cotton Weavers, Winders, Beamers, &c.	220	30	16	5	Alleged bad material ...	Work resumed pending consideration of complaint by employers.
	Cotton Weavers ...	220	...	29	1	Alleged refusal of employers to pay list prices for certain classes of work	Employers agreed to pay list prices.
Birdcote (near)	Cotton Piecers ...	45	...	1	7	Alleged bad material ...	Temporary advance in prices granted as compensation.
Blairgowrie ...	Woolen Piecers ...	58	...	23	2	For advance in wages of 1s. per week to full timers and 6d. to half-timers	Advance granted.
Blairgowrie ...	Jute & Tow Preparers, Spinners and Reelers	50	72	26	2	For reinstatement of a discharged foreman ...	Work resumed unconditionally.
Blairgowrie ...	Linen and Jute Weavers, &c.	84	...	23	2	Alleged insufficient supply of material ...	Work resumed after explanation by employers.

7 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 4,699 Workpeople affected.							
Blackburn ...	Timber Carriers ...	50	...	19	2	For advance in wages from 2s. to 2s. per week while engaged on certain work	Advance granted.
Middlesbrough ...	Excavators and Labourers (Dock Extension Works)	125	...	12	2	For advance in wages from 5½d. to 6d. per hour	Work resumed at old rate of wages.
Manchester ...	Dock Labourers	70	170	29	3	For advance in wages from 4s. to 5s. per day	Advance to 4s. 6d. per day granted.
Merseyside ...	Waterproof Garment Machinists and India-rubber Workers	16	50	26	...	For advance in wages ...	Still unsettled.
Merseyside ...	Dock Labourers ...	150	...	12	13	Against reduction in wages to rates paid by other employers	Work resumed on employers' terms.
Nottinghamshire ...	Printers, Transferrers, Apprentices, Cutters, &c.	3,000	1,000	26	...	For return to prices reduced in 1897 by rd. in the is. under arbitrator's award, and for levelling of "counts"	Still unsettled.
Greenock ...	Tailors ...	68	...	26	2	For adoption of new time log and revised classification, involving advance in wages of about 12½ per cent.	Demands granted.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE MARCH, 1900, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Burnley ...	Slaters, Tilers and Labourers	9	5	Jan. 1	—	For rescission of working rules as to piecework and non-unionists, and for adoption of new rule as to apprentices withdrawn.

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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 the second week of March was 332,998, corresponding to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1900.

Compared with February, 1900, there is a decrease of 5,679 in the number relieved, and of 3 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Twenty-six of the districts show decreased rates, the most noticeable decreases being in the Central London district (12 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees, Hull, and Belfast districts (7 each), while 7 districts show a decrease of 6 per 10,000. In four districts the rate is unchanged, and the remaining five districts show slight increases.

Compared with March, 1899, the number relieved shows a decrease of 6,159, and the rate per 10,000 of 6. There is a decrease in the rate in 27 districts, the largest decreases being in the Stockton and Tees district (36 per 10,000), Bristol (21), Leicester, and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (19 each), and Wolverhampton and Belfast districts (17 each). In one district the rate is unchanged, and in seven districts there are increases, amounting in the Dublin district to 21 per 10,000, and in Coatbridge and Airdrie to 9.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of March, 1900.			Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*					
Metropolis.					
West District ...	10,931	2,566	13,497	167	- 6 - 10
North District ...	14,707	8,337	23,044	214	- 3 - 2
Central District ...	7,325	2,970	10,295	163	- 12 - 11
East District ...	12,996	4,429	17,425	240	- 6 - 3
South District ...	20,892	18,694	39,586	228	- 6 - 9
Total Metropolis ...	66,851	36,996	105,847	227	- 6 - 7
West Ham ...	2,380	8,223	10,603	228	- 6 + 7
Other Districts.					
Newcastle District ...	1,742	3,998	5,740	148	- 3
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,068	3,758	4,826	219	- 7 - 36
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,446	7,636	11,082	147	- 2 - 7
Wigan District ...	1,768	6,866	8,604	213	- 3 - 13
Manchester District ...	8,415	7,430	15,845	180	- 4 - 2
Liverpool District ...	10,060	7,220	17,280	186	- 2 - 3
Bradford District ...	1,256	2,879	4,135	113	+ 1 - 10
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,047	3,414	4,467	118	- 3 - 6
Leeds District ...	1,878	5,309	7,187	163	- 5 - 14
Barnsley District ...	602	2,937	3,539	166	- 2 - 14
Sheffield District ...	2,302	3,089	5,481	143	- 5 - 7
Hull District ...	1,304	5,104	6,468	263	- 7 - 6
North Staffordshire ...	1,723	6,156	7,879	229	- 4 - 4
Nottingham District ...	1,714	5,385	7,099	185	- 1 - 19
Leicester District ...	1,110	2,818	3,928	188	- 1 - 17
Wolverhampton District ...	3,240	12,932	16,172	287	- 3 - 1
Birmingham District ...	4,410	4,302	6,802	124	- 6 - 21
Bristol District ...	2,622	6,976	9,598	268	+ 2 - 6
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,746	6,874	8,620	236	- 6 - 6
Total "Other Districts" ...	51,543	103,203	154,746	185	- 2 - 8
SCOTLAND.*					
Glasgow District ...	3,757	15,631	19,388	224	+ 3 + 5
Paisley & Greenock District ...	589	2,580	3,169	201	- 5 + 6
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,510	5,387	6,897	189	- 3 - 15
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	948	2,787	3,735	186	- 6 + 7
Aberdeen ...	498	2,723	3,221	233	- 1 + 9
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	300	1,308	1,608	178	- 5 + 9
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	7,602	30,416	38,018	209	- 1 + 2
IRELAND.*					
Dublin District ...	6,721	4,693	11,414	323	- 6 + 21
Belfast District ...	3,658	288	3,916	117	- 7 - 17
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,704	4,941	9,645	417	+ 1 - 19
Galway District ...	375	404	779	224	+ 4 + 5
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	15,458	10,326	25,784	270	- 4 - 4
Total for above 85 districts in March, 1900	143,834	189,161	332,998	206	- 3 - 6

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March the 10 bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,726 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,796 in March, 1899, a decrease of 70. Work was found during the month for 1,133 persons, of whom 662 (475 males and 187 females) were engaged by private employers, 275 by Local Authorities, and 196 males by the Salvation Army.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of March was 1,237, as against 1,409 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in March.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau.	
	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1899.	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1899.	Engaged by Private Employers.	Engaged by Local Authorities.
London.	178	165	163	200	98	89
St. Pancras	105	147	26	61	25	58
Battersea	274	328	105	76	88	71
Islington	157	115	189	61	67	38
St. Martin	86	186	24	20	14	9
Hackney	200	150	23	57	24	50
Salvation Army	196*	142*				

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during March, 1900.

	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total	Month ended Mar. 31st.			
				1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink and Tobacco	16,978	166	17,189	842	211	376	£
Metals	2,791	150	2,632	290			159,160
Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances	744	106	666	416			77,460
Cils	697	645	999	229	301	584	-
Raw Materials for Manufactures Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles	10,055	401	12,609	817	2,554	416	-
Total	41,492	388	44,922	134	3,429	746	-

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

Occupation.	No. on Register at end of		Month ended Mar. 31st.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Mar., 1900.	Mar., 1899.			
Men.					
Building, Engineering and Metal Trades	172	142	105		
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c.	96	61	61		
Clerks and Warehousemen	61	123	66		
Porters and Messengers	123	254	153		
Other Occupations	91	74	103		
Lads and Boys	94	12	106		
Total Men	816	1,051			
Lads and Boys	139	139			
Women and Girls.					
Charwomen, Daily Work, &c.	168	157	39		
Servants	56	58	23		
Others	58	67	9		
Total Women and Girls	232	219			
Grand Total for 10 Bureaux	1,237	1,409			

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE 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, 1900, show an increase as compared with the corresponding period of 1899 in the imports from foreign countries and British Possessions, in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and also in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise. The imports for March, 1900, were valued at £44,9

April, 1900.

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 3 Trade Unions, 1 Co-operative Association for Distribution, 6 Co-operative Associations for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 35 Friendly Societies, and 32 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during March. One Trade Union, 22 Industrial and Provident Societies, 24 Building Societies, and 88 Friendly Societies (including 16 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Oxford Builders' Labourers Protective Accident and Burial Society, 18, Cornmarket-street, Oxford. *Scotland.*—Greenock and Port Glasgow Rafters, 2, Cathcart-street, Greenock. *Ireland.*—Edenderry Trade and Labour League, The Square, Edenderry.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution—England and Wales.*—Fakenham Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Bridge-street, Fakenham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. (B) *Associations for Production—England and Wales.*—Ideal Clothiers, Ltd., Nelson-street, Kettering. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., at Clonlonan, Glinwood, Athlone, co. Westmeath; Knockloughin, co. Londonderry; Annyalla, co. Monaghan; Ballinahown, co. Westmeath; Eslin Bridge, co. Leitrim. (C) *Miscellaneous—England and Wales.*—Industrial Union, Ltd., 10, Walbrook, E.C. Stepney and District Co-op. Bank, Ltd., Men's Union Club, Garden-street, E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies—England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 9; Specially Authorised, 6; Dividing, 9; Working Men's Clubs, 7. *Scotland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Specially Authorised, 2. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies—England and Wales.*—28. *Scotland.*—4. *Ireland.*—None.

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

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Association of Foremen and Clerks of the Docks, Wharves and Warehouses of London, Wesleyan Schools, Cable-street, E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—*Disolved by Instrument:* Cropstone Land Soc., Ltd., Cropstone, Leicester; Co-op. House Decorators and Painters' Soc., Ltd., 23, Stadium-street, S.W.; Burton Joyce Co-op. Land and Building Soc., Ltd., Working Men's Institute, Burton Joyce; Wellington (Salop) Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 69, New-street, Wellington, Salop; Willenhall Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 96, Lower Lichfield-street, Willenhall. *Registration Cancelled:* Manchester Alliance Cabinet Manufacturers, Ltd., 12, Park-street, Cheadle, Manchester; Labour Exchange Assoc., Ltd., 83, Guthlaxton-street, Leicester; Peckham New Reform Club, Ltd., 11, Peckham Rye, S.E.; United Kingdom Farmers' Co-op. Supply Assoc., Ltd., 27A, Sackville-street, Piccadilly, W.; Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club and Institute Soc., Ltd., Backway, Higham Ferrers. *Resolutions to "wind-up" received:*—Eastbourne Equitable Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 61 and 63, Susans-road, Eastbourne; Dilton Equitable Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Dilton, Durham; Iver and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., High-street, Iver; Wealdstone and Harrow District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Bridge, L. & N.W. Rly., Harrow; International Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 33, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, W. *Liquidators' final returns received:*—Redbourn Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Fish-street, Redbourn; St. Anne's Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 39, Montague-street, Blackburn; Ringstead Britannia Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Ringstead. *Copies of Order of Release of Liquidator received:*—Potteries Co-op. Productive Builders' Soc., Ltd., 19, Lovatt-street, Stoke-on-Trent; Atherstone Hat Manufacturing Assoc., Ltd., Tannery Hat Works, Atherstone; Sedbergh and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Sedbergh. *Amalgamated with the Mansfield Co-op. Ind. Soc., Ltd., Sutton-in-Ashfield, Equitable Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Mount-street, Sutton-in-Ashfield. Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 5; Juvenile, 1; Specially authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 1; Branches, 2. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 16; Juvenile, 2; Dividing, 8; Female, 1; Medical, 3; Orders, 1; Specially Authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 28. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 3; Branches, 14. *Scotland.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 8; notice of commencement of dissolution, 6; notice of termination of dissolution, 10. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MARCH.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Convictions.	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:—				
Neglecting to Limewash ...	4	3	£ 4 0 0	£ 2 0 0
Neglecting to maintain reasonable temperature ...	1	1	0 5 0	0 10 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	II	II	49 0 0	5 6 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	43	40	46 12 6	14 5 11
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour ...	35	30	28 18 6	13 4 6
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	33	33	21 8 0	15 15 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	5	5	2 10 0	1 2 0
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays ...	1	1	0 15 0	0 14 6
At night ...	5	5	3 0 0	2 0 0
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	1	1	0 10 0	0 12 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.:—				
Not keeping Registers ...	25	24	16 17 6	7 16 0
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	II	II	8 2 6	4 13 6
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	5	5	6 16 0	1 18 4
By Workmen:—				
Employment during meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	1	1	0 1 6	0 8 6
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ...	8	8	1 1 0	0 13 6
By Parents:—				
Allowing children to be illegally employed ...	1	1	—	0 1 0
Total for March, 1900	190	180	189 17 0	71 3 8
Total for March, 1899	257	246	198 14 6	104 0 9

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:—					£ s. d.
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c. ...	2	2	—	—	7 16 0
Shafts and Manholes ...	2	2	—	—	1 15 0
Miscellaneous ...	3	3	—	—	12 9 6
By Workmen:—					
Safety Lamps ...	3	3	—	—	3 5 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	6	6	—	—	4 19 6
Timbering ...	6	6	—	—	6 9 0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	1	1	—	—	1 8 0
Riding on Trams ...	15	15	—	—	10 16 0
Miscellaneous ...	II	10	—	—	12 16 6
Total for March, 1900	49	48	—	1	61 14 6
Total for March, 1899	30	29	—	7	28 12 6
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:—					£ s. d.
Employment of Women, Young Persons, & Children Registers, Notices, Returns, &c. ...	1	1	—	—	1 9 0
Fencing ...	10	10	—	—	21 12 6
Other Special Rules ...	3	3	—	—	3 16 6
By Workmen:—					
Explosives and Blasting ...	1	1	—	—	0 11 0
Total for March, 1900	18	18	—	—	31 8 6
Total for March, 1899	14	14	—	—	20 8 4

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:—				
Proceeding to sea whilst under detention	I	I	£ 100 0 0	—
By Boarding-House Keepers:—				
Illegal Supply ...	I	I	2 0 0	0 8 6
Total for Mar., 1900	2	2	102 0 0	0 8 6
Total for Mar., 1899	7	7	61 10 0	29 17 0

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