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THE Labour Gazette

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.]

JUNE 1894.

[No. 6.—VOL. II.

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LONDON.

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PRICE ONE PENNY.

GENERAL ADVANTAGES OF THE ARMY.

On first joining the Army, Soldiers are supplied with Clothing and a Free Kit, and while in performance of their duty, receive a daily Free Ration of 1 lb. of Bread and 1/2 lb. of Meat. Vegetables and Groceries are provided for by a daily stoppage of pay. Soldiers are also provided with Lodging, Bedding, Fuel, Light and Education without payment.

Soldiers who become good Marksmen can obtain valuable Money Prizes.

When proceeding on Furlough Soldiers may be granted an advance of full pay, and of whatever good conduct pay they may be receiving, together with 6d. a day in lieu of the Ration of Bread and Meat, and special facilities for travelling by Railway at reduced fares.

The benefit of an Army School, the use of a Library and Recreation Room, the establishment of amusements at most places, and at some stations the opportunities to learn a trade, by which money is made while in the Army, and a livelihood may be secured on discharge, are among the advantages enjoyed by Soldiers.

AGE for the REGULAR ARMY, 18 to 25 Years.

TERMS OF SERVICE.

	With the Colors	In the Reserve
Household Cavalry	12 years	Nil.
Cavalry of the Line	" 7 "	5 years
Royal Artillery	" 7 "	5 "
Royal Engineers	" 7 "	5 "
Foot Guards	" 7 "	5 "
Infantry of the Line	" 7 "	5 "
Medical Staff Corps	" 7 "	5 "
Army Service Corps	" 3 "	9 "
Ordnance Store Corps	" 7 "	5 "

After 5 years' service a soldier of good character may be specially allowed, under certain conditions, to join the Reserve, if the requirements of the Service admit.

Soldiers of good character may be allowed to extend their service to 12 years with the Colors, and may also, under certain restrictions, be subsequently permitted to re-engage to complete 21 years.

* In accordance with the terms of the Attestation, these periods, should they expire whilst a Soldier is serving abroad, may be prolonged for 12 months or any less period, a corresponding decrease being made in the service in the Reserve.

PAY AND DEFERRED PAY.

Warrant Officers ... 5/- to 6/- a day

Non-Commissioned Officers above the rank of Corporal ... 2/-, 4/6 "

Corporals and Bombardiers ... 1/8, 2/8 "

Gunners, Privates, &c. ... 1/-, 1/9 "

GOOD CONDUCT PAY.—Additional pay is granted to Soldiers for good conduct, according to the length of service.

DEFERRED PAY at the rate of £3 a year for the first 12 years of service is paid to Soldiers on transfer to the Reserve, or on discharge. Men who enlist for 3 years Army Service only, and do not extend their services beyond that term, will not be entitled to Deferred Pay, nor will Soldiers who are discharged for misconduct or by purchase. Sergeants will be granted Deferred Pay up to the date of completing 21 years' service.

DISCHARGE AND PENSION.

Should a Soldier, during the first three months of his service desire to leave the Army, he may claim his discharge on a payment of £10; after that period he may be permitted to leave on payment of £18.

After 21 years' service and upwards, Soldiers become entitled to pensions on discharge, varying from 8d. to 5s. a day, according to their rank and length of service. Soldiers discharged on account of wounds or injuries received in action, or disability caused by Military duty, are entitled to a pension, varying with the extent of the disability and with the length of service.

ARMY RESERVE.—Soldiers transferred to the Reserve receive pay at 6d. a day until the expiration of their term of service. On completing 12 years' service, either with the Colors or in the Reserve, they may join the Supplemental Reserve* for 4 years, receiving pay at 1d. a day during that period.

* Enlistments in the Supplemental Reserve are suspended until further orders.

GENERAL ADVANTAGES OF THE MILITIA.

Rations and Lodgings.—During Drill, or the Annual Training, Militiamen are entitled to accommodation in barracks, lodgings, billets, or camp, at the public expense. They also receive the daily Rations or the Regulated Allowances in lieu thereof, as in the Regular Army.

Clothing and Necessaries.—Complete Clothing will be issued to Militiamen at the public expense, for wear when on duty. Great coats, capes and leggings will also be issued if the men are encamped, or during wet or inclement weather. One pair of boots or shoes, two flannel shirts, two pairs of socks, one tin of blacking, and two pieces of soap, will be supplied to each man for every training at which he attends, and these articles, with the exception of one of the flannel shirts, are taken home by the men. A Free Kit, consisting of comb, brushes, razor, braces, towels, knife, fork and spoon, will be issued to every Militiaman, and will be required on last six trainings, after which it may be retained by the man.

Travelling Expenses and Allowances.—Militiamen joining their regiments for Drill or Annual Training will receive a coupon attached to the Training notice, entitling them to conveyance by railway at Government fare from a station within the county. They will also receive an allowance of 10d. for a hot meal on joining. If no railway be available, they will receive marching money within the county.

Hospitals and Medical Attendance.—During Drill or Training, Militiamen will be entitled to free Medical Attendance. If sick, they will be admitted to hospital and will receive the same treatment as Soldiers of the Regular Army. If at the termination of the Training they are still detained in hospital by sickness, they will continue to receive medical treatment until their recovery or discharge.

AGE for the MILITIA, 18 to 35 Years.
(also Growing Lads, 17 to 18 years).

TERMS OF SERVICE.

Original enlistment 6 years.

Militiamen may re-engage during their last training, or re-enlist within 3 years of discharge, for a further period of 4 years.

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS may also re-enlist in the Militia for a period of 4 years, within three years of discharge from the Army or Army Reserve.

Militiamen may join the Militia Reserve to the extent of one-fourth of the Establishment.

DRILL AND TRAINING.

The Drills and Training required from Militiamen are as follows:—

	Drill on Enlistment, or Preliminary Drill before Musketry or Gunnery Drill.	Preliminary Musketry or Gunnery Drill previous to Annual Training.	Annual Training.	Total during the Year.
During 1st year	49 days	14 days	27 days	90 days
Following Years	27 days	27 days

PAY AND BOUNTY.

The daily Rates of Pay while out for Recruits' Drill or Training are:

	Artillery	Engineers	Infantry	Medical Staff Corps
Sergeants	2 7	2 7	1 9	1 9
Sergeants	3 2	3 3	2 4	2 8
Corporals	1 5	1 5	1 3	1 3
Bombardiers	1 3	—	—	—
Gunners and Privates	1 2	1 1	1 0	1 0

During the first year of service the rate of Bounty varies from £1 10s. to £2, and during subsequent years it varies from £1 to £1 10s., with an extra £1 if the man belongs to the Militia Reserve.

Men who, after discharge from the Army as Warrant or Non-Commissioned Officers join the Militia and are appointed Sergeant receive an Annual Bounty of £3, with an extra £1 if they belong to the Militia Reserve.

In addition to the above, Militiamen who re-enlist or re-engage, and discharged soldiers who re-enlist in the Militia within 3 years of discharge, receive a Bounty of £1 10s. If the man re-enlists or re-engages during the non-training period, this Bounty will not be paid until he joins for the Annual Training, and unless he is then found medically fit.

EMPLOYMENT ON RETURN TO CIVIL LIFE.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT. With the view of affording Government Employment to deserving Soldiers, the Postmaster-General has decided that vacancies among the rural and provincial town postmen, and also among the auxiliary postmen in London, are in future to be offered, in the first instance, to Discharged Soldiers and Army Reserve men. Candidates for such employment must have at least a "Good" character on leaving the Colors, and must have not less than three years' service with the Colors. The rank of the Metropolitan, County and Borough Police are also to a great extent filled by old soldiers, and regular employment is also provided for many old soldiers in the Royal Arsenal, the Army Clothing Department, the Ordnance Store Department and other Government Departments.

EMPLOYMENT BY RAILWAY COMPANIES.—Employment for deserving Soldiers is likewise afforded by many of the Railway Companies and in the Corps of Commissionaires. The Railway Companies will probably be able to engage about 2,000 men every year.

A REGISTER FOR CIVIL EMPLOYMENT is also kept at the Head-Quarters of all Regimental Districts, with the view of assisting men of good character to obtain employment in civil life when discharged from the Army, or transferred to the Army Reserve, on the expiration of their engagement.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers has also been established for the purpose of introducing Soldiers of reliable character, on their discharge, or transfer to the Reserve, to employers of labour.

Men of the following classes are registered at the undermentioned Office of the Association without fee, viz.:—Attendants, Carmen, Caretakers, Clerks, Conductors, Collectors, Grooms, Messengers, Porters, Musicians, Policemen, Night Watchmen, Timekeepers, Labourers, Servants, &c., &c.

CENTRAL OFFICE: 12 Buckingham Street, Strand, London.

Detailed information as to the conditions of Service in the Army and Militia, and the advantages of the Army and Militia, will be supplied free on application at any Post Office or Barrack, or from any Sergeant-Instructor of Volunteers, or other Recruiter.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,
BOARD OF TRADE,
43, PARLIAMENT STREET, S.W.,
June 1894.

Attention may be called to the fact that the first part of the GAZETTE, pp. 161 to 173, which deals specially with the state of employment during the month, is now divided into four parts: (1) The general summary; (2) Employment in London; (3) Reports on various provincial districts; (4) Reports on certain special industries.

In the present number of the GAZETTE an account will be found of the widespread cab dispute in London, a settlement of which was arrived at on June 11th, at a joint Conference under the presidency of the Home Secretary.

Reports are given on pp. 180 and 181 of two important workmen's conferences held at Whitsuntide, viz., the Annual Congress of the Co-operative Union at Sunderland, and the Miners' International Congress at Berlin. At both of these Conferences the Labour Department was represented.

Some preliminary results of the inquiries which are being made by the Labour Department, with regard to the wages of domestic servants, are given briefly in an article on p. 179, dealing exclusively with the London district.

Owing to the large number of labour disputes and of changes in wages and hours of labour reported during May, the tables giving particulars with regard to these matters occupy an unusually large space in the present number of the GAZETTE.

On p. 173 is given a brief summary of the provisions of the Factory Act Amendment Bill, introduced by the Home Secretary, and at present before the House of Commons.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

General Statistics of Employment.—The condition of the Labour Market has undergone no general improvement during May, and on the whole the returns from trade societies show a slight increase in the percentage of unemployed.

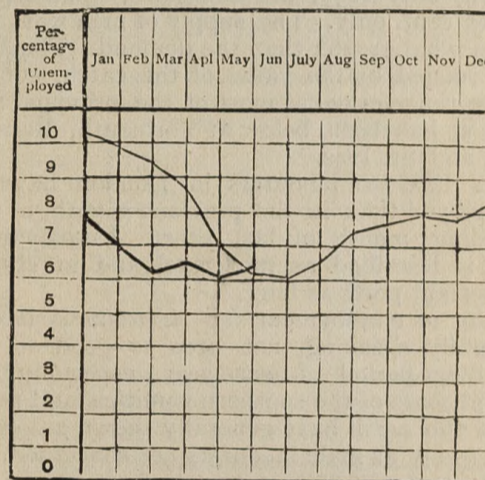
The Labour Market has continued to be disturbed by disputes, of which no fewer than 118 have been reported, many, however, being small and of short duration.

In the 51 trade societies, with an aggregate membership of 361,770, making returns, 22,652 (or 6.3 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of May, compared with 6.1 per cent. in the 45 societies making returns for April, and 6.5 in those making returns for March.

The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1893, and of each month yet completed of 1894. [The comparison of the two curves is slightly affected by the increase of the number of societies making returns since the beginning of 1893.]

The thick line applies to 1894, the thin line to 1893.



Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.

The returns received from 994 collieries, employing 256,000 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked by these collieries in May was 4.7 per week, as compared with 4.6 in April and 4.7 in March. The figures refer to the number of days worked by the collieries, and do not necessarily mean that all the workpeople worked the full number of days.

Iron Ore Mining.—According to the returns received from 30 iron ore mines in Lancashire and Cumberland, employing over 5,000 workpeople, the average number of days per week worked in May was 5.3, or exactly the same number as for the two preceding months.

In the Pig Iron Trade little change has been reported. Returns received from about two-thirds of the ironmasters, owning at the present time 218 furnaces in blast, employing 14,697 persons, show that in May three furnaces were blown out and one re-lit, but the total number of men in employment has not diminished.

The Steel Trade has been busy in certain branches at Sheffield, and fairly good in the Midlands and South Wales, but from other districts the reports are not so satisfactory.

Taken as a whole the Engineering and Metal Trades remain almost stationary, with a slight upward tendency. The percentage of unemployed in unions connected with these trades has fallen from 8.5 to 8.3.

In the aggregate no alteration has taken place in the Shipbuilding Trades, though at some places an improvement is reported. The proportion of unemployed in the unions concerned remains the same as in March and April, viz., 13.3 per cent.

Some falling-off is observable in certain branches of the Building Trades, due to some extent to seasonal causes, and also to local disturbances arising from questions of wages, hours and working rules. The

percentage of unemployed members of unions, which fell in April from 3.5 to 2.8, has risen to 3.3.

Most branches of the Furnishing and Woodworking Trades have maintained the improvement reported for April, but so far as the trade union returns show, the percentage of unemployed has risen from 3.2 to 3.3.

The Printing and Bookbinding Trades, which showed some signs of improvement in April, have again fallen off in most departments, the percentage of unemployed returned by the unions having risen from 5.0 to 6.0.

The Clothing Trades, both in the bespoke and ready-made departments, continue well employed, though some slight falling-off in the latter is observable. The Boot and Shoe Trades are also still busy as a rule, over-time, however, having ceased in most cases.

Employment in the Cotton Trade continues good. The Woollen Trade is rather quiet, but the Worsted Trade has maintained the slight improvement reported last month.

The Carpet Trade is good; the Hosiery Trade quiet; the Silk Trade, as a rule, bad; the Lace Trade in nearly all departments depressed, short time being worked.

The number of Seamen shipped during the month at the principal ports shows an increase of 4.8 per cent. over the number for the previous month, but was slightly less than in May 1893, the difference, however, being about 1 per cent. only. The supply of men was, on the whole, somewhat greater than the demand. The Fishing Industry, judged by the value of the catch, continues well above the average at most of the principal fishing ports, but it has been below at Yarmouth, Ramsgate, Plymouth and St. Ives.

Dock and Riverside labourers in London have been better employed than in the previous month, or in the corresponding month of last year. Employment in Liverpool is described as moderate, and in Hull and other important ports as fair.

The state of employment for Agricultural labourers has, generally speaking, not been so good as in the corresponding period of last year, especially in the eastern and some of the southern counties, and the May hirings in the north have generally shown a downward tendency so far as male labourers are concerned.

Of the 51 trade societies making returns 17 describe trade as "good," 11 as "moderate," and 23 as "bad."

Trade Disputes.—The disputes occurring in May show an increase upon the large number reported in April, 118 having been recorded as compared with 113 in the previous month, and 87 in May 1893. Of these disputes 33 took place in the Building Trades, 26 in Mining, 13 in Shipbuilding, 12 in Textile Trades, 11 in Metal Trades, 9 in Clothing Trades, 4 in connection with Seafaring, Dock, &c., labour, and the remaining 10 in miscellaneous industries.

With regard to 85 of these disputes, the particulars obtained show that 55,130 persons were affected. Twenty-three of these disputes, affecting upwards of 1,800 persons (in addition to 31 disputes affecting about 3,500 persons, which began before May), were known to be still unsettled at the end of the month. Twenty-one disputes, 17 of them involving 1,725 persons, which began before May, were brought to a settlement during the month.

The most important disputes were the stoppage of 7,000 London cabmen, of which a full account is given on p. 174, and a temporary stoppage of 35,000 Scottish miners caused by a reduction of wages. The strike of iron-moulders and pattern-makers on the North-East Coast, which has now extended to ship joiners and sawyers, is said to have affected the whole of the shipyards in the district, and caused the suspension from employment of a large number of men.

Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour.—The changes in wages and hours reported during the month are again very numerous, amounting to 106, of which 82 are changes in wages and 24 reductions in hours. The approximate number of persons directly affected by changes in wages is given in 78 cases, 51 being increases affecting nearly 12,000 workpeople, and 27 decreases affecting over 174,000. This latter figure is

made up mainly of coal miners in South Wales and in Scotland. The approximate number of persons whose hours of labour have been reduced is about 3,700.

Pauperism.—The pauperism returns for the selected districts of the United Kingdom show a slight seasonal decline, the number relieved on one day in the middle of May being 312,555, or 213 per 10,000 of population, as compared with 317,620, or 217 per 10,000, in April. The returns for last month, however, show an increase of 9 per 10,000 of population, compared with those for the corresponding date of May 1893.

The following table, similar to those published in previous numbers, will be found useful for purposes of comparison.

Comparative Table showing the number of Paupers per 10,000 of Population in selected industrial districts on a given day in March, April and May of 1894 and 1893 respectively.

Table with 7 columns: District, 1894 (March, April, May), 1893 (March, April, May). Rows include Metropolis, West Ham, Other Districts (England & Wales), Scotland, Ireland, and TOTAL (Selected Districts).

Emigration and Immigration.—During the month 15,993 British passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, as compared with 16,591 in the previous month, and 26,073 in May 1893. The number of alien immigrants into this country has also greatly declined, compared with the corresponding month of last year, the figures for the two periods being 7,891 and 20,203 respectively.

II.—EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—The returns from the various trade unions connected with the Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades show that an improvement in their condition has taken place during the month. Eighty-four branches of nine unions, with an aggregate membership of 13,795, report 957 (or 6.9 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 8.1 per cent. last month and 7.6 per cent. in March.

The Building Trades show little change, 145 branches of four unions, with an aggregate membership of 11,130, returning 501 (or 4.5 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 4.3 per cent. last month and 5.0 per cent. in March.

The Furnishing and Woodworking Trades have on the whole improved during the month. Twenty-five branches of eight unions, with an aggregate membership of 4,749, return 181 (or 3.8 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 5.3 per cent. last month and 5.6 in March.

The Printing and Bookbinding Trades remain in the same depressed condition that has characterised them for some months past; 13 unions, with an aggregate membership of 18,092, return 921 (or 5.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3.9 per cent. last month and 5.1 per cent. in March. The Clothing Trade, which opened very well at the commencement of the month, both in the bespoke and wholesale branches, has since fallen off. The Boot and Shoe Trade continues fairly brisk. The Leather Trades are fairly well employed in most departments, but the curriers are slack and are working short time. The Glass Trade maintains the improvement reported in April. The Tobacco Trade is depressed. The number of Seamen is reported to have been not much in excess of requirements in May.

Dock and Waterside Employment.—The improvement in dock employment shown in April was maintained in May, when the average number of labourers employed by the various Dock Companies was considerably higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

The total estimated number of dock labourers employed

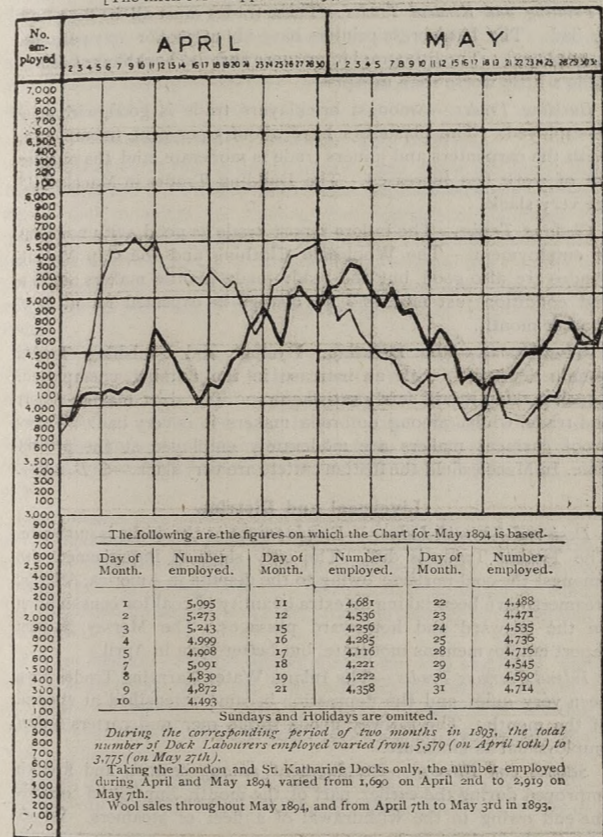
by all the Dock Companies in the Port of London, for each week in May, was as follows:—

Table showing estimated average daily number of Dock Labourers engaged by the Dock Companies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th weeks of May and Average for May, compared with May 1893 and Ditto for April.

As usual, the daily fluctuations of employment for Dock Labourers at the London and India group of docks are shown in the following chart:—

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of April and May 1894. The corresponding curve for April and May 1893 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included.

[The thick curve applies to 1894, and the thin curve to 1893.]



Employment in Thames Street has much improved, the Fruit Trade being brisk. Work has been very fair at the wharves on the north side of the Thames, especially at Wapping, as the Coasting Trade is beginning to increase. On the south side employment at the waterside has been good for the time of year.

Owing to the activity of the wool sales, permanent men in the employ of the Joint Committee have been drafted from the tea warehouses and elsewhere to the London Docks. At the East and West India Docks work has been very fair, and Millwall has been very busy. Grain elevators are here coming into use, and create some apprehension as to their possible effect on employment. At the Albert Docks work has fallen off during the month, but at the Victoria Docks it has been steady, and at the Surrey Commercial Docks it has been more plentiful than at the corresponding period of last year. The coal porters, winchmen and backers are still slack. The watermen and lightermen report an improvement in employment.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—An account of the Cab Dispute appears on p. 174. A dispute involving a small number of mathematical instrument makers is

* Decrease in April 1894.

going on in the north-eastern district. The men are reported to be "out" against a proposed reduction in wages.

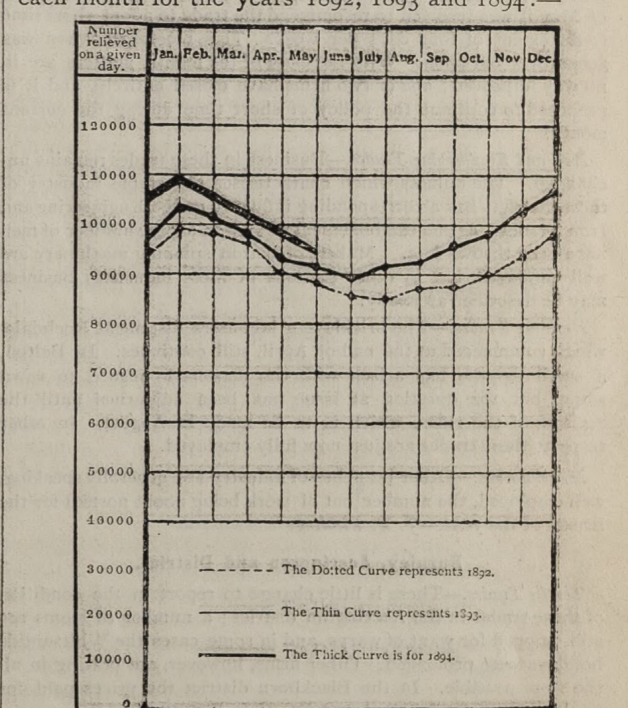
During May the London Conciliation Board gave an award which settled a dispute between a steamboat company and their employees. (See p. 179.)

Labour Bureaux.—During May the four Labour Bureaux rendering returns received applications from 967 workers and 263 employers, as compared with 931 workers and 267 employers in the previous month. The number of persons for whom employment was found through the four Bureaux amounted to 327, as against 352 in April.

Pauperism.—The number of paupers in London in the middle of May was less than on the corresponding day in the previous month, but more than in the middle of May 1893, the rates per 10,000 of population for the three periods being respectively 226, 231, and 215. In West Ham the proportion was 249 last month, 258 in April, and 195 in May 1893. The rate of pauperism per 10,000 of population in the different districts of London and in West Ham on the last day of the second week in April and May 1894, is shown in the table below:—

Table showing Rate of Pauperism per 10,000 of population for In-door, Out-door, and Total paupers in West District, North, Central, East, South, and West Ham for May and April 1894.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1892, 1893 and 1894:—



III.—PROVINCIAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS. ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Durham.—The number of unemployed is about 100 less than in April, being 1.5 per cent. of the membership. Northumberland.—Collieries maintain steady employment. There is only a limited demand for house coal, but the export of steam coal is fairly good. The average number of working days is a little over 10 per fortnight. At six collieries 85 men are unemployed, being 0.4 per cent. of the total membership.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the Tyne.—Several of the yards

continue busy upon the work in hand. There are, however, a few vacant berths, and one yard is entirely closed. New work is slowly coming in. The dispute in the Engineering Trade is still retarding work in that department, many men being suspended in consequence. The unemployed shipbuilders, boiler-makers and engineers number 1,948, or 19.5 per cent. *On the Wear.*—Shipbuilding continues steady, and employment is reported better and more regular. Engineering, however, is stationary. Forge-work is fairly good. Repairing shops and dry docks are not so well employed. The number of out-of-work boiler-makers, shipbuilders and engineers is 458, or 11.2 per cent. The shipwrights, joiners and plumbers are moderately employed, with a slight increase of out-of-work members on both rivers. Local iron and steel mills and furnaces are reported as working fairly well.

Building Trades.—Although still good, these are not quite so busy, the demand for bricklayers, plasterers and joiners having slightly fallen off, especially in the Tyne district. The masons, however, are well employed, and labourers fairly so.

Shipping.—In the lower reaches of the Tyne the number of sailors, firemen and engineers "signing on" is reported as equal to the demand. Coal-porters and riverside labourers report employment as bad. The Tyne wherry-men are still "out;" all lighterage profits earned by the aid of hired boats during the strike are reported as "pooled" and shared equally by the men.

Miscellaneous.—The chemical, cement and copper works are slack, especially the former. One large firm is working three-quarter time. The Glass and Bottle Trade is fairly good. The rope works are busy. The paper-makers, bookbinders and printers are quiet, the latter having 7 per cent. out of employment.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Oldham, Bolton and District.

General.—This district has been tolerably free from labour troubles during the past month, but trade has shown no improvement since the last report.

Textile Trades.—Business has been quiet, and in most classes of goods disappointing. For most makes of cloth the demand has been on a restricted scale, and the orders coming to hand are said to be scarcely equal to the production. The Velvet Weaving Trade is in a very bad way, and at a meeting of manufacturers at the beginning of May it was resolved to recommend the trade to adopt short time to the extent of four days per week. This recommendation was generally acted upon. With the close of the month matters are in no way improved; one or two firms have closed entirely, and it is proposed to continue the policy of short time during the current month.

Iron and Engineering Trades.—Business in these trades remains unchanged. The dullness which characterises the staple industry of these districts has a corresponding influence on the Engineering and Iron Trades. At one establishment at Bolton a large number of men have been thrown idle. Makers of cotton spinning machinery are well employed, but in other sections of these industries business may be described as steady.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers' labourers' dispute at Rochdale which commenced at the end of April, still continues. In Bolton, a small dispute has arisen with the masons in regard to sawn stone, but the question at issue has been adjourned until the revision of the rules, which is to be made in August. In other respects these trades are just now fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Other branches of industry are, generally speaking, well employed, the number out of work being about normal for the season of the year.—*J. T. Fielding.*

Burnley, Accrington and District.

Textile Trades.—There is little change to report in the condition of these trades in the Accrington district; a number of looms are still stopped for want of warps, and in some cases the Whitsuntide holidays were prolonged. Other firms, however, are putting in all the time possible. In the Blackburn district the prices paid for weaving stove work are giving dissatisfaction to the weavers, who are asking for the prices paid in other districts making similar goods. A joint meeting between employers and employed has been held on the subject, but nothing definite was arrived at. In the Colne district the workpeople are seeking for an increased price for weaving special classes of goods known as silk stripes and crimps. A dispute has arisen at a firm in the Burnley district, affecting 300 workpeople.

Mining.—The drawers in the employ of one firm are seeking for an advance in wages, and failing a satisfactory arrangement by an early date, have resolved to tender notices to leave work, upwards of 500 workmen being affected. Another firm in the district has put the men employed at one of the pits on short time, so as to lessen the output.

Building Trades.—The Building and allied Trades are now busy. The joiners in the Burnley district are asking for an increase of wages. The painters and decorators are also in the midst of their best season, overtime being extensively worked.

Miscellaneous.—In the Iron and Machine Trades work is reported as being more plentiful. The men engaged in the Printing and Dyeing Trades are also stated to be well employed.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Both in Manchester and Macclesfield the Iron Trades present but little change, nearly all branches being described as bad. Work was suspended in many cases for a longer time than usual at Whitsuntide owing to indifferent trade, and also for the opening of the Ship Canal. The brassfounders describe trade as moderate, and slightly worse than in April; the braziers and sheet metal workers as bad.

Textile Trades.—Trade remains much the same with the cotton spinners, and the mills are still kept running. The cotton mills in Macclesfield are on full time, although not busy. A spinning company at Bollington has given notice that all contracts will cease on June 6th. The Silk Trade remains in the same condition, and several of the mills continue to run short time.

Printing and Kindred Trades.—These trades must all be described as bad. The letterpress printers have about 300, or 17.7 per cent. unemployed. The lithographic printers and the bookbinders report trade a little worse than in April.

Building Trades.—Amongst bricklayers trade is good, with none unemployed. The plasterers have about 5 per cent. unemployed. With the carpenters and joiners trade is moderate, and the number out of work has increased. The Building Trades in Macclesfield are very slack.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report trade as good, with none out of employment. The Wholesale Clothing and the Cap Making Trades are also good, but the ready-made mantle makers are in a bad condition just now, and no change is expected for at least another month.

Miscellaneous.—The Dressing, Dyeing and Finishing Trades remain depressed, with an increase in the number unemployed. Coach making is still fairly satisfactory. The shirt makers report bad trade, whilst among umbrella makers it is very bad. Waterproof garment makers are moderately employed at the present time. In Macclesfield the fustian cutters are very slack.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment at the docks is moderate. The Timber Trade is dull. The only signs of improvement are amongst the coal porters; owing to the dispute in America, Atlantic steamers have been taking an extra quantity of coal for consumption on the outward and homeward passages. The Mersey flatmen report employment as moderate, but better than in April.

Inland Carrying Trades.—The Inland Water Carrying Trades have been very quiet, and the depression became intensified at the end of the month. The railway goods traffic men and carters report employment as moderate.

Seamen and Firemen.—Employment among seamen and firemen improved during the earlier part of the month, but fell off towards the end owing to the withdrawal of a fleet of steamers. Wages remain about the same.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The Engineering Trade remains quiet. Employment is reported as better amongst the boiler makers and iron workers, and as quiet with the ship joiners.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, plasterers, and slaters are well employed, while joiners and plumbers report trade as moderate, and painters as fair. Hours have been reduced, and wages advanced.

Coal Mining.—Stocks are accumulating on the pit banks, particularly in North Wales.

Chemical, Copper, and Glass Trades.—Employment in the St. Helens and Widnes District is quiet. There is no change in the Chemical and Copper Industries. The Glass Bottle and Sheet and Plate Glass Industries are also quiet.

Metal Trades.—Iron and brass founding remain the same. The whitesmiths report full employment.

Miscellaneous.—The upholsterers report trade as very fair, with about 1 per cent. unemployed. The printers as bad, with 10 per cent. unemployed. The watch makers and jewellers as slack, one firm having discharged several operatives. Employment among the general labourers is fairly good.—*J. Sexton.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Marine engineering is now busier, but at least 10 per cent. are unemployed. Nearly all other branches of engineering work are very slack. Shipbuilders are well employed.

Pig-iron and Steel Trades.—The Pig-iron Trade is slack, and stocks are on the increase throughout the district, prices being rather low and the demand limited. The Steel Trade is exceedingly dull; few hands are employed, there being no orders for either rails or tin-plate bars. A steel works at Barrow was closed for two weeks during the month, and one at Workington is stopped for an indefinite period for want of orders.

Coal Mining.—The coal miners, especially in the district of Workington, are in an unsettled condition, as they refuse to accept a reduction in wages. On May 26th notice was given to the miners at six collieries that in 14 days all contracts would terminate until some satisfactory settlement was come to.

Shipping and Railways.—Shipping is still very dull, but it is expected to improve somewhat now that the timber season has begun. At Whitehaven a fair amount of shipping is being done, especially in the Coasting Trade importing live cattle and other merchandise, and exporting coal to various Irish ports. Railways show little or no improvement. The workshop employees are still only working 45 hours per week.

Building Trades.—All branches of these trades are now well employed. Work for outside labourers has considerably improved during the month.

Miscellaneous.—The Tailoring Trade is still busy. The Printing and Kindred Trades are moderate. The paper and pulp works are very busy. The jute workers are moderately employed. The bakers and confectioners are slack.—*J. D. Couper.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Shipbuilding.—All the yards are working and some are busy, but fresh orders are not forthcoming. The disputes with the pattern-makers and moulders are causing the stoppage of numbers of men, and the partial employment of others. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report a considerable increase in the number of unemployed. About 500 ship joiners and sawyers are "out" for an advance of 3s. per week in their wages. At Whitby employment is better.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The steel works are fairly well employed, but the tendency of prices is downward. Work is very irregular at the finished ironworks, the only branch in which there has been much activity being the Pig Iron Trade. Bridge works are moderately employed; the foundries fairly so with the exception of two in Middlesbrough which are slack, and those where disputes exist.

Engineering.—This trade is much worse, mainly owing to disputes among sections of workmen, the percentage of unemployed being 12 for the whole district; at Middlesbrough it is slightly less than in April, but at Stockton and Hartlepool it is nearly doubled. The enginemakers, cranemen, &c., report trade as being good throughout the district.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners are well employed, and are still agitating for a 7½ per cent. advance of wages. The employers are willing to make some reduction in the charge for blasting powder, which would mean a small advance to hand miners and machine fillers only.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report trade as quiet, with rates the same as in April. Dock and riverside labour fair.

Building Trades.—These trades are brisk throughout the district, and a number of ship joiners from the shipyards have obtained work.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing, Salt and other Trades report no change.—*A. Main.*

Leeds and District.

Metal Trades.—The slight indications of improvement in these trades during April have not been maintained in the past month. Engineering has again shown a falling off, the number of unemployed being estimated at 18 per cent. The steelworkers are dull, short time being worked. Boiler-making is quiet. The ironfounders show a slight improvement. The stove-grate workers are very slack. The whitesmiths are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—A large number of bricklayers are out of work, the past month having been the worst experienced for several years. Labourers are not in request. Plastering continues quiet. The painters are slack. The joiners continue fairly well employed. The dispute in this trade has been settled.

Textile Trades.—There has been no improvement in these trades, and the condition is described as bad generally. There are not many entirely unemployed, but the majority are working short time. One firm has given a week's notice to a number of workpeople owing to slackness. The willeyers and fettlers report trade as bad, with no decrease in the number unemployed.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Trade is dull, and slipper makers are also slack. The Jewish workers' dispute in the latter

industry has resulted in a minimum price of 4s. per dozen for cashmeres being secured. In ready-made clothing some firms have been fairly busy, but the trade generally is rather worse. The bespoke branch is fair.

Leather Trades.—The curriers are exceptionally slack for the time of year, and the leather shavers are unusually dull. The tanners report work as fair, with no unemployed.

Glass Bottle Trade.—The General Bottle Industry showed a slight falling off towards the end of the month. The medical bottle branch has a number unemployed; the slack season has begun rather earlier than usual.

Mining.—Employment varies considerably at the different pits, but at very few is full time worked. At one of the principal pits, since last month, four days' work has prevailed instead of five.

Miscellaneous.—Most dye houses are on short time. The cabinet-makers and coachmakers are fairly busy. The brushmakers are slack. The Letterpress Printing Trade is very bad, and the number of men out of work increases. Lithographic Printing is also exceptionally dull.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Textile Trades.—Trade in the Huddersfield District in woollens is quiet, but shows a slight change for the better. One or two firms are still running overtime, but many are still only working short time. In the heavy woollen district of Batley and Dewsbury trade is also quiet. In Huddersfield, the trade in worsteds is also a little better than in April, but one small firm has failed. In Bradford, Halifax and Keighley it is depressed. The Cotton Trade is fairly busy, and the Silk Trade is as good as in April.

Building Trades.—These trades, except the painting branch, are depressed in Huddersfield, Bradford, Halifax and Keighley; in the last-named place, a dispute is going on amongst the carpenters and joiners.

Metal Trades.—The Iron Trade is rather depressed, but in Huddersfield and Halifax it has been worse this year than it is at present. In Keighley and Bradford it is far from good. The Wire Drawing Trade in and around Brighouse has improved.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Tailoring is fairly good. Dyeing, finishing, skip and basket making, and several other trades which are dependent upon the staple industries, are quiet. The Printing Trade is also rather quiet.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Coal Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Mining.—The collieries are working from one and two days to six days a week. Some are working very short time, both in South and West Yorkshire, more especially the latter. The steam coal collieries in South Yorkshire are very well off for orders, and are working well; some of the largest are working full time. Some of the pits that have been working slack time for months put an extra day on during the last two weeks of the month, and there is hope of further improvement in this direction when the contracts are fully settled for the next term. Several of the men employed at the colliery which was reported as about to close, have been set to work at other pits under the same firm. About half of the men have obtained work in this way or at other collieries. The Council of the Yorkshire Miners' Association has passed a resolution urging the Scottish miners not to submit to any reduction in wages whatever, and recommending that a levy be laid upon the whole of the members of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain towards supporting the Scottish miners in resisting the owners' demands.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

The Unemployed.—The number of men who are continually being displaced by modern processes, more especially in the manufacture of armour plates, is so considerable as to make the problem of finding employment for them a very serious one. The Sheffield Guardians, who for some time gave them employment in excavating and levelling, have attempted to meet the difficulty by again giving employment of this kind.

Iron and Steel Industries.—In large steel forgings there is less doing owing to the completion of orders. The Siemens steel smelters, engaged in making steel for armour plates, are busy, but others are slack. The rolling mills as a rule are very slack. Tyres and axles are quiet. The railway carriage and wagon spring makers are moderately employed, and the same applies to conical and volute springs. In steel billets there is little doing. The wire drawers report their trade as bad. Five-sixths are only partially employed, and 3 per cent. are entirely out of work. The Engineering Trade is bad although there is a slight improvement. In Steel Castings trade is slack. The ironfounders report trade as bad, but slightly improved. Crucible steel makers are on the whole very quiet. In heavy forgings for guns and steel shells there is practically nothing doing. The boiler-makers have improved, and are fairly

well employed, only 5 per cent. being out of work, and about 10 per cent. partially so.

Tools and Cutlery.—The engineers' tool makers report trade as bad, 5 per cent. being unemployed, and 40 per cent. short of work. The sawsmiths are unchanged. The Steel Spade, Fork and Shovel Industry has fallen off seriously, half the operatives being only partially employed. The razor and scissor makers are in a very unsatisfactory condition. The spring and table-knife cutlers, except those engaged on Government work, are also very slack. In files and edge tools for Russia some of the best houses have orders, but generally trade is quiet. The Sheep Shear Trade is quiet.

Building Trades.—The stone masons have improved, no skilled men being out of work. The carpenters and joiners are dull, 4 per cent. being unemployed. The bricklayers are moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—The hackney coach and carriage builders are fairly well employed, but railway carriage and wagon builders have a large number of workmen either entirely out or only partially employed. Silversmiths report trade as depressed, although slightly better than last month, 6 per cent. of the workmen being out of work, and 20 per cent. on short time. The Britannia metal smiths are very slack, about 25 per cent. being short of work, and a few entirely unemployed.

At Rotherham the stove grate manufacturers are as a rule fairly well off for orders, and a fair trade is being done in baths and fittings; the workmen in the Brass Trade are also pretty well employed. A rather better tone prevails in the Iron and Steel Trades; the glass pottery and pottery workmen are pretty well employed, and the same applies to the Building Trades. At Renishaw the pump makers and the moulders are slack, but the blast furnaces engaged in making foundry iron are in full blast.—*S. Utley.*

Hull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—These Trades showed a slight improvement in May, principally due to a few urgent repairing jobs and increased activity in the effort to complete orders in hand. Berths for the construction of large vessels are at present vacant. The average number unemployed among the engineers, boiler-makers, and shipwrights ranges from 10 to 12 per cent. The House Building Trade is giving work to the unemployed ship joiners.

Shipping and Seamen.—The Jersey Potato Trade is now in full season, the Baltic is fairly open, and regular sailings to the Baltic ports are being dispatched. The Sweden, Norwegian, and North European Cargo and Passenger Trades are also now employing regular weekly traders. The imports of grain from the Black Sea ports and the River Plate have been exceptionally great. The last consignment of wool for the season from Australia has arrived. The cargo and passenger steamers are making their regular summer season sailings. A few steamers are laid up in the docks, having been replaced by more modern vessels. Employment at the docks has been fair, and that for seamen shows a slight improvement on the previous month.

Fishing Trade.—The bulk of the fishing vessels are now engaged in "summer fleeting," working across the fishing grounds to the other side of the North Sea. Other vessels are engaged in "in-shore fishing" off the coast of England and Scotland. The in-shore fishers are earning fairly good wages, but those on the fleeting vessels are not doing so well.

Building Trades.—These trades are very brisk. No bricklayers are unemployed. The masons, plasterers and slaters are also well employed, and joiners have only about 2 per cent. out of work. The painters are working full time, and in many instances overtime. A dispute that arose at the beginning of the month between the Grimsby bricklayers and their employers has terminated.

Seed-Crushing, Oil, Paint and Varnish Industries.—The Seed-Crushing Trade has been very quiet. The oil mills are not busy at this season of the year, and many have stopped running, while others are only partially employed. The paint, colour and varnish works are fairly busy, overtime being worked in some cases.

Miscellaneous.—The general trade of the district is not considered good. The Printing and Allied Trades are very slack, with an excessive number unemployed. The Tailoring, Shoemaking, and Furniture-making Trades are not up to the average. All classes of shopkeepers complain of lack of business.—*W. G. Millington.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The Iron Trade shows little change. At some works the usual Whitsuntide holidays were somewhat lengthened, but there is now more activity. The average selling prices for the past two months show an improvement at the rate of 2d. per ton; this is not enough to affect wages. The puddlers and mill-rollers are moderately employed. Activity prevails in the Steel Trades, and all classes of steel workers are fairly busy. The constructive machinists and engineers show a

slight decline, less overtime being worked. The iron door and safe makers report no improvement, but the heavy iron founders are fairly well employed. The tool makers and machinists record a slight decline, and the makers of tanks and boilers, colliery air tubes, bridge and girder constructors, and gasometer erectors are not so busy. The operatives in the various industries at the railway works are fully employed.

Hardware Trades.—The depression in the Wrought Nail Trades in the Halesowen, Dudley and Bromsgrove districts is severe, and a reduction in wages has taken place. The hand-made nut and bolt makers of Smethwick and Darlaston, the gun-lock filers at Darlaston, and the spring-trap makers and lock and key-smiths of Wednesfield, are also very short of work. Slackness is reported in the Rivet, Tube, Iron and Tin-plate, Brass and Copper, File, Anvil, Steel Toy, Cut Nail and Lock Trades. The Cycle Trade shows a slight decline, but overtime is still worked. The edge tool makers and railway wagon builders are fairly busy. The slight improvement amongst the enamellers, galvanisers, japanners and wire workers has been maintained. In the Electrical Trades the decline still continues. The Chain Trade is generally very slack. The light ironfounders, hollow-ware casters, agricultural implement and iron hurdle makers, report little change. The horse-shoe turners and general smiths and makers of hinges and latches, builders' and coachbuilders' ironmongery, and railway fittings, are doing steady work.

Building Trades.—Work is good amongst the carpenters, bricklayers, masons and plasterers, but rather slack with the plumbers. Mill sawyers and machinists are busy, and the painters and decorators are working overtime. The bricklayers and general labourers, and the brickmakers are busy, but the gas stokers are slacker.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing Trade is quiet, with many unemployed. The coopers are only moderately employed, but the packing-case and crate makers have been busier, owing to the increased demand for cycles. The rope and twine spinners, cart sheet and tent makers are fairly busy, and the Cabinet, Furniture and Upholstering Trades, the bakers and confectioners, railwaymen, carriers and canal boatmen, and the carpet weavers of Bridgnorth and Kidderminster all report some improvement. The coach-builders are not so busy. The oil, colour and varnish makers are steadily employed, and the tailors have been moderately busy. In Walsall, the Lock Trade is very depressed. The Hame and Chain Trade is a little better. The moulders, fitters, blacksmiths and screwers are generally on short time, and many are unemployed. The buckle casters are slack, but brass casters are slightly better. Brown saddlers are quiet, but gig and black saddlers are busier; the curriers are also slack. In Stourbridge, the Glazed Brick, Tile and Pipe Trade is generally good. The glass-workers of Stourbridge and Wordsley are fairly busy, but the glass-cutters and decorators are quiet.—*W. F. Me.*

Birmingham and District.

Brassworkers, &c.—The improvement reported last month in the Brass Trade has been maintained, and is now most perceptible in bedstead furniture work. Ship and railway lamp work is fairly good, but in other branches there is no improvement. The copper-smiths are still very short of work.

Bedstead Making.—Trade continues bad, and thirty are out of work; the others are getting about three days' work per week, which is a little improvement. Japanners in other departments than bedstead making are fairly busy.

Engineers, Metal Rollers, &c.—Some engineering factories are working full time, but the general state of trade is rather worse. The pattern makers have 7 per cent. out of work, against 5 per cent. in April. The engineers return trade in this district as very bad. The depression in metal rolling continues. In the Cycle Trade work is well maintained, and some overtime is being made. In tin-plate working there is some improvement. Railway and rolling stock workers are in full work. The gunmakers have been slack, with a slight improvement towards the end of the month. The ironfounders report trade as bad, with 10 per cent. unemployed. File making is a little better; safemakers report no improvement.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, &c.—The jewellers and silversmiths are both quiet. Silversmiths are finding a little more work in table-ware. Spoon and fork makers have been working four days instead of three.

Tube and Wire Work.—The improvement in the Tube Trade has not continued. The general trade has been dull, but towards the end of May there was a slight stir in brazed tubes. There is most employment in the making of seamless steel tubes for cycles. Wire-drawers have had a little better employment on wire for electric purposes, but other branches have been dull. Wire weaving and working has been moderately good.

Miscellaneous.—Building work has fallen off; the carpenters have 6.5 per cent. unemployed. Trade is reported as improving in one district only; in the rest as bad. Glass makers report still worse trade; they have more unemployed, and those at work are on shorter time. Button makers are fairly busy on pearl and linen work, while metal work is brisker. Vegetable ivory work is looking up; men are making four days per week. Brush, steel pen and cabinet furniture workers have been fairly busy.

Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.—Work varies very much in different districts; in some it is all but standing still, works being closed and men dispersed; in others it is moderate, and in none good. Steel workers are best employed; after them those who work at iron sheets or strips. The stoppage of works, on account of the Whitsun holidays, was not so long as was feared; and since then work has been a little brisker.

Other Trades in South Staffordshire.—On the whole the briskness reported last month in heavy iron-work has been well maintained, but there have been fluctuations in some branches, such as vice-making and galvanizing. Enamelled work is still in the front as to employment. The Nut and Bolt Trade is seriously depressed. The Lock Trade is rather better, but there still exists disagreement about list prices for Government contracts. Great distress prevails among the nailers, who have suffered a 20 per cent. reduction since January last.—*W. J. Davis.*

A report from Coventry states that in the Cycle Trade short time is now being worked. The Watch Trade is as depressed as ever. The Silk Trade does not improve. The Wool and Hosiery Trades are not brisk; the Velvet and Plush Trade is worked a little above half time. The Hatting Trade is worse than ever. Even the Building Trade is getting worse. The Brick, Tile, Terra Cotta and Pipe Trade may be considered fair. The quarrymen at Griff and Mancetter are busy, and at Hartshill they are fairly well employed.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—The slight improvement in these trades has not been maintained. Many manufacturers who were short of orders closed their works at Whitsuntide for a week, and in some cases for a fortnight. The China Trade seems to be suffering most, especially at Longton, the centre of the cheap China Trade. The sanitary branch has fallen off considerably, and short time is the rule. The hollow-ware pressers report 2 per cent. out of work. The sanitary pressers report trade as declining, about four days per week being the average worked; the flat pressers as bad, with a large number unemployed. The printers and transferrers report no improvement, and the Women's Union report trade as not quite so good as in April. The crate-makers report a few firms working full time, the average of the others being about 3½ days per week, with about 7 per cent. out of work. The ovenmen report no improvement, and a large number unemployed.

Metal Trades.—In the Iron Trade there is no improvement, four turns per week being the average. The engineers, ironfounders and boiler-makers report trade as bad, but improving, about 6 per cent. being unemployed.

Building and Brick and Tile Trades.—The bricklayers report trade as better, with 2 per cent. unemployed. The carpenters and joiners are quiet, but prospects are fair. The wood sawyers and machinists report no alteration. Painters and plumbers are fairly well employed. The brick and tile makers are well employed throughout the Potteries, and trade is particularly good at the northern end of the district.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report about 6 per cent. unemployed; the lithographic artists and printers have decidedly improved; the tailors as good, with no unemployed. The railway servants and bakers are moderately well employed.—*J. S. Harvey.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—There is a marked decline in the Lace Trade. The levers branch is depressed, with quite 20 per cent. unemployed. The curtain branch continues bad. The plain net branch has a slight increase of unemployed. The warp lace branch is bad, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the curtain readers' branch is bad, with 25 per cent. unemployed. The designers and draughtsmen are slack, the majority being only partially employed; the female operatives are much slacker, with quite 12 per cent. out of work. The bleachers report a great falling-off; the dyers as bad; the warpers as quieter. At Beeston and at Bulwell short time prevails.

Hosiery Trade.—Trade remains bad, and the number of unemployed has increased. The rib top and hand-frame branches are moderately busy. Trade is fairly good at Sutton-in-Ashfield, quiet at Hucknall, bad at Arnold. At Mansfield it is only moderately good, and with the women operatives it is bad.

Engineering and Machine Trades.—The Cycle Trade is not brisk. The lace machine builders are fairly well employed, but hosiery

machine building is slack. The boiler-makers report trade as fairly good; the ironfounders as bad, with about 20 per cent. unemployed; the steam engine makers as declining, with 6 per cent. unemployed; the tool machinists as not so good, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the iron dressers as worse, with about 5 per cent. unemployed; the bobbin and carriage-makers as slightly improved, with no unemployed. At Retford trade is quiet amongst the ironfounders and engineers; at Mansfield, slack with the engineers and bad with the ironfounders; at Newark, moderate with the engineers. At Beeston trade is declining in the cycle works.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report no change. The bricklayers are quiet, but with few unemployed. The plasterers report no change. The painters and stonemasons are fairly well employed. The cabinet-makers report trade as fair, but with several unemployed. Reports from Newark, Worksop, Retford, Hucknall and Mansfield are unfavourable, although there are not many wholly unemployed.

Coal Mining.—Short time is being worked at the collieries, the period of employment ranging from 2 to 4½ days per week. The railwaymen are fairly well employed at Colwick, Netherfield and Retford. At Mansfield trade is good, with no unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The number of unemployed gas workers is less than usual at this period of the year, as several are being employed in stacking coal at the gas yards. The letterpress printers report trade as bad, with about 15 per cent. unemployed; the lithographic printers as dull, with 4 per cent. unemployed; the bookbinders as moderate, with 6 per cent. out of work; the brush-makers as depressed; the coach-makers as slack, with 7 per cent. unemployed; the farriers as unchanged, with 8 per cent. unemployed. The female cigar-makers have an increased number unemployed. The bakers report 20 per cent. unemployed. The box-makers report a great falling-off in trade. Elastic bandage-makers are moderately busy. The Boot and Shoe Trade is fairly good. The tailors are very busy, both in the ready-made and bespoke trade; tailoresses are working full time.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Derbyshire District.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—In the Ilkeston district stocks at the pit are only moderate; the pits are working from 4 to 4½ days per week, and about 100 miners are unemployed. In the Staveley district, hard coal pits are working full time, and stocks are increasing rapidly; gas coal pits are working three days per week, while cannel coal miners are working full time. The quarrymen in Wirksworth, Bakewell, Whatstandwell, Little Eaton, Coxbench, Crich and Matlock districts are only moderately employed.

Iron Trade.—The Pig-Iron Trade has somewhat improved; one or two more furnaces have been put in blast in the Sheepbridge District. An improved trade is being done in general ironfounders' castings, and in the Malleable Iron Trade; workmen in finished iron are slightly better employed.

Engineering and Machine Trades.—These trades have greatly improved, one or two firms working overtime. The locomotive works and brass-moulders and finishers are fairly well employed; the ironmoulders are very slack, with about 12 per cent. out of work. The stove-grate workers are more fully employed; bridge, girder and boiler yards are improving. The boiler-makers report 3 per cent. unemployed. The Rivet Trade is still quiet, but shoeing and general smiths are fairly well employed. In New Mills, Chesterfield, Ilkestone, Ripley, Glossop and Burton-on-Trent, trade is reported moderate, very few workers being totally unemployed. In Long Eaton the lace machine builders are fully employed, and the cycle works continue very busy.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers report trade as dull. The advance of ¼d. per hour, previously reported as to take place on May 1st, was not given, employers contending that the state of trade does not warrant it. The carpenters, joiners, plasterers and plumbers are fairly employed; the stonemasons, painters and decorators are very busy. These trades are also good in the Belper, Long Eaton, Burton-on-Trent and Matlock districts, and fair in Ambergate and Bakewell.

Textile Trades.—The Lace Trade in Derby has again improved, but in Long Eaton it has fallen off considerably, and a large proportion of machines are waiting for orders or only partially employed; the Warp Lace Trade is stagnant. The Silk Industry continues very depressed in all branches. In the Belper, Lea and Holloway districts the Cotton Trade is very dull.

Clothing Trades.—All branches of the Tailoring Trades are reported as good, and the mantle makers are very busy. The Boot and Shoe Trade is well employed, especially in factory departments; the bespoke branch is doing a steady trade. The frame-work knitters in Belper district are very slack.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers report

trade as moderate. The bookbinders are very slack, with nearly 8 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The chemical workers, bakers and confectioners, milling trade, and box makers continue well employed; the paper makers, paper stainers and colour mixers are very busy. The basket makers, mineral water operatives, elastic web weavers, surgical bandage makers and paper bag makers, are all well employed. The brushmakers are very slack, with nearly 25 per cent. unemployed; railway carriage and wagon builders are steadily employed; coachbuilders in private shops, cabinet-makers and upholsterers, dyers and bleachers are busy; gas stokers are in less demand. In Belper district the dyers and bleachers are very slack. In Long Eaton district wagon builders are fully employed, wagon repairers are very slack, all workmen being on short time. Many unskilled labourers are still in want of employment.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—The demand for women's boots has diminished, and overtime is no longer necessary. In the clicking department some workmen are now working short time, but this has not yet become general. In Northampton and the district in which men's and boys' boots, shoe uppers and army contracts are the staple production, labour continues to be pretty fully employed. In the Leather and Currying Trades work is not so full and regular.

Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Spinning Trades.—The Hosiery Trade does not improve so rapidly as was expected. Slackness in the Leicester district is attributed by the workpeople to the removal of machinery into the country districts, and the displacement of adult workers by new inventions on which child labour is employed. The Yarn Trade is quiet. In the Wool and Spinning Trades full time is generally being worked.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—The improvement in the general engineering trade has scarcely been maintained, a few operatives being reported out of work. The makers of boot and shoe machinery are more fully employed. The Cycle Trade continues healthy, overtime being worked in the repairing branch. Trade is still good in the ironfounding department.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, builders' labourers, and carpenters and joiners are only moderately employed; but the painters and house decorators continue fairly busy. The plasterers and stonemasons have full employment. The Brick and Tile Trade continues brisk.

Quarrying.—The kerb and sett quarrymen continue well employed. The broken stone branch is slack, and a number of workmen are out of employment.

Miscellaneous.—Employment continues fairly regular in both the wholesale and bespoke branches of the Tailoring Trade. The letterpress printers are not fully employed. Those engaged in the cigar-making, hatting, box making, baking, cabinet-making, carriage and wagon building and railway work are fairly regularly employed. The gasfitters, stokers and plumbers have only a moderate amount of work. The supply of general labourers and navvies more than equals the demand.—*T. Smith.*

Eastern Counties.

A report from Norwich states that the Engineering Trade is fairly good, overtime being worked at Thetford, while at Norwich and Yarmouth no firms are working less than full time. The Building Trade is fair in Yarmouth, Cromer and district. At Cromer and at Yarmouth the bricklayers have been "out" for an advance of wages and code of working rules, but their demands are being conceded. The trade is not so good in Norwich, and the bricklayers have deferred action for the present; the labourers, however, have ceased work. The Painting and Plumbing Trades are fairly good. The stonemasons are also fully employed. Work in the agricultural districts is fair, very few men being out of employment.

Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire District.

Shipping, Dock and General Labour.—Seagoing men have been in demand at Bristol and Avonmouth. There has been a fair average of work for dock labourers, the Grain Trade being brisk. There is a scarcity of employment with hauliers, builders' labourers and unskilled workers generally.

Boot, Shoe and Leather Trades.—The Bristol Boot and Shoe Industry has not been so brisk; some of the firms are already working short time. The Kingswood trade steadily improves. The saddlers report trade as better; the curriers as dull.

Building Trades.—The masons and bricklayers are brisk, but the plasterers and lath-renders are dull. The demand for painters is declining, and carpenters are slack. About 8 per cent. of the plumbers are unemployed.

Engineering and Kindred Trades.—The fitters and pattern-makers report trade as steady; the tool makers as improving; the Sheet-

iron, Hollow Ware, and Galvanising Trades as busy. The boiler-makers and ironfounders are not so well employed. The Cycle Trade is good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Trade has declined with the joiners, shop fitters, mill sawyers and wood-cutting machinists. The cabinet-makers are fully employed. The wagon and carriage-builders report trade as improving; the wheelwrights as fair; the box and packing-case makers as busy.

Coal Mining.—In the Bristol coalfield the miners in work average about four days per week. The Dean Forest trade has improved slightly. A number of men have left for other parts during the past three months. Trade in the Somerset coalfield is disturbed, owing to the proposed reduction of 10 per cent. in wages.

Stone Quarrying.—A slight improvement is reported from the West Gloucestershire quarries, principally in builders' requirements. The Radstock Stone Trade continues good, while the Bath Stone Trade is quiet.

Woollen Trade.—The Woollen Industry in Trowbridge and the neighbourhood continues depressed. Weavers have frequently to wait from four to five weeks before being able to take their turn of the work.

Printing and Allied Trades.—Lithographers are in full employment, some on overtime. Letterpress printers report 4 per cent. unemployed; bookbinders show no change. Paper-bag and envelope makers and cardboard box makers are busy.

Miscellaneous.—The Ready-made Clothing Trade is declining, and the bespoke branch is also quieter. The Brush and Basket Trades are fair. The bakers have 10 per cent. idle. The Confectionery Trades are busy. The Oil-cake, Seed and Corn Crushing Trade is improving.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South Western District.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The various imports, such as coal, grain, &c., have given dock and wharf labourers fairly good employment, although many casual labourers have been seeking work. The demand for seamen remains the same, except that a few more coasting berths have been taken.

Building Trades.—The masons, stone cutters, carpenters and joiners, and plasterers are not so well employed. The bricklayers and plumbers are fully employed; the painters fairly so.

Mining and Clay Industry.—The Metal Mining Industry is still depressed, and more miners have left for South Africa. The Clay Trade continues good, and the men are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Both in the bespoke and ready-made departments trade is good amongst tailors and tailoresses. The Boot and Shoe Trade has been quiet in some cases, brisk in others, necessitating overtime. The bespoke branch continues quiet.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—The improvement in the Engineering and kindred Trades continues, and trade is good.

Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet-makers, polishers, upholsterers and others employed in these trades report trade as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners are slack. The Letterpress and Lithographic Printing and kindred Trades, wheelwrights, saddlers, coachbuilders and monumental workers are fairly well employed. Boatmen and those engaged on the water and river service are quiet. The Fishing Industry is still depressed. General labourers are far in excess of the demand.—*J. Welland.*

Cardiff and District.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—These industries have been abnormally depressed during the month throughout the whole district. In Cardiff and Barry the engineers have over 6 per cent. unemployed; in Newport over 11 per cent., and in Swansea 10 per cent. The shipwrights have no less than 75 per cent. unemployed. The boiler-makers have about 50 per cent. out of work. The labourers are equally affected, hundreds being out of employment.

Shipping and Dock Workers.—Shipping has been moderate. Dock workers have had moderate employment. The iron ore imports have been fairly good, but the Timber Trade has been dull.

Metal Trades.—The Steel Trade has been brisk at many works, and shows signs of improvement all round. Some works which have been idle for some months are expected to be re-started as soon as they can be put in working order. The Tin Trade is still dull, and the workers are in almost constant conflict with the employers to maintain the "36 Box Rule." Preparations are being made for the re-starting of some tin works which have been long closed, and this is regarded as a hopeful sign. The copper smelting business is steady.

Building Trades.—In Cardiff trade is reported as bad in certain branches, but in Newport and Swansea and the surrounding neighbourhood as good. The carpenters at Neath, after a month's

stoppage, have obtained an advance of wages from 7½d. to 8d., and a new code of working rules has come into operation.—*T. Davies.*

A report from *Ebbw Vale* states that the Steel Trade continues to give full employment for the operatives. Mechanics, wagon builders, masons and boiler-makers are fully employed, overtime being required in some cases.

South Wales Mining District.

Coal Trade.—The Steam Coal Trade has shown signs of improvement during the last week of the month. The demand is again increasing, and prices are becoming a trifle firmer. The house coal market has also shown more activity, and the demand has been fairly good for the time of year. The result of the joint accountants' audit of the coalowners' books for the two months ending April 30th has been to reduce wages by 2½ per cent. from June 1st, which leaves them 27½ per cent. in advance of the standard rates of 1879.

Trade Disputes.—One colliery was idle for three weeks, the men refusing to accept a reduction of 6d. in the cutting price of coal; 50 men were affected.—*W. Evans.*

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The ironmoulders report a further improvement in trade, the pattern-makers, engineers, blacksmiths and coppersmiths report trade as dull, the brassfounders, tinsmiths and gas meter makers as bad. Returns from eleven branches in this group show 6·0 per cent. idle.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—The French polishers, upholsterers, cabinet-makers and brush-makers report trade as good, the wood-carvers as quiet. Returns from six branches show 2·5 per cent. out of work.

Printing and Allied Trades.—The lithographic printers and artists report trade as fair, the bookbinders as quiet, the compositors and stereotypers, press and machine men as dull. Typefounders are still working four days per week. Returns from seven branches of these trades show 3·3 per cent. unemployed.

Building Trades.—The masons, painters, and bricklayers report trade as good; the joiners, plasterers, plumbers, slaters and glaziers as fair. With the lath-splitters, however, trade is not so good, and a considerable number are idle.

Coal Mining and Mineral Oil Trades.—In West Lothian about nine days' work per fortnight has been the average; in Mid and East Lothian four-fifths of the men have been on full time. In West Lothian the wages of 2,500 miners have been reduced 1s. per day from 10th May. In Mid and East Lothian a reduction of 20 per cent. has been notified, to come into force from 5th June. The mineral oil workers continue to be well employed.

Shipbuilding Trades.—In the shipyards work continues scarce, except for ship joiners, who are fairly busy. The boiler-makers report 33·3 per cent. out of work, and the shipwrights 21·4 per cent.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The seamen and firemen report trade as fair. The dock and general labourers are well employed. The sett-makers, basket-makers, saw-mill operatives, stoneware throwers and indiarubber workers also report trade as fair. The tailors and shoe-makers report trade as good; about 200 of the latter have obtained an advance of 10 per cent. on their wages. The gilders, horse-shoers and coach-makers report an improvement. The hatters, glass-makers and cutters and paper-makers report trade as quiet; the curriers, tanners and bakers as bad; the coopers as worse, with 6·2 per cent. idle, as against 1·7 per cent. last month.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—The Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Trades continue busy, but there is a dearth of new orders. In Dumbarton trade is fair, ship-joiners being busy.

Metal Trades.—The improvement in the Steel and Iron Trades noticed in the earlier months of the year has not been maintained. The orders booked, however, will keep all classes fairly employed for the next two months. The millmen report that their position is not so good; several leading firms are only running about three-quarter time. The ironworkers are negotiating for a board of conciliation, similar to that of the steel workers. The blacksmiths and the ironmoulders merely maintain the improvement previously reported. The tinplate workers, the iron-grinders and the iron-dressers are fully employed. The file-cutters report that trade is fair. Since the settlement of the dispute amongst the coppersmiths on May 23rd work has been plentiful, and the prospects are good. The machinists have been fairly busy; the Cycle Trade is improving; the ornamental fitters report trade as good.

Building and Wood-working Trades.—All branches of the Building Trades are well employed. The Cabinet and Chair-makers' Trade is still good, not more than 1 per cent. being unemployed. The Coach-building Trade is also good. In Beith the Cabinet Trade is good. The saw-mill operatives report no improvement. The pattern-makers report trade as moderate, with 4 per cent. idle; the wood-carvers as steady.

Textile Trades.—The white weaving factories are fairly well employed, and there is a slight improvement in the coloured weaving trade. The Silk Weaving Trade is very bad; not more than a fourth of the looms are going. The carpet weavers report trade as still good; the calendermen as falling off a little; the warpers as dull; the beamers as unchanged; the dyers as worse; the spindle and flyer-makers as very good.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report trade as very slack in the latter half of the month; the tailoresses as good; the pump boot and slipper makers as very depressed; the knee shoemakers and the boot and shoe operatives as busy.

Miscellaneous.—The cork-cutters report trade as good; the plate-glass workers as very bad; the lithographic printers as bad; the letterpress printers, bookbinders and machine rulers, the curriers and the bakers as dull; the calico engravers as fairly good; the carters and hackney-carriage drivers as improved; the dock labourers as unchanged; the general labourers as good; the seamen and firemen as only middling.—*A. J. Hunter.*

A brief account of the present position of the Scottish coal dispute will be found in another column.

Dundee and District.

Jute and Linen Trades.—These industries in Dundee and district are in a very bad state at present, and a number of works have been closed for an indefinite period. The number of workers, principally females, thrown idle through the stoppage of machinery is estimated at from 3,000 to 4,000. A reduction of 10 per cent. on wages was proposed by the employers, but it was delayed till a conference had been held between representatives of the workers and of the employers. It is anticipated that the reduction will now be limited to 5 per cent.

Building Trades.—The masons, bricklayers, plasterers, slaters, plumbers, painters, joiners, &c., are all busy.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—All departments of these trades continue depressed. In the Shipbuilding Department it is estimated that not less than 45 per cent. are unemployed out of a membership of 398, while in other departments of the Engineering Trade with a membership of 595 there is an average of 30 per cent. unemployed.

Salmon Fishing.—The Tay salmon fishing has been steadily improving during the past few weeks, and there are now hopes of a fair average season.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors and shoemakers continue fairly busy, and although in many instances not fully employed, still are not reported as idle. The printers are much the same as last month, showing less than 5 per cent. unemployed. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers have been very busy.—*R. D. B. Ritchie.*

Aberdeen and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—There is a further improvement in shipbuilding. The unemployed iron shipbuilders average 7·3 per cent., principally riveters, the work not being far enough advanced to give them full employment. The percentage of unemployed shipwrights has increased to 15·2. Repairing jobs are mostly completed, and new work is not far enough advanced yet, but prospects are fairly good. The iron-moulders report trade as good, with only three unemployed. There is a slight improvement in engineering, and few operatives are now idle. The tinplate workers are fully employed; the blacksmiths moderately so.

Building Trades.—All branches continue fully employed. A dispute has taken place in the Slating Trade, owing to friction between two unions.

Quarrying.—In all granite quarries full employment is found. The sett-makers report trade as good, with none idle. There is an improvement in the Granite Monumental Trade, and the number unemployed is considerably reduced.

Fishing.—The total weight of fish landed by trawl boats was 22,641 cwt., realizing £15,696, an increase over last month. The amount landed by steam and small line boats was 23,595 cwt., realizing £10,763, also an increase on the previous month.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers show a slight improvement, but nearly 10 per cent. are still idle. The Tailoring Trade is busy. The rope and twine spinners have a larger number unemployed. The Jute Trade is still dull, and comb-making shows no improvement. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are busy. The Baking Trade is dull. Dock labourers are better employed.

A number of seamen and firemen are still idle. Most of the feeing markets in the north of Scotland have now been held, and wages on the whole have had an upward tendency; there has been a great demand for women and young lads. There are few who have not secured places for the half-year.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Trade generally has been fair during the month in all branches of labour. The burning down of a large drapery and general warehouse threw over 580 persons out of work. Several of these have, however, been re-employed by the firm in temporary buildings.

Building, Woodwork and Iron Trades.—The Building Trades maintain last month's improvement. The stonecutting industry is fair. The brick and stone layers are slack, owing to the difficulty of getting Irish facing bricks, 40 to 60 men being unemployed on an average. The plasterers and painters continue brisk. The plumbers and cabinet-makers are dull. Trade is improving with the carpenters and joiners. Work with the paviors is good, and with the shipbuilders it is fair. Trade with the upholsterers, mill-sawyers, lath-splitters and packing-case makers is middling. The coach-builders and coopers are fairly busy, but the saddlers and harness-makers are dull. Work in the Engineering and Iron Trades continues depressed.

Food and Clothing Trades.—The bakers are still very active, as are also the confectioners. Employment is fair among the provision and grocers' assistants, mineral water operatives, butchers and workers at the food trades generally. The Tailoring and Boot-making Industries show an improvement.

Printing and Allied Trades.—The Letterpress Printing Trade has been quiet; 194 signed the out-of-work book, of whom 129 were entitled to benefit. The Lithographic Industry shows no improvement, and several men are unemployed. With the bookbinders and machine rulers trade is fair. The stereotypers, paper-cutters, machine assistants, despatch assistants and printers' assistants report trade as good.

Miscellaneous.—The cork-cutters and the brushmakers are fairly employed. Trade is good with the basket-makers, hairdressers, hotel and club assistants, tram-men and railway-men; fair with the bottle-makers; better with the fishermen, general labourers, dockers, and seamen and firemen.

The societies furnishing returns report trade as fair in 20 cases, good in 10, middling in 12, dull in 10, and bad in 9.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—The reports as to employment from the various trade societies are somewhat more favourable. Several disputes have been commenced during May in this district among the shirt, collar and apron cutters, packing-case makers, French polishers, and the hand-sewn boot and shoe makers. The threatened disputes with the bakers and the railway servants have been averted, the employers in both of these industries having made considerable concessions. The reports from 52 societies with a membership of 20,101, show 881, or 4.4 per cent., to be unemployed, as against 1,106, or 5.6 per cent. of the membership, in April.

Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Of the 8,967 members of the different trades in these industries, 481, or 5.4 per cent., are unemployed, as against 558, or 6.3 per cent., of the membership, in April. The engineers with 1,833 members have 132, or 7.2 per cent., out of work, and report trade as moderate; the boiler-makers as slack; the brass-founders as dull; the blacksmiths and blacksmiths' helpers, as quiet; the ironfounders as moderate; the machine workers as improving; the shipwrights, carpenters and joiners, enginemen and labourers as fair; the pattern-makers as good.

Building Trades.—The number of unemployed in these trades shows a still further decrease, as out of 2,462 members, only 41, or 1.7 per cent., are signing the out-of-work books; the plumbers, however, report trade as bad; the bricklayers' and plasterers' assistants, carpenters and joiners, and plasterers as fair; the bricklayers as good; and the mill-sawyers and house-painters as very good.

Linen Trades.—The condition of these trades shows some improvement, which, however, is traceable almost solely to the decrease in the unemployed among the flax roughers; out of the 4,161 members connected with these industries from whom returns have been received, 172, or 4.1 per cent., are in search of employment. The yarn-dressers and the spindle and flyer-makers report trade as bad; the tenters as dull; the beetling enginemen and women workers as quiet; the flax-dressers, and hackle and gill makers as fair; and the flax-roughers as good.

Miscellaneous.—In this group, comprising 21 industries, 187 out of 4,511, or 4.1 per cent., members are reported to be unemployed, as against 213, or 4.8 per cent. of the membership, in April. The brushmakers and lithographic printers report trade as bad; the letterpress printers, lithographic artists, boot and shoe operatives, tin-plate workers and paviors as dull; the butchers, sail-makers, gas workers and general labourers, hotel and club assistants as quiet; the bakers, bookbinders and furnishing trades as fair; the coach-builders as moderate; the coopers as fair; the locomotive engine drivers and the railway servants as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Building Trades.—There has been a decided improvement amongst the masons, stonecutters, bricklayers and carpenters, all these branches reporting trade as good. The plasterers show no change. The mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists report a further improvement. The plumbers who came "out" on the 26th March have come to an amicable arrangement with their employers. The Building Trades in Limerick show a slight improvement.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders show a decline, and also the sailmakers, riggers, and block and pumpmakers, especially in Queenstown and Passage West, but no change has taken place in the Engineering Trade in Cork, Limerick or Waterford.

Clothing Trades.—These trades continue to maintain their position in Cork. Trade is reported as good at the down quilt and feather factory in Cork. All the hands at the Cork, Douglas and Blarney flax and tweed factories continue steadily employed. The boot-makers and riveters report trade as dull both in Cork and Limerick. The Tailoring Trade is very good.

Fishing.—The salmon fishing was rather dull at the beginning of the month, but more successful towards the end, especially in Castleconnell (Shannon) and various points on the Lee and Black-water.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers and bookbinders continue busy. The coachmakers and coopers also report good trade.—P. O'Shea.

IV.—REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IN MAY.

(a) THE STATE OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY IN MAY.

(The following tables only profess to state the number of days worked by the collieries at which a certain number of persons were employed at the end of May. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.)

Returns have been received showing the number of days worked in May by 994 collieries, in and about which 256,409 workpeople were employed. The average number of days that these collieries worked per week in May was 4.71, or rather more than in either April or March, when the averages were 4.61 and 4.69 per week respectively.

From the following table, which shows the numbers of workpeople included in the returns, classified according to the number of days worked by the collieries, it will be seen that 8 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at pits working less than 14 days; 44 per cent. at pits working 14 and under 22 days; and nearly 50 per cent. at pits working over 22 days:—

Table showing Number of days worked by the Collieries in May, Number of Workpeople Employed, and Percentage of Total. Rows include categories like Under 8 days, 8 and under 12 days, etc., up to 26 and 27 days, and a Total number employed of 256,409.

In the next table the number of days worked per week in May and April are compared, and the districts in which an improvement has taken place in May are distinguished from those in which there has been a falling-off. The collieries in 12 districts, employing 177,000 miners, show some improvement, and those in

4 districts, employing about 80,000 miners, some decline in the number of days worked:—

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED PER WEEK BY COLLIERIES.

Table comparing Days per Week by District for May and April. Categories include (a) Districts in which May exceeds April and (b) Districts in which May is less than April. Districts listed include Cumberland, Gloucester and Somerset, North Wales, etc.

(c) THE IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN MAY (CUMBERLAND AND LANCASHIRE).

Stocks.—These are returned as 154,488 tons, being 11,185 tons more than in the previous month. Shipments.—The quantity of pig iron shipped at Middlesbrough shows an increase of 5,092 tons over April, but a decline of 12,724 tons compared with May 1893.

(c) THE IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN MAY (CUMBERLAND AND LANCASHIRE).

Returns received from the owners of 30 iron ore mines in Cumberland and Lancashire, at which 5,484 workpeople were employed at the end of May, show that the number of days on which the mines were worked during the month averaged 5.3 per week, precisely the same as in April and March. The table below shows the number of workpeople employed, grouped according to the number of days the mines were worked.

Table showing No. of workpeople employed at the Mines that worked the under-mentioned days, and Average number of days worked by Mines per week. Rows include Month of 1894 (23, 24, 25, 26, 27) and May/April 1894.

Arranging the districts in groups according to the number of days worked by the collieries, we have the following result:—

Table showing No. of workpeople to whom the returns relate, and No. of days worked by collieries. Category (a) 5 Days and upwards per week. Districts include South Wales and Monmouthshire, Fife, Durham, Northumberland, Lothians, and Cumberland.

Table showing No. of workpeople to whom the returns relate, and No. of days worked by collieries. Category (b) 4 Days and less than 5 days per week. Districts include North Wales, West of Scotland, Ireland, Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, Salop, Worcester and Warwick, Gloucester and Somerset, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire.

Table showing No. of workpeople to whom the returns relate, and No. of days worked by collieries. Category (c) Under 4 days per week. Districts include Notts and Leicester.

As in April the collieries in the largest group of districts worked, on the average, 4 days and less than 5 per week.

(b) EMPLOYMENT IN THE PIG IRON TRADE IN MAY.

Returns for May have been received from about two-thirds of the iron-masters of the United Kingdom, employing 14,677 workpeople. These employers had 218 furnaces in blast at the end of May, or two less than at the end of April, but five more than in May 1893. The difference of two in the number of furnaces in blast at the end of May and April is accounted for by three furnaces having been blown out and only one re-lit.

The net result of these changes on the number of workpeople employed is an actual increase of 30. This is accounted for by a new staff of 100 having been taken on for the new furnace; while the blowing out of the three furnaces caused a decrease of 70 workpeople only, the reduction in the work being partly met by short time.

The following additional particulars respecting the Pig Iron Industry in Cleveland are taken from the monthly return issued by the Cleveland Iron-masters' Association:—

Production.—In Cleveland the total production during May was 256,675 tons, an increase of 10,327 tons as compared with April. This increase was entirely in production of pig iron from Cleveland ore.

(d) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

MR. WILSON FOX, the Agricultural Correspondent of the Department, reports as follows:—

GREAT BRITAIN.

The month of May was unfavourable to the agricultural labourers, as regards continuity of employment, in the Eastern Counties, in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and parts of Dorsetshire and Wiltshire. During the dry weather in the autumn of 1893 and the early spring of 1894 most of the necessary farm work was got through, and though most of the men were employed in April at hoeing, &c., the farmers during May have had less for the men to do than is usual at that time of year. In consequence many of them, through the stress of circumstances, have curtailed their labour bills as far as possible. In the counties of Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, and to a less degree in Norfolk, more labourers have been out of employment in May than has been the case during a corresponding period for many years. From certain rural districts of Suffolk labourers unable to find work have gone into the towns in search of it. The weekly money wages in the Eastern Counties are now 10s. to 11s. a week, and in some rather exceptional cases 12s.

The labourers in the Midland Counties, and also in Lincolnshire, Sussex, Kent, and Surrey have generally had a normal amount of employment during the month of May.

At the May hirings in Cumberland, Westmoreland and Lancashire, there was a downward tendency in the rate of wages paid to men and boys, as the supply was greater than the demand. This was because farmers generally required fewer men owing to the forward state of farm work, while some further reduced their staff on account of the prevailing agricultural depression, and also because men who had been employed on the Manchester Ship Canal and the Thirlmere water scheme were seeking agricultural situations now that those undertakings are completed. In many cases farm servants who left their situations with the intention of getting an increase in their wages were glad to be rehired at the old rate, or even a lower one; while many men remained unhired, and will now have to seek other kinds of employment, or else depend on casual farm labour. A number of the best hands elected to remain in their old situations rather than run the risk of being left unhired.

In the case of women the situation was reversed, and good servants with a knowledge of dairy work could command their own terms. This is due to a preference on their part to obtain situations in towns, or to take

work from clothing factories into their houses. They are more especially averse to taking situations in farm houses where any outdoor work is required of them, and there is also a growing dislike to go to the public hirings in search of employment. The following Table shows the yearly rates of wages obtained by various descriptions of farm servants at the Whitsuntide Half-yearly Hirings, held at the undermentioned places in May:— [N.B.—In addition to the cash wages quoted, lodging, board and washing are provided].

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 May 1894 and 1893 respectively.

The reports from the North of Scotland point to an upward tendency in the rates of wages obtained at the recent Hiring fairs; and to a great demand there for women and young lads.

The above information is condensed from reports received from 44 districts in the United Kingdom, including reports from two Agricultural Labourers' Unions. The following additional notes are extracted from a few of the district reports:—

Leicestershire.—Loughborough.—Most of the agricultural labourers are now generally fully employed. Many of the best men go to quarries, collieries, and to the shoe trade.

Worcestershire.—Pershore.—All able-bodied men willing to work regularly can be constantly employed.

Norfolk.—Norwich.—Most labourers were employed during May, though perhaps there were rather more in irregular employment than in May 1893.

Wymondham.—Nearly all the labourers are in regular work. The jobbing men are getting as much work this year as they did last.

Suffolk.—Ixworth.—Here there are about 170 agricultural labourers, and during May twelve or fifteen able-bodied labourers could be found there any day unable to obtain work.

Surrey.—Lingfield.—All the men are now employed in the district, and the supply of labour is about equal to the demand.

Kent.—Maidstone.—There is now no lack of work either for men or women. Men's wages were raised in May from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. a day. A good deal of piecework is given in the neighbourhood including hoeing, fencing, stone picking, gorse cutting, flaying oak timber, topping, &c. Oak flaying is just over, and was paid for as follows:—3s. a ton, and in addition 5s. per 100 for making up faggots, and 4s. for each cord of top. At this work a man averages 3s. 6d. a day.

Buckinghamshire.—Newport Pagnal.—The agricultural labourers in this neighbourhood are not fully employed though most "handy" men are. Less piecework is taken than formerly as the prices are lower, and thus men prefer day work.

Berkshire.—Generally speaking, the month of May was not a good one for the agricultural labourers as regards continuity of employment, but men whose wages were reduced to 9s. last winter, are now receiving 10s.

Piece-work is not so general as it was owing to the increased use of machinery, and also to the lower prices now offered by employers.

Wiltshire.—Kingstone, near Marlborough.—The men are all employed. A number of milking cows are kept in the neighbourhood, and it is difficult to find labourers who are capable of undertaking the management of stock.

Salisbury.—The labourers in this neighbourhood are now fully employed, and the supply is about equal to the demand.

Dorsetshire.—Dorchester.—All able-bodied men willing to work are

* At the Wigton Whitsuntide Hiring there was a poor demand for servants, and the wages were slightly lower than those obtained at Carlisle and Cockermouth.

† There was a large attendance of both male and female servants at Boston, but at the Spalding Hiring Fair, held a few days before, the attendance was one of the smallest within recent years, and comparatively little hiring was done.

‡ Horsemen. § Wagoners.

now in employment. In some districts where regular work is not given labour is rather scarce. On farms which have been taken in hand less labour is being employed.

Somersetshire.—Mendip Hills, near Wells.—The labourers are in constant work, as there are very few casual men in the district.

Wells.—All the labourers were fully employed during May.

IRELAND.

The number of migratory labourers who left the West of Ireland in April and May was 4,064, an increase of 370 on the number who left between February 13th and March 31st. The total number leaving during 1894, up to May 31st, is 7,758, a decrease of 1,119, as compared with the number who left in the corresponding period of 1893.

Co. Mayo.—Swineford Union.—By May 10th about half the migratory labourers had left the district for England and Scotland. The remainder will all have gone by the middle of June. Rather fewer have left hitherto than in the corresponding period in 1893, owing to the wet spring which has prevented the men from sowing their corn and setting their potatoes. The small farmers who do labouring work when they can obtain it are now getting 1s. a day with food, and 1s. 8d. a day without food.

Co. Galway.—Clifden Union.—There is very little employment for the small holders or their sons on the larger farms as labourers. They are now actively employed sowing their own land, and collecting drift seaweed with which to manure it. There is now but little migration to English or Scottish farms, though a few go to Glasgow from Boffin Island. The number who go are constantly decreasing owing to the increasing emigration to the United States, and to the increased price now given for kelp, which is made in the district. Agricultural wages are now 1s. 6d. a day with food, and in some cases 2s. a day. In addition food is provided during spring and harvest. A few years ago 1s. a day without food was considered a fair wage.

Co. Cork.—Shibbereen Union.—Many men are unable to obtain work. Wages now paid are 4s. a week with food.

Kanturk Union.—About a third of the men are employed.

Co. Kildare and Wicklow.—Most of the men are now employed. Wages are 10d. to 1s. a day with food, or 1s. 6d. to 2s. without food.

Co. Down.—Newry.—At the May half-yearly hirings a great number of labourers were in search of situations. The following wages were obtained:—

Table showing wages for different classes of men and women/girls.

(e) STATE OF EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN.

(Based on information supplied by the Marine Department of Board of Trade.)

The number of seamen shipped at the principal ports of the United Kingdom was about 1 per cent. less last month than in May 1893, the increases at Cardiff, Newport, London and Sunderland not being sufficient to counterbalance the decreases at Liverpool, Tyne ports, Glasgow, Southampton and Grimsby.

The supply of seamen in May is reported as in excess of the demand at Sunderland, Grimsby and Belfast, while men are said to have been plentiful at Hull and the Bristol Channel ports. In London the number of seamen was not much in excess of requirements, and at Liverpool, South Shields and Grangemouth supply and demand were about equal. Other reports are as follows:—

- List of reports from various ports: North Shields, Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Southampton, Glasgow, Leith, Dublin.

Wages at all ports remain the same as in the previous month, except at Swansea and Tilbury, where a few men have suffered a reduction. Details of these changes are given in the Changes in Wages Table on p. 177.

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 May 1894 and 1893 respectively.

Main table showing shipping statistics for various ports including England, Bristol Channel, Other Ports, Scotland, and Ireland.

* Including Barry and Penarth.

(f) THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN MAY.

England.—The quantity of fish, other than shellfish, landed on the English and Welsh coasts during last month was 624,629 cwts., and the value (including £32,268 for shellfish) £513,185. The corresponding figures for May 1893 were 520,995 cwts., and £461,447.

The value of the fish landed at ten of the principal fishing ports last month was again greatly in excess of the average amount for May 1890-93, the total for the past month being £323,492, while the average was £271,315 only. The net increase of £52,177 is accounted for by an advance of £57,270 for fish landed at East coast ports, less a decline of £5,093 at South and West coast ports, St. Ives showing a decrease of £5,238.

It will also be seen that the value for May 1894 compares very favourably with the previous month.

Table showing the value of fish landed from the fishing grounds at the principal ports in May 1894, as compared with the average for May in the years 1890-1893.

Table showing the value of fish landed from various ports in May 1894 compared with the average for May in the years 1890-93.

Scotland.—During May 1894, white fish weighing 602,156 cwts., and valued at £154,081, was landed at Scottish ports, compared with 415,011 cwts. and £129,127 in May 1893.

Ireland.—The quantity of fish (exclusive of shellfish) landed on the Irish coasts last month was 177,254 cwts., valued at £52,133, the corresponding figures for May 1893 being 105,890 cwts. and £42,783.

(g) THE STATE OF WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN THE COTTON TRADE.

SEVERAL reports have been received from women correspondents as to the state of employment, especially for women, in the Lancashire Cotton Trade. From these it appears that employment is slack in Preston, some of the mills running short time, and some having been closed for three or four weeks. At Burnley at 25

mills from which reports were received full time was being worked. At Darwen, Nelson, Barrowford, Accrington, and Oswaldtwistle the mills have been running full time with hardly any exception. In Bury most of the mills have run full time; four are reported as being stopped from 7 to 10 days. Ramsbottom and Heywood are busy. The only bad report comes from Middleton, where one firm, employing over 500, has been working four days a week only for about eight months; hat-band weaving, which is usually busy at this season, is slack, and large firms in other trades are working short time. Reports from Bolton, Farnworth, Chorley, Chew Moor, and Horwich show that although not very busy most of the mills are working full time. In several cases where this is so it not infrequently happens that looms are idle, waiting for beams, and it does not follow that the weavers are in full work because the mills are running full time. In Burnley inquiry has been made as to the conditions under which the children of married women working in the mills are left at home. They showed that out of 165 cases covered by the inquiry, the children were left with grandparents in 39, with elder sisters or housekeepers in 20, with the father in 3, with other relatives in 24, with neighbours in 70. In the remaining 9 cases the children were left with no one to take care of them.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

THE Factories and Workshops Bill introduced by the Home Secretary is a measure designed to amend the existing Acts, so as to remedy defects which the administration of the Acts has brought to light, and to extend them to certain industries which are not at present within their sphere.

The main provisions of the bill may be summarized as follows:—

Laundries, Docks, &c.

In the first place certain industries previously outside the scope of the Factories and Workshops Acts, are brought under their operation, viz.:—Laundries where machinery is or is not used, Docks, Wharves, Quays and Warehouses where machinery is used, and premises on which machinery is temporarily used in the construction of a building. Akin to this extension of the Acts, is the application to Bakehouses in small towns of the existing law regulating Bakehouses in large towns.

Unhealthy Industries.

A power is given to the Home Secretary to make special rules prohibiting the employment of, or modifying or limiting the period of employment for, all or any classes of persons in any process which has been certified by him to be dangerous to health or to life and limb. Further, medical men and occupiers of Factories and Workshops are required to send notice to the Chief Inspector of Factories of all cases of lead, phosphorus or arsenical poisoning, or anthrax, arising in a factory or workshop.

Tenement Factories.

The difficulty of dealing with tenement factories, i.e. buildings, the different parts of which are occupied by different persons in such a manner as to constitute those parts in law separate factories, is met by making the owner in place of the occupier responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Factory Acts with regard to sanitation and safe-guarding of life and limb. In the case of the Sheffield Grinders who work in such tenement factories there are additional provisions necessitated by the peculiar conditions of their work.

Over-crowding and Safety.

As regards over-crowding, there is prescribed a minimum cubic space (250 cubic feet before 8 p.m., and 400 between 8 and 10 p.m.) for each person employed, the Home Secretary reserving a discretion to raise the minimum for any particular industry.

As regards safety, the existing safe-guards against dangerous machinery are multiplied, and a power is taken to close factories or workshops in such a condition as to involve danger to health or to life and limb. The provisions against fire of the Act of 1891, which applied

only to factories of a certain size, are extended to all factories and workshops constructed in the future.

Overtime.

The Bill contains a provision by which what is technically known as "overtime" is restricted to three days in any one week; it is at present legal in certain circumstances to work overtime on five days in the same week. But the Bill goes further to meet the case of what is practically though not technically "overtime," and places restrictions on the employment of children, young persons and women in the business of a factory or workshop, both inside and outside the factory or workshop on the same day.

Statistics.

In order to increase the statistical information at the Home Secretary's command, occupiers of factories will be required to send an annual return of the number of persons ordinarily employed by them, and such other returns as may be required, and special provision is made to ensure that Factory Inspectors shall have full notice of every inquest held in connection with a fatal accident which has occurred in a factory.

Particulars Clause, Out-workers' List, &c.

There are in addition a number of important amendments of provisions of the existing law, notably of Section 24 of the Act of 1891, defining more clearly the particulars which must be supplied in certain textile trades where payment is by piece, of Section 27 of the same Act, applying the requirements as to keeping lists of out-workers not merely, as at present, to factories and workshops, but also to any place from which any work of making up wearing apparel for sale is given out, and of Section 2 of the Act of 1891, requiring Sanitary Authorities to inform factory inspectors of the proceedings taken in consequence of notices of sanitary defects received from them.

SCOTTISH MINERS DISPUTE.

ON May 7th, at a meeting of the Scottish Miners' Federation at Glasgow, it was decided to appeal to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain as to the course to be adopted with regard to the notice of reduction in wages posted at most of the West of Scotland collieries; 35,000 miners were reported as resisting the reduction. The Fife and Clackmannan miners who were still working met the coalowners on May 8th and 10th. The latter were willing to diminish the proposed reduction from 15 to 12½ per cent. per day, but would make no further concession, and the men decided to join the West of Scotland miners, who had in most cases provisionally accepted the reduction pending attempts to come to an amicable agreement. Efforts made by the Scottish Federation to induce the West of Scotland Coalowners' Association to meet them in a conference proved unsuccessful. A conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain was held at Carlisle on the 29th and 30th May, and it was unanimously resolved, "That all districts belonging to this Federation where reductions have recently taken place be requested to give a proper notice for the same to be returned, and we are favourable to a levy being made to support them."

At the close of the National Convention on the 30th May the Scottish miners decided to take a ballot as to whether a strike should be declared or not. The result of the ballot showed 25,715 in favour of a strike and 14,516 against, a considerable number refraining from voting. The particulars for each district are given below:—

	For Strike.	Against.
Lanarkshire Federation	7,356	7,214
Three collieries in the Wishaw and Morningside District	113	409
Ayrshire	4,015	1,448
Renfrewshire	892	221
West Lothian	1,686	651
Mid and East Lothian	3,528	230
Fife and Kinross-shire	3,203	1,859
Clackmannan	611	204
Forth and Clyde Valley	4,307	2,280

In accordance with this vote the miners have been instructed to lodge notices, so that the strike against the recent reduction of 1s. in the West of Scotland and of 12½ per cent. in Fife and Clackmannan may begin on June 25th.

THE METROPOLITAN CAB DISPUTE.

FOR some time past an agitation has been in progress among the London cabmen for a re-adjustment of the prices paid by them for the hire of cabs, especially in the height of the season. On May 15th the movement culminated in a general strike of drivers, which continued until June 11th. The main grievance alleged by the men was the excessive scale of prices charged for cab hire, especially during the London season, to which were added complaints as to the payment by the drivers of "yard money" to horsekeepers, lamp cleaners and others. Complaint was also made of the system of "privileged" cabs, by which the right to ply for hire within the railway stations is conceded by railway companies in return for a special payment. The question of the merits of this privilege system, however, formed no part of the matter in dispute, the great majority on both sides desiring its abolition. The contention of the men was that, owing to the growing competition of other means of transit and communication, cab-driving was no longer profitable at the existing prices. The owners, on the other hand, declared that these charges barely covered the cost of maintenance and renewal of a cab and the necessary horses, with a reasonable allowance for the owner's profit.

During 1893 14,983 licenses were issued to cab-drivers in the metropolitan district compared with 15,011 in 1892. Proprietors' licenses were issued for 7,193 hansoms and 3,613 four-wheel cabs, making a total of 10,806, compared with 10,812 in 1892, the hansoms having increased by 60, and the four-wheelers diminished by 66 during the year. Thus the proportion of hackney drivers to every 10 hackney carriages in 1893 was 13·87, compared with 13·88 in 1892, and 13·67 in 1891. The highest number of licenses were issued in 1888, viz., for 11,409 cabs, and 15,514 drivers.

The above particulars as to the numbers of drivers, cabs, &c., have been specially furnished to the Labour Department by the courtesy of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

It must not be supposed that the whole of the drivers licensed are actually engaged in cab driving at any one time, since (1) a certain number also hold licenses as stage drivers or conductors; (2) many proprietors hold drivers' licenses; (3) some licensed drivers follow other occupations during part of the year. During 1893, 1,168 fresh applicants for drivers' licenses were examined and passed, compared with 1,050 in 1892.

The total number of drivers actually following the trade at any one time cannot be exactly stated, but judging from the statements furnished to the Department, it appears probable that it is between 12,000 and 13,000. This number includes a large number of persons (stated at over 2,000) who own a single cab and drive it themselves. To this number must be added between 3,000 and 4,000 horsekeepers and yardmen. The greater part of the London Cab Trade is in the hands of small owners, as is shown by the fact that in 1892 the number of cab proprietors in London was about 3,600, 3,125 owning less than 5 cabs each, 470 5 cabs and under 100, and only 4 (since reduced to 3) owning over 100 cabs. Since that year the number of owners has probably fallen slightly. The three firms which now own over 100 cabs each, account for less than 600 cabs.

The Cab Trade in London is subject to the control of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, by whom licenses both for cabs and drivers are issued, a maximum legal fare being fixed, but no control being exercised over the price of cab hire.

The almost universal practice is to charge a certain price, varying with the season and the class of cab, the driver making what he can earn over and above this fixed charge. In some yards the price charged is inclusive, horsekeepers and yardmen being paid by the proprietor, but there is a very prevalent system under which some or all of the various classes of yardmen have been paid wholly or in part by "tips" from the drivers.

As regards the organisations of owners and drivers concerned in the dispute, a large proportion of owners belong to one or other of eight local or sectional associations for insurance against claims for damage,

luggage, etc. One of these (the Hackney Carriage Mutual Benefit Society) consists chiefly of small owners, membership being confined to those who own two cabs or under at the time of entrance. The other seven are local, viz., Bayswater, Central, Independent (a secession from the last-named), North London, Westminster, West End and Kennington.

Besides these local societies there is a permanent "United Cab Proprietors' Protection Association" not concerned with the regulation of prices or wages, but watching over the interests of the Cab Trade as a whole, and a "Metropolitan Cab Proprietors' Strike Fund," separate from the above, but with the same office and secretary, which, after inquiry, compensates subscribers for loss due to sectional strikes, according to the number of cabs rendered idle. On the occurrence of the recent general dispute an emergency committee was convened, comprising delegates from the local societies, and an emergency fund was subscribed especially with a view to compensate the smaller owners. The above committee has acted as a "Dispute Committee" on behalf of the owners generally.

The Cabdrivers' Trade Union, by which the strike was conducted on behalf of the men, is a newly-formed body, having come into existence only a few weeks ago. Up to the present it has been largely of the nature of a strike committee, the strike pay distributed being the proceeds of levies on the cabmen still at work, and of subscriptions from other trade societies or the public.

The horsekeepers and yardmen do not belong to the Cabmen's Union, but some of them belong to the London Carmen's Union.

It has been the custom in the Cab Trade for each owner to arrange his own prices with his drivers; and at the beginning of the dispute, the Cab Owners' Association disclaimed any power or intention to interfere with the discretion of its members by fixing a standard price. For the guidance of the public, however, the association published a list of prices per day, varying according to the season, for the best class of street hansoms.

The following is a summary of the scale:—

At 12s. per day	9 weeks.
13s. "	24 " "
14s. "	3 " "
15s. "	4 " "
16s. "	4 " "
17s. "	8 " "

These figures were not originally put forward as a proposal, but as an estimate of existing rates. The average charge per day throughout the year works out at 13s. 10d.

On the other hand the Cabdrivers' Union drew up a scale of prices which they were prepared to pay, of which the following is a summary:—

At 9s. per day	4 weeks.
10s. "	5 " "
11s. "	30 " "
12s. "	1 " "
13s. "	5 " "
14s. "	2 " "
15s. "	5 " "

The above scale gives an average price per day throughout the year of 11s. 6d.

At the beginning of the dispute a considerable number of proprietors, chiefly the smaller owners, agreed to the Union conditions, and their cabs were running throughout the strike with a label to indicate that they were recognised by the Union as "fair-priced" cabs. According to the statement of the Union from 3,000 to 4,000 such cabs have been running. A certain number of cabdrivers also continued to run without the label, but the proportion has been small. Seven thousand drivers are said to have been idle. The Employers' Committee declined at the outset to recognise the Union as such, or to interfere with the discretion of their own members as regards the fixing of rates.

On May 22nd the Conciliation Board of the London Chamber of Commerce offered its services, which, however, were not accepted by the owners. On May 31st,

the Chairman of the London County Council offered his mediation, but this was also declined by the owners. On June 5th, at the request of the representatives of both parties, the Home Secretary consented to act as mediator and conciliator, the employers agreeing to take no objection to representatives of the men, whether members of the union or not. On June 6th, a preliminary Conference was held in the Conference Room at the House of Commons, under the chairmanship of Mr. Burns, M.P., ten representatives of each side being present. The Home Secretary presided at a Conference on June 7th, and at adjourned meetings on the 8th, 9th and 11th.

As the outcome of these conferences the following agreement was eventually arrived at:—

Terms of settlement of the dispute between the cab-drivers and cabowners of the metropolitan district, agreed to at a conference held on June 7th, and adjourned to June 8th, 9th and 11th, the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P., in the chair.

We, the undersigned representatives of the cabowners and of the cabdrivers affected by the present dispute, hereby agree to the following terms of settlement on behalf of those whom we represent:—

- (1) The payment of fees by drivers to yardmen to be abolished forthwith.
- (2) The union label to be discontinued.
- (3) All men who have taken part in the strike to be reinstated, they on their part undertaking to work harmoniously with drivers who have been at work during the dispute.
- (4) A scale to be determined for the price of best property street hansoms in the different seasons of the year; this scale to be regarded as a "standard" price, and the prices to be charged for all other classes of cabs to be determined (having reference to the standard scale) by mutual agreements between individual owners and their drivers.
- (5) That the determination of the scale be left in the hands of the chairman, both parties agreeing to accept his decision, and to abide by his interpretation of this agreement.

Signed on behalf of the owners—

JAMES SCOTT.
ALFRED MILLS.

Signed on behalf of the men—

FRED. WHITE.

Chairman of Conference—

H. H. ASQUITH.

H. LLEWELLYN SMITH,

Secretary of Conference.

June 11th, 1894.
By this agreement the actual fixing of a standard scale was left to Mr. Asquith, who, on the evening of the same day made the following award, which is calculated to yield an average net cash payment of about 12s. 3d. per day per cab:—

The following scale is to be in force:—

June 4th to July 15th	6 weeks, at 16s.
July 16th to July 22nd	1 week, at 15s.
July 23rd to July 29th	1 week, at 14s.
July 30th to Aug. 5th	1 week, at 13s.
Aug. 6th to Aug. 12th	1 week, at 12s.
Aug. 13th to Aug. 19th	1 week, at 11s.
Aug. 20th to Oct. 21st	9 weeks, at 10s.
Oct. 22nd to Oct. 28th	1 week, at 11s.
Oct. 29th to Jan. 14th	11 weeks, at 12s.
Jan. 15th to April 1st	11 weeks, at 11s.
April 2nd to April 15th	2 weeks, at 12s.
April 16th to May 6th	3 weeks, at 13s.
May 7th to May 20th	2 weeks, at 14s.
May 21st to June 3rd	2 weeks, at 15s.

The above scale is to regulate the net cash price to be paid per day by driver to owner for first-class street hansom cabs from this date. It is to be subject to revision as from the first Monday in April 1895, if within fourteen days prior to that date notice demanding revision is given to me by or on behalf of either of the parties to the agreement of this day."

June 11th, 1894.

H. H. ASQUITH.

The following summary of the scale of prices fixed by the above award will enable it to be readily compared with the scales put forward by owners and men respectively:—

At 10s. per day	9 weeks.
11s. "	13 " "
12s. "	14 " "
13s. "	4 " "
14s. "	3 " "
15s. "	3 " "
16s. "	6 " "

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trade Unions, and in some cases by the Employers concerned.)

THE number of changes in wages reported during the month has again been above the average, and the reductions, especially in the case of miners, have affected very large numbers.

The change directly affecting the largest number has been the reduction of 2 1/2 per cent. in the wages of about 90,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouth; after which comes the reduction of 1/- per day in the case of over 60,000 colliery workers in West Scotland. The wages of the miners in the Fife district have also been reduced, the amount in this case being 12 1/2 per cent. Another important reduction has been one of 10 per cent. in wages of wrought nail makers in South Staffordshire and East Worcester.

Of the increases in wages, the one affecting the largest number of workpeople has been an advance of 3d. per ton to puddlers, and 2 1/2 per cent. to other iron and steel workers in the North of England, the number employed being about 6,000.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change.

INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Table listing various trades (Building, Masons, Carpenters, Plasterers, Painters, Slaters, Bricklayers, etc.) and their corresponding wage changes across different localities.

* In all cases the accuracy of Newspaper reports is inquired into before the information is used here. † Temporary men only.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Number, Particulars of Change.

INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES—(continued).

Table listing trades such as Mining, Metal Trades, Engineering Trades, Shipbuilding, Textile Trades, Clothing Trades, and Miscellaneous, with details on wage increases.

DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Table listing trades such as Mining, Coal Miners, Engine-men, Coal Hewers, Iron Miners, and Metal Trades, with details on wage decreases.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Number, Particulars of Change.

DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES—(continued).

Table listing trades such as Seamen, Textile Trades, Clothing Trades, and Wood-Working Trades, with details on wage decreases.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

Table listing trades such as Building Trades, Plumbers, Plasterers, Painters, Slaters, Bricklayers, etc., with details on hour reductions.

* Number affected during May. † Reduction applies to men serving in steamers engaged in oil trade between United Kingdom and United States. ‡ The wages of these workpeople were not reduced when a general reduction of 7d. in the £ was made in the district in March 1893. § The hours of labour of the 83 bakers, reported in last month's GAZETTE as having been reduced on April 16th from 60 to 54 per week, were increased to 56 per week on May 26th, the date of the general settlement.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Number, Particulars of Change.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR—(continued).

Table listing Miscellaneous trades with details on hour reductions.

§ In connection with the reduction in hours of labour there has been a re-arrangement of wages, resulting in some cases in a rise, and in others in a fall. Of the horse drivers, 4 have had a rise of 9d. per week, and 36 a reduction varying from 1s. 11d. to 2s. 6d. Twelve of the engine-men have had their wages reduced 7d. per week, and 15, 2s. 4d., while of the 67 conductors, 58 have had an increase varying from 4d. to 1s. per week, and 9 a reduction of 1d. This information was supplied by the Leeds Corporation.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MAY.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of English and Welsh Industrial Organizations in May it will be seen that 9 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations of Consumers, 2 Co-operative Associations of Producers, 3 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 13 new Friendly Societies, 20 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 8 Building Societies have been added to the Register during the past month. Eleven Building Societies are reported as having ceased to exist.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

I.—Trade Unions.

Amalgamated Paper-makers, 8 Creek Mill Cottages, Dartford. Amalgamated Musicians, 61 Bold St., Moss Side, Manchester. Liverpool Hebrew Cabinet-makers, 16 West Derby St., Liverpool. Sunderland Chain-makers and Chain-strikers, Monkwearmouth. Steam Tug Provident, Vulcan Hotel, Monkwearmouth. Yorkshire Amal. Bakers and Confectioners, 10 Industrial Ter., Leeds. London Lathrenders, Tramway Terminus, Blackfriars, S.E. Amal. Pottery Moulders and Finishers, Little Wonder Tavern, Oswin St., S.E. Key-makers, Hope Tavern, Stanhope St., N.W.

II.—Industrial and Provident Societies.

Associations of Consumers.

Railway Servants' Coal S., 40 Fifteenth Avenue, Leeds. Camberwell and Peckham C.S., 18 Westmacott St., S.E. Whitmore Reans Coal S., 40 Lowe St., Wolverhampton. Ringstead C.S., The Store, Ringstead, Thrapston.

Associations of Producers.

Kettering Building and Contracting S., Co-op. Hall, Kettering. Tailors' C.S., 6 Christian Street, London, E.

Miscellaneous.

Commercial Agriculture, 6 Christian St., London, E. Britannia W.M. Club and Inst. S., Hobbs Yard, Burton Latimer. Hipperholme Coal C., 3 Denholme Gate Rd., Halifax.

III.—Friendly Societies.

New Societies.

Ordinary Friendly ... 7 | Dividing ... 1 Working Men's Clubs ... 5

New Branches of Existing Societies.

I.O. Oddfellows, M.U. ... 3 | United A.O. Druids ... 3 I.O. Rechabites, S.U. ... 3 | N.U.O. Free Gardeners ... 3 Various others ... 8

IV.—Building Societies.

Eight new Building Societies were registered.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Eleven Building Societies have been dissolved.

Northumberland Miners.—The ballot of the Northumberland miners shows 6,299 in favour of accepting the proposed reduction in wages of 3 1/2 per cent., and 8,026 against. About 4,800 abstained from voting.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

(Based on information supplied by the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, and by the Board of Supervision in Scotland.)

(1.) The returns of pauperism for the selected urban districts show that on one day in the second week in May the number relieved was less than a month ago by 5,065, or 4 per 10,000 of population, this seasonal decrease being shared in by most of the districts.

The number of vagrants in London on one day numbered 1,125 as compared with 1,133 on one day in April.

(2.) As compared with May 1893 the number in receipt of relief in the selected urban districts was more this year than last by 14,494 or 9 per 10,000 of population.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of May 1894, Paupers on corresponding date in 1893, Rate per 10,000 of Population, Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of Population. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, Other Districts, SCOTLAND, IRELAND.

* Based on the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas. No allowance has been made for any change in population which may have since taken place.

† Exclusive of Vagrants; of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; 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.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

The number of new applicants for work registered during May by the nine bureaux included in the tables below was 1,844, showing a decrease of 77 when compared with 1,921 registered in April.

The total number of old and new applicants on the registers of the nine bureaux in May was 4,208, and of these, 517, or 12.3 per cent., were found work by the bureaux, an increase of 14 on the number for April.

(1) Work Done in May.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Workpeople on Register, No. of Applicants during May, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux. Rows include London, Provincial, Total.

* The figures in this column do not show the number of individual persons.

(2) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at End of May.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Carmen, Clerks, Porters, General, Other), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Servants, Others), Total Women and Girls. Rows include London, Provincial, Total.

* Women and Girls are not at present registered at Salford and Plymouth.

DOMESTIC SERVANTS IN LONDON.

The Labour Department has been making inquiries with regard to the rates of wages of domestic servants in London, and some of the preliminary results are given below.

As regards the proportion which domestic servants bear to the total number of women and girls living in the various districts, the Census returns show that of the females above 10 years of age in the West district, 24 per cent. were engaged in indoor domestic service, the corresponding percentage in the North being 15, in the Central 11, in the East 5, and in the South 11.

The following table classifies the female domestic servants according to groups of ages. It is, however, to be noted that the figures here given are liable to considerable error, the ages being entered by the employers, and not by the servants themselves; but this error is, of course, of little importance in comparing the different districts.

Ages of Female Indoor Domestic Servants.

Table with columns: Districts, Percentage of Female Servants in each District, aged (Under 20, 20-35, 35 and upwards). Rows include West, North, Central, East, South, London.

Inquiries made by Mr. Charles Booth on the basis of the Census Returns, after eliminating domestic servants living in their own homes, in servants' homes, &c., show the following results as to the number of families in London keeping one, two, three, four or more indoor servants.

Classification of Families according to Number of Servants.

Table with columns: No. of Servants in Family, No. of Families keeping one or more Servants, Percentage of Families keeping one or more Servants, Total No. of Servants in Families, Percentage of Servants in Families. Rows include One, Two, Three, Four, More than Four, Total.

The information supplied to the Department with regard to the rates of wages of servants is drawn from two sources; (1) from schedules filled up by families in London keeping servants, and (2) from Registry Offices of the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants.

Schedules have been supplied by 302 families in London relating to 678 female domestic servants. Of these families 82 kept one servant, 107 two servants, 55 three servants, 31 four servants, and 27 upwards of four servants.

* The districts referred to are groups of registration districts, of which the population is approximately as follows:—West, 749,735; North, 993,884; Central, 247,538; East, 705,114; South, 1,524,472.

The following tables show the average money wages of the 678 female servants included in the returns, grouped first according to occupations, and secondly according to age. In both tables the wages stated are exclusive of allowances,* and relate solely to servants boarded and lodged by their employers.

(a) Average Wages and Average Age according to Occupation.

Table with columns: Class of Servant, Number of Servants, Average Wages, Average Age, Class of Servant, Number of Servants, Average Wages, Average Age. Rows include General, Housemaid, Nurse, Kitchenmaid, Nurse-Housemaid, Cook, Parlourmaid, Lady's maid, Cook-House-keeper, All Classes.

(b) Average Wages according to Age.

Table with columns: Age, No. of Servants, Average Wages, Age, No. of Servants, Average Wages. Rows include Under 16 years, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, All Ages.

II. The returns obtained from the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants relate to the poorest class of servants, and, as might naturally be expected, the average wage is considerably lower than that shown above. From 31 Registry Offices of the Association lists have been sent to the Labour Department of wages agreed upon and the ages of girls obtaining situations at these offices during the first quarter of 1894.

Average Yearly Wages of Servants of Various Ages in the Undermentioned Districts of London, engaged through the M.A.B.Y.S. Registry Offices.

Table with columns: Age of Servants, Districts (West, North, East, South, Central, All London), Number of each Age. Rows include 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21-25, Number in Each District.

SETTLEMENT BY ARBITRATION OF THE WAGES OF CREWS OF THAMES STEAMBOATS.

DURING the month the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board has made an award between a London Steamboat River Company and their crews, the general effect of which is to retain the old weekly rates of wages, while improving the conditions of employment as regards hours and overtime pay.

* 40 of these servants received extra allowances for beer &c.

THE MINERS INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT BERLIN.

The following account of the Miners' International Congress has been prepared from the notes of Mr. Burt, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade, who attended the Congress, supplemented by reports furnished by Mr. Gosselin, the Secretary of the British Embassy at Berlin, and Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf.

The Fifth Annual International Miners' Congress, which was held at Berlin on May 14 and five following days, was attended by 38 British delegates, representing 645,000 miners, and 48 Continental delegates representing 462,300 miners, more or less organised. Of the Continental delegates,

Germany	sent 39,	representing 192,300 miners.
Austria	" 2,	" 100,000 "
France	" 4,	" 100,000 "
Belgium	" 3,	" 70,000 "

In the divisions which took place on the resolutions submitted, regard was had to the numbers represented by the several delegates in accordance with the decision of 1892.

Reports were read on the second and third days as to the general condition of miners and the rates of wages prevailing at the present time in the several countries represented.

Of the resolutions submitted to the Congress on the fourth and following days the most important were:

(1) *Eight Hours' Day*.—On behalf of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain it was moved:—

"That this Congress hereby affirms the principle of a legal eight hours' day from bank to bank, as in our opinion this is the only means whereby an eight hours day can be safely and permanently secured to the miners of the nationalities represented at this Congress."

In amendment to this the following resolution was moved by the Northumberland and Durham representatives:—

"That this Congress recognising the great diversity in the natural conditions existing in the several nations represented, is of opinion that it is inadvisable to delegate to Parliament or Legislative Body the power or right to fix the hours adults shall labour in mines, but would strongly urge on every nation and district to embrace every opportunity afforded them to reduce their working hours as far as may be practicable, and without injury to themselves."

On a division being taken, the original resolution was adopted by 76 votes against 10.

The following supplementary resolution was then proposed on behalf of the French and Belgian delegates:—

"The Congress adheres to the resolution adopted at the Congress held in London in favour of the legislative fixing of underground miners' work in such a way that work shall only last eight hours, including descent and ascent, and that this law should apply equally to workers above ground occupied in connection with the mines."

This resolution was carried by 50 delegates against 7, representing 492,000 miners against 120,000. Twenty-eight British delegates abstained from voting.

(2) *Employers' Liability*.—On behalf of the Belgian delegates the following resolution was proposed:—

"In respect to the many accidents occurring in Belgian mines, the Congress demands that the employers shall be made thoroughly responsible for the accidents occurring in mines by whatever means such accidents are caused."

The word "Belgian" was subsequently struck out, but on the resolution being put in its amended form the British delegates voted in a body against it, while the German, French and Belgian delegates unanimously supported it. The resolution was therefore rejected, owing to the superior number of miners represented by the British delegates.

(3) *Living Wage*.—A resolution was proposed by two British delegates in the following terms:—

"That this Congress believes the only way to obtain and maintain a living wage is to be thoroughly organized, and that no question relative to wages should be decided unless profits,

losses, selling prices, and a minimum rate of wages be within the purview of any arrangements made for settlements of wage questions."

On behalf of the German delegates the following amendment was proposed:—

"The Congress demands that in every country the minimum wage be fixed by law."

On division, this amendment was supported by the Continental delegates but opposed by the British, and the numbers represented, being called for, were found to be—for the amendment 462,300, against 645,000. On the resolution itself being then put the numbers were:—for, 525,000; against, 462,300. The resolution was therefore carried by a majority of 62,700.

(4) *Over-production*.—On behalf of the French and Belgian miners a resolution was moved in favour of limiting production by international agreement among the workers. To this an amendment was proposed by the German delegates declaring that all over-production cannot be completely prevented except by a change in the Social system.

This amendment was defeated by 475,000 (wholly British) against 292,300 votes by the Continental miners, and the Franco-Belgian resolution was withdrawn.

A British delegate then submitted the following resolution:—

"The Congress is of opinion that the over-production of coals is due to the introduction of unskilled labour into the mines, and the enormous increase in competition among merchants. The Congress is therefore agreed that all nationalities should have recourse to every legitimate means for limiting the production of coal, and should endeavour by legal means to prevent the admission, in future, of unskilled labour into the mines."

The division resulted in the acceptance of this resolution, the delegates in its favour representing 475,000 miners (British), as compared with 462,300 against, the latter being Germans, Austrians, Belgians and French. The Welsh and north-country delegates did not vote.

Female Labour.—The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"In conformity with the resolutions of the Miners' International Congress held in Brussels in 1893, the present Congress resolves that female labour in connection with the mines, above or below the surface, should be prohibited in all countries."

A resolution was also passed advocating the selection of mining inspectors from among practical miners.

On the concluding day members of each nationality were selected to form an International Committee of arrangement for next year's Congress, which it was decided to hold in Paris.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton in May amounted to 198,216 bales, a decrease of 62,080 bales, as compared with the corresponding month of 1893. In comparing May 1893 and 1894, it should be remembered that, in the former year, the imports in May were probably somewhat larger than usual in that month, owing to the impetus given to the trade on its recovery from the effects of the great dispute in the first quarter of the year. The imports in May 1892 were only 3,434 bales more than last month. The following table shows the figures for the last three years:—

May.	Imports. Bales.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales.	Exports. Bales.
1894	198,216	247,866	59,124
1893	260,296	228,386	39,141
1892	201,650	238,079	62,972

Bankruptcies.—During May, 444 bankruptcies were gazetted, as against 387 in May 1893, an increase of 57. Of the 444 bankrupts, 34 were publicans, hotel-keepers, &c., 28 grocers, 28 builders, 25 farmers, 13 decorators, painters, &c., 13 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers, 12 drapers, haberdashers, &c., and 11 bakers.

Hay Imports.—The imports of hay during the past month were again in excess of the corresponding month of last year, being 33,127 tons, as against 10,237 for May 1893. The largest proportion came from the United States, viz., 24,161 tons, compared with 5,917 tons in May 1893, while Canada furnished 3,902 tons, compared with 982 tons in May 1893.

British Corn.—The average prices of British corn per quarter for the week ended May 26th 1894 were below the prices at the corresponding date in 1893, as will be seen from the following figures:—

	Price per Quarter at—		
	May 1894.	May 1893.	Decrease.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat	24 4	27 6	3 2
Barley	24 0	25 0	1 0
Oats	18 10	19 6	0 8

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways in the United Kingdom amounted to £5,697,015 for the four weeks ended May 26th, an increase of £125,058 over the corresponding period of 1893. The receipts for passengers amounted to £2,696,162, a decrease of £8,055, while the receipts from minerals and goods amounted to £3,000,853, an increase of £133,113.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The total number of British and Foreign passengers who left this country during May for places out of Europe was roughly about half the number for the corresponding period of 1893.

British.—The number of passengers of British nationality in May was 15,993, showing a decrease of 10,080 as compared with the total for May, 1893, viz., 26,073. The decline was chiefly among the passengers to the United States and Canada, while the number proceeding to South Africa, though relatively small, showed an increase of about one-fourth. The figures are:—

	May, 1894.	May, 1893.
United States.....	11,673	20,541
British North America	1,996	3,398
South Africa	1,045	843
Australasia.....	671	722
Other Places	608	569
Total	15,993	26,073

The number of persons who return to this country is not published monthly.

Foreign.—Besides the above British passengers, there were 6,317 foreigners and others whose nationality was not stated, as compared with 16,196 in May, 1893.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens who arrived from the Continent at the various ports of the United Kingdom last month was 7,891. This is much less than the number for the corresponding month of last year, which amounted to 20,203. This decrease was again almost entirely among the immigrants stated to be en route to America, the difference due to this class being 11,569. The ports of embarkation showing the greatest decreases were the Scandinavian (where the number has declined from 7,232 to 1,499) and the Dutch and Belgian (from 3,139 to 1,240). Of last month's immigrants 4,065, or about half, were stated to be on their way to America, while of the 3,826 remaining, 987 were sailors.

CO-OPERATION IN MAY.

The most important matter in connection with co-operation during the month has been the Annual Congress, a report of which appears in another column. Five new associations of consumers have been registered, two of them being for the supply of coal, and a builders and contractors' society and a tailors' society have been added to the register of associations of producers, while one distributive society has opened a new branch.

A report prepared by the Co-operative Union shows that during the year 1893, 26 manufacturing co-operative societies were registered, and that 27 had been dissolved or otherwise ceased to exist. The report of the English Wholesale Society for the quarter ended March 24th shows sales in the distributive departments amounting to £2,229,682, an increase of £2,657 over the corresponding period of last year, and the profits amount to £25,154, as compared with £30,965. In the manufacturing departments sales amounting to £202,704 are shown, as compared with £206,109, a decrease of £3,405. The profits amounted to £2,801, as compared with a loss of £1,251 in the corresponding period last year. With the view of securing greater regularity of employment for its employees, the society has issued to its federated societies during the past month a chart showing the weekly fluctuation during 1893 in the demand for boots and shoes at its Leicester factory, where nearly 2,000 work-people are employed.

From this it appears that the demand varied from 42,821 pairs in one week in January to 4,943 one week in September, the average weekly demand throughout the year being 20,743 pairs. The society has issued a circular with the chart asking for the co-operation of its customers in certain arrangements whereby greater regularity of employment can be secured for the workpeople.

The report of the Scottish Wholesale Society for the quarter ended March 31st shows sales in its distributive departments amounting to £727,716, a decrease of £13,282, or 1.8 per cent., upon the corresponding period of last year, and profits during the same period of £19,537, of which £811 is allotted as bonus on the wages of the employees at 6d. in the £. The manufacturing departments

show sales amounting to £70,203, an increase of £3,237 as compared with last year. In connection with these departments a new departure was taken by the general meeting of the society held on May 26th, when authority was given to the committee to tender for contracts for work required by public bodies, the practice hitherto having been to confine the operations of the society to supplying the requirements of registered co-operative societies.

THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Co-operative Congress was held in Sunderland, on Whit Monday, May 14, and two following days. The Congress is convened by the Co-operative Union, a Federation of 969 registered co-operative societies, including 1,072,466 members, or 86½ per cent. of the total membership (1,240,013) of the 1,655 societies known to exist.

722 delegates were present at the Congress, representing 295 of the federated societies, as compared with 645 delegates, representing 286 societies, at the Bristol congress last year.

Deputations were also present representing the Co-operative Societies of Belgium, France and Germany, the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress, the National Union of Teachers, and other representative organisations.

The Presidents for the three days respectively were, Messrs. T. Tweddell, of Hartlepool; J. McKendrick, of Newcastle; and Wm. Crooks, of Blaydon. The Congress was remarkable for the attitude taken up towards the "co-partnership" principle of sharing profit and management with the workers employed by co-operative societies. The President's address on the first day was largely devoted to this subject, his view being in favour of production by federations of consumers' associations rather than by independent associations of producers. A resolution in favour of co-partnership was subsequently discussed without any decisive result, opinion as taken by a show of hands being apparently equally balanced. At most of the previous Congresses for the last twenty-five years similar resolutions have been carried. Another feature to be noted was the evidence afforded by the discussions of the increased interest taken by co-operators in questions affecting the general conditions of labour.

Among the subjects directly bearing on co-operation on which resolutions were submitted to the Congress were the adoption of the "co-partnership" principle (alluded to above), the extent to which credit trading prevails in connection with Co-operative Societies (with regard to which the Central Board was instructed to make an inquiry), the amendment of the system of registration with a view of preventing the registration of immature or bogus societies, the work of the Women's Co-operative Guild, the extension of intercourse between the British and Foreign Co-operative Organizations, and the action of a leading railway company with regard to the participation of its employees in the active management of Co-operative Societies. Among matters of more general interest discussed were the extension of the Factory Acts and the "living wage." The special papers read related to "Store Management" and "Co-operative Agriculture." Statistics were submitted to the Congress by the Central Board showing that the total trade of the retail distributive societies in 1893 amounted to £32,553,070, as compared with £32,700,193 in 1892 (a decrease of £147,123), and their net profits to £4,321,304 (a decrease of £77,774). The total distributive trade of the two wholesale societies amounted in 1893 to £11,611,008, an increase over 1892 of £238,106, while a Federation of Creameries (which appears for the first time in this year's statistics) shows sales to the amount of £45,516, but no profit. The sales of goods by the manufacturing societies and corn-mills (excluding the wholesale societies) amount to £2,450,300, a decrease of £175,228 on 1892, while the sales by the manufacturing departments of the two wholesale societies amount to £1,050,721, an increase of £17,951. The usual exhibition of the products of the manufacturing societies and departments was held in connection with the Congress. Huddersfield was fixed as the meeting place for next year.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MAY.

THE number of industrial prosecutions in May, as shown in the following tables was 308, compared with 261 in April. Of these 308 prosecutions, 262 were under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the number of convictions being 250, with an average penalty, including costs, of £1 18s. 3d. Under the Mines Acts, there were 35 prosecutions, resulting in 31 convictions against workmen and 2 against owners or managers, the average penalties imposed on the former being £1 0s. 3d., and on the latter £3 13s. 3d. Under the Merchant Shipping Acts, a conviction was obtained in each of the 11 prosecutions, of which 8 were against owners or masters of vessels, 2 against seamen, and 1 against boarding-house keepers, the average penalties and costs being £26 19s. 8d., £2 11s. 9d., and £5 5s. respectively.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Table with 5 columns: Particulars of Offences, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Rows include Neglecting to Limewash, Overcrowding Factory or Workshop, Neglecting to Fence Machinery, etc., Employing Young Persons under Illegal Conditions, Illegal Hours or Times of Employment, Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c., and Other Offences. Total for May 1894: 262 prosecutions, 250 convictions, £314 8 0 penalties, £163 5 10 costs. Total for April 1894: 170 prosecutions, 165 convictions, £223 8 6 penalties, £90 1 0 costs.

* Supplied by the Home Office.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.*

Table with 6 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases with drawn, Cases dismissed, Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants. Rows include By Owners, Managers, &c., By Workmen, and Monthly Average for last 8 months of 1893. Total for May: 35 prosecutions, 33 convictions, 1 case with drawn, 3 cases dismissed, £38 13 9 fines and costs. Monthly average for last 8 months of 1893: 35 prosecutions, 31 convictions, 1 case with drawn, 3 cases dismissed, £49 2 7 fines and costs.

* Supplied by the Home Office.

† One of the defendants absconded, and a warrant for his apprehension has been issued.

‡ Of these prosecutions, 3 were for drunkenness on premises, 2 for neglecting to use a stop-block, and 1 for smoking where prohibited.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Total Penalties, Total Costs. Rows include By Owners or Masters of Ships, By Seamen, and By Boarding-House Keepers. Total for May: 11 prosecutions, 11 convictions, £208 3 0 penalties, £18 2 6 costs. Total for April: 22 prosecutions, 20 convictions, £190 2 6 penalties, £15 4 8 costs.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MAY.

Imports.—The total value of the imports during the past month amounted to £34,134,060, showing a decrease of £2,704,153 as compared with the corresponding period of 1893. This is the first month since the beginning of the year in which a decline has taken place, and the aggregate value of the imports for the five months still shows an increase, £10,941,976, over the first five months of 1893. Raw materials for textile and other manufactures account for nearly £7,500,000 out of this total increase in the five months, but in May the largest decrease, £1,762,147, is under this very head. Articles of food and drink show a decrease in May amounting to £933,994, but the imports of living animals for food increased by £524,910.

British and Irish Exports.—The value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufacture last month amounted to £17,484,212, as against £17,822,460 in May 1893, showing a decrease of £338,248. There is an increase of £259,340 in the exports of coal, and of £127,443 in machinery and mill-work, but on the other hand metal manufactures show a decline of £429,175. Yarns and textile fabrics show on the whole a decline of £95,984. Cotton yarn shows a decline in value and an increase in the quantity exported. The exports of cotton piece goods have increased in value 10 per cent. and in quantity by 19 per cent.

As compared with the corresponding period of 1893, the first five months of the present year show on the total value a slight decrease only, viz., £18,349. The largest increases during this period have been under the heads of yarns and textile fabrics (£1,633,176) and of coal (£1,811,437), while the largest decreases are those in metals and metal manufactures (£1,933,696), and in miscellaneous manufactures (£1,012,993).

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—The total value of the exports thus classified amounted to £4,904,108, compared with £6,945,220 in May 1893, showing a decrease of £2,041,112. The figures for the five months of 1894 show an aggregate decrease of £3,554,933, compared with the first five months of 1893.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

THE number of mines reported during May as opened or re-opened was 28, and as discontinued or abandoned 10, the numbers in the previous month being 25 and 21 respectively. Of the mines opened or closed in May all were collieries except 1, which was a lead mine, opened in Flintshire. Eight of the 27 new collieries are in Durham, 7 in Lanarkshire, and 5 each in Lancashire and Stafford.

- COAL.—New Mines. Northumberland—Woodhorn, Ashington. Durham—Whitehall, West Pelton; Cater House Colliery (Sinking New Shaft); Charlaw, Witton Pit (Hutton Seam); Cater House (Main Seam); South Hetton (Sinking Upcast or Air Shaft); Sunderland; Primrose Main (Sinking Second Shaft); Evenwood; Ivesley (Opening Drift), near Crook; Rock (completion of Second Shaft), Spennymoor. (8) Lancashire—Lovers' Lane (Four-feet Seam), Atherton; Ashton's field (Sinking Shaft from Yard Seam), Little Hulton; No. 2 Mosley Common (Doe Seam), Worsley; New Pit (Sinking), Hussey House Collieries, near Wigan; Ince Riding Mine (Sinking), Platt Lane Collieries, near Wigan. (5) Derbyshire—Drake House (Hazle Seam), Beighton, near Rotherham. Staffordshire—Greenfield, Tunstall; Summerford (Bottom Seam), Willenhall; Ocker (Bottom Seam), Tipton; Ebenezer (Thick Seam), West Bromwich; Bullfield (Thick Seam), Rowley Regis. (5) Lanarkshire—Whistleberry, Blantyre; Stevenston, Holytown; Merryton (Virtuewell Seam), Hamilton; Rawyards, No. 9 Pit (Ell, Pyotshaw and Main Seams), Airdrie; Bothwellshields (Drumgray Seam), Newhouse; Motherwell Nos. 2 and 3 Pits (Pyotshaw Seam), Motherwell; Auldon, Lesmahagow. (7) LEAD ORE.—Flintshire—Windmill, Halkyn, Holywell. COAL.—Mines Abandoned. Durham—Nettleworth (Hutton, Low Main, Main and Five-Quarter Seams), Durham. Yorkshire—Shetcliffe (Thin Seam), near Bradford. Lancashire—Peel Hall (Five-Quarter Seam), Little Hulton; Peel Hall (New Lester Seam), Sinking—Little Hulton; Hyndburn (Arley Seam), Clayton-le-Moors. (3) Derbyshire—Kilburn (Kilburn Seam), Kilburn. Staffordshire—Hange (Thick Seam), Tipton. Carmarthenshire—Bryngwyn (Four-feet, Fiery, Golden and Busty Seams), near Llanelly. Lanarkshire—Calderwood, East Kilbride; Motherwell, No. 3 Pit (Pyotshaw Seam), Motherwell. (2)

LABOUR CASES IN MAY.

THE following are among the more important legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Regulation Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, are summarized in the preceding column.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Westminster County Court, May 7th.—Widow had been awarded £5 for death of husband (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March), and was granted a new trial on account of inadequate damages. Defence, that there was no negligence. Verdict for the defendant and judgment accordingly with costs.

Leeds County Court, May 11th.—Boy aged 14, sued brick manufacturer for £70 for personal injuries. Plaintiff worked at a brick press, each brick as it left the press pushing the one in front of it towards plaintiff who removed it; the "filler-in" omitted to put a brick in the press, and when plaintiff placed his hand in the machine the plunger dropped and he lost four fingers. Accident attributed to negligence of foreman in not properly instructing plaintiff as to his duties, and providing sufficient supervision. Defence, plaintiff's carelessness, and due precautions taken. Judgment for plaintiff for £62 8s.

Perth Sheriff Court, May 18th.—Domestic servant sued farmer for £50 for broken leg due to fall from unsafe trap ladder, while engaged in unloading sheaves of grain in threshing loft and putting them on the threshing mill. Defence that trap stair was perfectly safe, was of the kind usual in the district, and that accident was due to pursuer's carelessness or to that of her fellow-servant in the barn, for whose actions defender was not responsible. Judgment for defender with costs.

Wandsworth County Court, May 21st.—Sawyer sued builders for damages for injuries incurred through negligence of defendants. Plaintiff, in charge of swiftly-revolving circular saw, had been injured by a piece of wood caught by the saw from a bundle carried by a workman along a very narrow passage. He maintained that defendants should have closed the dangerous passage, and directed all workmen to use the proper way to the saw. Defence, that there had never been accidents before, and that there were three safe ways to be used other than the narrow passage. Verdict for plaintiff for £180 and costs.

Queen's Bench Division, May 22nd.—At Liverpool County Court, dock labourer, suing for damages for injuries caused by breaking of a chain in hoisting a tub, was non-suited, on the ground that he ought not to have been in the way when the tub was hoisted. Plaintiff appealed, on the ground that there was no evidence on which the County Court judge could find as he had done. Appeal dismissed with costs.

Stockton-on-Tees County Court, May 24th.—Labourer sued contractors for £38 3s. for injuries received when working at a new subway owing to fall of a large quantity of clay. Plaintiff claimed that defendants were negligent in not stationing a man to warn earthfilers of approaching fall of earth. Defence, that plaintiff knew the danger of the work and had neglected a warning given. Judgment for plaintiff for £28 3s. and costs.

City of London Court, May 24th.—Labourer sued builder for £50 for injuries due to alleged negligence of defendants' foreman, who had complained that plaintiff was not loading brick baskets fast enough, and had proceeded to do the work himself; the bricks were from a building in process of demolition, and the foreman doing the work improperly, one brick fell on the plaintiff's head. Defence, negligence of plaintiff, and denial of all his statements. Verdict for defendants, who did not ask for costs.

City of London Court, May 28th.—Shipwrights' labourer sued dry docks proprietors for £350, for loss of eye through negligence of defendants' servants. A piece of iron had flown into his eye when working on defendants' ship. Defence, that every care was taken to prevent accidents. Judgment for plaintiff for £350, but leave to appeal given.

Bury County Court, May 28th.—Carter sued carriers for £150 for injuries sustained from kick from defendants' horse. Plaintiff had sore shoulders and he could not manage it through its kicking propensities. Defence, denial of knowledge of sores and that plaintiff did not treat the horse well and had aroused its dislike. Judgment for plaintiff for £60 and costs. Execution stayed to give defendants opportunity of appealing.

City of London Court, May 31st.—Dock labourer sued timber merchants for £200 for injuries due to negligence of defendants' servants. Plaintiff had to stand at the top of the hold of steamship and receive goods as they came on deck. While the machinery for hauling goods was being worked by a servant of defendants plaintiff's hand became entangled with the hooks and was injured. Defendants urged that they were not responsible for the negligence of servant who had not superintendence and that latter had not been negligent. Verdict for plaintiff for £150.

(2) TRUCK ACT.

House of Lords, May 7th.—Confectionery worker sued former employer to recover £1 13s. 7d., the amount of certain small deductions made each week from her wages as contributions to a sick and benefit club on the ground that such deductions were illegal.

County Court Judge held that the deductions were illegal. Queen's Bench Division reversed the decision, and their finding was upheld by the Court of Appeal. Plaintiff appealed to the House of Lords. On entering employment of defendant, she had signed an agreement to conform to the rules in force in his works, of which one was that all employés should become members of the sick and accident club. On leaving, plaintiff received 3s. as bonus from the club, the only payment made to her as she had not been ill during membership. The Lord Chancellor held that a payment made by the employer, with the appellant's sanction, to the club, in discharge of an obligation voluntarily assumed by appellant was the same as a payment to appellant herself. The Truck Act did not prevent an employer from insisting on membership of a sick club. Appeal dismissed.

(3) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Westminster County Court, May 2nd.—Gas stoker sued company for wages during absence through illness. Plaintiff met with an accident in September 1893, and was unable to work for one month afterwards, he was then not able to work continuously, and did not declare himself off the sick club until January 1894, when he was dismissed. He received a week's wages in lieu of notice, but claimed £17 7s. for wages during absence through illness. Defence that it was not customary to pay men during illness as they received benefit from the club to which company largely contributed; plaintiff had also refused to do light work offered him. Judge held that workmen in continuous employment were entitled to wages during illness, but evidence proved in this case that there was tacit agreement that wages should not be paid during illness. Judgment for defendants.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN SCOTLAND.*

A REPORT by the Board of Supervision on the measures taken by the local authorities of the principal centres of population of Scotland, for the relief of the able-bodied unemployed during the winter of 1893-94, contains the results of a personal inquiry by Mr. R. B. Barclay, General Superintendent to the Board, who was instructed to ascertain if there was any material increase in the number of applications for relief, and if so, in what manner they were being dealt with, either by public or organised private effort. The towns visited and reported on were Glasgow, Partick and Govan, Edinburgh, Leith, Dundee, Aberdeen, Forfar, Paisley, Greenock, Port Glasgow, Airdrie, Coatbridge and Motherwell, Perth, Kircaldy, Dunfermline, Kilmarnock, Hawick, Galashiels, Dumbarton and Clydebank.

The report states that, although the number of persons in several centres of industry, who have been unable to obtain work has been beyond the average of recent years, destitution was not so marked this winter as in the preceding one. The towns specially mentioned as having a large number of able-bodied men unemployed are Dundee, Aberdeen, Leith, Greenock, Galashiels and Hawick. In all these places destitution was relieved either by public works or by organised effort, chiefly the latter. Mr. Barclay reports a suggestion made by several persons, with a view to confer certain powers on the Parochial Boards, with respect to the relief of able-bodied persons.

THE LABOUR QUESTION IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND THE BALKAN STATES.†

THE Labour Commission has issued a report on the Labour Question in Austria-Hungary and the Balkan States. This concludes the series of foreign reports issued by the Commission. Amongst the special features of the report on Austria may be noted the account of the geographical distribution of the Germans, Slavs, Magyars and Romance races which make up the population; the general survey of the labour laws from 1731 to the present time; statistics of the incidence of indirect taxation, of prices of the chief articles of consumption, of cost of living and of workmen's dwellings. With the report on Hungary is given an ethnographical and political map of the country. The report on the Balkan States deals separately with the conditions of labour in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Servia, Roumania, and Bulgaria. In all the reports the relations between employers and employed, conditions of labour in certain special industries and in agriculture, and in certain special subjects, such as insurance, co-operation, savings' banks, provision of work for the unemployed, poor law administration and technical education, are examined whenever possible, and bibliographies are appended to each report.

* Report on the Relief of the able-bodied Unemployed during the Winter of 1893-94 (Scotland). (C.—7410). Price 73d.

† Foreign Reports, Vol. XI.—Austria-Hungary and the Balkan States. (C.—7063.—XI.) Price 2s. 11d.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

THE number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in May was 285, which compares with 372 in April, distributed as follows:—

Table with columns: May 1894, April 1894, Railway Servants, Miners, Factory and Workshop Operatives, Seamen, Total. Values: 41, 78, 46, 120, 285.

On the total of the four classes there was a decrease of 87 as compared with April, and of 40 as compared with March. This decrease is due to the smaller number of deaths at sea reported during the month; the number in each of the other groups being more in May than in April or March.

Of the 1,298 non-fatal accidents reported, 741 were in factories and workshops, 374 in mines, and 183 to railway servants, as compared with 778, 375 and 159 respectively in April. Accidents of a non-fatal character at sea are not reported.

NOTE.—The exact percentage which the number killed in each of these classes of employment bears to the total number employed cannot be stated, the figures, where given, being either for the number employed at a previous date, or for a portion only of those liable to accident, but the following particulars may be useful in forming some idea of the proportion that the numbers employed bear to the persons injured or killed:—

Railways.—A Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) gives the number of persons employed on 31st December 1889 by railway companies in the United Kingdom as 381,626.

Mines.—The number employed in mines can be given more closely, being 718,747 in 1893, including persons employed on private branch railways and in washing and coking coal.

Factories and Workshops.—From a Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) it appears that the number of persons actually at work in factories when the returns were furnished to the Home Office was 3,270,835, but there are no figures available as to the number of persons employed in workshops, although the number is very large.

Seamen.—The returns of the number of seamen employed in British registered vessels in 1892 give 241,735 persons, all grades being included.

I.—Railway Servants.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

Tables showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of May 1894.

A.—Distinguishing the various classes of persons and nature of injuries.

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Amputations, Fractures, Crushes, Dislocations, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries. Rows include Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, etc.

B.—Distinguishing England, Scotland and Ireland; and accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents.

Table with columns: England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom. Sub-columns: Killed, Injured. Rows include From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c., By Accidents from other causes.

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

II.—Miners.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, during the month of May 1894.

Table with columns: Cause of Accident, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Total. Sub-columns: Killed, Injured. Rows include Underground—Explosions of Fire-damp, Falls of ground, etc.

III.—Factory and Workshop Operatives.*

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of May 1894.

Table with columns: Nature or effect of injury, Adults (over 18), Young Persons, Children, TOTAL. Rows include Killed, Injured, Amputations, Fractures, etc.

* The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July 1893, p. 66.

IV.—Seamen.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of May 1894 as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

(Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Table with columns: Class of Vessels, By Wreck and Casualty, By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty, Total. Rows include Vessels registered under Merchant Shipping Act, Vessels not so registered.

† Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes.

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Trade Union periodical returns, and newspaper reports. Application for particulars is made to the Employers and Trade Unions affected in each dispute, and the information so obtained up to the latest moment is used.)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN new disputes occurred in May, as compared with 113 in the previous month, and 87 in May 1893.

In the Building Trades 33 disputes took place, of which 18, or about 54 per cent., were for increased wages and other advantages, 7 on account of questions of unionism, 6 were due to disagreements with reference to working rules and arrangements, and the remainder to various causes. 7 of the 9 disputes in the Clothing Trades were due to wages questions, the other two arising in defence of fellow workers. In the Metal Trades 11 disputes took place, 8 of which were due to wages questions, and 3 to working arrangements. In connection with mining and quarrying 26 disputes took place, 18 of which, including the resistance of the Scotch miners to a proposed reduction, were due to wages questions, and 7 to working arrangements. 4 disputes took place in connection with seafaring, dock, &c., labour, 3 of which were due to questions of unionism. In the Shipbuilding Trade 13 disputes occurred, 8 of which, including the extension to ship-joiners and sawyers of the prolonged strike of iron-moulders, &c., on the North East Coast, were due to wages disagreements, and the remainder to questions of demarcation of work, apprentices, and other working arrangements. 4 of the 12 disputes in the Textile Trades arose in respect of wages questions, the remainder being due to various causes. Of the 10 disputes in Miscellaneous Trades the most important in all respects was that of the London cabmen; 2 were due to questions of wages, the remaining 7 arising from unionism, working arrangements and other questions.

The geographical distribution of the 118 disputes was as follows:—Six Northern counties 40, Midland counties 17, Western counties and Wales 10, London 2, Southern counties 5, Scotland 34, Ireland 10.

Twenty-one disputes, which occurred in previous months, were brought to a settlement in May, including one of twelve months' standing, and at the end of the month it was known that 31 old disputes were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1894.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Persons, Commencement, Termination, Result. Rows include Building Trades, Bricklayers and Joiners, Carpenters and Joiners, etc.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1894.—(Continued.)

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Es-tablish-ments, Persons, Com-mence-ment, Termi-nation, Result. Includes entries for Tailors and Tailoresses, Metal Trades, Steel Dressers, etc.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1894.—(Continued.)

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Es-tablish-ments, Persons, Com-mence-ment, Termi-nation, Result. Includes entries for Shipyard Labourers, Ship Joiners, Textile Trades, etc.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Es-tablish-ments, Persons, Com-mence-ment, Termi-nation, Result. Includes entries for Stove Grate Workers, Tailors' Pressers, etc.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN PREVIOUS TO MAY, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as occurring in April were still unsettled:—Carpenters and joiners, Wolverhampton; sett dressers (road construction), Glasgow; builders' labourers, Hartlepool; bricklayers and labourers, Rochdale; power loom and hand frame knitters, Nottingham; iron dressers, Newton, Glasgow; mill sawyers, Grimsby; wherry-men, Newcastle-on-Tyne; glass workers, Birmingham; cotton weavers, Cliviger, Burnley; cotton weavers, Droylsden.

The following, which commenced before April, were also still unsettled:—Miners, Buckley, Flintshire; cardroom operatives, Stockport; iron-moulders, dressers, pattern makers, &c., North East Coast; overlookers, Rochdale; poulterers, Dublin; shawl weavers, Delph; wool sorters, Saltaire; stonemasons, Glasgow; bricklayers' labourers, Parkhead, Glasgow; sheep-shear grinders, Sheffield; cotton weavers, Stacksteads, Manchester; wire weavers, Glasgow; packing-case makers, Manchester; cotton spinners and cardroom hands, Darwen; shipbuilders (generally), Newcastle-on-Tyne; tinplate workers, South Wales.

In addition to the above, the following disputes commencing in March and April, of which information was received too late for insertion in the issues for those months, were still unsettled:—

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tablish-ments.	Persons	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Cable Chain Makers ...	Tipton...	Objection to make a difficult and unusual chain at ordinary rate of wages	1	21	13 Mar.	...	Still unsettled.
Coal Miners ...	Maesteg ...	Dispute as to identity of seam	1	150	1 Apr.	...	Ditto.
Shirt, Collar, &c., Cutters	Belfast ...	For advance in minimum rate of wages from 25s. to 30s. per week	20	35	19 Apr.	...	Ditto.
Shoemakers ...	Glasgow ...	For advance in wages...	1	8	29 Apr.	...	Ditto.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad-way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports and newspapers, mostly dated April and May last.)

Canada.—The demand for farm hands in British Columbia is small. A report from Regina—in the north-west—states:—"No demand for farm hands, butchers, laundresses, mechanics or miners, and a slight demand only for female servants and blacksmiths." A report from Calgary—in the north-west—states that there are good openings for a few dairymen and cheese-makers in creameries, and for tailoring hands. In Manitoba there is no demand for mechanics, though the building and iron trades have been busy at Winnipeg, and still less demand for men without a manual trade, such as clerks, &c., while the usually great demand for domestic servants has slightly declined and wages have fallen. According to the bulletin of the Ontario Department of Agriculture issued 24th April last "a larger number of farm hands than usual had been looking for work in the province, though unfortunately but few of them had skill as agriculturalists. The general opinion is that prices for farm labour will decline this season, but domestic servants are as hard to find as ever."

A report from the Muskoka district of Ontario states that wages are good all the year round there, because the lumbering industry employs large numbers of young men. A report from Montreal states "good demand for respectable domestics." There is a good demand for farm hands in New Brunswick; but the Province is well supplied with mechanics.

New South Wales.—The new rates for shearers, as now offered by the Pastoralists' Federal Council, but not yet accepted by the Shearers' Union, are the same as the rates for 1893, viz., 20s. per 100 sheep shorn, except in Southern Riverina, where it is proposed to reduce the rate to 18s.; the rate for machine shearing it is proposed to fix at 20s. per 100 in the West, and 17s. in other parts. Taking New South Wales as a whole, there does not seem to be any opening at the present time for emigrants without capital, other than domestic servants.

Victoria.—The pressure upon the labour market has been much relieved in consequence of the efforts of the Government to place men upon the land, and to give employment upon works of a reproductive character. Numbers, moreover, have left the Colony for the West Australian goldfields, the reputed richness of which has proved an irresistible attraction to those possessed of means, the only drawback being that many have made no adequate provision for their families during their absence, and these have consequently become a burden upon the community. The railway lines, which have been in course of construction in the Mallee district in the north-west of the Colony, being nearly completed, the Government have determined to extend them still

* And in Paraguay.

further without waiting for the sanction of Parliament. The survey of the line from Wycheproof to Kaneira has been rapidly proceeded with, and is so far advanced that the first gang of men will be sent from Melbourne, in the course of a few days, to begin the work of construction. The men to be employed will be selected from among those whose names are registered at the Railway Department, and preference will be given to men who have been some time in the Colony. It is expected that the line will be finished in ample time for the next harvest. A contract for a large supply of pipes required for the new drainage works of Melbourne will give work to a number of hands for the next two years. Good reports continue to be received from the gold-mining districts. To the above information, which is derived from the monthly official report dated the 20th of March last, it should be added that, in spite of the improvement that has taken place, the number of unemployed in Melbourne is still considerable, and no one should go there from this country on the chance of finding work. The number of miles of railway now under construction by the Government is less than at any time during the last twenty or twenty-five years. The strike in the Bootmaker's Trade at Melbourne has been declared at an end.

South Australia.—The supply of labour in all trades, and especially in the Printing Trade, is more than sufficient.

Queensland.—A correspondent at Townsville, in the north, writes: "The whole country is at present in a most depressed condition, and I should not recommend any emigrants without capital to come to the Colony. At the same time land is now very cheap, and there is a good opening for a man with a capital of £600 on the land. Generally there is very little demand for labour; but we have had an exceptionally good season this year, and there are signs of improvement, but it will be very gradual." A report from Brisbane states that there is no material improvement at present in the Building Trade at Brisbane. The erection of the new bridge, however, over the Brisbane river will benefit iron-workers, navvies, pile-drivers, masons, and labourers for concrete work, and many have already arrived from other parts of Queensland and Australia, on the chance of obtaining employment.

Western Australia.—Large numbers of miners have gone to the new Coolgardie Gold Fields, and the want of water has seriously affected their prospects.

Tasmania.—The committee appointed by the local Legislature to consider the question of the unemployed have issued their first progress report. They find that the unemployed difficulty is widely spread, that numbers in the chief cities are out of employment and that considerable bodies of men in the country districts have been for some months past, and will be for some time to come, largely dependent upon relief works provided by the Government; they consider it therefore to be absolutely necessary that exceptional means should be

immediately adopted to cope with the difficulties of the position. No action has yet been taken upon this report.

Cape Colony.—A report from Queenstown in the east states that there is little or no demand there for European labour either in town or country districts.

Natal.—Considerable changes are about to be introduced in connection with assisted passages. At present assistance is given to female servants, and—on the application of resident colonists—to artisans.

British Bechuanaland.—A report from Mafeking states that there is a good demand for general female servants at 7s. 6d. a week with board; a large forwarding business is now being done with Buluwayo in Matabeleland.

Paraguay.—The latest reports of the New Australia Co-operative Settlement in Paraguay indicate that many settlers have left, that there has been a change of management, and that hitherto the enterprise has not been successful.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Labour Disputes in May.—In addition to 12 disputes left unsettled at the end of April, there were 29 fresh disputes in May, compared with 51 in April. In 26 of the fresh disputes for which particulars are given 4,240 persons were engaged. Six disputes were among textile workers, 4 in the Building Trades, 6 among wood-cutters, 3 among miners and metal-workers, 3 among navvies, and the remaining 7 in various miscellaneous trades. Out of 17 of these strikes of which the results are known, 8 failed, 5 succeeded, and 4 were compromised. The most serious dispute was that of the miners of Graissessac (Hérault), referred to below, in which the efforts at conciliation have up to the present failed. Of the old strikes 9 terminated during May, 4 being unsuccessful, 2 successful, and 3 ending in a compromise.

State of Employment.—The Cotton Industry in Seine Inférieure is reported as still quiet; weavers are fairly busy, but prices are low. Hand-weaving continues to decline. Bleachers and dyers are moderately busy.

Wool.—The activity with which the year opened as regards fancy goods in Elboeuf has been succeeded by comparative slackness. There has been considerable want of work in the preparatory branches of the Carded Wool Industry.

Silk.—The Lyons Silk Industry is recovering itself with difficulty. Hand looms continue to decrease, only 3,000 being now at work, as compared with 12,000 in 1890. Power looms are increasing, but power loom weavers' wages have fallen to where they stood at the beginning of last year, while those of hand weavers are stationary. The machine lace weavers in Lyons, who have been very slack, are claiming a reduction of working hours. The trimming and dyeing branches are also depressed. From the Department of Gard the Silk Trade is described as "trying"; but waste silk spinning is comparatively satisfactory.

Mines.—One of the collieries in the Department of Gard has had to reduce its staff; production and sales are low, owing to competition with British coal in the Mediterranean. The zinc mines of the department are in a satisfactory condition. There is said to be very little sale for the output of coal in the Bouches du Rhône. The supply of labour is plentiful and wages are stationary.

Arbitration and Conciliation.—Eight cases of recourse to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration are reported for May. In six of these the initiative was taken by the workers, and in two by the *juges de paix*.

In two instances the employers refused to treat. Of the remaining six cases only two ended in a settlement, viz., strikes of iron-moulders in Ardennes and of carpenters in Nantes. Of the cases which failed the most important was the strike of 1,500 miners in Graissessac

* From information supplied by the Office du Travail.

(Hérault), who complain of failure to adhere to the terms of an existing agreement on the part of the mining company; they also demand increased wages and the reinstatement of three dismissed workers. A Board of Conciliation, convened on the 19th May by the *juges de paix* at the request of the miners' unions, resulted in a settlement of the first point; the employers refused, however, to concede the others, and have also rejected the proposal for arbitration.

A new price list for the hosiery workers of Fa'aise was arranged in the beginning of May by a board of conciliation convened by the *juges de paix* at the request of the Hosiery Workers' Syndical Chamber of Fa'aise and the 18 neighbouring communes. Forty-eight employers were represented by five delegates, an equal number attending on behalf of the workers.

Railway Drivers' and Stokers' Hours of Work.—By a circular issued on the 4th May, the Minister of Public Works endeavours to give greater flexibility to the regulations fixing 12 hours as the maximum duration of work for engine drivers and stokers on any one day, with a minimum of 10 consecutive hours of rest. The modifications introduced by the new circular come into effect from the beginning of the summer service, and provide that in any period of 10 consecutive days, counting from midnight to midnight, there shall not be more than 100 hours of work or less than 100 hours of rest, so that the maximum average length of the working day is fixed at 10 hours, and the minimum average duration of the daily rest at 10 hours. It provides, moreover, that each period of work shall be comprised between two intervals of uninterrupted rest, and that it must not exceed 12 hours actual employment. Only intervals of rest of at least 10 hours when spent at home, and of at least seven hours if spent away from home, shall be considered as uninterrupted periods of rest; not more than two intervals of less than 10 hours may follow one another consecutively, nor may any two consecutive intervals amount together to less than 17 hours. The whole of the time during which drivers or stokers are required to remain on or about their engines, or to perform work in the yards or workshops, is to be regarded as hours of actual employment.

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes.—According to information supplied by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, and Mr. G. Strachey, H.M. Minister at Dresden, under date of June 2, supplemented by information published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, there were 24 fresh strikes in Germany during May, the same number having been reported in each of the two preceding months, while 7 old disputes had not terminated at the beginning of that month.

Of the fresh strikes 8 were in the Building Trades, 5 among brewers, 3 among dock labourers, 2 among navvies, and 6 in various miscellaneous trades. Nine of the fresh strikes were either general or affected several establishments. Of the 7 old strikes 4 terminated during the month, 2 in favour of the men, 1 partially so, and 1 was unsuccessful.

With regard to the disputes in the Brewing Industry, Mr. Mulvany reports that in the beginning of May 270 coopers, belonging to 18 breweries in Berlin, went on strike, and drew up demands for an advance in wages and a nine hours' day. The employers refused, among their reasons being that the men received, in addition, from 7 to 11 pints of beer per day. A great many men resumed work, but later on the men of the breweries in Braunschweig, about 800 in number, joined with their Berlin comrades in a boycott movement, upon which the brewers united and locked out the men, whose places, it is said, are being filled by outside labour. At a brewery in Mülheim the men are out for a 10-hours net working day and 22s. a week, being supported by the men in the breweries of Cologne, who have boycotted the beershops selling beer brewed by their comrades' employers. The coopers at a Pilsen brewery are out

against a proposed 50 per cent. reduction in wages of men working the machinery.

Reporting on the boycotting of breweries in Saxony, Mr. G. Strachey, H.M. Minister at Dresden, states that at Crimmitschau, where a beershop had been temporarily boycotted, the civil authorities gave notice that any act of public boycotting would henceforth be treated as a criminal offence, and punished with a fine of £7 10s. or 14 days imprisonment.

In Dresden a large brewery has been boycotted by the social democrats for refusing to let its gardens for a meeting of the party.

Industrial Courts.—*Blätter für Soziale Praxis*, of May 24th, gives statistics of these Courts, which are established in conformity with the German Arbitration and Conciliation Law, of July 1890, their object being "to facilitate the amicable settlement of differences between employers and employed on questions concerning the labour contract." The law leaves the initiative for their establishment to the Communal authority, or, in case of their proving remiss, the Central Government may order one to be established on the application of the employers and workers of a district. Each court consists of a president, nominated by the Commune and approved by the Government, with representatives of each side in equal numbers, chosen by ballot. Neither side may be represented by lawyers, and there is no appeal to the regular tribunals unless the amount in dispute exceeds £5. At the request of both parties the court may constitute a board of conciliation, but as such its award is not binding, and the parties are merely required to notify their acceptance or rejection of the award within a given time. Such courts have now been established in all but one (Stettin) of the 26 German towns, with populations, at the time of the 1890 census, exceeding 100,000. Of the 21 towns with populations between 50,000 and 100,000, 16 have already established them, and 3 are preparing to do so. Of 40 towns, having between 30,000 and 50,000 inhabitants, 26 have Industrial Courts, while one is about to establish one. Out of the 63 towns with populations between 20,000 and 30,000, 33 have such Courts. Out of a total of 156 towns, communes and suburban districts, having more than 20,000 people, 101 have Industrial Courts. In Schleswig and Pirna the wishes of the working classes for their establishment are said to meet with strong opposition from the town authorities.

From statistics of the proceedings of the 10 Industrial Courts in operation in Württemberg in 1893, as given in the *Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt*, it appears that, in most cases, it is the employee who appeals to the court. Out of 1,748 cases only 153 originated with employers. All the applications except 55 were dealt with during the year, 527 being settled by an award, 749 by compromise, and 417 by withdrawal of claim. In only 311 cases did the proceedings last over a week. The matters in dispute mostly related to claims for wages, for compensation in lieu of notice, or for returns of apprenticeship premiums. Only in 38 cases did the sum involved exceed £5, while in 603 cases it was less than 10s. More than one-third (681) of the applications originated in the handicrafts, 368 in factories, 299 in the building trades, 237 in restaurants, inns, &c., and the rest in commercial and transport industries.

The towns of Bielefeld, Dortmund, Grünberg, Döbeln, Worms and Weimar are about to establish courts of this kind.

SWITZERLAND.

The following is based on information supplied by Herr Greulich, the Swiss Workmen's secretary, and forwarded by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, under date of June 7th:—

Disputes.—Four fresh strikes were recorded in May, while four remained unsettled at the beginning of that month. Of the fresh strikes, one was in the Building Trade (carpenters), one among smiths and wheelwrights, a third among coopers, and the fourth among iron-moulders. One of these was general, viz., that of the smiths and wheelwrights, at Winterthur, who struck against the proposal to introduce an 11-hours day. The men demand a 10-hours day, minimum wages of 3s. 4d. a day, and freedom to board away from their employers. None of the strikes were reported as settled at the end of the month. The strike in the Zürich Building Trade has become more embittered, the employers having refused the mediation of the Town Council, and declaring that they will in future engage none of the strikers.

Insurance against Want of Employment.—A bill for

* This account has been supplemented by information published in "Der Grüttliener."

enabling the Communes, either singly or in groups, to introduce compulsory insurance against want of employment has been prepared by the Canton of St. Gall, the centre of the Embroidery Industry, where the effects of want of employment have been acutely felt. It proposes to make all male persons earning not more than 4s. a day subject to such insurance, the obligation to be also extended to women if necessary. Subscriptions are not to exceed 3d. a week, and must have been paid for at least six months before relief can be obtained. Such relief is to be at the rate of at least 10d. a day, and payable for not more than 60 days in any one year. The expenses are to be defrayed out of members' subscriptions, voluntary contributions and communal, cantonal or state subventions.

Swiss Factory Inspection in 1892 and 1893.—According to the report of the Federal inspectors there were at the end of 1893, 4,753 establishments, with 190,402 workers, subject to the Federal Factory Law.

As regards permissions for overtime, it appears that the inspectors granted in all 2,292, including those for night work and Sunday work, that is one for every second establishment.

BELGIUM.

The Unemployed in Brussels.—The Brussels Town Council have reported adversely on a proposal for the establishment of a fund for insurance against want of employment in Brussels. The report suggests that greater benefit would follow from the establishment of a central information office for keeping a register of the names of persons assisted by any charitable body, public or private, with a view to check the abuse of charity by professional mendicants.

The Brussels Labour Exchange.—The report of the Brussels Labour Exchange shows that during the year ended 25th March last 2,306 applicants for work, and 3,158 offers of work were registered, compared with 4,087 workpeople and 3,374 employers during the previous year. The reduction is due partly to the transfer of the servants' registry business to the *Ouvroir du Travail*, and partly to the mildness of the winter. The applicants whose names were registered represented 161 different occupations. The labour market attached to the Exchange, for enabling employers and workers to meet, was visited by 21030 of the former and 17735 of the latter.

DENMARK.

Wages of Agricultural Labourers.—Mr. C. S. Scott, H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, under date of May 28th, has forwarded a summary of a report on the wages of agricultural labourers in Denmark, prepared by M. Koefoed, of the University of Copenhagen.

The materials have been prepared by the Ministry of the Interior, through schedules which were sent to the *Amtmand* for distribution among residents who were best acquainted with these matters.

M. Koefoed compares the information with a report by Professor Falbe-Hansen in 1888, and concludes that wages have been increasing throughout the present century.

Taking the figures for 1888 and 1892 only, the yearly wages of an agricultural labourer in regular employment, and who has to provide his own food, are stated as 444 kroner in the former, and 491 kroner in the latter year (£24 13s. 4d. and £27 5s. 7d. respectively.)

The annual wage, when food is supplied by the employer, is stated at £14 14s. 8d. in 1888, and £17 11s. 1d. in 1892.

The yearly average wages of regular farm servants, taking the whole country over, are stated as follows:—

Year.	Men.		Women.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1888	...	8 16 8	...	6 3 4
1892	...	11 1 1	...	7 0 0

The increase of men's wages between 1888 and 1892 appears thus to be 25.2 per cent.; the women's wages have only gone up 13.1 per cent. For labourers who get

their food from the employer, the increase is 19.2 per cent., and for labourers finding themselves, 10.6 per cent. Jutland, especially Ribe and Ringkjøbing Amts, shows the highest increase; and, altogether, wages are highest in these poor districts because emigration is there greater, and because the cultivation of heath lands requires a great many hands.

According to this report the articles of first necessity, on which half the earnings of a labourer's family are spent, are rye bread, flour, butter and pork. These articles of food were dearer in 1892 than in 1888, and the prices have increased more than the wages.

Labour Disputes.—In a report dated May 22nd particulars are given regarding a strike of shoemakers in Copenhagen, which lasted more than 14 days, affecting about 800 persons. The men demanded minimum wages of 18s. 8d. a week, and the erection of free workshops for their use, conditions which were acceded to after protracted discussion before the Shoemakers' Permanent Board of Arbitration. A fresh subject of dispute arose respecting the classification of the work, which was, however, settled in a way generally favourable to the workmen, as both employers and employed feared the competition of the ready-made boot trade. During the dispute the men were supported by funds collected among the Boot-making Trade.

After the settlement the workers at some of the establishments failed to comply with the stipulated conditions for the resumption of work, and the employers have resorted to a lock-out affecting eight establishments and 300 men; but an arrangement is said to be imminent.

Strikes of journeymen masons at Kjøge, who demand 4.3d. per hour for State and municipal work, and 4d. for ordinary work, and of joiners and furniture makers at Randers, are also reported.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Labour Disputes.—During May reports of 12 fresh disputes were published in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*, and of five in progress since previous months. Of the new strikes three were in the building and cognate branches, two each among saddlers and harness-makers, metal workers, bakers, and textile operatives, and one among colliers, the last being the most important. It began on the 2nd of May in Ostrau (Moravia), owing, as alleged, to the refusal of the colliery authorities to allow the men to work 8 instead of 12 hours on a day preceding a holiday, a concession made to the men in 1890. The subsequent demands of the men were for an eight hours' day from bank to bank, and 25 per cent. increase of wages. A body of men on their way to one of the pits came into collision with a number of gendarmes, who fired on them, killing and wounding several. Work was resumed at one pit on the men's terms, but by the 22nd May the men had resumed work unconditionally. The strikers at one period are stated to have numbered 20,000.

Of the remaining strikes, six appear to have arisen out of absence of workmen from work on the 1st of May. The most important of the old strikes was that of Vienna building operatives, who struck on the 30th of April.* An effort at mediation made by the Mayor, on the 12th of May, at the request of the strike committee, was unsuccessful, the employers refusing to treat with the men's representatives. The only branch said to have resumed work by the end of the month was that of the plasterers, to whom 5s. instead of 4s. 2d. a day was conceded.

The strike of Vienna carpenters begun on April 17th, chiefly for an 8-hours day, continued throughout the greater part of the month, but ended in failure; that of the Vienna wood-carvers and stone-cutters, also for an 8-hours day, in progress since April 5th, had not terminated at the end of May.

RUSSIA.

State of the Agricultural Labour Market.—Though wages are slightly lower than they were during the latter half of April in places where the spring sowings are finished, the high price of labour reported last month is generally maintained in the grain-growing governments.

In Central Russia agricultural labourers' wages are kept up in some parts, owing to the local population being attracted by new industrial undertakings, including railway construction; but, on the

* See *LABOUR GAZETTE* for May, p. 158.

whole, wages are normal, and the supply of labour equals (and in some places slightly exceeds) the demand.

The migration of labourers has begun in some parts. Men are being hired in Karsun to engage in brickmaking in Siberia at 25 to 30 roubles a month, or 1 rouble per 1,000 with board and lodging.

Since the re-opening of navigation on the Volga, Sheksna and Mologa, large artels of agricultural labourers and domestic servants from Nijni-Novgorod, Tver and Mologa, are arriving in Rybinsk by every steamer. Carpenters are arriving from Kostroma, navvies from Vologda, and porters from Nijni-Novgorod, Riazan, and some of the governments of the lower Volga. Most of those arriving, however, set out for St. Petersburg, Moscow, or other large towns, in search of work. There is much need for some organized system for affording information as to the supply and demand of labour in different parts of the country. Labour exchanges exist in a few places, but they only supply the needs of the districts immediately adjacent to them. The peasantry, as a rule, trust to chance or to rumour; they are frequently disappointed, and have to return to their homes after spending all their money on the journey.—*Vjestnik Financoff.*

First Russian Sewing Machine Factory.—A scheme has been prepared by the Minister of Finance by which the first sewing machine factory in Russia is to be established in the village of Pavlovo (Nijni-Novgorod), and worked for the profit of the Government by an artel of local craftsmen.—*Gorno-Zavodski Listok.*

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following information has been furnished by Col. J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of May 23:—

Labour Disputes.—Disturbances continue in many branches of labour, and little sign of improvement is apparent, while thousands of men willing to work are still unable to obtain employment. Some strikes have been settled during the last month, and others have been organized, the unions refusing to allow lower wages to be accepted or non-union men to be employed, and endeavouring to keep up the higher scale in force when better times existed before the panic last year.

In the Building Trade the strike among painters has been settled, after lasting seven weeks, by arrangement between the committees appointed, and the men have returned to work for their old employers. The rate of wages is to be 1s. 5.3d. an hour till the 15th June, 1s. 3d. from that time till the 1st March 1895, and then 1s. 4.4d. to the 1st March 1896. All disagreements are to be settled by arbitration, and only members of the brotherhood are to be employed. To secure this latter point some concession was made by the men in the matter of wages. A number of small strikes, either on the question of wages or in sympathy with other strikes, have occurred in other branches of the Building Trade, which have been mostly arranged. Gravel roofers struck on May 1st, and gained their demand for an increase from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5.3d. an hour, resuming work on May 10th. Most of the men on strike at the brickyards have returned to work, the trouble being arranged for the present. The strike continues at the Crane Elevator Works; it is contended by the company that wages were raised 10 per cent. last year, and that they are only returning to the old rate. One of the factories affected by the cigar strike has resumed work, the workers' places being filled by strikers from another factory.

As an outgrowth of a reduction of wages, resulting from the financial crisis, 2,000 employees of the Pullman Car Works struck on the 11th May, thus enforcing idleness on the remaining 1,000 men, and the works were in consequence closed. Wages were cut down about 33 per cent., and the men demand restoration of the scale paid in 1893, and double time for Sunday work, while the company claim they are working the contracts at a loss.

The American Railway Union have decided to assess members 3 cents a week in support of the strikers.

Miners are still on strike at all the mines in the State of Illinois. Coal is beginning to be short. The strike on the Great Northern Railway was settled on the 1st

of May, and trains have been running as usual since then. The arrangement is claimed as a victory by the men of the American Railway Union.

Unemployed "Armies."—The "Commonwealth" armies, being unable to obtain conveyance by railway, are proceeding but slowly on their way to Washington. The Chicago army is delayed in Ohio; Kelly's army is proceeding down the Mississippi on rafts built with money subscribed, with a view to continuing up the Ohio river, and thus approaching the capital. Other "armies" are practically at a standstill for want of the means of conveyance.

PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Disputes.—Captain R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, reports as follows, under date of May 31st:—The great coal strike, inaugurated more than five weeks ago, still continues in operation, as was stated last month would probably be the case; and, contrary to the expectation of many, the conference held in the middle of May between the United Mine Workers of America and the colliery owners, failed to settle the differences. The meeting was not sufficiently representative on behalf of the coal operators to secure decisive action.* Pennsylvania, Illinois and Indiana, produce about one-half of the anthracite coal of the United States, Pennsylvania's output being more than one-third of the whole amount; yet Pennsylvania and Illinois were not represented by their chief colliery owners in the Conference, and Indiana is controlled in its prices and terms by the overshadowing influence of Illinois. Besides this the miners came to the convention pledged to an ultimatum of no compromise, and determined to establish a uniform rate of wages in all districts. When the coal strike was inaugurated its main purpose was to relieve the distress of miners in Western Pennsylvania and Illinois, who were suffering from low wages; whereas the miners of Central Pennsylvania were apparently at that time content with their wages, though they have since asked for a restoration of fivepence a ton in their wages, taken off because of reductions made in competing southern fields. The bituminous coal-fields are naturally divided between the east and west, finding their markets according to their location; but Pennsylvania and West Virginia supply both eastern and western markets. During the strike the miners of Virginia and Maryland have continued to work,† and the colliery owners have secured numerous large contracts, seizing the opportunity not of simply supplying the deficiencies during the strike, but entering also into long time agreements, which must necessarily affect the future operations of Central Pennsylvania, diminishing their output, even when the strike is concluded.

The price of coal has advanced, and many railroads are suffering from a short supply of fuel. Riotous acts are reported on the part of the miners in certain districts, the foreign element being prominent in acts of lawlessness.

There have been a few strikes in other industries, including stone-cutters, carpenters and others, but none of any magnitude. The revival of industries and business activity appears retarded, probably in great measure by the coal strike. The tanneries, in some places, which are formed into a trust, propose to close down and decrease the stock in hand.

Scarcity of Agricultural Labourers.—The agricultural districts are complaining of a want of farm labourers, and it is claimed that shops and cities have attracted the younger men from their country occupations.

A report by Colonel Sale, of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, gives the result of personal enquiries recently made by him on labour rates in certain districts of the United States of America, and also on the condition of the Iron Trade in the Southern States. According to

* According to the latest information, terms of agreement were settled at a conference of representatives of colliery owners and miners at Columbus, Ohio, on the 12th inst., and work is to be resumed.
† The "Journal of the Knights of Labour" states that owing to a recent reduction to 40 cents a ton, the miners of Virginia have joined the movement.

the report the rates now paid for agricultural labourers (white men) in the rural parts of Kentucky are only 12 dollars per month, with house and garden patch, but without rations. For ordinary white unskilled labour in the Southern States, such as railway linesmen, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. a day is now given—the rates having fallen very greatly within the last few years.

The miners in the iron and coal district of Alabama were getting rates far above those of the unskilled labourers, the prices having been kept up by the action of the union. At the time of Col. Sale's visit to the district the iron and coal masters had determined on a material reduction in the rates of miners' wages, and a widely-spread strike was started as a means of checking the threatened reduction.

There is, however, a clear and marked tendency to reduce wages in the States, and everywhere there seems to be a glut of labour seeking employment.

In all Government establishments the 8-hours' day is observed, but this has not, it appears, been taken up in private establishments, where a very full day and hard work are said to be the rule.

The labour question in the coal districts of Alabama was in a very peculiar and unsettled condition. The coal mines were worked in three ways:—(1) By white labour, (2) by negro labour, and (3) by convict labour.

A coal and iron company had taken over all convicts from the State, constructed a prison and stockaded enclosure around the pit mouth, and thereby worked coal extensively.

About this time the white miners went on strike, and were intimidating the negro workmen who had not joined in the strike; but this intimidation was only partially successful.

Inspection of Factories and Mines in Saxony.*—The reports of the Factory Inspectors of the Kingdom of Saxony for 1893, recently issued, show that in that year, out of 14,808 industrial establishments subject to inspection, and employing 394,426 workpeople, 10,080, with 330,703 of the workpeople were inspected. The law regulating the employment of children and young persons was contravened in 1,532 establishments, that regulating adult female employment, in 768 establishments, penalties being imposed on 142 of the former, and on 40 of the latter. Eight per cent. of the first-named offences, and 35 per cent. of the second, had reference to illegal hours.

The Saxon Mining Inspectors visited 279 mines in 1893, employing 30,159 persons, viz.—28,645 men, 581 women, 930 boys, and 3 girls. The law as to child labour in mines was contravened in 11 cases, but 9 of these had reference to such matters as the fixing of lists and notices in mines.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL FOR JUNE 1894.

Board of Trade Notices. State of the Skilled Labour Market, &c. Foreign Exhibitions and Commercial Museums. Russia's Foreign Trade in 1893. Crisis in the Caucasian Petroleum Trade. French Industrial and Commercial Legislation in 1893. The Lyons Silk Industry. The Seamen Deserters' Question in the United States. Canada and West Indian Trade. The Economic Resources of the Argentine Republic. The Goldfields of British Guiana. Canadian Tariff Changes. Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations. Extracts from Diplomatic and Consular Reports. General Trade Notes. Recent Trade Blue-Books. Proceedings of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. Quarantine and Post Office Notices. Statistical Tables and Lists of Diplomatic Consular and Colonial Office Reports.

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* Jahresberichte der Kön. Sächsischen Gewerbe Inspektoren für 1893.

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