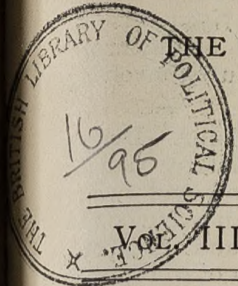


THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.



Vol. III.—No. 5.

MAY 1895.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

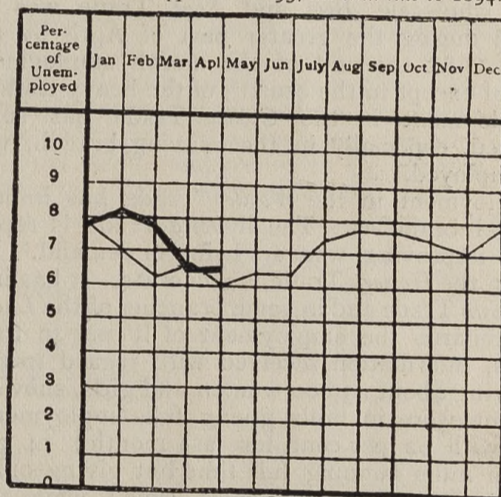
EMPLOYMENT in most of the industries for which returns have been received shows an improvement in April as compared with March. Owing, however, mainly to a falling off in mining, the percentage of unemployed in all the unions making returns remains unchanged.

In the 84 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 386,627, making returns, 25,174 (or 6.5 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of April, compared with the same percentage in March, and 6.1 per cent. in the 45 unions making returns for April 1894.

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 1894 and of each completed month of 1895.

The thick line applies to 1895, the thin line to 1894.



The proportions of unemployed in the 84 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

Percentage	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	27	19,910
3 and under 5 per cent.	25	126,132
5 and under 7 per cent.	12	147,880
7 and under 10 per cent.	9	12,738
10 per cent. and upwards	11	79,967
Total	84	386,627

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.

—Returns received from the owners of 1,004 pits, employing 249,768 men, show that the average weekly number of days worked during April was 4.46, compared with 4.93 in March and 4.61 in April, 1894. The number of workpeople employed was practically the same as in the corresponding month of last year. In the North of England a considerable increase is reported in the number of unemployed miners.

Iron Mining.—The average weekly number of days worked at 92 iron mines, employing 12,418 workpeople, in April was 5.4, as compared with 5.6 in the previous month.

In the *Pig Iron* Industry the number of furnaces in blast owned by the ironmasters making returns has risen from 281 at the end of March to 283 at the end of April.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

The following table summarises the returns received :
Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of April 1895 with the number in blast at end of April 1894, and at end of March 1895, so far as included in the returns made to the Department :—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	April 1895.	April 1894.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1895.	April 1895.	Mar. 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1895.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	90	94	-4	90	90	...
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks...	39	36	-6	39	39	...
Lincolnshire ...	7	10	-3	7	7	...
Midlands ...	14	14	...	14	14	...
Glamorgan and Mon. Other districts ...	69	72	-3	69	67	+2
	17	18	-1	17	17	...
	6	5	+1	6	6	...
Total England and Wales...	233	249	-16	233	231	+2
SCOTLAND ...	50	50	...	50	50	...
Total furnaces included in returns ...	283	299	-16	283	281	+2

The monthly circular issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association gives the following particulars respecting the Pig Iron Industry in Cleveland :—

Production.—During April, 243,807 tons were produced, as compared with 247,202 tons in the previous month, and 246,348 tons in April 1894.

Stocks.—These decreased by 14,938 tons during the month, the amount at the end of the month being 301,885 tons, which is still very large compared with the 143,303 tons which were in stock at the end of April 1894.

Shipments.—The shipments, abroad and coastwise, from the port of Middlesbrough during the month reached 105,538 tons, an increase of 32,633 tons on March, and of 24,160 on April 1894.

The shipments from all ports to foreign countries were 88,077 tons in April 1895, as compared with 81,354 tons and 81,783 tons in April 1894 and 1893 respectively.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS IN APRIL.

As a development of the returns received respecting employment in the Steel Industry in March,* application was made for similar returns for April not only to steel manufacturers, but also to all tinplate manufacturers and to the owners of all iron puddling and rolling mills and general iron and steel mills. The number of returns received was 228.

The total number of workpeople employed during April by the firms sending returns was 59,060, as compared with 61,836 in April 1894, a decrease of 2,776, or 4.5 per cent. Decreases are seen in all of the industries given in the table below, the largest proportionate decline being in the Tinplate Trade, where the decrease in the number employed was 7.7 per cent., the next largest being in iron puddling and rolling (6.2 per cent.) The percentage decrease in the number employed in the Steel Industry was 4.0, and in general rolling mills, &c., 1.2.

The decline in employment extends to most districts, though in Scotland the decrease is very slight. The only district in which the numbers employed in all four branches have risen is the Midlands where there was an all-round increase of 3.1 per cent. A slight rise in numbers is also observed in the Yorkshire Steel Industry. On the other hand, South Wales and Monmouth, and Forest of Dean, show a decrease of 12.7 per cent., and Northumberland and Durham of 9.4 per cent. in the numbers employed during last month.

The following table summarises the particulars received :—

* See April GAZETTE, page 100.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of April 1895 and 1894, respectively, by 228 employers making returns :—

Occupation.	Number Employed.					
	England and Wales.		Scotland.		United Kingdom.	
	April 1895.	April 1894.	April 1895.	April 1894.	April 1895.	April 1894.
Steel Making, Rolling, &c....	19,494	20,394	4,158	4,265	23,652	24,659
Iron Puddling, Rolling, &c....	11,268	12,352	2,403	2,319	13,671	14,671
Tinplate Workers ...	8,816	9,560	—	—	8,816	9,560
General Rolling Mills, or other workpeople general to both Steel and Iron ...	12,467	12,636	454	450	12,921	13,086
Totals ...	52,045	54,802	7,015	7,034	59,060	61,836

* The table does not include workpeople engaged in machinery or other engineering constructive processes.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN APRIL.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 130 returns referring to 202 parishes scattered over every county in England, and a report from an Agricultural Labourers' Union, states that, generally speaking, employment has been regular throughout England during the month of April, farm work having been backward in a number of districts, and the weather fine. In certain localities extra labour has been difficult to obtain, especially in those where potatoes are grown. Reports stating that there has been irregularity of employment are exceptional. One of these, which comes from the Dengie Hundred, in Essex, states that more men were in want of work in April than is usual at that period of the year.

A seasonal rise in wages is reported in April in certain districts in Cumberland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Kent.

ENGLAND.

Northern Counties.—Reports from the Garstang and Fylde Unions of Lancashire state that the men were well employed during April. At Lytham labour is said to be scarce, and farmers have to rely on Irish labour for potato setting. Day-men's wages changed in March from 15s. a week to 18s. Their wages throughout the Fylde and Garstang Unions vary from 16s. to 20s. Satisfactory reports as regards employment also come from Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Durham, Cheshire, and Derbyshire, and from certain districts in the Unions of York, Malton, and Easingwold. Wages of day-men changed in March from 10s. to 11s. with food, to 12s. to 14s. with food in the Penrith district (Cumberland), and from between 14s. to 15s. to between 16s. and 18s. in the Nantwich and Tarvin Unions of Cheshire.

Midland Counties.—In the Ludlow Union of Shropshire, in the district of Bridgnorth, employment is said to have been regular during the month of April; and in the Market Drayton Union at the following places: Hinstock, Cheswardine, Child's Ercall, and Stoke-upon-Tern, and in certain parishes in the Unions of Atcham, Ellesmere, and Oswestry. In the Newark Union of Nottingham, and also in the Oakham Union of Rutland, work is said to have been regular; in some parts of the latter district extra men have been difficult to obtain. In the Billesdon Union of Leicestershire employment has been plentiful at Kilby, Wistrow, and Newton Harcourt. A few men are reported to have been in irregular work at Wymondham, in the Melton Mowbray Union. A satisfactory report comes from Beby, in the Barrow-on-Soar Union. In Northamptonshire, work is reported to have been regular at Eye Green, in the Peterborough Union, and at Harleston, in the Brixworth Union. At Eye Green, wages of ordinary labourers changed from 12s. to 14s. on April 1st. In Worcestershire, work is said to have been regular at Church Lench in the Evesham Union, and at Throckmorton, Peopleton, and Little Comberton in the Pershore Union. In the three first-named parishes, wages of ordinary labourers changed from 11s. to 12s. a week on April 3rd; and in the latter parish from 10s. to 11s. on April 5th. In Warwickshire, three reports from the Alcester Union state that work was regular during April, but some men are stated to have been in want of work at Stratford-on-Avon. Wages of ordinary labourers changed from 10s. to 11s. a week in districts in

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

the Alcester and Stratford-on-Avon Unions early in April. In Huntingdonshire, at Great Staughton, Little Staughton, Graffham, Kimbolton, Diddington, West and East Perry, employment is said to have been of a satisfactory nature.

Eastern Counties.—Reports have been received from districts in the following Unions stating that work was regular during the month of April:—Brigg, Louth, Spilsby, Caistor, Grimsby, Bourne, Boston, Newark, and Grantham. Weekly wages of ordinary labourers generally changed from 12s. to 13s. 6d. a week in the Unions of Caistor, Brigg, Grimsby, Louth, and Newark, and in certain parts of the Spilsby Union. In the Downham Union of Norfolk, work is reported to have been regular at Hilgay, and Southery, and at Wormegay and Shouldham Thorpe about 2 per cent. are stated to have been irregularly employed. Throughout the Unions of Depwade and Swaffham work is said to have been regular, and also at Langley in the Loddon Union, and Feltwell in the Thetford Union. Those receiving 9s. a week in certain parishes in the Downham Union were raised to 10s. In Essex, satisfactory reports as regards regularity of employment come from certain districts in the Tendring, Braintree, and Colchester Unions, but in the Maldon Union, at Burnham-on-Crouch, and in the parishes in the Dengie Hundred, some men were in want of work, and their numbers are said to be larger than is usual at this period of the year. At Maldon, employment is stated to be regular. In the Colchester district wages changed from 10s. and 11s. to 11s. and 12s. on April 26th. At Lawford, in the Tendring Union, they changed from 10s. to 11s. on April 23rd. In the Braintree district those who had been receiving 9s. were raised to 10s. in April. In Suffolk reports have been received from districts in the Unions of Plomesgate, Thingoe, Hoxne, Risbridge, Mildenhall, Samford, Woodbridge, and Blything. Generally speaking, able-bodied men are said to be in work; at Rendlesham and some adjoining parishes about 10 per cent. are said to have been irregularly employed. Returns from several other parishes refer to some slight irregularity of employment. At Trimley, in the Woodbridge Union, wages changed from 10s. to 11s. in April. In the Mildenhall district those on 9s. were raised to 10s. In Cambridgeshire reports from Upwell and Elm in the Wisbech Union state that work during April was plentiful; in the latter district extra labour has been scarce. At March, in the North Witchford Union, no men who wanted regular employment are said to have been without it. Favourable reports also come from districts in the St. Ives, the Ely, the Caxton, the Peterborough and North Witchford Unions. At Rampton, in the Chesterton Union, a few men were in irregular work at the beginning of the month, but latterly all surplus labour has been employed in the fruit and market gardens. At Chesterton the demand has exceeded the supply, and one farmer sent to Essex for two men. Work is said to have been regular during April in the following parishes in this Union:—Trumpington, Histon, Girton, Impington, Oakington, Milton, Long Stanton, Fulbourn, Landbeach, and Waterbeach. At Elm and parts of Emneth, in the Wisbech Union, wages changed from 11s. to 12s. at the end of March. In the Littleport district, in the Ely Union, those receiving 9s. were raised to 10s. in April.

Home Counties.—In Berkshire a report states that about 10 per cent. of the younger men were in irregular work during April at Peasmore, in the Wantage Union, and another that several men were out of work in the neighbourhood of Lockinge. In Oxfordshire reports of four parishes in the Henley Union, including that of Henley, are satisfactory. In the Thame Union it is said that there was only one parish where any men were employed irregularly. At Thame the demand exceeded the supply. Reports from three parishes in the Abingdon Union are satisfactory. Reports from the Buckingham, Winslow and Newport Pagnell Unions of Buckinghamshire state that employment is generally plentiful, but in the latter district a few men were in irregular work at Stony Stratford. In Bedfordshire, no able-bodied men were reported out of work or in irregular work at Keysoe, Thurleigh, and Yelden in the Bedford Union, or at Luton or Caddington in the Luton Union. At Keysoe, Thurleigh, and Yelden, wages changed from 11s. to 12s. in April, and a similar change took place in some parts of the Luton Union. Favourable reports come from districts in the Hemel Hempstead and Buntingford Unions of Hertfordshire. At Hemel Hempstead wages changed from 12s. to 13s. In the Hollingbourne Union of Kent, work is said to have been plentiful at Hollingbourne and Leeds. At Chart Sutton a few resident labourers were in irregular work, and a good many casual labourers who come from the Midlands at this time of year. In two parishes in this Union a change in wages from 14s. and 15s. a week to 18s. in April is reported.

Western Counties.—Reports from the neighbourhood of Dorchester, and also from districts in the Wimborne and Beaminstor Unions of Dorsetshire, state that work has been regular. Similar reports come from districts in the Wilton, Pewsey, and Devizes Unions of Wiltshire. In Gloucestershire, employment is said to have been regular in districts in the Barton Regis, Chipping Sodbury and Winchcombe Unions; in the Bromyard and Leominster Unions of Hereford; in Somersetshire, in the Langport Union; in Devonshire, in the Crediton Union; in Cornwall, in the Helston Union; and in certain districts in the St. Austell Union. At Camborne, in the Redruth Union, some labourers are reported to have been in irregular work during the month.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

A DECREASE continues in the shipments of seamen as the crews of foreign-going vessels from the principal ports of the United Kingdom, the number of men so shipped during April, viz., 29,094, being 2,898 less than in April of last year, when the total number was 31,992. This decrease is spread over all ports with one exception, the most noticeable cases being at Cardiff, Glasgow, and Sunderland.

The supply of seamen is stated to be in excess of the demand at most ports included in the table below, the exceptions being in the case of firemen at Newport, and seamen and firemen at Southampton and Dublin, where demand and supply were equal; while seamen for sailing vessels are reported as being scarce at Leith and Dublin. The excess of the supply of seamen at North Shields and Grimsby is attributed, in part, to the late opening of the Baltic trade.

Seamen's rates of wages remained about the same as in March at most ports. A few men were, however, shipped at higher rates at Swansea, London, and Belfast, and a few at decreased rates at Liverpool. Full particulars of these cases will be found in the table of Changes in Wages at page 158.

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 April 1895 and 1894 respectively :—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in April 1895.			Total in April 1894.	Increase in 1895.	Decrease in 1895.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April 1895.			
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	143	2,479	2,622	2,727	...	105
Sunderland ...	38	576	614	826	...	212
Middlesbrough ...	27	558	585	673	...	28
Hull ...	...	885	885	973	...	88
Grimsby ...	10	90	100	131	...	31
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	6	161	167	253	...	86
Newport, Mon. ...	59	955	1,014	1,066	...	51
Cardiff ...	545	3,156	3,701	5,196	...	1,495
Swansea ...	145	313	458	561	...	123
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	464	9,034	9,498	9,573	...	75
London ...	590	5,007	5,597	5,627	...	30
Southampton ...	...	1,186	1,186	1,252	...	66
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth	27	481	508	565	...	57
Glasgow ...	157	1,841	1,998	2,343	...	345
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	19	25	44	33	11	...
Belfast ...	22	95	117	234	...	117
Total April 1895 ...	2,252	26,842	29,094	...	...	2,898
 Ditto, April 1894 ...	3,164	28,828	...	31,992	...	...

(g) DOCK LABOUR IN LONDON IN APRIL.

TAKING the month of April as a whole, dock labourers in London were better employed than in March, but employment declined somewhat during the month.

Returns have been received with regard to the number of dock and wharf labourers employed during the month in all the docks and at 95 of the principal wharves in the Port of London. The average daily number of labourers returned as employed at both docks and wharves was 13,524, compared with 13,235 for March. During April the estimated maximum

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

number employed on any one day was 14,264 on April 18th, and the minimum 12,610 on April 26th.

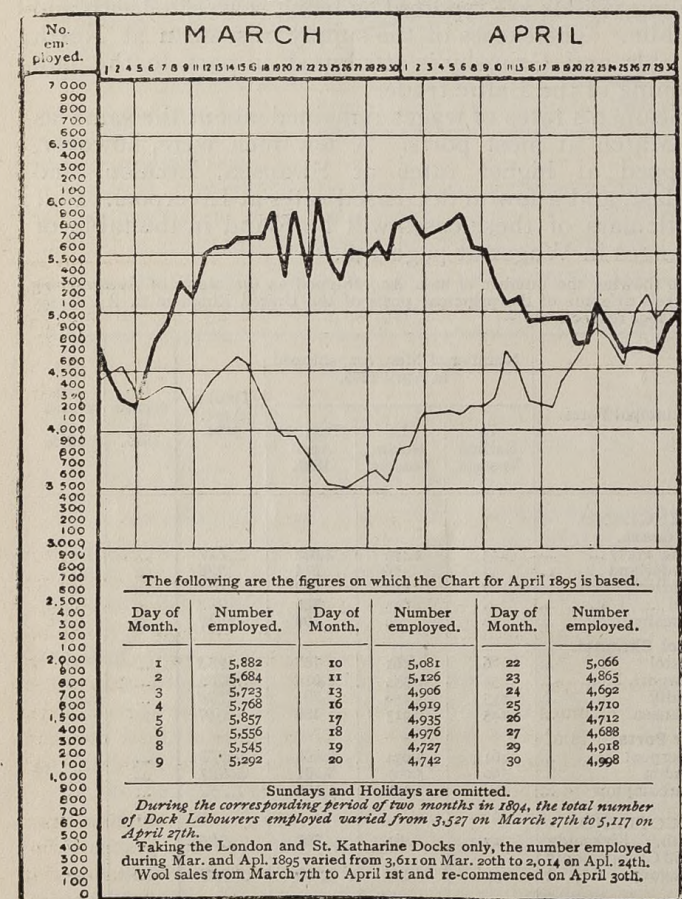
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table gives further details with regard to the average daily volume of employment in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 95 wharves making returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week in April ...	7,813	1,340	9,153	4,768	13,921
2nd " " ...	7,162	1,562	8,724	4,841	13,565
3rd " " ...	7,364	1,682	9,046	4,695	13,741
4th " " ...	6,855	1,141	7,996	4,917	12,913
Average for 4 weeks ending April 27th ...	7,302	1,414	8,716	4,808	13,524
Average for 5 weeks ending March 30th ...	6,976	1,366	8,342	4,898	13,235

(2) The following chart shows the daily fluctuations of dock employment by the London and India Docks Joint Committee only during March and April. The number employed during April varied from 5,882 on April 1st to 4,688 on April 27th.

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 March and April 1895. The corresponding curve for March and April 1894 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.

[The thick curve applies to 1895, and the thin curve to 1894.]



It is not possible to compare the total volume of employment of dock and wharf labour with that for the same period of 1894, but the following figures give such a comparison for labour employed daily by the dock companies:—

Period.	Labourers employed by Dock Companies directly or through contractors.			
	1895.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
1st week in April ...	7,813	5,954	1,859	—
2nd " " ...	7,162	6,453	709	—
3rd " " ...	7,364	6,299	1,065	—
4th " " ...	6,855	7,007	—	152
Average for 4 weeks ...	7,302	6,428	874	—

The Fruit Trade at the wharves is reported as equal to the average for the time of year. Lightermen have been fully employed.

(b) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE AND HAT TRADES IN APRIL.

INFORMATION has been received from women correspondents with regard to the employment of women and girls in 240 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills. In the case of 157 mills the numbers employed are stated approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 83 mills as in those for the same trade for which numbers are stated, the information may be summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate estimate of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage.	Percentage for March.
Full time ...	205	35,746	84	62
Ditto, but partial employment	26	5,063	12	25
Short time ...	6	1,033	2	9
Closed for repairs ...	2	—	—	—
" (cause unspecified) ...	1	896	2	4
Total ...	240	42,738	100	100

Cotton Trade.—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 30,351. Of these 82 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 59 per cent. for March); 13 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving partial employment; 2 per cent. in mills running short time, while mills employing 3 per cent. of the number were closed during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trade.—The number of women and girls employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is estimated at 11,365. Of these 89 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 70 per cent. for March); 8 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving partial employment; and 3 per cent. in mills running short time.

Silk Trade.—The number of women and girls employed in the silk mills reported on is estimated at 1,022. Of these 86 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 83 per cent. for March); and 14 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving partial employment.

Felt and Silk Hat Trade.—Out of about 500 women and girls reported on in Denton about half were in hat works working full time, and half in works on short time.

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.*

LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—Employment generally has improved during the month. Returns received relating to 344 branches of 75 trade unions in the London district, with a membership of 62,990, show 3,041 (or 4·8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, compared with 5·3 per cent. for March.

On the whole, the *Engineering, Metal* and *Shipbuilding* Trades are scarcely so busy as in March. Reports from 103 branches of 23 unions show that out of a membership of 19,217, 1,201 (or 6·2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 5·8 per cent. in March and 8·1 per cent. in April 1894.

The *Building Trades* continue to show a steady improvement in all branches with the exception of the plumbers. Returns from 177 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 12,852, show that 406 (or 3·2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 5·6 per cent. in March and 4·3 per cent. in April 1894. The painters and stone-carvers,

* When it is stated in these reports that "the carpenters," "the plumbers," &c. make certain reports, reference is usually made to the Unions connected with these trades, unless it is otherwise specified.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LONDON AND NORTHERN COUNTIES.

with an aggregate membership in the London district of 1,882, describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, and plasterers, with a membership of 13,802, as fair; the masons and plumbers, with a membership of 3,698, as moderate; and the bricklayers and mill-sawyers, with a membership of 7,238, as improving.

Employment in most branches of the *Furnishing and Woodworking Trades* has continued to improve. Reports from 37 branches of 18 unions, with an aggregate membership of 6,846, show that 125 (or 1·8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 3·9 per cent. in February and 5·3 per cent. in April 1894.

A slight falling off is observable in the *Printing Trades*, both in the letterpress and lithographic branches. Most branches of book-binding are slack. Returns from 15 unions in this group of trades, with an aggregate membership of 19,016, show that 866 (or 4·6 per cent.) were unemployed, against 4·3 per cent. last month, and 3·9 per cent. in April 1894.

Clothing Trades.—The Wholesale Clothing Trade has continued very brisk. The West End Tailoring Trade has been good, with, however, but little demand for hands. Employment in the East End Bespoke Trade is brisk. The Hat Trade has somewhat improved. The fur skin dressers report employment as fair, the furriers as slack, with a large percentage unemployed.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Since the settlement of the great dispute in the machine branch, employment has been good. In the high-class bespoke branch employment has been good, and more men could have found work. Slipper-makers have been fairly well employed.

The *Leather Trades* remain fairly steady. Returns from four unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,124, show that 44 (or 3·9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4·5 per cent. in March.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks and wharves was better in the first half of April than in March, but fell off somewhat towards the end of the month. The average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks and at 95 of the principal wharves during April was 13,524 compared with 13,235 for March. Further details are given on pages 133-4. The lightermen have been well employed. The number of seamen shipped in foreign-going vessels during April was 5,597, an increase of 15·6 per cent. compared with March, and a decrease of 5 per cent. compared with April 1894.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the Tobacco and Glass Trades continues bad. The bakers and confectioners are quiet; the scientific instrument-makers dull; the coach-makers report a considerable improvement in almost every branch; the farriers also show a tendency to improve; the brush-makers report employment as better than for some time past; the mat and matting-makers are working short time; the horsehair and fibre dressers and box-makers are busy; the bass-dressers are improving.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Only one fresh dispute was reported during the month—involving 12 men and 6 boys in the East End Glass-blowing Trade. In accordance with the award made by Mr. Asquith, in June 1894, for the settlement of the cab dispute, prescribing that the terms might be revised in April 1895, the Cab Drivers' Union gave notice of certain proposed changes, particularly with respect to the prices paid for four-wheeled cabs and the question of yard money. After considerable correspondence between Mr. Asquith, the Cab Owners' Association, and the Cab Drivers' Union, the Union announced their intention—in view of concessions that had been made as to four-wheeled cabs—not to proceed with their other demands.

Labour Bureaux.—The five labour bureaux furnishing returns registered 2,701 fresh applications from workpeople, and 420 from employers during April. Comparing the three bureaux* furnishing returns for both April 1894 and April 1895, the number of fresh applications from workpeople last month was 874, and from employers 309, as compared with 641 and 153 respectively in the corresponding month of last year. The number of persons for whom work was found through the five bureaux during last month was 912, of which number 207 were engaged by local authorities.

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved in the Metropolis on the last day of the second week in April shows a very sharp decline when compared with the corresponding day in the previous month, the rate per 10,000 of population having fallen from 310 to 250. The greatest decreases were 104 per 10,000 in the Southern district, and 72 per 10,000 in the Eastern. The rate in each district is still, however, somewhat higher than in April 1894, when the

* St. Pancras, Battersea, and Islington.

proportion for the whole of London averaged 231 per 10,000. In West Ham the rate of pauperism was 283 per 10,000 in the second week in April, 341 in March, and 258 in April 1894.

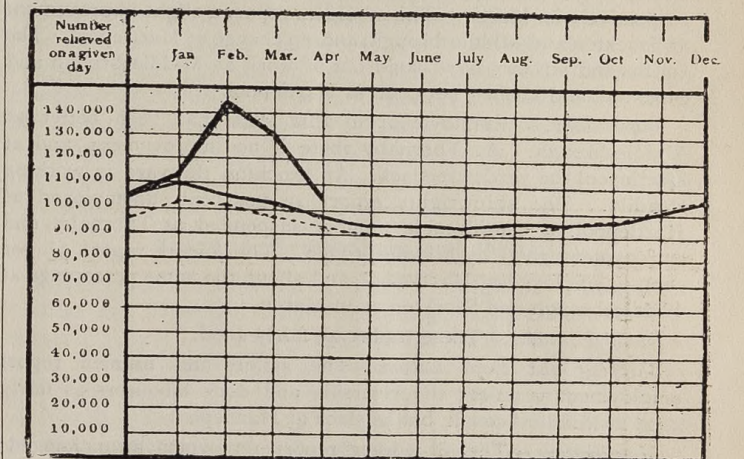
The proportion of paupers to population in the different districts of London, and in West Ham on the last day of the second week of April and March 1895, is shown in the following table:—

District.	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	April 1895.	Mar. 1895.	April 1895.	Mar. 1895.	April 1895.	Mar. 1895.
	London:					
West District...	142	152	32	40	174	192
North " ...	140	145	101	121	241	266
Central " ...	297	318	149	163	446	481
East " ...	189	197	67	131	256	328
South " ...	154	141	123	220	257	361
West Ham ...	50	53	233	288	283	341

* The population is that ascertained by the Census of 1891.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1893, 1894, and 1895:—

[The thick curve represents 1895; the thin curve 1891; and the dotted curve 1893.]



The above figures and the chart relate to the second week in the month. In the third week, pauperism in London had fallen to 247 per 10,000 of population, and in the fourth week to 244.

The number of vagrants relieved in London, which was 825 on the last day of the second week in April, rose to 1,193 in the third week, and to 1,271 in the fourth.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Durham.—The total number of unemployed union-pitmen throughout the county is 3,698, or 6·3 per cent., as against 3·7 at the end of March. Many of the pits producing unscreened and gas coal averaged about eight days per fortnight. A dispute at one pit has caused a stoppage, affecting between 700 and 800 men and boys. **Northumberland.**—Employment in the Steam Coal Trade continues slack. The average number of days worked during the month is about five per week. The number of Union members returned as unemployed is 659, or 3·3 per cent., as against 1·5 per cent. of the membership at the end of March.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the Tyne.—Shipbuilding prospects are better, and employment in the yards has gradually improved. Locomotive building continues slack. Marine engineering is moderate. The Elswick Ordnance Works and the electrical engineers are busy. The Boiler-makers, Shipbuilders, and Engineers return 16·4 per cent. as unemployed, as against 20 per cent. of the membership in March. **On the Wear.**—Shipbuilding has improved. One yard alone has absorbed all surplus joiners, not one being unemployed out of 560 on the river. Marine engineering has slightly improved, one firm having re-started a night shift. Shipbuilders, boiler-makers, and engineers have a percentage of 16·9 unemployed, as against 27·7 in March. On both rivers moulders are but moderately employed, one firm discharging men. The shipwrights report employment as better, with 10 per cent. out of work. The pattern-makers have 12·3 per cent. idle. The local steel plate mills are working full time.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Wherrymen on the Tyne report a decline, fully 200 men having earned only one to one and a half days' pay per week. The coal porters have been badly employed, especially on the north side of the Tyne, with 6 per cent. unable to

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE, &c.

obtain casual work. At the South Dock on the Wear employment has been fairly good, with only 2 per cent. entirely idle.

Building Trades.—On the Tyne.—The bricklayers and masons are fully employed; the latter having none out of work out of 500 members.—On the Wear.—The bricklayers report about 3 per cent. idle, and the Building Trades generally as good.

Miscellaneous.—The glass-workers, with 8½ per cent. unemployed, and the bottle-workers report employment as improved; but at Blyth only half-time is worked. Chemical works are slack. The Durham Coke Trade has been depressed, with 3 per cent. idle. The Wearstone ironstone miners report little change. Limestone and stone quarries are quiet.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—There have been large shipments of iron during the month, but employment is still irregular in some departments. The Cleveland miners report work as steady, most of the men being fairly employed, but not busy, and little change is reported in the foundries and bridge works.

Engineering.—Employment is little better, the percentages of unemployed members of unions being, at Stockton, 5·3; at Middlesbrough, 11; and at Hartlepool, 6, as against 5·3, 13·8, and 12 respectively in March. The moulders report a slight improvement at Stockton and Middlesbrough, and no change at Hartlepool. The smiths and strikers have none out of work at Middlesbrough and Stockton, and about 5 per cent. at Hartlepool.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in this trade has been better at Middlesbrough. At Thornaby there is no improvement, and at Hartlepool the yards are slack. At Stockton the yard is working steadily. The shipwrights report 12 per cent. unemployed at Hartlepool, a considerable number suspended at Thornaby, and employment good at Middlesbrough. The joiners report 9¼ per cent. unemployed at Hartlepool, and about the same percentage at Middlesbrough and Stockton as in March.

Building Trades.—These trades are fairly good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as quiet; the riverside and dock labourers as fairly good at Middlesbrough, but as slack at Hartlepool.

Miscellaneous.—The salt-workers report employment as unchanged; the letterpress printers as fair at Hartlepool, with none on the books, and moderate at Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Thornaby; the saw-millers as fair; the tailors as good. Employment generally continues bad at Darlington. The Poor Law authorities have decided to re-open the stoneyard.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—There is no improvement in the state of employment in the Cotton Trade of this district. In Oldham the mills are working full time, but the spinners report 190, or 3 per cent. on out-of-work benefit, besides a number who have exhausted their out-of-work pay. The card-room operatives report 1,020 of their members, or 9·1 per cent., out of employment. The weavers, reellers, winders, and ring frame tenters are fully employed; the twiners only moderately so. In Mossley several mills are closed, and the spinners report 9·4 per cent. unemployed. In Ashton, 6·3 per cent. are on out-of-work benefit. The spinners employed at three of the mills which have been closed are still out of work, and have exhausted their out-of-work benefit. In Stalybridge only four spinners are unemployed, and the mills are working full time, with one exception.

Coal Mining.—The miners report trade as slack at many of the collieries, the men only working three days per week.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—All branches report trade as moderate and slightly improving, with fewer unemployed.

Building Trades.—The painters and decorators report trade as good, with no unemployed; the other branches as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The skip-makers report trade as good, with full employment; the cabinet-makers and tailors as slightly improved; the coach-makers and brush-makers as dull.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—The spinning branch shows little change, and all mills in the district are working full time, with the exception of two stopped for repairs. Employment is reported as normal, with a slight increase on the out-of-work funds. The weavers continue fully employed. In Wigan employment is fairly good. In Bury the weavers are slack; in other branches there is an improvement. In Chorley the weaving branch has improved.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The engineers have fewer unemployed. The carding-engine-making and jobbing shops continue exceptionally busy. The Metal Trades show no change. Steel smelting is depressed, an unusual number being out of employment. Labourers in ironworks are not so well employed. In Wigan the engineers report improvement, but the iron and steel rolling mills are irregularly employed; the cycle works are busy, and more men are being taken on. In Bury employment is fairly good, but makers of bleaching machinery are slack. In Chorley employment is moderate.

Building Trades.—These trades are reported as moderately well employed. The flaggers, slaters, and paviors are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Printers, bleachers, and dyers are fairly well employed. Tailors, shoe-makers and skip-makers are active.

R. Tootill.

Burnley, Accrington, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Ordinary calico weaving has shown a continued improvement; a further number of looms which had been stopped for some months have been re-started, whilst a number which had been working reduced time have commenced to work full time, and few calico weavers are unemployed. The Shoddy or Hardwaste Trade has also improved. The Sateen Trade is slightly worse; a number of looms have stopped, whilst some have been turned to other work. The spinning mills in the district continue to work full time.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The moulders, millwrights, and turners report work as moderately fair, only a small percentage being unemployed. The machine-makers continue brisk. Tinplate workers are fully employed.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues good.

Miscellaneous.—The large calico printing and dyeing works in the district continue to work full time. Labourers are in fair demand. The Felt Slipper Trade in the Rossendale district continues fairly good.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, steam engine-makers and machine-workers report employment as moderate, with 10 per cent. decrease in the number of unemployed. The brass-founders and finishers are better employed, and firms which have been working short time are now on full time. The Braziers and Sheet Metal Trades show no change. In Warrington wire-drawing has slightly improved, and iron-workers generally are moderately well employed in Warrington, Northwich, and Stockport.

Textile Trades.—The Textile Trades in Manchester, Stockport, Macclesfield, and Warrington show little change. The Silk Trade has slightly improved; hand-loom weavers are fairly busy, and some mills which were on short time are now running full time. Silk dressers are on half-time.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade is giving full employment. The Wholesale Clothing Trade is still improving. The Ready-made Mantle Trade is moderate; cap-making and shirt-making are busy; the Waterproof Garment Trade continues depressed. The felt hat-makers have improved, and some firms are running overtime.

Building Trades.—The stonemasons and bricklayers in Manchester report employment as good; the carpenters and joiners and plumbers as bad, with a slight increase in the numbers unemployed; the fret lead glaziers as bad, but improved. The Building Trades in Stockport, Warrington, Northwich, and Macclesfield are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as bad, with 8·2 per cent. unemployed; lithographic printing in Manchester is only moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The coach-makers, especially at the railway shops, and the cabinet-makers report employment as improved; the chemical and salt-workers and flint glass cutters as unchanged. The coopers are fairly busy.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Iron Trade shows little improvement. The Steel Trade is dull. The Barrow Steel Works have been at work during the last four weeks, but are now at a standstill, the orders in hand having been all completed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The marine engineers are fairly well employed, although in the pattern-making and moulding departments a number of men have been discharged. The ship-builders report a decline. The ship carpenters have been fairly busy; but, owing to the dispute among the hand-drillers, a number of carpenters have been suspended.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners are fairly well employed. The limestone quarries are also slack.

Building Trades.—These trades are now fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The millers and pulp-workers are busy. The printers, bakers, confectioners, jute-workers and tailors are in moderate employment.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Liverpool and District.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment at the docks is quiet except among the coal heavers, who are fairly well employed. The Mersey flatmen report employment as moderate; the inland water carriers as much the same.

Metal Trades.—The whitesmiths report no improvement. Brass finishers remain the same. Moulders show a slight improvement.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment in the Shipbuilding Trade shows no change. In the Engineering Trade there is a slight improvement, the pattern-makers being fully employed.

Building Trades.—There is improvement in nearly every section of the Building Trade.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—There is a slight improvement noticeable in the Glass Industry in St. Helens; one furnace has been re-lighted. Employment in the Chemical Trade shows a decline, apparent in the closing of some works in Widnes, and the stoppage of processes in St. Helens. A large number of chemical workers are totally unemployed.

Mining.—The Coal Mining Industry is still much disturbed in St. Helens district, and in North Wales several notices have been given by employers of reductions in wages.

Miscellaneous.—Employment continues moderate in railway goods departments. The rope-makers are working full time.—*J. Sexton.*

A report from Winsford states that the Salt Trade has been unsatisfactory, with an increase in the number of unemployed. At Middlewich there is a slight improvement in the Salt Trade, but none in the Chemical Industry.

YORKSHIRE.

Bull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders report employment as bad; the iron-founders as unchanged, with 8 per cent. unemployed; the brass-founders and finishers as moderate, with nearly 9 per cent. unemployed; the smiths and strikers as moderate, with about 7 per cent. entirely, and 4½ per cent. partially, unemployed; the engineers as slightly improved, with 7 per cent. unemployed; the steam engine-makers as bad at the beginning of the month and moderate at the end, with about 2 per cent. idle. The shipwrights and ship-joiners have been well employed. The sail-makers report an improvement. The unskilled labourers in these industries report employment as moderate.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers report employment as moderate, with no unemployed; the builders' labourers as bad at first, and moderate at the end of the month; the plumbers as moderate, with none wholly unemployed; the mill-sawyers and wood machinists as moderate, with over 6 per cent. idle; the carpenters and joiners and painters as good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—With the opening of the Baltic and North European Ports there has been a slight improvement in these trades, but a large percentage of dock labourers are unemployed. The seamen report employment as good towards the end of the month; the tippers, trimmers, and heavers as moderate, with 5 per cent. entirely, and 12 per cent. partially, unemployed.

Fishing Industry.—Fish has been scarce during the month, and employment for fishermen and others in this industry is reported as moderate. The fishing vessel engineers report employment as good.

Seed Crushing, Colour, Paint and Varnish Works.—Employment in the Seed-crushing Industry is reported as moderate. Employment in the oil mills has declined, but in the Paint and Colour Works is much better, some of the mills working overtime.

Miscellaneous.—The flour-millers, bookbinders, tailors, tanners, and leather-workers report employment as good; the cabinet-makers, brush-makers, and gas-workers as moderate; the letterpress printers as improved, with 4 per cent. idle. Trade generally is reported as good at Grimsby and Selby.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Metal Trades.—Engineering shows a slight decrease in the number unemployed. The locomotive branch is fairly good, and the heavy tool and silk machinery departments are rather busier. At Rodley and Bramley most firms are well employed. At Wakefield employment continues slack. Ironfounders in Leeds are still quiet, and at

Stanningley short time is being worked. Pattern-making, although still dull, is better. The whitesmiths report employment as fair.

Building Trades.—In Leeds the bricklayers report employment as fairly good, the painters as busy, the joiners and plumbers as moderate, the plasterers and builders' labourers as slack.

Clothing Trades.—In the Ready-made Clothing Trade most of the large factories have been working overtime. Bespoke tailoring has improved. In the Boot and Shoe Trade work has been generally resumed, but employment is only moderate.

Textile Trades.—The willeys and fettlers report trade as better, with fewer unemployed; the woollen spinners as slacker; the blanket-makers as improved. At Yeadon the Textile Trades continue dull. At Morley the mills are working full time, and some all night; at Wakefield and Stanningley most mills are running full time. Dyers in Leeds remain busy.

Leather Trades.—Owing to the dispute in the Boot Trade, tanners, curriers, and leather shavers all report employment as bad during the month, but as improved at the end.

Coal Mining.—Employment has been rather better at the pits in the Leeds district. At the Waterloo Main and Railway pits four-and-a-half and five days have been worked; at Morley three and four days; at Wakefield, on the Haigh Moor seam (house coal), two and three days, but on the Stanley Main seam (steam coal), five days; at Normanton four and five days. At Castleford trade continues dull, and a number of colliers are out of employment.

Miscellaneous.—The glass bottle workers report employment as improved. The Letterpress Printing Trade is slack, and the Lithographic Trade moderate.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Textile Trades.—The Worsteds Trade in Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax and Keighley is still improving; weavers are in great request; only a small percentage of the woolcombers are out of work. In the Worth Valley also weavers are wanted. In Huddersfield there are not quite so many worsteds weavers on overtime as in March. The Woollen Trade in and around Huddersfield is quite as good as last month, and some firms are taking on men to work new looms more than has lately been the case, the men taking the work at the same price as women. The Heavy Woollen Trade is also reported as improving, and another mill is working overtime. The Cotton and Silk Trades are reported as improved.

Metal Trades.—There is an improvement in the Metal Trades. Nine branches of the engineers in Bradford, Keighley, Halifax and Huddersfield, with a membership of 2,165, report 9 per cent. unemployed. The ironfounders in Keighley and Huddersfield have 4·4 per cent. out of work.

Building Trades.—There is little change in these trades, which maintain the improvement reported.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors, dyers, painters, pressers and railwaymen report employment as good; printers and cabinet-makers as moderate.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The pits are working much as usual. A majority of the collieries are working three and four days per week; those working more are the exception. A large tonnage continues to be drawn from the collieries considering the number of days worked. About 1,200 men and boys at three collieries near Barnsley have stopped work through a dispute. About 250 men and boys have been thrown out of work near Liversedge and Heckmondwike through the closing of collieries as no longer profitable. About 580 men in all are out of work "through no fault," and are receiving pay from a special fund.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Iron Trade has improved, and puddlers, shinglers and furnacemen are better employed. The iron-rollers report none out of work. The smelters of Siemens steel are well employed. The Bessemer Steel Trade is slack. The makers of armour plates are well employed on Government contracts. Patent shot and shell makers are slack. The engineers report 6 per cent. unemployed. Iron and steel-founders report work as slacker, with 7 per cent. unemployed, an increase of 2 per cent.; the boiler-makers as slack, with 3 per cent. unemployed, and a considerable number on short time. The railway spring-fitters report 5 per cent. unemployed, and a large proportion on short time. The steel wire-drawers report employment as moderate, there being no skilled men unemployed, but a considerable number working short time. The makers of castings for agricultural machinery and cycles are busier. At Rotherham the Iron Trade

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

has improved; stove-grate workers are quiet. Reports from Stocksbridge and Dronfield are fairly good. Staveley and Thorncliffe are busy on iron pipes.

Cutlery and Tools.—A large proportion of pen and pocket knife grinders are on short time, but none are wholly unemployed. The table and butcher knife makers also show a decline. The steel fork (carvers) makers report employment as bad. On steel spades, shovels and picks, the workmen are fairly well employed. The engineers' tool makers report 3 per cent. unemployed and 10 per cent. only partly employed; the improvement in the Edge Tool Trade is maintained. The File Trade has improved. The handle and scale cutters are slack, about 10 per cent. being unemployed, and about 25 per cent. on short time. Scale pressers are also slack. The makers of joiners' tools, mining tools, scythes and machine knives are fairly busy.

Other Metal Trades.—The silversmiths report employment as worse, with 5 per cent. idle, and the plate spoon and fork-filers as bad. The Brass Trade is fairly good.

Building Trades.—All branches are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers, with 8 per cent., and the lithographers, with 5 per cent. unemployed, as improved; the bookbinders as good.

Miscellaneous.—The coach-makers report employment as improved; the railway carriage-builders as good; the wagon-makers as slack; the cabinet-makers and bakers as quiet. The Sheffield Corporation are employing an exceptionally large number of men in relaying water mains.—S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

Coal Mining.—The improvement begun in March has been fully maintained, especially in Staveley (Chesterfield) district, where hard coal pits are working full time, house, gas and canal coal three to four days per week. Ilkeston, Kilburn, and Marehay pits have worked from four to five days. In Clay Cross, employment has averaged three days per week. In Codnor district there has been a decline in hard coal from four days to two and a half, while soft coal has improved from three days to four and a half per week.

Quarrying.—A slight improvement is noticeable, employment being moderate but regular in most districts.

Iron Trades.—Blast furnacemen continue dull; the iron-founders report employment as bad at Derby, with nearly 10 per cent. unemployed; as moderate at Chesterfield, Codnor, and Butterley. The Malleable Iron Trade continues fair.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Engineering is reported as moderate in Derby, Chesterfield, New Mills, and Ripley; as bad in Burton-on-Trent, Ilkeston, and Long Eaton. The locomotive works are only running five days per week. Out of 1,197 members in these districts, 37 (or 3 per cent.) are reported idle. The boiler-makers report employment as dull, with 5 per cent. unemployed. Bridge, girder, and boiler yards are improving.

Other Metal Trades.—The stove grate-workers in Derby and Belper district continue dull. In Long Eaton the lace machine builders are fairly well employed. Cycle works are busy. The brass-moulders and finishers report employment as fair.

Textile Trades.—The Lace Trade in Derby is quiet. In Long Eaton it continues depressed, with 5 per cent. totally unemployed.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade, both in ready-made and bespoke departments, has considerably improved. The boot and shoe operatives and dress and mantle-makers are fairly active.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers report employment in Derby as good; the carpenters and joiners as improving; the stone-masons as quiet; the gas-fitters and plumbers as fair; the plasterers as bad; the house painters and decorators as fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The lithographic printers report employment as bad, with 8 per cent. unemployed; the letterpress printers, with 5 per cent. idle, and the bookbinders as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as bad. The railway carriage and wagon-builders, and the dyers and bleachers in Belper district, are slack.—C. White-Daenon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The operative lace-makers report employment as worse, with 8 per cent. on out-of-work benefit, and many more unemployed; the warp lace-workers as bad, with 11 per cent. idle; the wipers as dull, with 6 per cent. unemployed, and the rest on short time; the female lace-workers as dull, with 10 per cent. idle; the auxiliary lace-workers as slack. The reports from Basford, Bulwell, Kimberley, Beeston, and Stapleford are unfavourable.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment is slack throughout the district in the Hosiery Trade, but fairly good at Hucknall on Shetland shawls and wool goods. The elastic bandage makers report an improvement. Cotton spinners and silk throwsters are working short time.

Coal Mining.—The miners are slack. The average time worked during the month at 22 collieries was three days per week.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers are only moderately employed, with 5 per cent. out of work; the iron-founders report employment as improved, but nearly 15 per cent. unemployed; the iron-dressers as bad; the tool machinists as improving, with about 12½ per cent. unemployed; the bobbin and carriage-makers and the boiler-makers as moderate.

Building Trades.—These trades generally are well employed throughout the district; 13 branches with a membership of 2,019 return 2·3 per cent. as unemployed.

Printing Trades.—At Nottingham the letterpress printers report employment as bad; the bookbinders as fairly busy, with none unemployed; the lithographic artists, with 5 per cent. unemployed, and the lithographic printers, with 4·5 per cent. unemployed, as moderate.

Railway Works.—Employment is good at Mansfield and Retford, and improving at Worksop, but quiet at Newark, Colwick and Toton. Goods porters, draymen, platelayers and outside labourers are fairly well employed.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as good. Mantle-makers and tailoresses are fairly busy. The Boot and Shoe Trade is quiet at Nottingham, with 6 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The box-makers, gas-workers, and female cigar-makers report employment as quiet; the wheelwrights and farriers as moderate; the coach-makers as fairly good.—W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—Since the settlement of the dispute, trade has been brisk, and employment plentiful in all branches of the Boot and Shoe Trade. Work has been resumed in this district, generally under amicable conditions, except at Northampton, where some difficulty arose in consequence of the introduction by the manufacturers of a new code of rules for regulating labour in the factories. Carriers and shoe mercery dealers are busy.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in both the wholesale and bespoke branches of the Tailoring Trade. It is also good with dressmakers, milliners and mantle-makers, and improving with silk hatters, but employment is rather irregular in some branches of the felt hat industry.

Hosiery, Yarn, and Wool-spinning Trades.—The hosiery firms are fairly busy, and generally the workpeople are moderately well employed. Trade is more active in the yarn and wool-spinning factories, and employment is more regular than is usual at this season of the year. Woolsorters are moderately employed.

Elastic Web Trade.—The demand for cords, braids, and narrow goods has improved, and workpeople are more fully employed. Shoe webbing manufacturers are giving only partial employment.

Engineering, Iron and Cycle Trades.—All firms making shoe machinery are working their men full time. In the general engineering branches trade is moderate, but few skilled hands are unemployed. Employment is good at most of the electrical works, improving with iron-founders, but very slack with boiler-makers. Work is plentiful in all departments of the Cycle Industry.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—In South Leicestershire the Coal Trade is depressed, some pits only working one or two days per week. The Stone Quarrying Trade is fairly good.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Trade continues good and employment steady in the Letterpress and Lithographic Printing Trades. Bookbinders are in full work.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—The bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers are well employed, but plasterers and stonemasons are only partially so, owing to the dispute among the carpenters and joiners at Leicester. House painters and decorators are very busy, and 50 per cent. of the men are reported as working overtime. Plumbers, glaziers, and gasfitters are busy.* Trade is moderate with brick, tile, and terra-cotta workers; good with upholsterers, cabinet-makers, carpet-layers, and French polishers.

Miscellaneous.—The basket-makers and cardboard box-makers report employment as good. It is improving with coach-builders, dyers, and trimmers; moderate with bakers, confectioners, wheel-

* On May 1st a number of plumbers were locked out by their employers.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND AND EASTERN COUNTIES.

wrights, cart and wagon-builders, farriers, and gasworks' labourers. It was slack with cigar-makers. Railway excavators and general labourers are well employed.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—The improvement in the American trade is still maintained. The Australian and other Colonial trade is quiet. In the Home department there is no change. Favourable reports come from all branches of workers. The Brick and Tile Trade is still good.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Numbers are still out of work, and short time prevails. The forges have started work after unusually prolonged Easter holidays. The Steel Trade has improved.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, boiler-makers, and iron-founders in North Staffordshire report employment as improved, with about 7 per cent. unemployed in the district. At Crewe the boiler-makers report 1 per cent. out of work, the iron-founders about 7 per cent., and the engineers about 4 per cent. Short time still prevails in all departments.

Coal Mining.—Coal for manufacturing purposes is in fair demand, but for house coal there has been a falling off. At Talk-o'-th'-Hill the night turn has been stopped, necessitating the discharge of a number of miners and surface men. At Cheadle four days per week are worked.

Textile Trades.—At Leek there is a slight improvement in the general Silk Trade, but the trimming weavers are slack. There are about 2 per cent. out of work in all branches. At Congleton the silk dressers report fluctuations, but employment is a little better.

Clothing Trades.—At Stafford the shoemakers report trade as good, overtime being worked at most of the manufactories; but at Stone short time prevails. The tailors report employment as improved.

Building Trades.—In the Potteries all branches report an improvement.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In the Potteries the letterpress printers are only moderately employed, with 10 per cent. out of work. At Stafford trade is good, with no unemployed. The lithographic artists and printers are busy. The bookbinders report no change.

Railways.—The enginemen and stokers are well employed. Railway servants at Stoke are moderately employed. At Crewe 7 per cent. are unemployed, and at Stafford no change is reported. I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The puddlers remain slack; but the mill-rollers are busier. In West Bromwich employment is moderate. Steel smelting is depressed. A slight improvement is reported from South Shropshire, some firms working full time, others doing very little.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The improvement amongst the engineers and constructive machinists continues, with less than 1½ per cent. unemployed. The iron door and safe-makers report no improvement, with 7 per cent. unemployed. The bridge and girder constructors, and tank and boiler-makers are busy. The tool-makers and machinists still improve, and in the Cycle Trade many of the men are working overtime. All branches of the Electrical Trades remain busy. The heavy iron-founders report employment as bad during the month, but improving towards the end. In West Bromwich it is also bad. All the men at the railway sheds (except boiler-makers) are still on five days per week.

Hardware Trades.—Reports from the wrought and malleable nail-makers, nut and bolt-makers, anchor smiths, key-makers, spring trap-makers, edge tool-makers, japanners, steel toy-makers, hollow-ware casters, light iron-moulders, hinge casters and vice and anvil-makers are all unfavourable. The common Iron Padlock Trade is worse in Walsall, bad at Willenhall, but busy at Wednesfield. Galvanizers are busy on sheets, but are slack on tubes. Enamellers are busy on hollow-ware, but men working on enamelled signs are on half-time. Some sections of the Tinplate Trade have improved. The Tube Trade remains depressed. The file cutters are moderately busy. The Bedstead, Fender and Fire-iron Trades have improved.

Coal Mining.—Coal mining in the Cannock Chase district is slack, the majority of pits working half time and some only two days per week. In the Black Country district trade remains quiet. In Shropshire there has been a further decline.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, slaters and plumbers have

been busy; labourers have been moderately employed. The carpenters at Walsall and West Bromwich report 1 per cent. unemployed, and at Wolverhampton 14 per cent. The plasterers report employment as fair during the month; the masons as moderate; the gas stokers as declining; the mill sawyers and machinists as good, with none out of work; the painters and decorators as fairly busy; makers of bricks, tiles and pipes as steady. The Fire Brick Trade is not so good.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The coach-builders and wheelwrights report employment as improved; the crate-makers as moderate; the packing-case makers and dry cask coopers as quiet; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers as slack.

Miscellaneous.—The boot and shoe-makers report employment as fair; the letterpress printers, with 3·6 per cent. unemployed, the tailors and smiths, as improved; the flint-glass makers as moderate. The glass bottle-makers are only making about half-time. The carpet weavers at Kidderminster report no change; the spinners are fully employed. The Chemical Trade at West Bromwich is reported as moderate, and the rope and twine spinners are making full time.—W. F. Mee.

Birmingham and District.

Engineering Trades.—The general trade is moderate, no overtime or short time being worked. The tool-makers report employment as fair, with none on short time, and a few working overtime. Electrical engineering is fairly good.

Brass and Copper-workers.—The brass-workers report 3·3 per cent. as unemployed. Brass bedstead furniture is the slackest branch, but few are wholly out of work. Workers on brass cycle accessories are steadily employed. Copper-working has slightly improved.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—Jewellery work is steadier, but still slack. Silversmiths are fairly busy. The electro-plate workers report trade as quiet, the majority working short time, but with less than 2 per cent. unemployed.

Other Metal-workers.—Bedstead work has slightly improved. The Cycle Industry is in full activity. Iron-plate workers, japanners, wire-workers, tube-drawers, and steel toy-makers, are busier. Die-sinkers and medallists are in full employment. The tin plate-workers report employment as fairly good, with 4 per cent. unemployed. The file-makers report trade as quiet.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, painters, and plumbers are busy. The carpenters have 5 per cent. "out," but none are working short time.

Furniture and Wood-working Trades.—Cabinet furniture work is fair all round. The mill-sawyers report trade as improving.

Other Trades in Birmingham.—The vegetable ivory button-workers report employment as casual, not amounting to more than four days per week. Glass-makers show a little improvement. The glass bevellers and silverers are fairly occupied. The letterpress printers report trade as moderate, with 5·7 per cent. unemployed. Gun-workers are a little busier on export work. Brush-workers are fairly well employed. Gas-workers have been discharged, but most have found other employment.

Trades in South Staffordshire.—The Iron Trade has slightly improved, but a number are on short time. Steel-making continues to advance slowly. The Pig-iron Industry again shows a decline. Another furnace has been blown out. Heavy iron-founders are moderately busy, and in roll-making there is some overtime. Enamelled plate work is busy. Edge tool-makers are fairly well employed. Small chain, nail and rivet-workers are greatly depressed. The Walsall trades are all slack.—W. J. Davis.

A report on Coventry and North Warwickshire states that the Cycle Trade continues good; most of the manufactories are working overtime. General engineering is constantly increasing in volume. The Watch Trade is quiet. The Printing Trade is good. The Velvet, Plush, Woollen, and Hosiery Trades are well employed. The Ribbon Trade is busy, and labour is scarce, especially in Nuneaton. Better time is now being made in the Hatting Trade, but employment is not good. The quarries are working fairly well. The coal miners are making from three to five days per week; some new seams of coal have been developed lately. Clay-workers are well employed.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—At Norwich, engineers, smiths and moulders are fairly busy. At Yarmouth, iron shipbuilders, smiths, fitters and turners are fairly busy. The shipwrights have several unemployed. At Lynn, Thetford, Melton Constable, and Beccles

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—EAST AND S.W. COUNTIES (contd.) AND WALES.

engineers and boiler-makers are fairly busy. At Lowestoft the shipwrights are all in work.

Textile Trades.—At Norwich and Yarmouth the silk and crape factories are running full time, but are not busy.

Clothing Trades.—At Norwich and Cambridge the Boot and Shoe Industry is fairly brisk; no firms are on short time. Some clickers and pressmen at Norwich are still working overtime. The clothing factories are all running full time. Tailors report employment as good at Norwich; as improving at Yarmouth and Beccles; as fair at Cambridge.

Building Trades.—At Norwich, Yarmouth, Dereham, Cromer, Lynn, Cambridge, and Lowestoft bricklayers have been in demand. The carpenters and joiners report employment as good at Yarmouth, fair at Lowestoft, Cromer, and Cambridge, and dull at Norwich, Dereham and Lynn. Plumbers are fairly busy. Painters at Norwich and Cambridge are busy. Stonemasons, plasterers and labourers throughout the district are well employed.

Fishing Trade.—The Fishing Trade generally is steady at Lowestoft. At Yarmouth the trawl fishing has been fair, but drifting has been moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers, bookbinders, and cabinet-makers report employment as dull at Norwich; the coach-builders as steady at Norwich, dull at Beccles, fairly busy at Halesworth; the brush-makers as dull at Norwich and Diss; the sail-makers as steady at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Dock labour at Yarmouth and Lowestoft is fair.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as bad at Ipswich; fair at Chelmsford; and good at Bury St. Edmunds. Colchester reports an improvement in all departments, overtime prevailing at two of the largest firms. The boiler-makers at Ipswich are moderately employed. The moulders at Chelmsford are busy.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives report employment as quiet at Ipswich; good at Colchester. At Ipswich and Sudbury the stay and corset-makers are well employed. Employment is moderate at Colchester in the Wholesale Tailoring Trade; good at Ipswich in the bespoke department, and fair in the wholesale department.

Mat and Silk Trades.—The mat-makers at Sudbury, Hadleigh, and Glensford report employment as improving, and at Lavenham and Long Melford as good. At Sudbury, the Silk Weaving Trade continues good.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report employment as quiet at Ipswich, and moderate at Colchester, owing to the bricklayers' dispute. At Ipswich, the bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers report employment as improving; the plasterers and stonemasons as fair; the painters as busy. At Chelmsford, Sudbury, and Bury St. Edmunds these trades are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as improving at Ipswich, good at Bury St. Edmunds, and slack at Colchester and Beccles. The cigar-makers are still on short time; the coach-builders report an improvement. Dock labour has been dull at Ipswich, but improved towards the end of the month. General labourers are well employed at Colchester, dull at Ipswich. *R. W. Mather.*

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The ironfounders report trade as moderate, with 5·8 per cent. unemployed; the fitters and pattern-makers as steady; the smiths as good; the hollow-ware workers and galvanizers as dull; the tool-makers, machinists, boiler-makers, and iron shipbuilders as bad, the latter with 14 per cent. idle. At Gloucester the engineers report employment as bad; the moulders as slack; the smiths and strikers as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Ready-made Clothing Trade for cutters and pressers has improved a little. Bespoke tailors are in full employment. The silk hatters are busier. Full time has been worked by every section of the Boot and Shoe Trade in Bristol since the termination of the dispute, and all workers are in employment. At Kingswood the Heavy Class Trade is depressed, and a number of the operatives are idle. At Street (Somerset) employment is reported as busy.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers and stonemasons report employment as busy; the plasterers as slack; the painters as moderate; the carpenters and joiners as fair. Most of the lath-renders at Bristol and Gloucester are working short time.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the Radstock district the Coal Trade has not improved. The two largest companies worked their pits three days per week, the others from four to six days. In the Forest of Dean the house and steam coal miners report employment as fair. In the Bristol district employment is reported as fairly good at Bedminster, with an average of five days per week. At the Kingswood Collieries trade is slack, and the average time worked on the Gloucestershire side has been about four days per week.

Quarrying.—Employment for quarrymen is reported as good in the Radstock district and in the Forest of Dean.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—There has been a fair average demand for sailors and firemen. Employment at the docks, other than in the General Cargo Trade, has been exceptionally slack.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as slack; the brush-makers and basket-makers as good; the box and packing-case makers as busy; the mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as improving; the wagon and coach-builders as fair; the coopers as dull, with 4·6 per cent. unemployed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as fairly good; the lithographic printers as fair; the bookbinders as quiet. The returns received from five branches of societies report 2·4 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The chemical workers report employment as moderate; the general labourers and the saddle and harness-makers as slack; the curriers as fairly good; the glass bottle-makers as improving, with 13 per cent. unemployed.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industry.—A large number of metal miners in Cornwall are unemployed, and during the month about 100 have emigrated. The Quarrying and Clay Industries are fairly busy.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—The Engineers, Ironfounders, and kindred Trades have maintained the improvement reported, and have few unemployed.

Clothing Trades.—In the tailoring departments the Bespoke Trade has shown a seasonal improvement. The Ready-made Clothing Trade has continued busy. The boot and shoe operatives are fairly well employed; the hand-sewn branch but moderately so.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners have not been so busy, and the number of unemployed has increased throughout the district. In Plymouth and district, the masons, stone-cutters, painters, and bricklayers report employment as full; plasterers and plumbers as moderate. In Cornwall, and in the Exeter and Torquay districts, all branches of the Building Trade are quiet, except the masons.

Dock Labour and Shipping.—The coal porters have been fully employed, but grain and general cargo hands only moderately so. Seamen looking for berths find it difficult to obtain them.

Miscellaneous.—The saddlers report employment as fairly good; the letterpress printers as still slack. The Fishing Industry has slightly improved. General labourers are still in excess of the demand.—*J. Welland.*

WALES.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Notwithstanding the settlement of the question of wages as governed by the sliding scale, the miners in the various districts are in an unsettled state. At one colliery the men object to working double shifts, and have tendered a month's notice. At some other collieries the men are under notice from the management. One colliery, closed since December through a dispute, has been re-opened; and the points in dispute are to be submitted to arbitration. Although the aggregate output of coal in South Wales is reported to be good, there are many unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The shipping of crews has been unusually slow at all ports in the district. The coal shipments have shown a fair average at all the ports, and at Swansea the general shipments have been fairly good, but not at Cardiff and Newport. The Import Trade has been dull, except as regards iron ore at Cardiff. Employment in the Timber and Corn Trade has been dull, and the dock hoppers have been slack.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—A decline is reported, especially among the engineers. The boiler-makers report employment as moderate generally, but good at Newport; the shipwrights as dull, with 30 per cent. unemployed; the moulders and engineers as bad, with 5 per cent. unemployed at Cardiff; 11 per cent. at Barry; 10

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS.—WALES (contd.) AND SCOTLAND.

per cent. at Newport and Llanelly; 20 per cent. at Swansea; 3 per cent. at Neath; giving an average of about 9 per cent. for the whole district.

Iron and Steel Trades.—All the large works are on short time still; the new Dowlais Steel Works at Cardiff are an exception to the general dullness.

Tinplate Trade.—The trade is in a most unsettled condition.

Building Trades.—These trades generally have improved, but the carpenters report employment as bad at Cardiff, with 4½ per cent. idle; as fair at Newport, with less than 1 per cent. unemployed; as bad at Llanelly, with 10½ per cent. idle; as moderate at Swansea. The masons, plasterers, bricklayers, plumbers and builders' labourers report employment as fair, but dull at Pontypridd.

Miscellaneous.—Copper smelting is reported as dull; the Chemical Trade as moderate; the Patent Fuel Trade as not brisk, but improving; the wagon-builders report employment as moderate; the lath-renders as fair; the steam sawyers as moderate; the letterpress printers as bad.—*T. Davies.*

A further report on *South Wales* states that certain collieries in Monmouthshire employing about 4,000 workmen are only working four days a week; some others at Merthyr Tydfil are giving only partial employment.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining.—In Mid and East Lothian, employment at the collieries producing gas and house coal has been fairly good. The Steam Coal Trade has declined. About 80 per cent. of the miners have been working five days per week, the remainder from eight to nine days per fortnight. In West Lothian employment has declined; about two-thirds of the miners have worked from nine to ten days per fortnight.

Mineral Oil Trades.—These trades continue good, and employment plentiful in every department. At 20 shale mines in Mid and East Lothian the number of men employed was 2,603, compared with 2,318 in April 1894. Nearly all the mines were working full time.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, blacksmiths, pattern-makers, horse-shoers, tinsmiths and gas meter-makers report employment as fair; the copper-smiths as improved; the brass-founders as bad; the range, stove and ornamental fitters as good. With the iron-moulders in both the Edinburgh and Falkirk districts employment has not improved much during April. Returns from sixteen branches of Unions show 9·2 per cent. out of work.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in most of the shipyards on the Forth has been fairly good. In Leith the boiler-makers return 5·1 per cent. out of work, and the shipwrights 6·9 per cent. The shipwrights in Alloa and the boiler-makers in Inverkeithing and Kinghorn report trade as fair; the ship-joiners continue fairly busy.

Textile Trades.—In Hawick the Woollen Industry has somewhat improved; the Hosiery Trade is busy in the machine-made branch, but the hand-made branch is slack. In Selkirk the Hosiery Trade is dull; weavers and dyers are fairly well employed. In Galashiels spinners are fairly well employed, but weavers are quiet. In Midlothian the carpet-weavers report employment as fair. The Linen Industry in Dunfermline continues much the same as in March. The rope-workers in Leith report employment as improved.

Building Trades.—The joiners, slaters, glaziers, and lath-splitters report employment as fair; the masons, bricklayers, plumbers, and painters as good.

Cabinet-making, Furnishing, and Wood-working Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as fair; the French polishers, upholsterers, coach-makers, and saw-mill operatives as good; the brush-makers and coopers as improving. Returns from ten branches of Unions show 1·8 per cent. out of work.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as fair. The coal porters are fairly busy, but dock labourers are not so well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—The typesetters continue to work only five days per week. The stereotypers, lithographic printers, and lithographic artists report employment as good; the press and machine men as fair; the compositors as declining; the bookbinders as improved. Returns from seven branches of unions show 2·3 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors, curriers and shoe-makers report employment as good; the sett-makers, indiarubber-workers and basket-makers as fair; the stoneware-throwers and glass-cutters as quiet. General labourers are well employed.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Coal Mining.—The Export Trade shows a decline. The men in nearly all the districts in Ayrshire, Lanark, and Renfrew have been fairly well employed, but on the 11th April received notice of a reduction of 6d. per day.

Shipbuilding.—In the Clyde and Govan district trade has improved. The shipwrights have no unemployed, and no out-of-work benefit was paid in Govan during the last three weeks of April. The position of the ship-joiners and boiler-makers has also improved. In Greenock shipbuilding is fair; the joiners are fully employed; about 7 per cent. of the shipwrights are idle. Employment is dull in Port Glasgow and good in Dumbarton.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The blast-furnacemen report employment as still full; the millmen as fairly good, with more men at work; the steel smelters as no better.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The blacksmiths report employment as improved, with 5 per cent. unemployed, as against 9 per cent. in March, and as fairly busy in Paisley; the iron-moulders, engineers, and iron-dressers as improved; the file cutters, machine, engine, and iron-grinders as good; the cycle and general machinists, with 4 per cent. idle, and the tool-makers as fair; the brass-moulders as steady, with 1 per cent. idle; the spindle and flyer-makers as good; the pattern-makers as bad, with 13 per cent. out of work.

Building Trades.—These trades are exceptionally busy in all branches throughout the district. The carpenters and joiners have about 3 per cent. idle.

Wood-working Trades.—The wood-turners report employment as steady, with 5 per cent. idle; the wood-carvers as beginning to improve, but with 18 per cent. still idle; the cabinet-makers as improved.

Textile Trades.—Jute and cotton-weavers are still slack. In Paisley thread-workers are fair, and carpet weavers are busy. The dyers have slightly improved, but have 5 per cent. idle, and the majority are on short time. The power-loom beamers have 20 per cent. idle; the warpers have only averaged 32 hours a week.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as improved, with a demand for men; the tailoresses and clothiers' operatives and the boot and shoe operatives as good; the shoe-makers as fairly busy.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Trade has been quiet during the month, but the demand for sailors and firemen and dock labourers has slightly improved.

Miscellaneous.—The lithographic printers report employment as unchanged, with 3 per cent. idle; the letterpress printers, with 7 per cent. idle, and the bookbinders as quiet; the saddlers, cork-cutters, upholsterers and curriers as good; the basket-makers as fair; the carters as dull; the bakers as still slack.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—There has been less activity in the Jute and Linen Industries during the month, but manufacturers continue fairly well employed. The Linen Trade is less steady, but the jute branches are reported as moderately good. The percentage of unemployed remains unchanged.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Coal Mining Industry shows improvement, both as compared with March last and April 1894. The miners in the Dysart pits are now fully employed. The reductions in wages notified to the Fife and Clackmannan collieries came into operation on the 24th April, but work went on in the pits as usual.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the Engineering Trade is less satisfactory, and the number unemployed has increased, especially amongst fitters and turners, of whom 8 per cent. are unemployed. The iron-moulders report trade as fair, with 25 per cent. unemployed; the blacksmiths as good, with 3 per cent. The Shipbuilding Industry continues fairly brisk. The boiler-makers report a slight improvement, with fewer idle. The shipwrights also report improvement, with 10 per cent. unemployed.

Clothing Trades.—The improvement in the Tailoring and Boot and Shoe Trades has been maintained, and the operatives continue to be well employed.

Building Trades.—The briskness in these trades still continues in all branches. The joiners, saw-millers and woodcutting machine-men each return 2 per cent. idle. One planing mill at Montrose, employing about 100 men and boys, has just been closed.

Fishing Industry.—Moderately good takes are reported, and fair prices have been obtained.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—SCOTLAND (contd.) AND IRELAND.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as satisfactory; the lithographers as moderate; the bookbinders as fair; the cabinet-makers as slightly improved; the upholsterers as good; the dock and general labourers as fair.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—Quarrymen report employment as good, with none idle. In monumental yards trade is improving slowly. Few stone-cutters are now unemployed. The granite-polishers are on full time, and work is fair. The sett-makers are busy, with none idle.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades are busy in all branches. The carpenters and joiners report 17 per cent. idle.

Fishing.—In April the trawl boats landed 25,082 cwt., realising £18,240, and line boats 16,562 cwt., realising £8,196, an increase in quantity landed and in value realised as compared with March.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders report trade as still bad, with 36.5 per cent. unemployed; the shipwrights as moderate, with 9.9 per cent.; the blacksmiths as dull, with 3.4 per cent.; the iron-moulders as improved, with 6 per cent.; the pattern-makers as moderate, with 6.9 per cent.; the engineers as fair; the tinplate-workers as moderate, with none idle.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers, with 9 per cent. idle, and the lithographic printers, with 9.3 per cent., report employment as moderate; the bookbinders as good; the paper-makers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The railway servants, saddlers, wood-carvers, hand-sewn boot and shoe-makers, coach-makers, tailors, and agricultural and general labourers as good; the flax, cotton and jute workers, cabinet-makers, chair-makers, wood-turners, and dock-labourers as fair; the comb-makers and boot and shoe riveters and finishers as moderate; the cork-cutters as bad.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

General.—Employment has been more general, but a number have been unemployed. Of the 16,240 members of unions making returns, 2,115, or 13.0 per cent., were idle, as compared with 2,237, or 13.7 per cent., of the membership in March. Fifteen societies return trade as good, 16 as fair, 6 as moderate, 17 as quiet, 4 as bad.

Building Trades.—All branches of the Building Trades have improved. The stone-cutters, masons, painters and plasterers report employment as fair, the paviors and paviors' labourers as quiet. Carpenters and joiners are finding employment, but a number are still idle. Employment is moderate with the slaters and glaziers. In Drogheda and the Curragh district building operations are brisk.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are still dull; but the coach-makers, coopers, and cart and wagon-builders have been well employed. The mill-sawyers and lath-splitters describe employment as moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with the engineers, smiths, boiler-makers, plumbers and brass-finishers was dull, but active with the farriers. The tinsmiths were fairly busy.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade was fairly busy, but the boot-makers show little improvement. The dressmakers have been busy, overtime in many cases being resorted to. Needle-workers in all branches have been fairly well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Of the letterpress printers, 216, or 13.5 per cent., were unemployed, of whom 116 were entitled to out-of-work allowance. The lithographic printers are still dull, but the stereotypers, bookbinders, paper-cutters, book-folders, and despatch assistants have been busy. Eight trades, with a total of 1,530 members, make returns, of whom 280, or 18.9 per cent., were idle.

Miscellaneous.—The Bottle Industry is fairly busy. The corn millers, coal and dock labourers, tram and railway servants, firemen and sailors, and stationary engine drivers report employment as fair; the basket-makers, brush-makers, cork-cutters, fishermen, and shipwrights as quiet; the saddlers as dull.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—There is a further decrease in the number of unemployed this month. The returns received from 56 societies, with a membership of 18,595, show 845, or 4.5 per cent., to be unemployed, as against 956, or 5.1 per cent. of the membership in March.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 8,102 members employed in these trades who are included in the returns, 439, or 5.4 per cent. are out of work, as against 376, or 4.7 per cent. of the membership, in March. The iron-founders, engineers and iron-turners, shipwrights, furniture-makers, and general labourers report employment as bad; the blacksmiths as dull; the carpenters and joiners

as quiet; the strikers and smiths' helpers as moderate; the boiler-makers and ironship-builders and brass-founders as improving; the enginemen and cranemen as fair; and the machine-workers and pattern-makers as good. The spindle and flyer-makers report employment as bad.

Linen Trades.—Of the 4,007 members in these industries, 194, or 4.8 per cent., are reported to be unemployed, as against 276, or 6.7 per cent. of the membership, in March. The power-loom tenters and power-loom yarn dressers report employment as dull; flax roughers, hackle and gill-makers as improving; beetling enginemen, flax-dressers, and female workers as fair; and the linen-lappers as good.

Clothing Trades.—Of the 709 members of societies employed in these trades, 7, or 1 per cent., are unemployed, as against 4, or 0.6 per cent., in March. The tailors report employment as good, and the boot and shoe operatives as dull.

Building Trades.—Out of the 2,471 members of trades unions employed in these trades, 75, or 3.0 per cent., are reported as out of work, as against 159, or 6.5 per cent. of the membership, at the end of March. The mill-sawyers and machinists, and plumbers report employment as dull; the carpenters and joiners as quiet; the hodsmen and house painters as fair; the paviors as good.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—In this group of 7 trades with 516 members, 18, or 3.5 per cent., are reported as unemployed, as against 37, or 7.6 per cent. of the membership, at the end of March. The brush-makers report employment as moderate; the cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers, and packing case-makers as fair; and the coach-builders and coopers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The four societies forming this group, with a membership of 788, report 41, or 5.2 per cent., to be unemployed, as against 49, or 6.2 per cent. of the membership at the end of March. The letterpress printers report employment as improving; the bookbinders and machine rulers as fair; the lithographic printers and artists as good.

Miscellaneous Trades.—In this group of 19 societies, with a membership of 2,002, 71, or 3.5 per cent., are signing the out-of-work books, as against 55, or 2.8 per cent. of the membership in March. The sail-makers report employment as bad; the tinplate-workers as dull; the gas-workers as quiet; the carters and railway servants as fair.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The iron ship-builders and boiler-makers in Limerick, Waterford, Cork, and Passage West report employment as fair; the engineers, with 16.6 per cent. unemployed; the ship-builders, ship-joiners, sail-makers and riggers as bad.

Building and Wood-working Trades.—A decided improvement has taken place in all branches of the Building Trades. Five societies, with a membership of 610, report 4.6 per cent. unemployed. The sawyers, cabinet-makers, coopers and coach-makers report employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed, feather and down quilt factories in Blarney, Millfield, Douglas, and Cork continue brisk. The boot and shoe-makers and boot-riveters report employment as good; the tailors in Limerick, Waterford and Cork as slightly improved. The ready-made clothing factories are busy.

Fishing.—The mackerel fishing round the south and south-west coasts has been unfavourable up to the end of April. Salmon fishing has been rather backward.

Miscellaneous.—Bacon-curers and creamery operatives are steadily employed. Letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders are exceptionally busy. The coal-porters and quay labourers report employment as fair.—*P. O'Shea.*

THE RECENT DISPUTE IN THE BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

IN the April number of the LABOUR GAZETTE an account was given of the progress of the dispute in the Boot and Shoe Trade, and of the negotiations for its settlement up to April 11th. On that date the adjourned Conference between the representatives of the Federated Associations of Manufacturers and of the National Union of the Boot and Shoe Operatives met at the Board of Trade, and the proposals submitted by both parties are printed in the April LABOUR GAZETTE, page 113. The next meeting of the Conference took place on Thursday, April 18th, under the chairmanship of Sir Courtenay Boyle, when some draft suggestions for consideration were put before both sides by the chairman.

The Conference adjourned until the following day to enable the manufacturers to consult their colleagues on some points contained in the proposals, and resumed on Friday at 3 o'clock. At 9.30 p.m. an agreement was arrived at, the following being the terms of settlement:—

We, the undersigned representatives of the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers, and of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, agree to the following terms of settlement of the dispute in the Boot and Shoe Trade on behalf of those whom we represent:—

PIECE-WORK STATEMENTS.

(1.) This Conference is of opinion that a piece-work statement or statements for lasting and finishing machine workers, and those working in connection therewith, are desirable. Such statements to be based on the actual capacity of an average workman. Any manufacturer to have the option of adopting piece-work or continuing day-work; it being understood that the whole of the operatives working on any one process shall be put on one or the other system, which shall not be changed oftener than once in six months. Heeling and sewing to be regarded as separate processes.

(2.) This conference is of opinion that a piece-work statement for welted work at Northampton should be prepared on the principle laid down in the above resolution, viz., "the statement shall be based on the actual capacity of an average workman," employers having option as laid down in that resolution with regard to payment by the time or piece.

(3.) That for the purpose of carrying into effect the last two resolutions, joint committees be appointed as follows:—

(a) A joint committee of representatives of the employers and workmen, four of each, to determine the principles and methods of arrangement and classification on which piece-work statements for machine workers shall be based, such committee to hold its first meeting on May 5th, 1895, at Northampton, for preliminary business.

(b) Joint committees composed of representatives of employers and employed, four of each, to prepare such statements for their respective localities in accordance with the principles laid down by the above joint committee. Such committees to hold their first meetings with the least possible delay after the completion of the work of the above joint committee.

(c) A joint committee to prepare a statement for welted work for Northampton composed of representatives of employers and employed, four of each, such committee to hold its first meeting on May 5th, 1895, for preliminary business.

Such committees shall take such evidence and obtain such information as they may think fit for the purpose, and each shall appoint an umpire to determine points on which they fail to agree. Failing agreement on the part of any of the committees as to the appointment of umpires, the appointment shall be made by the President of the Federation and the General Secretary of the Union, or if they fail to agree, by Sir Henry James.

BOARDS OF ARBITRATION.

(4.) That the various local boards of arbitration and conciliation, consisting of equal numbers of representatives of employers and workmen in the district, be immediately reconstituted, and their rules be revised so far as necessary with a view to greater uniformity by a joint committee of representatives of employers and employed, four of each to be appointed forthwith. The revised rules to be submitted to and adopted by the local boards, with or without amendment in matters of detail. Pending the completion of this revision the former rules to be in force, but only questions of classification and other minor local questions not involving matters of principle to be entertained in the meantime, with the exception of the question of the minimum wage for clickers and pressmen in centres where notices have already been given to local boards.

(5.) That such boards when re-constituted shall have full power to settle all questions submitted to them concerning wages, hours of labour, and the conditions of employment of all classes of workpeople represented thereon within their districts which it is found impossible to settle in the first place between employers and employed, or secondly between their representatives; subject to the following conditions:—

(a) No board shall require an employer to employ any particular workman, or a workman to work for any particular employer, or shall entertain any question relating to such matters, except for the purpose of enabling a workman to clear his character.

(b) No board shall claim jurisdiction over the conditions and terms of employment of workpeople outside its district; provided that no actual work shall be sent out of a district which has been the subject of an award in that district.

(c) No board shall interfere with the right of an employer to make reasonable regulations for time-keeping, and the preservation of order in his factory or workshop.

(d) No board shall put restrictions on the introduction of machinery or the output therefrom, or on the adoption of day or piece-work wages by an employer in cases in which both systems have been sanctioned, subject to the conditions prescribed in resolutions (2) and (3). No question referred to in sub-sections (a), (b), (c), (d) shall be made a matter of dispute by the Union.

(6.) That it is desirable and necessary to provide financial guarantees for duly carrying out the provisions of this agreement, and existing and future awards, agreements, and decisions of boards, arbitrators, or umpires, so long as they do not contravene the provisions of this agreement; and that a scheme be at once prepared for depositing certain sums in the hands of trustees for that purpose.

(7.) That the committee entrusted with the revision of the rules of local arbitration boards be instructed to insert provisions:—

(a) To carry the last resolution into effect forthwith. If not agreed upon by both sides, the conditions and terms of the trust to be referred to, and finally settled by, Sir Henry James.

(b) That in future all awards and decisions shall specify a date before which neither side shall be competent to re-open the question.

(c) That where a minimum wage has been fixed and is in operation, and a proposal is made to change it, the Board or umpire, in giving a decision or award, shall take into account the length of time which has elapsed since the question was last determined, and the conditions existing at the two dates respectively.

The notices already given by the Union for an advance on the minimum wage to clickers and pressmen shall be held to be good notices to the Arbitration Boards for the districts to which they refer, and shall be dealt with forthwith.

(8.) No strike or lock-out shall be entered into on the part of any body of workmen, members of the National Union, or any manufacturer, represented on any Local Board of Arbitration.

(9.) That if any provision of this agreement, or of an award, agreement, or decision, be broken by any manufacturer, or body of workmen belonging to the Federation or National Union, and the Federation or the National Union fail within ten days either to induce such members to comply with the agreement, decision, or award, or to expel them from their organisation, the Federation or the National Union shall be deemed to have broken the agreement, award, or decision.

(10.) That any question as to the interpretation of these terms of settlement be referred to Sir Courtenay Boyle, whose decision thereon shall be final and binding on both parties.

That Sir Henry James be requested to act as umpire to determine any other disputed points between the Federation and the National Union arising out of this agreement.

(Signed)

On behalf of the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers,

J. GRIFFIN WARD, *President.*
WILLIAM HICKSON.
SAMUEL LENNARD.
THOS. LILLEY.

On behalf of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives,

W. B. HORNIDGE, *President.*
DANIEL STANTON.
WILLIAM VOTIER.
W. INSKIP, *General Secretary.*Chairman of Conference: COURTENAY BOYLE.
Secretary of Conference: H. LLEWELLYN SMITH.

Witness: THOMAS SMITH.

April 19th, 1895.

It was generally understood that the factories and workshops should be opened at the earliest possible date, and not later than April 29th. Most of the establishments affected by the lock-out re-opened during the week ending April 27th, a deposit of £1,000 having been made in the meantime by each side with two trustees. There was at first some opposition to the terms of settlement on the part of a section of operatives at Leicester and in some other centres. But in all the important districts the action of the delegates was in all cases confirmed either by resolutions of mass meetings or by ballot. In Leicester the result of the ballot was: for the settlement, 4,799; against, 1,385. Some difficulty also occurred at Northampton owing to the introduction by the local Manufacturers' Association of a

new set of factory rules, to some of which exception was taken by many of the operatives. A considerable body of men declined at first to resume work under these rules, but some modifications having been agreed to on the part of the employers, the men returned to work on 3rd May under protest.

The rules to which objection was chiefly taken were as follows:—

The posting up of any notices except with the sanction of the employer is forbidden. Shop meetings must not be held in any part of the premises, nor collection of money made for any purpose whatever except with the permission of the firm.

2. The doors will be locked for half an hour after opening time, then opened to let in late comers, after which they will continue locked for the remainder of the morning or afternoon, as the case may be.

7. Should a piece-worker be kept waiting for work more than an hour, he may request permission from the foreman to leave the factory, and may not re-enter except at the times before specified.

On April 30th the Northampton manufacturers agreed to omit Rule 7, and to add the following clause to Rule 2:—

But at any time permission will be given to the men to leave on reasonable grounds, and to return to work at a specified time, on application to the foreman.

Some modification was also made in the rule relating to intervals for meals, but no concession was made with regard to the first rule quoted above.

On Monday, May 6th, a somewhat similar code of rules was issued by the Kettering Manufacturers' Association. On May 6th, the first meeting of the Committee of Enquiry in connection with the Leicester Arbitration Board was held since the break up of the Board on February 28th. On the same day a preliminary meeting was held of the Joint Committee provided for in the terms of settlement for determining the principles on which piece-work statements for lasting and finishing in connection with machinery should be drafted. The representatives on each side were the delegates that attended the Board of Trade Conferences, who will also act for the present as a Committee for the preparation of a statement for welter work at Northampton. A second meeting of the Piece Work Statement Committee was held in Leicester on Friday, May 10th.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING IN 1894.

The following tables give particulars with regard to the extent and results of the farming carried on by Workmen's Co-operative Societies in 1894 and 1893. A distinction is drawn between the farms managed by ordinary Co-operative Societies (Associations of Consumers) and those carried on by special farming societies. Seven hundred and eighty of the 3,305 acres given in Table I. were farmed by two Scottish societies, one of which returned a profit of £367, and the other a loss of £574. Of the 999 acres in Table II., 748 acres were farmed by a Scottish association, which returned a profit of £386.

Tables showing particulars with regard to Farming carried on in the United Kingdom by Co-operative Societies, so far as reported.

I.—Farmed by Associations of Consumers.

	No. of Societies making Returns.	Acreage.	Net Profits + or Losses — on Farming.
Societies returning profits	21	2,203	+1,976
Societies returning losses	9	819	-1,356
Societies making no return as to profits	6	283	...
Total for 1894	36	3,305	+660*
Total for 1893	44	3,650	-422†

II.—Farmed by Special Farming Associations.

	No. of Societies making Returns.	Acreage.	Net Profits + or Losses — on Farming.
Societies returning profits	3	999	+506
Societies returning losses	...	...	...
Total for 1894	3	999	+506
Total for 1893	3	1,042	-16

* On 30 Societies making returns.

† For 31 Societies making returns.

III.—All Societies.

For 1894	39	4,304	+1,166†
For 1893	47	4,692	-498§

† On 33 Societies.

§ On 34 Societies.

NOTE.—Societies farming less than 10 acres are excluded throughout the three tables.

TRADE DISPUTES IN 1894.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES.

The following preliminary figures with regard to the Trade Disputes of 1894 are mainly based on an analysis of the figures published in the LABOUR GAZETTE from month to month, and are liable to some revision.

The total number of disputes recorded in 1894 was considerably larger than in 1893, but the number of persons affected was very much smaller. No fewer than 956 disputes were reported as beginning in 1894. No particulars were obtained with regard to 30 of these. The remaining 926 are estimated to have affected about 306,000 persons.

These 926 disputes were grouped as follows by Industries:—

Trades.	Number reported as beginning during 1894.		Number of which settlement is reported.	
	Disputes.	Persons affected.	Disputes.	Persons affected.
Building Trades	178	14,000	152	11,700
Clothing Trades	68	6,400	60	6,200
Engineering, Metal and Ship-building	182	25,500	150	21,000
Mining and Quarrying	183	204,000	172	201,000
Textile Trades	186	38,700	168	37,000
Seafaring and Dock Labour	38	4,100	36	4,000
Miscellaneous	91	13,300	73	13,100
Total	926	306,000	811	294,000

The 115 disputes of which no settlement was reported are either still in progress or came to an end without a formal settlement. They only affected, however, a total of 12,000 persons, and are excluded in the following calculation of the success or failure of the workpeople engaged in the disputes of the year.

Grouping the persons engaged in the disputes of the year according to the degree of their success and failure, we find that about 51,000 workpeople, engaged in 280 disputes, were successful; 42,000, engaged in 151 disputes, were partially successful; 152,000, engaged in 219 disputes, were unsuccessful; while in the case of 161 disputes, involving 49,000 persons, the result was indefinite or not reported.

The following table gives the proportion of workpeople who were successful or otherwise in the disputes recorded in each group of trades:—

Trades.	Percentage of workpeople engaged in disputes in the undermentioned trades who were			
	Successful.	Partially Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Indefinite, or result not known.
Building Trades	24.1	33.4	30.7	11.8
Clothing Trades	40.3	16.8	13.6	29.3
Engineering, Metal, and Ship-building	20.7	24.7	22.8	31.8
Mining and Quarrying	13.6	9.1	63.4	13.9
Textile Trades	29.1	12.1	34.7	24.1
Seafaring and Dock Labour	42.9	10.4	35.1	11.6
Miscellaneous	13.6	65.5	10.3	10.6
All Trades in 1894	17.4	14.3	51.8	16.5
Ditto in 1893	62.9	24.7	12.1	3

It will be seen from the above figures that the balance of success and failure was on the whole clearly against the workmen in the disputes of 1894. In this respect the year shows a marked contrast to 1893, when, mainly owing to the success of the miners in the great Coal Trade dispute, the proportion of workpeople who were successful was nearly four times as large as in 1894.

THE SITUATION IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

The result of the ballot of the federated Trade societies (see GAZETTE for April 1895, p. 114) was against the acceptance of the two new rules* proposed by the Central Association of Master Builders of London as additions to the 1892 code. In accordance with this vote, communications were sent to the Central Association by the Trade societies expressing their disapproval of the proposed alterations. A general meeting of the Association was held on April 25th, when the following resolution was passed, and communicated to the Trade Unions concerned:—

"That the various conferences between the trade societies and the Central Association of Master Builders not having resulted in an agreement, the Association are prepared to continue working for a time on the old rules, on condition that the new rules suggested by this Association, as well as the disputed points discussed at those conferences, are referred to an arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon by June 1st, 1895."

A further ballot of the members of the Trade societies is being taken with a view of ascertaining whether they are willing to accept the proposal contained in the above resolution.

WAGES AND WORKING HOURS IN FRANCE.† THE French Labour Department has now issued the second volume of statistics of wages and hours, as ascertained by the enquiry completed in the summer of 1893.

The material has been chiefly collected by officials of the Public Works Department, viz., by the mining engineers for mines, quarries, and metal works, and by the engineers of bridges and roads for all other establishments. It has been obtained direct from the books of selected establishments in each district, and checked by special investigators. In former enquiries of a similar kind the statements of employers were checked by local commissions; but it was decided to abandon this system, owing to the absence of sufficiently representative bodies for each trade and district. The bulk of the present volume is occupied by the detailed statements obtained from 1,536 establishments in all the important industrial districts of France outside the Seine Department.

The following statement is based on the summary table given on pages 532 to 537 of the Volume:—

Statement showing the Average Length of the Working Day (exclusive of meal times), and the Average Daily Wages of Men and Women in certain important Industries in France in 1891.

Trades.	Average Length of Working Day (exclusive of meal times).	Average Daily Wages.	
		Men.	Women.
Mining:—	Hours.	s. d.	s. d.
Coal, Lignite, &c.	12	3 5	1 4
Iron	9½	2 10	1 2
Textiles:—			
Flax, Hemp and Jute—			
Spinning	11½	2 5	1 5
Weaving (Linen)	11½	2 7	1 10
Silk—			
Spinning	11½	2 8	1 6
Throwing	11½	2 5	1 0
Weaving	11½	2 7	1 8
Wool—			
Combing	11	3 0	1 7
Spinning	11½	2 9	1 7
Weaving	11½	2 10	2 0
Cotton—			
Spinning	11½	2 7	1 11
Weaving	11½	2 8	2 0
Manufacture of—			
Cloths, Flannels, &c.	11	2 9	1 6
Carpets	10½	2 11	2 0
Trimmings, &c.	11	2 11	1 9
Lace, Tules and Machine Embroideries	11	4 0	1 7
Fulling, Felting, &c.	12	2 10	1 0
Dyeing, Bleaching, Finishing and Printing	11	2 11	1 10
Printing	10½	3 4	1 9
Clothing:—			
Boots and Shoes	11	3 2	1 10
Gloves	10½	3 9	1 7
Underwear and Corsets	10½	3 7	1 7
Hosiery	11	2 7	1 3
Hats	10½	2 10	1 8
Foods and Drinks, Preparation of:—			
Sugar Works	11½	3 0	1 4
Sugar Refineries	11½	2 10	1 6
Distilleries	10½	3 1	1 5
Wines and various Spirits	10½	3 2	1 10

* That no workman shall be placed under any disability by reason of being or not being a member of a trade society.

† That no objection shall be raised to sub-letting work, provided these rules are observed.

† Salaires et Durée du Travail dans l'Industrie Française. Tome II.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN NORTHUMB- BERLAND, DURHAM, AND SCOTLAND.

At the Northumberland hirings the wages obtained were generally similar to those last year. Men who remained in their places were taken on at the old rates. Those seeking new engagements, who could provide women workers, commanded the same sum, but those who could not had sometimes to take a slightly lower rate at some markets. At the Darlington hirings a reduction took place in the case of those who received the higher rates in 1894; that is, those who received 17s. last year were reduced to 16s., but those who were then paid 16s. suffered no reduction this year. The term of these engagements both in Northumberland and Durham is a yearly one in case of the men, and the employers are bound to pay them the agreed weekly wages under all circumstances, no matter how long the farm servant may be incapacitated through illness except it be of a permanent character. The women are nearly always the daughters of the hinds or ploughmen who are hired, and live with them, and thus share the advantage of the free house provided on the farm and other perquisites. Their engagement, though by the year, does not bind the employers to pay for days on which they do not work as in the case of the men, but they are bound to pay them the agreed wage for any days on which they choose to offer themselves for work.

With regard to the half-yearly hirings which took place in Lanarkshire, Selkirk, and Stirlingshire, the rates obtained were generally similar to those at the same period in 1894.

ENGLAND (Yearly).

Northumberland.—Alnwick, Berwick, Belford, Hexham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Rothbury and Wooler.

	Cash weekly wages.	Perquisites.
Hinds (Alnwick and Wooler)	15s. to 16s.	House and garden, 1,000 to 1,200 yards of potatoes. Coals carted. Sometimes manure for garden, or straw for pigs.
" (Berwick)	16s.	
" (Belford and Rothbury)	15s. to 17s.	
" (Hexham)	19s. to 21s.	
" (Newcastle-on-Tyne)*	17s. to 20s.	
Boys (Alnwick)	10s. to 12s.	—
" (Rothbury)	Up to 14s.	—

Women got 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. a day in summer, and 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. in winter, or 1s. 6d. all the year round; with 2s. 6d. or 3s. a day for 20 days during harvest at the above named markets, except Newcastle and Hexham, where they got 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per day and 2s. 6d. per day for harvest as long as it lasts.

Durham.—Darlington.

	Cash weekly wages.	Perquisites.
Hinds (Darlington)	16s.†	Free house and garden, 40 stones of potatoes; coals carted.

Women, usually 1s. a day; in some cases 1s. 3d. 2s. a day at harvest, and 3d. an hour overtime.

SCOTLAND (HALF-YEARLY).

	Cash Wages.	Perquisites.
Lanarkshire (Hamilton).—		
Ploughmen (best)	£14 to £16 (occasionally £17)	
" (second class)	£8 to £12	
Lads	£5 to £7	Board and lodging.
Dairymaids (best)	£8 10s. to £10 10s.	
" (second class)	£7 to £8	
Girls	£3 to £4	
Married ploughman (yearly)	18s. to 20s. a week	House, garden and coals carted.
Stirlingshire (Falkirk).—		
Ploughmen (best single)	£14 to £17	
" (second class single)	£10 to £13	
Hafins	£6 to £8 10s.	
Boys	£1 10s. to £4	Board and lodging.
Dairymaids (best)	£9 to £10	
" (second class)	£7 to £8	
Girls	£1 10s. to £5	
Married ploughmen (yearly)	18s. to 20s. a week	House, garden and coals carted.
Selkirk (Selkirk).—		
Ploughmen (single)	£9 10s. to £11	
Lads	£7	Board and lodging.
Boys	from £3 10s.	
Women (outdoor work)	£9 to £10	
" (indoor)	£8	

* The dominant rate of wage is stated to be 18s. 6d. In this district there are a number of dairy farms, and the higher rates are chiefly paid to the men employed upon them, on account of their having to commence work earlier in the morning.

† Men who could stack got 17s.

FOREIGN PRISON-MADE GOODS.

A COMMITTEE, of which Lord Thring is chairman, has been appointed by the President of the Board of Trade to enquire into the extent to which goods made in foreign prisons are imported into this country, and to report whether any, and if so, what steps can be taken effectually to restrict the importation of such goods.

Sittings are now being held for the taking of evidence. The members of the Committee are:—The Right Hon. Lord Thring, K.C.B., chairman, Colonel Howard Vincent, M.P., Colonel the Hon. F. C. Bridgeman, M.P., Mr. H. J. Roby, M.P., Mr. E. J. Ruggles-Brise, Mr. Horace A. D. Seymour, and Mr. A. E. Bateman, C.M.G.

Any persons in a position to lay before the Committee well-authenticated evidence likely to be of service in their enquiry—especially those concerned in industries regarded as particularly affected by the importation in question—are invited to communicate with the Secretary, Mr. J. G. Willis, at the Board of Trade, S.W.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN APRIL.

Durham Miners' Wages.

THE representatives of the parties on the Durham Coal Trade Conciliation Board being unable to agree as to the request of the owners for a reduction in wages, the Umpire to the Board, Lord Davey, sat with the Board on the 30th April and 1st May, and decided that wages should be reduced 7½ per cent., dating from the 6th and 13th May.

Northumberland Miners' Wages.

The quarterly meeting of the Conciliation Board of this section of the Coal Trade was held on the first Saturday in April under the presidency of Mr. John Strachan, Chairman of the Board. The coal owners claimed a reduction of 8½ per cent. The ascertainment of the Accountants for the past quarter showed that there had been a fall in price of 8'95d. per ton. A reduction of 6¼ per cent. in Miners' wages was mutually agreed to, without reference to the Chairman.

Mr. John Strachan (Barrister-at-Law) was re-appointed Chairman of the Board.

Barrow Iron and Steel Trade.

On March 3rd the Barrow-in-Furness Iron and Steel Works were closed, owing to a dispute as to a proposed reduction of wages. The total number of workpeople affected was 2,750. In the case of the blast-furnacemen, the dispute only lasted a few days, and the men returned to work pending the decision of Mr. Baird, of Whitehaven, to whose arbitration it was referred. The Steel Works were closed until April 1st, the dispute being in the meantime referred to the arbitration of Mr. Jeremiah Head.

On March 21st, Mr. Baird issued his award, in which he decided that the Working rates of pay should be also paid at Barrow, plus 1 per cent. allowed for higher rents. Mr. Head had to decide—“What reduction (if any) is reasonable or desirable, to enable the Barrow Steel Works to be carried on until June 30th next, any reductions awarded taking effect from March 4th.”

On April 29th, Mr. Head, the Arbitrator, awarded reductions amounting “as a whole to about 10 per cent. on the previous total labour cost.”

GERMAN SICKNESS INSURANCE IN 1893.

WITH the exception of miners, who must belong to their own associations, workers subject to the Sickness Insurance Law of June 15, 1883, may fulfil their obligation by insuring in any one of the following classes of sick funds.

(1.) *Communal Sick Funds*.—These are managed by town authorities and include those who cannot insure in any of the other classes of funds. (2.) *Local Sick Funds*.—These are the most important of the associations. They may be established by the Communal Authority for a single trade if the number of persons to be insured be at least one hundred; or a number of different trades with less than 100 workers each may unite within a district and form a joint local fund. (3.) *Factory Sick Funds*.—Employers, if they have 50 workpeople, may form an association of their own. If there is peculiar risk connected with the work they may be compelled to do this either by the commune or by the sickness association of which their workpeople have been members. The fund is managed by the workpeople themselves and the employers. (4.) *Building Sick Funds*.—These are for workers on high-roads,

railways, canals, &c. The employers are placed under special obligations, as the labourers are often put to great risks, and the working time is very unequal. The commune may compel an employer to form such a fund. (5.) *Trade Guild Sick Funds*.—These are not independent organisations. When a guild establishes a sickness fund all those employed by the masters of the guild, with the exception of members of the free friendly societies, become at once members of the guild sick fund and cease to belong to any other. (6.) *Friendly Society Sick Funds*.—Friendly societies have to afford at least the same benefits as the town sick fund would have to do in those places where the members have their work. These funds receive no contributions from employers nor help from officials.*

The following figures relative to Sickness Insurance in 1893 are taken from the Quarterly Statistics of the German Empire, No. 1 of 1895. They show a considerable falling off in the membership of Friendly Society Sick Funds in 1893 as compared with 1892, while all the other kinds of funds have increased their membership.

Classes of Sick Funds.	Mean Membership.		Aggregate Number of Cases of Sickness.		Aggregate Number of Days of Sickness.	
	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.	1892.
Communal ...	1,236,732	1,179,845	355,979	311,531	5,771,669	5,117,405
Local ...	3,230,678	2,998,378	1,274,115	1,063,691	21,666,620	18,630,823
Factory ...	1,782,209	1,742,838	816,357	694,891	12,793,752	11,236,269
Builders ...	31,188	29,743	17,354	15,761	269,563	229,350
Trade Guilds ...	90,528	76,411	32,724	25,487	496,744	403,067
Friendly Societies ...	727,549	927,834	300,399	368,876	5,163,850	7,139,112
Total ...	7,098,884	6,955,049	2,796,919	2,478,237	46,162,198	42,756,026

* Fourth Special Report of the United States Commissioner of Labour 1893. Compulsory Insurance.

NOTICE OF ACCIDENTS ACT.

A SUMMARY is given in the following tables of the accidents reported to the Board of Trade during April under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.* The total number of accidents reported was 235, by which 7 persons were killed and 238 injured.

The tables probably do not include all accidents which should have been reported under the Act, the requirements of which may not yet be generally known.

Table showing the number of separate accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act during the month of April 1895, and the number of persons killed and injured in such accidents.

A.—Distinguishing Nature of Employment.

Group.	Nature of Works, &c.	Construction or Repair.			Use or Working.*		
		No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons injured.	No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons injured.
I.	Bridge...	1	...	1	...	...	...
	Canal ...	...	...	...	5	...	5
	Dock ...	16	1	15	80	2	81
	Harbour, Pier & Quay	5	...	5	8	...	8
	Railway ...	21	1	21	...	...	7
	Tramway ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tunnel ...	19	1	18	...	...	...
	Gaswork ...	1	1	...	14	...	14
	Other Workst ...	10	...	16	2	...	2
	Buildings ...	21	...	31	418	1	408
II.	Buildings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Traction Engines ...	...	...	...	2	...	2
III.	Total ...	76	4	79	159	3	159

B.—Distinguishing Nature of Injury.
(The Groups are the same as in Table A.)

Nature of Injury.	Group I.		Group II.		Group III.
	Construction or repair.	Use or working.	Construction or repair.	Use or working.	
Fractures ...	3	7	2	2	1
Dislocations ...	1	1	...	1	...
Ruptures and other severe injuries to body ...	7	22	...	6	...
Injuries to eye ...	2	4	...	4	...
Other injuries to head or face	15	8	...	2	...
Other injuries to arms or hands ...	16	25	...	17	1
Other injuries to legs or feet	27	45	1	7	...
Miscellaneous injuries ...	5	5	...	1	...
Total ...	76	117	3	40	2

* Section 6 of the Act states that “Nothing in this Act shall apply to any employment which is for the time being regulated by any Act of Parliament administered by the Secretary of State or by inspectors appointed by him, or shall require notice to be given of any accident of which notice is required by any other Act to be given to the Board of Trade.”
† Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.
‡ On buildings more than 30 feet high by means of scaffolding.
§ In buildings more than 30 feet high in which more than 20 persons, not being domestic servants, are employed for wages.
¶ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

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, &c., mostly dated March and April last.)

Canada.—With the exception of a few experienced farm hands, of female servants, and of persons with sufficient money to take up land, for whom Canada offers considerable openings, there is no demand there at present for any class of labour, and least of all, perhaps, in British Columbia.

New South Wales.—Coal mining, both in the northern and southern collieries, is in a very disturbed condition, and frequent notices of reductions in the hewing-rate, and of strikes against any reduction, have been taking place. The proprietors state that, owing to the great falling-off in the Coal Trade, caused by foreign competition and the general depression, they cannot pay the old rate without loss; the employees, on the other hand, contend that the revival of trade should be brought about by some means other than a reduction in wages. A report from Cootamundra states: “A great depreciation has taken place in this Colony in the value of products, and land values have fallen in sympathy. The Dairying Industry is fairly flourishing, and a man with some experience in this pursuit can make it pay well. But we advise emigrants not to come to Australia unless they have at least £200. The cost of living is very small; a man can support a wife and family comfortably upon £60 to £80 a year at present rates.”

Victoria.—A report from Melbourne states that there is no demand for men in the Metal Trades, and that some are out of work. To alleviate the general want of employment in the Colony, the Government is starting as many public works as possible, and is employing considerable numbers of men in reducing the gradients on the railways, and in the reclamation of swamp lands. The Government proposes to fix the following minimum rates of daily wages to be paid by contractors for Government work:—Labourers, 6s. 6d.; bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, painters, and engine-drivers, 8s.; plumbers and tinsmiths, 9s.; engine-fitters, boiler-makers and riveters, blacksmiths, copper and brass workers, moulders, iron-turners, copper-smiths, and brass finishers, 10s.; masons and pattern-makers, 11s.; and shipwrights, 12s. 3d.

South Australia.—The labour market has slightly improved, so that there has been a moderate demand for single ploughmen and general farm hands. But there is still a considerable number of persons unable to find work even at reduced wages. A dispute has occurred at one of the tanneries owing to a reduction in wages. No societies—either of operatives or of masters—have at present registered under the Conciliation Act passed by the Legislature last session.

Queensland.—Speaking generally, there is no demand for more labour in Queensland. At Brisbane the Building Trade remains depressed. In the neighbourhood of Rockhampton there is a good demand for ploughmen, shearers, and female servants only, and a man with a capital of £100 would do well on the land.

Tasmania.—There is no increase in the demand for labour in Tasmania; but a correspondent points out that the cost of living has generally decreased there during the last year or two.

New Zealand.—The Department of Labour reports that during last February all branches of trade were, with some few exceptions, quiet or dull everywhere. With regard to unskilled labour, gum-digging was employing most of the labour, in the far north, and in many other parts of the Colony men were busy harvesting; in other parts, however, where harvesting, bush-felling, fish-curing, &c., had ceased for the time, there were many out of work.

Cape Colony.—Considerable numbers of emigrants have continued to arrive in the Colony for some time past, with the result that many of them—and especially those that remained in Cape Town—have been unable to find employment. It is unadvisable, therefore, for

persons to emigrate to the Colony at the present time unless they have a little money to keep them on arrival.

Natal.—There is no demand for more labour, and several hands at the Newcastle Woollen Factory—the only one in the Colony—have been discharged.

British Bechuanaland.—A report from the district of Uington states that there are no openings for farm hands, mechanics, or miners, and that immigration to the district is not recommended.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in April.—A marked improvement in employment is said to have taken place during April in many trades besides those which usually revive at this season, such as the *Building* and *Clothing* Trades. All branches of the *Textile* Trades continued busy, and *metal smelters* were said to have more work to do. The *Mining, Engineering, Window-Glass, and Boot and Shoe* Trades were slack.

The Paris Omnibus Strike.—The most serious of the April disputes has been that of the Paris omnibus men, whose Union has long been trying to obtain a modification of the terms agreed to on the occasion of the 1891 strike. These terms included a day of 12 hours' actual work, broken by intervals of 1½ hours for meals. The Omnibus Servants' Union demands included 11¼ hours' actual work per day, broken with intervals of three-quarters of an hour for meals, payment by the day instead of by the trip for supernumeraries, and minimum wages of 4s. 2d., instead of maximum wages of 3s. 5d. a day for men in the yards. Both sides, at the suggestion of the Municipal Council, had recourse to conciliation according to the law of December 27th, 1892. The Board of Conciliation failing to effect a settlement after two meetings, the *juge de paix* recommended arbitration, which the employers would only accept on the question whether the terms of settlement of 1891 had been observed. A strike was declared on the 22nd of April, which only lasted till the 26th, when work was resumed owing to the exhaustion of the Union funds.

Other Disputes in April.—Of a total of 57 fresh disputes, 17 were in the *Textile*, 13 in the *Building*, 7 in the *Metal-working*, 4 in the *Quarrying*, 3 each in the *Leather, Woodworking, and Paper* Trades, and the rest in various miscellaneous trades. There were 10,481 persons engaged in 37 fresh disputes for which full particulars are given, half of these (5,441) being in the *Transport* Trades. Forty-three disputes ended during the month, 13 favourably, and 14 unfavourably, for the workers, while 16 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Including the proceedings taken in connection with the Paris omnibus strike, already described, there were 11 instances of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law during April. The initiative was taken by the *juges de paix* in 5 cases, by the workpeople in 3, by the employers in 1, while in the remaining two cases employers and workers joined in promoting mediation. The proceedings resulted in a settlement in 5, and failed in 5 cases (including 2 in which the employers rejected mediation). One case was still in progress at the end of the month.

GERMANY.

The following particulars are based on information supplied by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, under date of May 3rd:—

Labour Disputes.—The fresh disputes reported in April numbered 14, and many older ones, continued throughout the month, showed no immediate prospect of settlement. Five of the fresh disputes were in the *Building* Trades, 2 each in the *Clothing* and *Woodworking* Trades, and the rest in various *Miscellaneous* Trades. Of 6 disputes reported as terminated, 3 ended favourably, and 1 unfavourably, for the workers, while

* From information supplied by the Office du Travail.
† Supplemented by information published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.

2 were settled by compromise. The strike of penknife finishers at Solingen continued throughout the month, and it is feared that it will have serious results for the future trade of the place. On the 12th of April a declaration was issued by 35 large export firms of Remscheid, Solingen, Barmen, Ohligs, and Kronenberg, promising to support the Manufacturers' Union in opposing the demands of operatives, and only to give orders to firms belonging to the union.

It is said that the employers are in many cases unable to meet the obligations of contracts at low prices, owing to increased cost of production, and that many workshops are closed for the time being. Other noteworthy strikes which continued throughout the month were those of the weavers in Aix-la-Chapelle, and the button-makers in Schmöln.

Christian Miners' Association.—At a meeting of the Christian Miners' Association, held at Essen, attended by 150 delegates, it was stated that the movement continues to gain ground, that the Association now numbers 4,000 members, and that £78 has been subscribed.

Statistics of Work in Printing Trade.—The organ of the German printers and typefounders recently published the results of an inquiry made by the Federation of German printers in October last as to the conditions of work in the Printing Trade. Information was, it is said, obtained from 4,152 printing works, with an aggregate of 42,794 workers, 12,772 of whom were apprentices. The remaining 30,022 included 14,517 members of the Federation of Printers. Information was obtained as to wages with regard to 28,099 printers, and it was found that only 5,693 of these were piece-workers. Information as to the length of the working day was supplied by 3,505 establishments. The daily hours ranged from 8 to 12. In 2,501 establishments they were 10, in 680 over, and in 324 less than 10.

Employment in the Printing Trade.—The same paper publishes statistics showing how many members of the Printers' Federation received out-of-work benefit in each month during the 14 years ended 1893. The following statement gives a summary of the result:—

Years.	During each Month.		At any Given Time.	
	Average No. of Individuals receiving out-of-work benefit during each month.	Proportion per cent. of total membership.	Average No. of Persons receiving out-of-work benefit at any given time.	Proportion per cent. of total membership.
1880	478	7.6	280	4.4
1881	530	6.2	315	3.6
1882	761	8.4	462	5.1
1883	799	7.8	475	4.7
1884	881	8.3	521	4.9
1885	736	6.5	417	3.7
1886	934	7.3	552	4.3
1887	1,071	9.0	646	5.4
1888	845	7.3	487	4.2
1889	680	5.4	365	2.8
1890	766	5.0	398	2.6
1891	863	4.9	464	2.7
1892	1,332	8.4	774	4.9
1893	985	6.1	552	3.4
1880-1893	690	7.0	479	4.1

Industrial Courts in Würtemberg, 1894.—The Report on Factory Inspection in Würtemberg in 1894 gives statistics showing the work done by the Industrial Courts in the settlement of disputes arising out of the labour contract in that year in Würtemberg. There were 12 such Courts, compared with 9 in the preceding year. The cases brought up numbered 1,854, viz., 1,665 by workpeople, and 189 by employers. Differences were settled in 569 cases by award, in 855 by conciliation, in 392 by withdrawal of claim, and 38 cases remained unsettled at the end of the year. In 656 instances the amount in dispute was under 10s.; in 82 it exceeded £5. The greatest proportion of claims (788) were connected with the handicrafts, 318 with factories, 341 with the Building Trades, 268 with inns, &c., and the rest with commercial and transport establishments.

SWITZERLAND.

The following is a summary of information supplied for April by the Swiss workmen's secretary, and transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, on the 2nd of May:—

The Watchmakers' Strike.—The chief event of the last few weeks in Switzerland connected with labour has been the watchmakers' strike in the Canton of Soleure,

the origin of which was stated in last month's GAZETTE. The situation is unfortunate for the workmen, as there is much stock on hand and little work. There was no prospect of a settlement at the time of reporting, the employers declining to negotiate, and an attempt of the Government of Soleure to mediate having been unsuccessful. The number of workmen on strike is said to be 2,000. The Communal assembly of Grenchen, the village most affected by the strike, is said to have decided to grant a weekly subsidy of £20 to provide food for those on strike. An appeal was lodged with the Cantonal Government, and it has recognised the right of the Commune to carry out this decision provided the benefit be extended to all destitute citizens.

Other Wage Movements.—The coopers in Lucerne, and the tailors of Vevey, have struck work. The coopers' demands include a 10-hours' day, abolition of Sunday work, payment for overtime, a holiday on the 1st of May, and minimum wages of 3s. 9d. a day. Wage movements, which may or may not lead to strikes, are in progress in Zürich among plasterers, masons, painters, joiners, smiths and wheelwrights; in Bâle, among printers and masons; in Geneva, among slaters and brewers; and in Lucerne, among joiners and carpenters.

Arbitration.—The Municipal Council of Zürich has approved of regulations providing that in case of a strike the town authorities shall take the initiative in arbitrating. There is, however, no law compelling the parties to accept such arbitration.

Workers' Organisations.—A further result of the frequent wage movements is found to be the formation of a large number of new trade unions within a short time, though their period of existence is in many cases brief.

BELGIUM.

The New Labour Department.—Information additional to that given in previous numbers of the GAZETTE (December 1894, and March 1895), with reference to the Belgian Labour Department, has been sent by Sir F. B. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, on April 27th, the date of the promulgation of the Royal Decree organising the Department.

The report of the Minister of Agriculture, Industry, Labour and Public Works, which precedes the decree, states that, besides fulfilling the functions assigned to similar institutions in other countries, the Belgian Department will itself enforce the labour laws, in which work it will be supported by the Labour Inspectors, and by its own different sections, viz.: Mines and Metallurgy, Public Health, Agriculture, and Industry.

Besides the Central Department, there are to be 9 provincial labour offices (one for each provincial administration), the organisation and functions of which are to be determined by the provincial governors.

A monthly journal of labour will be published, with the title *Revue du Travail*.

Among the subjects to which the attention of the Department will be directed by the Government, the collection of statistical information bearing upon the question of insurance is described in the report as one of the most pressing matters.

The appropriation for the working expenses of the Department and its branches during the current year amounts to £4,000, while that for the service of inspection has been raised from £2,800 to £5,200.

Labour Disputes.—During April the fresh disputes, as reported in *Le Peuple*, numbered 14, and those in progress since previous months, two. The fresh disputes consisted of five among colliers, three in the Textile Trades, two each in the Metal-working and Quarrying Trades, and one each among bakers and whitewashers. The most noteworthy of the fresh disputes appears to have been that of the spinning operatives (piecers) of Hodimont, near Verviers, which began on April 5th, a minimum wage of 2s. a day being demanded. Thirty-two mills were said to be involved on April 13th, and the united employers had decided on a lock-out. On the 29th of April it was reported that a committee of arbitration had been organised at the instance of the *Fédération des Commerçants*. It consisted of four employers' and four operatives' representatives with a chairman acceptable to both sides. In the strike of textile operatives of Renaix reported on last month, terms were come to

on April 2nd before the Council of Industry and Labour as regards the dyers, who were to resume work next day with a net working day of 10½ hours, and daily wages of 2s. for adults, and from 1s. to 1s. 7d. for those under 19, according to age. Twelve hundred colliers of Seraing and Flemalle were on strike from the 4th to the 8th of April, the motive being political, and the resumption of work due to the advice of members of the Chamber of Deputies who visited the districts.

Proposed adoption of Blackburn Cotton Operatives' Scale in Ghent.—The cotton manufacturers of Ghent are said to have agreed to the request of the organised cotton operatives of the place to adopt a uniform price list. The employers propose the adoption of the Blackburn scale of 1893, a Flemish translation of which has been supplied to each of the operatives' federations by the Manufacturers' Union.

Convictions for Truck.—At the *Tribunal Correctionnel* of Nivelles, nine employers were convicted on April 6th of offences against the Truck Act. The number of contraventions proved was 89, for each of which a fine of 4s. 2d. was inflicted.

HOLLAND.

Labour Disputes.—From information supplied by Sir H. Rumbold, H.M. Minister at the Hague, on April 30th, it appears that a small strike of furniture-makers' journeymen was in progress in Amsterdam. The men are stated to be somewhat badly paid, and to have no organisation. There was also a small strike among masons at Haarlem, where unusual activity prevailed in the Building Trades. The men, who were getting 3½d. per hour, demanded 4½d., the regular union rate of wages at Amsterdam. There were, nevertheless, a considerable number of applicants from the latter town, who were ready to work at the lower rate of wages.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Strike of Brickmakers.—The most serious dispute during April has been that among the brickmakers in the neighbourhood of Vienna, reports as to which have been supplied by the Hon. W. A. C. Barrington, Secretary of Embassy at Vienna, under dates of April 26th and 28th. The strike began on the 17th of April, when about 3,000 out of 4,000 workers employed in the Wienerberg District went out demanding 50 per cent. increase of the rates paid in all branches of the trade, and the abolition of the so-called "premium" system. This consists in deducting a certain sum from each week's wages, the amounts so retained being paid to the workmen only upon the completion of the term of service, but forfeited in case of withdrawal from work before completion of that term.

The demand for increased wages was based on the rise in the price of bricks from 28s. 4d. per 1,000 last year to 36s. 8d. this year. This the Company declared to be merely temporary, and to have been taken into consideration last year, when wages were raised 20 per cent. The Company refused to increase the rate more than 6d. per 1,000 bricks. On April 25th the number of strikers was about 6,000, the movement having extended to a number of other brick works. On that day the question formed the subject of an interpellation in the Lower House, attention being called to the bad state of the workers' dwellings, and to the prevalence of truck abuses. A motion was passed that the enquiry into the strike should be continued, and the House informed of the measures taken on the strength of it. Several collisions between the police and bodies of strikers had meanwhile taken place, resulting in a number of casualties and arrests. A settlement was arrived at on the 25th of April, which was partly due to the efforts of the Burgomaster of Vienna and other municipal officials. The terms included a rise of from 15 to 20 per cent. in brickmakers' wages, and the abolition of the "premium" system already referred to. The question as to dwellings was left for subsequent settlement, the town authorities stating that they would meanwhile investigate the matter, with a view to removing the evils complained of.

Other Disputes in April.—Reports were published in the *Arbeiter Zeitung* during April of 18 fresh disputes, besides that of the brick-

makers, and of 10 old ones remaining unsettled since previous months. The fresh disputes consisted of 5 each in the Building and Metal-working Trades, and of 8 in various miscellaneous trades. Only two of these deserve separate notice, viz., a strike of 600 carpenters, employed at the exhibition buildings in Prague for increased wages; and a general strike of pearl button turners, affecting about 350 men in Vienna, against a reduction of wages. In this case attempts to prevent men from working led to collisions with the police, resulting in a number of casualties and arrests. Of 8 disputes reported during April as terminated, 5 are said to have ended favourably, and 1 unfavourably for the workers; the other 2 (including the brickmakers' strike) being compromised.

Miners' National Congress.—The National Congress of Austrian miners and smelters met in Vienna on Easter Sunday, and concluded its work on the following day. It was attended by 45 delegates, claiming to represent 85,000 miners and smelters. The chief resolutions passed referred to the limitation of hours of labour, old age, accident and sickness insurance, mines inspection, investigation of accident, and restriction of piece-work. During the Congress the Czech delegates withdrew, owing to the rejection of their proposal for provincial insurance societies for miners.—*Arbeiter Zeitung*.

Assistance in finding Employment in Vienna.—The finding of employment for persons out of work has for the most part been left to voluntary effort in Austria. The chief association founded for this purpose is the *Verein für Arbeitsvermittlung in Wien* (Society for the Registration of Labour in Vienna), established in July 1885. It aims specially at finding employment for workpeople who are not members of the guilds (see GAZETTE of December 1894, page 381), and is supported largely by employers who become members by paying a fixed subscription. Non-members pay a registration fee on making application, while those applying for work pay 10 kreuzer (about 2d.), this payment holding good for two months.* According to *Blätter für Soziale Praxis*,† the tenth yearly report of the Society shows that between 1885 and the end of 1894, 73,203 persons applied for work, which was found for 28,887, or about 39½ per cent. of the applicants. It is said to be the custom of this Society, though largely supported by employers, to suspend its operations during strikes and lock-outs as regards the particular branch affected.

ITALY.

Chamber of Labour at Bologna.—From an account of the operations of the Chamber of Labour, at Bologna, during the first year of its existence, drawn up by its executive committee, it appears that this institution was founded in the early part of 1893, subventions being obtained from the People's Bank and from the municipality of that town and the administration of the province of Bologna. The greater part of the associations combining to form the Chamber were of a composite character, consisting of workmen of distinct trades, or including, not only employees, but also persons who were employers, or, at any rate, were not manual workers. The executive committee of the Chamber proceeded to form, in the place of these mixed societies, regular trade groups. On several occasions the committee is stated to have intervened with success, to secure the pacific settlement of trade disputes. Assistance was also given to the trade groups in promoting the formation of co-operative societies. Much attention was devoted to finding work for the unemployed. The bakers' society organised a system under which the men gave up their work for one or two days in each month to unemployed bakers who took the work in turns. A similar system was adopted in relation to waiters. Employment bureaux were also opened at the Chamber by the clerks, masons and bricklayers, and pastry-cooks; for other industries the secretarial staff of the Chamber temporarily acted as an employment agency. A local newspaper assisted by publishing a weekly list of the demands for, and offers of, employment. From June 1st, 1893, to April 15th, 1894, the total number of persons for whom permanent situations were found, either by the staff of the Chamber itself or by groups belonging to the Chamber, was 281 (of whom 207 were masons and bricklayers), while in 8,874 cases § (of which 8,701 were cases of bakers or waiters under the turn system above described) a day's work was obtained for unemployed persons. The total effective strength of the groups belonging to the Chamber in existence on April 15th, 1894, was 4,538, that of groups in course of formation was 2,498, wage-earning members.

* Royal Commission on Labour Foreign Reports, Vol. XI., page 129.

† Now amalgamated with "Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt" under title of "Soziale Praxis, Centralblatt für Sozialpolitik."

‡ For an account of the Italian Chambers of Labour generally, see LABOUR GAZETTE, July 1894, pp. 222, 223; also Foreign Office Report, 1894, Miscellaneous Series, No. 337, pp. 20-28.

§ It would appear that, if the same man obtained a day's work upon 50 different occasions during the period referred to, this would be counted as 50 cases of procuring employment (collocamenti).

given that the machine was a modern one, and that it ran at a high rate of speed. Plaintiff stated that previous to the accident the lacing of the belt, owing to it chafing against the slot, was repeatedly snapping, and the belt consequently flying, and that a complaint was made to the defendant. For the defence, it was said that after the making of the complaint the defendant communicated with the makers, and that, as a temporary remedy, the edge of the slot was filed, and a small wheel, or roller, fixed to ease the belt. Judge found that there was no proof of negligence. Judgment for defendant.

Lynn County Court, April 10th.—Labourer in service of company of engineers claimed £100 damages for injuries received while bending steel plates for engine trucks. Seven other men were engaged with plaintiff, who was at the end holding the tail end of the lever. One man was alongside of him, and the others were pushing towards him. The packing was put on one side of the plate after the plate was put in, and plaintiff stated that if this had been properly put in the plate ought to have been tight. The plate came out and caused the injuries complained of. It was also urged that the lever was an improper one. For the defence, evidence was given that if the lever had been properly pushed home it could not have come off, whether packed or unpacked; that the lever was a suitable one for the work, and that there was no defect. It was the plaintiff's duty, with another man, to fix on the lever, while the blacksmith was fitting and screwing the iron on to the block. Verdict for defendants, the jury finding that there was no defect in the machinery, and no negligence on the part of any servant of the company in superintendence.

Hanley County Court, April 18th (Action remitted from the High Court).—Builder's apprentice, a youth of 19 years, claimed £500 damages from employer, a builder and earthenware manufacturer, for injuries sustained while crawling along a roof with a ladder to execute some repairs to a chimney. The injuries were caused by a fall, which resulted in complete paralysis of both legs. Judge gave judgment for £400, holding that defendant had exposed the plaintiff to risk by not giving him proper instructions as to the safest mode of doing the work.

Leeds County Court, April 24th.—Stonemason, employed by firm of contractors, claimed £200 from them for injuries sustained while winding a crane to raise stones on a platform. Plaintiff was working crane with another workman when it ceased to twine. After an interval the crane gave a jerk and the handle flying round inflicted injuries to the plaintiff's head. Judge found that the crane was defective, and gave judgment for £70.

Bow County Court, April 26th.—A dustman sued his employer, a contractor, for £100, for injuries caused by the defendant using "defective plant." The plaintiff was sent to bring away a load with a horse and cart, and the horse fell, plaintiff receiving a kick which broke his ankle. Evidence was given that the horse was frequently falling, and that the employer had been warned that the horse was not fit to work. Judge gave judgment for £30, and expressed the opinion that a worn-out horse was as much a source of danger as a worn-out boiler.

(2) EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN ACT.

Peth, before Sheriff-Substitute, April 15th.—A labourer agreed to enter the service of a farmer, and received from him 2s. as arles. He failed to fulfil his engagement, and appropriated the money to his own use. Fined 10s., with alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

Bury County Court, April 22nd.—Weaver sued company for £1 19s., a fortnight's wages in lieu of notice. Plaintiff was 20 minutes late going to work one morning in March. Plaintiff was in consequence discharged at once. According to the rules of the mill, plaintiff was entitled to a fortnight's notice, and could not be discharged except for misconduct, wilful disobedience, or neglect, without such notice being given. It was admitted on behalf of plaintiff that he had been late before, but it was contended that he had not been guilty of wilful neglect and disobedience, there being no deliberate intention on the plaintiff's part to break the rules. The Registrar held that there had been wilful neglect. Judgment for the defendant company.

(3) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Stoke-upon-Trent Sijpendiary's Court, April 5th.—Two female majolica painters were summoned under the special rules of the Home Office relating to injurious processes for eating food in a majolica painting shop, and a third for remaining there during the dinner hour. Each defendant fined 10s and costs.

Bury Police Court, April 11th.—Manufacturing company were summoned for employing two young persons during meal time. One of them was under the headstock mule-cleaning, and another working in the throstle room. For the defence it was stated that these people were not working by their order or consent. That they had posted up particulars of the Act, and a notice that any person having control in a department, who permitted work contrary to these enactments, would be held personally responsible. It was alleged that a previous inspector had informed defendants that if they put up this notice he would prosecute the offender. Held that the putting up of the notice did not relieve defendants of liability, and that sufficient diligence had not been shown. Fined 5s. and costs in one case and costs in another.

Belfast Petty Sessions, April 30th.—Eighteen young persons employed in the machine hackling of flax were summoned for not wearing the respirators provided. [Special Rules for the Spinning and Weaving of Flax. Factory Act, 1891, Sec. 9.] A penalty of 6d. and 1s. 6d. costs in 8 cases. The remainder were discharged on payment of costs.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN APRIL.

DURING April 210 prosecutions were instituted under the Acts specified in the tables below, as compared with 290 in the previous month and 261 in April 1894. Of these 210 prosecutions, 163 were under the Factory and Workshop Acts, and resulted in 151 conviction, 124 being against employers and 27 against workmen. The average penalties and costs imposed on the former amounted to £1 13s. 11d., and on the latter to 7s. 1d. Under the Mines Acts there were 41 prosecutions and 39 convictions, of which 1 was against an owner or manager, the fine and costs amounting to £5, while 38 were against workmen with an average penalty of £1 0s. 1d. Of the 6 prosecutions and convictions under the Merchant Shipping Acts, 4 were against owners or masters of vessels and 2 against boarding-house keepers, the penalties and costs averaging £4 19s. 4d. and 19s. 3d. respectively.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Includes sub-sections: By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; Total for April 1895; Total for April 1894.

* Supplied by the Home Office.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.*

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants. Includes sub-sections: By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; Total for April 1895; Total for April 1894.

† In two cases defendants absconded and warrants were issued for their arrest.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Penalties, Total Costs. Includes sub-sections: By Owners or Masters of Ships; By Seamen; By Boarding-House Keepers; Total for April 1895; Total for April 1894.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

THE 9 bureaux furnishing returns registered during April 3,145 applicants for work.

Of these bureaux 7 also made returns for the corresponding month of last year, and a comparison of the figures shows a decrease of 290 in the number of fresh applicants for work as compared with April 1894, the figures being 1,318 and 1,608 respectively.

Work was found during last month for 1,056 persons by the 9 bureaux. Of this number, 266 were employed by local authorities and 790 by private employers. Of the 3,101 persons remaining on the registers at the end of April, 2,772 were men, 165 lads and boys, and 164 women and girls.

(1) Work Done in April.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Work-people on Register, No. of Fresh Applicants during April, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authority).

(2) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of April.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Ware-house-men, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men).

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls (Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Others, Total Women and Girls), Grand Total (April 1895, April 1894).

* The small number on the Register at the end of April 1894 was due to applicants omitting to re-register. † In addition, temporary work was found for 1,231 persons in the works and depots of the Army, and 29 were engaged in a permanent capacity. The return of this Bureau is for four weeks. ‡ Women and Girls are not at present registered at Salford and Plymouth. § These particulars have not been furnished.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.) THE returns of pauperism show that 343,688 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of April in the 35 selected urban districts, or 235 for every 10,000 of the population of these districts.

As compared with March, the decrease is very noticeable, amounting to 29 per 10,000 of population, the outdoor paupers, as was the case last month, showing the largest decrease. In only three districts is there any increase, viz., Barnsley, an increase of 2 per 10,000; Paisley and Greenock, of 1, and Galway, of 5. The most marked decreases are those in the southern district of the Metropolis, which has decreased 104 per 10,000, and in the Stockton and Tees district, which shows a decrease of 89. Next in importance come the eastern district of the Metropolis, with a decrease of 72, and West Ham, with a decrease of 58 per 10,000, the same rate of decrease as that recorded last month.

The figures for this year continue to be larger than those for the corresponding date in 1894, though the excess is less than that noted last month. The rate per 10,000 for the 35 districts was 235, as against 217 last year, an increase of 18. The largest increases were at Leicester and Hull, of 57 in each case, and at Bristol of 36. The Metropolitan rate increased by 19, and that of West Ham by 25. The only districts where the rate is lower this year are those of Bradford and Galway, where it decreased by 1, and that of Cork, Waterford and Limerick, where it decreased by 22.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of April 1895 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Population, Paupers on corresponding date in 1894 (Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of Population). Includes sections for ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

* Based on the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas. † 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.

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 time of going to press is used.)

EIGHTY-THREE new disputes occurred in April 1895, as compared with 49 in March and 113 in April 1894. Particulars obtained with regard to 72 of these disputes show that 11,215 people were involved. Twenty-eight disputes took place in the Building Trades, 23 of which were chiefly due to wages questions, 4 to questions of working arrangements, and 1 to a question of unionism. The only dispute in the Clothing Trades was caused by the refusal of an employer to reinstate three boot and shoe operatives at the end of the general dispute in that trade. Of the 15 disputes in the Metal Trades 14 were due to wages questions (9 of them occurring in various tinplate works in South Wales), the remaining one was due to a question of unionism. In connection with Mining and Quarrying 19 disputes arose, 10 of which were on wages questions, and 9 on various points connected with working arrangements. One of the 2 disputes in connection with Seafaring, Dock, &c., Labour arose in respect of unionism, and the other of working arrangements. Three of the 5 disputes in the Shipbuilding Industry were on wages questions, 1 was due to a question of the demarcation of work between engineers and boiler-makers, and 1 to a question of working arrangements. Three of the 6 disputes in the Textile Trades were on wages questions, and three on questions of working arrangements. Of the 7 disputes in the Miscellaneous group of industries, 3 were due to wages, 3 to working arrangements, and 1 was on a question of unionism.

The geographical distribution of the 83 disputes was as follows:—Northern Counties, 23; Midland Counties, 10; Western Counties and Wales, 15; Eastern Counties, 3; Southern Counties, 1; London, 1; Scotland, 30.

Sixteen old disputes, affecting about 47,580 workpeople, were settled during April, and at the end of that month it was known that 26 new and 21 old disputes, affecting about 6,000 workpeople, were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1895.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Carpenters and Joiners	Oban ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (7d. to 7 1/2d.)	...	40	April 1	April 1	Advance granted.
Ditto	Stirling ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (7d. to 7 1/2d.)	4	25	1	1	Ditto.
Ditto	Johnstone, N.B.	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (6 1/2d. to 7 1/2d.)	...	20	1	9	Ditto.
Painters and Plumbers	Middleton, Lanc.	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 8d.)	9	30	1	9	Ditto.
Carpenters and Joiners	Near Plymouth	Refusal of employer to allow "walking time" ...	1	2	1	10	Men's demands conceded.
Carpenters and Joiners	Falkirk and Grangemouth	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 8d.)	22	120	1	13	Advance granted.
Ditto	Coatbridge and Airdrie	Ditto	...	100	1	13	Ditto.
Painters	Bury ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 8d.) and a revised code of working rules	20	100	1	22	Ditto.
Bricklayers	Felixstowe and Walton	For adoption of a code of working rules ...	12	41	1	29	A modified code of working rules accepted by employers.
Carpenters and Joiners	Leicester ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (8d. to 8 1/2d.) and a revised code of working rules	50	400	1	...	Still unsettled.
Bricklayers	Halstead, Essex	For a minimum rate of wages of 6d. per hour and a code of working rules	8	40	1	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Colchester ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (6 1/2d. to 7 1/2d.)	...	70	1	...	Ditto.
Plumbers...	Ramsbottom...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	...	...	1	...	No details of settlement.
Bricklayers' Labourers	Gosport ...	For advance in wages and a code of working rules	...	32	1	...	Still unsettled.
Masons' Labourers	Dundee ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (5d. to 5 1/2d.)	28	250	4	...	Ditto.
Wall Masons	Near Plymouth	Refusal of employer to allow "walking time" ...	1	5	8	9	Men's demands conceded.
Plasterers	Manchester, Salford and District	Failure to agree on the boundary for commencement of "walking time," and on the question of apprentices	15	120	8	...	Still unsettled.
Plasterers' Labourers...	Ditto ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour, in addition to concessions for which the plasterers are "out"	15	80	8	...	Ditto.
Bricklayers and Brick-layers' Labourers	Coalville and Hugglescote	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour, and a new code of working rules	...	20 brick-layers, 40 la-bourers	8	...	Six of the bricklayers received an advance of 1/4d. per hour, the rest left the district. Most of the labourers resumed work at the old rate of wages.
Painters and Decorators	Padiham	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour ...	4	12	13	20	Advance granted.
Plumbers...	Leicester ...	Against employment of non-unionists, and of a man who had not served an apprenticeship to his trade	2	18	15	...	Still unsettled, the Employers' Association locking out the rest of the plumbers at Leicester on 1st May.
Bricklayers	Rugby ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 8d.) and alteration in working rules	11	59	18	...	Still unsettled.
Builders' Labourers	Nottingham ...	For payment of the union rate of wages, and for discharge of non-unionists	1	12	22	22	Employer agreed to pay union rate of wages and to discharge the non-unionists.
Carpenters and Joiners	Callander ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (7d. to 7 1/2d.)	...	12	22	23	An advance of 1/4d. per hour granted.
Builders' Labourers	Loughborough	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (5d. to 5 1/2d.)	...	About 100	22	30	Work resumed at old rates.
Joiners	Dundee ...	Alleged refusal of employer to pay standard rate of wages	1	20	26	...	Still unsettled.
Builders' Labourers	Falkirk ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (5 1/2d. to 6d.)	...	150	29	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Halifax ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (5 1/2d. to 6d.)	...	About 300	30	...	Ditto.
Clothing Trades.							
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Bristol...	Refusal of employer to reinstate three men at end of the general dispute	1	100	25	27	Employer agreed to reinstate the men in question.
Metal Trades.							
Tinplate Workers	Pontardulais...	For return of a reduction of 12 1/2 per cent.	1	130	1	9	Work resumed, 2 1/2 per cent. of the red. being returned.
Ditto	Briton Ferry...	Refusal to accept a reduction of 2 1/2 per cent.	1	100	1	2	Reduction accepted.
Ditto	Pontardulais...	For return of a reduction of 12 1/2 per cent.	1	100	1	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto	Ditto ...	Ditto	1	100	1	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Ditto ...	Ditto	1	100	1	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Briton Ferry...	Refusal to accept a reduction of 2 1/2 per cent.	1	100	1	...	Ditto.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1895—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Tinplate Workers	Briton Ferry...	Refusal to accept a reduction of 2 1/2 per cent.	1	100	1	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto	Ditto ...	Ditto	1	100	1	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Near Neath ...	Refusal to work at a reduction of 20 per cent. on 1874 rates	1	...	1	...	Men have undertaken to bring out full capacity of works.
Whitesmiths	Liverpool ...	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	1	9	2	...	Still unsettled.
Galvanizers (Tube Dippers)	Halesowen ...	Alleged refusal of employer to recognise the trade union.	1	10	6	...	Ditto.
Gas Producers (Steel Works)	Jarrow...	Against reduction in wages of 2 1/2 per cent.	1	27 dir. 90 indir. 80	13	...	Ditto.
Holders-on (in boiler-shops)	River Clyde ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (5d. to 6d.)	12	20	...	...	24 men are reported to have received the advance.
Charge Wheelers (blast furnaces)	Consett ...	Against reduction in wages of 2 1/2 per cent.	1	30 dir. 400 indir.	29	May 6	Reduction reported to be accepted.
Fillers (blast furnaces)	Glangarnock, Ayrshire	For advance in wages of 2d. per day	1	...	...	April	Still unsettled.
Mining and Quarrying.							
Coal Miners	Near Bristol ...	Against discharge of some of their number when parts of the workings were closed, the men desiring equal distribution of the work in hand	1	...	1	...	Work resumed, the men submitting to the action taken by the employer.
Hauliers	Near Ponty-pridd	Refusal of hauliers to descend into pits, said to be due to a misunderstanding as to the decision of a general meeting of hauliers on preceding day	5	...	2	April 2	Work resumed on 3rd April.
Coal Miners	Gorebridge, Midlothian	Against reduction of 2d. per ton in one section of the mine	1	550	4	9	A wage of 8s. per day guaranteed to the 17 men affected.
Ditto	Near Motherwell	Against reduction in wages of 1d. per ton	1	...	4	24	Work resumed at the required reduction.
Hauliers (day-work men)	Ebbw Vale, Mon.	Objection to lose a full day's pay for stoppage of pits on short days	1	75 dir. 1,000 indir.	9	15	Employer promised that pit should be placed on same terms as others in the district as regards stoppage.
Ironstone Miners	Nitshill, near Glasgow	Against reduction in wages of 1 1/2d. per ton	1	110	11	12	Work resumed at the reduction.
Coal Miners	Hamilton ...	Objection to requirement to "draw" their coal to the pit bottom	1	70	12	...	Still unsettled.
Ironstone Miners	Dalry ...	Against reduction in wages ...	1	...	12	...	No details of settlement.
Coal Miners	Tranent ...	Alleged excessive deductions for inferior coal	1	120	16	18	Employer agreed to pay "gross" price for inferior coal.
Ditto	Near Barnsley	Failure to agree upon a new price list, and against alleged arbitrary dismissal of fellow workmen	3	1,236	17	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Near Baillieston	Against reductions of 1 1/2d. and 2d. per ton in one seam	1	55	23	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto	Prestonpans ...	Against reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	220	24	24	Reduction accepted.
Ditto	Cambuslang ...	Against reduction of 2d. per ton in a section of the "main coal"	1	65	26	26	Work resumed at old rates pending an investigation into the "main coal" rates.
Hewers and Putters (Coal)	Near Gateshead	Against alleged excessive strictness in "laying out" tubs, and the consequent imposition of fines	1	700	26	27	Satisfactory settlement arrived at, the manager, agreeing to "sweep" the tubs of the slate.
Ditto	Washington, Durham.	Ditto	1	About 800	29	...	Still unsettled.
Coal Miners	Motherwell ...	Against introduction of a new scale of deductions for "dirt"	1	About 300	30	6 May	New scale withdrawn.
Sett Makers	Condorrat, near Glasgow	Difference of opinion upon interpretation of the price list for certain sized setts	1	...	10 days	in April	Work resumed, full details not yet to hand.
Coal Miners	Near Kilmarnock	For an advance in wages ...	1	80	2 days	in April	Ditto.
Ditto	Slamannan ...	Against reduction in wages of 6d. per day	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Seafaring, Dock, &c., Labour.							
Shipmen and Quay Porters	Liverpool ...	Against proposed reduction of the number of men to each gang, on the ground of improved machinery	1	64	12	April 13	Employer's terms accepted.
Stevedores and Dock Labourers	Middlesbrough	Against non-unionists being taken on while unionists were unemployed, and against alleged victimisation	...	200	29	30	Details of settlement not yet to hand.
Shipbuilding.							
Engineers	Clydebank ...	Against certain work, claimed to belong to engineers, being given to boiler-makers	1	700	5	9	Work resumed, the matter being referred to arbitration.
Engineers' Labourers...	Partick ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour	1	...	8	9	Work resumed, the employer granting a slight advance.
Rivet Heaters (boys)	Govan ...	Refusal to accept a "time ticket" when entering the yard	1	50 dir. 200 indir.	8	11 May	"Time ticket" accepted.
Shp Joiners	Dundee ...	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (7d. to 7 1/2d.)	3	100	19	6	An advance of 1/4d. per hour granted, the whole question of wages to be reconsidered in two months.
Hand Drillers	Barrow ...	For advance in wages of 20 per cent.	1	92	23	...	Still unsettled.
Textile Trades.							
Woollen Weavers	Apperley Bridge	Against reduction in wages of 11 1/2 and 20 per cent. on certain classes of work	1	139 dir. 18 indir. 200	1	April 8	Work resumed at reductions of 6 and 7 per cent.
Fustian Cutters...	Macclesfield ...	For advance in wages up to Congleton list of prices	4	...	...	6	Work resumed at an advance, but at less than Congleton list.
Rope Spinners (females)	Liverpool ...	Against reduction in wages ...	1	38 dir. 60 indir.	5	22	Piece rates reduced, but a larger wage earned in consequence of full time being worked.
Tenters (Cotton Trade)	Heywood ...	For promotion of a back tenter to vacant frames, instead of engagement of an outsider	1	20	18	18	Employer agreed to promote back tenters when vacancies occurred.
Sacking Weavers	Dundee ...	Against imposition of fines for alleged excessive waste	1	50	22	23	Work resumed on receipt of satisfactory assurances.
Woollen Weavers	Huddersfield...	Alleged excessive fining ...	1	42	25	30	Certain changes in wages were made, and employer promised that there should not be any excessive fining.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Coopers	Leeds ...	For increased piece prices on machine-made casks	1	5	1	...	Still unsettled.
Compositors	Stockport ...	Against introduction of matter for a newspaper set up in type by female labour at Manchester	1	21	5	...	Ditto.
Glass Bottle Makers and Blowers	London, E. ...	Against increased amount of work without extra pay	1	18	8	...	Ditto.
Bakers and Confectioners	The Potteries	For advance in wages to the standard rate for the district, and a reduction in hours to 60 per week	6	200	8	...	Ditto.
Theatrical Employés	Leeds ...	Refusal of employer to pay a day's wages for Good Friday when theatre was closed	1	12	19	19	Replaced by others.
Bookbinders, &c.	Hull ...	Alleged infringement by employer of trade union rules	1	5	27	30	Employer agreed to adhere to rules of the trade union, and to apply to the union when in need of men.
Compositors	Glasgow ...	Against the introduction of non-union labour	1	6	27	...	Still unsettled.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Most seats of the Trade in England	General dispute (see page 142 and April GAZETTE, page 112)	...	46,000	1895 9 Mar.	April 19	See pages 143 and 144 for full details of settlement.
Carriers ...	Cleckheaton ...	For abolition of piece-working, reduction in hours from 59 to 54 per week, and a minimum wage of 6d. per hour	1	22	1894 10 Dec.	16	Employer agreed to abolish piece-work, and to reduce hours of labour to 56 per week.
Glass-Bottle Blowers ...	Brierley Hill ...	Refusal to accept a reduction in wages, and to work with non-unionists	1	34 dir., 100 indir.	1895 22 Dec.	6	Reduction accepted.
Beetling and Finishing Hands	White Abbey, Belfast	Against reduction in piece-work rates of 10 to 15 per cent.	1	13	1895 17 Jan.	...	Two of the strikers returned to work, the rest were replaced by non-unionists, but the old rate of wages was maintained.
Plasterers ...	Sheffield ...	Against employment of men from other towns	1	30	20 Jan.	24	Men withdrew their objections.
Lasters and Finishers (Boot and Shoe)	Leicester ...	Against system of sending work out of the town to be partially made up	1	100 dir., 150 indir.	1895 15 Feb.	19	Work resumed on same conditions as the men in the general lock-out obtained.
Painters ...	Douglas (Isle of Man) ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (6d. to 7d.) for eight months in the year	15	96	1 Mar.	4	Work resumed at old rate of wages (6d. per hour).
Slaters ...	Falkirk ...	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	8	35	4 Mar.	20	Advance granted.
Coal Miners ...	Gwaun-cae ...	Against re-arrangement of list of prices, involving certain reductions	1	400	18 Mar.	8	Work resumed at old rate of wages.
Hosiery Glove Hands...	Sheepshed, Leicester	Against reduction in prices of 1d. per dozen	...	100	20 Mar.	3	Reduction accepted.
Plasterers ...	Aberdeen ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (7½d. to 8½d.)	12	140	25 Mar.	29	An advance of ½d. per hour granted.
Iron Workers (Sheet-mill Hands)	Wishaw ...	Against withdrawal of "pile" money without notice	1	60	26 Mar.	29	Work resumed, payment of "pile" money being discontinued
Tube Workers ...	Old Hill ...	For re-instatement of a fellow-workman ...	1	7	26 Mar.	...	Hands replaced.
Weavers ...	Oswaldtwistle ...	Alleged refusal of employer to pay list prices on new "sorts" of wett	1	80	27 Mar.	25	Employer agreed to pay up to list prices.
Shipwrights ...	Leith ...	Objection by employer to union scale for caulking	1	70 dir., 38 indir.	30 Mar.	27	Work resumed on old terms, pending consideration of dispute by Employers' Federation.
Compositors ...	Castlebar ...	Refusal to work against trade union rules and principles	1	...	...	...	Office closed to trade unionists.

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

The following disputes, reported in last month's issue as commencing in March, are still unsettled:—coal miners, Little Hulton; grinders and polishers, Aston, Birmingham; joiners, Harrogate (since settled, May); cable chain-makers, Old Hill.

The following, which commenced before March, are also still unsettled:—coal miners, Kearsley, Bolton; upholsterers, polishers, &c., Keighley; dyers, Wyke and Greetland; wool sorters, Saltaire; wire drawers, Halifax; glass bottle-makers, Dublin; cotton weavers, Cliviger; cotton operatives, Heywood; bobbin turners, Barnsley; carpenters and joiners, Bridgwater; saw-smiths, Sheffield; painters, Dundee; flax roughers, Belfast; bricklayers, Bridgwater.

The following disputes commencing before April, of which information has only recently been received, are also still unsettled:—

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.
Agricultural Labourers ...	Near North Walsham	Refusal to work increased hours without the usual advance in wages	8	50	26 March.
Polishers (Cabinet Making) ...	Keighley	Against reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	2	27 March.

CO-OPERATION IN APRIL.

New Societies.—During April, four new associations of consumers and one co-operative bank were registered in England and Wales, and seven co-operative dairies and agricultural societies in Ireland. Two associations of consumers have opened new branches, and one association of producers of boots and shoes a new factory.

Sales and Profits.—Returns received from 199 associations of consumers, 150 in England and Wales and 49 in Scotland, show sales for the quarter ending in March 1895 amounting to £3,791,918, compared with £3,697,412 for the corresponding period of 1894, an increase of £94,506, or 2½ per cent. A further analysis of the returns shows that of the 150 English societies, with a total membership of 427,482, the sales amount to £2,978,514, as compared with £2,955,253 in the corresponding period of 1894, 89 of the associations showing increases amounting to £86,025 and 61 decreases amounting to £62,764, the total net increase being £23,261, or 0·8 per cent. The whole of the associations show a net profit*, the total being £461,416, or 15½ per cent. upon the sales.

The 49 Scottish associations, with a total membership of 77,413, show sales amounting to £813,404, as compared with £742,159 during the corresponding period of 1894, 38 of the associations showing increases amounting to £75,441, and 11 decreases, amounting to £4,196, the total net increase being £71,245, or 9·2 per cent. The total net profits* of the associations amounted to £129,905, or 16 per cent. upon the sales.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society.—This Society celebrated, on 24th April, the 21st anniversary of the opening of its London Branch by a meeting in London of about 1,200 delegates from co-operative societies situated in the district covered by the branch. A short report issued on the occasion shows that the sales of the branch have increased from £72,385 in 1874, to £424,792 in 1884, and £1,419,588 in 1894. In the tea, cocoa, and coffee department, established in connection with the branch in 1882, the sales have increased from £303,888 in 1884, to £606,251 in 1894.

The Annual Co-operative Congress.—This will commence on Saturday, June 1st, with the opening at Huddersfield of an Exhibition of the productions of the co-operative manufacturing societies,

* After allowing for interest on capital and depreciation of property.

and of the manufacturing departments of the English and Scottish co-operative wholesale societies. The inaugural address will be delivered by the president for the year, Mr. George Thomson, of Woodhouse Mills, Huddersfield, a business which some eight years ago was converted from a private firm into a co-operative society, in which the employees are members and share in the management and profits. The more important of the subjects arranged for discussion at the Congress are "Co-operation and Agriculture," and the promotion of "Co-operative Production."

Co-operative Dairies and Agricultural Societies in Ireland.—A report issued by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, established for the promotion of co-operative dairies and agricultural societies in Ireland, states that on March 31st, 1895, there were in Ireland 56 co-operative dairy societies, 10 agricultural co-operative societies, and one agricultural bank. Of these, 30 dairies were in operation during 1894, having on December 31st a total membership of 1,641 persons, owning 20,714 cows, with a paid-up share and loan capital of £21,529, compared with £21,641 in 1893. The total sales of butter in 1894 amounted to £151,852, as compared with £140,780 in 1893, although the average amount realised per lb. was only 10·22 pence in 1894, as compared with 11·51 pence in 1893. The profit, after allowing for depreciation of property and interest on loans, but not on share capital, amounted to £1,992, or 12·9 per cent. upon the share capital and 1·3 upon sales.

LONDON LABOUR CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BOARD.

From the annual report of this Board, which has recently been published, it appears that the total number of meetings held by the Board during the year was 23, the same number as in 1893. The procedure of the Board is to offer its services in all cases of dispute in the Metropolis, of which it has knowledge. The report contains particulars of nine such cases. Of these, two disputes were settled by the Board, viz., the dispute between a river steambot company and their crews, and the dispute between a master stevedore and the No. 1 Branch of the Thames Steamship Workers' Labour Protection League. Accounts of these cases will be found in the LABOUR GAZETTE for June 1894, page 179, and January 1895, page 18, respectively.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.*

THE number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in April was 265 which compares with 372 in April 1894, distributed as follows:—

	Railway Servants.	Miners.	Factory and Workshop Operatives.	Seamen.	Total.
April 1895	31†	67	27	140	265†
April 1894	32	63	35	242	372

On the total of the four classes there was a decrease of 107 as compared with April 1894, almost entirely due to the decrease in the number of fatal accidents to seamen. In addition to the above fatalities, 3 railway servants were killed on the Companies' premises, but not by movement of railway vehicles.

Of the 1,214 non-fatal accidents reported, 241 were to railway servants by movement of trains, 309 in mines, and 664 in factories and workshops, as compared with 159, 375, and 778 respectively, in April 1894. Accidents of a non-fatal character at sea are not reported. In addition to the 241 railway servants injured, and included in the tables, 430 others were injured on the Companies' premises [see note (†) below].

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:—

Railway Servants.—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.

Miners.—The number employed in and about mines can be given more closely, being 739,097 in 1894, including persons employed on private branch railways and in washing and coking coal.

Factory and Workshop Operatives.—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 1893 give 240,974 persons of all grades.

Railway Servants.†

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

A.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of April 1895.

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.					Total of Injuries.
		Causing Amputations.	Fractures and Dislocations.	Contusions, &c.	Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.	
Brakemen and Goods Guards	...	4	10	7	25	46	
Engine Drivers	...	2	2	2	8	14	
Firemen	...	1	1	9	16	27	
Guards (Passenger)	...	...	1	1	1	3
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	11	2	3	...	2	7	
Porters	1	4	1	2	10	18	
Shunters	3	2	5	5	14	25	
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	13	2	6	13	7	39	
Total for April 1895	31	8	16	46	54	149	
Total for April 1894	32	9	...	80	70	159	

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

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
By other Accidents:	30	226	1	10	...	3	31	239
Total for April 1895	30	228	1	10	...	3	31	241
Total for April 1894	26	143	5	13	1	3	32	159

Miners.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines, during the month of April 1895.

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Underground:—								
Explosions of Fire-damp	...	11	14	8	...	...	14	19
Falls of ground	23	93	6	28	...	...	29	121
Miscellaneous in shafts	5	8	1	1	...	...	6	9
Miscellaneous underground	13	117	1	14	...	...	14	131
Surface:—								
Miscellaneous	2	25	2	4	...	...	4	29
Total for April 1895	43	224	24	55	...	...	67	309
Total for April 1894	50	323	13	51	...	1	63	375

* For Accidents reported under the Notice of Accidents Act of 1894, see page 146.

† In addition to the accidents included in the tables, 3 railway servants were killed and 430 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of railway vehicles was not concerned, making a total for the month of 34 railway servants killed and 671 injured from all causes.

‡ Occurring in connection with the movement of railway vehicles and including accidents from the servants' own want of caution or misconduct.

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

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 April 1895.

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.					Total Persons Injured.
		Causing Amputations.	Fractures.	Injuries to Head or Face.	Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes.	Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries.	
Males.							
Adults (over 18)	25	66	35	20	1	238	
Young Persons	2	36	19	9	...	114	
Boys	...	6	1	1	...	12	
Total Males	27	108	55	30	1	364	
Females.							
Adults (over 18)	...	16	2	8	...	28	
Young Persons	...	13	...	3	1	32	
Girls	...	1	...	...	...	2
Total Females	...	30	2	11	1	62	
Total Males and Females for Apr. 1895	27	138	57	41	2	426	
Total for April 1894	35	123	85	56	5	509	

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 April 1895 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.)

Class of Vessels.	Number of Deaths, exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide, and unknown causes.					
	By Wreck and Casualty.		By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty.		Total.	
	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.
Vessels registered under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894:						
Trading	30	49	20	28	50	77
Fishing	3	5	1	2	4	7
Vessels not so registered:						
Trading	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fishing	...	...	2	...	2	2
Total for April 1895	33	54	23	30	56	84
Total for April 1894	108	76	20	43	123	242

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL.

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 most striking feature in the records of wages, in the month of April, is the continued fall in the wages of coal miners, the amount of the decrease being rather considerable and the total number affected nearly 200,000. This number includes over 31,000 in Northumberland; 90,000 in Durham; 1,000 in Somersetshire; 53,000 in the West of Scotland; 13,000 in Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan; 4,500 in West Lothian; and, 4,400 in the Mid and East Lothians. The reductions in the wages of the underground workers were 7 1/2 per cent. in Durham; 16 1/2 per cent. in Northumberland; and, generally 6d. per day in Scotland. The wages of the surface workers were correspondingly reduced. The wages of a number of steelworkers at Barrow, Middlesbrough, and Leeds, also fell 10, 2 1/2, and 10 per cent., respectively.

The principal increases returned, in April, were in the Building Trades. Advances were reported from all parts of the country, and over 6,600 workmen engaged in the various branches of these trades were affected. In several instances the advance in wages was accompanied by reductions in hours and other changes in the working rules. The remaining increases affecting about 1,850 persons, include particulars of an advance of 1s. per week in the wages of about 1,000 apprentices employed in the Home Dockyards.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week).

Table for COAL MINING. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change, Estimated Earnings in a full week.

* In all cases the accuracy of Newspaper reports is inquired into before the information is used here. † The Northumberland Miners' Wages were reduced 1 1/2 per cent. in January. ‡ The carpenters and joiners at Leeds have made a general demand for an advance of 1d. per hour. Some employers have offered 3d. per hour, which has been accepted by about 200 men pending a general settlement. § In addition to the 2,000 miners at Radstock whose wages were similarly reduced from 5th April as stated in last month's GAZETTE.

Main table on page 159 with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week).

Table for SEAMEN. Columns: Port, Voyage, No. shipped at new Rate during April, Monthly Rates (March, April, Increase, Decrease).

* Previous to the reduction the hemp rope spinners at Liverpool worked 4 days per week, but are now working full time. The weekly wage is, however, calculated for a full week in each case. † In addition to the above increase, 19 men have received increases varying from 1s. to 3s. per week for special duties. ‡ In addition to the decrease in the standard wage the finishers employed in the glass bottle trade at Brierley Hill suffered a reduction of 9d. per "journey" of 5 gross in the rates paid for "overwork," and the blowers and gatherers 4d. per "journey" of 5 gross.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

THE decreases in hours of labour reported during the month affected about 4,500 persons. Three thousand of these, engaged in the Building Trades, also received increases in wages, particulars of which are given in the Changes in Wages Table, page 158. The remaining cases include particulars of 300 employees of the Nottingham Corporation, who are stated to have had their hours of labour reduced $2\frac{1}{2}$ per week without loss of pay. An increase is reported from West Cumberland, where 30 men engaged in the manufacture of pig iron, previously working 48 hours, now work 60 hours per week.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate Number of work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	Dec. or Inc. per week.
DECREASES.						
Building Trades.						
Bricklayers ...	Portsmouth	1st May	250	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
Masons ...	Langholm	18th Mar.	28	56	51	5
Carpenters and Joiners	Dumfries	1st June	2,000	Summer		
	Manchester District	13th April	150	52	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Plumbers ...	Great Yarmouth	1st May	400	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
	Portsmouth	1st May	400	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
Plasterers ...	Haslingden	1st May	31	Winter.		
	Bacup	7 May	7	47	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Painters ...	Rawtenstall	1st May	88	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
Builders' Labourers	Portsmouth	1st May	250	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
	Langholm	18th Mar.	600	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
Corporation Employees.	Langholm	18th Mar.	40	56	51	5
	Dumfries					
Gasworks: Yard-men	Nottingham	6th April	300	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	53	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
INCREASES.						
Pig Iron Manufacture.						
Stovemakers, Hoist-Enginemen and Weighmen	West Cumberland	8th April	30	48	60	12

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN APRIL.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in April, it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations of Consumers, 7 Associations of Producers, 1 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Society, 19 new Friendly Societies, and 53 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Sixteen Building Societies, one Industrial and Provident Society, and one Trade Union are reported as having ceased to exist, or to have commenced "winding up."

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—Jewish Slipper Makers, Barley Corn Inn, Hope St, Leeds; Great Harwood and Clayton-le-Moors Miners' Association, Weavers' Union Offices, Great Harwood; Calico Print Workers, 427 Blackburn Rd., Accrington.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations of Consumers*—Hairdressers Co-op. Supply Soc., 96 Tollington Park, N.; West Yorkshire Co-op. Coal Federation, Dewsbury; Wakefield W.M. Coal Club, Market Coffee Tavern, Kirkgate, Wakefield; Bramley and District Coal Association, 255 Town St., Bramley.

(B) *Associations of Producers.*—4 Co-operative Dairy Societies at Ardfer, Ballylongford, and Milltown, co. Kerry, and Harristown, Pilltown, co. Kilkenny, and 3 Co-operative Agricultural Societies at Moyne, co. Tipperary, Crosspatrick, co. Kilkenny, and Enniscorthy, co. Wexford.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—Co-operative People's Bank, 8 Skinner St., Newport (Mon.).

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 7; Specially authorised, 1; Juvenile, 4; Dividing, 3; Working Men's Clubs, 1. Ireland.—Ordinary Friendly, 3.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—England and Wales.—I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 11; Hearts of Oak Yearly Dividing, 8; Loco. and Steam Enginemen, 5; Sons of Temperance, 5; A.O. Foresters, 3; Various, 10. Scotland.—Various, 11.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Asphalte Employees' Protection Society.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Co-operative Country House Society.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—Dissolved by Instrument, 4; have sent notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; have sent notice of termination of dissolution or winding up, 8.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

THE number of mines reported as opened or re-opened during April was 22, and abandoned 18, as compared with 19 and 11 respectively in March. Seventeen of the 22 new mines were collieries, as also were 16 of the 18 mines abandoned. Six of the collieries opened or re-opened were in Lanarkshire, 3 in Glamorganshire, 2 in Durham, and 1 each in Lancashire, Derbyshire, Salop, Flint, Carmarthenshire, and Fife. Of those abandoned, 3 were in Lancashire, and 2 each in Durham, Yorkshire, Glamorgan, and Lanark.

COAL:—New Mines.

Durham.—Hunwick (re-opening of Busty Seam, Coal and Fireclay), near Auckland; Trindon (re-opening of Harvey Seam), Trindon (2). **Lancashire.**—Hindley Field (Crombouke Seam), Wigan. **Derbyshire.**—Bole Hill (Silkstone Seam), Back Lane, Calow, Chesterfield. **Salop.**—Forge Pit, Old Park Colliery (seeking for Double Coal), Dawley. **Flintshire.**—New North Leeswood (Brassey Seam), Mold. **Glamorganshire.**—Danyderi, Merthyr Vale; West Llantwit, Red Ash, Beddan; Cwmavon (3). **Carmarthenshire.**—Pembrey. **Lanarkshire.**—Douglas Colliery (two new pits), Douglas; Glentore (Lower Drumgray Seam), Airdrie; *Carbarns (Ell, Main and Splint Seams), Motherwell; Milton, Carlisle; Comedie, Millerston; Lochwood (Kiltongue Seam), Coatbridge (6). **Fifeshire.**—Wemyss (two new pits, Chemiss Seam), Wemyss.

IRON ORE:—

Cumberland.—Eskett No. 5 Mine, Workington; Parkside No. 3 Mine, Frizington (2). **Staffordshire.**—Park Mill (cleaning out two old shafts), Ipstones.

ALUM CLAY (BAUXITE):—

Co. Antrim.—Cargan, Ballymena.

TIN AND COPPER ORE:—

Cornwall.—Wheal Castles, near St. Just.

COAL:—

Mines Abandoned.

Durham.—Durham Main† (Low Main, Hutton and Harvey Seams), Durham; Burnhope† (Harvey Seam), Lanchester (2). **Yorkshire.**—Lundhill (Abdy and Melton Field Seams), Barnsley; Lane Side (Adwalton Black Bed), Leeds (2). **Lancashire.**—Horncliffe Moor† (Mountain Seam), Rawtenstall; Laund (Mountain Seam), Accrington; Arley Mine, Ince Hall Colliery, Wigan (3). **Derbyshire.**—Apperknowle (Blackshale Seam), Unstone, near Sheffield. **Salop.**—Spout Pit, Old Park Colliery (Double Coal Seam), Dawley. **Staffordshire.**—Essington Farm (Deep Coal Seam), Bloxwich. **Glamorganshire.**—Wenallt (Wenallt Seam), Aberdulais; Treshenkin (No. 2 Rhondda Seam), Abergwynfi (2). **Flintshire.**—New North Leeswood (Hollin Seam), Mold. **Lanarkshire.**—West Glentore Colliery (Virtuewell Seam), Airdrie; East Benhar, No. 23 Pit, Shotts (2). **Stirlingshire.**—Glen Cleugh Mine (Coal and Fireclay) Callander Colliery, Falkirk.

IRON ORE:—

Antrim.—Cullinane, Glenarm.

LEAD ORE:—

Cumberland.—Dorthgill Mine, Alston.

* Re-opening of Old Shafts. † Discontinued.

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Communications respecting the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to:—

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR,

44 Parliament Street, London, S.W.

All letters respecting advertisements, or the purchase of copies of the GAZETTE, should be sent to the Publishers:—

VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & CO., Limited,

31-37 Cursitor-street, Chancery-lane, London, E.C.

Copies may also be obtained from bookstalls and newsagents.

Wholesale Agents in all principal towns of Great Britain and Ireland.

Terms of Subscription—2s. per Annum, Post Free.

Printed and Published for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by VEALE, & Co. LTD., 31 to 37 Cursitor-street, London, E.C.—May 1895.