

THE Labour Gazette

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

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GENERAL ADVANTAGES OF THE ARMY.

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

Soldiers who become good Marksmen can obtain valuable Money Prizes.

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

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

AGE for the REGULAR ARMY, 18 to 25 Years.

TERMS OF SERVICE.

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

After 8 years' service a soldier of good character may be specially allowed, under certain conditions, to join the Reserve, if the requirements of the Service admit.

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

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

PAY AND DEFERRED PAY.

Warrant Officers	5/- to 6/- a day
Non-Commissioned Officers above the rank of Corporal	2/- " 4/6 "
Corporals and Bombardiers	1/8 " 2/8 "
Gunners, Privates, &c.	1/- " 1/9 "

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

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

DISCHARGE AND PENSION.

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

After 21 years' service and upwards, Soldiers become entitled to pensions on discharge, varying from 3d. to 1s. a day, according to their rank and length of service. Soldiers discharged on account of wounds or injuries received in action, or disability caused by Military duty, are entitled to a pension, varying with the extent of the disability and with the length of service.

ARMY RESERVE.—Soldiers transferred to the Reserve receive pay at 6d. a day until the expiration of their term of service. On completing 12 years' service, for 4 years, receiving pay at 4d. a day during that period.

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

GENERAL ADVANTAGES OF THE MILITIA.

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

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

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

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

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

TERMS OF SERVICE.

Original enlistment 6 years.

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

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

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

DRILL AND TRAINING.

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

	Drill on Enlistment, or Preliminary Drill before Musketry or Gunnery Drill.	Preliminary Musketry or Gunnery Drill previous to Annual Training.	Annual Training.	Total during the Year.
During 1st year	49 days	15 days	27 days	90 days
Following Years	...	...	27 days	27 days

PAY AND BOUNTY.

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

	Artillery	Engineers	Infantry	Medical Staff Corps
Sergeants	s. d. 2 7	s. d. 2 7	s. d. 1 9	s. d. 1 9
Sergeants	3 2	3 3	2 4	2 8
(After discharge from the Army as Warrant or N.C. Officers.)				
Corporals	1 5	1 5	1 3	1 3
Bombardiers	1 3	—	—	—
Gunners and Privates ...	1 2	1 1	1 0	1 0

During the first year of service the rate of Bounty varies from £1 10s. to £4, and during subsequent years it varies from £1 to £1 10s., with an extra £1 if the man belongs to the Militia Reserve.

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

In addition to the above, Militiamen receive a Bounty of £1 10s. on re-enlistment or re-engagement. Men discharged from the Army or Army Reserve who join the Militia within 3 years of discharge also receive a Bounty of £1 10s., of which 15s. is paid on re-enlistment and 15s. when the man joins for training.

EMPLOYMENT ON RETURN TO CIVIL LIFE.

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

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

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

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

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

CENTRAL OFFICE: 12 Buckingham Street, Strand, London.

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

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

The Department is able in the present number to give a brief summary of the statistics of Trade Unions for the year 1892. The statistical tables themselves, with the report of the Chief Labour Correspondent thereon, are now in the press.

An extension of the statistics of employment usually published in the GAZETTE is made this month, by the inclusion of particulars as to monthly changes in the number of pig iron furnaces in blast and persons employed in connection therewith, supplied by the owners of a large number of furnaces.

An account of the extent and results of Co-operative Farming in 1892 and 1893 respectively is given on p. 143.

A Report on the volume and effects of Immigration from Eastern Europe into the United Kingdom, prepared jointly by the Labour Department and the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, will be ready shortly.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

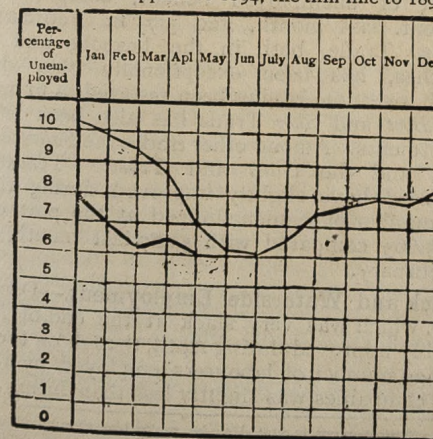
General Statistics of Employment.—The Labour Market continues to be disturbed by disputes, of which no fewer than 113 broke out in April, chiefly, however, of a local character and of but short duration. On the whole, the state of employment shows an upward tendency, though not very marked, and partly at least seasonal in its character.

In the 45 trade societies, with an aggregate membership of 352,806, making returns, 21,669 (or 6.1 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of April, compared with 6.5 per cent. for March, and 6.3 per cent. in the 43 societies making returns for February.

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

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

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



Employment in Various Industries.—*Coal Mining.*—Information received from collieries employing 271,796 persons, shows that the average number of days worked by those collieries during April was 19½ (or 4.6 days per week), compared with 20½ (or 4.7 days per week) in March. The figures refer to the number of days worked by the collieries, and do not imply that all the miners employed worked the full number of days.

Iron Ore Mining.—Returns received from iron ore mines in Lancashire and Cumberland employing 5,143 persons, show that the average number of days worked by the mines in April was the same as in March, viz., 5½ days per week.

In the *Pig Iron Trade*, taking the country as a whole, employment has somewhat improved. Reports from owners of nearly three-quarters of the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom in 1893 show that, out of these, 10 furnaces have been re-lit during April, and one blown out. Of the increase in the number of workpeople thus employed, over three-quarters is accounted for by Cleveland and Scotland.

Employment in the *Steel Trade* has improved in most parts, but in a few districts steel-workers are slack.

The *Engineering and Metal Trades* show a slight diminution in the number of unemployed, the percentage in unions connected with these trades having fallen from 9.1 to 8.5.

Shipbuilding is fairly active on the Clyde, but over the whole country the proportion of unemployed in unions connected with these trades has not diminished, the percentage remaining 13.3.

The improvement reported last month in the *Building Trades* has been maintained, the percentage of unemployed in unions connected with these trades having further fallen from 3.5 to 2.8.

In the *Furnishing and Woodworking Trades* an improvement is also noticeable, the percentage of unemployed members of unions having fallen from 4.2 to 3.2.

The *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* continue quiet, a slight improvement in some branches being balanced by a falling-off in others. The percentage of unemployed members of unions has, however, been reduced from 5.4 to 5.0.

Both the bespoke and ready-made *Clothing Trades* have been fully employed, and in some cases overtime has been worked. The same applies to the *Boot and Shoe Trade*.

The *Cotton Trade* shows signs of a slightly downward tendency, though as a rule the operatives are fairly well employed. Employment in the *Wool and Worsted Trade* has slightly improved.

The *Carpet and Hosiery Trades* have somewhat improved; the *Silk Trade* is still quiet, while in the *Lace Trade* short time as a rule is being worked.

The number of *Seamen* shipped during April at the principal ports was nearly 11 per cent. more than in April 1893, but the supply of seamen at some of the ports still exceeds the demand. The *Fishing Industry*, judged by the value of the catch, continues above the average at the largest fishing ports, but it has been below at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Plymouth.

Dock and Riverside labourers have been fairly employed at the principal ports, but in London the average

number employed, though considerably more than in March, was slightly less than in April 1893.

Agricultural labourers in most districts are now well employed, and a slight seasonal advance in wages is reported in several districts.

Reports of Trade Societies and Branches.—Of the 45 societies making returns, 17 describe the trade as "good," 9 as "moderate," and 19 as "bad." From the monthly reports published by many societies, and from materials specially furnished, the following additional particulars of the state of employment in the industries named are collected:—

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	April.		Per-centage of Members for April.	Per-centage of Members for March.
	Branches	Members		
Engineering and Shipbuilding—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	87	11,559	8	6
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	360	38,778	25	26
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	685	103,277	67	68
Total ...	1,132	153,614	100	100
Building Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	450	25,219	23	17
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	691	49,684	43	27
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	356	27,976	27	56
Total ...	1,527	102,879	100	100
Boot and Shoe Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	29	31,062	76	4
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	13	5,301	13	73
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	15	4,757	11	23
Total ...	57	41,120	100	100
Printing and Bookbinding Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	72	5,888	18	25
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	54	21,402	63	25
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	28	6,555	19	50
Total ...	154	33,845	100	100
Furnishing & Woodworking Trades				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	91	5,454	29	78
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	157	10,263	54	58
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	31	3,473	17	26
Total ...	279	19,190	100	100

Trade Disputes.—The disputes of the month show an increase upon the large number recorded in March, no less than 113 fresh strikes and lock-outs having been reported as occurring in April, compared with 100 in the previous month, and 73 in April 1893. Of these disputes 30 arose in the Building Trades, 19 each in Mining and Textile Industries, 13 in Metal Trades, 12 in Clothing Trades, 8 in Shipbuilding Trades, and 6 each in Seafaring and Miscellaneous Industries.

Particulars obtained with regard to 90 of these disputes show that the number of persons engaged was 19,434. 42 of these disputes, affecting upwards of 3,200 persons, together with 26 other disputes, affecting about 1,600 persons, which began before April, were known to be still unsettled at the end of the month. 18 disputes, however, involving 2,549 persons, which began before April were brought to a settlement, including 2 of over 12 months' standing.

The most important disputes were the strikes of 1,450 cotton weavers at Nelson, of about 2,000 miners in various collieries in the Airdrie district, and of upwards of 500 pattern-makers on the North-East coast.

Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour.—During the month 128 changes in wages and hours have been reported, of which 94 were changes in wages and 34 reductions in hours. Particulars as to the number of persons directly affected by alterations in wages were given in 87 cases, of which 72 were increases and 15 decreases, the approximate number of workpeople who had an advance in wages being 12,000, while 6,000, mainly consisting of Scottish miners, suffered reductions. 5,300 persons were affected by the 30 reductions of hours of labour, for which the numbers were given.

Pauperism.—The returns received from the selected

districts show that the number relieved on a given day in the middle of April was 317,620, or 217 per 10,000 of population as compared with 227 per 10,000 in March. As compared with April 1893 the figures for last month show an increase of 12,506, or 9 per 10,000.

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

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

District.	1894.			1893.		
	February.	March.	April.	February.	March.	April.
Metropolis ...	253	243	231	240	232	221
West Ham ...	278	283	258	234	241	225
Other Districts (England & Wales) ...	219	216	206	209	210	200
Scotland ...	202	203	198	190	190	185
Ireland ...	273	269	258	264	261	249
TOTAL (Selected Districts)	234	227	217	219	218	205

Emigration and Immigration.—During April, the number of British passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe was 16,591 as compared with 10,316 in the previous month, and 29,169 in April 1893. The alien immigration into this country was also much less last month than in April 1893, the numbers in the two months being 8,867 and 17,581 respectively.

II.—EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—There has again been some falling off during the month in the condition of the *Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades*, to judge by the returns from the various trade unions. 81 branches of 9 unions, with an aggregate membership of 13,500, report 1,094 (or 8.1 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 7.6 per cent. last month and 6.4 per cent. in February.

The *Building Trades* continue to improve with the advance of the spring season, though the plumbers are still less busy than the other trades. 133 branches of 4 unions, with an aggregate membership of 10,314, return 440 (or 4.3 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 5.0 per cent. last month, and 5.5 per cent. in February. In 8 societies 57 branches, with 3,647 members, describe trade as "good"; 131, with 12,763 members, as "moderate," and 69 with 7,074 members, as "bad." Little change has taken place in the *Furnishing and Woodworking Trades*, though, on the whole, the tendency is an upward one, 23 branches of 5 unions, with an aggregate membership of 3,650, returning 194 (or 5.3 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 5.6 last month and 5.9 in February.

The *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* are still depressed, though the returns from trade unions show some improvement. 11 unions with an aggregate membership of 17,731, return 685 (or 3.9 per cent.) as in receipt of unemployed benefit, compared with 5.1 per cent. last month, and 5.7 in February.* The *Clothing Trade*, both in the bespoke and wholesale branches, has been exceptionally busy during the month, overtime having been resorted to in many cases. The *Boot and Shoe Trade* has also been brisk in all departments. Among other trades the *Sailmakers* are still busy, and the *Glass and Tobacco Trades*, though depressed, have slightly improved during the month. The number of seamen shipped at the port of London was 5,663, compared with 5,487 last month, and 5,149 in February.

Dock and Waterside Employment.—Dock employment, which was very slack at the end of March, has sensibly improved during April, though on the whole the average number of labourers employed by the various dock companies was slightly less than during April 1893.

* The improvement is stated to be really less than is indicated by these returns, several members no longer being in receipt of unemployed benefit, because they have exhausted it, and not because they have obtained work.

The deficiency, however, is more than accounted for by the London and India Docks, both Millwall and Surrey Docks showing an increase of employment as compared with the corresponding period of last year, as well as with the previous month.

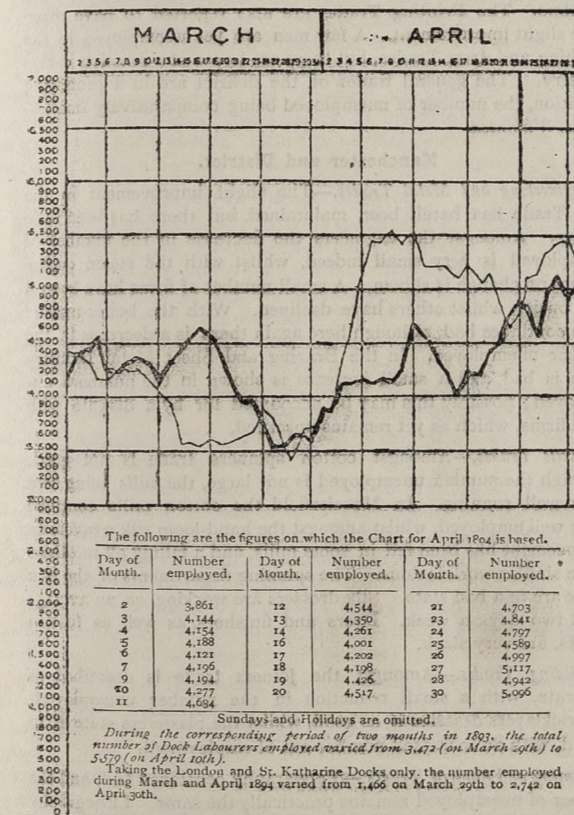
The total estimated number of dock labourers employed by all the Dock Companies in the Port of London, for each week in April, was as follows:—

	Estimated average daily number of Dock Labourers engaged by the Dock Companies.		Increase in April 1894.	Decrease in April 1894.
	1894.	1893.		
1st week of April ...	5,954	6,308	—	354
2nd " " ...	6,453	6,904	—	451
3rd " " ...	6,299	6,701	—	402
4th " " ...	7,097	6,970	—	37
Average for April ...	6,428	6,721	—	293
Ditto for March ...	6,137	5,529	—	617

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

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

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



Employment at the wharves along the riverside at Wapping has been good, mainly owing to a revival in the Coasting Trade, but the wharves in Thames Street have not been so well employed, and on the south side of the river, except at one or two wharves, there has been great want of work. The bonded warehouses (especially the tea department) have been slack. Complaints have been made among the men employed at the London Docks with regard to the amount of the "plus" which they have received on the discharge of recent ships. A series of meetings at the Docks have been held by the Dockers' Union with regard to these alleged grievances.

The coal-porters (winchmen and backers) report that the state of employment has been slack during April, but there is an improvement at the beginning of May. The watermen and lightermen report a marked improvement in employment.

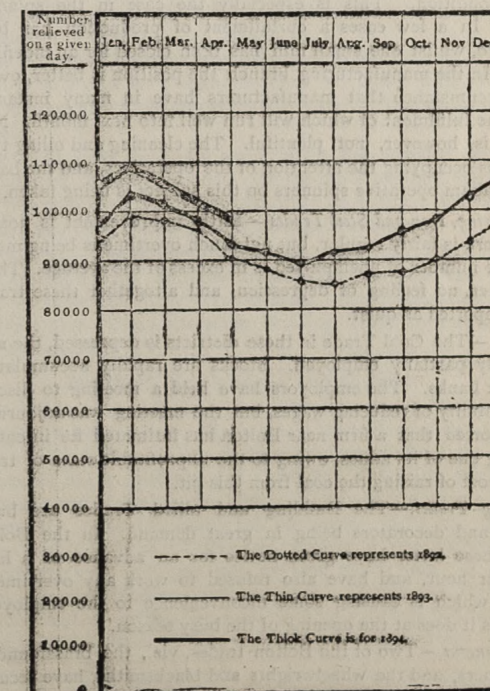
Disputes and Trade Movements.—Three fresh disputes (none of an important character) have been reported during April, affecting dock labourers, projectile workers and bamboo-workers respectively. In each case the numbers affected were small, and in the two first-named a settlement was effected almost at once. The disputes at an East End match factory and a West End place of amusement, reported in March, remain unsettled. During the month the cabdrivers have made efforts to improve their position.

Employment and Distress.—The effects of winter slackness of employment have now disappeared. During April there was an increase in the number of workpeople and a decrease in the number of employers who applied at the Chelsea, Battersea and St. Pancras Labour Bureaux. 727 workpeople were registered, and applications were received from 182 employers, as compared with 695 new applications from workers and 205 from employers in March. The figures relating to the Islington Labour Bureau have been added this month to the table on page 147, bringing up the total applications from workpeople to 931, and from employers to 267. Work was found through the four Bureaux for 352 persons, including 179 through the Battersea, Chelsea and St. Pancras Bureaux, as compared with 202 last month.

Pauperism.—The proportion of paupers in London per 10,000 of the population in the middle of April had fallen to 231, compared with 243 for the previous month, and 221 for April 1893. In West Ham, the proportion was 258 in April, compared with 283 in the previous month, and 225 in April 1893. The changes in the different districts of London and in West Ham compared with the previous month are shown in the following table:—

	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	April 1894.	March 1894.	April 1894.	March 1894.	April 1894.	March 1894.
West District ...	135	143	26	27	161	170
North " ...	132	137	90	98	222	235
Central " ...	238	203	138	140	426	443
East " ...	180	197	63	68	243	255
South " ...	127	132	106	115	233	247
West Ham ...	46	48	212	235	258	283

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



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

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Durham.*—Several pits are reported as working very irregularly. Efforts to restrict the out-put in some districts have been the cause of much dispute. The stated number of out-of-work pitmen is about 1,000. *Northumberland.*—Collieries here are working full time, except a few house-coal producing pits. The average number of working days is 10 per fortnight; owing to "unremunerative working" two collieries have closed "seams," and discharged 50 men. The question of reducing wages, in consequence of prices having fallen, is still pending.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—*On the Tyne.*—Shipbuilding firms upon the whole continue fairly well employed. Three of the principal firms, however, are still discharging men. Future prospects, at present, only appear moderate. Orders are reported as scarcer. The percentage of idle shipbuilders is 14.5, as against 14.8, showing little change. Engineering work, generally, is somewhat retarded owing to the dispute of the moulders and pattern-makers. The number of unemployed engineers is 967, or 21.2 per cent., showing an increase attributable no doubt to the above cause. *On the Wear.*—Shipbuilding at present is good. There are a few firms which find difficulty in obtaining new, to replace completed, contracts. Repairing yards, dry docks and forges are fairly well employed. The percentage of out-of-work iron shipbuilders is 14.4, as against 12.5. The Engineering Industry on this river is also dislocated, the percentage of unemployed engineers having risen from 8.2 to 12.6. On both rivers the shipyard joiners are moderately employed, the shipwrights not so well, the numbers out of work respectively being about 6 and 15 per cent. Steel, iron, angle and tinplate mills report little change.

Building Trades.—These trades maintain their usual activity. The bricklayers, joiners, plasterers and masons, especially the two former, are busy. In Sunderland labourers are seeking an advance of wages.

Miscellaneous.—Employment for sea-going men is reported as fairly good on both rivers, although several vessels are "laid up idle." Riverside labourers have been in rather better demand. The Tyne wherry men are still out on strike for improved conditions for the wherry or barge owners; "lighterage arrangements," however, exist between the men and the shipowners. The Plate Glass and Bottle Trades, especially the latter, are good, one firm on the Wear having started an extra "bottle tank," with two sets of men. The chemical, cement, lead and rope works are moderately employed. The printers and bookbinders are dull, especially the former, with about 6 per cent. out of employment. The Cabinet-making Trades show improvement.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Oldham, Bolton and District.

Textile Trades.—The Cotton Trade is still in a somewhat unsatisfactory condition. This is especially the case in the spinning section. In a few cases a curtailment of production has been resorted to, whilst one small mill has been closed for an indefinite period. In the manufacturing branch the position is better, owing to the circumstance that manufacturers have in many instances orders, the fulfilment of which will run well into next month. New business is, however, not plentiful. The cleaning and oiling time question is occupying the attention of the operatives, and the ballot of the Oldham operative spinners on this subject is being taken.

Engineering, Iron and Steel Trades.—Little improvement is noticeable. Work is fairly regular, but not much overtime is being made, whilst the number of unemployed is in excess of the average. There is, however, no feeling of depression, and altogether these trades may be reported as quiet.

Mining.—The Coal Trade in these districts is depressed, the men being only partially employed. Stocks are rapidly accumulating on the pit banks. The employers have held a meeting to discuss the desirability of reducing wages, but the meeting was adjourned. It is reported that a firm near Bolton has intimated its intention of closing one of its mines, owing to the unprofitable state of trade and the cost of raising the coal from this pit.

Building Trades.—The Building and allied Trades are busy, painters and decorators being in great demand. In the Bolton district these latter have given notice for an advance of a half-penny per hour, and have also refused to work any overtime, a decision which is causing some inconvenience to the employers, coming as it does at the opening of the busy season.

Miscellaneous.—Two of the Bolton trades, viz., the brassfounders and finishers, and the wheelwrights and blacksmiths, have secured an advance of wages, coupled with a reduction in hours.

On the whole, in these districts employment is regular, although the number of unemployed in a few industries is rather high.—*J. T. Fielding.*

Burnley, Accrington and District.

Textile Trades.—The Textile Trades show very little change. In several districts a number of looms are temporarily stopped for want of warps. Manufacturers are beginning to complain of want of orders, though several are under contract for months to come. The settlement of the twisters' and drawers' dispute in the Blackburn district gave great satisfaction, and the workpeople engaged in the same industry in the Preston district are now also asking for an advance in their wages. The dispute as to prices paid for weaving stave work in the Nelson district was settled after a week's stoppage, the employers agreeing with the operatives' representatives, on a list of prices for weaving that class of goods. The dispute affected upwards of 1,450 workpeople, and the list agreed upon is an advance on the old rate of wages. The weavers' dispute in the Bacup district still continues.

Building Trades.—These trades are now fairly brisk, few men being out of employment. In one locality overtime is being worked. The Painting and Decorating Trades are now very brisk, overtime in many localities being carried on, and first-class workmen are in great demand.

Miscellaneous.—The stone quarrymen, whose wages were reduced 10 per cent. two years ago, are agitating for a return to the old rates. The men engaged in the Tailoring Trades are now fully employed; in some cases they have been asked, but refused to work overtime. The Printing Trades are also reported to have made some slight improvement. A few men are yet unemployed in the Machine and Iron Trades, but there are hopes of a reaction in this industry. The general trades of the district are in a promising condition, the number of unemployed being comparatively small.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The slight improvement in the Iron Trade has barely been maintained, but there has been little change. Amongst the engineers the decrease in the number of unemployed is very small indeed, whilst with the steam engine makers no change is shown. A small number of firms have been a little busier, whilst others have declined. With the boiler-makers trade continues bad, although here again there is a decrease in the number unemployed. In the Brazing and Sheet Metal Industry trade is bad, and a small increase is shown in the numbers unemployed; possibly this may be accounted for by a dispute with three firms, which as yet remains unsettled.

Textile Trades.—Amongst cotton spinners trade is not good, although the number unemployed is not large, the mills being kept fairly well running. In Macclesfield the cotton mills continue fairly well employed, whilst amongst the hand-loom silk weavers an improvement has been felt in some mills, and a falling off in others where similar work is done. The spinning departments of the Silk Trade are in a bad state. Silk dressers are working on an average about two days a week. Dyers and finishers, as well as fustian cutters, are very slack.

Building Trades.—Amongst the joiners trade is described as moderate, with a small reduction in the number unemployed; the bricklayers describe it as good, whilst the plasterers state it to be bad, with an increased number out of employment.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Typography continues bad, and the number of unemployed remains practically the same. Lithography is still much depressed, but the numbers out of employment are a little less. With the bookbinders also trade is a little better, and the number unemployed a little less.

Miscellaneous.—Amongst the trades and industries in which females are mainly, if not exclusively, employed, the following represents the condition of trade so far as can be ascertained. Cap-makers are very busy, as usual at this time of year, but in all probability the season will end at Whitsuntide. Amongst mantle-makers (both ready-made and bespoke) trade is moderate, and it is not expected to revive until about two months hence. Umbrella making is bad in both home and shipping houses. Trade is good in the ready-made tailoring departments; a number of extra workers have been employed, and overtime is being worked. In cabinet-making trade is moderate, with a diminution in the number unemployed. The dyers report no change. The Coachmaking Trade is good, with none unemployed who seek for work.

In Macclesfield those engaged in the Building Trades are mostly working short time, whilst the Iron Trades are in a most depressed condition. The only industry in Macclesfield that can be called busy is that of painting.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—There has been little improvement in the condition of dock labour. Towards the close of the month, however, a slight change for the better was observable. There has also been a slight improvement in the Timber Trade.

Shipping.—Seamen and firemen are more in demand, owing to the resumption of the weekly sailings of some large Atlantic passenger steamers laid idle during the winter. Wages remain the same, but notice has been sent to the employers for an advance. Employment on the Mersey and on the inland canals is only moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The Shipbuilding Trade is only moderate, but ship painters are slightly busier. The boiler-makers and riveters have asked for a reduction of hours. The engineers are but moderately employed.

Building Trades.—There has been a marked improvement in the Building Trade in nearly all branches. Bricklayers and joiners are asking for a reduction of hours, and in some cases it has been granted. In the St. Helens district the question is to be submitted to arbitration.

Metal Trades.—The moulders and whitesmiths report no change. Brass finishers, metal planers and slotters are moderately busy.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Work is somewhat more regular in the Chemical Trade than in March, except at Northwich, where a dispute is still pending. The Glass-making Industry in the St. Helens district is very quiet.

Mining and Quarrying.—The Coal Mining Industry is very disturbed. Stocks are increasing on the pit banks, and the employers in many places are pressing for a reduction in wages.—*J. Sexton.*

A report from *Windsor* states that the number of unemployed amongst those engaged in the shipment of salt has slightly decreased. Other trades have been up to the average, with the exception of the Chemical Industry at Middlewich, which is depressed, a large number of men being out of employment.

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Marine engineering continues fairly busy, fresh orders having been booked lately, yet there are a great number of all classes out of employment. The shipbuilders complain of having a large number of unemployed on their books, with no immediate prospect of relief.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Pig-iron Trade is very slack, and stocks are increasing, with no advance in prices. At an iron works in the vicinity notice has been given to the blast furnacemen of a 10 per cent. reduction. The Steel Trade is very dull, but an order has been booked for a few thousand tons of ship plates, which will keep the men going for a short time.

Iron and Coal Mining.—Iron ore mining in the district is very slack, a number being in want of work, the demand for ore being rather limited and the price very low. In the Workington district coal mining is now very dull as, owing to the refusal of the men to accept a reduction, two of the pits have been closed.

Shipping and Railways.—In shipping there is but little doing. Railway traffic does not improve much, and the employees in the workshops are only working 45 hours per week.

Building Trades.—These trades are fairly well employed. In the middle of April a large number of joiners were discharged; some at once left the district, obtaining employment elsewhere; the others have all been taken on again. The plumbers, painters and plasterers are busy.

Miscellaneous.—The Tailoring Trade is busy. The Printing and kindred Trades are moderate. The paper and pulp works are busy. The Baking and Confectionery Trades are getting slack. The wagon works are still closed. The jute works are only moderately employed.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues good in this trade. All the yards, with one exception, are working; some are very busy, and nearly every berth is occupied. At Whitby, however, owing to the work not being ready, very few men have yet found employment. At Hartlepool the moulders' dispute has caused a number of men to be stopped at some of the yards.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Most of the works are fully employed, and during the month deliveries have been on a large scale, but there is an absence of new business, and prices do not improve. There is, however, plenty of work at present. The blast furnacemen are seeking the adoption of the 8 hours' system and a 24 hours' stand. One firm in the district, employing about 180 workpeople, has granted this, and others are said to be favourable. A meeting for the 9th May has been arranged between the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association and the delegates of the men to

discuss the question.* The Finished Iron Trade has not quite maintained the improvement noted last month, and prices are slightly weaker. Other departments are much the same as in March.

Engineering is not so good as last month, the percentage of unemployed having increased, notably at the Hartlepoons, but this is no doubt owing to the moulders' and pattern-makers' dispute. The fitters, turners, smiths and other branches have withdrawn their demand for increased wages for the present.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners continue well employed, and are seeking an advance of wages. The employers have offered to submit the question to arbitration before an independent umpire, and this will be referred to the men for consideration.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report trade as very moderate, no improvement being as yet perceptible. Dock and riverside labour has been fairly good at Middlesbrough, but is now quieter.

Building Trades.—These trades are fairly good for the time of year all over the district. At Hartlepool a builders' labourers' dispute has occurred, a few employers having declined to concede a rise of 3d. an hour granted by the others.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and allied Trades are reported as not so good as in March. Other trades report no change.—*A. Main.*

Leeds and District.

Metal Trades.—Engineering has shown but slight improvement. Nearly 100 men have been taken off the out-of-work list. Trade is also considerably better amongst the ironfounders, and the amount paid for "donation" benefit has decreased by upwards of one-half. The stovegrate workers are rather quiet, with about 5 per cent. unemployed. The machine workers are slack, short time being worked, and an unusual number being out of work. Boiler-making has improved sufficiently to absorb a few of the unemployed.

Clothing Trades.—The Ready-made Clothing Trade has been fairly busy, with a moderate demand for labour. The season has not, however, been up to the average, and the amount of overtime worked has been much less than usual at this period. Bespoke tailoring has considerably improved, and some shops are very busy. The Boot and Shoe Trade generally is quiet. Slipper-makers have been busy on the cheaper class of goods, but workers on the best makes have been only partially employed.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers are busier; the joiners are moderately well employed. The plasterers have been rather slack, but prospects were better towards the end of the month. The painters are busy, and builders' labourers are in fair request. Two or three small disputes have occurred during the month, one being still unsettled.

Glass Bottle Trade.—The general Bottle Industry has been good, but in the flint glass or medical bottle branch 40 or 50 men have been thrown out of work, and several more are under notice.

Leather Trades.—The tanners report trade as fairly good, with no unemployed, the curriers as exceptionally slack, and with upwards of 10 per cent. unemployed. The leather shavers are well employed, with none out of work.

Textile Trades.—There has been an improvement in the Woollen Trade, but only of a very slight nature. With the willeys and fettlers matters are rather worse than in March. The stuff pressers are quiet.

Mining.—At some coal pits employment has dropped down to three and even two days a week. On the other hand, at one of the largest pits men have regularly worked five days since the dispute, which is a day more than had been averaged previously.

Miscellaneous.—The cabinet-makers are pretty brisk. The coach-makers are not so busy, and the brushmakers continue very slack. The dyers show very little improvement. The lithographers are moderately busy. The Letterpress Printing Trade continues very slack.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Textile Trades.—The Woollen Trade in and around Huddersfield has improved but slightly. Two firms have during the month worked night and day, but one of them has now ceased night work, and the other has stopped a few of the looms, not being able with the spinning and scribbling machinery to keep all the looms going, night and day. One firm which has been going night and day at Marsden is still doing so. There are, however, a large number still out of employment, and some only working short time. Trade in the heavy woollen district is still very quiet. There are, however, exceptions, and one or two firms are working very late hours in the preparing departments. Trade in plain worsted coatings is still

* The following reply was given to the workmen:—"The Ironmasters will give their very earnest consideration to the scheme presented by Mr. Carlton (the workmen's secretary) and reply at as early a date as possible."

very quiet in Huddersfield, Halifax and Bradford, but if there is a change at all it is for the better. In the Fancy Worsted Trade no improvement is perceptible at present, but the prospects are more hopeful. The Cotton Trade is reported to be very fair in most districts, and the Silk Trade, especially round Brighouse, is looking up a little, one firm which has been working short time for the last twelve months having started full time.

Metal Trades.—The Iron Trade is still in a very depressed condition, and engineers and ironfounders make unfavourable reports. In Halifax a slight improvement has taken place, many of the tool shops being on full time. The wire workers of Brighouse are still improving.

Building Trades.—These trades report little change. In Halifax several large jobs are nearing completion, with no new orders coming in.

Miscellaneous.—Dyeing and skip and basket-making are rather quiet; tailoring is busy, but with no great demand for men. Painters are fairly well employed. Printing in all its branches is unchanged.—A. Gee.

Yorkshire Coal Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Mining.—There has not been much change in the Coal Trade. House and gas coal collieries are working from one to four days a week. Steam and export collieries are working four, five and six days a week. Notice has been given of the closing of a colliery owing to bad trade and expensive working; if carried into effect the closure will affect 450 to 500 men and boys. A dispute at a colliery near Rotherham, which has been going on for nearly a year, has now been settled; 800 men were originally affected, and about 100 were out of work at the close of the dispute. Notice was given to the underground workmen at a clay works for a reduction of 20 per cent. in wages. On the expiration of the notices the owners offered to be content with a 10 per cent. reduction, which the men refused, but have now submitted to a reduction of 7½ per cent. The Council of the Yorkshire Miners' Association have passed a resolution recommending all miners getting coal by the ton to abstain from working on play days, and not to work more than one shift in 24 hours, except to do special work, such as heading out fallen-in places, keeping the airway clear and opening out new work.

Miscellaneous.—The Metal Trades report little change. There has been a slight improvement in the Barnsley Linen Trade.—J. Wadsworth.

A report from Castleford states that the Glass Trade is about the same as in March. The medical bottle branch is not so good, some firms having stopped their workpeople. The potters are still working good time, and the chemical works and brickyards are busy. The Building Trades continue well employed. Unskilled labourers find it difficult to get work.

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—The makers of armour plates, patent flues and tubes for marine boilers are well employed. There is also a fair amount of work in steel cranks, shafts, large steel forgings, and Siemens' steel smelting. In the Bessemer steel departments trade is quieter, whilst crucible cast steel makers are slack. The engineers report trade as 'bad, but slightly improved, with about 8 per cent. out of employment. The makers of steel castings are much depressed. The ironfounders have somewhat fuller employment. The makers of railway springs and of conical and volute springs are fairly busy. Puddlers, shinglers, ball furnace men, and mould mill men are very slack. In the rolling mills a fair amount of work is being done in wire rods, and cycle tyre steel, but other classes of rolling are very quiet. Forge and hammermen employed on heavy work are well employed, but light tilers are only slack. Boiler makers are fairly busy. The wire drawers have only a few men on short time. A steel foundry employing about 500 hands adopted the eight hours' working day on the 27th inst. In Rotherham and Masborough the Iron and Steel Trades are very slack; in stove grates, fenders and baths, there is increased activity.

Tools and Cutlery.—Engineers' and joiners' tool makers are very short of work, with a few exceptions. In miners' tools trade is quiet. The steel spade, fork and shovel makers report trade as fairly good. Scythe, sickle and reaper makers are busy. The Cutlery Trades continue very slack. The table-knife makers and the pen and pocket-knife cutlers report trade as 'bad'; one of the principal houses has put all its workmen on three days per week. The Razor Trade is also very slack. In files the trade fluctuates considerably. The dispute in the Sheep-Shear Trade still continues.

Building Trades.—The masons and bricklayers are fairly well employed. The carpenters and joiners have a few men unemployed. The plumbers are moderately busy; the painters are applying for an extra penny per hour.

Miscellaneous.—Some houses in the Silver and Electro Trades are slightly busier, but on the whole these trades are bad. The silver chasers say they were never worse off, especially in the high class work. The silver workers are promoting an Art Guild, and propose to hold an exhibition shortly. The Britannia metal smiths are slack. The bookbinders are fully employed. There are still 50 men employed on the Corporation relief works.

At Rotherham and Masborough there is a fair amount of work being done in the Brass Trade, especially in plumbers' and common gas and chandelier work. The wagon builders are also better employed. One firm at Rotherham, employing 400 men and boys, has adopted the eight hours' day experimentally for one year. Another firm proposes to introduce the system.—S. Uttley.

Hull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The state of employment in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades is worse. The demand for all classes of steam fishing vessels still gives employment to a number of men, but the larger shipbuilding and engineering yards have very few orders. The completion of vessels ordered by one of the railway companies for their Continental passenger service is resulting in the addition of a number to the list of unemployed in the trades affected. Repair work is not very brisk. The percentage of unemployed members in the trades connected with shipbuilding ranges from nil to about 13 per cent., the boiler-makers, shipwrights and joiners making the highest returns.

Shipping and Seamen.—The amount of tonnage entering the ports has been very fair. The opening out of the Baltic and other North Europe ports has caused a demand for seamen, but there is a large surplus of seagoing labour still unemployed in the ports. Employment at the docks has been equal to the average for this season.

Fishing Trade.—The earnings of the smack hands are not at all good. The steam trawlers are doing a little better. Fish is very scarce just now, except small plaice, which are being caught in large quantities, but the prices for this class of fish are generally very low. Haddocks are scarce, making work in the curing houses very unreliable for those who depend upon haddock smoking for employment. Some of the long line steam fishing vessels that go at this season to Iceland and Faroe have brought fair catches of halibut, &c., to market; others have only brought very poor catches.

Building Trades.—Employment in the Building Trade has been affected by a scarcity of bricks, but a large supply arrived at the end of the month, considerably reducing the number of unemployed. The recent activity in the shipyards took up all the surplus labour connected with the Joiners' Trade, but this having abated, about 10 per cent. of the joiners are unemployed. Trade is slack with the mill sawyers and woodcutting machinists. One large mill has stopped running.

Seed Crushing, Oil, Paint and Colour Works.—Employment in the seed crushing mills has been very bad, many mills have stopped running, others are on short time. Work in the oil mills has been very irregular. The paint and colour works continue to be fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers, confectioners and flour millers are fairly busy and well employed. The Printing Trades are very slack, with about 10 per cent. unemployed.—W. G. Millington.

Wolverhampton and District.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—There has been but a slight alteration in the Iron Trade. Some works are fully employed, while others are practically standing still. Taken altogether, puddlers and mill-rollers may be returned as moderately employed. The Steel Trade continues very active, and the men are fully employed. The dispute in this trade at Wednesbury has terminated after four weeks. The engineers and constructive machinists show a slight decrease in the number unemployed. The iron door and safe makers are paying double contributions owing to the heavy strain upon their unemployed benefit. The bridge and girder constructors, tank and boiler makers, gasometer erectors, and makers of colliery air-tubes, are still busy. The tool makers and machinists and heavy iron foundries are also better employed. The men at the railway works are stated to be fully employed.

Hardware Trades.—The nut and bolt makers, gun-lock filers, wrought nail makers of Dudley, Halesowen and Bromsgrove, the cut-nail and tack makers, the spring trap makers at Wednesfield, and the lock and spring latch makers, are very depressed. Some branches of the Tube Trade are very slack. The railway wagon builders are better employed. The slight revival in the Rivet Trade has been maintained. The Edge Tool Trade is fairly good, and the men fully employed. The improvement amongst the galvanizers, enamellers and japanners has continued, and the agricultural implement makers are better employed. The Cycle

Trade has increased in activity. Work is scarce amongst the Iron-plate and Tin-plate Industries, and only a slight improvement is recorded amongst the brass and copper workers. The light ironfounders and hollow-ware casters are better off, but the File Trade is still bad. The decline in the Electrical Trades continues, and there is no improvement amongst the anvil smiths or makers of steel toys. The Small Chain Trade is bad, but work is fair amongst the cable chain makers. The Chain Trade at Walsall is slightly better. Iron hurdle makers are generally well employed, and the slight improvement in the Wire Trade has been maintained. The increasing demand for cycles has improved the state of trade amongst the electro-platers. Hinge-makers and makers of builders' and coachbuilders' ironmongery and railway fittings are doing a fair trade, and the horseshoe turners and general smiths are working full time.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and plasterers are well employed; work is improving amongst the masons, but declining with the plumbers. The carpenters in Wolverhampton are "out" for an advance of wages, otherwise work is very good. The painters and decorators are well employed, and working overtime. The brick-makers are very busy. Bricklayers' and general labourers are steadily employed.

Mining.—At a meeting of the Wages Board it was arranged that wages should rise and fall on a smaller difference in selling prices than has been the practice hitherto. In the Cannock Chase district the miners are reported to be only working about five days per fortnight.

Miscellaneous.—The Boot and Shoe and Tailoring Trades are fairly busy. Work is scarce amongst the cabinet and furniture makers, and the bakers and confectioners are also slack, but the improvement amongst the coopers and packing case makers has been maintained, and the coach-builders, wheelwrights and smiths, oil, colour, and varnish makers are fairly employed. The rope and twine spinners and cart sheet and tent makers are busy. Improved conditions rule amongst the railway men, carriers, and canal boatmen, and work is more plentiful amongst the carpet-weavers of Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.—W. F. Mee.

Birmingham and District.

Brassworkers, &c.—The Brassworking Industry has generally improved, fewer men being unemployed. The improvement has been most marked in the chandelier and electric lighting work, but short time is the rule. Lamp-working is depressed, and the season trade for bicycle lamps has finished earlier than usual, but there is brisk work in petroleum stoves. Coppermiths show no improvement.

Bedstead Making.—Trade is bad in all departments, men working on an average only two days a week. There are, however, only 30 men, out of some 2,000, absolutely out of work, and when stocks are worked off it is anticipated the demand will recover. The Wages Board is reported to have produced very good results.

Engineers, Metal Rollers, &c.—The engineers, tool makers, and pattern makers report trade as moderate or bad. The pattern makers have 5 per cent. unemployed; the tool makers and machinists 8 per cent. One or two factories are still making full time on special orders. Metal rolling has been better during the month, but is now quiet. The Cycle Trade, except in one district, is very active, and men are working overtime. Tinplate working is generally dull, most of the works running short time. Five per cent. of the men are out of work.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—A very slight improvement is perceptible in cheap jewellery, and also in gold chains and rings, but 7 per cent. of the men are returned as unemployed. Silversmiths have been occupied on prize cups and articles for show or exhibitions. The electro-platers report trade as depressed, with 7½ per cent. out of work.

Tube and Wire Drawing.—The Tube Trade is still improving. Wire drawing is reported bad, many being on short time. Wireworkers are fairly employed.

Miscellaneous.—Building work is a little busier; the carpenters have 5½ per cent. unemployed against 6½ last month. Railway-wagon workers are busier on large orders for tram cars. The private Coachmaking Trade is in a medium state, with about 3 per cent. unemployed. The Spoon and Fork Trade is exceptionally bad, with men working only 3 days a week and 15 per cent. unemployed. Most branches of the Glass Trade are depressed. The Button Trade is busy in some branches; and the vegetable-ivory button work has slightly revived. The Gun Trade is no better; machine workers are at present slack, and ammunition workers are on short time. Leather workers are fairly busy. Japanners are in steady work. In safe-making there are only two works fully employed. The ironplate workers are moderately employed. The ironfounders report trade as bad. Cabinet-makers are exceptionally busy, with no unemployed.

Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.—Some works are still closed, and most others are working four days a week, but there is a slight upward tendency. The sheet makers report business above the average. No more blast furnaces are likely to be blown in at present. Steel workers are generally very busy.

Mining.—Owing partly to trade depression, and partly to the mild weather, some collieries are only working two days a week.

Other Trades in South Staffordshire.—As in last month's report, there is more doing in heavy than in light work. Bridge contracts are in hand which will last the whole of the year. There are also good contracts for gas and water pipes, for chilled rolls, and for the mill work of a new large steel works about to be started at Cardiff. There is good employment in the galvanizing works, and the enamelling works are still busy. Among the lighter trades there is some improvement in nut and bolt work and in bright tin wares. Rivet, chain and lock makers are still under great depression.—W. J. Davis.

A report from Coventry states that the general trade of the district is decidedly more encouraging, both as to outlook and volume. The Cycle Trade continues very good. Full time at all factories, and 10 to 20 hours' overtime at many others, is the rule both in Coventry and Foleshill. The Watch Trade is still depressed. The Ribbon Trade is improving, and the demand for operatives increases. The Wool, Hosiery and Trimming Trades are active. The Hatting Trade is rather better, but not satisfactory, three to four days per week being the rule. In the Coal Trade three to five days per week are worked. The quarrymen are well employed in all the districts. The Building Trade is fairly good in all its branches.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—There is a slight improvement in these trades, especially in the American markets. Trade with Australia is also improving. The home trade is dull, but an improved tone is manifest. The hollow-ware pressers report very little change, about 2 per cent. are still totally unemployed, about four days per week being the average for those working. The sanitary pressers report trade as still good, with no members unemployed. The printers and transferrers report a slight improvement. The women also report an improvement on last month, with more regular employment. The crate-makers report more hopefully, the number unemployed is about 9 per cent., an improvement of 3 per cent. on March. The oven men report a little improvement, but great scarcity of employment exists throughout the district.

Coal Trade.—Those collieries which are not connected with ironworks are working only about three days per week, those that supply ironworks averaging about five days per week. A large number of miners, however, are leaving the district in search of employment elsewhere.

Metal Trades.—The Iron Trade is practically unchanged. The home trade is still very quiet. A fair demand for agricultural implements exists. The Shipping Trade is moderate. The plate and sheet business is dull. Pig iron is in good request, and stocks are almost exhausted. The engineers and iron foundries report trade as still bad, with about 7 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report trade as very moderate, about 7 per cent. being unemployed; the lithographic artists and printers as considerably improved; the tailors as very good, with no men unemployed; the bakers as moderate. The wood sawyers and turners as improved. The Building Trades have also improved considerably, less than 5 per cent. being out of work. A large number of non-union men are unemployed; the brick and tile-makers report trade as exceptionally good.—I. S. Harvey.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The improvement in trade has not been maintained. Although there has been no material increase in the number out of work, operatives are only partially employed. The levers branch is not fully employed. The curtain branch is very depressed. In the plain net branch many firms are only making half and three-quarter time, with about 4 per cent. unemployed. The question of a 5 per cent. reduction in the levers branch has been decided in favour of prices remaining unchanged. The warp lace branch is very quiet, with about 5 per cent. unemployed. The curtain readers continue slack and report 25 per cent. unemployed. The bleachers report yarn and lace as busy, and hosiery as improving, with few unemployed. The dyers report trade as worse. The female operatives have 8 per cent. unemployed. The warpers are only partially employed.

Hosiery Trade.—Trade is worse in the rotary power branch, half-time being the rule. The Rib Top branch reports a slight improvement. Many, however, are not fully employed. The Circular Hosiery Trade is bad; and women workers continue very moderately employed. Trade is bad at Arnold and at Hucknall; much

brisker than usual at Sutton-in-Ashfield, and moderately good at Mansfield.

Iron Trades.—Trade continues moderate with the engineers, but cycle makers maintain their improvement. Hosiery machine builders are very slack, several firms working half time. The lace machine builders have about 8 or 9 per cent. of their members unemployed. The brass workers report no change. The boiler-makers are fairly well employed. The bobbin and carriage makers report about 4 per cent. unemployed. The tool machinists report a slight improvement, with about 7 per cent. unemployed. The iron moulders report about 20 per cent. unemployed. The iron and steel dressers have no unemployed, but trade remains bad. Labourers are not in much demand. The steam engine-makers report 4 per cent. unemployed.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners return trade as very bad, with about 10 per cent. unemployed. The bricklayers and plasterers are very quiet. The painters report a slight improvement. The stonemasons are moderately employed. The cabinet-makers report trade as quiet. At Worksop about 16 per cent. of members are unemployed. At Mansfield and Retford trade is fairly good; at Newark it is quiet.

Mining and Railways.—In a great majority of the collieries short time is being worked, varying from 2 to 4½ days per week. One colliery in the Mansfield district is working 5 days per week. Railway men continue busy, full time being worked at the railway depots. In the Newark, Mansfield and Retford districts railway men are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Lithographic printers report improvement in trade, with 4 per cent. unemployed. Letterpress printers continue quiet, with many members unemployed. The boot and shoe riveters report considerable improvement. The bakers have 20 per cent. unemployed; the wheelwrights report trade as moderate, the elastic bandage makers as rather quiet, with however, none unemployed; the mill sawyers and woodcutting machinists as quiet but improving, the farriers as slack, with fully 8 per cent. unemployed. The bookbinders report trade as on the decline, with 6 per cent. unemployed. The female cigar makers have a few unemployed, full time being the exception. The basket-makers and brush-makers report no change. Tailors are busy both in bespoke and ready-made branches. Silk throwsters are not busy, but cotton doublers and spinners continue to work full time. Boxmakers are busy, with few out of employment. At Mansfield the Boot and Shoe Trade is fairly good. Unskilled labour in this district is not well employed.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Derbyshire District.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—In the Coal Trade, particularly in the Chesterfield and Ilkeston districts, short time is being worked, and there are a large number unemployed. At one colliery 120 men and boys have been discharged. The quarrymen in Wirksworth, Little Eaton, Coxbench, Crich and Bakewell districts are moderately employed.

Iron Trades.—The Pig Iron Trade is reported as quiet, the Finished Iron Trade as unchanged, and the Malleable Iron Trade as fair.

Engineering and Machinery.—In Derby the engineering and machinery works show a slight improvement, with about 4 per cent. unemployed. The locomotive works and brass moulders and finishers are fairly well employed; the iron moulders and stovegrate makers report trade as moderate, though the former have about 8 per cent. out of work. The bridge, girder and boiler yards are very quiet, and about 4 per cent. of the boiler makers are unemployed. The Rivet Trade is rather slack; in New Mills, Chesterfield, Ilkeston, Ripley and Glossop districts, the trade shows a slight improvement. In Long Eaton the lace machine builders continue working full time. The cycle workers are very busy.

Building Trades.—The plasterers, sawyers and wood working machinists are quiet; all other branches of the trade are either very busy or fairly so.

Printing Trades.—The lithographic and letterpress printers show a slight improvement. The bookbinders are very quiet.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke and wholesale clothing departments and the Boot and Shoe Trade are busy. The frame-work knitters in Belper district show a slight improvement.

Textile Trades.—The Lace Trade in Derby and Long Eaton continues to improve, most workpeople being on full time. The Silk Industry continues depressed in all branches. In the Belper District the Cotton Trade is moderately busy; in the Lea and Holloway districts it is depressed.

Miscellaneous.—The paper makers, paper stainers, colour mixers and box makers continue busy. The bakers and confectioners and Milling Trade are improving slightly. Mineral water operatives

are very brisk. The chemical workers are fully employed. Cabinet-makers and elastic web weavers report trade as fair; basket makers as dull; surgical bandage workers as quiet; brush makers and all branches of the Crown China Trade as quiet; railway carriage and wagon builders continue to improve. Coach builders in private shops are fairly well employed. In Long Eaton district wagon builders are fully employed, and wagon repairers improving. The dyers and bleachers in the Belper district are very quiet. Labourers engaged in outdoor work are fairly employed.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Both labour and machinery are employed to their fullest capacity to meet the great demand which prevails. During the last two months skilled workmen have been in great request, and in many departments overtime has been worked. The Leather Trade is not quite so healthy.

Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Spinning Trades.—A slight improvement has taken place in the Hosiery Trade. Little change can be noted in reference to the Yarn Trade, and employment is only moderate. The Wool and Spinning Industry is quiet; prices, however, remain firm, and prospects are rather brighter.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Business in the Engineering Trade shows signs of improvement, very few being on short time or entirely out of employment. In the production of boot and shoe machinery large orders are still scarce, and employment somewhat irregular. Cycle-making firms continue busy, competent workmen being in great demand. A slight improvement is reported amongst the ironfounders.

Building Trades.—Building operations are considerably restricted in the Leicester district, in consequence of the plasterers and their labourers being "out" for an advance of wages. The painters are fully employed, but business is quiet. Carpenters and joiners and plumbers are dull. The builders' labourers have a considerable percentage unemployed. The stonemasons and the brick and tile-makers are busy.

Mining and Quarrying Industries.—The coal miners are working very short time. Quarrymen engaged in the stone, kerb and sett branches are regularly employed, while in the broken stone department of the trade, business is not quite so satisfactory.

Miscellaneous.—The wholesale Clothing Trade is good and employment regular. With the bespoke tailors business is brisk, and good steady workmen are in demand. The cigar makers are fairly busy. Those engaged in the cord and braid department of the Elastic Web Industry are better employed, but in the shoe elastic webbing department short time is still worked. The hatters are busy. The letterpress printers are only moderately employed, and although several have left either the town or the trade, there are still about 7 per cent. unemployed. The paper box-makers are busy. The cabinet-makers, upholsterers and coachbuilders are in regular work. Gas stokers are in less demand. The dyers and curriers remain fairly busy. In the agricultural districts work-people are fully engaged.—*T. Smith.*

Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire District.

Building Trades.—The painters and house decorators are now busy. Work with the masons, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners is also improving, but the plasterers are still dull. The shop and bar-fitting, box and packing-case making is reported as fair. The Gloucester trades are improving. The painters of Bath have obtained an advance of one halfpenny per hour in wages, and a new code of working rules.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors are busy; the ready-made industry reports no change. The Boot and Shoe Trade in Bristol is rather unsettled, but the operatives generally are keeping in full employment. The Kingswood trade has become quiet, but a revival is expected after Whitsuntide.

Shipping and Engineering Trades.—The shipwrights' report a slight improvement in trade. Dock labourers have had a very fair run of work for the time of year. Sailors and firemen have easily found employment. The boiler-makers, and iron shipbuilders, and electrical engineers report trade as good; the ironfounders as overstocked; the galvanizers and brass founders as slightly declining. The other kindred trades report no change.

Mining.—Trade in the Forest of Dean is bad. All the blast furnaces are now closed, and this, with the closing of an iron mine, has thrown about 100 additional men out of work. The iron ore miners have accepted a reduction of 10 per cent. in wages. There is nothing new to report in the Radstock trade, and the number of unemployed has not decreased. In the Bristol district seven of the pits are running four to five days per week, the others about three days. There is, however, no diminution in the number of miners unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The Brush and Basket Trades remain steady. The Paint, Colour, Oil and Varnish Trades are brisk. The cabinet-makers are fairly well employed, and the lithographers are improving. The letterpress printers remain moderately busy. The Saddle and Harness and Bookbinding Trades are very dull. The cotton workers are getting slack.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South Western District.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The demand for seamen still remains slow, but dock labourers have been fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers and plumbers are fully employed. The carpenters and joiners are still slack, although fewer are unemployed.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—These trades are improving, and those engaged in them are fairly well employed.

Clothing Trades.—The tailoring departments have greatly improved, labour being in demand in most parts of the district. The Boot Trade has also improved, especially in the factory departments; the bespoke branch still continues steady.

Mining and Clay Industries.—The Metal Mining Industry still remains about the same. Many of the miners have left the district during the month for South Africa to seek employment in the mines there. The Clay Trade continues brisk, giving full employment to those engaged in it.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and kindred Trades are still reported as quiet. The bakers and confectioners, furniture-makers, coach-makers, wheelwrights, smiths, saddlers and harness-makers are fairly well employed. More gas workers have been dismissed. Many unskilled labourers are still in want of employment, but during the month the County Council of Plymouth have employed several on public works.—*J. Willand.*

Cardiff and District.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—These trades, with but few exceptions, have been almost at a standstill in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea. The engineers have 10 per cent. out of employment. The boiler-makers and the shipwrights have each a large number out of employment, and among the general labourers a very large proportion of the average number employed in fairly good trade, are now out of work.

Building Trades.—There is no improvement in the Building Trade. There are a considerable number of masons, plasterers, bricklayers and plumbers out of employment, especially at Cardiff and in the immediate neighbourhood. The carpenters are better employed, the proportion of Union members out of work being about 3 per cent. A few disputes have taken place for an advance of wages and the enforcement of working rules.

Metal Trades.—The iron and steel works are fairly brisk, and the steel workers generally pronounce the trade to be improving. The Copper Smelting Trade is reported as moderate. The Tin Trade shows no change, and is disturbed by labour disputes.

Shipping and Dock Workers.—Shipping has been unusually dull, with a large number of dock labourers out of work. In Cardiff the Coal Shipping, the Timber Trade and the Iron Ore Trade have been exceedingly bad. Swansea also reports the shipping to have been very bad all round throughout the whole month, with a great number of all kinds of dock workers out of work. In Newport, however, shipping has not been quite so dull, and those engaged in discharging iron ore, timber, &c., and the dock hoppers generally state that they have done better during the past month than they did the preceding month.

Miscellaneous.—The chemical works have been going tolerably well during the past month, trade being reported as moderate. There has been a slight improvement in the Printing Trade, and there are only about half the number out of employment that there were in March.—*T. Davies.*

A report from Ebbw Vale states that the Steel Trade is active, with an increased production, although at Dowlais a tin bar mill stands idle one or two days per week. At Blaenavon trade is much depressed, but wages and prices remain the same. Wagon-building and machine work continue to show briskness. The boiler-makers are more active than for some time. Outdoor work for masons and carpenters continues to be brisk, and the painters are very active.

South Wales Mining District.

Tinplate Trade.—This trade continues to be in a very depressed condition. The whole of the Monmouthshire works are practically idle, and many of the tinplate works in Glamorganshire and Carmarthenshire are in the same condition. A dispute prevails at three works, with no immediate prospect of settlement.

Coal Trade.—The Coal Trade has been rather quieter than in March. Owing to the limited demand, the output in the steam

collieries has been restricted, and in several instances work has been suspended for several days. House coal has also been restricted in some cases. Business in all departments continues to be depressed. One colliery under trustees of bankruptcy has been stopped again as unprofitable, and about 300 men have been thrown out of employment.—*W. Evans.*

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The ironmoulders report trade as improving. The engineers, pattern makers and blacksmiths show a slight falling off in the number out of work. The copper-smiths are fully employed. The brassfounders report no improvement. The tinsmiths and gas-meter makers report trade as still very bad. Returns from 12 branches show 8·3 per cent. unemployed.

Printing and allied Trades.—The typefounders continue to work only four days per week. The lithographic artists and stereotypers are fully employed. The compositors show a slight increase in the number out of work, and the press and machinemen a slight decrease. The bookbinders and lithographic printers report no change. Returns from seven branches in this group show 2·8 per cent. idle.

Coal Mining and Mineral Oil Trade.—The Coal Trade in the Lothians continues fairly good. In Mid and East Lothian about four-fifths of the miners are fully employed, the remainder are getting two days' work per week and upwards. In West Lothian from eight to nine days per fortnight has been the average with the exception of one district, where fully nine days' work per fortnight has been obtained. The Mineral Oil Industry is being well maintained.

Building Trades.—The masons and bricklayers report trade as brisk, the joiners, plumbers, painters, glaziers and slaters as good, the lathsplitters and plasterers as fair. All the branches in this group report their members as fully employed. The masons in Edinburgh and Leith have obtained an advance of 1d. per hour.

Shipbuilding Trades.—The shipyards remain slack. The boiler-makers return 26·6 per cent. out of work, and the shipwrights about 15 per cent. The ship joiners continue to be fairly busy.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet-makers, French polishers and upholsterers report trade as fair, and the brush-makers as good. The wood-carvers, however, are not so busy. Returns from six branches show 3·4 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The tailors, shoemakers and hatters are well employed. The settmakers, basket-makers, india-rubber workers and sawmill operatives report trade as good. The coach-makers and coopers report a considerable improvement, the latter showing only 1·7 per cent. idle, as against 12·5 per cent. in March. The skimmers, saddlers and stoneware-throwers report trade as fair. The bakers, gliders, horseshoers, tanners and curriers as bad. The seamen and firemen as moderate. General and dock labourers are fairly busy.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Mining.—The Coal Trade of Lanark, Ayr and Stirling has been much troubled during the month; reductions in wages have been made at numerous collieries. In some cases the reductions were submitted to after a few days' stoppage; at other collieries the men are still resisting the proposals; in some cases a compromise has been effected. The shipments of coal for the month in the West Coast ports show an increase on the same period of last year.

Shipbuilding.—The Shipbuilding Trade on the Clyde has been exceptionally good; the work is well spread over the river from Govan to Greenock. The shipwrights report that altogether the outlook is bright; the shipyard helpers that trade is very good. The ship-joiners are also well employed.

Metal Trades.—The blast-furnace men report that trade is improving, five furnaces having been re-lit during the month. It is reported that the condition of the Steel and Iron Trades has slightly improved; work is regular. A Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the manufactured Steel Trade of the West of Scotland is being formed. The blacksmiths are better employed; the iron moulders report a decided improvement; the tinplate workers are fully employed; the iron-dressers report trade as very fair, although the Newton dispute is still unsettled; the file-cutters report no change; the iron-grinders report trade as pretty fair; the horse-shoers and the scale-beam and weighing machine makers as not so good; the range, stove and ornamental fitters as busy; general tool makers and machinists as good; the engineers as quiet; the sewing machine, cycle and tool makers report the Cycle Trade as dull and the Sewing Machine Trade as very fair.

Building and Wood-working Trades.—All branches of the Building Trades are well employed. The cabinet and chair-makers report trade as good; they are limiting overtime to seven hours per week

In Beith they also report trade as good. The saw-mill operatives report trade as quiet, with a few unemployed; the wood-turners as fairly steady; the coach-makers as improved, all the men being in work.

Textile Trades.—No improvement is reported from the weaving factories. The calendermen report trade as good, overtime being worked. The power loom beamers report trade as but slightly improved; the carpet weavers as busy; the warpers as very dull; the spindle and flyer makers as good; the dyers and wire weavers as very fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and tailoresses still report trade as good; the pump boot and slipper makers as very dull; the boot and shoe operatives as very fair; the knee shoe-makers as good.

Miscellaneous.—The upholsterers report trade as improving, with no one signing the out-of-work book; the basket-makers as steady; the saddlers, the tobacco pipe makers, the lath-splitters, the cork-cutters as good; the stoneware-throwers as very dull; the glass bottle-makers as unsettled, owing to disputes in Portobello; the confectioners as fair; the letterpress printers report no improvement, 7½ per cent. of their members being idle; the bookbinders report trade as quiet; the curriers and bakers are still dull; the carters report an improvement. The dock labourers have been fairly well employed, trade in the ship-yard being much better, while men are leaving the harbour and going to inside work, giving the regular dockers a better chance. The general labourers are well employed.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Jute and Linen Trades.—Although the market reports state that production is in advance of demand, several large firms in Dundee have recently re-started a considerable amount of machinery which had been standing idle, while in some instances the working hours have been increased. Against this, however, has to be reported the stoppage of a small works employing about 200 operatives in Dundee, and the announcement of short time in Blairgowrie.

Building Trades.—All departments of the Building Trades continue fully employed, and out-door labourers generally have been in fair demand.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—A large percentage of engineers, moulders, boiler-makers, platers, &c., remain unemployed. The shipwrights have had a long spell of slackness, with little prospect of immediate improvement.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors are reported as busy; the shoe-makers as fairly well employed. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are fully employed. The Printing and Bookbinding Trades are in a normal condition, and show less than five per cent. unemployed.—R. D. B. Ritchie.

Aberdeen and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—There is a slight improvement in shipbuilding, but the number of iron shipbuilders idle remains the same. The shipwrights are better employed, not more than 6 per cent. being out of work. Repairing has been going on; new work is not far enough advanced yet to absorb all the unemployed, but prospects are fairly good. The ironmoulders report trade as improving. There is no improvement on engineering, and the blacksmiths are only moderately employed. The tinplate workers show a slight improvement, and expect shortly to be fully employed.

Building Trades.—House building is still active; all engaged in the industry are fully employed. The joiners have now concluded a settlement with the employers that questions of wages when agreed upon shall stand for twelve months; that when changes are proposed due notice shall be given, and the matter referred to a committee of employers and workmen, and failing agreement, to the Conciliation and Arbitration Board.

Quarrying.—There is a slight improvement in monumental work, but a number of firms have few orders in hand, and there are still several unemployed stonecutters. The setmakers are now busy. Work is brisk in all the quarries in Aberdeenshire.

Fishing.—The total weight of fish landed by trawl boats was 17,754 cwt., realising £13,800, a great falling off since last month; that of fish landed by steam and small line boats was 22,000 cwt., realising £9,430, a large increase on the preceding month.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers are still very dull, with 11 per cent. idle. The Tailoring Trade is improving, and many firms are very busy. The rope and twine spinners are very dull. Comb-making shows no improvement. The Jute Trade is still dull. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers have secured an advance in wages. The Flax Industry is fairly prosperous. The seamen and firemen are not well employed, and dock labourers are in excess of the demand. A large number of bakers are idle, but expect more

regular employment as the season advances. General labourers experience difficulty in finding employment.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building, Woodwork and Iron Trades.—The improvement noticeable last month has been maintained in the Building Industry, but the heavy rainfall of the month stopped several jobs from being commenced. Work is still improving among the carpenters and joiners, bricklayers and masons. The plasterers and the painters are busy. The plumbers and slaters are only moderately employed. The Furniture Trades are still depressed. The engineers, whitesmiths, boiler-makers and sawmill machinists are slack. The coach-builders and farriers are busy.

Food and Clothing Trades.—Employment has been fair in the Provision Trades; the dispute with the poultryers, however, is still unsettled. Trade has slightly improved with the tailors and the shoemakers.

Printing and allied Trades.—The Printing Trade has been fair; 135 men signed the unemployed book for the month, of whom 45 were entitled to out-of-work benefit. There is no improvement in the Lithographic Industry, and several members are unemployed. The stereotypers, bookbinders, paper-rulers, paper-cutters, machine minders and press despatch assistants are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Trade is still dull with the cork-cutters, but the basket-makers, brushmakers, hairdressers, club and hotel assistants, are fairly busy. Work with the bottle-makers is still fair, but there are several unemployed. Employment has been better among the dockers, seamen and firemen, but not so good with the coal labourers. Employment is still good with the tramway men and railway servants. The dispute between Great Northern directors and their employés is still in progress.

A report of the convention of delegates from the various trade and labour organisations of Ireland, held in Dublin on Friday and Saturday, April 27th and 28th, will be found on p. 142.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—Returns from 52 societies, with a membership of 19,871, show 1,106, or 5·6 per cent., to be signing the out-of-work books, as against 1,358, or 7·8 per cent., in March.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of 8,873 members in these trades, 558, or 6·3 per cent. are unemployed, as against 789, or 8·9 per cent. last month. The engineers, with 6·5 per cent. unemployed, report trade as moderate; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders (with 6·8 per cent. unemployed) and the brass-founders as slack; the iron-founders as bad; the blacksmiths' helpers, machine workers, shipwrights, carpenters and joiners, enginemen and cranemen, platers' helpers and labourers, as fair; and the pattern-makers, cabinet-makers, upholsterers and polishers, as good.

Building Trades.—Owing to seasonal causes these trades are fairly busy, for out of 2,464 workers, only 60, or 2·4 per cent., are unemployed, compared with 122, or 5 per cent., last month. The painters and mill-sawyers report trade as good; the bricklayers and plasterers as fair; the carpenters and joiners as quiet; and the plumbers as dull.

Linen Trades.—The condition of these trades has undergone little or no alteration, the returns showing that of 4,060 members, 275, or 6·8 per cent., are unemployed, compared with 269 out of 3,892 members, or 6·9 per cent., last month. The textile workers, beetlers, shirt, collar and apron cutters, flax roughers, hackle and gill makers, bobbin turners and linen lappers, report trade as fair; the flax-dressers as middling; the power loom tenters as quiet; and the yarn-dressers and flyer and spindle makers as bad.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The 21 industries comprised in this group report 213 out of 4,474 members, or 4·8 per cent., as unemployed, against 178, or 4·4 per cent., in March. The tailors and locomotive engine drivers report trade as good; the bakers, lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers, coopers, carters, coach-builders, cabinet-makers, packing-case makers, tinplate workers, railway servants, and gas workers and general labourers, as fair; the hotel and club assistants as quiet; the butchers, boot and shoe operatives, letterpress printers, paviors and sail-makers, as dull; the lithographic artists as very dull; and the brushmakers as bad.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Building Trades.—The stonecutters, masons, bricklayers and plasterers continue dull in Cork, but report an improvement in Limerick. The carpenters are fairly well employed both in Cork and Limerick. The mill sawyers and woodcutting machinists report trade as fair.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—An improvement in employment has taken place amongst the boiler-makers, sail-makers, riggers and block and pump-makers. At the dockyard at Passage West—where steam and sailing ships are repaired and yachts are built—the number of men employed has increased during the past month from 100 to 250. The engineering returns from Limerick, Waterford and Cork show a further increase in the unemployed.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—These trades continue to improve in Cork. The Typographical Industry in Limerick is reported as being very good, with no unemployed.

Food and Clothing Trades.—The tweed factories in Blarney and Douglas, and the Millfield flax factory continue to give steady employment. The tailors report trade as good in Cork, but as only moderate in Limerick. The boot and shoe operatives in Limerick, Waterford and Cork show an improvement. In Cork the beef and pork butchers show a decline. The bacon curers in Limerick and Waterford are getting slack as the dull season is coming on.

Coopers.—The members of this trade have been in a very unsettled state during the month, both in Cork city and county, in consequence of deal boxes being used for packing butter, instead of firkins.

Fishing Industry.—The mackerel fishery has been very successful along the south and south-west coast. The salmon fishery in the Lee and Cork Harbour has not, so far, been very successful, but in the Shannon several large takes have been reported.—P. O'Shea.

IV.—REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.

(a) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN APRIL.

MR. WILSON FOX, the Agricultural Correspondent of the Department, reports that in the *Northern Counties* casual labourers are in most parts well employed. Owing to the open weather few men were out of work last winter in Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire and Cheshire. During the last two years labour in many districts has been scarce, and wages have shown an upward tendency. Employment in parts of Yorkshire during the past winter was not so good as usual. In the *Eastern Counties* agricultural labourers have been well employed since the middle of April. Cambridgeshire and Essex suffered most during the past winter and spring, owing to the employment of less labour on farms, the lack of threshing, due to the light corn crops, and the forward state of farm work this year, owing to the fine weather which obtained until December 1893. Numbers of men from these counties are reported to have migrated to the towns. In Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex rises of wages of 1s. to 1s. 6d. a week have taken place in certain districts, but this upward tendency is by no means general. From the *Midland Counties* are reported rises of wages of 1s. a week in Warwickshire and Huntingdonshire; wages in these counties fell 1s. a week last autumn, and employment in winter was difficult to obtain.

In the *Home Counties*, in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Sussex and Kent, wages have risen 1s. a week in some districts since the beginning of spring. In some districts of Berks employment was very scarce during the winter, and wages in the northern part of the county fell as low as 9s. a week. In the *Western Counties* most men willing to work are in regular employment. In the Dorchester district the majority are engaged by the year at Lady Day; at the late hirings a number were left unengaged owing chiefly to the increased area of land laid down to grass. In Gloucestershire casual labourers have had fair employment during the past winter owing to the open weather: the casual labourer in some districts is frequently a small freeholder, a squatter upon waste, or an occupier of a cottage with an allotment with the use of common land for pasture.

Many Irish labourers have come to England earlier than usual, having had the means to do so owing to the good harvest of last year. More would go if they had the means.

The above information is condensed from reports received from 41 districts in the United Kingdom, including reports from the Farmers' Federation, and from three Agricultural Labourers' Unions. The following extracts from a few of these district reports give additional information on certain points:—

ENGLAND.

Lancashire.—*Pilling.*—If farmers now wanted more men they would be very difficult to obtain. The Moss Litter Company and the Alkali Works have taken all the surplus farm labour. No Irishmen have yet come into this district.

Lytham.—A considerable amount of building is going on, and is giving employment to any surplus labour. Such work in the town has increased the rate of odd men's wages on the farms by 5d. or 6d. a day during the past year.

Eastern Counties.—The present weekly rate of wages paid to ordinary day labourers is as follows:—Lincolnshire 12s. to 15s., Norfolk 10s. to 12s., Suffolk 10s. to 12s., Essex 9s. to 12s., and Cambridgeshire 10s. to 11s. During April the low rate of 9s. a week in Essex has been exceptional. A good deal of piecework is given in the Eastern Counties.

At *Swaffham*, in Norfolk, the weekly wages in most parts of the western portion of the Union were raised from 11s. to 12s. a week on April 14th.

An inquiry in the *Thingoe* Union made through the relieving officers showed that there were 73 able-bodied labourers out of work on an average during the four winter months, of whom 31 were stated to be persons willing to do regular work. There are about 3,000 agricultural labourers in the Union.

In the *Maldon* district, in Essex, containing 36 parishes, the men are now nearly all fully employed.

The half-yearly hiring fair at *Gainsborough* was held on May 1st, but little business was transacted. There was a general reduction of wages, which ranged as follows:—Head wagoners, £14 to £20; second wagoners, £12 to £15; labourers, 2s. to 2s. 3d. a day; plough lads, £5 to £7 per annum; ordinary farm lads, £4 to £5; girls able to milk £10 to £12.

Somersetshire.—*Frome District* (partly in Wilts).—Very few men are out of regular work. Weekly wages in villages in the neighbourhood of Frome are 10s. in winter and 11s. in summer. In the neighbourhood of Westbury (Wilts.), wages are 13s. to 14s. a week, owing to the ironworks.

Cambridgeshire.—*Barrington.*—There are 86 able-bodied men of the labouring class (i.e., weekly wage earners between 18 and 70 years) now left in the parish, which includes 2,129 acres, of which 1,876 are arable. Of these, 36 are strictly agricultural labourers, who do nothing but farm work; 42 others are more or less employed upon the land at hay time, harvest, &c., but have hitherto been chiefly employed on the all but defunct industries of brick-making and fossil digging. The remaining eight are gardeners, &c. Work was very scarce last winter. Sixteen agricultural labourers and 25 of the other men were employed on relief work, at 9s. a week. There are still (April 17th) 14 willing and able-bodied men out of employment.

The collapse of the fossil digging and the brick and cement making industries in 1892 are the chief causes of the distress. During the past eighteen months a good many men migrated to London, Yorkshire, and elsewhere. Weekly wages in the parish, exclusive of piece-work, are 10s., but in some neighbouring parishes they have sunk to 9s.

Wiltshire.—A successful strike against a reduction in wages has taken place near Figheldean.

WALES.

Flintshire.—In the *Vale of Clwyd* casual men are now as fully employed as they desire. Many of them live in cottages with about three acres of land attached, on which they can work when not employed by farmers. They are paid 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day.

Glamorgan.—*Neath.*—At Neath casual labourers are now generally in work. Weekly wages vary from 18s. to 20s. a week.

SCOTLAND.

Stirlingshire.—*Falkirk.*—At the Falkirk half-yearly hiring fair on April 5th, the wages ruling were:—Married ploughmen, 18s. to 20s. per week, with the usual allowances; unmarried men, £14 to £18 per half-year, and in some rare instances £19; boys, £4 to £5; haffins, £6 to £8 10s.; house girls, £6 to £8; young girls, 30s. to 50s. The demand for male help is rather below what it was in the October Fair, but dairy women, and especially young women, were very scarce, and the demand good.

Lanarkshire.—*Hamilton.*—The half-yearly hiring fair was held on April 20th. There was a large attendance, and hiring was brisk, especially for dairymaids. Wages for the half year with board were as follows:—First-class dairy-maids, £8 10s. to £10; second-class, £7 to £8; girls, £4 to £5; first-class ploughmen, £14 to £16, and in exceptional cases £17; second-class ploughmen, £8 to £12; lads, £5 to £7; married ploughmen, 18s. to 20s. a week, with free house.

* House, 1,000 to 1,200 yards of potatoes, and coals carted.

IRELAND.

Mayo.—*Westport.*—Some of the men are leaving to work on English farms. There has been a very fair amount of employment this winter. Wages are 8s. to 9s. a week, and in a few cases 10s.

Roscommon.—*Cloonragh.*—Owing to the wet state of the land the casual labourers did not get so much employment during the past winter as usual. On the large farms the labourers are generally provided with regular work all the year round. Every man who is able and willing to work can now get employment. In fact, there are not enough labourers to meet the demand, and fewer men have therefore left this district for England than usual up to the present time. The demand is due to the fact that setting of the crops having been very late on account of the unpropitious weather, farmers are anxious to get their work done quickly. The current rate of wages is 1s. a day with food.

Galway.—*Leenane, Connemara.*—Not a tenth of the small holders who would like to get work as labourers are employed. Wages are 1s. 6d. a day in summer and 1s. 4d. in winter, though some employers give 1s. 6d. a day all the year round. The men cannot go to England yet as they have no money to pay for their journey, but after the fair held here on May 20th, where they will sell their cattle, etc., they will make a start. Only three men from this village have as yet gone to England (May 5th). During the last week in April six men and ten women started from Cleggan to England or Scotland.

(b) STATE OF EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN.

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

The numbers of seamen shipped at the principal ports of the United Kingdom, which in the previous months of this year had been 17, 10 and 6 per cent. respectively more than in the corresponding months of 1893, show an increase in April of nearly 11 per cent. as compared with April 1893. The largest increases have been at London and Newport (Mon.), but the numbers at all the ports are in excess of those for April 1893, except at Grimsby and Dublin.

The supply of seamen, however, at several of the ports is still in excess of the demand, especially at the Tyne ports, and at Sunderland, Grimsby and Bristol, while at Glasgow, Hull, Newport and Cardiff men are also stated to be plentiful. At London the supply is now not greatly in excess of the demand, and at Liverpool, Swansea and Dublin supply and demand are about equal. Other reports are as follows:—

Leith Supply very little in excess of demand.
Middlesbrough Demand good all the month.
Southampton No scarcity of men.
Grangemouth Supply hardly equal to demand.

Wages at most of the ports remain about the same as last month, the only changes reported being increases to a few A.B.'s and firemen at London and Newcastle.

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 1894 and 1893 respectively:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in April 1894.		Total. 	Total in April 1893.	In- crease. in 1894.	De- crease. in 1894.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.				
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	268	2,458	2,726	2,485	241	...
Sunderland	47	779	826	516	310	...
Middlesbrough ...	13	600	613	407	206	...
Hull	42	931	973	624	349	...
Grimsby	6	105	111	161	...	50
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	5	248	253	129	124	...
Newport, Mon. ...	85	980	1,065	607	458	...
* Cardiff	983	4,214	5,197	4,802	395	...
Swansea	205	316	521	560	21	...
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	616	8,957	9,573	9,453	120	...
London	563	5,100	5,663	4,951	712	...
Southampton ...	17	1,235	1,252	1,241	11	...
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth	34	531	565	539	26	...
Glasgow	155	2,188	2,343	2,173	170	...
IRELAND.						
Dublin ... ..	...	33	33	63	...	30
Belfast	60	174	234	137	97	...
Total April 1894 ...	3,159	28,849	32,008	...	3,160	...
Do, April 1893 ...	2,170	26,678	...	28,848	...	...

* Including Barry and Penarth.

(c) EMPLOYMENT IN THE PIG IRON TRADE IN APRIL.

At the end of April 94 furnaces were in blast in the Cleveland district, compared with 92 at the end of the previous month, and 87 in April, 1893.

Returns showing the number of furnaces in blast in other parts of the United Kingdom have also been furnished to the Department by a large number of employers. On the whole, they show a slight increase compared both with March last and with April 1893, the number of furnaces in blast owned by the employers making returns being 139 at end of April, compared with 132 at the end of the previous month and 138 at the corresponding date of the previous year.

It appears from the table published by the British Iron Masters' Association that on the average 310 furnaces were in blast in all districts, including Cleveland, during 1893. Information has therefore been received by the Department with regard to nearly three-quarters of the entire number in blast in that year.

The net difference between the number of furnaces in blast at end of April and March (so far as covered by the returns received) was nine, being the difference between ten furnaces re-lit and one blown out during the month.

It is difficult to estimate exactly what number of workpeople obtained employment owing to this increase in the number of furnaces in blast, but, limiting the number to those engaged in attending to the furnaces, the total changes reported have resulted in the employment in April of about 300 persons more than in March, and about 400 more than in April 1893. In both cases the numbers indirectly affected were considerably more. The above facts point to some improvement in the state of employment in the Pig Iron Trade, taking the country as a whole.

The following additional particulars with regard to the industry in the Cleveland district are based on a return issued by the Cleveland Iron-masters Association:—

Production.—The total production of pig iron in Cleveland in April was 246,348 tons, or 17,832 tons more than in April 1893. The increase was entirely in the production of pig from foreign ores.

Stocks.—The stocks of pig iron in Cleveland show a decrease of 9,867 tons, or 6.4 per cent., as compared with March last. This follows on a decrease in March over February of 7,489 tons.

Shipments.—The shipments from Middlesbrough show an increase of 1,561 tons, or 2.0 per cent., over March, and of 241 tons, or 0.3 per cent., over April 1893.

(d) THE IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN APRIL (CUMBERLAND AND LANCASHIRE).

FROM information received respecting 34 iron ore mines in Cumberland and Lancashire, at which over 5,000 workpeople were employed in April, it appears that practically the mines were kept on full time, the average number of days worked by them per week being 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, the same as in March. The information received from other districts was too incomplete for publication, but so far as it goes it points to the full number of days having been worked by the mines. A short table, on the same plan as that for the Coal Mining Industry, is appended.

Month of 1894.	No. of workpeople employed at the Mines that worked the under-mentioned days.				Average number of days worked by Mines per month.	Average number of days worked by Mines per week.
	24	25	26	27		
April ...	1,044	4,099	...	...	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
March ...	380	1,277	3,105	381	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$

THE STATE OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

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

Returns have been received showing the number of days worked in April at 1,015 coal pits, at which 271,796 workpeople were employed. This number is not quite so large a percentage of the total number of coal miners as was given in the table for March, but it is still quite sufficient to give a very safe indication of the state of employment in the coal mining districts. The general result is that, as compared with March, there has been a very slight falling off in the number of days worked per week, the figures for March being 4.69, and for April 4.61.

The following is a comparison of the number of days worked per week in March and April for each district, arranged so as to show in which districts the number has increased since March, and in which it has declined:—

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED PER WEEK BY COLLIERIES.

(a) Districts in which April exceeds March.									
				April.		March.		Excess in April.	
Northumberland ...	...	...	...	5.13	...	4.23	...	...	.90
Yorkshire ...	...	...	...	4.32	...	4.23	...	...	.09
Lancashire and Cheshire	4.61	...	4.5704

(b) District in which April is same as March.

Durham	5.08	...	5.08	...	—
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(c) Districts in which April is less than March.

(c) Districts in which April exceeds March.										Decline in April.
Midlands ...	...	...	...	...	...	3.99	...	4.06	...	.07
Ireland ...	...	...	...	...	...	5.31	...	5.42	...	.11
South Wales ...	...	...	...	...	...	5.19	...	5.36	...	.17
West of Scotland...	...	...	...	...	...	4.84	...	5.02	...	.18
North Wales ...	...	...	...	...	...	4.32	...	4.69	...	.37
Lothians ...	...	...	...	...	...	4.90	...	5.31	...	.41
Fifeshire ...	...	...	...	...	...	5.13	...	5.70	...	.57
Gloucester and Somerset	...	...	...	...	...	3.76	...	4.63	...	.87
Cumberland ...	...	...	...	...	...	4.08	...	5.02	...	.94

Some of the above differences are so slight that they may be disregarded, the only districts in which there has been a marked drop per week being Cumberland, and Gloucester and Somerset, and to a smaller extent Fife-shire and the Lothians, where, however, the average number of days worked per week is still about 5 days.

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

		No. of workpeople to whom the returns relate.		No. of days worked by collieries.	
(a) 5 Days and upwards per week.					
Ireland ...	...	639	...	5.31	...
South Wales ...	...	51,811	...	5.19	...
Northumberland ...	...	8,578	...	5.13	...
Fife ...	...	4,760	...	5.13	...
Durham ...	...	32,435	...	5.08	...
Total ...	...	98,223	...	...	...
(b) 4 Days and less than 5 per week.					
Lothians ...	...	1,889	...	4.90	...
West of Scotland ...	...	18,378	...	4.84	...
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	...	39,896	...	4.61	...
Yorkshire ...	...	37,979	...	4.32	...
North Wales ...	...	7,463	...	4.32	...
Staffordshire ...	...	17,139	...	4.20	...
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	...	6,554	...	4.14	...
Cumberland ...	...	5,341	...	4.08	...
Total ...	...	134,639	...	...	...
(c) Under 4 days per week.					
Derbyshire ...	...	25,057	...	3.91	...
Gloucester and Somerset ...	...	6,275	...	3.76	...
Notts and Leicester ...	...	7,602	...	3.62	...
Total ...	...	38,934	...	...	...

It will be seen that nearly 135,000, or about half of the workpeople covered by the returns, were employed at collieries falling within the middle group.

The following detailed Table shows the particulars on which the above figures are based, so far as regards the returns which arrived up to the 10th inst., applying to 241,173 out of the 271,796 workpeople covered by the total number of returns. The addition of the late returns (which are included above) makes no difference to the general average, and the only district materially affected is Cumberland, where the addition reduces the average number of days worked in April from 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 17 $\frac{1}{4}$:—

District.	Number of Workpeople employed at the Collieries (from which returns were received), that worked the undermentioned Days in April.													Total No. of Work-people employed at the Collieries to which the Returns relate.	Average No. of Days worked in April by Collieries making Returns.	
	Under 6.	6 and under 8.	8 and under 10.	10 and under 12.	12 and under 14.	14 and under 16.	16 and under 18.	18 and under 20.	20 and under 22.	22 and under 24.	24.	25.	26.			27.
ENGLAND & WALES																
Northumberland ...	...	...	...	...	365	180	...	490	1,430	5,531	528	41	...	...	8,665	Days.
Durham ...	...	...	...	103	31	87	1,002	2,397	11,394	10,176	1,207	676	...	...	27,273	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cumberland ...	...	...	...	436	522	361	212	120	899	242	628	271	...	...	3,691	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Yorkshire ...	133	285	1,162	1,630	4,604	4,521	2,397	3,695	6,857	3,666	873	4,962	...	...	34,225	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lancashire and Cheshire	...	...	...	...	18	3,519	7,480	7,858	6,244	1,890	909	3,495	...	...	31,413	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Midlands																
Derbyshire ...	...	...	117	770	4,068	4,726	4,338	2,128	1,974	...	623	2,665	...	...	21,400	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Notts. and Leicester...	...	...	536	1,624	1,272	937	124	848	1,550	70	...	65	...	...	7,026	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Staffordshire ...	48	1,286	1,154	94	310	2,810	1,898	257	2,900	2,613	1,097	1,838	...	...	16,305	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salop, Warwick and Worcester	...	...	656	100	54	1,201	891	1,358	1,356	496	245	121	...	...	6,478	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gloucester and Somerset																
Gloucester and Somerset	30	...	480	117	2,347	436	999	139	256	290	479	247	...	...	5,820	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
North Wales ...	...	80	...	168	1,502	1,522	221	597	427	91	1,235	1,272	...	...	7,115	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Wales and Monmouthshire	...	...	870	...	86	112	1,099	2,126	11,223	9,675	21,288	391	...	...	46,870	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total, England & Wales	211	1,651	4,675	5,042	15,179	20,412	20,661	22,013	46,750	34,140	29,112	16,044	...	...	216,190	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
SCOTLAND.																
The Lothians ...	...	136	...	...	...	...	...	51	1,109	35	...	481	...	...	1,812	21
Lanark, Dumfries, Stirling, Renfrew, Ayr, Dumfries and Argyll	...	54	116	281	30	360	837	3,150	9,069	1,643	271	1,961	...	...	17,772	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fife ...	27	...	...	...	...	144	235	204	1,210	2,246	273	421	...	...	4,760	22
Total, Scotland	27	190	116	281	30	504	1,072	3,405	11,388	3,524	544	2,663	...	...	24,344	21
IRELAND.																
Grand Total for April	238	1,841	5,091	5,323	15,209	20,916	21,783	25,418	58,138	33,597	29,699	18,620	...	...	241,173	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Percentage in Each Group in April	1.1	8	2.1	2.2	6.3	8.7	9.0	10.5	24.1	16.0	12.3	7.9	...	...	100.0	...
* Total for March	5,167	7,251	10,380	18,400	28,427	49,710	52,187	69,604	65,319	5,703	5,387	317,535	...	...	201	...
Percentage in Each Group in March	1.6	2.3	3.3	5.8	8.9	15.7	16.4	21.9	20.6	1.8	1.7	100.0	...	...	...	...

* This total includes a few returns received too late to be used in the table published in last month's GAZETTE.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

England.—During April 488,174 cwt. of fish, other than shell-fish, were landed on the English and Welsh coasts, being an increase of about 6 per cent. on the quantity landed in April 1893. The value of the fish (including £29,535 for shellfish), was £462,285, an increase of £228 compared with the corresponding month of last year.

The value of the fish landed at ten of the principal fishing ports during April was £304,225, an increase of 7.1 per cent. on the average for April in the four years 1890-3. The increase was mainly at the East coast ports, though Yarmouth and Lowestoft both showed decreases. At Plymouth the catch last month was little more than half the value of the fish landed in April 1893.

As compared with the previous month, the value of the fish landed at the ten ports in April was £21,674 less.

Table showing the value of fish landed from the fishing grounds at the principal Ports in April 1894, and the average for April 1890-1893.

Ports.	April 1894.	Average for April 1890-1893.	Ports.	April 1894.	Average for April 1890-1893.
EAST COAST.	£	£	SOUTH AND WEST COASTS.	£	£
N. Shields ...	12,219	9,267	Plymouth ...	8,840	16,848
Hull ...	46,813	34,729	St. Ives ...	4,554	5,779
Grimsby ...	104,510	104,322	Milford ...	14,377	11,348
Yarmouth ...	8,938	13,023	Total for above Ports ...	27,771	33,975
Lowestoft ...	20,156	26,939	Grand total for April ...	304,225	283,955
Ramsgate ...	3,664	4,486	Ditto for March ...	325,899	308,382
London ...	80,154	57,214			
Total for above Ports ...	276,454	249,980			

Scotland.—The total quantity of white fish landed at Scottish ports during April was 241,249 cwts., a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in quantity, and 9.8 per cent. in value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1893.

Ireland.—The quantity of fish (exclusive of shellfish) landed in Ireland during the month was 115,496 cwts., a decrease of 7.88 cwts compared with April 1893.

RECENT RELIEF WORKS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

Poplar.—In the March issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE a brief account was given of the various relief works for the unemployed carried on by local authorities. A report has since been received from the Poplar District Board of Works which shows that 1,407 men have been registered by that body since December 1893 as unemployed, and that work consisting of limewashing, tarpaving, concreting, roadmaking and stonebreaking has been provided for 1,109 of these, the men being selected for work by Unemployed Relief Committees sitting in each district of the Union. The men were employed eight hours a day, and were paid 4s. per day, the same men being employed for three days at a time only, the average daily number of men employed being 45.

Coventry.—Here the City Council carried out as relief work during the past winter:—(1) The construction of a new sewer; (2) the cleansing of the bed of the River Sherbourne from sewage mud. About 20 men were employed for four weeks upon the sewer, which cost £120, and from 20 to 50 men were employed from the 17th November to 13th April in cleansing the river bed at a cost in wages of £824. Ordinary wages were paid for the work, and the surveyor reports that as a whole the work was fairly done.

IRISH TRADES CONGRESS.

A CONGRESS of Representatives of Irish Trade Unions and Trades Councils was held in the Trades Hall, Capel Street, Dublin, on April 27th and following day, under the presidency of Mr. Thos. O'Connell, a representative of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners on the Dublin Trades Council, of which body he is also president. The number of delegates attending the Congress was 127, representing 61 societies with an

aggregate membership of about 21,760, and 5 trades councils with a representative capacity of 39,000.

Though the annual meeting of the Trade Union Congress of the United Kingdom was held in Dublin in 1880 and in Belfast in 1893, a feeling prevails that sufficient time and attention has hitherto not been given to questions more immediately affecting Irish industries, and, moreover, many of the Irish Trade Societies have not been able to bear the expense of an adequate representation at the larger Congresses. The present Congress was brought together by the efforts of the Dublin Trades Council in concert with the Trades Councils of Belfast, Cork, Limerick and Drogheda.

The mode of conducting the business was very similar to that of the larger Congresses, and no fewer than 36 resolutions were dealt with, the subjects including employers' liability, Government contracts, factory inspection, wages, hours of labour, technical education, &c.

A Parliamentary Committee of nine was appointed—

"To endeavour to give practical effect to the resolutions, to watch all legislative measures directly affecting the question of labour in Ireland, to initiate such legislative and other action as Congress may direct, and generally to support the Parliamentary Committee of the United Trades Congress upon all questions affecting the workers of the United Kingdom."

The city of Cork was selected as the next place of meeting.

TRADE UNION STATISTICS OF 1892.

THE reports of Trade Unions for 1892 have now undergone examination and analysis, and the following general statistical statement in respect to them may be of interest, pending the issue of fuller details in the report of the chief Labour Correspondent, now in the press. The reports of no less than 599 separate unions have been dealt with, 482 of which are registered, and 117 not registered. The returns of the registered societies were placed at the disposal of the Board of Trade by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, while those of the unregistered unions were supplied by the unions themselves. 105 unions have branches or lodges, numbering in all 7,308, some of which are situated in British Colonies, and a few in foreign countries. Five societies made no return as to total membership, but the other 594 make up an aggregate of 1,237,367 members. The total income of all the societies dealt with was £1,790,842, and the expenditure £1,765,386, the aggregate of balances in the possession of the unions at the end of the year being £1,844,149. 298 societies, with a membership of 745,648, paid unemployed benefit to the amount of £386,973. 308 societies, with 1,103,641 members, paid in dispute benefit £467,291; 193 unions, with 585,389 members, paid in sick allowances £214,613, and 88 unions paid as accident benefit to disabled members £17,984. Superannuation allowances were paid by 74 societies, with a membership of 433,004, to the amount of £106,552; while as funeral benefit 317 societies, with 894,647 members, paid £83,379. Other benefits and grants were paid by 423 societies, with 1,105,821 members, to the amount of £137,894, while working and other miscellaneous expenses totalled, for 590 societies, £347,723.

For the purpose of comparing 1892 with the previous year, only 381 unions are available, that being the number supplying returns for both years. The increase of membership on these 381 unions during 1892 was 32,161, or a little over 3 per cent. upon the membership of 1891. The total income of the 381 societies showed, however, an increase of £296,686, or 21.8 per cent. There was also a very considerable rise in expenditure, amounting, in fact, to £505,894, which is nearly 44 per cent. upon the outlay of 1891. The chief share of this increase was due to heavy demands upon the unemployed and dispute benefits, which in 1892 absorbed £380,306 more than in 1891. With the exception of superannuation, which showed an increased cost of £7,000, the purely friendly benefits varied but little from the year preceding, but under the head of "other benefits," there was an increase of nearly £50,000.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING.

The following particulars based mainly upon statistics collected and published by the Co-operative Union, relate to co-operative farming in 1893 and 1892.* Forty-seven Societies have made returns, showing that a total of 4,692 acres were being farmed in 1893. Of these, 3,650 acres were farmed by 44 Associations of Consumers† as a part of their general business, the remaining 1,042 acres being managed by three Farming Associations specially established for that object. In England the bulk of the area—2,850 out of 3,100 acres—was farmed by "Associations of Consumers," nine of which had purchased a total of 356½ acres of the land, the remainder renting their farms, at a total rent of £3,885. The remaining 250 acres are farmed by two special Farming Associations, one in Northumberland and the other in Suffolk. The capital invested in their farms by 41 Associations of Consumers amounted to £65,068, and by the two Farming Associations to £3,721. Twenty of the Associations of Consumers report profits amounting in the aggregate to £1,464, and eight losses amounting to £925, the remaining 13 giving no information as to the financial result of the year. One of the Farming Associations, renting 222 acres, reports a loss of £304, while the other, which rented 28 acres, shows a profit of £34. In Scotland the acreage farmed is about equally divided between the two classes of organisation, 800 acres being farmed by three Associations of Consumers, who pay a rent of £1,640, and have £11,175 invested in the business, and 792 acres being farmed by one Farming Association, which pays a rent of £1,878, and has £10,282 of capital invested. The net financial result of the farming by the three Associations of Consumers was a loss of £961, while the Farming Association made a profit of £254.

Table showing the extent and financial results of Co-operative Farming in England and Scotland in 1893, and comparison with 1892.

	No. of Societies making Returns.	Acreage.	Capital Employed.	Rent Paid.	Profit or Loss.
I.—BY ASSOCIATIONS OF CONSUMERS.					
England.					
Societies making Profits ...	20	1,523½	£ 37,038	£ 1,670	£ 1,464
" " " Losses ...	8	247	22,188	1,059	925
" " " no return as to Profit or Loss ...	13	579½	5,844	1,436	No Returns
Totals for 1893 ...	41	2,350	65,068	3,885	—
Totals for 1892 ...	40	2,743½	62,541	3,877	—
Increases in 1893 ...	1	106½	2,527	8	—
Scotland.					
Societies making Profits ...	2	220	£ 5,660	£ 1,150	£ 206
" " " Losses ...	1	280	5,615	490	1,167½
Totals for 1893 ...	3	500	11,175	1,640	961½
Totals for 1892 ...	2	780	9,800	1,590	314½
Increases in 1893 ...	1	20	1,375	50	—
II.—BY SPECIAL FARMING ASSOCIATIONS.					
England.					
Societies making Profits ...	1	28	339	68	34
" " " Losses ...	1	22	3,382	222	304½
Totals for 1893 ...	2	50	3,721	290	270½
Totals for 1892 ...	2	255	3,718	290	68
Increases in 1893 ...	—	5½	3	—	—
Scotland.					
Totals for 1893 ...	1	792	10,282	1,878	254
Totals for 1892 ...	1	792	8,300	1,699	20
Increases in 1893 ...	—	—	1,982	179	234
SUMMARY.					
Totals, Class I, 1893 ...	44	3,650	76,243	5,525	422½
" " " 1892 ...	43	1,042	14,093	2,163	16½
Total Co-operative Farming, United Kingdom, 1893 ...	47	4,692	90,216	7,633	439½
Total Co-operative Farming, United Kingdom, 1892 ...	45	4,570½	84,365	7,456	682
Increases in 1893 ...	2	121½	5,881	287	—

* Societies farming 10 acres or less are not included.

† Usually termed Distributive Societies.

‡ Losses.

§ Decrease.

CO-OPERATION IN APRIL.

DURING April nine new Associations of Consumers and three Associations of Producers have been registered, the latter comprising the trades of engineering, boot and shoe making, and cabinet making, and four societies have opened new branches and business premises. Reports for the quarter ended in March, issued by thirty-three Associations of Consumers in England and Wales, show a total trade for the quarter of £475,112, an increase of nearly 5 per cent. upon the corresponding period of 1893; while reports issued by nine Scotch associations show a total of £324,547, an increase of 13½ on the corresponding period of last year.

At Leeds the local branch of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives have decided to form a co-operative society for the manufacture of boots and shoes.

An exhibition of goods produced by co-operative manufacturing societies was opened at Oldham on April 7th, when twenty-four societies, in addition to the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Productive Departments, exhibited their productions.

The annual report of the Women's Co-operative Guild states that the guild has now 170 branches, with a total membership of 7,511 women, as compared with 54 branches and 1,640 members in April 1890.

The Appendix L to the Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1892 has been issued during the past month, and contains the returns relating to industrial and provident (co-operative) societies. Excluding 109 land societies, loan societies and trading banks which made returns, it appears that 1,684 out of the 1,727 co-operative societies existing in the United Kingdom made returns for 1892. The total membership of these societies was 1,221,821, an increase of 95,305 over 1891; the share and loan capital amounted to £17,476,658, an increase of £2,357,703, and the sales to £49,599,800, an increase over 1891 of £2,683,835. After deducting losses amounting to £34,424,* the total net profit amounted to £4,640,469, an increase over 1891 of £92,052.

These totals include both "Associations of Consumers" and "Associations of Producers," the figures for distribution and production not being separated. The report shows that credit for a limited period, or amount, is given by 51.7 per cent. of the societies in England and Wales; 70.5 per cent. in Scotland and 27.8 in Ireland, the average for the United Kingdom being 54.0 per cent. The amount devoted to educational purposes was £32,741, as compared with £30,087 in 1891, and the societies had £6,335,475 invested otherwise than in trade, upon which a profit of £152,265 was made.

The following table shows the number of members, amount of capital, sales and profits for 1891 and 1892, with their percentages of increase in 1892, for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, and for the United Kingdom. The large increase in membership, capital and sales in Ireland is due to the establishment of the co-operative creameries, many of which had not commenced business in 1891.

Year.	No. of Societies Making Returns.	Number of Members.	Share and Loan Capital.	Cash Received for Goods.	Net Profit.	Amount Devoted to Education.
England and Wales.						
1891	1,148	940,183	£ 13,471,027	£ 37,827,825	£ 3,027,772	£ 27,106
1892	1,306	1,023,486	14,463,744	39,716,917	3,050,032	29,105
Increase Ditto per cent.	15.8	83.303	907,717	1,889,092	22,260	1,999
	...	8.9	7.4	5.0	.6	7.0
Scotland.						
1891	336	184,526	£ 2,632,271	£ 9,008,493	£ 885,679	£ 2,801
1892	342	195,019	2,693,303	9,743,238	987,660	3,636
Increase Ditto per cent.	6	11,393	351,032	734,845	101,881	745
	...	6.2	13.3	8.2	11.5	25.8
Ireland.						
1891	25	1,807	£ 15,657	£ 79,617	£ 3,234	...
1892	30	2,416	24,611	139,645	2,877	...
Increase Ditto per cent.	11	609	8,954	59,998	457	...
	...	33.7	57.9	76.6	111.0	...
Totals for United Kingdom.						
1891	1,509	1,126,516	£ 15,118,955	£ 46,915,965	£ 4,548,417	£ 30,087
1892	1,684	1,221,821	17,476,658	49,599,800	4,640,469	32,741
Increase Ditto per cent.	17.5	95,305	2,357,703	2,683,835	92,052	2,654
	...	8.5	15.6	5.7	2.0	8.7

* £20,283 of this was lost by a Scotch Investment and Building Society.

† Decrease.

STATE PAWNSHOPS IN FRANCE.*

Pawnbroking in France is a State monopoly, and the establishment of pawnshops is undertaken by the Government, with the consent of the Parish Authority. Their administration is in the hands of a Council, of which the *Maire* of the Commune is President, the members being nominated by the Prefect of the Department. One-third of their number retire annually, but are eligible for re-appointment, and their services are gratuitous. The actual management is entrusted to a salaried officer under the control of the Council and appointed by the Minister of the Interior or the Departmental prefect. Any profits made are used either for reducing the rate of interest, or for the support of hospitals. A moderate interest is charged on articles pledged, but the rate varies in different localities; thus in 1891 it was 5½ per cent. per annum in Beaucaire, 6 per cent. in Nîmes, 6½ in Toulon, 4 in Brignoles, and 9 in Paris and Nice. Articles remaining unredeemed, or on which the pledges have not been renewed for more than a year, are sold, but the owner may, within three years, claim any excess realised by the sale over the amount of the pledge and the accumulated interest. Persons offering in pledge articles exceeding 15 francs (about 12s. 6d.) in value, must afford proof of honesty.

The latest statistics of State pawnshops for the whole of France, relate to 1888, and are published in the *Annuaire Statistique de la France*. They show that the number of places having such institutions in that year was 42. It also appears that out of a total of 3,187,828 articles pledged in that year, for a total of £2,405,000, the number pledged in Paris alone was 1,510,959, with a pawned value of £1,425,000.

With regard to Paris later information is available, and the following particulars of the operations of the State pawnshops of Paris are taken from the reports for the years to which they refer.

Years.	Articles Pledged.		Pledges Redeemed.		Articles Sold.	
	Number.	Amount for which Pledged.	Number.	Amount for which Pledged.	Number.	Amount for which Pledged.
1890 ...	1,520,048	£1,454,000	1,253,754	£1,263,000	179,809	£108,000
1891 ...	1,496,536	1,515,000	1,258,306	1,202,000	211,057	122,000
1892 ...	1,491,671	1,505,000	1,278,570	1,382,000	244,157	149,000

It appears that in each of the above years about 65 per cent. of the articles pledged, 56 per cent. of the pledges renewed, and 75 per cent. of pledges sold in Paris, were pawned for less than half-a-sovereign each.

RECENT PROGRESS OF FOREIGN TRADE.

A REPORT has been prepared by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade showing the progress of the foreign trade of the United Kingdom and of other countries in recent years, with a view of throwing light on the question of the alleged greater relative progress which has been made by certain foreign countries, as regards their imports and exports. The countries mainly dealt with are Germany, France and the United States. From the statistical tables prepared the conclusion is drawn that the prevailing impression that German trade has been gaining ground everywhere at the expense of British trade is erroneous, and is based to a large extent on the iteration of particular facts from various places, as to German competition, while the larger trades are not reported on. Attention is drawn to the fact that the trade of one country seems to develop with another largely according to specialities in which the one country does not really compete with the other, but deals in an article which is hardly one of competition at all. This is illustrated in the case of imports into the United States by the exports of tin and tinplates and of flax and hemp manufactures from the United Kingdom, of beet sugar, and of cotton-knitted goods from Germany, and of silks and wines from France. On the whole, the evidence is said to indicate no weakening of the hold of the United Kingdom (in comparison with its chief competitors) upon either the import or export trade of the world.

* Bibliography.—Mont-de-Piété de Paris, Comptes Administratifs 1890, 1891, 1892. *Annuaire Statistique de la France*, 1891. *Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Economie Politique*, M. Leon Say. Art. Mont-de-Piété.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

(1.) The number of persons relieved in the selected urban districts on one day in the middle of April, shows a decrease of 15,476 or 10 per 10,000 of population as compared with March. This fall, which is largely seasonal, and is at the same rate as at this time last year, has been general to all districts, except Aberdeen. The districts in which the decline has been most marked are Stockton with a fall of 45 per 10,000 of population; West Ham and Bristol, 25 each; and Leicester, 19, while in the Metropolis there has been a drop of 12 per 10,000. The number of vagrants in London on one day was returned as 1,133, compared with 1,169 on one day in March.

(2.) Compared with April 1893 there were 12,506 more persons, or 9 per 10,000 of population, in receipt of relief in the selected urban districts this year than last, the excess in London being 10 per 10,000 of population; in West Ham, 33; in Barnsley, 30; and in Aberdeen, 31. In Stockton the rate, though still very high, is now 70 per 10,000 less than it was in April 1893.

These rates it should be stated are based on the population in 1891, and no allowance has been made for any change in population which may have since taken place.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of April 1894.			Rate per 10,000 of Population.*	Paupers on corresponding date in 1893.	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		Total Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Population.*
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	10,018	1,924	11,942	161	11,274	152
North District ...	13,148	8,887	22,035	222	21,061	212
Central District ...	7,133	3,409	10,542	126	10,533	426
East District ...	12,684	4,403	17,147	243	16,337	232
South District ...	19,320	16,191	35,511	233	34,048	223
Total Metropolis ...	62,303	34,874	97,177	231	93,253	221
West Ham ...	1,672	7,763	9,435	258	8,205	225
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	1,487	4,583	6,070	184	6,419	195
Stockton & Tees District ...	951	5,239	6,190	338	7,471	408
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	2,949	7,591	10,540	153	10,772	158
Wigan District ...	1,312	6,788	8,100	231	7,804	223
Manchester District ...	7,387	5,595	12,982	192	12,192	165
Liverpool District ...	9,021	8,383	17,404	202	16,916	197
Bradford District ...	1,075	3,976	5,051	148	4,470	129
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,013	4,735	5,748	163	5,325	151
Leeds District ...	1,585	5,563	7,148	185	6,762	175
Barnsley District ...	663	3,448	4,111	220	3,558	190
Sheffield District ...	2,130	3,875	6,005	175	5,529	161
Hull District ...	1,124	5,022	6,146	288	5,873	272
North Staffordshire ...	1,608	6,020	7,628	248	7,057	226
Nottingham District ...	1,391	5,135	6,526	197	6,072	183
Leicester District ...	1,003	2,347	3,350	192	3,166	181
Wolverhampton District ...	3,131	14,185	17,316	331	16,882	325
Birmingham District ...	4,034	2,709	6,743	124	5,759	114
Bristol District ...	2,267	8,706	10,973	336	10,232	314
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,528	5,460	6,988	243	6,831	237
Total "Other Districts" ...	45,659	108,850	154,509	206	150,070	200
SCOTLAND.†						
Glasgow District ...	3,278	13,133	16,411	212	15,503	201
Paisley & Greenock District ...	671	2,126	2,797	186	2,690	179
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,174	4,741	5,915	173	5,473	163
Dundee & Dumfries ...	951	2,440	3,391	182	3,184	171
Aberdeen ...	480	2,364	2,844	231	2,472	200
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	218	918	1,136	145	1,156	147
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	6,772	25,722	32,494	198	30,418	185
IRELAND.:						
Dublin District ...	5,847	2,701	8,548	244	7,945	227
Belfast District ...	3,267	511	3,778	123	3,379	117
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick Districts ...	4,637	6,502	11,139	442	11,157	443
Galway District ...	375	365	740	191	687	177
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	14,126	9,879	24,005	258	23,168	249
Total for above 35 districts in April ...	130,532	187,088	317,620	217	305,114	208
Total in March ...	138,064	195,032	333,096	227	319,820	218

* 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.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

THE number of new applicants for work registered during April by the nine bureaux included in the tables below was 1,921. In this total is included 204 persons registered by the Islington Bureau, which appears in the table for the first time, leaving 1,717 persons registered by the other bureaux, as compared with 1,607 in March.

The total number of old and new applicants on the registers of the nine bureaux in April was 4,208, and of these, 503, or 12 per cent., found work in April through the bureaux, an increase of 124 on the number for March. Of the 2,364 persons remaining on the registers, 1,021 were men, 255 lads and boys, and 188 women and girls. Of the men, 743, or 31 per cent. of the grand total, were described as general labourers, 239 as carmen, stablemen, &c., and 204 as porters and messengers; while of the women all except 26 were classed as charwomen, &c., or domestic servants.

(1) Work Done in April.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Workpeople on Register.		No. of Applicants during April.		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.	
	At end of April 1894.	At end of March 1894.	Fresh Applicants.	Re-novels.	During April 1894.	During March 1894.
London.						
Chelsea ...	142	171	290	324	114	82
St. Pancras ...	426	439	300	126	37	60
Battersea ...	49	61	137	114	31	37
Islington ...	338	234	204	665	85	173
Provincial.						
Salford ...	398	386	65	...	9	11
Ipswich ...	192	147	71	5	49	31
Egham ...	54	73	23	59	29	24
Plymouth ...	201	206	243	793	54	60
Liverpool ...	564	520	588	...	26	10
Total ...	2,364	2,287	1,921	2,086	434	593

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

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

Name of Labour Bureau.	Men.							Total Men.
	Build-ing, En-gineer-ing and Metal Trades.	Carmen, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c.	Clerks and Ware-house-men.	Porters and Messen-gers.	General Labour-ers.	Other Occupa-tions.		
London.								
Chelsea ...	11	7	3	24	12	11	68	
St. Pancras ...	...	30	5	64	31	103	232	
Battersea ...	4	4	...	3	20	11	44	
Islington ...	57	28	20	53	117	21	296	
Provincial.								
Salford ...	91	42	13	8	181	49	389	
Ipswich ...	6	38	4	12	44	34	138	
Egham ...	18	12	...	4	10	3	47	
Plymouth ...	69	26	8	27	41	18	189	
Liverpool ...	52	52	50	9	287	18	468	
Total Number ...	359	239	108	204	743	268	1,921	
Percentage of Grand Total ...	15.2	10.1	4.6	8.6	31.4	11.4	87.3	

Name of Labour Bureau.	Women and Girls.				Grand Total.	
	Lads and Boys.	Char-women, Daily Work, &c.	Servants.	Others.	Total Women and Girls.	April. March.
London.						
Chelsea ...	23	34	13	4	51	112
St. Pancras ...	109	23	6	7	35	426
Battersea ...	7	25	...	...	5	49
Islington ...	...	...	...	10	35	338
Provincial.						
Salford ...	9	...	...	...	...	300
Ipswich ...	23	8	23	...	31	192
Egham ...	7	...	...	...	...	54
Plymouth ...	12	...	...	...	...	201
Liverpool ...	63	20	6	5	31	564
Total Number ...	255	114	43	26	168	2,364
Percentage of Grand Total ...	10.8	4.8	2.0	1.1	7.9	100.0

NOTE.—The particulars given in the above tables are similar to those published in the last number of the GAZETTE, and relate to the same Labour Bureaux, with the addition of the one recently opened in Islington.

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

THE CONCILIATION BOARD IN THE COAL TRADE.

THE following is the complete text of the rules of procedure, agreed on by the Miners' Board of Conciliation:—

(1.)—Title.—The title of the Board shall be "The Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of the Federated Districts."

(2.)—Object.—The Board shall determine, from time to time, the rate of wages as from February 1, 1894.

(3.)—Constitution of Board.—The Board shall consist of an equal number of coalowners or coalowners' representatives elected by the federated coalowners, and miners or miners' representatives elected by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain—fourteen of each, with a chairman from outside, who shall have a casting vote.

(4.)—The present members of the Board are, and shall be: (here follow names). Whenever a vacancy has arisen from any cause on the Board, except in the office of chairman, such vacancy shall be filled up within one month of its occurrence by the body which appointed the member whose seat has become vacant. Intimation of such appointment shall be at once sent to the secretaries. On the death, resignation, or removal of the first or any subsequent chairman the Board shall endeavour to elect another chairman, and should they fail, will ask the Speaker for the time being of the House of Commons to nominate one.

(5.)—Place of Meeting.—The meetings of the Board shall be held in London, or such other place as the Board shall from time to time determine.

(6.)—Short Reference, "The Parties."—The constituents of the Board, i.e., coalowners or coalowners' representatives, and miners or miners' representatives, are for brevity herein referred to as "the parties."

(7.)—Secretaries.—The parties shall each respectively elect a secretary to represent them in the transaction of the business of the Board, and each party shall give written notice thereof to the secretary of the other party, and both such secretaries shall remain in office until they shall resign or be withdrawn by the parties electing them. The secretaries shall attend all meetings of the Board, and are entitled to take part in the discussion, but they shall have no power to move or second any resolution or to vote on any question before the Board.

(8.)—Duties of Secretaries.—They shall conjointly convene all meetings of the Board, and take proper minutes of the Board and the proceedings thereof, which shall be transcribed in duplicate books, and each such book shall be signed by the chairman, president or vice-president, or other person, as the case may be, who shall preside at the meeting at which such minutes are read and confirmed. One of such minute books shall be kept by each of the secretaries. The secretaries shall also conduct the correspondence for the respective parties and conjointly for the Board.

(9.)—Board Meetings.—The secretaries shall, on the written application of either of the parties made by the chairman and secretary of either party for an alteration in the rate of wages, or an alteration of these rules, or for any of the objects mentioned in Clause 4, call a meeting of the Board within twenty-one days at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the secretaries. The application for the meeting shall state clearly the object of the meeting.

(10.)—Duties of President, Vice-President, and Chairman.—The president, or in his absence the vice-president, shall preside at all the meetings at which the chairman is not present as herein provided; in the absence of both president and vice-president, a member of the Board shall be elected by the majority to preside at that meeting. The president or vice-president, or other person presiding, shall vote as a representative, but shall not have any casting vote. When the chairman is present he shall preside and have a casting vote.

(11.)—Business at Meetings of the Board.—All questions shall, in the first instance, be submitted to and considered by the Board, it being the desire and intention of the parties to settle any difficulties or differences which may arise by friendly conference if possible. If the parties on the Board cannot agree then the meeting shall be adjourned for a period not exceeding twenty-one days, and the matter in dispute shall be further discussed by the constituents of the two parties, and the chairman shall be summoned by the secretaries to the adjourned meeting, when the matter shall be again discussed, and in default of an agreement by the parties on the Board, the chairman shall give his casting vote on such matter at that meeting, which shall be final and binding.

(12.)—Procedure.—All questions submitted to the Board shall be stated in writing, and may be supported by such verbal, documentary, or other evidence and explanation as the parties may desire, subject to the approval of the Board.

(13.)—Voting.—All votes shall be taken at meetings of the Board by show of hands. When at any meeting of the Board the parties entitled to vote are unequal in number, all shall have the right of fully entering into the discussion of any matters brought before them; but only an equal number of each shall vote. The withdrawal of the members of whichever body may be in excess to be by lot, unless otherwise arranged.

(14.)—Expenses and Provision of Funds.—Each party shall pay and defray the expenses of its own representatives and secretary, but the costs and expenses of the chairman, stationery, books, printing, hire of rooms for meeting, shall be borne by the respective parties in equal shares.

April, 1894.

FOREIGN TRADE IN APRIL.

Imports.—The total value of imports during April, 1894, was £35,008,029, an increase of £2,887,869 over the corresponding period of 1893. The increase is largely accounted for by an increase of £1,153,879 in the imports of raw materials for textiles (of which cotton represents £272,701, and sheep and lambs' wool, £290,928) and for other industries. The largest percentage of increase was in living animals (for food), the imports of which were more than doubled.

The imports for the first four months of the year amount to £142,710,884, an increase of £13,674,229 over the corresponding period of 1893, our imports from the United States in cotton, animals for food, bacon and hams, beef and leather yielding an increase of over £6,000,000. More than half of the total increase of £13,600,000 is made up of raw materials for textile manufactures, which during the four months show a net increase over 1893 of £7,739,706.

British and Irish Exports.—The total exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures in April amounted to £17,559,876, an increase over April 1893 of £941,899, of which sum £500,000 is accounted for by the continued increase in the exports of coal. Cotton goods also show a large increase.

For the first four months of the year there has been an increase of £319,899 over the corresponding period of 1893, in spite of the fact that our exports of iron and steel goods to the United States have declined by about one-half (from £1,800,000 in 1893 to £930,000 in 1894), and of woollens and worsteds from £1,157,000 to £453,000, with corresponding decreases in articles of less importance. This decline in our trade with the United States has been balanced in one direction by an expansion of the exports of cotton goods—cotton yarns showing an increase of about £500,000, and cotton piece goods of over £3,000,000.

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise for the month of April amounted to £4,810,362, a decrease as compared with 1893 of £45,822, while for the first four months of the year the total was £19,551,611, a decrease upon 1893 of £1,513,821.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during April amounted to 260,489 bales, as compared with 219,357 bales in April 1893. In the latter month, however, the imports of cotton were still affected by the great dispute in the Cotton Trade, which terminated on March 25th, 1893, and comparison with April 1893 is, therefore, misleading. It appears from the table given below that the figures for last month are below those of the average for April 1889-92.

April.	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	Exports.
Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
1894 ...	260,489	266,457	37,621
1893 ...	219,357	200,824	31,577
Average for April in 1889-1892	332,189	288,405	41,925

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankrupts gazetted during April was 397, as compared with 331 in April 1893. Of the 397, 29 were farmers, 26 builders, 26 grocers, 23 publicans, hotel-keepers, &c., 14 bakers, 13 butchers, 10 jewellers, watchmakers, &c., and 10 decorators, painters, &c.

Hay Imports.—The imports of hay during April were again greatly in excess of those for the corresponding month of 1893, the quantities imported in the two periods being 35,560 and 13,394 tons respectively. The bulk of last month's importation, viz., 25,833 tons, came from the United States, as compared with 9,671 tons in April, 1893.

British Corn.—At the end of April the average prices of British corn per quarter were as follows:—

	April.	March.
	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat	24 10	24 6
Barley	26 3	27 1
Oats	18 3	18 0

The average price of British wheat for the five weeks ending May 5th 1894, was 24s. 8½d. per quarter, a fall of 8½d. as compared with the same period of 1893.

Traffic Receipts.—The receipts of 23 of the principal railway companies in the United Kingdom amounted to £5,500,544 for the four weeks ended April 28th, agreeing very closely with the amount for the corresponding period of 1893, viz., £5,460,582, the difference being only £39,962, or about 0.7 per cent. There was a considerable falling off in the passenger receipts, amounting to rather more than 8 per cent., but this was more than counterbalanced by the increase in the receipts from minerals and goods. The comparison between April 1893 and last month is affected by the dates of the holiday

traffic, and if the nine weeks ending April 28th are compared with the same period in 1893, it is found that the receipts from passenger traffic dropped about 1 per cent. only, while the total receipts advanced by £227,777, or nearly 2 per cent.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Emigration.—The emigration last month from this country was again only about half what it was in the corresponding month of 1893.

British.—The number of passengers of British nationality was 16,591, a decrease when compared with April, 1893, of 12,578, or 43 per cent. This fall was principally in the numbers going to the United States and Canada, the number of passengers to Australasia showing an increase of 4.3 per cent. on the number for March last year. The figures are:—

	April, 1894.	April, 1893.	Percentage Decrease.
United States	11,874	23,170	48.8
British North America	2,415	3,712	34.9
South Africa	995	1,043	4.6
Australasia	676	648	*4.3
Other Places	631	596	*5.9
Total	16,591	29,169	43.1

Foreign.—In addition to the above British passengers, there were 6,119 foreigners and others whose nationality was not stated, bringing up the total emigration for the month to 22,710, a decrease of 21,625, or nearly 48.8 per cent.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens recorded as arriving at ports in the United Kingdom last month shows a very large decrease as compared with April, 1893, the figures for the two periods being 8,867 and 17,581 respectively. This decline was almost entirely amongst immigrants stated to be en route to America, 8,581, or over 98 per cent. of the total decrease, being thus accounted for. The ports of embarkation most affected are the Scandinavian, where the numbers have fallen from 6,621 to 2,281, and the Dutch and Belgian, where the drop has been from 1,910 to 1,409. Of last month's immigration, 5,041, or 57 per cent., were stated to be on their way to America, and of the 3,826 remaining, 972 were sailors

CONCILIATION BILL.

The following is the text of the Bill, dealing with the settlement of Labour Disputes, which has been introduced by the Government and is now before the House of Commons:—

1. Where a difference exists or is apprehended between an employer or any class of employers, and workmen, or between different classes of workmen, the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, exercise all or any of the following powers, namely:—

(a) inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference, and make such report, if any, thereon as appears to the Board expedient; and

(b) invite the parties to the difference to meet together, by themselves or their representatives, under the presidency of a chairman mutually agreed upon or nominated by the Board of Trade or by some other person or body, with a view to the amicable settlement of the difference.

2.—(1.) In the case of any difference to which the foregoing section applies, the Board of Trade may, on the application of any of the employers or workmen interested, and if the Board, after taking into consideration the circumstances of the case and the means available for conciliation in the district or the trade, are of opinion that the circumstances are such as to justify them in proceeding under this section, appoint a person or persons to act as conciliator or as a board of conciliation, and the person or persons so appointed shall inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference by communication with the parties and otherwise, and shall endeavour to bring about a settlement of the difference.

(2.) If it is agreed or arranged to refer any question arising out of or incidental to any such difference to a person appointed by the Board of Trade or to two or more persons, of whom one is to be appointed by the Board of Trade, the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, make an appointment accordingly.

3. If it appears to the Board of Trade that in any district or trade where disputes are of frequent occurrence adequate means do not exist for having disputes submitted to a board of conciliation for the district or trade, they may appoint any person or persons to inquire into the conditions of the district or trade, and to confer with employers and employed with the view of establishing a local board of conciliation or arbitration composed of representatives of employers and employed.

4. The Board of Trade shall keep a register of boards of conciliation and arbitration, and shall enter therein such particulars with respect thereto as to the Board may seem expedient.

5. The Board of Trade shall present to Parliament annually a report of their proceedings under this Act.

6. This Act may be cited as the Conciliation Act, 1894.

* Increase.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN APRIL.

DURING April the total number of industrial prosecutions, as shown in the three tables below, was 261, an increase of 17 when compared with the previous month. Under the *Factory and Workshop Acts* there were 170 prosecutions, resulting in 165 convictions, with an average penalty, including costs, of £1 18s. 0d. There were 69 prosecutions under the *Mines Acts*, from which 51 convictions were obtained against workmen and 11 against owners or managers, the average penalties with costs imposed on the former being £1 0s. 9d., and on the latter £2 1s. 10d. Convictions were obtained in 20 out of the 22 prosecutions under the *Merchant Shipping Acts*, of which 14 convictions were against owners or masters of vessels, 2 against seamen, and 4 against boarding-house keepers, the average penalties and costs being respectively £14 1s. 5d., £1 7s. 3d., and £1 8s. 3d.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCES	No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.	Total Amount of Penalties.	Total Amount of Costs.
Neglecting to Linewash, &c. ...	3	3	£ s. d. 1 10 0	£ s. d. 0 19 0
Overcrowding Factory or Workshop ...	10	10	50 0 0	1 15 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery, &c. ...	6	6	11 12 6	2 14 0
Employing Young Persons under Illegal Conditions	24	24	90 12 0	17 17 3
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment.				
Before or after the legal hour ...	11	11	19 17 0	7 4 0
During meal times, or without proper interval for meals	9	8	4 1 0	8 6 6
Beyond legal hours on Saturday or day substituted	20	17	30 17 0	15 10 0
(Children) Full time or otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	5	5	2 15 0	1 18 6
Other Offences	...	...	...	...
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.	3	3	5 2 6	1 13 10
Not keeping registers ...	14	14	8 7 4	6 5 9
„ affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts	50	49	44 5 6	17 14 4
„ sending notices required by Act	13	13	21 8 6	7 4 10
Miscellaneous	2	2	3 0 0	0 17 6
Total for April 1894	170	165	223 8 6	90 1 0
Total for March 1894	165	155	142 4 9	114 3 7

* Supplied by the Home Office.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.—					£ s. d.
Fencing ...	...	...	...	...	3 0 0
Ventilation ...	1	1	...	...	3 0 0
Shafts and Manholes ...	13	10	1	2	20 0 0
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...
By Workmen—					£ s. d.
Safety Lamps ...	10†	8†	...	...	7 11 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	7	6	...	1	5 12 0
Timbering ...	5	5	...	...	4 16 3
Lucifer Matches, &c. ...	12	12	...	...	7 0 2
Riding on Trams, &c. ...	21	20	...	1	28 0 0
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total for April	69	62	1	4	75 19 5
Monthly Average for last 8 months of 1893	35	31	1	3	49 2 7

* Supplied by the Home Office.

† In two of these cases the defendants absconded, and warrants have been issued for their apprehension.

† A sentence of two months hard labour, without the option of a fine, was passed upon one of the defendants.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Nature of Offence.	No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:—			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Submerging Disc ...	6	4	50 0 0	8 7 6
Carrying excessive deck cargoes ...	1	1	50 0 0	2 14 3
Do. grain in bulk between decks	2	2	45 0 0	1 7 6
Illegally engaging and discharging seamen	2	2	1 0 0	1 0 0
Under Sea Fishery Act 1883	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	5	5	37 10 0	...
By Seamen:—	2	2	2 2 6	0 12 0
By Boarding-House Keepers:—	4	4	4 10 0	1 3 0
Total for April	22	20	190 2 6	15 4 8
Total for March	16	16	201 5 0	38 7 10

LABOUR CASES IN APRIL.

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

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Whitehaven County Court, April 14th.—Collier's widow sued Colliery Company for £253 10s. for loss of husband, killed by the fall of a "sett" down an incline. It was contended that the pin attachment of the sett was defective, that the road down which it fell was not wide enough to allow the men to stand out of the way, and that the manholes provided were not large enough. Verdict for plaintiff for £230 and costs.

Queen's Bench Division, April 18th.—Painter had sued employer in Bow County Court for injury suffered through defective plant when working for contractors who supplied plant while defendant supplied men. Defendant had pleaded that he did not supply the defective staging and never examined it. The judge had directed the jury that to make the defendant liable the defect must be such as ought to have been discovered by defendant. Jury awarded plaintiff £50. Defendant now appealed on the ground that the contractors were the employers of the plaintiff. The Court held that this plea was not put forward in the first action, and a new trial ought not to be directed on points not taken at the trial. Appeal dismissed.

Bradford County Court, April 17th.—Weaver sued employer for £100 (three years' wages) for loss of eye caused by the flying of a shuttle from a defective loom without a shuttle guard. Defence that no efficient shuttle-guards had yet been invented, and that plaintiff's earnings were less than the amount stated. Judge awarded £60.

Edmonton County Court, April 17th.—Widow of worker in linoleum factory claimed damages for loss of husband killed while replacing a driving belt while machinery was in motion, alleged to be an approved custom in the factory. Defence, that two men called "bandmen" were employed for this special duty, and that deceased was killed through recklessness. Evidence on behalf of plaintiff that the bandmen were only intended to mend belts. Verdict for plaintiff for £200 and costs on the higher scale.

City of London Court, April 20th.—Defendant company, sued by plaintiff for personal injuries sustained by him, applied that plaintiff should be medically examined by their doctor. Application opposed on the ground that Court had no authority to grant it. Commissioner refused application, but considered plaintiff should have consented to medical examination, and therefore did not grant costs.

City of London Court, April 20th.—Dock labourer sued company for £50 for injuries sustained in unloading vessel owing to the breaking of a bucket handle. Defence, that accident was unavoidable, as there was no way of ascertaining defective condition of the handle. Verdict for defendant company.

Liverpool County Court, April 23rd.—Coal heaver sued master stevedore for injuries sustained when passing along a plank to a lighter alongside steamer owing to breaking of the plank. Defence, that plaintiff should have gone by the cargo staging or jumped on board; also that the defendant had nothing to do with the plank, which was not his. Verdict for defendant.

Oldham County Court, April 20th.—Cardroom operative (back-grinder) sued employer for £167 6s. damages for loss of right arm, due to neglect of carder and front-grinder to cover machinery. Defence, that it was not the duty of the carder to cover the machinery, but of the front and back-grinders together. Verdict for plaintiff for £100 and costs.

City of London Court, April 26th.—Dock labourer sued a firm of stevedores for £150 for injuries sustained through alleged negligence of servants of defendant company. Some other men at work had been ordered by foreman to sling a stanchion; as it rose it swung round and injured plaintiff. Defence, that foreman only told the men to move the stanchion, and they did it in a negligent way. Verdict for plaintiff for £80.

Queen's Bench Division, April 26th.—Dancer sued proprietor of theatre for damages for injuries caused by a ruck in the stage carpet. Action had been tried and jury disagreed, the defendant pleading that although carpet had been laid by permanent servants of the theatre, they had been hired along with the theatre by lessee. Defendant now applied for judgment on the ground that in law he was not liable. Judgment for defendant with costs.

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Wymondham Police Court, April 3rd.—Team man claimed 13s. 6d., one week's wages in lieu of notice, and 4s. 9d. balance for work done; for the latter amount defendant counter-claimed for three weeks' rent of cottage. Plaintiff alleged that upon giving a week's notice he was immediately discharged. Judgment for plaintiff for 13s. 6d.

Norwich Guildhall Police Court, April 5th.—Carpenter claimed 34d. balance of wages for two hours' notice. Defence, that for past 12 years one hour's notice only had been customary at the place where plaintiff worked. Judgment for plaintiff, with 3s. costs.

Brierley Hill Police Court, April 5th.—Iron and steel company sued chainmaker for £6 4s. 9d. money overdrawn. It was a custom in

the trade to allow men to overdraw. The debt went back to March 1892. Order made for the payment of the money by instalments of £1 a month.

Pontypridd Police Court, April 11th.—Road cleaner at colliery claimed 19s. 5d., balance of wages due, and £4 5s. 10d. in lieu of a month's notice. Defendant company paid 12s. 11d. into court as due to plaintiff. Plaintiff had refused to do certain work, believing it was unsafe; the overman declared it perfectly safe, and plaintiff still refusing was dismissed. Claim for damages dismissed; judgment for plaintiff for money paid into Court.

Birmingham Police Court, April 16th.—Electric wireman claimed a week's wages in lieu of notice and railway fare from London, alleging that it was customary to give and receive a week's notice. Defence, that in most firms two hours' notice only was usual. Order made as claimed and costs, = £3 19s. 10d. together.

Wolverhampton Police Court, April 18th.—Chainmaking firm sued chainmaker for £3 9s. 4d. for wages advanced, and for £2 7s. 6d. for neglect of work, defendant having left his work without giving due notice. Defence, that plaintiff had asked the men to do a new kind of chain at an extremely low rate, and that defendant had a right to decide whether he would or would not work for the price offered, as it was not in the price list agreed upon by the trade. The overdrawn account was admitted. The defendant was under engagement to pay a fine of 2s. 6d. for every day's absence from work, and to give 28 days' notice of leaving. Stipendiary considered defendant should have given the usual notice, have done the work while under notice, and then sued his employer for money due to him if a fair price was not paid. Verdict for plaintiff on both counts.

Durham County Police Court, April 25th.—Coalowners sued 169 miners for 17s. 6d. each for breach of contract as workmen. Six men had been discharged in order to reduce the staff. The other men objected and decided to restrict the output of coal to three tubs a shift, and in case of broken coal to four tubs, the normal output being from seven to nine. This had been done for a fortnight, and the loss was computed at 17s. 6d. for each man. Verdict for plaintiffs. The other cases were adjourned.

(3) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT.

Liverpool City Police Court, April 11th.—A friendly society was summoned to reinstate plaintiff as a member, alleging that owing to his falling into arrears through the collector not calling as required by the rules, he received a notice of forfeiture, which was defective. He also claimed two guineas expenses incurred. Judgment for plaintiff on both counts, and 4s. 6d. costs.

One charge of embezzlement by a trade union official and two of fraud on the part of members of trade societies have been reported.

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 English Industrial Organizations in April it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 9 Co-operative Associations of Consumers, 3 Co-operative Associations of Producers, 7 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 20 new Friendly Societies, and 27 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register during the past month. Only three societies are reported as having ceased to exist.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

I.—Trade Unions.

Chippers and General Fitters, Greenwich Pensioner Inn, Poplar. Jewish Tailors, Machinists and Pressers, Volunteer Inn, Leeds. Button and Stud Makers, Guildford Street Chapel, Birmingham.

II.—Industrial and Provident Societies.

Associations of Consumers.

Stevenage District C.S., Stevenage. Chesterfield and District C.S., New Square, Chesterfield. Cheshunt and Waltham C.S., Beehive Cottage, Turner's Hill. Melton Mowbray I.C.S., 36 King Street, Melton Mowbray. North Ormesby Coal S., 8 Charles Street, N. Ormesby. Newbottle C. S., Black Lane, Newbottle, Fence Houses. Blackburn Farmers' Assod. Supply S., 2 Salford, Blackburn. Trebvelth Industrial C.S., Llangyfelach Road, Trebvelth, Swansea. Tondou and Aberkenfig C.S., 4 Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig (Glam.).

Associations of Producers.

Leicester C. Gen. Engineering and Machinists, 11 Gresham Street. Nottingham Boot and Shoe S., 46 Pelham Street, Nottingham. Cabinet Makers' C. S., 6 Christian Street, London, E.

Miscellaneous Societies.

City Co-operative Club S., Old Broad Street, London, E.C. Co-operative Publishing S., Milton House, Rochester. Greetland Liberal Builders S., Mount Pleasant, Greetland, Halifax. Agricultural and Industrial S., 6 Christian Street, London, E. Commercial Industry, Ditto. Hay and Fodder Agency, Ditto. New Laid Egg Agency, Ditto.

III.—Friendly Societies.

New Societies.

Ordinary Friendly ... 16 Dividing ... 5
Specially Authorised ... 2 Working Men's Clubs ... 5

New Branches of Existing Societies.

I.O. Oddfellows, M.U. ... 3 N.A.I.U.O. Oddfellows ... 3
I.O. Rechabites, S.U. ... 11 Various others ... 10

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.*

United Brotherhood of Paper-makers Trade Union.
East London French Polishers T.U. (amalgamated with the Alliance).
Nine Building Societies have been dissolved; transferred engagements, one.

THE "EIGHT HOURS' DAY" IN THE WAR OFFICE ESTABLISHMENTS—(continued).

THE following particulars with regard to the new arrangement of hours in certain departments under the War Office are given in continuation of those already published in the February and March GAZETTES.

INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

I.—Bagot Street, Birmingham, SMALL ARMS INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

(Number affected, 329; new hours came into operation on 26th February, 1894.)

	Monday.	Tuesday— Friday.	Saturday.	Total Hours per Week
Old Hours:				
Morning ...	7—12	7—12	7—12	54
Afternoon ...	1—5	1—6	...	
Total hours per day	9	10	5	
New Hours:				
Morning ...	8—1	8—1	8—12	48
Afternoon ...	2—5	2—6	...	
Total hours per day	8	9	4	

II.—Woolwich Arsenal, INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

(Number affected about 650; new hours came into force on 26th February 1894 for the majority of the workmen—the remainder commenced the new system on the 12th March.)

	Monday— Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Total Hours per Week
Old Hours:				
Morning ...	6—8	6—8	6—8	54
Afternoon ...	9—1	9—1	9—1	
Afternoon ...	2—5.30	2—6	...	
Total hours per day	9½	10	6	
New Hours:				
Morning ...	8—1	8—1	8—12.40	48
Afternoon ...	2—5.40	2—5.40	...	
Total hours per day	8½	8½	4½	

NOTE.—In the case of the General Stores Inspection Division at Woolwich Dockyard, the hours are the same as those given for Woolwich Dockyard in Table II. on p. 77 of the March issue, and in the case of the Small Arms Inspection Department at Enfield, the hours are the same as those given in the second Table on p. 44 of the February issue.

The new time tables at the Bow and Hoxton Small Arms Inspection Departments are not given in detail, as the numbers employed therein amount to less than 150.

Building Societies.—Returns from 2,152 of the 2,371 existing Building Societies for 1892 show that at the end of the financial year, 716 Societies had no "properties in possession" through default of borrowing members. The remaining 1,436 Societies had "properties in possession," standing in their assets at the date of the account to the value of £3,715,106. The original valuation of these properties was £5,100,115, and the total amount advanced upon them was £4,342,182, of which the sum of £4,120,437 was due when possession was taken. The gross income from these properties for the year, by way of rents, etc., exceeded the gross outgoings by £128,393, an amount equal to nearly 3½ per cent. upon the amount at which they stand in the assets of the societies. The return contains a complete list of the societies, with their registered addresses—whether making returns or not—arranged by counties.

* Or ceased to exist.

† Return—Building Societies (Properties in Possession). P. P. 56 of 1894. Price 9d.

TRADE DISPUTES.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN new disputes took place in April, as compared with 100 in March and 73 in April 1893.

In the Building Trade, no less than 30 disputes took place, and, as might be expected from the seasonal activity in the trade, the object in a large proportion of these disputes was to obtain increased wages, reduced hours of labour, or improved working rules. 18 were due to these causes, and 7 others were in defence of union rules and customs. In the Clothing Trades 12 disputes took place, 8 of which were due to wages questions, and 1 was for abolition of the outworking system. Of the 13 disputes in the Metal Trades, 9 were directly due to wages disagreements, 3 to questions of working arrangements and dismissals of fellow-workers, and in the remaining case 16 men struck against a decision of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration of their trade. In connection with Mining and Quarrying 19 disputes took place, 18 of which, including the series of strikes in Scotland against reductions, were due to wages questions; 4 of the 6 disputes in Seafaring, Dock and Waterside Labour arose in respect of unionism and defence of colleagues, and 2 were more or less due to questions of earnings. In the Shipbuilding Trade 4 of the 8 disputes were directly due to questions of wages, and 1 to demarcation of work. Of the 19 disputes in Textile Trades, 11 were due to wages questions, 7 more or less to dissatisfaction with working arrangements, and 1 to dismissal of fellow-workers. Of the 6 disputes in Miscellaneous Industries, 4 were directly due to wages questions and 1 was for shorter hours of labour.

The geographical distribution of the 113 disputes was as follows:—Six Northern counties 42, Midland counties 14, Eastern counties 4, Western and South-Western counties and Wales 8, London 3, Southern counties 1, Scotland 38, Ireland 3.

Eighteen disputes which occurred in previous months were brought to a settlement in April, including two of over twelve months' standing, and at the end of the month it was known that 26 old disputes were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1894.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Establishments.	Persons.	Commencement.	Termination.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Plasterers and Labourers	Leicester ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	...	130	April 2	...	Still unsettled.
Bricklayers and Labourers	Leeds ...	Objection to employment of unapprenticed boys, and of a non-union foreman	1	17	2	2	Employer agreed to comply with Union requirements.
Bricklayers	Cromer ...	For a code of working rules in addition to an advance of 3d. per hour which had been previously arranged	4	50	2	11	Rules agreed to.
Carpenters and Joiners	Wolverhampton	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	...	230	2	...	Still unsettled.
Stonemasons	Dumfries ...	Ditto ...	...	60	2	7	Immediate advance of 4d. per hour granted, with promise of remainder on May 7th.
Joiners	Perth ...	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour ...	11	104	2	3	Advance conceded.
Carpenters	Elgin ...	Ditto ...	11	49	9	28	Advance granted, and code of working rules signed.
Plumbers	Perth ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	...	50	9	21	Immediate advance of 4d. granted, with promise of a further 4d. in three months.
Joiners	Bingley ...	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour, which had been generally granted	1	30	9	...	Advance granted as in other firms.
Window-blind Makers	Leicester ...	For a fixed hour for payment of wages, and for reinstatement of a dismissed colleague	1	12	11	...	Still unsettled.
Bricklayers' Labourers	Glasgow ...	For advance of wages of 1d. per hour ...	1	38	13	...	Ditto.
Sett Dressers (road construction)	Glasgow ...	For payment by number in redressing setts, instead of by weight	1	18	13	...	Ditto.
Masons' Labourers	Glasgow ...	For advance in wages to the standard rate of 3d. per hour	1	6	14	14	Advance to standard rate conceded.
Builders' Labourers	Sunderland ...	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour ...	10	150 dir. 100 indir.	14	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Hartlepool ...	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour ...	...	100	16	...	Ditto.
Plumbers	Dundee ...	Against employment of certain men at less than the standard rate of wages	2	25	17	...	Ditto.
Stonemasons	Bristol ...	To compel two non-union men to join Society ...	1	12	23	...	Ditto.
Brickmakers	Portobello, N.B.	For abolition of system of making 1,050 bricks for the price of 1,000	1	19	23	4 May April	Work resumed as before. Some men obtained work elsewhere.
Builders' Labourers	Dunblane ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	...	...	23	...	No details of settlement.
Joiners	Bathgate ...	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour ...	3	25	23	...	Advance conceded.
Labourers and Bricklayers	Leeds ...	Against employment of two non-union labourers at less than the recognised rate of wages	1	20	25	...	Still unsettled.
Mill Sawyers	Grimsby ...	Against increase, alleged to be dangerous and excessive, in the speed of a planing machine	1	13	27	...	Ditto.
Concreters (tower construction)	Blackpool ...	Against dismissal of a man for needlessly placing himself in danger	1	150	27	...	No details of settlement.
Bricklayers and Labourers	Grimsby ...	For adoption of a code of working rules...	...	120	28	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Rochdale ...	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour to labourers, with one labourer to each bricklayer	...	130 dir. 130 indir.	30	...	Ditto.
Bricklayers	Gloucester ...	Against dismissal of certain men without due notice	1	9	30	...	Ditto.
Masons	Barnsley ...	Refusal of certain employers to accept a new rule with regard to regulation of apprentices	...	30	30	10 May	Regulation accepted by employers.
Stonemasons	Pontypridd ...	Against importation of "ready dressed" stone ...	1	...	...	...	Employer agreed to remove stone from the job.
Ditto	West Hartlepool	Against importation of "ready dressed" stone...	1	15	...	...	Still unsettled.
Painters	Drogheda ...	For advance in wages of 3s. per week ...	...	...	30	...	Ditto.
Clothing Trades.							
Tailors	Bolton ...	For advance in wages of 10 per cent., and re-arrangement of the "log" or price list.	...	200	2	April	Advance of 10 per cent. conceded.
Ditto	Lisburn ...	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour ...	3	36	2	12	Advance of 4d. per hour conceded.
Hand Frame Knitters	Nottingham ...	Against reduction in wages of 1s. 6d. per dozen	1	4	2	...	Still unsettled.
Tailors	Bradford ...	For abolition of the outworking system ...	8	150	9	13	Employers agreed to do all their work indoors.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Rothwell, Kettering	Men locked out for disputing certain work which was given out at a reduction.	1	33	17	18	Men reinstated, employer stating that the work had been given out in error at the price in dispute.
Ditto	Bristol ...	Against discharge of a fellow operative for alleged slowness in working.	1	80 dir. 70 indir.	26	...	Still unsettled.
Slipper Makers	Leeds ...	Against proposed reduction of 3d. per dozen on certain slippers.	1	6	29	...	Still unsettled. (Now developed into a lock-out affecting 120 persons.)
Framework Knitters (hosiery)	Leicester ...	Objection to employer removing machinery into country districts to obtain cheaper labour	1	40	30	...	Still unsettled.
Tailors	Blyth ...	Various grievances; particulars not fully stated	...	...	30	1 May	Details not yet to hand.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Glasgow ...	Against refusal of employer to pay certain extras, and announced intention to work on the "team" system.	1	...	...	...	Employer agreed to the union requirements.
Ditto	Ashton-under-Lyne	For advance in wages of 2d. per pair for repairing	...	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Tailors	Skipton ...	For advance in "log" prices of 4d. per hour ...	...	...	...	...	Demands granted by all but one firm.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Persons.	Com-mence-ment.	Termination.	Result.
Metal Trades.							
Tube Fitting, &c.	Netherton, Dudley	Against proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent.	1	20	April 1	...	Still unsettled.
Watch Makers ...	Prescot ...	Refusal to accept a proposed reduction of 2s. per tray, or 8s. to 10s. per week.	1	...	2	...	Stated to have been replaced by improved machinery and boy labour.
Puddlers ...	Motherwell ...	Dissatisfaction with quality of fuel supplied ...	1	...	2	3	Employer agreed to supply improved fuel.
Pattern Makers...	Stockton-on-Tees	For advance in weekly wages of 3s. and 10 per cent. on piece prices	3	45	4	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Rivers Tyne and Wear	For advance in wages of 3s. per week ...	...	400	7	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Hartlepool ...	For advance in weekly wages of 3s. and 10 per cent. on piece prices	1	50	9	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Middlesbro'	Ditto	1	13	9	...	Ditto.
Machine Men (Projectile Works)	London, S.E.	Against proposed reduction in wages of 12½ per cent.	1	60	13	May 8	Reduction of 7½ per cent. accepted.
Blast Furnace Men	Govan ...	For re-instatement of certain discharged helpers whose work had devolved upon the furnace men	1	30	14	April 26	Work resumed, the employers giving way on a portion of the question in dispute.
Lifters, &c. (Steel Works)	Stockton-on-Tees	Dissatisfaction with a decision of the Trade Board of Conciliation and Arbitration with reference to wages	1	16	19	...	Still unsettled.
Iron Dressers ...	Dundee ...	Against introduction of a skilled mechanic to do iron dressing	1	5	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Newton, near Glasgow	For advance in wages of ½d. per hour ...	1	200	...	...	Ditto.
Tinplate Workers	Aberdare ...	Refusal to give "concessions" or an increased output	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Fitters, Smiths, &c. (coal mine)	Merthyr ...	For advance in wages to a fixed standard rate ...	1	50 dir. 300 indir.	2	...	Ditto.
Coal Miners ...	Pemberton, Lancs.	For increase in prices in a certain seam...	1	...	3	17	Full details of settlement not to hand.
Ditto ...	Treorkey, Pontypridd	Dispute as to certain deductions from wages	1	800	9	10	Employers consented to refund the deductions made.
Ditto ...	Airdrie ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 6d. to 1s. per day	...	2,000	About 10	...	Reduction of 6d. per day accepted.
Ditto ...	Denny...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 9d. per day	1	70	11	24	Reduction accepted of about 6d. per day.
Quarrymen ...	Coleford, Glos.	Against proposed reduction in wages on changing from hand to steam cranes	1	90	12	...	Still unsettled.
Coal Miners ...	Tranent, East Lothian	Against proposed withdrawal of allowance of 1s. 4d. per yard for removing "brushing"	1	100	13	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Grangeopans, Bo'ness	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. per day	1	160	13	20	Reduction of 6d. per day accepted.
Ditto ...	Hamilton ...	Against introduction of sub-contractors at a reduced rate	1	...	16	16	Employers agreed to withdraw contract, and dismiss contractors.
Ditto ...	Motherwell ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. per day	1	101	16	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Bo'ness ...	Against reduction in wages of about 1s. per day	1	...	About 23	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Cleland, Lanarkshire	Against reduction in wages ...	1	300	4 days	...	Reduction accepted.
Ditto ...	St. Helens ...	Objection to long distance of conveyance of coal boxes	1	17	...	...	Work resumed, men paying cost of summonses issued.
Ditto ...	Belper...	Against withdrawal of payment for "tramping," equal to a reduction of about 1s. 6d. per man	1	130	...	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Airdrie ...	Against reduction in wages of 6d. per day	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Airdrie ...	Against reduction in wages of 1s. per day	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Little Hulton, Bolton	Against refusal of employers to provide a second "jigger"	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Gannister Getters and Trimmers	Deepcar, Sheffield	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	30	26	About May 1	Reduction of 7½ per cent. accepted.
Ditto ...	Newmains ...	Against reduction in wages ...	1	200	About 1 week	...	Reduction accepted.
Seafaring, Dock and Waterside Labour.							
Quay Labourers ...	Greenock ...	Against employment of men from Glasgow to assist in salt cargo discharging	1	200	2	April	Glasgow men withdrawn.
Wherry-men ...	Newcastle-on-Tyne	Refusal by employers of a new list of prices, including part payment of towage expenses	6	90 men, 23 boys	3	...	Still unsettled.
Dock Labourers ...	London, S.E.	Against alleged wrongful discharge of two men	1	150	4	5	Work resumed. No details of settlement.
Fishermen ...	Lowestoft ...	Objection to purchase by some buyers of certain herrings at "bait" prices to be used as "food" fish	20	300	13	...	Work resumed after a few days on previous conditions.
Harbour Labourers	Glasgow ...	Against reduction in the number of men to each gang	1	170	24	24	Work resumed, the full number of men to each gang to be employed.
Quay Labourers	Liverpool ...	Against employment of non-union men ...	1	80	28	...	Ship removed, and discharged in enclosed dock by non-union men.
Shipbuilding.							
Painters ...	Clydebank ...	Against encroachment on their work by red-leaders	1	74	2	3	Work resumed, employers agreeing not to employ red-leaders on painters' work in future.
Platers' Helpers	West Hartlepool	To compel certain men to leave one union and join another	1	200	6	17	Agreement to work alongside men of the other union.
Shipyard Boys ...	Govan ...	No cause stated. Ostensibly for a holiday ...	1	100 dir. 200 indir.	9	10	Work resumed.
Riveters and Platers	West Hartlepool	For advance in wages on certain work to rate obtaining in another yard of the firm	1	11	16	16	Work resumed on previous conditions.
Engineers ...	Linthouse, Glasgow	For advance in minimum rate of pay ...	1	...	16	...	Still unsettled.
Platers' Helpers	Whiteinch, Glasgow	For advance in wages...	1	...	16	16	Advance conceded.
Ditto, &c. ...	Wallsend-on-Tyne	For increase of one man to each shell squad ...	1	32 dir. 350 indir.	18	...	Platers and helpers remain out, the others resumed work.
Riveters ...	Govan...	Alleged inability to earn full wages, and for an advance in rates	1	100	26	27	Work resumed, demand being postponed to a more opportune time.
Textile Trades.							
Cotton Weavers	Padiham ...	Refusal to pay according to price list of district	1	150	2	9	Employer agreed to pay up to list prices.
Ditto ...	Stockport ...	Alleged bad material and inability to earn wages according to Blackburn list in consequence	1	300	5	21	Advance granted of 10 per cent. for one month, material to be meanwhile improved, afterwards an advance of 5 per cent. for 12 months.
Calenderers, &c. ...	Dundee ...	For re-arrangement of hours during short time, so as to work on 4 days only instead of 6	1	108 dir. 2,000 indir.	6	18	Full time resumed, one-third of the calenderers losing their employment.
Linen Winders and Weavers	Belfast ...	Alleged bad quality of material ...	1	450 females	10	23	Temporary advance of 3d. per cut given upon the bad yarn.
Cotton Weavers	Barrowford, Nelson	Alleged payment at less than list prices ...	1	150	11	25	Employer agreed to pay the full list prices.
Ditto ...	Nelson ...	For adoption of the Chorley price list for weaving stove work	9	1,450	11	17	Price list arranged, giving advances of 2 to 12 per cent.
Woollen Operatives	Ra'enshorpe	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	...	About 13	...	No details of settlement.
Dyers ...	Leeds ...	Against dismissal of two men, alleged to be for joining a union	1	13	16	20	Men in question re-instated.
Cotton Weavers	Rawtenstall ...	Against alleged excessive deductions ...	1	120	18	20	Work resumed upon a promise to moderate the deductions in future.
Ditto ...	Cliviger, Burnley	Alleged payment at less than list prices ...	1	100	18	...	Still unsettled.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Persons.	Com-mence-ment.	Termination.	Result.
Cotton Weavers and Winders	Droydsden ...	For advance in wages of 15 to 20 per cent.—to Radcliffe price list	1	91	April 18	April ...	Still unsettled.
Jute Weavers ...	Glasgow ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per piece, or about 6d. per week	1	80 dir. 300 indir.	20	27	Work resumed pending comparison with Dundee prices.
Overlookers ...	Hadfield ...	Against stoppage of an advance in poundage rates, conditional upon other mills granting the same	1	3,000 dir. and indir.	21	4 May	General question discussed at a meeting of employers and union officials, and consideration postponed for two months.
Cotton Weavers	Glossop ...	Alleged excessive fining and other grievances ...	1	...	23	...	Amicable settlement effected, nature thereof not yet to hand.
Woollen Weavers	Carlisle ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. and 1s. 4d. per cut	1	120	24	21 April	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Heddlers (Linen Manufacture)	Aberdeen ...	For advance in wages...	1	20	27	...	Still unsettled.
Ring Spinners and Winders	Farnworth, Bolton	Spinners complained of rate of wages, and winders of quality of the work given out	1	600	27	2 May	Work resumed on previous conditions.
Cloth Weavers ...	Leeds ...	For reinstatement of a discharged tuner, and for advance in wages of 6d. per cut	1	57 females	30	1 May	Tuner re-instated, and desired advance granted to some operatives.
Piccers ...	Bolton...	Objection to bringing in an outside spinner during a temporary vacancy, instead of promoting one of themselves	1	40	30	2	Work resumed on previous conditions.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Glass Blowers ...	Birmingham...	For advance in wages to the recognised standard	1	40	9	April ...	Still unsettled.
Insurance Agents	Walsall & Wolverhampton	Against new conditions imposed by employers...	1	17	14	23	Conditions temporarily withdrawn, and some slight concessions made.
Upholsterers ...	Aberdeen ...	For a minimum rate of wages, and an increase of ½d. per hour all round	25	60	30	1 May	Advance of ½d. per hour granted.
Wood Turners ...	Worksop ...	Against proposed reduction of 2d. per gross on two classes of small articles	1	...	...	...	Reduction accepted.
Printing Machine Labourers	Redhill, Surrey	Against alleged excessive hours of work...	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Bamboo Workers (foreigners)	London, E.	For advance in wages, and for a standard list of prices	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.

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

Coal Miners	Resolven ...	Dispute as to working a particular seam...	1	...	End of 1893	April ...	Work to be resumed on an amicable arrangement. Full particulars not yet to hand.
Ditto	Near Rotherham	Refusal to accept terms offered during certain difficulties in working	1	800	31 Mar.	...	Work resumed on terms and prices of another pit in same employ. All but 100 had obtained work elsewhere.
Tailors	Perth ...	Dispute between English and Scotch Societies, the latter desiring to include in their ranks a member of the former	Not stated	...	14 Aug.	About 10	Scotch Society submitted to work with English Society's members.
Bricklayers and Labourers	South Shields	Against proposed introduction by Employers' Association of a new code of working rules	56	150	1 Jan.	4	New rules withdrawn.
Engineers	Weymouth ...	Against employment of mathematical instrument makers (members of another Union) upon certain fine work	1	127	2 Feb.	7	A few men reinstated, but the majority of places had been filled up and a large amount of work sent abroad.
Saw Millers	Dublin ...	Refusal to alter working hours to a desired uniformity with those of the carpenters and joiners	1	30	19 Feb.	Not stated	Places filled by other men.
Ship Joiners	Kinghorn, Fifeshire	Against proposed introduction of piece-work ...	1	25	22 Feb.	4	Piece work system abandoned.
Agricultural Labourers	Figheldean, Wiltshire	Refusal of a lower price per acre than that usual in the district for cabbage planting	1	5	13 Mar.	17	Work resumed upon same terms as other men. (18 men struck for one day only).
Cotton Weavers	Blackburn ...	Alleged objectionable language and "driving" by an overlooker, also for dismissal of the manager	1	120	14 Mar.	9	Overlooker discharged. The manager left of his own accord.
Fuel Workers	Swansea ...	Objection to proposed reduction in wages of 25 per cent.	1	300	15 Mar.	23	Work resumed, the whole question to be settled by arbitration.
Steel Smelters	Wednesbury	Objection to non-payment for faulty steel, caused, the men assert, by experiments required by the employers	1	38 dir. 220 indir.	17 Mar.	14	Employers submit the smelting to a contractor, with the proviso that good metal only should be paid for.
Bricklayers	Leeds ...	Against employment of labourers to set bricks in tunnel	1	4	19 Mar.	14	Employer agreed to discharge sub-contractor, and to adhere to union rules.
Shipyard Labourers	Linthouse, Glasgow	For advance in wages to 18s. per week ...	1	70	19 Mar.	2	Work resumed on understanding that advance of 1s. per week should be given to some men.
Flax Dressers	Armagh ...	Against proposed increase in work, and reduced prices on certain sorts	1	5	21 Mar.	4	Work in question withdrawn, and given to apprentices.
Tinplate Workers	Llanelli ...	Against required increase in output, beyond amount generally fixed by the trade	1	600	24 Mar.	14	Standard rate of 36 boxes to be adhered to.
Coal Miners	Airdrie ...	Against withdrawal of an extra allowance granted during difficult working	1	25	26 Mar.	5	Withdrawal of allowance submitted to.
Hammermen	Paisley ...	For advance in wages from 19s. 10½d. to 21s. per week	1	15	29 Mar.	21	Advance to a uniform weekly wage of £1 granted.
Blacksmiths	Paisley ...	Refusal to work with labourers during strike of hammermen	1	15	29 Mar.	21	Work resumed upon settlement of hammermen's strike.

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 occurring in March were still unsettled:—Cardroom operatives, Stockport; shipbuilders (generally), Newcastle-on-Tyne; coppersmiths, Glasgow (now stated to have developed into a general lock out); miners, Buckley, Flintshire; iron-moulders and dressers, North East Coast; overlookers, Rochdale; warp dressers, Colne; carpenters and fitters (chemical works), nr. Northwich; matchmakers, London, E.; packing-case makers, Manchester; hosiery workers, Radford, Notts.

The following, which began before March, were also still unsettled:—Stove-grate workers, Derby; wool sorters, Saltaire; ironstone miners, Kilsyth and Maryhill; tinplate workers, Blaina, and certain parts of South Wales; masons, Glasgow; cotton spinners and cardroom operatives, Darwen; cotton weavers, Stacksteads, Manchester; shawl weavers, Delph; sheep-shear grinders, Sheffield; tailors' pressers, Leeds (but most of the operatives have obtained work elsewhere); poultryers, Dublin; bleachers, Standish, Wigan; iron-moulders, Edinburgh.

LABOUR COMMISSION REPORTS.

The Labour Question in Russia.—The Report on the Labour Question in Russia issued by the Labour Commission describes the system of local government and land ownership in village communities. Statistics are given of the numbers employed in the Mining and Metal Industries, the wages earned, and the hours worked; and similar information is given with regard to other industries. Domestic industries are treated under five heads, according as they are connected with the working of metals and minerals, or with the Textile, Leather, Wood, or miscellaneous

Royal Commission on Labour. Foreign Reports, Vol. X., Russia. (C. 7063, XIV.) Price 7½d.

Industries. In the section dealing with provisions for thrift, insurance against famine is shown to have been resorted to in one form or another as early as the beginning of the last century. Factory inspection, employers' liability, technical education, and co-operation are reported on, and the working of the "artels" is discussed.

New Index.—An Index* to the evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Labour (sitting as a whole), has been issued, and contains lists of witnesses, subjects and trades referred to, together with detailed indexes to each list.

* Indexes, Royal Commission on Labour. Vol. IV. (C. 7063, XIV.) Price 10½d.

NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS IN 1893.

SINCE the establishment of the LABOUR GAZETTE, a monthly return based upon information supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has been published in its columns, showing the number of each class of industrial organisation registered. The following particulars for the whole of the year 1893 have been prepared from the same materials, and for purposes of comparison the corresponding figures for 1892 are also given. 66 trade unions and employers' associations have been registered during the year, being an increase of just over 13.4 per cent. on the 493 shown in the Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies (Part A), as existing at the end of 1892. The increase in industrial and provident (co-operative) societies—viz., 92—is not so great, being 6.7 per cent. only on the 1,433 existing at the end of 1892. In the case of friendly societies, it is necessary for purposes of comparison to group new societies and new branches together, the total number of each class not being shown separately in the Report of the Registrar; 263 new societies and 442 new branches were registered in 1893, making a total of 705, being an increase of 2.5 per cent. upon the total of 27,889 societies and branches existing in 1892.

In addition to the societies shown in the monthly tables, various other kinds of organisations are registered by the Chief Registrar, such as building societies, of which 57 only were registered in 1893, as compared with 111 in 1892, cattle insurance societies, loan societies, savings banks, &c., details of which have been included in the table below; the total number of new societies and branches registered in 1893 being 935, as compared with 959 in 1892, a decrease of 24.

FLAX MILLS AND LINEN FACTORIES.*

THE Reports upon the conditions of work, etc., in flax mills and linen factories, made by Mr. E. H. Osborn, one of H.M. Inspectors of Factories, contain descriptions of mills and factories in Belfast and other centres of the trade in different parts of the United Kingdom, together with tables of mortality, notes upon hygrometers, arrangement of fans and respirators, and diagrams illustrating methods of ventilating and removing dust. With regard to weaving factories, Mr. Osborn recommends (1) improved ventilation on the fan system, successfully adopted in Lancashire under the Cotton Cloth Act; (2) regulated humidity, requiring a difference of two degrees always to be kept between the

* Reports upon the Conditions of Work, etc., in Flax Mills and Linen Factories. (C.—7,287.) Price 3s.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

(Summary of Returns for Quarter ending 31st March 1894, supplied by certain Workmen's Co-operative Societies.)

THE following table of average retail prices is prepared on exactly the same principle as those published in previous numbers of the GAZETTE, the prices being based on sales during the quarter ended 31st March. The table is based on records of actual transactions, the average prices being obtained by dividing the total sum realised by the total quantity of each article. It should be remembered that while the prices given represent the real average prices paid by members of co-operative societies for such qualities of each article as they are accustomed to purchase from the society, the qualities of various articles sold by different societies are not necessarily identical, while the result may be partially affected by the different practice of the societies in regard to the percentage returned to the members.

District.	No. of Societies furnishing Returns.	Flour per stone of 14 lbs.	Bread per 4 lbs.	Fresh Meat per lb.	Bacon per lb.	Sugar per lb.	Tea per lb.	Butter per lb.	Margarine per lb.	Cheese per lb.	Milk per quart.	Potatoes per stone of 14 lbs.	Jams and Marmalades per lb.	District.
ENGLAND & WALES.														
Northern Counties ...	5	1 4½	5	7½	7½	2½	2 11	1 3½	9½	7½	...	11	5½	Northern Counties.
Lancashire & Cheshire ...	10	1 4½	4½	7½	6½	2½	2 0½	1 1½	8½	7½	...	6	4½	Lancashire & Cheshire.
Yorkshire ...	13	1 2½	3½	8½	7½	2½	2 1	1 2½	9½	7½	...	10½	3½	Yorkshire.
Eastern Counties ...	8	1 2½	4	7½	7½	2½	1 10½	1 2½	8½	7½	...	9½	4½	Eastern Counties.
Midland Counties ...	8	1 6½	3½	7½	7½	2½	1 10½	1 3½	8½	7½	...	4½	4½	Midland Counties.
Home Counties ...	7	1 6	4½	7½	8	2½	1 10½	1 2½	8½	7½	...	8½	3½	Home Counties.
South & South Western Counties ...	5	1 5½	4	7½	6½	2½	1 9½	1 2½	7½	7½	...	6½	4½	South & South Western Counties.
SCOTLAND ...	19	1 6½	4½	7½	9½	2½	2 0½	1 3½	10½	8	3	5	3½	SCOTLAND.
IRELAND ...	2	1 6½	4½	7½	8½	2½	1 10½	1 3½	...	8½	...	6	4½	IRELAND.
Average prices for the above 72 Societies		1 3½	4½	7½	8	2½	2 0½	1 2½	10	8½	3	5½	4	{ Average prices for the above 72 Societies.
Quantities on which these prices are based		1192,541 stones	217,118 4 lb. loaves	1810,966 lbs.	958,874 lbs.	6738,820 lbs.	337,009 lbs.	1839,414 lbs.	99,501 lbs.	545,569 lbs.	536,136 qts.	535,445 stones of 14 lbs.	427,355 lbs.	{ Quantities on which these prices are based
Corresponding Average prices returned by 76 Societies for quarter ending December 31st 1893.		1 4½	4½	7½	8½	2½	2 0½	1 3½	10	7½	2½	5½	4½	{ Corresponding Average prices returned by 76 Societies for quarter ending December 31st 1893.

wet and dry bulbs; (3) hygrometers to be affixed, &c., adopting the rules of the Cotton Cloth Act as to their being kept in working order, and readings registered, &c. Having observed in the wet spinning rooms, where the majority of children are employed, that for several inches above the waist the clothing of boys and girls, especially of the shorter ones, was saturated by the fine spray from the spindles, Mr. Osborn recommends that the waterproof "overall," at present merely an apron, affording no protection from the spindle spray above the waist, should be made with a "bib" to protect the chest also, and be worn by all. Mr. Osborn also considers it desirable that splash boards fitted to the spinning frames should be compulsory here (as in Austria) wherever the arrangement of the machinery will admit. Other suggestions are made for protection against dust.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1893.

THE Annual Report of the Board of Trade on Emigration and Immigration for 1893* shows that the whole passenger movement into and from the United Kingdom, and in particular that between this country and the Continent of Europe, was of diminished volume in 1893, this decrease continuing one which was seen in 1892, compared with the high figures of 1891.

The result, on balance, of the total movement in question, was a net loss in 1893 to the population of the United Kingdom of 93,000 persons. This efflux, on balance, is arrived at by taking into account first a net emigration of British and Irish persons and of persons whose nationality is not known, amounting to 109,000, and, second, a net immigration of aliens from the Continent amounting to about 16,000. The real efflux, on balance, and the real immigration of foreigners are, however, somewhat less, as the figure of 16,000 comprises about 10,000 sailors who come into the country as passengers, but who go away again as portions of the crews of ships, so that while reckoned inwards they are not reckoned outwards. The net immigration of aliens would appear to be about 6,500, of whom not more than about 5,000 could be classed as "destitute aliens." Of the latter about one-half appear to have been added to the Jewish settlement in London.

While the majority of these immigrants who arrive here for settlement still come to London, there are grounds for believing that there was more distribution of their numbers among certain provincial towns in 1893 than in former years.

* Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1893 and Report to the Board of Trade thereon Price 5½d.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

THE number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in April was 372, which compares with 325 in March, distributed as follows:—

	Railway Servants.	Miners.	Factory and Workshop Operatives.	Seamen.	Total.
April 1894	32	63	35	242	372
March 1894	39	55	36	195	325

On the total of the four classes there was an increase of 47 as compared with March, and a decrease of 68 as compared with February. The excess in April over March is due to the increase in the number of lives lost at sea.

Of the 1,312 non-fatal accidents reported, 778 were in factories and workshops, 375 in mines, and 159 to railway servants, as compared with 892, 312 and 268 respectively in March. Accidents of a non-fatal character at sea are not reported.

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

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

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

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

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

I.—Railway Servants.

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

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

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

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Injury.						Total of Injuries.
		Amputations.	Fractures.	Crushes.	Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.		
Brakemen and Goods Guards	5	3	...	3	9	9	24	16
Engine Drivers	...	1	1	...	6	8	16	...
Firemen	...	...	...	...	5	11	26	...
Guards (Passenger)	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	...
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	11	2	...	...	...	2	4	...
Porters	2	1	4	7	2	7	21	...
Shunters	4	1	2	4	5	14	26	...
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	9	1	3	10	6	19	39	...
Total for April	52	9	12	29	39	70	159	...
Monthly average for 1893	38	7	14	32	64	102	219	...

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

	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c. ...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4
By Accidents from other causes* ...	26	139	5	13	1	3	32	155
Total for April	26	143	5	13	1	3	32	159
Monthly average for 1893	30	191	6	26	2	2	38	219

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

II.—In Mines.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

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

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Underground:—								
Explosions of Fire-damp	...	7	1	7	...	...	1	14
Falls of ground	24	184	8	30	...	...	32	164
Miscellaneous in shafts	7	21	1	1	...	...	8	22
Miscellaneous underground	13	121	2	10	...	...	15	131
Surface:—								
Miscellaneous	6	40	1	3	...	1	7	44
Total for April	50	383	13	51	...	1	63	375
Monthly Average for last 8 months of 1893	75	243	7	48	...	1	82	292

III.—In Factories and Workshops.*

(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 1894.

Nature or effect of injury.	Adults (over 15).		Young Persons.		Children.		TOTAL.		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males & Females
Killed ...	29	...	6	...	...	...	35	...	35
Injured:—									
Amputations ...	63	7	45	7	1	...	109	14	123
Fractures ...	48	6	21	7	3	...	72	13	85
Injuries to head or face ...	43	4	6	3	...	...	49	7	56
Loss of sight of one or both eyes ...	1	2	...	1	...	1	1	4	5
Lacerations, contusions, or other injuries not enumerated above ...	255	41	162	37	7	7	424	85	509
Total injured ...	410	60	234	55	11	8	655	123	778
Grand Total for April ...	439	60	240	55	11	8	690	123	813
Monthly Average in 1893	370	60	192	57	16	6	578	123	701

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

IV.—Seamen.

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

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

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

Class of Vessels.	Number of Deaths.†							
	By Wreck and Casualty.		By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty.		Total.			
	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.	Total.	
Vessels registered under Merchant Shipping Act :								
Trading	74	70	18	42	92	112	204	
Fishing	24	6	2	1	26	7	33	
Vessels not so registered :								
Trading	3	...	...	...	3	...	3
Fishing	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
Total for April ...	103	76	20	43	123	119	242	
Monthly Average for 1893	63	46	33	33	96	79	175	

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

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—Farm labourers who are intending to emigrate to Canada this year should start as soon as possible, this being the busy season. The annual report for 1893 of the Immigration Department of the Province of Ontario bears out the periodical reports which have been received and published by this office from time to time. It states that there was in that year a great scarcity in the Province of experienced farm hands and female servants, but that, on the other hand, much difficulty was found in placing clerks, tradesmen and mechanics. 1,722 children were sent out from this country in 1893 to the various "Distributing Homes" in the Province. A report received from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and dated 31st March last, states: "There are more mechanics here now than will be required all this season."

New South Wales.—During the year which ended February 1894, 12,145 persons registered themselves as unemployed at the Government Labour Bureau at Sydney, as against 18,600 in the previous year, and the number sent to work was 10,349, as against 8,154. 52,525 rations were issued, or 21,505 more than in 1892. The number of unemployed about Sydney is now said to be decreasing, many men being employed in road-making and in prospecting at the mines. At Newcastle the output of coal is increasing, the selling price of coal has been reduced, and wages have been reduced in proportion. Several thousand persons have gone to the new gold fields at Wyalong (some 300 miles south of Sydney), but the Warden has issued a warning against more arrivals as "the field is overdone."

Victoria.—An engineer correspondent reports from Melbourne that most of the skilled mechanics have had either no work at all or only casual work for the last two years. It is expected that the present general distress will increase during the coming winter. A strike has occurred at one of the large boot factories at Melbourne. The scheme which was started by the Government for establishing fishing stations on the islands in Bass' Straits for the relief of some of the unemployed has failed. One or two of the numerous brickmaking works at Brunswick, near Melbourne, most of which have been closed for the last 18 months, owing to the depression in the Building Trades, are being re-opened.

South Australia.—In consequence of the heavy fall in the price of wool in recent years, the Pastoralists' Association are proposing to reduce shearers' wages from the old rate of 20s. per 100 sheep to from 15s. to 18s. per 100. There is no increase in the demand for labour. The Government are providing work for unemployed persons at stone-breaking. Payment is in kind. A married man who breaks eight yards a week receives 24 loaves, 28 lb. of meat, 1 lb. of tea, 4 lb. of sugar, 3½ lb. of rice, 28 lb. of potatoes and 1 lb. of salt. Some 1,500 persons have joined the village settlements recently started on the Murray River.

Queensland.—The Government have entered into a contract for the re-building of the Victoria Bridge, at Brisbane, which will employ a large number of men, otherwise there is no improvement in the Building Trades in that city.

Western Australia.—A report from near Bevelley (244 miles north of Albany) states that there is no demand at that place for mechanics. Plentiful rains have fallen at the Coolgardie Goldfields, and large numbers of miners have gone there.

New Zealand.—The monthly report of the Department of Labour, dated 20th March last, may be summarised as follows: The Building Trades are very dull at Auckland, Wanganui, Christchurch and Wellington, quiet at Napier, slack at Invercargill, and very brisk at Dunedin. The Coach-building Trade is very busy at Wanganui. The Engineering and Iron

Trades are busy at Nelson, quiet at Christchurch, very busy at Dunedin, fairly busy at Invercargill, and very dull at Wellington. The Boot Trade shows no improvement at Christchurch, is fairly brisk at Dunedin, and is rather slack at Wellington. Workers in flour mills are very busy at Dunedin, and plumbers also. Unskilled labour seems plentiful in nearly all parts of the colony, many of the applicants for work being new arrivals from Australia. The completion of harvesting operations placed a number of men out of employment, but competent hands were being still required for grass-seed sowing, fencing and bush-felling. Over 2,000 artisans and other workmen were employed in February last on co-operative works under the Survey and Public Works Departments.

Cape Colony.—The money voted by the Cape Parliament for assisting female servants to the Colony having been exhausted, no more assistance under this head will be given for the present.

British Bechuanaland.—A report from Mafeking states that the railway will reach that place in July, and that the Cape Government and the Railway Company will shortly be selling a number of farms. A report from the Northern Protectorate states that that district is "absolutely unfitted for emigration purposes."

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Trade Disputes in April.—Fifty-one fresh disputes were recorded in April, compared with 36 in March. There were also 13 disputes continued from previous months. 6,594 persons were involved in 37 of the fresh disputes for which full particulars are furnished. Of the disputes begun in April, 19 were among textile workers, 5 among wood-workers, 5 among navvies, 3 in the Clothing Trades, 3 in the Glass and Porcelain Trades, 2 in the Building Trades, 2 among miners and metal workers, 2 among printers, and the remaining 10 in various miscellaneous trades. The dispute involving the largest number of persons was an unsuccessful strike of 1,500 colliers in the department of Hérault against the dismissal of a miner of long service. Of 34 of the fresh disputes of which the results are given, 6 ended in favour of the workers, 15 in a compromise, and the remainder in favour of the employers. None of the old disputes were settled during April.

State of Employment.—The Building Trades at Marseilles and Avignon are very busy.

Cotton Weavers are busy at Lille, Roubaix and Tourcoing. At Amiens cotton spinning and cotton velvet weaving are satisfactory. Handcutters of velvet are only working 3 days a week owing to increased employment of machine cutters. Power looms are busy in the Amiens district, but hand looms have hardly any work.

Wool.—The proprietors of mills for spinning carded wool in Tourcoing, recently met to promote an agreement with those of Amiens, Fourmies and Rheims to regulate production, and avoid the formation of stocks which keep down prices. Those of the district of Tourcoing who have joined the ring represent 238,000 out of the 380,000 spindles of the district.

In the Amiens district power looms are well employed, but hand looms are almost idle.

Silk.—The St. Etienne silk ribbon industry is in an unsatisfactory condition. Owing to decreased home demand, production has fallen off during the last year, wages have greatly decreased, and manufacturers have had to organise subscriptions for the workers. Trade is also bad at Nîmes. One of the chief spinning mills has stopped, and others are about to do so. At Roanne silk weaving is said to be undergoing a crisis.

Collieries.—Miners at many establishments in the St. Etienne district are idle one day a week. Owing to the mildness of the winter, the stocks accumulated after the strike of miners in the north have not yet been exhausted.

Metal Works.—Metal works in the Loire district show a falling off in production.

Arbitration and Conciliation.—Recourse was had to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration on 12 occasions during April, as compared with eight in March. The initiative was taken in seven cases by the *juges de paix*; in four cases by the workers, and in one case by the employers.

The proffered intervention was refused on one occasion by the men, and on another by the employers. Out of the remaining 10 cases, a settlement followed the proceedings in seven, but in only five cases was this the result of the mediation.

These disputes were as follows:—In Vierzon (Cher) woodcutters who had struck, were induced to modify their demands; in Vichy (Allier) joiners on strike obtained a reduction of the working day from 11 to 10 hours, and an increase of five centimes (½d.) a day; a strike of puddlers at Fraisans (Jura), where the men accepted a compromise proposed for the second time by the employer. The two remaining cases were among hosiery workers and hat makers. In the latter case the demand of the women for the dismissal of an unpopular overseer was conceded, the employer agreeing to pay her an indemnity for dismissal.

GERMANY.

The following information is based on a report supplied by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, under date of May 3rd.

State of Employment.—There does not appear to be any seriously felt want of employment in the leading branches of industry, though in certain branches the employers continue to complain of a depression in demand and in prices. Considerable numbers of miners in the Ruhr district of Essen have received notice of dismissal; as many as 400 have had notice by one colliery company.

Disputes.—*Information has been obtained of 24 fresh disputes in various parts of Germany in April, an equal number having been reported in the previous month. In addition, 6 disputes which had begun before April remained unsettled at the beginning of that month. Strikes were most frequent in the Building Trades, particularly among masons and house painters, the former being reported as engaged in 6, and the latter in 3 disputes. Strikes of stovemakers and locksmiths also took place. Woodworkers were reported as engaged in 5, metal workers in 3, shoe-makers in 2, and the remaining 3 disputes were among electrical tramway servants, glass-grinders and colliers. Eleven out of the 23 fresh strikes were either general, or affected several establishments, and of these 7 were in the Building Trades. Questions of wages were involved in 19 of the strikes. The most noteworthy were at Freiburg, where 600 masons went out at the beginning of the month, owing to the masters demanding an 11-hours' day after promising to introduce the 10-hours' day; the dispute was not settled at the end of the month; at Burg, where between 800 and 900 shoe-makers belonging to several establishments went out towards the end of the month on hearing that the employers had arranged a lock-out if the men at one establishment carried out their resolution to strike; and at Dortmund, where the electrical tramway servants stopped work, alleging that the company had failed to keep their promises as to wages, made on the occasion of a recent strike. The results of April strikes are only reported in two cases, one being a failure, and the other partially successful. Three of the old strikes were reported as settled, one being successful, one unsuccessful, and one being compromised. It is to be noted that many of the Labour disputes in Germany are the outcome of the Social-Democratic Organisation.

Westphalian Coal Syndicate.—In the Coal and Coke Trade great things are expected from this Syndicate, which is a joint-stock company for the sale of the colliery products of the district. The objects of the coal owners—who, here, are the owners and workers of the mines—are the prevention of competition amongst

* Supplemented by information published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.
† The landed proprietor, or lord of the manor, is not, as such, the owner of the coal, and has no right to royalties.

themselves, uniform action in the extension of the markets, and the regulation of the quantity of output in all the collieries of the district, most of which belong to the Syndicate.

Miners' International Congress.—The coming Whitsuntide Miners' International Congress has given occasion to various meetings in the Rhenish-Westphalian coal and iron districts, at which resolutions were passed in favour of 8-hours' shifts from bank to bank, absolute rest on Sundays, and the appointment of pitmen selected from among the miners to act with the employers' inspectors in securing strict observance of the colliery regulations for the protection of the miners.

Wages among Wood-workers.—Statistics relating to 346 workshops and 1,243 workmen of this branch were given at a meeting of wood-workers at Leipsic. From these it appears that pianoforte-makers are most highly paid, and that building and furniture carpenters and turners suffer most from want of employment.

Workers' Insurance.—The burden imposed on German industry by the State insurance system and other taxation is heavier than a few years ago it would have been thought capable of carrying, but it seems equal to the load, though there is a danger, not always sufficiently realized, arising from the consequent increase in the cost of production.

Effects of Prison Work on Industry.—The German Ministers of Commerce and Industry and of the Interior have decided to institute inquiries into the effects of prison labour on industry, and the Lords Lieutenant of Provinces have been directed to instruct their Factory Inspectors to give the matter their careful attention. They will have to inspect the machinery in use in prisons and private industrial establishments, and report the results with a view to the possible removal of abuses. A meeting of textile workers in Berlin on April 2nd decided to petition the Reichstag to do away with the competition caused to weavers by prison work. The reorganisation of prison work was also included among the reforms demanded at the Congress of German Guilds and Handicrafts on April 9th and 10th.—*Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt*.

The Eleven-Hours Working Day for Women.—Complaints have been made by various Chambers of Commerce as to the misinterpretation, by officials, of the regulations for granting permits for overtime and other disadvantages resulting from their enforcement. The Prussian Minister of Commerce has, therefore, directed the Lords Lieutenant to inquire as to the justice of such complaints, and, if necessary, to suggest amendments in the regulations.—*ibid*.

Accidents in Agriculture.—Model regulations for protecting agricultural workers against accidents in connection with stationary agricultural machinery have been prepared by the Prussian Government, and sent to the Lords Lieutenant, with instructions to issue such regulations in places where they do not yet exist, or, where regulations on the subject already exist, to bring them, as far as possible, into harmony with the new model rules.—*ibid*.

SWITZERLAND.

The following is based on information supplied by Herr Greulich, the Swiss Workmen's secretary, and forwarded by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, under date of April 30th:—

Work for the Unemployed.—The Federal Assembly has decided to make no alternative proposal regarding the people's initiative for the "Right to Labour," on which a *plébiscite* is to take place on June 3rd, but to recommend the rejection of the initiative demand. The Government of the Canton of Tessin have inserted the following article in their Poor Law Bill:—

"1. the temporary distress of an individual or a family arises from want of employment, the Communes are bound to do their utmost to procure work for the person or persons in question."

Disputes.—*Eight fresh disputes were recorded in April, while four, begun before the 1st of April, were in progress. The fresh disputes included a strike of 750 joiners of Zürich, who have united with the painters, 500 in number, in the agitation for a 9-hours' day. The joiners also demand minimum wages of 3s. 7d. a day. Some hundreds have already left Zürich, and the others try to prevent the importation of new hands, and are

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

said to be confident of success. A considerable amount of money is being spent in the building strikes. The reserve fund of the Trades-Union League, amounting to £1,280, has been expended, with the exception of about £200, and the strikers have now to depend on the contributions of their colleagues in other towns. More than £80 is spent every day. The workmen of the branches not concerned are making great sacrifices, and the Federal Strike Committee is said to hope to be able to carry on the strike for several weeks by the aid of voluntary contributions. For the first time the employers have held deliberations in common. A large number of those of Zürich held a meeting, and declared that they would stand by one another. This has tended to prolong the strike, as those who were inclined to adjust the differences with the workmen in a peaceable manner now declare that they will not give way. Of the other strikes which began in April, three were among shoemakers, viz., at Zürich, Olten, and Bâle, one among smiths and wheelwrights (at Zürich) for a 10-hours' day and increased wages, one among painters at Winterthur, who demand another 3d. an hour, a partial strike of saddlers in Zürich, and one of Italian navvies in Uri. Three of the four strikes continued from the previous month were concluded, two being successful and one partially so.

Electric Motive Power for Workshops.—"Der Grüllianer" states that the Municipality of Biel is erecting electrical works with a total of 90 horse-power for distribution to artisans' dwellings.

BELGIUM.

Enforcement of Laws for Protecting Workers.—Sir F. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, under date of April 23rd, has forwarded to the Foreign Office a copy of a circular addressed on the 18th of the month to the *Procureurs Généraux*, in which the Minister of Justice impresses on his subordinates the necessity for increased vigilance and greater energy to secure the enforcement of the laws for the protection of workers, particularly those relating to the payment and inalienability of wages and the employment of women and children. In the circular the Minister admits the correctness of charges of laxity in enforcing the laws, which have frequently been made against the Government both in and out of Parliament.

HOLLAND.

Writing under date of April 19th, Mr. Robinson, H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, states that owing chiefly to the absorption of a considerable amount of casual labour by the agricultural and urban work usual in the early spring, no movement of importance in the labour market has to be reported, and meetings and processions of the unemployed have ceased.

Minimum Wage in Municipal Contracts.—An experiment entered upon by the Town Council of Amsterdam in inviting contractors for city work to send in separate tenders for a certain work, one on the basis of the wages lately fixed by the Municipality (see GAZETTE for January and February, under Holland), to be paid by its contractors, the second on the basis of freedom from these stipulations, has resulted in considerable diversity in the tenders. Some show no increase, while others were very greatly raised, the average result being an increase of 6 per cent. on the free tenders. The work in question was principally of a single description, consisting to a great extent of earth work, and the minimum wage fixed by the Municipality was not higher than the average wage of the district for that class of work.

Proposals for Minimum Wages in the Building Trade.—A Special Labour Council, appointed by the various branches of the building trade at Amsterdam, has proposed a table of minimum wages per hour for "ordinarily skilled workmen" in the various branches of the building trade in the town. The council states that in drawing up the table it aimed rather at the introduction of fixity and uniformity, than at an increase of wages at present paid.

The following is the table, which is based on the returns made by

the employers' and workers' associations at the request of the Council—

Trades.	Minimum Wages per Hour, d.	Trades.	Minimum Wages per Hour, d.
1. Carpenters ...	4	8. Cabinet-makers ...	3 5
2. Plumbers ...	4	9. Masons ...	4 4
3. Bricklayers ...	4	10. Whitesmiths ...	3 6
4. Labourers ...	3 4	11. Blacksmiths ...	4
5. Painters ...	4	12. Excavators ...	3 6
6. Plasterers ...	4	13. Shipwrights ...	4 4
7. Whitewashers ...	3 6		

In explanation of the above figures, the Council observe that the minimum in wages of an "ordinarily skilled workman" is given. "There will of course be workmen who, on account of greater or less skill than is usually required of them, are worth higher or lower wages, but the amount set down in the table shall be the lowest paid to ordinarily skilled workmen."

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

*Disputes.**—From a report furnished by the Hon. Sir E. J. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Vienna, under date of April 20th, information has been obtained of nine fresh strikes which broke out during that month in Austria. Besides these there were eleven strikes in progress which had begun before April. The trades most seriously affected by the fresh strikes were the building and cognate branches. On April 5th the stone-cutters and wood-carvers at fourteen workshops in Vienna struck against the masters' proposal to increase the length of the working day from eight to nine hours. The latter then decided on a lock-out, which was, however, only partially carried out, and on the 16th all the stone-cutters' shops of Vienna had joined the strike. On the 9th and 10th of April strikes of brickmakers and potters employed by the Wienerberger Brickmaking and Building Company for increased wages, and other improvements took place. The brickmakers, who were only out for a day, and numbered 1,800, are said to have succeeded in obtaining a 20 per cent. increase all round in wages. On April 17th the joiners of Vienna, numbering 13,000, went on strike for an eight-hours' day, abolition of piece-work, minimum weekly wages of 16s. 8d., payment of wages on the spot instead of in public-houses, and a holiday on the 1st of May. The men had accumulated a strike fund amounting to about £1,600. Meetings of the men were held on the 16th and 19th, and the gilders subsequently joined the movement. At a meeting of the master joiners on April 25th, it was decided to refuse the men's demands, but according to later information there was an inclination, especially among the owners of mills, to accede to them in consideration of the bad state of trade in general. A general strike of workers in the Building Trade was begun on April 30th, in which 30,000 masons and plasterers and 1,800 slaters are said to be involved. They demand a 59 hours' week. Many are said to have gone to their homes in Bohemia and Moravia to await the end of the strike. The colliers in the Falkenau district, in Bohemia, also struck. The movement, which at the end of April included 6,000 men, began on April 6th with a strike of 600 men at Hodau, against a 30 per cent. reduction of wages, and for the dismissal of the agent who introduced the reduced scale. The men subsequently demanded 8-hours' shifts at 2s. 10d. per shift. Of the three other strikes reported as having begun in April, two occurred at textile establishments and one at an oil works; only one of the fresh disputes had terminated at the end of the month. Seven out of the 11 disputes begun before April ended during the month, four unsuccessfully, and the rest with partial success for the workers.

ITALY.

Growth of Domestic Weaving.—Industrial Statistics† of the provinces of Pisa and Palermo, compiled by the Italian Ministry of Commerce and Industry show a falling off in the number of persons employed in the Textile Industry in workshops and factories, combined with an increase in domestic looms, in both these provinces. In

* Supplemented by particulars published during April in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*.
† Annali di Statistica, Ministero di Agricoltura, Industria e Commercio, Rome, 1893.

1876 there were 5,583 operatives engaged in spinning and weaving (principally cotton) in workshops and factories in the province of Pisa, while in 1892 the number had fallen to 4,929. During the same period the number of domestic looms rose from 5,947 to 7,983. In the province of Palermo the change is less apparent. The number of operatives in workshops or factories, which in 1876 was 240, had fallen in 1892 to 79, while the number of domestic looms during the same period rose from 10,142 to 10,722.

Disputes.—The "Lotta di Classe" contained accounts of two fresh disputes in April and of one in progress since March. Of the fresh disputes, one took place among the men engaged in constructing a fort in Rome. The men, 400 in number, were employed by the Army Engineering Department, the money for the purpose having been lent by the Charity Association, to whom the men had applied for work during the winter. Considering their conditions of pay and work to be less favourable than current conditions, they demanded the usual terms. The strike failed, and after a week the places of half the men were filled by others. The other strike took place among the skin-dressers at an establishment in Milan, where the men complained of being supplanted by apprentices. The strike of 400 railway workshop hands in Verona reported in last month's GAZETTE was concluded in two days, the men being promised a slight increase of wages.

RUSSIA.

State of the Agricultural Labour Market.—The *Viestnik Finansoff* of the 24th April (6th May) states that this year's season for field work opened with high rates of wages for agricultural labour. A fall in the price of labour in some parts (Kherson) applies only to men who hire themselves out with their horses (so-called "horse-labourers"), and is due to the cheapness of fodder compared with last year. In the west, north-west and Baltic regions, men are mostly hired by the year; payment is partly made in kind. The money value of the yearly wage fluctuates therefore according to the price of grain, and this year's low prices must be more favourable to the land owners. The periodical migration of labourers to the south has not yet begun, as last year's prosperity has enabled the workers to await the prospects of the grain crop.

The May number of the *Bulletin Russe de Statistique* gives a table of rates of agricultural wages for yearly labourers in different parts of Russia, distinguishing money wages and food. The rates appear to be highest in the Baltic provinces, the Lake region, the Southern Steppes and the industrial region, and lowest in the South-West, Lithuania and the Oural.

Re-organisation of Factory Inspectorate.—Imperial sanction was given on the 26th March last to a scheme for re-organising the Factory Inspectorate in Russia, and the new arrangements are to take effect from the 1st (13th) of May.

Hitherto there have been two kinds of factory inspection, one being technical, and the other having for its object the enforcement of the laws relating to the employment and education of children and young persons, and the relation between factory owners and workers. The first class of inspection was carried out by government engineers (*mechaniki*), its original object being to assist employers by expert advice. These engineers were also entrusted with the certifying of boilers and the valuation of establishments for fiscal purposes, and assisted the authorities in enquiries into the causes of accidents and other matters.

Originally they were paid by salary, but since 1857 they have had to depend on fees from factory owners, &c., and this system is said to have led to abuses. The state of the factory inspectorate proper has also been unsatisfactory.

The Factory Law of June 3, 1886, was only applied to five governments, viz.:—St. Petersburg, Moscow, Vladimir, Warsaw and Petrokovsk.

The factory inspectors have been charged with enforcing this law, and also with furnishing the Ministry of Finance with statistical data as to the number and distribution of factory workers. These functions were to a great extent paralysed by the inadequacy of the staff, which numbered in all 36 men, so that each inspector had to visit from 1,112 to 1,465 factories exclusive of artisans' workshops.

In future the duties of the two classes of inspectors will be amalgamated, the same officials combining technical inspection, with the enforcement of the Factory Law and the collection of industrial statistics.

Further, the Law of June 3, 1886, is to be applied in full to 13 additional governments to those already named. The additional governments are: Volhynia, Grodno, Kiev, Kostromo, Livonia, Esthonia, Nijni-Novgorod, Podolia, Riazan, Tver, Kharkoff, Kherson, and Yaroslav. The remaining 42 governments of European Russia, which do not among them contain more than a

quarter of the whole number of industrial establishments of any importance, will not be fully subject to the regulations.

The number of factory inspectors has been increased to 143 for European Russia. "Factory Councils" for dealing with breaches of the law (such as already exist in the 5 governments) will be created in the 13 additional provinces to which the law is extended.

The post of Inspector-General of Factories is to be abolished, and the inspection placed under the immediate control of the Department of Trade and Manufactures (Ministry of Finance), in which a special branch has been created for dealing with matters connected with factory inspection and industrial workers. Three officials called factory "Revisors" are appointed in the department, whose duties will include enquiring, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, into certain matters, including disputes between factory owners and workers.—*Viestnik Finansoff*, April 3 (15), 1894.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO DISTRICT.

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

State of the Labour Market.—The general condition of the labour market is greatly disturbed, and recovery in business transactions is thus checked. Meetings and conferences are of constant occurrence, with a view to arranging the difficulties which are disturbing operations in many branches of work.

Trade Disputes.—Troubles are specially noticeable among brickmakers, carpenters, plumbers, and other branches of the Building Trade, and work on contracts, which would otherwise be in full progress, is much obstructed. The principal brickmaking yards have been affected by the demands of the men for a rise of 20 per cent. in wages, or a return to the old scale, which they affirm was cut down to that extent last summer, and many of the men in the trade are still on strike. Painters are on strike in many quarters of this city, on the ground of refusal to accede to their demands of 1s. 5d. an hour, a day of eight hours, a half day on Saturdays, and payment of extra work at time-and-a-half, or double rate. Paperhangers are refusing to work where non-union men are employed. Plumbers demand the old wages of 15s. 7d. a day, while the Master Plumbers' Association offers 14s. 7d. a day, an eight hours' day, and extra work at time-and-a-half, with Sundays, holidays, and night work at double rate; a large number of men are on strike. The 2,000 men of the Crane Elevator Works have been on strike for nearly a month, and any attempt to employ non-strikers is met by violence in spite of police protection. Other works are also affected.

Cigar-makers are on strike at several factories, but there seems to be a disposition to resume work. The longshoremen at Milwaukee are on strike, and a guarantee that the minimum wages earned should be 1s. 4d. an hour has been refused.

A serious strike of coal miners has begun in Illinois, and several thousand men left work on the 21st instant; it threatens to become general throughout the State, and to check a return of industrial prosperity. Railroads are not free from trouble, and the train-men on the Great Northern Railway are on strike, the trouble extending from Montana to Minnesota and impeding traffic; strikers are restrained by the issue of a Federal order from injuring the property of the company.

The recent Injunctions as to Combination.—With regard to the strike order of the judge at Milwaukee authorising a new wage scale in the Northern Pacific case, referred to in previous reports, the injunction against combining and conspiring to quit the company's service has been modified on a motion by the chief of the railroad organisation, the judge striking out the clause "and from ordering, recommending, approving, or advising others to quit the service of the receivers of the Northern Pacific on January 1st 1894, or at any other time." Judges seem at variance on the point at issue, which has been ruled in another court in a sense opposite to that in the Northern Pacific case. By the decision at Omaha in the case of the Union Pacific Railway, which

is also in the hands of receivers, employees "must be paid fair wages, though no dividends are paid on the stock and no interest on the bonds," and the right of working men to combine peaceably to enforce their wage demands by striking is confirmed; this is considered a victory for the men.

Wages.—With regard to shipping interests an agreement has been entered into with vesselmen and lumber shovers at Chicago for the season, and a schedule of wages issued at a rate of about 20 per cent. less than that of last year.

Unemployed "Army."—A spontaneous uprising of the people has lately occurred in different parts of the country, taking the form of Commonweal armies, organised with the intention of proceeding east to Washington. The most important of these protests of unemployed men against the treatment of labour in this district is the army marching under Mr. Kelly, which numbered about 1,200 men at Iowa. Other so-called "armies" are assembled or organising in different parts. They appear to be fed by the towns passed through on their road eastward, but difficulty in transport is encountered from the refusal of railroad companies to convey them without payment of fare.

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.

The following information has been supplied by Capt. R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, under date of April 27th:—

Disputes.—The most important event in the labour world during the past month has been the inauguration on the 21st of the month of a vast strike among the coal miners, thousands of whom are located in this Consular district. The trouble originally arose in the coke districts, the disturbers being mostly foreign-speaking labourers. The wages are very low, and thousands of persons have been on the verge of starvation; the foreigners were riotous, and caused destruction to both life and property. The united mine workers met in annual convention at Columbus, Ohio, on the 8th of the month. A year ago it was resolved at their convention that the wage scale of its members should be upon the basis of three shillings a ton for mining, which is an increase of nearly one shilling upon the rate at present paid in several of the largest coal-producing States, including Pennsylvania. It is claimed by the mine-owners, on the other hand, that miners of bituminous coal have been earning under the existing wage schedule from 8s. 4d. to 16s. 8d. per day, and that the condition of the Coal Trade will not allow them to pay the increased rate demanded by the strikers. On the 17th April the Executive Board of the united mine workers issued their "now or never" circular, as a consequence of which nearly 150,000 miners laid down their tools. Of this number, the majority, by States, are in Pennsylvania, namely, 50,000; in Ohio there are 26,000; in Indiana, 30,000; and in Michigan, about 300. The strike is expected to be of some duration, as both sides appear determined. The strikes, however, are in great lack of funds. Discussion on the question of the alien immigration and employment is stimulated by the strike.

In Philadelphia the street-cleaning contractors have experienced a little trouble with the Italian labourers employed by them, but English-speaking white and coloured men rapidly filled the places of the riotous strikers.

Iron and Steel Industry.—The prospects of the Iron and Steel Industry have been brightening lately, but the extensive coal strike, if long continued, must necessarily affect them and all other interests, although all trades seem at present to be reviving.

Glass Trade.—The reports of the Glass Trade show a satisfactory condition of that industry, and increasing strength in the associations connected therewith.

Inquiry into Sweating System.—Investigations are being made into the "sweating system," which is said to be

prevalent in certain portions of Philadelphia, and the State Inspectors are endeavouring to abate the evil.

The Unemployed Army.—The army of unemployed persons under the leadership of Mr. Coxey, who are marching to Washington to demand that work, such as road-building, should be provided for them, is attracting some attention, as the men march through the various States in detachments; their demands have been endorsed by the Knights of Labour in some localities. The word "industrian" has been coined to signify a member of the "Commonweal Army."

Workmen's Organizations.—A "Call for a Labour Conference" has been issued by means of a circular signed by a former leader of the Knights of Labour and sent to all the prominent labour leaders in Pittsburgh. The object appears to be the substitution of a new organization for the Knights of Labour by "the formation of a close alliance of all organized workers, without regard to creed, occupation, sex or nationality."

* Some detachments of the Army reached Washington on April 21st. On May 1st Mr. Coxey and others were arrested on a charge of violating the statutes with regard to the Capitol grounds.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.*

THE Eighth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour for the United States gives the results of inquiries into the various industrial school and technical school systems of the United States and foreign countries. The chief object of the investigation has been "to draw from original and other sources the facts which should most clearly show the actual progress which has been made relative to the introduction and prosecution of studies in manual training and in trade schools, and their influence on the individual." Ten chapters describe in succession the present status of industrial education in the United States, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, Scandinavia and Switzerland. The latter part of the book deals with the kindergarten in relation to manual training, manual training in conjunction with book work, manual training and trade instruction in reformatories, and the effect of industrial education. A bibliography is appended.

New Hampshire Bureau of Labour.—The first annual report of the New Hampshire Bureau of Labour (for 1893) has been received. The subjects dealt with include statistics of manufactures, condition of wage-earners in the Building Trades, average prices of food, fuel, &c., together with chapters relating to the population, labour laws, ownership, debt and mortgage in New Hampshire, the Granite Industry and industrial depressions. The method of inquiry pursued is the sending out of forms and schedules to be filled up voluntarily by employers, wage-earners and others; great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the information.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL FOR MAY 1894.

Board of Trade Notices. State of the Skilled Labour Market, &c. Imports of Hay into the United Kingdom. Sea Fisheries of the United Kingdom. The Bradford Conditioning House. Foreign Exhibitions and Commercial Museums. Canaigre as a substitute for Barks in Tanning. Russian Precious Stones. The North Sea and Baltic Canal. The Silk Industry in Bulgaria. The Opium Trade of Asia Minor. The Fall in the Value of Silver and its effect on Chinese Trade. The Foreign Trade of Japan in 1893. Agricultural Statistics of the United States. The Agricultural Resources of Canada. Foreign Import Duties on Corn and Flour. New Customs Tariff of British India. Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations. Extracts from Diplomatic and Consular Reports. General Trade Notes. Recent Trade Blue Books. Proceedings of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. Quarantine and Post Office Notices. Statistical Tables and Lists of Diplomatic, Consular and Colonial Office Reports.

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* Eighth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1892. Industrial Education. Washington: Government Printing Office.

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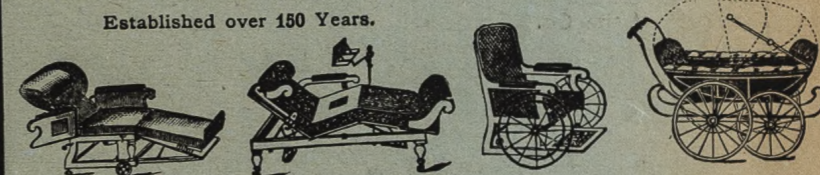
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