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## CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

**Summary of the State of Employment in March** ... .. 97

### Special Articles and Reports—

"FAIR WAGES" IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS ... ..	99
DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE ... ..	99
COAL MINING IN 1897 ... ..	100
PRICES OF COAL AND IRON ... ..	101
GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1897 ... ..	102
SICKNESS INSURANCE IN AUSTRIA, 1895 ... ..	101
CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN HAMBURG DOCKS ... ..	103
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN FRANCE ... ..	103
CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS IN RUSSIA IN 1896... ..	104
DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES ... ..	105
COAL MINERS' STRIKE IN THE UNITED STATES (1897) ... ..	102

### Employment in Certain Industries and Districts— REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.

COAL MINING ... ..	108
IRON MINING ... ..	109
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE ... ..	109
STEEL AND IRON WORKS ... ..	109
TINPLATE WORKS... ..	110
SHIPBUILDING ... ..	110
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ... ..	110
SEAMEN ... ..	113
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR ... ..	112
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES ... ..	112

#### DISTRICT REPORTS.

LONDON ... ..	113
ENGLAND : Northern Counties ... ..	114
Lancashire ... ..	114
Yorkshire ... ..	115
Midland Counties ... ..	116
Eastern Counties ... ..	118
South Western Counties ... ..	118
WALES ... ..	119
SCOTLAND ... ..	119
IRELAND ... ..	120

### Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—

COLONIES... ..	106	HOLLAND ... ..	107
FRANCE ... ..	106	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ... ..	107
GERMANY... ..	106	NORWAY ... ..	108
SWITZERLAND ... ..	107	SPAIN ... ..	108
BELGIUM ... ..	107		

### Miscellaneous Reports for March—

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR ... ..	104
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS ... ..	128
FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ... ..	127
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	128
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION ... ..	128

### Statistical Tables for March—

TRADE DISPUTES ... ..	124
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES ... ..	122
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... ..	123
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ... ..	121
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS ... ..	127
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	126
PAUPERISM ... ..	126
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS ... ..	125

### Notes and Reviews—

CONCILIATION IN THE SCARBORO' BUILDING TRADE ... ..	105
GENERAL CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN BERLIN... ..	108
INDEX OF CONSULAR REPORTS ON TRADE, &c... ..	102
ORDERS UNDER THE FACTORY ACTS ... ..	125
INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS ... ..	106
EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES ... ..	123

## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

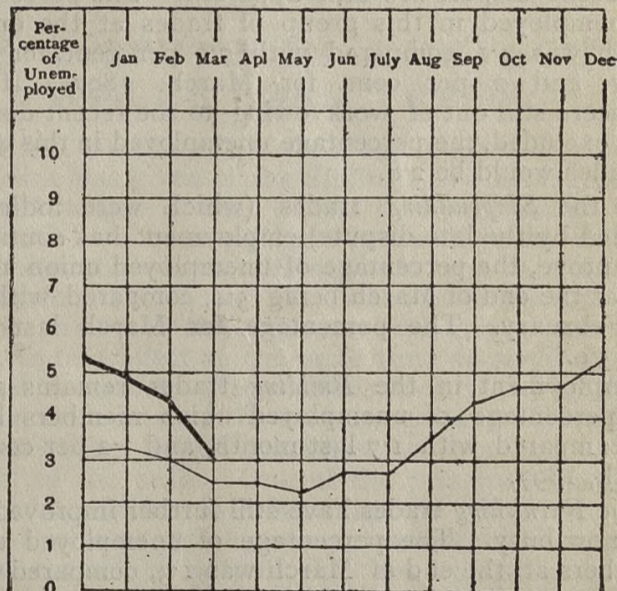
[Based on 2,278 returns, viz.: 1,653 from Employers, 508 from Trade Unions, and 117 from other sources.]

The state of employment shows a general improvement compared with the previous month, and in many trades is better than in March, 1897, though, mainly owing to the fact that a certain number of workmen affected by the recent dispute in the engineering trade are still out of work, the percentage of unemployed returned by trade unions is still slightly higher than a year ago. The fresh trade disputes which began in March were unimportant, the present stoppage in the South Wales coal trade not having begun till April 1st.

In the 116 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 466,701, 14,684 (or 3·1 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March compared with 4·4 per cent. at the end of February, and with 2·5 per cent. in the 114 unions, with a membership of 453,963, from which returns were received for March, 1897.

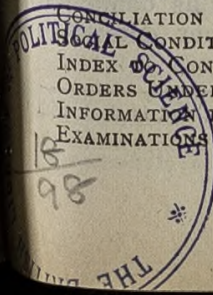
The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1897 and 1898. [The thick line applies to 1898, the thin line to 1897.]



The table below classifies the membership of the 116 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of March, 1898.		Corresponding Percentages for		
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		Number.	Percentage.		
Under 1 per cent. ... ..	24	155,821	33·4	19·0	20·5
1 and under 2 per cent. ... ..	22	46,851	10·0	18·8	40·3
2 " 3 " ... ..	17	33,693	7·2	6·6	8·3
3 " 5 " ... ..	25	171,477	36·8	12·2	22·5
5 " 7 " ... ..	10	24,719	5·3	15·6	6·9
7 " 10 " ... ..	9	27,261	5·8	24·4	0·3
10 per cent. and upwards	9	6,879	1·5	3·4	1·2
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>466,701</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>



**Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—On the whole employment continues good, and shows a slight improvement on the previous month. At pits at which 432,692 workpeople were employed, an average of 5.29 days per week was worked, as compared with 5.24 days per week in February, and 5.14 days in March, 1897. (For further details see page 108.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good, and has improved both as compared with February last and March, 1897. At mines at which 17,470 workpeople were employed, an average of 5.89 days per week was worked in the four weeks ended 26th March, as compared with 5.79 days per week in February, and 5.82 days a year ago. (For further details see page 109.)

**Pig Iron Industry.**—The iron works to which the returns relate had 353 furnaces in blast at the end of March, being 3 less than at the end of February, but 2 more than a year ago. The number employed is estimated at 23,720, or 145 more than at the end of February, and 1,458 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 109.)

Employment at **Iron and Steel** works improved during the month, and was also better than a year ago. At the 222 works covered by the returns, 74,445 persons were employed at the end of March, as compared with 72,834 at the end of the previous month, and 73,412 at the end of March, 1897. The average number of shifts worked in the last week of the month was 5.5 per man, the same as a year ago. (For further details see page 109.)

In the **Tinplate** trade employment shows little change as compared with February, but is below the level of a year ago. The number of mills in operation at the end of March is returned as 331, the same number as in February. The number of mills in operation at the end of March, 1897 was 334. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the end of March was 17,077, as compared with 16,950 in February, and 17,208 in March, 1897. (For further details see page 110.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has continued to improve, overtime and night shifts being worked in some districts, though in others the effects of the recent dispute are still apparent. The percentage of unemployed in this group of trades at the end of March was 4.1, compared with 7.0 per cent. for February, and 2 per cent. for March, 1897. If the engineers still out of work owing to the recent dispute were excluded, the percentage unemployed in this group of trades would be 2.8.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades (which were indirectly affected by the late dispute) employment has continued to improve, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March being 5.4, compared with 6.8 for February. The percentage for March last year was 5.0.

Employment in the **Building** trades remains good, the percentage of unemployed union members being 1.6, compared with 1.7 last month, and 1.2 per cent. in March, 1897.

The **Furnishing** trades have still further improved and are now busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 1.3, compared with 2.8 last month and 0.7 in March, 1897.

Employment in the **Printing** trades has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members in the Printing and Bookbinding group at the end of March was 3.0, compared with 3.6 last month and also in March, 1897.

In the **Paper** trade employment is scarcely so good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March being 3.7, compared with 3.5 for February and 3.0 per cent. in March last year.

In the **Glass** trade the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 11.3, compared with 11.8 in February and 12.6 per cent. in March, 1897.

In all branches of the **Leather** trades there has been some falling off in employment. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 4.8,

compared with 3.7 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1897, was 2.1.

Employment in both the ready-made and the bespoke **Boot and Shoe** trade, has, on the whole, slightly improved, but is still only moderate.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade has improved in some centres; in the bespoke branch the improvement is general.

Employment in both the **Spinning and Weaving** branches of the **Cotton** trade shows a further improvement and is now fair.

Employment in the **Worsted and Woollen** trades shows a slight improvement. Employment in the **Hosiery** trade continues slack.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades information respecting 516 mills, employing 85,000 women and girls, shows that 74 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 69 per cent. in February, and 77 per cent. in March, 1897. (For further details see page 112.)

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—Employment in March was better at the docks than in the previous month, but not quite so good at the wharves. The average daily number employed at the docks and principal wharves was 14,340, as compared with 14,057 in February and 14,865 in March, 1897. (For further details see page 112.)

**Agricultural labourers** were generally well employed during the month of March. The weather was fine and dry, and very favourable for outdoor employment, except a few days at the end of the month, when there was a fall of snow. (For further details see page 110.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-seven fresh disputes began in March, 1898, involving 2,888 workpeople.\* The corresponding number of disputes for February was 25, involving 3,568 workpeople, and for March, 1897, 87 disputes, involving 29,532 workpeople. Six disputes took place in the building trades, 2 in coal-mining, 6 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 5 in the textile and clothing trades, 3 in the transport group, and 5 in other industries. Of the 29 new and old disputes, involving 1,805 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 13, involving 994 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 540 persons, in favour of the employers; while 7, involving 271 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 124.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of about 21,600 workpeople were reported during March, of which number 9,350 received advances, and 12,250 sustained decreases. The net result was an increase estimated at about 2½d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. Changes, affecting 450 workpeople, or about 2 per cent. only of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes; and changes affecting about 14,650 were arranged under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting about 6,500 workpeople, were obtained after negotiation between the employers and their workpeople or their representatives, resort being made to arbitration in two of these cases affecting 200 workpeople. (For further details see page 122.)

**Pauperism.**—In the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom, 341,802 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of March. This corresponds to a rate of 216 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, an increase of two in the rate per 10,000 as compared with a year ago. (For further details see page 126.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during March was 10,112, as compared with 9,618 in March, 1897. (For further details see page 128.)

\* The coal dispute in South Wales began on April 1st, and is dealt with on page 99.

“FAIR WAGES” IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

CONDITIONS IMPOSED IN URBAN SANITARY DISTRICTS.

A PARLIAMENTARY RETURN has recently been issued by the Local Government Board “showing in respect of each Urban Sanitary District whether the contracts entered into by the Authority for the execution of works specify any conditions as to the wages to be paid by the contractor, or other conditions with respect to the persons employed by him, and, if so, what are the conditions so specified (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 435 of Session 1893).”

In order to show clearly the character of the chief conditions attached by local authorities to their contracts as regards employment of labour, and the relative extent to which such conditions prevail throughout the urban districts of England and Wales, an analysis of the above return has been prepared in the Department, showing the number and population of the urban districts which impose various conditions as regards the wages to be paid by contractors. It will be understood that the actual conditions imposed vary considerably in wording and in detail, but they have been grouped under five main headings for the purpose of the summary, viz.: Conditions requiring the payment of (1) “current” wages, (2) wages recognised by trade unions, (3) wages agreed on mutually by associations of employers and employed, (4) wages prevailing at date of contract, and (5) wages specified in the contract itself.

Altogether the return applies to 1,086 urban districts, with a population of about 17 millions. It does not include London. The information is summarised in the following table:—

	County Boroughs.		Non-County Boroughs.		Other Urban Districts.		Total.	
	No.	Population.	No.	Population.	No.	Population.	No.	Population.
I. Districts specifying in their contracts conditions as to wages, &c.— Rates to be:— 1. Those current in the district ... ..	29	3,913,574	36	981,903	47	756,883	112	5,652,360
2. Those recognised by trade unions ...	7	792,664	6	197,025	17	317,570	30	1,307,259
3. Those agreed on by associations of employers and employed ... ..	5	871,101	1	30,011	3	17,992	9	919,104
4. Those prevailing or recognised at date of contract ... ..	6	633,440	2	69,438	—	—	8	702,878
5. Those fixed in contract ... ..	—	—	1	12,432	3	27,180	*4	*39,612
Total specifying conditions as to wages, &c. ... ..	47	6,210,779	46	1,250,809	70	1,119,625	163	8,621,213
II. Districts specifying various conditions as to employment, but not with regard to wages, &c. ... ..	1	95,420	9	137,435	46	434,520	56	667,375
III. Districts indicating conditions to be observed, but not making them part of contract ... ..	3	306,025	3	102,967	5	46,750	11	455,742
IV. Districts specifying no conditions of employment by contractors ... ..	13	977,345	180	1,930,521	622	4,260,179	815	7,168,045
V. Districts which have made no contracts ... ..	—	—	4	7,776	37	150,623	41	158,399
Total included in Return ... ..	64	7,589,569	242	3,469,508	780	6,011,697	1,086	17,070,774

Thus it appears that altogether 163 districts, with a population of about nine millions, impose conditions as to wages in their contracts; 11, with about half a million inhabitants, indicate such conditions without inserting them in the contract; and 912, with a population of about eight millions, have imposed no conditions of the kind referred to.

The table also shows clearly that the larger districts, especially county boroughs, impose for the most part

\* In addition hours of labour and rates of wages are specified in scavenging and cartage contracts in one of the districts included under I. 1.

conditions of some kind as to wages paid by their contractors, while those which impose no conditions are mainly the smaller districts. Thus out of 64 county boroughs, 47, with a population of over six millions, impose conditions as to wages; three, with a population of over 300,000, indicate conditions without inserting them in the contract; while only 14, with a population of about a million, impose no such conditions.

On the other hand, out of 242 non-county boroughs only 46, with a population of about a million and a quarter, impose conditions as to wages; three, with a population of about a hundred thousand, indicate them without inserting them in the contract; while no fewer than 193, with a population of over two millions, have imposed no conditions as to wages. With other urban districts the case is still more striking. Out of 780 districts, only 70, with a population of rather more than a million, impose conditions as to wages; 5, with forty-six thousand inhabitants, indicate them without inserting in the contract; while 705, with a population of nearly five millions, have imposed no conditions. Among the 912 local authorities which have imposed no conditions as to wages in their contracts are included 41, with a population of 158,399, which have made no contracts.

Of the five classes of conditions as to wages, by far the most prevalent is that requiring “current” wages to be paid, which is imposed by 112 districts, with a population of nearly six millions, while the method least frequently adopted is the actual fixing of rates in the contract, which is only found in four districts with about 40,000 inhabitants.

If London be added, we may divide the whole of the urban districts in England and Wales, with a total population of about twenty-one millions, into two groups, of which the first, with an aggregate population of about thirteen millions, includes all districts of which the local authorities impose conditions of some kind as to wages in their contracts, and the second, with a population of about eight millions, includes all districts in which such conditions are absent.

THE DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE.

IN the last number of the LABOUR GAZETTE (p. 67), an account was given of the Sliding Scale arrangement by which wages of coal miners in South Wales and Monmouth have been regulated in recent years. It was there stated that six months' notice to terminate the existing scale at the end of March had been given by the workmen, and that the employers had given a month's notice, to take effect at the same time, to terminate all personal contracts. Negotiations took place between the representatives of the coal owners and the miners on the Sliding Scale Committee with regard to the revision of the scale. One of the principal demands of the men, which was refused by the employers, was the incorporation in any new agreement of a scheme for the control of output. On the other hand, the employers put forward counter proposals, including the abolition of the monthly holiday known as “Mabon's day,” the substitution of four-monthly for two-monthly audits, the introduction of discharge notes, and the establishment of a new scale in which the rise or fall in wages should be slower for low prices and faster for high prices than under the existing arrangement. The scale suggested provided for changes of wages of 7½ per cent. for every 1s. change of price so long as coal was less than 9s. 4d. per ton, of 8½ per cent. per 1s. when coal was between 9s. 4d. and 11s. per ton, and of 9½ per cent. per 1s. for all higher prices of coal. It will be remembered that under the late scale wages changed by 1¼ per cent. per 1.71d. change of price (equivalent to 8½ per cent. per 1s.) for all prices of coal.

With regard to the first two of these points, the miners' representatives suggested (1) that the monthly holiday should be kept on Saturdays instead of Mon-

days; (2) that the audit should be held every three months. No settlement was arrived at, and, as stated above, employers' notices to terminate contracts on March 31st were issued. On March 14th a meeting of miners' delegates was held, and a resolution was passed that the delegates should take the views of their constituents as to the granting of plenary powers to the workmen's representatives on the Sliding Scale Joint Committee to effect a settlement of the matters in dispute. On March 16th, the employers' secretary informed the workmen's secretary that the employers considered that it was useless to attempt further negotiations unless the workmen gave plenary powers to some persons to act on their behalf. At the adjourned meeting of miners' delegates on March 22nd it was stated that collieries with 17,560 men were in favour of plenary powers, collieries with 26,805 men against, and collieries with 18,050 men in favour of the grant of such powers subject to various conditions. At a meeting of the Sliding Scale Joint Committee on March 25th the miners' representatives announced that they had been empowered by the meeting of March 22nd to agree to a renewal of the sliding scale agreement provided that the scale should provide for a minimum wage equivalent to a selling price of 10s. per ton f.o.b.; that the advances and reductions above that should be at the rate of 10 per cent. per 1s. of the selling price; and that there should be a substantial advance in wages as from April 1st.

These proposals were rejected by the employers, and it was agreed that the existing conditions should be continued up to April 9th, with a view to a ballot of the men being taken on the question of plenary powers. At a meeting of miners' delegates on March 28th the proposal to take a ballot was approved. The ballot papers issued were returnable by April 2nd.

On March 31st a movement began on the part of the hauliers at certain collieries to strike at once instead of waiting till April 9th. The movement spread to other classes of workmen, and by April 4th about 60,000 miners were estimated as being idle. April 5th was "Mabon's day," and on April 6th only a small fraction of the men employed at the associated collieries resumed work, and the stoppage was practically general, many miners having left work without notice.

The voting on the question of plenary powers was as follows:—For, 14,823; against, 49,160.

On April 4th a meeting of the members of the late Sliding Scale Joint Committee took place, at which, in reply to questions from the workmen's side as to the willingness of the employers to meet and negotiate with representatives of the workmen, whether they had plenary powers or not, the employers replied as follows:—

"The Associated Employers are quite prepared, as they have always been, to meet their workmen, but they fail to see any reason for altering the opinion expressed in Mr. Dalziel's letter to Mr. Miles of March 16th, that it is useless to negotiate terms of settlement with persons who do not possess plenary powers to act on behalf of the workmen."

In view of this answer a conference of colliery delegates, open to all collieries whether contributing to the sliding scale or not, was held at Cardiff on April 7th, at which 175 delegates, stated to represent 100,302 men, were present. The conference selected the members of the former Sliding Scale Committee, with 5 others, to form a provisional committee to meet the employers. Resolutions were passed in favour of a "10 per cent. scale," a minimum wage equivalent to a 10s. price of coal (f.o.b.), and a 10 per cent. advance of wages, bi-monthly audits, and an umpire to settle questions in dispute. The conference conferred no plenary powers on the representatives chosen.

On April 11th, the Coalowners' Association issued notices stating the terms on which their collieries would be open, i.e., substantially on the basis of the previous sliding scale agreement with the employers' proposals embodied. An audit for the first three months of 1898 was to be taken at once to regulate wages for the following four months. On April 12th a conference took place between the Emergency Committee of the

Coalowners' Association and the Provisional Committee of men, but on ascertaining that the men's representatives had no plenary powers, the coalowners declined to negotiate with regard to terms of settlement. In answer to questions, however, they stated that their own proposals and those of the men would be open for discussion with any representatives who might be duly authorised by the workmen to arrive at a settlement.

Concessions of increases of wages are reported from several non-associated collieries which continue working. The great bulk, however, of the output of coal in South Wales and Monmouth is covered by the Coalowners' Association. The miners for the most part belong to no trade unions.

There are altogether about 127,000 men employed in and about coal mines in this district, of whom at the end of 1896, 21,762 belonged to 8 trade societies.

COAL MINING IN 1897.

FROM an advance proof supplied by the Home Office it appears that in 1897 the output from mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act was 202,119,196 tons of coal and 13,025,829 tons of other minerals, chiefly ironstone, fire-clay, and oil shale. These figures when compared with those for the previous year show an increase of 6,767,245 tons of coal and a decrease of 126,088 tons of other minerals.

This is the first time on record in which the production of coal has reached so high a total as 200 million tons in one year.

The number of persons employed in or about the mines covered by the Act is returned as 695,213, of which 558,305 were underground workers and 136,908 on the surface. For 1896, the number below ground was given as 557,026 and above ground as 135,658.

In the following table the production of coal and the numbers employed\* in 1897 in each of the principal coalfields are compared with the corresponding figures for 1896 and 1887:—

Coalfields.	1897.	1896.	1887.	Percentage Increase as compared with	
				A year ago.	Ten years ago.
<b>Production of Coal.</b>					
	1,000 tons.	1,000 tons.	1,000 tons.		
England and Wales—					
Northumberland and Durham	43,588	41,790	34,517	4.3	26.3
Yorkshire	24,953	23,943	22,109	0.5	19.6
Lancashire and Cheshire	23,551	23,386	21,502	0.7	9.5
Midlands	38,809	36,977	31,684	5.0	22.5
North Wales	2,925	2,893	2,712	1.1	7.9
South Wales and Monmouth	35,806	33,868	26,046	5.7	37.5
Other English Districts	4,159	4,038	3,958	3.2	5.3
Scotland	29,083	28,327	21,485	2.7	35.4
Ireland	135	130	107	3.8	26.2
Total	202,119	195,352	162,120	3.5	24.7
<b>Numbers Employed.*</b>					
England and Wales—					
Northumberland and Durham	138,081	137,274	101,613	0.6	35.9
Yorkshire	96,513	96,263	72,672	0.3	32.8
Lancashire and Cheshire	84,250	83,789	67,646	0.6	24.5
Midlands	128,197	128,713	96,552	0.4	32.8
North Wales	11,664	11,536	9,780	1.1	19.3
South Wales and Monmouth	126,802	125,205	86,915	1.3	45.9
Other English Districts	19,726	20,141	19,075	2.3	3.4
Scotland	88,967	88,801	71,175	0.2	25.0
Ireland	1,013	971	849	4.3	19.3
Total	695,213	692,684	526,277	0.4	32.1

It will be seen that in 1897 the coal raised exceeded that of 1896 by 3.5 per cent., while the numbers employed had increased by less than one-half per cent. As compared with 1887, however, the numbers employed have increased faster than the production. The district which has made the greatest proportionate advance both in output and numbers employed during the last ten years is South Wales and Monmouth, the coal raised having increased by 37.5 per cent., and the number of workpeople by 45.9 per cent.

\* The numbers employed relate to all mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and include those engaged in producing the ironstone, &c., found in these mines as well as coal.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

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

Product and District.	Number of work-people.	Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit.	Date from which last audit affects wages.	Average ascertained selling price per ton.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.
<b>Coal.</b>				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	Dec., Jan. Feb.	—	5 2/96	5 4/33	0 1/37
South Wales and Monmouth— (Average for certain classes of coal, f.o.b.)	100,000	—	—	9 3/4 to 9 5	—	—
<b>Pig Iron.</b>						
Cumberland	1,350	Jan., Feb. Mar.	Apr. 1	48 17/850	48 0/815	+0 11/035
Cleveland	5,500	Jan., Feb. Mar.	Apr. 1	40 6/47	40 9/93	-0 3/46
<b>Manufactured Iron.</b>						
North of England— (Ralls, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	Jan., Feb.	Mar. 28	102 3/93	102 8/96	-0 5/03
Midlands— (Bars, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips)	20,000	Jan., Feb.	Apr.	120 8/30	120 6/78	+0 1/32

It will be seen that the average price of Cumberland pig iron shows an increase which resulted in an advance to the blastfurnacemen under the sliding scale agreement, while Cleveland pig iron shows a decrease resulting in a reduction in the blastfurnacemen's wages.

The decrease in the average price of manufactured iron in the North of England involved a reduction in the rates of wages of the puddlers and the millmen. In the Midlands a slight increase in the price is shown, but the rates of wages were not affected.

Pending the negotiations in South Wales and Monmouthshire as to the terms of a new agreement, the audit of the selling price of coal for January and February was not made.

SICKNESS INSURANCE IN AUSTRIA, 1895.†

The following particulars are based upon the report recently issued by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior,\* containing the figures for the year 1895, relative to the working of the Sickness Insurance Law of March 30th, 1888. The classes of funds, in which sickness insurance, as prescribed by this law, may be effected, are six in number, including the miners' provident funds, or *Bruderladen*. An account of the miners' funds was given in the GAZETTE for February, 1898, p. 39, and these funds are not included in the present article. A brief description of each of the other classes of funds appeared in the GAZETTE for May, 1897, p. 131.

The total number of sick funds, whose returns were utilised for the 1895 report, was 2,915, and their aggregate mean membership, 2,066,435. The following table enables a comparison to be made between the particulars just given, and those for each previous year, from 1890 onwards.

Years.	Number of Funds whose returns were utilised.	Mean Membership of such Funds.
1890	2,740	1,548,825
1891	2,822	1,666,790
1892	2,837	1,741,074
1893	2,976	1,840,643
1894	2,915	1,940,985
1895	2,915	2,066,435

The number of cases and days of sickness, in respect of which sick money was paid, in each of the years

\* The ascertainment for January and February has not been made. † Die Gebarung und die Ergebnisse der Krankheitsstatistik der nach dem Gesetze vom 30 März 1888 (R. G. Bl. Nr. 33), betreffend die Krankenversicherung der Arbeiter, eingerichteten Krankenkassen im Jahre 1895. Vienna, Government Printing Office, 1897.

1890-95, and the rate of sickness separately for males and females, will be seen from the following table:—

Years.	Total.	Cases of Sickness.*			
		Males.	Per 100 Members.		Both Sexes. (Including confinements.)
			Excluding Confinements.	Including Confinements.	
1890	797,683	49.9	49.5	57.4	51.5
1891	750,221	43.6	41.6	50.1	45.0
1892	819,738	45.7	43.6	52.1	47.1
1893	900,342	47.8	44.1	52.9	48.9
1894	879,307	44.1	40.6	49.7	45.3
1895	1,013,599	47.9	44.0	53.1	49.0

Years.	Total.	Days of Sickness.*			
		Males.	Per Member.		Both Sexes. (Including confinements.)
			Excluding Confinements.	Including Confinements.	
1890	12,409,327	7.3	8.4	10.5	8.0
1891	12,754,508	7.0	7.8	10.0	7.7
1892	13,869,285	7.3	8.0	10.3	8.0
1893	15,089,873	7.6	8.0	10.3	8.2
1894	15,629,256	7.5	7.7	10.1	8.1
1895	17,516,981	7.9	8.2	10.7	8.5

The following statement gives particulars of membership, sickness and deaths for each class of sick fund dealt with in the statistics, separately, in 1895, with comparative figures for 1894.

	Classes of Sick Funds.				
	Guild.	Friendly Society.	Factory.	Building Works.	District
<b>Number of Funds...</b>	842	113	1,395	4	561
<i>Ditto</i> , 1894	833	105	1,411	9	567
<b>Mean Membership—</b>					
Males	275,857	256,988	390,322	342	684,434
Females	65,201	88,914	174,547	5	129,825
Total	341,058	345,902	564,869	347	814,259
<i>Ditto</i> , 1894	326,900	320,277	549,494	3,479	740,855
<b>Number of Cases of Sickness—</b>					
Males	91,051	141,993	240,270	183	296,717
Fem. { incl. confinements	18,865	53,181	100,746	2	70,591
{ excl. "          "	15,766	43,426	84,044	2	58,301
Total, incl. "          "	109,916	195,174	341,016	185	367,308
<b>Number of Days of Sickness, entitling to Sick Pay—</b>					
Males	1,683,814	2,422,071	3,916,697	4,307	4,591,615
Fem. { incl. confinements	378,283	1,101,119	2,064,414	17	1,354,644
{ excl. "          "	294,692	871,175	1,595,683	17	1,012,388
Total, incl. "          "	2,062,097	3,523,190	5,981,111	4,324	5,946,259
<b>Number of Days of Sickness, per Member—</b>					
Males	6.10	9.43	10.03	12.59	6.71
Fem. { incl. confinements	5.86	12.39	11.83	3.40	10.43
{ excl. "          "	4.52	9.80	9.14	3.40	7.80
Total, incl. "          "	6.05	10.19	10.59	12.46	7.30
<i>Ditto</i> , 1894	5.63	9.81	10.17	6.70	6.80
<b>Number of Deaths entitling to Funeral Benefit</b>	3,055	4,591	5,677	6	6,765
<i>Ditto</i> , 1894	2,006	4,478	5,736	31	6,266

The following table shows the income and expenditure of the above classes of sick funds in 1895, as compared with 1894:—

	1894.	1895.
<b>Income:—</b>		
Contributions of Employers	£ 378,126	£ 413,738
" Workpeople	881,984	956,840
Other receipts	88,340	91,439
Total	1,348,450	1,462,017
<b>Expenditure:—</b>		
Sick and Funeral Benefit	1,057,260	1,187,301
Administration	97,914	106,074
Other expenditure	50,115	54,993
Total	1,205,287	1,348,368
Excess of Income (i.e., amount paid into Reserve Funds)	143,163	113,649
Total value of Reserve Funds at end of year	899,227	1,011,964

\* These figures are intended to include those cases of sickness only in respect of which sick money had to be paid, i.e., sicknesses lasting more than three days and entailing inability to work. It is stated, however, that this rule is not in all cases rigidly observed in the making up of the returns. In the case of normal confinements, the sick funds are not bound to continue to pay sick money beyond the end of the 4th week from the date of confinement.

It will be seen that the amounts added to reserve funds in 1895 were equal to 8.3 per cent. of the contributions from employers and employed, the corresponding percentage for 1894 being 11.4; while the Sickness Insurance Law provides that the amounts placed to reserve each year shall not be less than 20 per cent. of such contributions.

The contributions paid in 1895 amounted on an average to 13s. 3d. per person insured, of which sum 4s. was paid by the employers, and 9s. 3d. by the employed, while each person insured received benefits to the value of 11s. 6d., on an average.

In addition to the classes of sick funds included in the foregoing tables, there are special sick funds for apprentices employed by members of guilds. These funds are not constituted on lines expressly laid down in the Sickness Insurance Laws, the impulse for their establishment being, to a great extent, given by the Sickness Insurance Amendment Law, of April 4th, 1889, by which an apprentice was declared exempt from the obligation to be insured if he had a right, when ill, to claim from the guild free medical attendance and treatment for at least twenty weeks.

The following statement gives particulars of the apprentices' sick funds in 1895, compared with 1894:—

	1894.	1895.
No. of Funds included in statistics ...	284	306
Mean Membership ...	48,976	53,241
No. of cases of Sickness per 100 members ...	17.7	20.1
No. of days of Sickness per member ...	2.6	2.7
Income—		
Contributions from Employers ...	10,438	11,520
Other receipts ...	869	867
Total ...	11,307	12,387
Expenditure—		
Sick and Funeral Benefit ...	8,057	8,232
Administration ...	912	990
Other expenditure ...	283	333
Total ...	9,252	9,555
Excess of Income (i.e., amount paid into Reserve Funds) ...	2,055	2,832
Total value of Reserve Funds at end of year ...	8,487	11,348

THE COALMINERS' STRIKE IN THE UNITED STATES (1897).

AN account of this dispute, which extended to Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, was given in the GAZETTE for November, 1897, page 331. A full report of the dispute, so far as it affected the State of Illinois, has recently been issued by the Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics in the form of a supplement to the Sixteenth Annual Coal Report. This report gives for each mine affected the duration of the dispute, the number of persons involved, and the prices paid for mining before and after the dispute. It appears from these figures that altogether 28,721 men, employed at 302 mines, were involved in the movement in Illinois, of whom 2,370, employed at 39 mines, continued at work throughout with an increase of wages. The remainder were idle for varying periods, the average duration of the stoppage being about 100 days. The miners secured advances of wages stated to average over 26 per cent., the greatest gain being in the southern portion of the State, where prices had been lowest, and the least in the region of Rock Island, where there had been least complaint. On the whole the result of the strike is said to have been an approach towards greater uniformity in prices. One change that has been made is that payment is to be calculated on the gross weight of coal mined, instead of on the weight of screened coal.

A report, which appeared in the *Chicago Chronicle*, of March 14th, states that a uniform wage scale for inside day labour in the coal mines of Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana had just been agreed to by which certain difficulties left unsettled since the termination of the strike of 1897, have been adjusted. The new scale, which governs all inside day labour for a year from April 1st, 1898, is based on the average wage paid in all the districts, reduced to an eight hour day and increased by the advance to be paid from the beginning of April. The new rates for all classes of inside day labour are 7s. 3d. per day with the exceptions of track layers and timbermen (7s. 11d.) and pipemen for compressed air plants (7s. 8d.). It was further agreed that men going to the mine in the morning shall be entitled to two hours' pay whether or not the mine works two hours.

GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1897.

THE following particulars are based upon a summary of the work of the German Labour Colonies in 1897 published in the first number of the 1898 issue of *Der Wanderer* (the official organ of the Labour Colony Central Board), and upon the monthly statements contained in successive issues of that journal for 1897.\*

There were 2,937 inmates in 27 out of the 29 German labour colonies at the end of 1897, compared with 2,918 at the end of 1896; the number of persons for whom accommodation existed in the colonies at the end of each of these years being 3,233 and 3,265 respectively. The number of admissions in 1897 was 7,191 (7,646 in 1896), and the number of departures 7,172 (7,806 in 1896).

The following statement shows the number of admissions and departures in each month in 1897 compared with 1896:—

Month.	Number of Admissions.		Number of Departures.		Number remaining at end of month.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
January ...	663	646	688	581	3,043	2,983
February ...	585	518	851	776	2,777	2,725
March ...	571	537	1,046	1,304	2,302	1,958
April ...	612	530	987	734	1,927	1,754
May ...	576	581	577	531	1,926	1,804
June ...	543	396	679	520	1,800	1,681
July ...	542	469	590	538	1,752	1,666
August ...	521	488	616	488	1,637	1,606
September ...	549	519	481	471	1,705	1,654
October ...	809	798	438	468	2,076	1,954
November ...	963	961	450	391	2,588	2,554
December ...	712	754	382	371	2,918	2,937

The 7,191 admissions of 1897 comprised 5,661 separate individuals, of whom 2,156 had never before been in a colony; 1,561 had been in a colony once; 754, twice; 443, three times; 270, four times; 154, five times; 120, six times; and 203 more than six times before.

The number of persons admitted to colonies for the first time was somewhat smaller in 1897 than in 1896, viz., 2,156, compared with 2,353.

The ages of those admitted to the colonies in 1897 were as follows:—

Ages.	Admissions in 1897.	
	Number.	Per Cent.
Under 15 years ...	1	0.01
15 and under 17 years ...	47	0.66
17 " " 21 " ...	410	5.70
21 " " 31 " ...	1,361	18.98
31 " " 51 " ...	3,809	52.97
51 " " 61 " ...	1,252	17.41
61 years and over ...	311	4.33
Total ...	7,191	100.00

The circumstances, under which the departures from the colonies took place in the two years 1896 and 1897, were as follows:—

	No. of Departures.		Per Cent.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
Sent to situations found by Colonies ...	1,211	911	15.5	12.7
Went to situations found by themselves ...	889	874	11.4	12.2
Discharged at own desire ...	4,241	3,972	54.3	55.4
Dismissed for inefficiency or misconduct ...	890	700	12.2	9.8
Discharged for other causes ...	382	513	4.9	7.1
Left without permission ...	190	189	2.4	2.6
Died ...	23	13	0.3	0.2
Total ...	7,806	7,172	100.0	100.0

Of the 2,937 persons remaining in the colonies on December 31st, 1897, 1,601 had been there under two months; 640 over two up to four; 269 over four up to six; 269 over six and up to twelve months; and 158 over a year.

INDEX TO CONSULAR REPORTS ON TRADE, &c.†

An index to the Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Representatives abroad on trade and subjects of general interest, issued by the Foreign Office between August, 1896, and December 31st, 1897, has now appeared.

\* See LABOUR GAZETTE, March, 1897, p. 70, and Report on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed (C. 7,182 of 1893), pp. 263-307. † C. 8,719. Price 7d.

REPORT UPON CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN HAMBURG DOCKS.

ON February 10th, 1897, after the termination of the great dock dispute in Hamburg, a Commission was appointed by the Hamburg Senate to inquire into the conditions of labour in the docks. The results of this inquiry are contained in a volume recently published by the Hamburg Senate.\*

The first part of the volume contains an analysis of the evidence of witnesses representing the employers' associations and workmen's unions concerned in the dispute, and also of some workmen who had not taken part in it, and the recommendations made by the Commission. In consequence of these recommendations the Senate and Burghers of Hamburg on November 24th last sanctioned the appointment of a dock inspector, whose duty it is to see to the protection of the workmen against dangers to life and limb, and who is empowered, if need be, to stop work until steps have been taken to remove such dangers.

One of the principal complaints of the men had reference to the payment of wages in public-houses. This practice is illegal, but was, nevertheless, practically universal among the master stevedores, and existed, though in a lesser degree, in the other branches of dock labour. As a result of the present inquiry, the Association of Master Stevedores has passed a resolution binding its members to pay all wages in future either on board the vessel or at the office.

The second part of the volume contains the result of a special inquiry into the earnings of dock labourers in Hamburg in 1895 and 1896.

As regards engine-men and stokers on board harbour tugs, &c., and coalies other than those employed in loading or unloading coal cargoes, information was asked of a limited number of employers only, while coal bunkering was omitted from the inquiry altogether. As regards the other branches of dock labour, it is stated that practically the whole of the employers made returns. The data are obtained from the wages lists, in which employers, under the Accident Insurance Law, are bound to make a daily or weekly entry of the time worked and sums earned by each person employed.

Two hundred and fifty-three employers have furnished particulars, on the basis of which the report estimates the total number employed in dock labour in 1895 by the firms making returns as 24,416, the total time worked by these men, as 2,528,005 days (a night's work or eight hours of overtime being counted as a day), and the total wages earned as £563,918. It will be seen that if these 24,416 men had obtained full employment (say 300 days' work) in the year, their annual earnings from dock labour would have amounted to £66 18s. per man, and that in consequence of their not obtaining full employment in the docks, their actual annual earnings, so far as derived from labour at the docks, amounted to £23 1s. 11d. on the average, per man.

The following statement shows for each branch of dock labour, in 1895, the total wages paid, the total number of days of work rendered in each branch of dock labour, and the average earnings for a day's work:—

Branches of Dock Labour.	Total Wages Paid.	Total number of days worked.	Average Earnings per Man for a day's work.
Stevedores ...	126,532	491,948	s. d. 5 2
Coalies (discharge) ...	59,615	141,438	8 5
Lightermen ...	104,066	501,245	4 2
Warehouse Workmen ...	83,414	394,007	4 3
Wharf Labourers ...	134,154	707,139	3 9
Corn Porters, Bushellers, &c. ...	15,980	76,831	4 2
Coal Porters (3 firms only) ...	10,413	50,193	4 2
Ship and Boiler Cleaners ...	13,260	38,225	3 0
Ship Painters ...	10,824	52,343	4 2
Engine-men and Stokers ...	5,560	24,636	4 6
Totals and Average ...	563,918	2,528,005	4 5½

\* Bericht der Senats-Commission für die Prüfung der Arbeitsverhältnisse im Hamburger Hafen. Hamburg, 1898. Lucas Grafé & Sillem.

As regards the yearly earnings obtained from dock labour, the records showing the time worked and amount earned by each man apply to 23,131 separate individuals. Of these, 11,039, or very nearly one-half, earned less than £5 in 1895 by dock labour (about 88½ per cent. of these performed not more than 15 days' work during that year); 15,270, or about two-thirds of the whole number, earned less than £25; and only 183 persons earned over £100 by labour in the docks in 1895.

The working day for most classes of labour employed in the docks consists of 10 hours of actual work. A night's work does not exceed 9½ hours, or, in the case of ship and boiler cleaners and ship painters, 7½ hours. Coalies work from 5 or 5.30 a.m. until the cargo is discharged, their work lasting as a rule till 7, 8 or 8.30 p.m. Bushellers, porters and others employed at the grain warehouses work 10½ hours per day, from 6 a.m. till 7 p.m., with intervals, amounting to 2½ hours. Lightermen's hours are 5.30 a.m. to 7 p.m., with intervals amounting to 2 hours.

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN FRANCE.

A REPORT, which has just been issued by the French Labour Department\*, gives the results of an inquiry organised by M. Arthur Fontaine, the assistant-director of the Department, in regard to workmen's associations for production in France. The earliest case of the formation of a workmen's productive association is stated to have occurred in 1834. A great impulse was given to the movement in 1848, when a State subvention of £120,000 was voted to associations composed of workmen alone or of workmen and employers jointly. In 1852 a reaction took place; but in 1863 the movement resumed activity. In consequence of losses incurred during the Franco-German War another period of reaction commenced in 1871. But an impulse was given by the measures taken by the prefect of the Seine in 1881 to facilitate the undertaking by workmen's associations of contracts for public works, and by the application of considerable sums placed at the disposal of the Paris municipality by the will of M. Rampal for the purpose of being advanced on loan to co-operative societies, whether productive, distributive, or credit, and by the formation of the Co-operative Union of Productive Associations. Activity abated after 1885, but was resumed after 1888, in which year a decree was made fixing the conditions upon which workmen's associations might tender for public contracts. The year 1893 saw the foundation of the Bank for Co-operative Production, and the first of a series of grants, continued in each subsequent year, of public money presented to workmen's productive societies by vote of the Legislature; and these circumstances proved favourable to the formation of new societies.

The report contains detailed accounts of certain typical associations, and a list of the French workmen's associations for production, and gives a statistical summary of the position of these associations, as ascertained by the inquiry, from which the particulars given in the table which follows are taken:—

Position in 1895.	Number of societies in operation in 1895	Division of Profits of 1895.	
To reserve funds ...	172	As interest or dividend to capital ...	£8,120
To management ...	165	Members employed by society ...	£48,004
To labour ...	9,029	Non-members employed ...	£3,093
To Provident Fund ...	£468,620	Total profits divided ...	£11,493
Total profits divided ...	£55,796		£7,812
Value of business done in 1895	£1,195,814		£2,624
Profits earned in 1895 ...	£96,409		£1,146
By whom Shares held.		Number of Employees and Wages paid in 1895.	
By workmen desiring employment by the society ...	£357,691	Members (Minimum ...)	4,013
Former workmen of society ...	£33,777	(Maximum ...)	4,864
Other workmen belonging to the trade carried on by the society ...	£64,444	Non-members (Minimum ...)	4,274
Other persons ...	£12,708	(Maximum ...)	6,735
Total share capital (paid-up) ...	£468,620	Total number employed ...	8,287
		Total wages paid ...	£11,599
			£486,268

\* Les Associations Ouvrières de Production. Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1897.

It should be noted that in the French report transport is treated as included in "production," while in the statistics as to workmen's co-operative associations published by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, societies carrying on business of this nature are not counted as associations for production. The number of transport societies (mainly associations of cab-drivers) included among the 165 societies, to which the particulars given in the table relate, is 17, the value of the business done by them in 1895 having been £169,899, and their profits £8,347. It should also be observed that, while in the figures published by this Department all baking societies (not including bakeries carried on by distributive societies) are considered as associations for production, the great bulk of the French co-operative baking societies (509 out of 514 in 1895) are, in the statistics published by the French Labour Department, treated as distributive associations (*sociétés coopératives de consommation*)\*.

Out of a total value of business done in 1895 by 148 societies amounting to £661,859, the sum of £182,933 was in respect of work done for the Government or other public authorities. The total amount received as grants from the State by 135 workmen's associations, by the Co-operative Union of Productive Associations, by the South Eastern Federation, and by the two Co-operative Productive Banks between January 1, 1893, and January 1, 1897, was £14,480. It is stated that the year 1896 witnessed a considerable development in co-operative production, the number of associations in operation having risen to 202.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS IN RUSSIA IN 1896.

DATA relative to the position of all kinds of co-operative credit associations in Russia have been published for the first time in a report recently issued by the Chancery for Petty Credit attached to the Ministry of Finance. This report, summarised in the journal of the Ministry of Finance (*Viestnik Financov*), No. 3, of 1898,† gives information concerning 1,442 societies and institutions for providing petty credit, by which accounts had been sent in to the Chancery up to November 20, 1897. These consisted of 605 loan and deposit societies (out of a total of 664), 262 village banks (out of a total of 408), and 575 "peasants' help funds."

The working capital of loan and deposit societies consists of shares of not more than 50 roubles (say £5) each, which are paid up by small instalments. The society accepts deposits and makes loans to its members in proportion to their shares, whilst responsibility for engagements is guaranteed by all the members.

The village banks date from 1883, when the Minister of Finance was empowered to authorise their establishment, it being proposed to open such banks in those places where the establishment of loan deposit banks was impracticable. The characteristic feature of these banks is that the foundation capital is not created by means of shares, but with money from the commune or by private donation. They may receive deposits and contract loans to an amount not exceeding five times the foundation capital. Loans are granted exclusively to peasants of the community which has founded the bank, to the amount of not more than 200 roubles (say £20) per person, and for a term not exceeding one year. In the case of non-repayment of the loan at the proper time, the debtor is prosecuted in the same way as for taxes.

Peasants' help funds are organised on the basis of a project drawn up in 1840, and are intended for the purpose of making loans to peasants in need of assistance, on easy terms. Their capital has been formed partly of money placed at the disposal of the communes for this purpose by the Government, and partly out of profits on deposits made in the peasants' savings banks which were established in connection with the help funds.

\* See Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, June, 1896, p. 358. † See also Statesman's Handbook for Russia (St. Petersburg, 1896), Vol. L, pp. 212-217; and The Industries of Russia (St. Petersburg, 1893), Vol. III., pp. 303-6.

The aggregate membership of the 605 loan and deposit societies is given as 201,843. The village banks and peasants' help funds have no definite membership, as their operations extend to the whole of the village community in each case.

The following statement shows the business done by each class of institution in 1896:—

	Loan and Deposit Societies.	Village Banks.	Peasants' Help Funds.	All Classes of Petty Credit Institutions.
<b>RECEIPTS:—</b>				
On Shares	90,349	66,649	35,209	90,349
Deposits	621,263	—	—	723,141
Borrowed by Societies, &c.	493,966	210	—	494,176
Loans repaid to Societies, &c.	3,164,810	189,185	286,801	3,640,796
Interest on Loans	—	25,020	35,260	60,280
Miscellaneous Receipts	—	8,258	173	8,431
<b>EXPENDITURE:—</b>				
Shares refunded	58,706	—	—	58,706
Deposits repaid	540,212	35,804	35,209	611,225
Loans granted	3,291,009	216,892	289,834	3,800,735
Loans repaid by Societies, &c.	389,154	—	—	389,154
Administration	40,805	5,294	4,253	50,352
Interest on Deposits	—	6,140	9,708	15,848

The following statement shows the position of each class of institution at the end of 1896:—

	Loan and Deposit Societies.	Village Banks.	Peasants' Help Funds.	All Classes of Petty Credit Institutions.
<b>ASSETS:—</b>				
New Loans granted	1,876,362	239,602	558,162	2,668,126
Renewals of Loans	193,953	25,044	117,771	336,768
Irrecoverable Loans	—	5,196	5,911	11,107
Losses	1,920	—	—	1,920
Cash in hand	89,485	17,194	20,511	127,190
Interest-bearing bonds, &c.	249,753	14,210	9,107	273,070
In hands of credit institutions	36,778	15,621	13,780	66,179
Other assets	44,193	20,519	—	64,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,500,354</b>	<b>337,386</b>	<b>725,242</b>	<b>3,562,982</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:—</b>				
Share capital	655,618	—	—	655,618
Foundation capital	—	204,552	358,280	562,832
Capital owned by communes	—	—	62,489	62,489
Reserve capital	204,447	—	—	204,447
Deposits	1,032,202	185,322	304,473	1,481,997
Loans contracted by Societies	439,037	470	—	439,507
Miscellaneous Liabilities	76,135	7,042	—	83,177
Profit	72,915	—	—	72,915
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,500,354</b>	<b>337,386</b>	<b>725,242</b>	<b>3,562,982</b>

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.†

**Conforming to the orders of a Foreman.**—This was an appeal by the defendants from the judgment of the Divisional Court affirming the judgment of the County Court. The plaintiff was a workman of about 20 years of age, and employed by the defendants as a linoleum mixer. His duty was to work at a machine which consisted of a box used for mixing certain substances. At the bottom of the box was a pair of blades revolving horizontally which mixed the substances and threw up the stuff when mixed. There were two machines at the works—a large one and a small one. In the large one, in order to get the mixture out of the box, the machine was stopped and the box tilted. In the small one there was a wheel by means of which the machine could be stopped, but the usual practice was for the workmen to take the mixture out of the box with their hands while the blades were revolving.

The plaintiff, who had been in the employ of the defendants for 2½ years, had worked at the large machine, and occasionally at the small one. When the plaintiff first entered the service of defendants the foreman taught him how to work the small machine, but did not tell him how to use the wheel to stop it. The foreman himself always took out the mixture with his hands while the blades were revolving.

In February, 1897, the foreman ordered the plaintiff to mix 9 lbs. of stuff in the small machine. After mixing it the plaintiff attempted to take the mixture out with his hands while the blades were revolving, and his right hand was caught by the blades and cut off. The plaintiff's case was that there was negligence on the part of the

\* The profits of the village banks and peasants' help funds are treated as additions to the foundation capital.

† Under this heading are also included actions at Common Law to recover from employers compensation for injuries to workpeople.

foreman to whose orders or directions he conformed, as he was bound to do.

In the County Court the jury found: (1) That the foreman was a person to whose orders the plaintiff was bound to conform, and did conform; (2) That the foreman was guilty of negligence in not warning the plaintiff, and in not giving him instructions as to the proper way of using the machine; (3) That the plaintiff did not voluntarily bring the injury upon himself, and could not have appreciated the risk. They gave a verdict for the plaintiff, and £200 damages.

The defendants appealed, and urged that there was no evidence of any order or direction of the foreman to the plaintiff to take the mixture out with his hands, the example of the foreman not being an order or direction; that the plaintiff knew that he could start or stop the machine by using the wheel, and that he knew of the danger involved in taking the mixture out with his hands. On the other hand the plaintiff contended that there was evidence of an order to work the machine coupled with a direction by implication to the plaintiff to use his hands when taking the mixture out without stopping the machine, and that there was no evidence of an agreement by the plaintiff to run the risk, so as to make the maxim *Volenti non fit injuria* applicable.

The Court of Appeal, in giving judgment against the defendants, said that the foreman taught the plaintiff to take the mixture out with his hands without stopping the machine. This was the usual way of performing the work, and there was evidence that it was dangerous. On the day of the accident the foreman told the plaintiff to work at the machine, and it was the clear intention of the foreman that plaintiff should work it as it had always been worked for the last two and a half years. The Court were inclined to think, though they did not decide it, that, if the plaintiff had worked the machine in a different way, he would not have obeyed the foreman's order, to which he was bound to conform. That was the interpretation which the plaintiff put upon the order, and in obeying it he had his hand cut off. The Court held that the case was thus brought within Section 1, Sub-section 3, of the Employers' Liability Act, 1880. As regarded the maxim *Volenti non fit injuria*, if it could be made out that the injured person had agreed to take the risk, the maxim would apply, but the jury at the trial found that the plaintiff did not appreciate the risk.—*Court of Appeal, reported March 17th.*

**Notice of Injury.**—A widow sued a builder for £343 as damages for the loss of her husband, who was employed by him (LABOUR GAZETTE, December 1897). The deceased was engaged at painting, and fell from the roof through a skylight, owing, it was alleged, to there being no proper protection. The defendant's case was that planks were provided which the deceased did not use. In the City of London Court an objection was raised on behalf of the defendant, that no formal notice of the injuries had been given within six weeks of the accident. On behalf of the plaintiff it was urged that the defendant had, since the accident, given her small sums of money, and that she was under the impression she was going to be provided for. The judge held that, as the proper notice had not been given, the plaintiff was not entitled to proceed with the action, but it was adjourned pending an appeal to the High Court. On appeal the Divisional Court held that the non-giving of the notice was excusable. On the case coming again before the City of London Court, the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, with damages £300.—*City of London Court, March 10th.*

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

**Quitting Work at a Colliery—Fatal Accidents—Custom.**—This was an appeal by a colliery company from a decision of the magistrates. The appellants brought a claim, as a test case, for 5s. against one of their workmen for absenting himself without leave [LABOUR GAZETTE, November, 1897]. The respondent's case was that a definite arrangement had been made in June last between the men and the manager, which the appellants denied, that in case of a fatal accident in the mine the men could cease work and leave the pit. He contended that on this occasion, i.e., when an accident took place to a boy, he believed that he was killed in the pit; and he further contended that according to the alleged arrangement there was no stipulation that death should actually take place in the pit. Previous to the alleged arrangement it was stated that when fatal accidents had occurred no objection had been taken to the men leaving; and, further, that there was a custom in South Durham and Nottinghamshire for them to leave their work under such circumstances.

In September, 1897, a boy was injured in the colliery. The respondent helped to extricate him from beneath a corve, and he was taken out of the colliery actually alive, but to all appearances dead, and removed to a hospital, where he died two hours after his admission. The respondent, who desired to leave the pit, was informed by the under-manager that the boy was not dead, and was requested to continue his work. The respondent, however, left his work in the mine under the *bona fide* belief that a fatal accident had occurred. It was contended by the respondent that such *bona fide* belief excused, and by the appellants that it did not excuse, the respondent from liability to damages under his contract. The magistrates held that there was no fatal accident in the mine, and that therefore the respondent was not entitled to cease work or leave the mine, but that as the respondent entertained the *bona fide* belief that the boy was dead, they held that this was a defence to the claim. The Divisional Court dismissed the appeal, and held that the words "fatal accident in the mine" covered the circumstances of the case before them, since the accident which occurred in the mine was undoubtedly a fatal one.—*Queen's Bench Division—Divisional Court, reported March 5th.*

(3) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

**Omission to fix a Fan for carrying away Steam.**—A laundry company was fined £2 and 17s. 6d. costs for failure to fix a fan for carrying away steam in a washhouse, in contravention of Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, s. 22.—*Tonbridge County Petty Sessions, March 22nd.*

**Failure to supply Particulars.**—A firm of cotton manufacturers were fined £1 and £3 2s. costs for failure to supply sufficient and correct particulars to four employees. (Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, s. 40).—*Nelson Borough Police Court, March 26th.*

**Failing to Wear a Respirator.**—An operative white lead worker was fined 2s. 6d. for failing to observe special rules by not wearing a respirator while in a white bed. (Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, s. 9).—*Newcastle-on-Tyne City Police Court, February 22nd.*

**Failure to Wear Face Guard and Gauntlets.**—An operative aërated water bottler was fined 5s. and 7s. costs for failure to observe special rules by bottling without wearing face guard or gauntlets.—*Doncaster Police Court, March 28th.*

DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETURNS, showing the rates of dividends on purchases paid to members for the fourth quarter of 1897, have been received from 940 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,257,464, as compared with 1,141,258 in the 809 societies making returns for the corresponding period of 1896.

The rates of dividends shown are those paid upon the main volume of trade. In a few cases higher or lower dividends were paid upon purchases from minor departments, such as butchery, drapery, etc.

The returns show an average dividend of 2s. 7.78d. in the £1 on purchases, as compared with 2s. 8.46d. for the fourth quarter of 1896. In England and Wales the average dividend paid by 738 societies with a total membership of 1,063,410 was 2s. 7.27d. in the £1, as compared with 2s. 7.92d. in the corresponding quarter of 1896. In Scotland and Ireland the average dividend paid by 202 societies with 194,054 members was 2s. 10.57d. in the £1, compared with 2s. 11.1½d. in the fourth quarter of 1896.

With few exceptions, the societies paid a dividend to non-members at one half the rates paid to members.

Table showing the number and membership of Co-operative Distributive Societies paying the undermentioned rates of dividend per £1 of purchases in the fourth quarter of the year 1897:—

Rates of dividend per £1 of purchases.	Number of Societies.			Membership of Societies making returns in 4th quarter of 1897.	Percentage for corresponding period of 1896.
	England and Wales.	Scotland and Ireland.	Total.		
No dividend	18	2	20	5,267	0.4
Sixpence and under	7	—	7	5,504	0.4
Over 6d. but not exceeding 1s.	26	4	30	10,750	0.9
" 1s. 0d. "	59	5	64	32,001	2.5
" 2 0 " "	144	13	157	194,557	15.5
" 3 0 " "	102	31	133	217,069	17.3
" 4 0 " "	172	52	224	506,082	40.2
" 5 0 " "	123	53	176	169,806	13.5
" 6 0 " "	70	26	96	103,725	8.3
" 7 0 " "	13	12	25	9,684	0.8
" 8 0 " "	3	3	6	1,463	0.1
" 9 0 " "	1	1	2	1,550	0.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,257,464</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Conciliation in the Scarborough Building Trade.

On August 2nd, 1897, a strike of 100 bricklayers commenced at Scarborough, the men asking for an advance in wages of 1d. an hour, i.e., from 8d. to 9d., and for the limitation of apprentices. An offer of the employers to concede ½d. per hour advance was refused. After the strike had been some time in progress the employers made a further offer to concede ¼d. per hour and refer the second ¼d. to arbitration. This offer was also refused.

Finally the Mayor of Scarborough succeeded in arranging a conference of representatives of both parties, which was held on March 19th. At this meeting the men agreed to withdraw their demand for a limitation of the number of apprentices, and to accept an advance of ¼d. per hour.

## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

**Canada.**—This is the best season of the year to emigrate to Canada. There is a good demand for competent farm labourers and boys in Manitoba and the North-West, and to a less extent in Ontario. There is also a demand in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but none in British Columbia. Farmers and other settlers wishing to take up free grants of land, should also start now. There is little demand for mechanics, unless they have some money to keep themselves on at first. There is a constant demand for female domestic servants. Miners are likely to be busy during the season.

Miners going to the Klondike gold fields should have at least £300 for outfit, journey and food, and should take through tickets as far as the railway extends. Only the strongest have any chance of succeeding at the gold fields, and it is very risky to throw up any assured occupation in order to go there.

**New South Wales.**—Work in New South Wales continues to improve, and wages have in some cases been increased. Engineers and carpenters have been busy generally, and coalminers at Newcastle and in the South. At the large Broken Hill silver mines the labour market is now full.

**Victoria.**—Miners are well employed in various parts of the Colony. Reports from Ballarat and Castlemaine state that there is a demand for farm labourers at 8s. to 15s. a week with board and lodging, but that employment is irregular. There are plenty of mechanics and miners in both places, as well as in other parts of the Colony.

**South Australia and Queensland.**—There is no demand for more labour in either of these Colonies, except for competent ploughmen and farm labourers in Queensland.

**Western Australia.**—By a new regulation, miners searching for alluvial gold on land held by another are limited to surface workings to a depth of ten feet. There is a good demand for mechanics, miners and farm labourers, and especially for female domestic servants.

**Tasmania.**—A correspondent at New Norfolk, near Hobart, states that thoroughly skilled miners can usually command good places at good wages, and there is no demand for others.

**New Zealand.**—Mechanics in the building, engineering and other trades continue to be busy in most parts of New Zealand. The boot trade, however, is an exception, as it has been very slack in Christchurch, Dunedin, and several other towns. Ordinary labour also has up to the present time been well employed in harvesting, threshing, grass-seeding, bush-felling, &c., but as most of this work is now over, the number of those out of employment tends to increase; the number of bush fires has seriously affected the demand for labour in many quarters.

**Cape Colony.**—The printing trade is slack, and the supply of local men is quite sufficient. Compositors going out from this country under contract should ascertain clearly whether their fare is intended to be paid out of their wages. A report from Kuruman, Bechuanaland, states: "There is really no demand in this district for white labour; native labour is usually employed, and when white labour or skilled workmen are required they are brought from Kimberley."

**Natal.**—A report from Richmond states that there is no demand whatever for labour, and that employment, if obtained, is not generally permanent.

**Information for Intending Emigrants.**—The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on April 1st, and contain information for intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages, and cost of living in the various British colonies. Particulars are given as to the cost of reaching the colonies, the arrangements made at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to them. Sketch maps of Canada and of Australasia are included in the circulars. Copies can be obtained free on application to the chief clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

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

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.

**Employment in March.**\*—Employment was better in March than in the preceding month in the printing and allied trades; also in leather-working, tailoring, dress-making, &c., millinery and hatmaking, carriage, &c., building, engineering shops, and, above all, in the building trades (carpenters, joiners, house-smiths, stone-cutters, masons and bricklayers); miners and silk operatives continued well employed. In the food preparation trades, glovemaking, cotton spinning and weaving, in dyeing and finishing works, and in the transport and warehousing trades, employment remained the same as in February, with an occasional tendency to decline.

On March 15th, 440 trade unions, with 120,000 members, reported a little over 7 per cent. unemployed, as compared with about 8½ per cent. reported unemployed on February 15th by 450 trade unions, with a membership of 125,000. The improvement is connected with the seasonal revival of certain trades.

**Coal Mining in February.**†—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in February was 5.84, compared with 5.74 in the preceding month. In February, full time (6 days and over) was worked by 57 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 42 per cent. of the miners, whilst in the previous month the percentages were 8 and 90 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of the coalminers of France.

**Rural and Artisan Banks.**—In a volume on *Statistics of Co-operative Societies in Various Countries*, which has just been published by the International Co-operative Alliance, particulars are given with regard to a Central Federation of Rural and Artisan Banks (*Union des Caisses Rurales et Ouvrières*), with its office at Lyons. The first of these banks was established in March 1893, and their total number in May 1897 was 581. With respect to the operations in 1896 of 317 of these banks, the following details are stated:—The membership in 1896 was 8,648; the total receipts in that year amounted to £47,066, and the expenditure, £45,752; their loans to members at the end of 1896 numbered 2,501, and amounted to £36,824.

## GERMANY.

**Labour Disputes in March.**—The labour disputes reported as having begun in March, and summarised by *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, number 58. Of these, 14 occurred in the building trades, 10 in the woodworking trades, 9 in the clothing trades, 5 in the metal, engineering and allied trades, 4 among textile workers, and the rest in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups. The total number of workpeople reported to have taken part in 36 of these disputes was 6,971. In 4 disputes the number of workpeople involved was between 500 and 1,000, in 12 between 100 and 500, and in 13 between 50 and 100. Strikers were most numerous in the building, clothing, and joinery trades.

**Operations of Public Labour Registries in March.**—The total number of situations offered by employers in March at 48 of the municipal and other public labour registries which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* was 32,689, as compared with 22,700 in the preceding month, and 29,397 in March, 1897. The number of situations sought during the month was 42,492, compared with 40,561 in the previous month, and 44,175 in March, 1897. The number of situations found was 21,043, compared with 16,404 in the previous month, and 19,981 in March, 1897.

**Operations of Württemberg Municipal Labour Registries in 1897.**—An account of the work of the 13 municipal labour registries of Württemberg in 1897, contained in the February (1898) issue of the *Mitteilungen des Königl. Statistischen Landesamts*, shows the total number of applications for work during the year to have been 57,442 (48,565 from men and 8,877 from women), the total number of offers of situations, 39,276 (28,203 for men and 11,073 for women), and the total number of situations found, 23,186 (17,640 for men and 5,546 for women).

**The Prussian Government and Labour Registries.**—An order, dated March 8th, has been issued jointly by the Prussian Ministers of Commerce and of the Interior directing provincial governors to give their attention to the establishment of labour registries under the joint control of employers and workpeople in towns with populations exceeding 100,000.—*Soziale Praxis*.

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.  
† Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, March, 1898.

## AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

**Law Regulating Relations between Employers and Agricultural Labourers.**—By a law, passed on January 28th, 1898, and coming into operation on March 1st, of which a translation has been received, through the Foreign Office, from Mr. Beauclerk, H.M. Consul-General at Buda-Pesth, under date of March 8th, provisions are made regulating the relations between employers and agricultural labourers engaged as pieceworkers in harvest and other operations, or as day labourers, in Hungary. Every such labourer must obtain from the public authorities of the place wherein he has his fixed abode a certificate, which, in the case of a pieceworker, has to be endorsed with the particulars of every agreement for service entered into by the holder, and, in the case of a day labourer, has to be handed to the employer, who returns it to the holder on the completion of his engagement. All agreements by pieceworkers must be made by written contracts signed before signature by the magistrates, the nature of the obligations entered into being explained to both parties before signature by the officer of the court, who is not to act, if he has reason to believe that the contract is informal, if the labourers are unprovided with certificates, or if he knows them to have already contracted with another employer for similar work. Contracts with day labourers can be made verbally.

The fulfilment of contracts by either party may be enforced by legal penalties; and the public authorities are, upon the request of the employer, to have any labourers, who may fail to come to work, taken to their work by force, the penalty for not coming to work voluntarily, or for not working when escorted to work, being imprisonment up to 60 days. It is made an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment to interfere, or attempt to interfere, with labourers by promoting combination to force employers by general strike to grant higher wages or other improved conditions of employment. Intimidation of labourers who have made, or wish to make, contracts, and the open encouragement of labourers who have broken contracts, by collecting subscriptions for their benefit or otherwise, as also any concerted assemblage on the land or before the residence of an employer in order to hinder the commencement or continuation of work, or to induce the labourers to abandon their work, are punishable in a similar manner.

**Labour Disputes in March.**—The most serious of the new disputes reported\* in March took place in the building trades in Vienna and Carlsbad. The Vienna dispute was confined to the carpenters, whose chief demand was for a minimum daily wage of 3s. 4d., to remain unchanged for at least one year. Thirteen of the larger firms, employing some 850 men, are stated to have conceded the demands at once. On March 8th, the men employed by many of the remaining firms, and stated to number some 600, ceased work. On March 11th, the chief factory inspector brought about a conference, at which the employers were represented by delegates of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers, and terms of settlement were arrived at. According to these terms the minimum wage of 3s. 4d. is to be paid "for such time as it may be possible for the employers' and journeymen's unions to maintain it, having regard to the state of business; the employers, however, binding themselves to pay the minimum wage at least during the long days." Both parties agreed to these terms, and work was resumed on March 14th.

In Carlsbad some 2,000 workpeople belonging to various branches of the building trade went on strike on March 16th, but were reported to have returned to work on the following day, their demands for increased wages and for a week's notice before being discharged having been conceded.

With reference to the strike at a railway carriage works in Graz (reported in last month's GAZETTE, page 75), in which some 900 workpeople were involved, *Die Industrie* states that an agreement has been brought about by the factory inspector, by which the dispute was terminated on March 23rd, after having lasted since February 11th. Some 60 of the workpeople have lost their employment, but are to be re-engaged as vacancies occur.

\* In employers' and workmen's papers, including *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), *Das Handels-Museum*, *Die Gewerkschaft*, *Die Arbeiter-Zeitung* and others.

**Employment of Women and Girls in Fruit and Vegetable Preserving Factories.**—The Federal Council, under date of March 11, has issued new rules involving a relaxation, in respect to fruit and vegetable preserving factories, of section 137 of the Industrial Code, limiting the duration of the working day of women and girls over 16 in factories to 11 hours in 24 from Monday to Friday and to 10 on Saturdays and the eve of festivals, and providing that the work of such persons must be performed between the hours of 5.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m. The new rules, which come into operation on May 1st, 1898, and continue in force until April 30th, 1908, provide that, in times of pressure of work, women and girls over 16 may, on days other than Saturdays and the eve of festivals, be employed for 13 hours in 24, and between the hours of 5.30 a.m. and 10 p.m. When the number of days on which overtime has been worked in this way exceeds 40 in the course of a twelvemonth (ended April 30th) the working hours for the other days of the year must be so arranged that the average number of hours in a day's work for the whole year does not exceed the legal maximum of 11. The new rules make no change in the provisions of the Industrial Code as regards the working hours of women and girls over 16 on Saturdays and the eve of festivals. The new rules are published in the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger*, of March 12th.

**Statistics of "Gewerksvereine."**—*Soziale Praxis* states that the membership of the unions affiliated to the above federation at the end of 1897—according to the report of the federation for that year—amounted to some 80,000, or about 8,000 more than the membership at the beginning of 1897. The largest of the affiliated unions has over 30,000 members. This is the trade union of German engineering and metal-working operatives. (See GAZETTE, December, 1895, p. 371).

## SWITZERLAND.

**Labour Dispute.**—A general strike of the smiths, cartwrights and saddlers of Chaux-de-Fonds and Locle is reported by *Der Grüllianer* to have begun on April 4th, the employers having refused the men's demands for minimum wages of 38d. per hour, free board and lodging, and a working day of 10 hours.

**General Federation of Co-operative Societies of Switzerland.**—On March 20th a conference took place in Zürich, at which some 350 delegates from 5 co-operative federations and 176 unfederated societies, representing, in all, 128,000 members, are stated to have been present. It was decided to form a general federation of the co-operative societies of Switzerland. The members of the managing committees of the Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Societies of Eastern Switzerland, and of the Federation of Distributive Societies of Switzerland, were appointed to act as the Provisional Managing Committee of the new general Federation.—*Schweizerische Blätter für Wirtschafts- und Social Politik*.

## BELGIUM.

**Additions to List of Trades classed as Dangerous, &c.**—By a Royal Decree dated March 19, a copy of which has been forwarded through the Foreign Office by Sir F. R. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, under date of March 20, certain classes of establishments, which had not hitherto been included in the list of trades ranking as "dangerous, unhealthy, or inconvenient," unless such establishments were situated in the densely inhabited parts of communes, and had accordingly, unless so situated, not been subject to special inspection, are in future to rank as coming within this category, and to be subject to such inspection, irrespective of their situation. The new Decree applies to the following classes of establishments:—Premises used for storing timber, rough or sawn, &c., or for storing for sale, firewood, charcoal, coal, and other combustibles; premises used for storing or crushing bark; for the sale of hay; for the storage or mechanical treatment of rushes and straw; flour mills, and carpet-beating works.

## HOLLAND.

**Co-operative Credit Associations, 1896.**—The following particulars with regard to nine co-operative credit associations in Holland are given in the volume on *Statistics of Co-operative Societies in Various Countries* above (p. 106) referred to. The number of members of these societies at the end of 1896 was 2,428. The amount of the loans made during 1896 was £59,322.\* The amount of the savings bank deposits of these societies at the end of 1896 was £116,122.†

\* As to one society, the figure included in this total is that of the amount of loans outstanding at the end of 1896.

† As to one society, the figure included in this total is the amount of the deposits during 1896.

**Austrian Trade Unions (Gewerkschaften) in 1897.**—According to the report for 1897 of the Central Committee of Austrian trade unions, as summarised by *Das Handels-Museum*, the mean number of members who paid contributions in 1897 was 93,193. The amount expended by the committee in connection with strikes was £908.

**NORWAY.**

**Factories subject to inspection.**—The 1896 report on factory inspection in Norway,\* recently issued, shows the total number of factories subject to inspection under the Factory Act, and the total number of persons (distinguishing age and sex) employed in those establishments to have been as follows in 1896 (December 31st), as compared with 1895:—

	1895.	1896.
No. of Establishments subject to inspection ...	2,062	2,334
No. of persons employed in these establishments—		
12 to 14 years of age { Boys ... ..	436	451
{ Girls ... ..	79	85
14 to 18 years of age { Youths ... ..	4,214	4,445
{ Young Women ... ..	1,456	1,662
Adults ... .. { Men ... ..	40,685	44,835
{ Women ... ..	8,303	9,193
Total No. of persons employed ...	55,173	60,671

The number of accidents reported in 1896 was 735, of which 16 terminated fatally.

**Co-operative Distributive Societies, 1896.**—The volume on *Statistics of Co-operative Societies in Various Countries* already (p. 106) referred to contains particulars with respect to 16 Co-operative Associations for distribution in Norway, from which it appears that the total membership of these societies at the end of 1896 was 3,410, and the aggregate amount of their sales in that year £62,459.

**SPAIN.**

**Strike of Miners at Bilbao.**—In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated March 16th, Lieut. C. S. Smith, R.N., H.M. Consul at Bilbao, gives an account of a general strike of the miners and the men at the loading tips in that district. The strike began on March 15th, the differences having arisen out of a demand for 2 reals (about 5d.) extra daily pay preferred a few days previously by the men of the Triano mineral line, employed in loading vessels with calcined spathic ore. The manager offered to concede an increase of 1 real (about 2½d.).

The strikers, numbering some 3,000 men, stopped the traffic on one line, took up some rails on another, and attacked a station, with the result that they were fired on by the provincial guards, three men being killed and a number wounded.

On the following morning (March 16th) many of the men had resumed work, both in the mines and at the loading stages.

**THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE WORKING-CLASSES IN BERLIN.†**

THE above is the translation of the title of a work recently prepared by Dr. E. Hirschberg, Chief of the Municipal Statistical Office of Charlottenburg and Assistant Director of the Municipal Statistical Office of Berlin. Exclusive of the index, the book contains 305 demi-octavo pages, and gives a special section to each of the following subjects:—(1) The number of workpeople and their classification according to trades, age [with a chart] and religious persuasion, and their migratory movements; (2) housing conditions; (3) sickness and mortality, with special reference to sickness due to occupation; (4) provision against sickness, accident and old age; (5) schools, libraries, &c.; (6) institutions provided by the Government and other public authorities benefiting or protecting the working-classes [with a chart showing operations of savings banks and pawnshops]; (7) friendly societies, trade unions and co-operation; (8) the labour movement, strikes, lock-outs, &c.; (9) the unemployed [with 4 charts]; (10) employment registries; (11) wages, working hours, and other conditions of labour; and (12) standard of comfort, workmen's budgets, &c. [with a chart].

\* Aarsberetninger fra Fabrikinspektørene for 1896. Udgivet ved Foranstaltning af Departementet for det Indre. Kristiania: W. C. Fabritius & Sønners Bogtrykkeri, 1897. See also preceding Report for 1895.  
† Die soziale Lage der arbeitenden Klassen in Berlin. Von Dr. E. Hirschberg Berlin, 1897. Verlag von Otto Liebmann, W. Lützowstrasse, 27.

**REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.**

**(a) COAL MINING IN MARCH.**

EMPLOYMENT in March continued good. It showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month and was better than a year ago. In nearly all districts the pits worked an average of over five days a week.

The number employed at the pits included in the returns is greater than a year ago by 10,971 in England and Wales, and 836 in Scotland.

The returns received relate to 1,324 pits, employing 432,692 workpeople, and show that the average number of days worked by these pits during the four weeks ended 26th March was 5·29 per week, as compared with 5·24 days per week in February, and 5·14 days in March, 1897. The following table gives the average number of days worked in these periods in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		26th Mar. 1898.	27th Mar. 1897.	19th Feb. 1898.
England and Wales ... ..	396,559	5·29	5·11	5·22
Scotland ... ..	35,520	5·39	5·43	5·43
Ireland ... ..	613	4·81	4·66	5·27
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>432,692</b>	<b>5·29</b>	<b>5·14</b>	<b>5·24</b>

In the next table the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. The highest average in the number of days worked is again at pits producing coking coal, but the greatest improvement in employment, as compared with both February, 1898, and March, 1897, has taken place at house coal pits.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Mar., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		March, 1898.	March, 1897.	February, 1898.
Coking Coal ... ..	24,207	5·67	5·61	5·58
Gas " ... ..	36,612	5·12	5·22	5·46
House " ... ..	78,229	5·29	4·82	4·98
Manufacturing Coal... ..	21,490	5·49	5·16	5·36
Steam " ... ..	133,137	5·30	5·32	5·30
Mixed " ... ..	139,017	5·24	5·03	5·20
<b>All Classes of Coal ... ..</b>	<b>432,692</b>	<b>5·29</b>	<b>5·14</b>	<b>5·24</b>

The table below shows the workpeople grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 77·4 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at pits which worked 5 or more days per week, as compared with 75·5 per cent. in the previous month, and 67·3 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	March, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1897.	February, 1898.
24 days (full time) ...	70,898	16·4	11·5	14·4
20 and under 24 days ...	264,021	61·0	55·8	61·1
16 " " 20 " ...	73,392	17·0	22·7	15·9
12 " " 16 " ...	20,044	4·6	7·7	6·9
8 " " 12 " ...	1,807	0·4	1·9	1·3
Under 8 days ...	2,550	0·6	0·4	0·4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>432,692</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>

**Comparison by Districts.**—In four districts an average of over 5½ days per week was worked, viz., Salop, Worcester and Warwick (5·65 days), Cumberland (5·62), the Lothians (5·61), and South Wales and Monmouth (5·60). In three districts less than five days per week were worked, Northumberland and the small Irish district having worked only 4·81 days, and Nottingham and Leicester 4·50 days. In all other districts the time worked averaged between 5 and 5½ days. The greatest improvement in employment as compared with February has been in Derbyshire where it amounts to over half-a-day. As compared with

**EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—COAL AND IRON MINING; IRON AND STEEL TRADES.**

March 1897, it was in Gloucester and Somerset, where it amounted to over three-quarters of a day.

**COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MAR., 1898 AND 1897, AND IN FEB., 1898.**

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Mar. 1898 as compared with	
		26th Mar. 1898.	27th Mar. 1897.	19th Feb. 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ... ..	34,347	4·81	5·01	4·85	–·20	–·04
Durham ... ..	84,769	5·34	5·26	5·46	+·08	–·12
Cumberland ... ..	5,607	5·62	5·07	5·62	+·55	...
Yorkshire ... ..	50,344	5·24	5·06	5·24	+·18	...
Lancashire and Cheshire	45,131	5·44	5·18	5·31	+·26	+·13
Nottingham and Leicester	23,973	4·50	3·96	4·11	+·54	+·39
Derbyshire ... ..	38,302	5·37	4·80	4·80	+·57	+·57
Staffordshire ... ..	24,469	5·23	5·11	5·06	+·12	+·17
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	7,474	5·65	5·04	5·42	+·61	+·23
Gloucester and Somerset	8,198	5·44	4·62	5·26	+·82	+·18
North Wales ... ..	11,154	5·16	5·26	5·34	–·10	–·18
South Wales & Monmouth	62,791	5·60	5·61	5·63	–·01	–·03
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland ... ..	20,625	5·49	5·57	5·44	–·08	+·05
The Lothians ... ..	3,627	5·61	5·70	5·74	–·09	–·13
Fife ... ..	11,268	5·13	5·17	5·29	–·04	–·16
<b>IRELAND.</b>	613	4·81	4·66	5·27	+·15	–·46
<b>Grand Total &amp; Averages</b>	<b>432,692</b>	<b>5·29</b>	<b>5·14</b>	<b>5·24</b>	<b>+·15</b>	<b>+·08</b>

**Percentage of unemployed.**—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0·5 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of March, as compared with 0·6 per cent. in February, and 0·9 per cent. in March, 1897.

**Exports of Coal.**—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during March amounted to 3,079,982 tons, as compared with 2,518,751 tons in February and 2,880,910 tons in March, 1897.

**(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN MARCH.**

In this industry employment continued to be good, and showed some improvement both as compared with February last and with March, 1897.

Returns have been received relating to 17,470 workpeople employed at 139 mines and openworks, which worked on an average 5·89 days per week in the four weeks ended 26th March. This compares with 5·79 days in February and 5·82 days a year ago. In Scotland full time (6 days a week) was worked during the month, the next highest average being 5·96 in the Cumberland and Lancashire District. Of the total number employed 94·1 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as against 84·5 a month ago and 90·7 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns is 59 more than in March, 1897.

The following tables summarise the returns received:—

**(I.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—**

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1898, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in March, 1898, as compared with	
		26th Mar. 1898.	27th Mar. 1897.	19th Feb. 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND—</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire ... ..	6,340	5·96	5·94	5·94	+·02	+·02
Cleveland ... ..	6,607	5·88	5·76	5·74	+·12	+·14
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ... ..	621	5·81	5·96	5·74	–·15	+·07
Northamptonshire	836	5·93	5·79	5·93	+·14	...
Staffordshire and Shropshire ... ..	1,427	5·59	5·39	5·29	+·20	+·30
Other places in England ... ..	307	5·72	5·98	5·35	–·26	+·37
<b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>6·00</b>	<b>5·83</b>	<b>6·00</b>	<b>+·17</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>IRELAND ... ..</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>5·95</b>	<b>5·97</b>	<b>6·00</b>	<b>–·02</b>	<b>–·05</b>
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>17,470</b>	<b>5·89</b>	<b>5·82</b>	<b>5·79</b>	<b>+·07</b>	<b>+·10</b>

**(II.) Classification of workpeople according to days worked by the mines:—**

Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	March, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1897.	February, 1898.
24 days (full time) ... ..	12,113	69·4	68·2	68·9
22 and under 24 days ... ..	4,320	24·7	22·5	21·6
20 " " 22 " ... ..	1,018	5·8	5·4	11·4
Under 20 days ... ..	19	0·1	3·9	4·1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>17,470</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>

**(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN MARCH.**

RETURNS relating to the furnaces of 111 ironmasters, who own about 92 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, show that at the end of March they had 353 furnaces in blast, being three less than at the end of the previous month, but two more than a year ago. The number of persons employed, however, shows an increase both as compared with the previous month and a year ago, being 23,720 in March, 23,575 in February, and 22,262 in March, 1897.

During the month 3 furnaces were relit in England and one in Scotland, while 7 furnaces were blown out or damped down, 4 being in England and Wales and 3 in Scotland.

The subjoined table gives in detail the number of furnaces in blast in each district so far as covered by the returns received:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Mar., 1898.	Mar., 1897.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Mar., 1898.	Mar., 1898.	Feb., 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Mar., 1898.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>						
Cleveland ... ..	96	94	+ 2	96	95	+
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks... ..	47	45	+ 2	47	48	–
Lincolnshire ... ..	15	15	– 3	15	15	...
Midlands ... ..	14	15	– 1	15	15	– 1
Glamorgan and Mon. Other districts ... ..	93	89	+ 4	93	92	+ 1
	16	20	– 4	16	17	– 1
	9	6	+ 3	9	9	...
<b>Total England and Wales... ..</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>– 1</b>
<b>SCOTLAND ... ..</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>– 1</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>– 2</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns ... ..</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>– 3</b>

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during March amounted to 78,562 tons, as compared with 55,899 tons in February, and 114,920 tons in March, 1897.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these industries was better at the end of March than at the end of the previous month or than a year ago.

Returns received from 213 employers show that they were giving employment in the last week of March to 74,445 workpeople in these trades, as compared with 72,834 workpeople in the last week of February, and 73,412 in the corresponding week a year ago. The following table summarises the returns of the 213 employers for the three periods:—

District.	Numbers Employed.			Increase in March, 1898, as compared with	
	March, 1898.	March, 1897.	Feb., 1898.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales ... ..	61,844	61,075	61,461	769	383
Scotland ... ..	12,601	12,337	11,373	264	1,228
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>74,445</b>	<b>73,412</b>	<b>72,834</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,611</b>





EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—TEXTILE; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

is said to be a scarcity of labour, particularly as regards cowmen and wagoners. Reports from Somersetshire state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Bridgwater, Chard, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, and Yeovil; from Devonshire in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, Tiverton, Torrington, and Totnes. Several reports from both Somersetshire and Devonshire refer to some scarcity of labour. Reports of a favourable character come from Cornwall from the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton. A report from the latter Union says that it is getting more difficult to obtain young men to live in the farm houses, to drive horses, and tend cattle.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during March improved in the cotton trade and also in the woollen and worsted trades. Information has been received with regard to 516 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, employing about 85,310 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Table with columns: Trade and Month, Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were Working full Time, With Full Employment, With Partial Employment, Working Short Time, Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 62,370; of these 75 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 72 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in February, and with 80 per cent. in March, 1897); 21 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 2 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 19,310; of these 73 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 65 per cent. in February, and 67 per cent. in March, 1897); 12 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 15 per cent. in mills running short time.

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks during March was better than in February, but not so good as in March, 1897. At the wharves, on the other hand, it fell off as compared with the previous month, but was still above that of a year ago.

At all the docks and at 115 of the principal wharves the average daily number of labourers employed during the four weeks ending March 26th was 14,340, being 283 more than the average for February, but

\* Exclusive of silk trade.

525 less than that for March, 1897. The estimated number employed on any one day ranged from 13,430 on the 5th to 15,266 on the 24th.

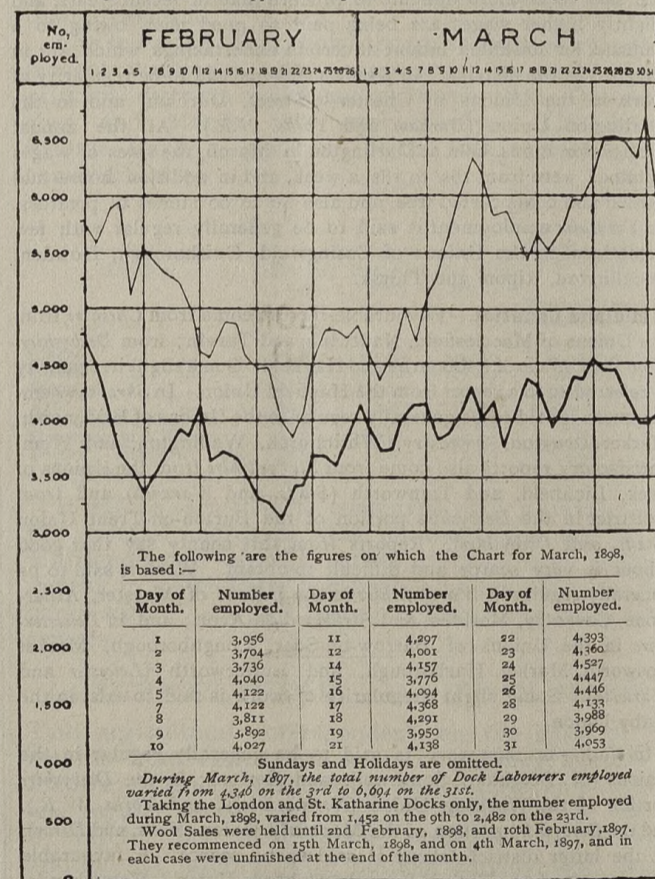
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Table with columns: Period, Laboureners employed in Docks (By Dock Companies, By Ship-owners, &c., Total), Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns, Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during February and March is shown on the chart below. The numbers in March ranged from 3,704 on the 2nd to 4,527 on the 24th.

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 February and March, 1898. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1897, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1898, and the thin curve to 1897.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for March, 1898, is based:—

Table with columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed.

Sundays and Holidays are omitted. During March, 1897, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 4,340 on the 2nd to 6,001 on the 31st. Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during March, 1898, varied from 1,452 on the 5th to 2,482 on the 23rd. Wool Sales were held until 2nd February, 1898, and 10th February, 1897. They recommenced on 15th March, 1898, and on 4th March, 1897, and in each case were unfinished at the end of the month.

\* Amended figures.

Work in mid-stream was moderate, but improved towards the end of the month. Coal porters, stevedores, and lightermen had moderately good employment, but deal porters and lumpers have been slack. Employment for corn porters in the Victoria and Albert Docks was fairly good; in the other docks it was moderate to slack.

The fruit porters in Thames Street have had good and steady employment. The average daily number employed was 394, compared with an average of 396 for February.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SEAMEN; LONDON.

(k) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MARCH.

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

The number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 32,920 in March, being nineteen less than in March, 1897. The supply of seamen and firemen during March was reported as equal to or greater than the demand at all the ports.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March 1898 and 1897 respectively, together with the number† shipped in the three months ended March in each of these years:—

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Men, &c., shipped in March, 1898 (In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total in March, 1898), Total in March, 1897, Total number shipped in three months ended March (1898, 1897).

that only 10 (or 0.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.5 in February and 0.3 per cent. in March 1897.

The Printing and Bookbinding trades have continued to improve, the former being now brisk in most branches. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 21,931, show that 500 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.4 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1897, was 2.9.

Employment in the Clothing trades continued to improve in some branches, but was slack in others. The West End bespoke branch of the tailoring trade was dull, but improved towards the end of the month; the East End bespoke trade was fair; the wholesale and contract branches good; the ladies' tailors and mantle-makers were quiet, but better employed at the end of the month. Employment with hatters improved considerably; with capmakers it was bad; with helmet-makers slack. The fur skin dressers reported employment as slack, but improving; the furrers as bad for the season; the silk weavers as good.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The West End hand-sewn branch slightly improved, employment at the end of the month being fair. Employment in the East End sewround trade was bad; with boot and shoe operatives fair.

Employment in the Leather trades was not so good. Returns from 6 unions, having a membership of 1,769, show that 63 (or 3.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.8 in February, and 1.7 per cent. in March of last year.

In the Glass and Pottery trades returns from 7 unions with a membership of 1,418 show that 100 (or 7.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.2 in February and 5.9 per cent. in March, 1897.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 898, show that 21 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.0 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1897, was 1.2.

Gold and Silver Workers, though slightly better employed, were not busy, 8 unions with a membership of 1,121 reporting 22 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2.3 in February and 1.6 per cent. in March, 1897.

Employment in the Tobacco trades was bad. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,440, show that 205 (or 8.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.0 per cent. in February, and 4.1 per cent. in March of last year.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—At the docks and principal wharves the average daily number employed was 14,340 as compared with 14,057 in February and 14,865 a year ago. Work in mid-stream was moderate, but improved towards the end of the month. Employment was moderately good for coal porters, stevedores and lightermen, but slack for deal porters and lumpers. Corn porters in the Victoria and Albert Docks had fairly good employment; in the other docks it was only moderate to slack. Fruit porters have had good and steady employment.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Only one dispute, in the shipbuilding trade, involving 35 persons, was reported as taking place during the month (see page 124). 429 vestry employees received advances in wages ranging from 1s. to 5s. per week; 90 of them also obtained a reduction of one hour per week in their working hours (see page 123).

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from eight labour bureaux show that 1,810 fresh applications for work were registered during March, 1898, as compared with 1,173 in March, 1897. Work was found by these bureaux during March for 986 persons, compared with 676 in the corresponding period of 1897. The number of persons on the registers at the end of March, 1898, was 2,321, or 112 more than a year ago. The number of fresh applications for work by women and girls in March, 1898, was 691, as compared with 645 in March, 1897. Work was found in March, 1898, for 208 women and girls, or 26 less than a year ago. (For further details see page 126.)

Fauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of March was 105,827, or 393 less than on the corresponding day in February. As compared with March, 1897, there was an increase of 948 in the total, the principal increases being one of 320 in the Western District and one of 514 in the Eastern District.

On the same day in March 1,146 vagrants were relieved, as compared with 1,182 on the corresponding day in February, and 971 in March, 1897.

In West Ham the number of persons, exclusive of vagrants, relieved on one day in the second week was 8,997 in March, 1898; 9,132 in February, 1898; and 8,477 in March, 1897.

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

## EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

## ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

## Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—*Northumberland.*—Steam coal collieries show a slight improvement, house coal pits continue fairly steady; the average number of days worked being 4.70 and 5.16 per week respectively, as against 4.68 and 5.3 days in February. *Durham.*—Coking and house coal pits are the best employed. Pits generally have, however, worked less time than in February. House, coking, and gas collieries have averaged 5.43, 5.61, and 5.10 days per week respectively, as against 5.46, 5.48, and 5.38 days in February. Pits producing manufacturing and a mixed class of coal have averaged 5.19 and 5.13 days per week. Returns from collieries employing nearly 85,000 men and boys show an average of 5.34 days per week, as against 5.46 days in February. The number of union members idle is 19 (or 0.68 per cent.) as against 465 (or 0.76 per cent.) in February. Of the 1,640 enginemen, 0.71 per cent. are idle.

**Metal Mining.**—Lead miners are busy. Iron ore miners are moderately employed.

**Quarrying.**—Of the 284 union quarrymen in Gateshead and district 7 are unemployed. Two quarries at Blyth are busy. Lime and whinstone quarries at Stanhope and Weardale continue moderately employed.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—*On the Tyne.*—Ordnance, electrical, and marine engineers are active, night shifts and overtime being worked. Employment in boiler shops is good, and with riveters, platers, and caulkers continues to improve. Repair work in the lower reaches of the river is only moderate. Of the 12,723 union members of these trades 498 (or 3.9 per cent.) are idle, as against 8.7 per cent. of their membership at the end of February. *On the Wear.*—Employment of platers, riveters, and angle smiths is good. Engine builders, with one or two exceptions, are fully employed day and night. Branches of these trades with a membership of 4,576 have 78 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 5.2 per cent. of their membership at the end of February.

Shipyard plumbers on both rivers are fully employed. Shipwrights on the Wear have 20 members idle; the ship joiners 6 per cent. Of iron moulders and brass finishers 2.8 per cent. are unemployed. Drillers and hole cutters on both rivers are all employed. Sailmakers on the north side of the Tyne are brisk; on the south side 34 per cent. are off work. Steel smelting shops and plate and angle mills have worked full time; iron mills at Consett 5 shifts per week.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Coal porters have averaged 4 days per week. Steam coal trimming and teaming on the Tyne continues slack; at the South Dock, Sunderland, it is bad. At Blyth work is upon the whole fairly good. Quayside labourers have had fuller employment. The demand for sailors and firemen is fair.

**Building Trades.**—Painters and decorators are busier. Of the 647 plumbers on the Tyne 44 (or 6.8 per cent.) are unemployed. Joiners on the Wear have 6 per cent. idle. Masons and slaters and tilers on both rivers are well employed. Bricklayers on the Tyne are somewhat slack, owing to scarcity of bricks.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Two paper mills are slack; five others have worked 141 shifts out of a possible 255; one mill continues busy. Bookbinders are busy; letterpress printers on the Tyne and at Sunderland report employment as fairly good.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Lathrenders are dull; millsawyers and woodcutters brisk; coopers fairly steady; cabinet-makers and upholsterers fully employed.

**Other Metal, Glass, and Chemical Trades.**—Pressed glass makers continue working short time; bottle makers full time. Of the 958 union members of these trades 54 (or 5.6 per cent.) are unemployed. Copper workers are busy. Employment in chemical and cement factories remains quiet. At white lead works employment is better.

**Fishing.**—The supply of white fish has been good upon the whole, and prices at the end of the month ruled high.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

## Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

**Ironstone Mining.**—The Cleveland miners have been fairly employed during the month, and have averaged 5.88 days per week, as compared with 5.76 days per week in March 1897.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The finished iron works have continued fairly employed during the month. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Conciliation and Arbitration Board the wages of puddlers have been reduced 3d. per ton, and of other classes of workmen 2½ per cent. Bridge works and foundries, with one or two exceptions, have been working fairly well.

**Engineering.**—Employment with engineers is good at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, and fair at Stockton and Darlington; moulders report employment as good at Darlington, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, and Stockton; patternmakers as good throughout the district. Branches of these trades with 3,488 members have 40 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 112 (or 3.2 per cent.) at the end of February.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment has continued to improve, and all the yards are now working full time; shipjoiners report employment as very good throughout the district; shipwrights at Middlesbrough, Stockton, and the Hartlepoles are busy.

**Building Trades.**—Except when interrupted by the weather, employment has been good generally. Branches of joiners and machinists, with 1,258 members, report none unemployed.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment at both Middlesbrough and the Hartlepoles as quiet during the month, but slightly improving at the end. Dock labour at the Hartlepoles has been quiet; at Middlesbrough fairly busy. Riverside labour has been moderate.

**Miscellaneous.**—Printers report employment as good at Darlington, slack at Middlesbrough; tailors as quiet; wood-working machinists as good.—*A. Main.*

## Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 26th at pits from which returns have been received was 5.62 days per week, the same number as in February; the number of days worked per week in March, 1897, was 5.07. The number of men employed in March was 5,607, as compared with 5,475 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 132.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 26th at the 49 mines from which returns have been received was 5.96 per week, as compared with 5.94 both in the previous month and in March 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 6,340, as compared with 6,322 in the corresponding month of last year.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast at the end of March was 47, as against 48 in February 1898 and 45 in March 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 3,656, an increase of 20 as compared with February and of 285 as compared with March 1897.

**Shipbuilding.**—According to Lloyd's return the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction at the end of March was 19,510 tons, showing an increase of 8,475 tons compared with March 1897 and of 9,630 tons compared with December 1897.

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

## Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—*Spinning.*—Employment shows a further improvement, and is reported as being fair in Oldham and the surrounding districts, as well as in Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton, Dukinfield, and Stockport. All the spinning mills are working full time. The cardroom operatives report employment as moderate in Oldham and Mossley. Ring frame spinners and twiners are fully employed. Winders and reelers report employment as moderate. *Weaving.*—The power loom overlookers and weavers report employment as moderate in velvets and slack in calicoes, and as moderate in ball and sectional warping.

**Woolen and Silk Trades.**—Employment is reported as slack in the woollen trade in Stockport, and as slightly better in Rochdale and Milnrow districts. The silk dressers in Rochdale report employment as slack.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment in the engineering trade is moderate. About 700 workmen remain unemployed since the dispute. The toolmakers, plate and machine moulders, and patternmakers report employment as good; the iron-grinders and tinplate-workers as moderate; the gas-meter makers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, and brassfounders as fair.

**Building Trades.**—The plumbers, plasterers, bricklayers, and carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate; the painters as fair.

**Coal Mining.**—Coal miners report employment as good in the Royton district and moderate in the Oldham and Crompton districts, the time worked varying from four to six days per week.

*T. Ashton.*

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

## Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—*Spinning.*—In Bolton and surrounding districts employment is reported as good. In Bury, Heywood, and Chorley a slight improvement is reported. In Wigan the improvement is well maintained. Cardroom operatives in Bolton, Bury, Ramsbottom, and Heywood continue fairly well employed; in Chorley and Wigan employment is reported as moderate. *Weaving.*—The improvement is well maintained in Bolton, Farnworth, Walkden, and district. In Chorley a decided further improvement is reported.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers continue busy in Bolton and district; whilst at Bury, Chorley, and Wigan employment is reported as improved. Iron machine making firms show considerable activity. Employment in the steel and other metal trades is irregular. In Wigan steel roller-making is slightly better. In Chorley, Bury, Ramsbottom, and Heywood some improvement is reported.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is more regular in Bolton, and busier in Wigan and Bury. In Chorley it continues dull.

**Coal Trade.**—Employment in Bolton and neighbourhood continues fairly brisk. In Darcy Lever, Little Lever, Radcliffe, and Walkden most collieries are working on an average 5½ days per week. In Wigan and district employment is good on the whole, the principal collieries being fairly busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Saddle and harness makers and leather-workers, tram-men and carters and lurrymen, coachbuilders, shoemakers, and paper-makers are moderately well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

## Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—*Weaving.*—Employment continues fair in the ordinary weaving trade. In Blackburn the number of looms working is much greater than during the past two or three years; in Burnley weavers are fairly well employed; in Darwen only some 450 looms are stopped; the improvement in Colne, Nelson, and Preston has been maintained. Sateen weavers and hardwaste weavers throughout the district are reported as slack. Twisters and drawers are well employed in Blackburn; moderately in other districts. Winders and warpers keep fairly well employed. *Spinning.*—Employment is reported as good in Blackburn, Preston, Darwen, and Accrington; fair in Padiham; slack in Burnley. Cardroom workers continue fairly well employed throughout the district.

Branches of twisters and drawers and spinners, with 3,907 members, have 188 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 152 (or 4.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is fair for the season.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment is still brisk in all branches at the machine shops; moderate with moulders in Blackburn and engineers in Colne; good with engineers in Todmorden.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners in the Accrington district report employment as good; in Burnley as brisk. Out of 1,465 members 200 only are on five days per week; the remainder are on full time. Stone quarry men are fairly well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Boot, shoe, and slipper makers in the Rossendale district report employment as fair. Employment is good with paper-makers and paper-stainers in the Darwen locality; fair with tailors and cabinet-makers; slack with calico printers and dyers; good with letterpress printers.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

## Manchester and District.

**General.**—Branches with 22,311 members return 1,014 (or 4.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 790 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers in Manchester report employment as moderate; in Northwich as bad. Ironfounders in Manchester are busy; in Stockport and Macclesfield moderately so. Sheet-metal workers, machine-workers, and brassfounders and finishers are busy; boiler-makers, smiths and strikers, and file-smiths moderately so; wire-drawers report a slight improvement; wire-weavers are fully employed. In Warrington these trades are busy.

**Textile Trades.**—Cotton spinners continue to report employment as moderate; in Stockport doublers are fully employed; in Macclesfield spinners and weavers are working full time. There is a slight improvement in the silk industry; home workers continue busy, and silk dressers are in full work. Fustian cutters and dressers, bleachers, dyers, and finishers report employment as moderate.

**Clothing Trades.**—In Manchester employment in the bespoke tailoring is good; in Stockport and Macclesfield moderate. Employment with the Jewish tailors has slightly improved. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment remains moderate. Ready-made mantle makers are busy; waterproof-makers are slack; shirt-makers are not busy in either Manchester or Stockport, but in Macclesfield employment is fair. Boot and shoe makers are slack. Employment with felt hatters and trimmers has slightly improved; capmakers are moderately employed; umbrella-makers continue slack in the home trade, busy in the shipping trade.

**Building Trades.**—Bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers in Manchester are busy; in Stockport, Warrington, and Northwich moderately so. Joiners, plasterers, stonemasons, plumbers, and decorative glass workers describe employment as moderate throughout the district. Employment with painters has improved.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with letterpress printers in Manchester, Warrington, and Stockport is described as moderate; with bookbinders as fair. Lithographic artists and printers in Manchester are not busy; employment in the pattern card trade is bad.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Cabinet-makers throughout the district are fairly well employed. French polishers report employment as good; upholsterers as moderate. Coachmakers in Manchester, Warrington, and Stockport are busy. Coopers remain fully employed.—*G. D. Kelley.*

## Liverpool and District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Boiler-makers and iron ship builders report employment as moderate; brassfounders as good; all branches of engineers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, whitesmiths, drillers and hole-cutters, and shipwrights as fair; hammermen as rather quiet; ship joiners and painters as moderate.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Upholsterers, French polishers, and coopers report employment as moderate; coachmakers and millsawyers and woodworking machinists as good. Branches with 1,255 members have 30 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 62 (or 5.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Transport Trades.**—Seamen and firemen and flatmen report employment as moderate; dock labourers as very moderate; quay and railway carters continue quiet.

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

**Clothing Trades.**—All branches of the tailoring trade report a marked improvement in employment. Boot and shoe makers report employment as fairly good.

**Building Trades.**—Plumbers and painters report employment as fair; joiners as good in Liverpool and Birkenhead, moderate in Prescott; other branches are fully employed.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—Coalminers continue fairly well employed. Employment with quarrymen continues good.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Employment with glass bottle makers and chemical workers continues moderate.

**Miscellaneous.**—Bakers and confectioners report employment as moderate; saddle and harness makers as fairly good.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has been dull. Moulders have been well employed. Fustian cutters at both Winsford and Middlewich have been slack. In the building trades employment has been fair in both towns.

## YORKSHIRE.

## Hull and District.

**Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.**—The engineers, steam engine makers, machine-workers, smiths and strikers, pattern-makers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, brassfounders and finishers, boiler-makers, shipwrights, and farriers report employment as good; the brassworkers and sailmakers as moderate; general labourers in the shipyards and boiler and engineering shops as good. Engineers, boiler-makers, brassworkers, smiths, and general labourers at Doncaster report employment as moderate; shipwrights and boiler-makers at Goole and Beverley as good, at Grimsby as fair.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good at Hull, Beverley, Doncaster, Driffield, and Bridlington; fair at Goole and Grimsby.

**Transport Trades.**—At Hull, Grimsby, and Goole employment with seamen is reported as moderate; with dock labourers as slack. Railway-workers at Hull report employment as moderate.

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

**Fishing Industry.**—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen report employment as good at Hull and Grimsby; the trawl fishermen as moderate. The high winds at the latter part of the month disorganised the fishing fleets, causing a scarcity of fish and slackness in the curing houses.

**Woodworking Trades.**—The coachmakers at Hull report employment as good, at Doncaster as moderate; the cabinet-makers and coopers at Hull as moderate; the lathrenders as fair.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers at Doncaster report employment as good, at Hull as moderate; the lithographic printers at Hull as moderate; the bookbinders as fair.

**Seed-crushing, Paint, and Colour Works.**—Employment in the paint and colour works is reported as fairly good; in the seed-crushing mills as moderate.

**Leather Trades.**—The tanners, lace-cutters, and beltmakers at Hull and the curriers and leather-dressers at Doncaster and Beverley report employment as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The gasworkers and general labourers report employment as good; the brushmakers as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

**Leeds and District.**

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—In the engineering shops in Leeds employment generally is good, overtime being extensively worked. At Wakefield employment is moderate. Employment with steelworkers is brisk; with boiler-makers fair; with ironfounders and patternmakers improved; with machine-workers, brassworkers, nailmakers, and stove grate workers good; with spindle and flyer makers moderate.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment remains irregular in the boot and shoe industry in Leeds; at Heckmondwike it is slack. Employment in the ready-made clothing trade has improved. Bespoke tailors are busy. Capmakers are fairly busy.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment varies in the Leeds mills, being fairly regular at some, while at others short time has been worked. Blanket raisers are moderately employed; linen and flax workers fairly so; woollen spinners and willeys and fettlers continue slack. At Yeadon a slight improvement has taken place, but employment is still bad; at Wakefield worsted and cloth mills are fairly busy.

**Building Trades.**—Joiners, masons, bricklayers, and plasterers are well employed in Leeds; painters fairly so; plumbers moderately. Employment is good at Harrogate; fair at Wakefield and Castleford.

**Coal Mining.**—Full time is being worked at the Leeds pits, and in the South Kirkby and Pontefract districts.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners report employment as improving; kid calf and fancy leather shavers as quiet; curriers as moderate.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with letterpress printers is good; with lithographers moderate; with bookbinders and machine rulers fair. Paper-mill workers are not fully employed.

**Glass Trades.**—Glass bottle makers at Leeds, Wakefield, and Castleford are well employed; flint glass makers moderately so.

**Miscellaneous.**—Cabinet-makers and coachmakers report employment as good; brushmakers as moderate; saddle and harness makers as quiet but improving.—*O. Connellan.*

**Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.**

**Worsted Trades.**—Employment in the wool-sorting and wool-combing trades in Bradford has slightly improved; otherwise there is little improvement in the worsted trade in either Bradford or Halifax. In Huddersfield there has been no further decline.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment in the woollen trade in and around Huddersfield is still fairly good. One or two firms in the Colne Valley are working overtime, and some others are working double shifts, although others again are not very busy. In the heavy woollen trade of Dewsbury, Batley, &c., employment is reported as very bad.

**Other Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade is slightly better at Manningham and Halifax; at Brighouse it is moderate. In the cotton trade employment remains fair.

**Metal Trades.**—Employment with engineers is reported as good in Halifax and Keighley, moderate in Bradford, bad in Huddersfield; with ironfounders it is good in all four towns. Employment with wire-drawers is moderate.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good throughout the district.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the rag trade is quiet; with tailors improving; with printers quiet; with bookbinders good; with cabinet-makers fair.—*A. Gee.*

**Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.**

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—Engineers report employment as good in all sections; ironfounders are well employed; workmen employed in the Siemens and Bessemer steel departments are busy; iron rollers report employment as good; boiler and girder makers and wire-drawers report an improvement; iron and steel dressers are busy; railway spring makers report employment as fairly good. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders are well employed. At Parkgate and Rotherham steel-workers are busy; iron-workers quiet.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—Employment in the table and butchers' knife trade is reported as quiet; in the pen and pocket knife and razor trades as slack. The file trade has improved; wool-shear benders and grinders are better employed; bayonet and sword makers, agricultural and horticultural implement makers, and mining and navvies' tool makers are busy.

**Other Metal Trades.**—The silver and metal workers continue fairly well employed; platers and gilders report employment as good; silver and plate finishers as slightly improved; brass-workers in Sheffield as moderate. At Rotherham all sections of the brass trades are well employed.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 58 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.27 days per week worked during the month. Surface-men and screenmen are fairly well employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment with bricklayers is good; with stonemasons and carpenters and joiners fair; with plumbers quiet. Out of 1,386 members of these trades only 6 were on unemployed benefit at the end of the month. At Barnsley employment is slack; at Rotherham good.

**Glass Trade.**—Employment in this industry continues fair in the Rotherham and Mexborough district, and is reported as good at Barnsley.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailoring is reported as slack throughout the district; employment in the ready-made clothing trade is moderate in Barnsley; in the boot and shoe trade it is slack.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders are fairly well employed.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—At Sheffield and Rotherham cabinet-makers and coachmakers are well employed; wagon-builders moderately so. At Barnsley box and bobbin makers are busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the linen trade is improving slowly; paper-makers and down quilt makers and railway workers are fairly well employed. Employment for general labourers is fair in Sheffield, but slack in Barnsley.—*S. Uttley.*

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

**Derbyshire District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners), with 7,435 members, have 101 (or 1.4 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 116 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Engineering and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 2,475 members have 48 (or 1.9 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 74 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Employment continues good at the locomotive works, and full and regular in the bridge, girder, and boiler yards. Ironfounders in Derby and Butterley report employment as good, in Somercotes as dull, in Chesterfield as fair; brass moulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent as good; stove grate workers in Derby as moderate, in Belper and Langley Mill as good; wire-drawers in Ambergate and pipe-moulders in Ilkeston as fair. Lace machine builders in Long Eaton are busy in some shops. Cycle-workers in Long Eaton and Draycott are busy.

**Coal Mining.**—At collieries employing upwards of 38,000 men an average of 5.37 days per week was worked, as compared with 4.80 days in February.

**Quarrying.**—Employment in limestone quarries continues fair. Chert quarries in Bakewell are still very busy.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment with cotton weavers and spinners in Belper, Milford, Borrowash, Glossop, and Hadfield continues good. With hosiery workers in Heanor and Ilkeston short time is the rule. Lace workers are well employed in Long Eaton; quiet in Ilkeston. Calico printers and engravers in Dinting, Hayfield, and New Mills report employment as quiet; surgical bandage workers and elastic-web weavers in Derby as good. Dyers and bleachers in Belper district are well employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment with bricklayers and masons in

## EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Burton-on-Trent is rather slack; other branches are fairly employed throughout the district.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield report employment as fair; tailors and dress and mantle makers as good.

**Coachbuilding Trades.**—Railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton report employment as good; carriage-builders in private shops as moderate.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as bad, with many unemployed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment is reported as moderate with letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders and machine-rulers.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is fair with gas workers and general labourers and with all grades of railway-workers.—*C. White-Deacon.*

**Nottingham and District.**

**Lace Trade.**—The plain net and levers branches are fairly well employed, but in the curtain and warp lace branches employment is irregular and slack; female laceworkers, levers card punchers, and auxiliary male laceworkers are fairly busy; warpers report an improvement. Employment is slack with dyers at Nottingham and Basford; good with bleachers at Basford; moderate with finishers at Bulwell. All branches are quiet at Stapleford and Beeston.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Power-frame-workers generally report employment as bad. Hand-frame-workers are fully employed. Wool Shetland shawl makers are fairly busy. Employment is moderate at Ruddington and Arnold and steady at Mansfield. The hand-frame-workers are slack at Kirkby and Sutton. Elastic bandage workers are dull. Hosiery trimmers at Basford have moderate employment.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment is slightly better with engineers; dull with boiler-makers; quiet with iron and steel dressers and wheelwrights; moderate with ironfounders, brassworkers, and brassfounders; fair with cycle-workers, tool machinists, bobbin and carriage makers, and carriage straighteners; good with lace and hosiery machine builders. Employment at Grantham is fair. Branches of these trades with 2,923 members have 150 (or 5.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 176 (or 6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is improving with painters; dull with carpenters and joiners and plumbers; busy with plasterers and slaters and tilers. All branches are well employed at Newark, Grantham, Worksop, Mansfield, and Colwick.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from pits employing about 17,000 men give an average of slightly under 4½ days per week, as against 4 days per week last month. Collieries in North Notts are working full time; in the Seen Valley employment is regular; in the south of the county employment is much slacker.

**Printing Trades.**—Employment with letterpress printers and lithographic printers and artists is moderate; with printers' cutters and assistants good.

**Railway Workers.**—All branches report employment as regular at Nottingham, Mansfield, Newark, Worksop, Grantham, and Netherfield.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe workers report employment as bad; bespoke tailors as improving.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Coachmakers, cabinet-makers, and furniture workers report employment as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Silk dressers are making four days per week; brushmakers, basket-makers, boxmakers, and female cigar-makers are busy; enginemen and cramenen report employment as regular; gas stokers and labourers as declining.—*W. L. Harvstaff.*

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

**Boot and Shoe Industry.**—Employment in all branches of the shoe trade is only moderate at Leicester, Northampton, and Kettering. It is slightly better at Desborough, Rushden, Higham, and Woolaston; bad at Hinckley and Daventry.

**Other Clothing Trades.**—In the wholesale clothing trade employment continues good, and bespoke tailors are busier. Work is brisk with corset-makers, dressmakers, and milliners; only moderate with hat and cap makers.

**Hosiery, Yarn, and Woolspinning Trades.**—Shirt and pant makers at Leicester are better employed. At Loughborough, however, work is slack all round. Employment is more regular in the woolspinning mills; quiet with dyers and trimmers at Leicester, and slack at Hinckley.

**Elastic Web Trade.**—Employment is fairly good in the cord, braid

and belt departments, and has improved in the gusset webbing branch.

**Engineering and Cycle-making Trades.**—Employment with engineers is good at Leicester and Loughborough, moderate at Northampton; cycle-makers are busy; needle-makers are on short time.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coalminers in Leicestershire have been more fully employed. Work is brisk with limestone workers at Hathern; regular with ironstone miners in Northamptonshire. Stone quarrymen are fully employed.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment remains good in all branches.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is somewhat affected by the joiners' dispute at Leicester. It is moderate with plumbers; good in other branches.

**Coachbuilding and Furnishing Trades.**—Operatives in the furnishing trades are only moderately employed. Work is good with coachmakers and road-car and tram-car makers, and fairly good with railway car and wagon builders.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners and curriers at Northampton, Wellingborough, and Market Harborough are all fully employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as good with railway workers and with brick and tile makers; fairly good with cigar-makers.—*T. Smith.*

**Potteries District.**

**Pottery Trades.**—Hollow-ware pressers report employment as improving during the first three weeks of the month, but declining in the last week. Sanitary pressers are working full time. Flat pressers, printers and transferers, and throwers and turners report an improvement. Encaustic tile makers remain busy. Women gilders and decorators are averaging four and a-half days per week; ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggarmakers about four days. Stilt and spur makers are busy. Packers and cratemakers are indifferently employed.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment in the forges continues good, but the mills are running only four and a-half turns per week. Steelworkers and blastfurnacemen are fully employed.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers and boiler-makers throughout the district are busy. With copperworkers at Oakmoor and Froghall full time is general. Agricultural engineers continue busy.

**Coal Mining.**—At Kildgrove and Talk-o'-th'-Hill miners are well employed, but in other parts of the district employment is not so good.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leek employment in the silk trade continues slack. At Congleton trimming weavers are slack; fustian cutters have 200 unemployed, and the majority are on short time; towel weavers continue busy. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Shoemakers at Stafford report a decided improvement, full time being general; at Stone a slight improvement is reported. Bespoke tailors report improvement. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter remain busy.

**Building Trades.**—All classes of operatives in the Potteries are well employed. At Leek bricklayers report a decline. At Crewe and Stafford all branches are busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate in the Potteries, good at Stafford; lithographic artists and printers as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are busy. Railway workers are moderately employed.—*I. S. Harvey.*

**Wolverhampton and District.**

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment in the steel smelting and the angle and hoop trades is generally good; in the sheet trade it is very slack. The mills and forges are well employed. In South Shropshire the mills and forges continue steadily employed.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment is generally good with engineers, boiler-makers, moulders, and bridge, girder, and tank makers; moderate with cycle-makers. The malleable iron workers at Walsall are still quiet.

**Hardware Trades.**—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, axles, springs, coach iron-work, wrought iron odd work, hinges, wrought nails, spectacle frames, tips, and malleable cycle and electrical castings; fair on brass work, gunlocks, spring traps, tack and cut nails, malleable nails and protectors, and hollow-ware and black castings, and also with stampers



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

Improved. Branches with 12,034 members return 77 (or 0.6 per cent.) idle, as against 152 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—All branches (except packing box makers) report employment as good. Branches with 4,014 members return 10 (or 0.2 per cent.) as idle, as against 109 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Glasgow weaving trades is busy in some branches, dull in others; at New Mills and Darvel employment is fairly good; at Kilbirnie it is still good; at Paisley thread workers are dull, carpet weavers busy. At Greenock and Port Glasgow the weavers are fully employed. Rope and twine spinners have improved. Carpet weavers in Glasgow, and marquee and tent makers and calendermen are busy. Dyers, bleachers, and warpers are dull.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as good on bespoke and ready-made tailoring; quiet with knee shoe makers; dull with boot and shoe operatives; fair with slipper-makers.

Shipping, Dock, and Transport Labour.—Sailors and firemen and dock labourers report employment as dull.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as improved; stereotypers and electrotypers as fairly good.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers and cutters report employment as fair; bottle-makers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Gilders, tobacco-pipe makers and finishers, potters, settmakers, paviors, and cork-cutters are busy.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry has continued fairly steady in most branches; employment in the linen trade continues good.

Coal Mining.—The coal trade in Fifeshire shows slackness, and idle days are common at a number of collieries. Returns from pits employing upwards of 11,000 workpeople give an average of 5.13 days per week worked during the four weeks ending 26th March, as compared with 5.29 days per week in the month of February.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Work in the engineering trades continues exceptionally brisk, night shifts and overtime being still the rule in both marine and general machine workshops. Employment at the shipbuilding yards also remains good. Branches of societies, with 2,433 members, return 71 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 77 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Considerable activity still prevails in the building trade; all branches of the cabinet and upholstery trades report employment as brisk. Branches with 1,820 members report 7 (or 0.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Fishing Industry.—Stormy weather has again interrupted the white fishing, and the takes in many instances have been extremely light. The salmon fishing is not proving remunerative.

Dock Labour.—Labour has been fully employed at the quays and jetties.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and kindred trades has fallen off a little. In the tailoring and boot and shoe trades it is reported as fairly good. The floorcloth and linoleum industry remains busy.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Societies and branches with 6,913 members have 47 (or 0.7 per cent.) idle, as compared with 138 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Quarrying.—All branches report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Masons and hewers report employment as moderate, other branches as good. Branches with 2,748 members have 5 (or 0.2 per cent.) idle, as against 48 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Transport Trades.—Railway workers, carters, dock labourers, and seamen and firemen report employment as good.

Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.—The shipwrights report employment as moderate; the other branches of these trades as good. Branches with 1,606 members have 31 (or 1.9 per cent.) idle, as against 58 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Mill and factory workers report employment as good; boot and shoe makers (hand sewn) as fair; boot and shoe riveters as moderate; carpet weavers as bad.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers and the bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good.

Fishing.—In March at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 64,954 cwts. of fish, realising £36,952, a large increase in quantity but a decrease in value as compared with February.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers, sawmillers, carvers, and turners report employment as good; combmakers as fair; bakers as improving.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

General.—Branches of societies, with 6,132 members, have 281 (or 4.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 336 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—The plasterers report employment as good; the slaters, painters, carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, and whiteners as fair; the gasfitters as still slack.

Metal Trades.—Employment continues fair in all branches.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment is fair with all branches except the lathsplitters.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report an improvement; one branch of the bootmakers report employment as fair, the other as dull.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In all departments work continues fair.

Miscellaneous.—General labourers and bottle-makers report employment as good; dockers, cork cutters, rope-makers, and corporation labourers as fair; brushmakers as dull; grain labourers as slack. J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches with 10,659 members have 324 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 419 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The blacksmiths report employment as moderate; the sheet metal workers as bad; the carpenters and joiners as quiet; the brassfounders, furnishing trades, engineers, iron dressers, and enginemen and cranemen as fair; the strikers, boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, ironfounders, machine workers, drillers and hole cutters, pattern-makers, shipwrights, spindle and flyer makers, and general labourers as good.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 4,003 members have 92 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 79 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The flax roughers, power-loom tenters, and power-loom yarn dressers report employment as dull; the flax dressers, yarn beamers, and yarn bundlers as fair; the beetling enginemen, hackle and gill makers, linen lappers, and women workers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with a membership of 2,286 have 78 (or 3.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 99 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The plumbers report employment as bad; the bricklayers, hodsmen, and carpenters and joiners as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with a membership of 771 have 32 (or 4.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 52 (or 6.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The mill-sawyers report employment as quiet; other branches as fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 918 members return 56 (or 6.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 65 (or 7.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as dull; the letterpress printers and lithographic artists and designers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Branches with 715 members have 16 unemployed and a number only partially employed.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with a membership of 1,510 have 43 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 44 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers report employment as good in Cork and fair in other towns; the brass and iron moulders and shipwrights as dull; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as fair; the ship joiners as good.

Building Trades.—Carpenters, stone-cutters, masons, and painters report employment as good in Cork, Limerick, and Waterford; plasterers as dull.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed, and feather operatives in Cork, Blarney, Millfield, and Douglas, and tailors in Cork and Waterford report employment as fair; boot and shoe operatives as bad.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The mill-sawyers and wood-working machinists and coachmakers report employment as good; the cork-cutters and coopers as fair; the cabinet-makers as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and kindred trades is fair throughout the district; quay labourers in Cork, Limerick, and Waterford have been dull. The salmon and mackerel fishing on the south and south-west coasts has been dull.—P. O'Shea.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

The following tables of industrial accidents reported during March are arranged on the new plan first adopted two months ago. In the Summary Table the classes of industries for which the number employed is approximately known are given first, followed by certain classes of accidents for which the corresponding number employed cannot be stated. In the first group of industries including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,093,394 persons according to the latest available figures, 328 persons were returned as killed, and 5,659 as injured in March by accidents, compared with 399 reported killed and 5,210 injured in March, 1897. During the first three months of 1898, 975 were reported killed and 15,385 injured, compared with 1,095 killed and 15,071 injured in the corresponding period of 1897. In the remaining occupations referred to above, 18 persons were reported as killed, and 592 injured last month, compared with 17 killed and 364 injured in March, 1897.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Summary table with columns: Industry, Killed (Mar 1898, Mar 1897), Injured (Mar 1898, Mar 1897), Number Employed according to latest Returns.

DETAILED TABLE.

Detailed table with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total. Includes sub-tables for Railway Service, Mines, Quarries over 20 feet deep, and Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

Table of Shipping accidents with columns: Killed, Injured, Total. Includes sub-tables for Shipping and Factories.

Table of Factories with columns: Males, Females, Total. Includes sub-tables for Factories and Workshops.

Table of Workshops with columns: Males, Females, Total.

Table of Factories & Workshops (classified by trades) with columns: Males, Females, Total. Includes sub-tables for Textiles and Non-Textiles.

Table of Under Factory Act, 1898, Es. 22, 23 with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total.

Table of Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 with columns: Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total.

\* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels, and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1896, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

† Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894.

‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

§ Other steam engine or machine in the open air.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during March affected 21,600 workpeople, and the net effect on the weekly wages of these workpeople was an increase of about 2½d. per head. About 9,350 received advances averaging about 1s. 2½d. per head, and 12,250 sustained decreases averaging 6½d. per head.

Increases.—The increases affecting the largest number of persons were 2½ per cent. to 1,000 steel millmen at Consett and Jarrow, and 1 and 1½ per cent. to 2,166 blastfurnacemen in the Cumberland and Lancashire districts, under sliding scales.

Decreases.—The principal decreases were 3d. per ton to 1,600 puddlers, and 2½ per cent. to 4,400 millmen in the North of England, and of ¾ per cent. to 5,500 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, under sliding scales.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 21,150 or 98 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, were settled without cessation of work, the wages of 14,650 being changed by sliding scale, and of 6,500 by negotiation between the parties or their representatives. In two cases, involving 200 persons, arbitration was resorted to. Changes affecting about 450 persons, or 2 per cent. only of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes.

Totals for First Three Months of 1898.—For the three months, January to March, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 127,500, compared with 249,000 for the corresponding period of 1897. The net effect of all the changes in the weekly wages of these workpeople is estimated at an increase of about 4d. per head, as compared with 10½d. in the first quarter of 1897.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week, Inc., Dec.

\* Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week, Inc., Dec.

\* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. † Consists of Aberdeen, Arbroath, Dundee, Kirriemuir, and Carnoustie.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH, 1898.

The changes in hours of labour reported in March affected 2,210 workpeople, their working hours being reduced on the average by nearly two hours (1'98) per week. The principal changes were those affecting 350 plasterers in Birmingham, and 1,100 boot and shoe operatives in the east of Scotland. The changes were all decreases, and were brought about without any cessation of work.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Extent of decrease per week.

\* See also under Changes in Rate of Wages. † Summer Hours. ‡ Winter Hours.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

East Scotland Mining District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on May 19th. Intending candidates should communicate on or before May 9th with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. R. Calder, Fintry-place, Broughty Ferry, N.B.

North Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on the 29th and 30th June. Intending candidates should communicate on or before the 19th June with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Joseph Knight, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. J. R. Jeffery, 5, Piccadilly, Bradford, Yorks.



WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March, the 13 bureaux furnishing returns for March, 1898, and also for March, 1897, registered 2,600 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,840 in March, 1897, an increase of 760. Work was found for 1,222 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 879 in March, 1897. The number remaining on the registers at the end of March, 1898, was 3,000, compared with 3,119 a year ago.

(I.) Work Done in March.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications offered by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities), Mar. 1898, Mar. 1897.

(II.) Workpeople on Registers at end of March classified by Occupations.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Stablemen, Clerks, Porters, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Servants, Dress-makers, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total), Mar. 1898, Mar. 1897.

\* Permanent employment. † Temporary employment. ‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. § Women and Girls are not registered.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland. THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of March was 341,802. This corresponds to a rate of 216 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1898.

Compared with February, 1898, there is a decrease of 1,126 in the number relieved, and of 1 in the rate per 10,000. In 19 of the 35 districts the rate decreased, the largest decreases being in the Leicester district (9 per 10,000) and in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (8 per 10,000). In three districts the rate shows no change, while in 13 districts there is an increase in the rate. In the Galway district the increase amounted to 11 per 10,000.

Compared with March, 1897, the number relieved has increased by 6,094, and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The rate has increased in 20 districts, the most marked increases being in Galway district (202 per 10,000), Central London (16), Dublin, and Stockton districts (15 each), and Belfast district (11). In three districts the rate was unaltered, while in the remaining twelve districts decreases are shown, the largest occurring in North Staffordshire district (16 per 10,000), and Hull, and Wigan districts (11 each).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of March, 1898 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population (Month ago, A year ago), Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with.

Table with columns: Districts (ENGLAND & WALES, SCOTLAND, IRELAND), Paupers on one day in second week of March, 1898 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population (Month ago, A year ago), Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with.

\* 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.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MARCH. I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*†

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Informations laid, Convictions, Amount of Penalties, Amount of Costs.

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.\*†

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Penalties, Costs.

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † The figures relating to Prosecutions under the Mines and Quarries Acts for March, 1898, include prosecutions by H.M. Inspectors of Mines under the Factory and Workshop Acts in factories and workshops connected with Metalliferous Mines and Quarries. In the figures for March, 1897, given in the above tables, such prosecutions are included in the Table of Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts. The difference owing to the change of tabulation is not, however, very material.

‡ In this case the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with. § Withdrawn on payment of costs by Defendants, 5s. in each case. ¶ Dismissed on payment of costs (gs. 6d.) by Defendants.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE monthly accounts of trade and navigation show that the value of the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions for the month ended 31st March, 1898, was £43,412,829, as compared with £40,655,114 for March, 1897, showing an increase of £2,757,715, or 6.7 per cent.

The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for March, 1898, amounted in value to £20,833,865, as compared with £21,647,269 for March, 1897, showing a decrease of £813,404, or 3.8 per cent.; and the exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise were valued at £5,100,574, as compared with £5,270,853 for March, 1897, a decrease of £170,279, or 3.2 per cent.

Imports.—The following table gives the value of the imports for March, 1898, as compared with March, 1897:—

Table with columns: Month ended Mar. 31st (1897, 1898), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances, Oils, Raw Materials for Manufactures, Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles.

The principal increase in March, 1898, as compared with March, 1897, is under the heading of articles of food and drink. Corn of all kinds shows the large increase of £1,629,653; mutton, fresh, has increased £148,782; lard, £143,440; bacon, £129,658; and potatoes, £123,122. On the other hand, the imports of fruit and rice show a decrease in value. Tin has decreased by £100,668, and indigo, £242,926. Of the raw materials for textile manufactures, raw cotton shows an increase in value of £603,616; wool, the very large decrease of £897,084; but jute, an increase of £415,630. The imports of some other kinds of raw materials for manufactures have slightly increased, as caoutchouc, £101,233; hides, £93,107; and wood and timber, £114,777.

Exports.—With regard to the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for March, 1898, as compared with March, 1897, the following table shows the values for those two periods:—

Table with columns: Month ended Mar. 31st (1897, 1898), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Animals, living, Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, Yarns and Textile Fabrics, Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery), Machinery and Millwork, Miscellaneous.

Comparing the value of the exports for March, 1898, with those for March, 1897, the chief increases are cotton manufactures £312,712; and coal, coke, and fuel £112,121. No other article shows any increase of note, while, on the other hand, the exports of raw wool have decreased by £162,881; jute piece goods, £98,424; woollen and worsted tissues, £436,833; iron, unwrought and wrought, £244,307; machinery and millwork £134,198; and cycles and parts thereof £74,717. The decrease in the exports of woollen and worsted tissues is chiefly to the United States, the value of these goods sent to that country having been only £81,938 in March, 1898, as compared with £517,978 in March, 1897, and £375,836 in March, 1896. This may probably be accounted for by the working of the new American tariff. The decrease in the value of woollen tissues to the principal South American countries has also been steady, the figures being (for Peru, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina together) £20,111 for March, 1898, as compared with £32,033 and £46,986 for the corresponding periods of 1897 and 1896 respectively.

Taking the trade for the first quarter of 1898 as compared with the corresponding period of 1897, the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions amounted to £119,099,209 (as compared with £117,633,863). The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the three months ended March 31st,



1898, amounted in value to £57,707,118 (as against £59,298,187 in the same period of 1897, showing a decrease of £1,591,069). The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise for the same period of 1898 were valued at £15,110,772 (as compared with £14,649,976 for the first three months of 1897, or an increase of £460,796).

**Tonnage of vessels entered and cleared.**—The tonnage of vessels entered during March at ports of the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions amounted to 2,780,231 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,292,247 tons, as compared with 2,736,688 tons entered and 3,192,633 tons cleared in March, 1897. The tonnage of vessels entered coastwise reached a total of 2,718,655 tons, and the tonnage cleared 2,625,470 tons, as against 2,679,891 tons and 2,585,953 tons respectively in March, 1897.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The imports of raw cotton during March show a considerable increase as compared with March, 1897, and a smaller increase when compared with March, 1896, chiefly due in both cases to increased imports of American cotton. The imports for the first three months of this year are also greater than in the corresponding periods of 1897 and 1896. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns in March was greater than in either March, 1897 or 1896.

The following are the figures for the different periods:—

	Imports. Bales.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales.	Exports. Bales.
March, 1898 ... ..	379,796	322,341	44,697
" 1897 ... ..	286,540	307,364	38,102
" 1896 ... ..	358,500	276,515	31,125
Three Months ended			
March, 1898 ... ..	1,433,061	915,019	114,535
" 1897 ... ..	1,320,101	883,912	108,605
" 1896 ... ..	1,105,777	845,635	103,326

**Traffic Receipts.**—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended April 2nd amounted to £5,818,099, an increase of £80,137 (or 1.4 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1897. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,222,846, a decrease of £5,125, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,595,253, an increase of £85,262.

**Fishery Statistics.**—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during March, 1898, was £610,340, an increase of £36,642 as compared with March, 1897. In England and Wales there was an increase of £10,520, in Scotland of £17,520, and in Ireland of £8,602.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during March, 1898, numbered 401, being 12 less than in March, 1897, 35 less than in March, 1896, and 47 less than in March, 1895.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

**Total Emigration.**—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during March was 16,348, as compared with 15,035 in March, 1897.

**British and Irish.**—Of the 16,348 passengers, 10,112 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 494 as compared with a year ago. This increase was shared by all the destinations named in the table below, with the exception of Australasia. The total number of British and Irish passengers for the first three months shows a slight increase as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The following table gives the figures for March, 1898 and 1897, together with those for the three months ended 31st March in each year:—

Destination.	March, 1898.	March, 1897.	Total for three months ending—	
			March, 1898.	March, 1897.
United States ... ..	5,572	5,257	11,648	10,979
British North America ... ..	1,575	1,264	2,624	2,085
Australasia ... ..	763	830	2,281	2,382
South Africa ... ..	1,461	1,366	4,660	4,937
Other places ... ..	741	901	2,636	3,002
Total ... ..	10,112	9,618	23,849	23,385

**Foreign.**—The remainder of the 16,348 passengers, viz., 6,236, were foreigners, and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 819 more than in March, 1897.

**Alien Immigration.**—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during March was 8,600. Of these, 4,022 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 3,753 so stated in March, 1897. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,578 (including 1,285 sailors), the corresponding figure for March, 1897, being 4,271 (including 978 sailors). The figures for March, 1898 and 1897, and also for the three months ended 31st March in each year are as follows:—

	March, 1898.	March, 1897.	Total for 3 months ending	
			Mar., 1898.	Mar., 1897.
Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom ... ..	4,578*	4,271*	10,681*	9,552*
Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom...	4,022	3,753	6,692	5,962
Total ... ..	8,600	8,024	17,373	15,514

\* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,285 in March, 1898; 978 in March, 1897; and 2,940 and 2,543 respectively for the three months ended March in each year.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MARCH.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.) FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in March it will be seen that 6 Trade Unions, 1 Co-operative Association for Distribution, 25 Co-operative Associations for Production (mostly Agricultural and Dairy Societies in Ireland), 2 Miscellaneous Societies, 22 new Friendly Societies, 30 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 3 Building Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. One Trade Union, 24 Building Societies, 25 Friendly Societies, and 3 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registry cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—England and Wales.—Retford Builders' Labourers' Protective, Accident, and Burial Society, Half Moon Inn, Market Square, Retford; Amalgamated Stevedores' Labour Protection League, Wades Arms Inn, Jeremiah Street, Poplar, E.; Hinckley and District Builders' Labourers' Protective, Accident, and Burial Society, Royal Oak Inn, Mansion Street, Hinckley; Garw Miners' Association, Llanharran Hotel, Pontycymmer, Glam. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Irish Carters' Trade Union, Engineers' Hall, College Street, Belfast; Journeymen Fishmongers' Trade Union, 15, Clarendon Street, Dublin.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) Association for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Teignmouth and District Co-op. and Industrial Society, Ltd., Higher Brook Street, Teignmouth. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—Hull General Builders, Ltd., 11 Clifton Avenue, Victor Street, Hull. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Twenty-three Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Socs. at Lissan, Co. Derry; Tullyvin, Co. Cavan; Mayo Abbey, Co. Mayo; Drumhon, Co. Roscommon; Desertmartin, Co. Derry; Clonoulty, Co. Tipperary; Rock, Co. Tyrone; Ballaghaderreen, Co. Mayo; Ahascragh, Co. Galway; Kilkerrin, Co. Galway; Fairymount, Co. Roscommon; Tourlestrane, Co. Sligo; Kilconnell, Co. Galway; Boveva, Co. Derry; Cornacon, Co. Mayo; Castlecaulfield, Co. Tyrone; Sallins, Co. Kildare; Maguiresbridge, Co. Fermagh; Hollymount, Co. Mayo; Aughaleague, Co. Tyrone; Balla, Co. Mayo; Claremorris, Co. Mayo; Newmills, Co. Tyrone; The Leighlin Co-op. Home Industries Soc. Ltd., Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow.

(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—National Co-op. People's Bank, Ltd., 23 Francis Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.; Wolverton Mutual Soc., Science and Art Institute, Wolverton. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 6; Dividing, 1; Female, 1; Juvenile, 1; Orders, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 5. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Specially authorised, 7.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—28; Scotland, 1; Ireland, 1.

**Building Societies.**—England and Wales.—3. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—England and Wales.—Notice of Dissolution received:—Manchester and District Plate and Machine Moulders' Trade Union, Egerton Arms Inn, North Porter-street, Manchester. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—England and Wales.—Resolution to wind-up received:—Victoria Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., St. John-street, Rushden. Liquidator's final return received:—Leicester Co-op. Land and Building Soc., Ltd., 4 Union-street, Leicester. Dissolved by instrument: Hertford Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 23, St. Andrew's-street, Hertford. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 10; registration cancelled, 3; dissolved otherwise, 11. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—By instrument of dissolution, 1.

**Building Societies.**—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 4; notice of commencement of dissolution, 6; notice of termination of dissolution, 13. Scotland.—Notice of termination of dissolution, 1. Ireland.—None.

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