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THE

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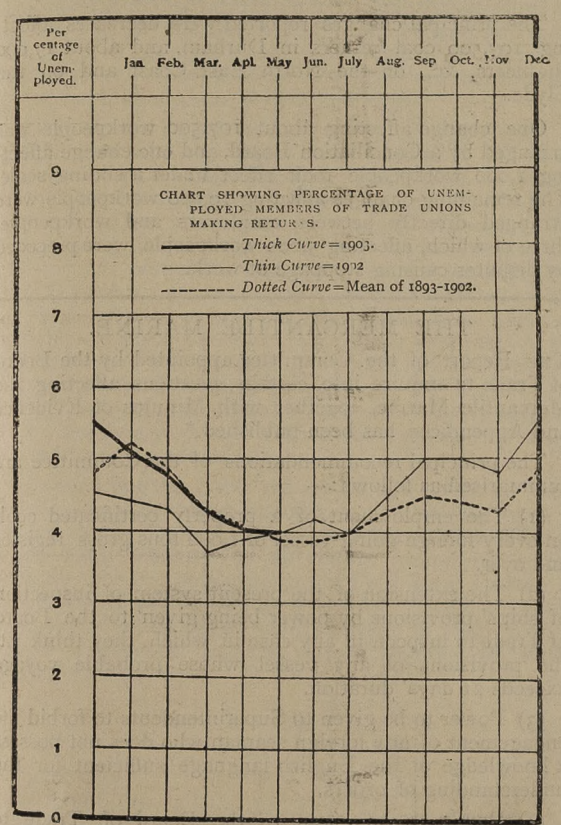
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JUNE, 1903.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MAY.

[Based on 3,318 returns, viz.: 2,055 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,176 from Workmen and Trade Unions, and 87 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in May showed little change on the whole as compared with April. In the engineering trade, however, there was some improvement, while the cotton industry shows a marked decline. As compared with a year ago employment continues to show some falling off.

In the 226 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 554,524 making returns, 22,102 (or 4.0 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 4.1 per cent. in April, and 4.0 per cent. in the 224 Trade Unions, with a membership of 549,023 from which returns were received for May 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of May during the past decade was 3.9.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in the four weeks ended May 23rd was fairly good. At collieries employing 489,731 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5.21 days per week, as compared with 4.82 in April* and 4.89 in May,* 1902. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns have been received for both periods was 3.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

* The average for April, 1903, is reduced by the Easter Holidays, and that for May, 1902, by the Whitsuntide Holidays.

Iron Mining.—Iron miners continue well employed. In the 133 mines and open works covered by the returns received, and employing nearly 16,000 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the miners was 5.78 per week, as compared with 5.61* days in April, and 5.72* in May, 1902.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry shows little change as compared with either a month or a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 325 furnaces, employing about 22,400 workpeople, were in blast at the end of May, as compared with 327 at the end of April, and 323 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—In this industry employment shows a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, but a falling off as compared with a year ago. At 202 works covered by the employers' returns, 74,564 workpeople were employed in the week ended May 23rd, and the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 2.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in this industry shows a falling off as compared with a month and a year ago. At the end of May 383 mills were working, as compared with 390 at the end of April, and 407 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills was about 19,150.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally is fair, and rather better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 3.8 at the end of May, as compared with 4.2 at the end of April and 4.9 in May, 1902.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment is still slack. It is rather better than in April but worse than in May, 1902. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 8.7 at the end of May, as compared with 9.1 at the end of April and 6.4 in May, 1902.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades remains about the same as a month ago, and is not quite so good as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 2.6 at the end of May, compared with 2.8 at the end of April, and 2.5 in May of last year. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 6.4 at the end of May, as compared with 7.1 in April, and 5.9 in May, 1902.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is fairly good in the furnishing trades, and has improved with mill-sawyers and coachmakers. With coopers it remains bad generally. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of May was 2.8, as compared with 3.0 in April and 2.5 in May, 1902.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades remains quiet, and rather worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of May was 4.9, compared with 5.1 at the end of April and 4.7 a year ago.

Employment in the *Paper* trade in England remains rather dull, and is good in Scotland. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 3.3, as against 3.2 a month ago and 2.4 in May, 1902.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continues dull. In

the Pottery trade it shows a further improvement, but is still slack. In the Brick and Tile trades it continues fair.

Employment in the Spinning branch of the Cotton trade shows a marked decline as compared with a month ago, and is worse than a year ago. In the Weaving branch employment is quiet, being much worse than a month and a year ago. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 101,000 women and girls shows that 81 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 91 per cent. in April and 83 per cent. in May, 1902. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 70 during May, compared with 83 per cent. in April and 86 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the Woollen trade continues good generally. In the Worsteds trade it is fair. Information respecting woollen and worsted factories in Yorkshire employing about 30,200 women and girls shows that 81 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, to be compared with 82 per cent. among those reported on in April, and with 97 per cent. in May, 1902.

Employment in the Hosiery trade is slack and worse than a month and a year ago. Employment in the Flax trade is good; in the Jute trade it is only moderate, being considerably worse than a month ago.

Leather Trades.—The general condition of employment is still dull and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 5.2 at the end of May, as compared with 5.3 in April, and 2.5 in May, 1902.

Employment in the Boot and Shoe trade is quiet, and worse than a month ago, though better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing about 65,000 workpeople show an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed at the end of May, as compared with a month ago, and of 3.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Of the total number, 78 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout May, compared with 81 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for April.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the Tailoring trade is fairly good generally and better than in April. In the ready-made branch employment on the whole has been fairly good, but in Leeds it has continued slack.

Employment in the Hat-making trade is still slack, but shows some improvement. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of May was 2.6, compared with 2.7 per cent. at the end of April, and 3.5 per cent. a year ago.

Agricultural Labourers were, generally speaking, regularly employed during the month of May. Some casual labourers, however, were not in constant employment in the early part of the month, owing to bad weather.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment in May was generally fair and a little better than in the previous month but worse than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London was 13,330, an increase of 5.4 per cent. as compared with the average for the previous month, and a decrease of 8.8 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The average number employed in May during the six years 1897-1902 was 14,366.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress in May, 1903, was 16,888, compared with 10,861 in April, 1903, and 16,197 in May, 1902. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 217,000 working days, compared with 171,900 in the previous month, and 145,400 in the corresponding month of last year.

Twenty-seven disputes began in May, involving 11,037 workpeople, compared with 4,715 in April, 1903, and 7,385 in May, 1902. The most important dispute of the month was one affecting 5,000 engineers in the Clyde district.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 22 disputes, new and old, affecting 9,797 workpeople. Of these 22 disputes, 7, involving 594 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 10, involving 7,768 persons, in favour of the employers; and 5, involving 1,435 persons, were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during May affected about 128,400 workpeople, of whom nearly 1,400 received advances and 127,000 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of about £2,200 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 24,700 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £790 weekly. During May, 1902, the number affected was 259,400, and the net result was a decrease of nearly £9,300 weekly.

The principal changes reported were, decreases affecting 107,500 coal miners in Durham, and about 17,000 engineers, &c., on the North East Coast and on the Clyde.

One change affecting about 107,500 workpeople was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and one change affecting 1,000 workpeople took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes affecting 19,900 workpeople were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, three of which, affecting 5,000 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

THE Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to enquire into certain questions affecting the Mercantile Marine, together with Minutes of Evidence and Appendices, has been published.*

The principal recommendations of the Committee are summarised as follows:—

(1) The employment of a properly certificated cook on every foreign-going vessel of 1,000 tons gross register and over.

(2) The extension of the present system of inspection of ships' provisions by power being given to the Board of Trade to inspect, in any case in which they think fit, the provisions of any vessel whose probable voyage exceeds 21 days' duration.

(3) Power to be given to Superintendents to forbid the engagement of any foreign seaman who does not possess a knowledge of the English language sufficient for the understanding of orders.

(4) Power to be given to the Board of Trade to withhold the continuous discharge certificate of any seaman who wilfully fails to join a vessel after signing articles.

(5) Efforts to be made to increase the numbers of the Royal Naval Reserve, especially of stokers, on foreign-going vessels by improved inducements and more active recruiting.

(6) A reference by way of appeal to a Superintendent to be allowed to seamen in cases in which the master gives a bad character on discharge, or "declines to report."

(7) Facilities to be given to foreign seamen who have served for four years on British merchant ships to become, by an easy process, without expense, British subjects by naturalisation.

(8) The establishment of a system of voluntary examination and certification of masters and officers in the elements of medical knowledge.

(9) The universal adoption in British ships of the scale of provisions recommended in this Report.

(10) The provision of as comfortable living quarters as can practically be given to seamen on board ship.

(11) Every encouragement to be given to training ships and to the training of boys on merchant vessels with the object of increasing the number of British seamen in the Mercantile Marine.

* [Report, Cd. 1607; price 2d. Minutes of Evidence, Cd. 1608; price 5s. 9d. Appendices, Cd. 1609; Eyre & Spottiswoode, price 3s. 1d.]

AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1902.

England and Wales.—The wages of agricultural labourers were higher in 1902 than in 1901. In each of the years 1896-1902 wages have shown an increase, but in 1902 the net amount of the increase was smaller than in any of the preceding five years.

Information as to the current rates of weekly cash wages, in January and June, 1902, of ordinary agricultural labourers in most of the rural districts in England and Wales has been obtained mainly from the Chairmen of Rural District Councils. By comparing these rates with those returned for the corresponding months of 1901, certain changes have been disclosed, which are summarised in the following Tables. This method of comparison makes it possible to exclude the seasonal fall in the Autumn and rise in the Spring customary in many districts. The rates given are exclusive of piecework earnings, extra payments for hay and corn harvest, and of all extra allowances in cash and kind.

The figures do not include rates of wages paid to single men who are lodged and boarded in the farm-houses and paid at half-yearly or yearly rates of wages, or to men exclusively employed in taking charge of animals, such as cattlemen, carters, horsemen and shepherds, who are generally paid higher wages and obtain more perquisites than the ordinary labourers. But for the purpose of arriving at a general conclusion, the principle adopted in previous reports has been followed, which is to assume that where a change took place in the predominant rates of wages of ordinary labourers in any district, a similar change occurred in the wages of the other classes of agricultural labourers. This assumption is not absolutely correct, but may be regarded as being not far from the actual fact.

In the following Table the results are given of combining the ascertained changes in the weekly rates of wages in the Rural Districts with the total number of agricultural labourers of all classes (according to the Census of 1891*) employed in the Poor Law Unions in which the Rural Districts are situated.† In computing the amount by which wages were changed in each year, it has been reckoned that the ratio of summer to winter weeks is as 3 to 2:—

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Total number of Labourers in Districts in which the predominant rates of wages—							
Increased ...	58,579	82,453	213,938	195,191	281,262	159,456	66,601
Decreased ...	40,751	4,932	2,740	248	...	13,086	53,468
Computed amount of change in weekly cash wages of the Labourers in Districts affected—							
Increases ...	£ 2,064	£ 2,536	£ 7,241	£ 6,474	£ 9,939	£ 4,449	£ 2,063
Decreases ...	1,681	125	55	5	...	497	1,663
Net increase ...	383	2,411	7,186	6,469	9,939	3,952	400

The number of agricultural labourers in districts in which wages were reported to have changed in 1902 was 120,069 as compared with 172,542 in 1901. Of the 120,069 labourers affected in 1902, the wages in districts containing 66,601 were increased, and in the case of 53,468 wages were reduced.

The net increase of wages in 1902 in the districts reported on amounted to £400 per week, as compared with £3,952 per week in 1901. In most parts of England and Wales the rates of wages paid to agricultural labourers moved up or down by 1s. a week. In Lincolnshire, however, 1s. 6d. is the usual amount of increase or decrease.

Taking the changes in various groups of counties in 1902 and grouping the figures according to the amounts

* The results of the recent Census as regards Rural Districts are not yet available. † When only a part of the Poor Law Union was affected by the change, the number of agricultural labourers in the Rural District affected has been estimated.

by which rates of wages were changed, we get the following Table:—

District.	6d. and under per week.	Over 6d. and up to 1s. per week.	Over 1s. and up to 2s. per week.	Over 2s. per week.	Total.
Total number of Labourers in districts in which Wages rose.					
Northern Counties ...	4,981	1,571	...	...	6,552
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	1,361	1,627	1,210	...	4,198
Eastern and Midland Counties	9,972	17,757	...	...	27,729
Southern and Western Counties	11,699	14,586	...	1,000	27,285
Wales ...	837	...	...	...	837
Total ...	28,850	35,541	1,210	1,000	66,601
Total number of Labourers in districts in which Wages fell.					
Northern Counties ...	1,769	321	...	...	2,090
Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	...	3,399	1,546	...	4,945
Eastern and Midland Counties	17,602	20,493	1,710	...	39,805
Southern and Western Counties	4,418	2,210	...	...	6,628
Wales ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	23,789	26,423	3,256	...	53,468

It has already been stated that the net increase in wages in 1902 was small as compared with the five preceding years, and it will be seen from this Table, that of the districts in which decreases occurred the Eastern and Midland group of counties shows the most marked falling off, the corn growing counties in the East of England being generally the first to feel the effects of upward or downward movements in wages. In the Southern and Western Counties, where complaints of the scarcity of farm labour have been most numerous in recent years, the number of labourers in districts where increases took place is much larger than those in districts where wages fell.

Scotland.—Information as to rates of wages in Scotland was obtained by the Department from a correspondent, based on information obtained at hiring fairs and from a number of representative employers.

The reports show that wages remained practically stationary at the hirings held between February and July, 1902. At the hirings in the latter half of 1901 there had been some slight reduction in the wages of ploughmen, and the 1902 hirings opened with a demand on the part of farm servants for a rise, and in the case of good men remaining in their places an advance was generally agreed to, bringing wages up to the level of the early part of 1901. At the hirings held during the latter half of the year 1902, the wages of ploughmen showed no change in the majority of districts. An advance took place in a few cases, however, while in several districts small reductions were made, chiefly in the case of young men shifting places.

The rates of wages paid to women servants continue to show an upward tendency.

Ireland.—Returns received from 59 correspondents in various parts of Ireland show that there was no general movement in the wages of farm labourers in 1902. In several districts, however, there has been an upward tendency, due, apparently, to the increasing scarcity of capable men.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON TRADE DISPUTES.

A Royal Commission has been appointed to inquire into the subject of Trade Disputes and Trade Combinations and as to the law affecting them, and to report on the law applicable to the same and the effect of any modifications thereof.

The following are the members of the Commission:—The Rt. Hon. Andrew Graham Murray, M.P., Lord Advocate (chairman), Sir William Thomas Lewis, Bart., Sir Godfrey Lushington, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Arthur Cohen, Esq., K.C., and Sidney Webb, Esq. The Secretary of the Commission is Hartley Mothersole, Esq., 4, Pump Court, Temple, E.C.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Bricklayers' Labourers at Burton-on-Trent.

THE bricklayers' labourers at Burton-on-Trent having applied for an advance of wages from 5d. to 6d. per hour from May 1st, which the employers declined to grant, it was agreed to submit the matter to arbitration under the Conciliation Act. On May 12th and 15th application was made to the Board of Trade by the National Federation of Building Trade Employers (Midland Centre), and the Burton-on-Trent and District Builders' Labourers for the appointment of an arbitrator. The Board on May 20th appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Painters at Preston.

On April 1st about 200 painters at Preston struck work for an advance of wages from 8d. to 9d. per hour. Subsequently, as the result of a conference between the parties, it was agreed to submit to an arbitrator, to be appointed by the Board of Trade, the question whether there should be any advance of wages, not exceeding 1d. per hour, and also a question as to the starting time from March 1st to October 31st.

Work was resumed on May 18th, and on May 20th a joint application for the appointment of an arbitrator was addressed to the Board of Trade by the Preston Master Builders' Association and the local branch of the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators.

The Board of Trade on May 26th appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Hudson heard the parties on June 9th, and issued his award on June 10th, deciding that there should be an advance of wages of 3d. per hour to come into force from the date of the award, and that the starting time from March 1st to October 31st should be 7 o'clock a.m., as at present.

Pottery Trade at Hanley.

Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., the arbitrator appointed in this case (see GAZETTE for April, p. 95), heard the parties on May 26th and issued his award on June 6th.

The difference between the parties was as to the making prices of certain articles, and two lists of these articles were handed in at the hearing. As to the first article on the first list (known as the "D" Bowl), the question in dispute was whether the employers should continue to pay 3d. extra for making it, on account of the difference between it and the ordinary bowl. The arbitrator decided that the workmen were entitled to only 1d. extra for each "D" bowl made by them. With regard to the remaining 29 articles on the first list, the arbitrator was requested by both parties to postpone the further hearing in regard to these articles until he had made his award as to the "D" bowl, it being probable that when his award upon that article was published the parties themselves could settle the making prices of the remaining articles in the first list.

As regards the 12 articles in the second of the lists above referred to, the arbitrator has set forth in his award the price to be paid in each case for making them.

(b) OTHER CASE.

Glasgow Boot and Shoe Trade.

On March 2nd about 200 clickers, lasters and finishers at Glasgow struck work on account of the refusal of the employers to submit to the local Board of Arbitration a demand for a minimum wage of £2 a week for operators on stitching, welting, screwing and sewing machines, the employers contending that the local Board was not competent to deal with the matter. About 130 machinists and fitters were indirectly affected by the stoppage.

The question whether the Glasgow Board of Arbitration had jurisdiction to adjudicate upon the demand of the operatives was submitted by the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers, and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives to Lord James of Hereford, who, on March 21st, awarded that the local

Board had such jurisdiction, and that the arbitrators or umpire ought to proceed to deal with the subject matter remitted to them.

Work was resumed on March 23rd.

The arbiters differed in opinion, and the question was accordingly submitted to Sheriff Fyfe, as umpire, who on May 22nd, decided that the minimum wage referred to should not be fixed by the Glasgow Board.

Both the employers' Federation and the workmen's Union having put forward claims to the sums deposited under the Trust Deed of 1898 as guarantees for carrying out the Terms of Settlement of 1895, Lord James made the following award, dated May 23rd:—

"Claims under the Terms of Settlement arranged between the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, dated April 19, 1895, and under the trust deed of March 8, 1898.

1. On behalf of the said Federated Associations, Mr. Chamberlin submitted to me that a breach of the Terms of Settlement had been committed by certain operatives at Glasgow by leaving their employment on February 28, 1903, and that in consequence of such breach a portion of the £1,000 deposited by the National Union under the trust deed of March 8, 1898, should be paid to the Federated Associations.

2. On behalf of the said National Union, Mr. Hornidge submitted to me that a breach of the Terms of Settlement had been committed by certain members of the Federated Associations resident at Glasgow by refusing to allow the Board of Arbitration to deal with a certain question and dispute that existed in relation to wages, and that, in consequence, a portion of the sum of £1,000 deposited by the Federated Associations under the said trust deed should be paid to the National Union.

And I, the undersigned, having heard the said applicants and considered the matters submitted to me in support of the above claims, do hereby determine that both the alleged breaches were committed. But having come to the conclusion that both of such breaches were committed under the bonâ fide belief by the respective parties that they were entitled to take the course they did, I award that the nominal sum of £10 be paid by the said Federated Associations and National Union respectively out of the said deposited sums."

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1901.

The Summary Tables showing the results of the Census of 1901 for the whole of England and Wales have now been published [Cd. 1523; pp. 306, Price 2s. 6d.]. From these it appears that the number of men and boys returned as engaged in specified occupations was 10,156,976, or 837 per 1,000 males above 10 years of age, compared with 831 per 1,000 in 1891, and 832 per 1,000 in 1881.

The employment of women and girls relatively to the female population showed a decline, the number returned as engaged in specified occupations being 4,171,751, or 316 per 1,000 females above 10 years of age, compared with 344 per 1,000 in 1891, and 340 per 1,000 in 1881.

The Occupations returns are classified in twenty-two groups. The groups including the largest numbers of the male population are as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Occupation Group, Number of Males, Number per 1,000 males of and above 10 years of age. Rows include VI.—Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages; VII.—Agriculture; VIII.—Building and Works of Construction; IX.—In and about and dealing with the Products of Mines and Quarries; XX.—Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging; V.—Commercial Occupations.

All the other groups include less than half a million of the male population, with the exception of the group of undefined workers, which includes 562,128 mechanics and labourers.

Only three groups include more than half a million of the female population:—

Table with 3 columns: Occupation Group, Number of Females, Number per 1,000 females of and above 10 years of age. Rows include IV.—Domestic Offices or Services; XIX.—Dress; XVIII.—Textile Fabrics.

For the first time the occupations of unmarried women and girls are classified separately from those of married or widowed women. Particulars are also given for certain industries as to the number of each returned as working at home. Altogether 3,254,242, or 52 per cent., of unmarried women and girls above 10 years of age were returned as engaged in specified occupations, and 917,509, or 13 per cent., of married or widowed women were so returned. The occupations employing the largest number of married or widowed women are given in the following Table:—

Table with 4 columns: Occupation Heading, Number of Married or Widowed Women, Number of Unmarried Women and Girls, Number of Married or Widowed Women in 100 Occupied Women and Girls. Rows include Laundry and Washing Service; Domestic Indoor Service; Charwomen; Cotton Manufacture; Dressmakers; Tailoresses; Lodging, Boarding-House Keepers; Sick Nurses, Invalid Attendants; Shirtmakers, Seamstresses; Grocers: Tea, Coffee, Chocolate-Dealers; Agriculture; Wool and Worsted Manufacture; Inn, Hotel-Keepers; Publicans, Beersellers; Bakers, Confectioners (Dealers).

THE PRICE OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

BREAD. In continuance of the record of variations in the price of bread, published periodically in the Labour Gazette, returns have again been collected from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain, and Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on June 1st, 1903.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 240 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales and 128 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and the mean of the prices returned.

Table with 9 columns: District, Present Price (1st June, 1903), Price last quarter (2nd Mar., 1903), Price a year ago (2nd June, 1902). Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, N. Yorks and Yorkshire, Lancs. & Cheshire, N. Mid. Counties, W. do., S. do., Eastern Counties, London, S.E. Counties, S.W. Counties, Wales & Mon., ENGLAND and Wales, SCOTLAND, N. Counties, Eastern Counties*, Lanarkshire, Other Southern Counties, Scotland, Great Britain.

It will be seen that the mean of the prices at 1st June, charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns, shows no change as compared with three months or a year ago, being 5.10d. per 4 lbs. at each date. The price has declined slightly in the English districts, both as compared with three months ago and a year ago. On the contrary a slight rise has taken place in Scotland.

Returns from Local Correspondents.

The returns as to the price of bread furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department relate to

* Kincardine, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of June and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of the bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for ordinary household bread of average quality.

As compared with a month ago the price per 4 lbs. has remained unchanged in all the towns given in the following Table:—

Table with 9 columns: Place, 1902 (2nd June, 1st July, 1st Sept., 1st Oct.), 1903 (2nd Feb., 2nd April, 1st May, 1st June). Rows include London, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cardiff, Derby, Huddersfield, Hull, Ipswich, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbro', Newcastle-on-Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Potteries District, Wolver'pton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the colonies from 1st September, 1902, to 31st May, 1903, amounted to 59,809,133 cwts., compared with 52,093,249 cwts. in the corresponding nine months of 1901-2. The imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 14,640,842 cwts., compared with 14,536,554 cwts. from 1st September, 1901, to 31st May, 1902. The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months January, 1902, to May, 1903:—

Table with 5 columns: Month, British Wheat (Mean London Gazette Price), Imports (Wheat, Wheat-meal and Flour). Rows include January to December for 1902 and 1903.

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 5th August, 3rd November, 1st December, 1902, 1st January, or at 2nd March, 1903.

† Raised to 5d. on the 4th and reduced to 4d. on the 25th May.

‡ Import Duty commenced in this month.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

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

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, provides that "if in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as herein-after mentioned, be liable to pay compensation" as is specified in the Act.

The Act applies only to certain classes of employment, including "employment by the undertakers as herein-after defined, on or in or about a . . . factory."

In the Act "Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.

"Undertakers" in the case of a factory "means the occupier thereof within the meaning of the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1895."

A man was driving a mail van for his employers for the purpose of conveying parcels to a shed or warehouse at certain docks when he got jammed in between the pole of the van and the wall of the shed or warehouse, and this caused his death. The place where the accident took place was a private roadway, lawfully used by these employers. The widow of the deceased claimed compensation from the employers; and the Recorder made an award in her favour. The employers appealed on the ground that the employment of the deceased was not an employment to which the Act applies, that the injury which the deceased sustained was not a personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, and that they were not the undertakers, within the meaning of the Act. The Court of Appeal held that the roadway on which the accident took place was a factory, and the employers were undertakers within the meaning of the Act, and confirmed the decision of the Recorder, with costs.—*Fogarty v. Wallis, Court of Appeal (Ireland), May 11th.*

BANKRUPTCY OF EMPLOYER: RIGHTS OF WORKMAN AGAINST INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Act provides that, where a company becomes liable under the Act to pay compensation in respect of any accident to one of its employees, and is entitled to any sum from insurers in respect of the amount due to such employee under that liability, then in the event of the company having commenced to be wound up, such employee shall have a first charge upon the sum aforesaid for the amount so due, and the County Court Judge may direct the insurers to pay such sum into the Post Office Savings Bank in the name of the Registrar of the Court, and order the same to be invested or applied in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The widow of a workman in the employment of a smelting company, who met with a fatal accident while at work, claimed compensation from the company, and an award was made in her favour. The company, which had insured with an insurance corporation, went into liquidation, and the corporation was summoned to show cause why they should not pay the amount awarded. The corporation claimed on certain grounds that they were not liable to the smelting company; and since the policy provided for arbitration in case of disputes, the corporation submitted that they were not liable to pay this compensation until their liability had been decided by arbitration. The County Court Judge held that the arbitration clause in the policy did not apply, and decided against the corporation, which appealed. The King's Bench Division held that the insurance corporation were entitled to show cause why they should not pay the amount awarded, and allowed the appeal, with costs, refusing leave to appeal.—*McAteer v. The Lonsdale Hematite Smelting Company, Ocean Accident Insurance Corporation Insurers, King's Bench Division, May 17th.*

"AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS": LODGING ALLOWANCE.

The amount of compensation under the Act in the case of a fatal accident, if the workman leaves any dependants wholly dependent upon his earnings, is "a sum equal to his earnings in the employment of the same employer during the 3 years next preceding the injury, or the sum of £150, whichever of these sums is the larger, but not exceeding £300."

The widow of a goods guard, who had been killed by accident, claimed, on behalf of herself and her children, compensation from the railway company by which he was employed. The wages received by this guard during the 3 years immediately preceding his fatal injury amounted to £236 9s. 10s., and during those 3 years he also received from the company, in addition to his wages, various sums amounting in the whole to £23 2s. for what was termed lodging allowance. The only question was whether these latter sums formed part of the deceased man's "earnings," within the meaning of the Act.

The terms of the employment of a goods guard in the service of the company were as follows:—The regular day's work for a guard was 10 hours a day and 60 hours a week, and for this he was paid a fixed wage. If his week's work exceeded 60 hours, he was entitled

to extra pay. After being on duty for 10 hours a guard was entitled to 9 hours rest, and this was the regular rest time between long outward and return journeys. Guards in the course of their duty frequently had to lodge away from home, and on those occasions they were entitled under the terms of their employment to receive a lodging allowance. The County Court Judge found as a fact that the amount of the allowance was about equal to the reasonable cost of board and lodging (or board only if the company's lodgings were used) for the time covered by the allowance. It was, however, proved that no inquiry was ever made as to the actual expenses incurred by a guard for board and lodgings; and it was admitted that, if a guard boarded and lodged with a friend and at the friend's expense, or if he took his own food with him, he would nevertheless be entitled to his lodging allowance. A guard might, therefore, make a distinct profit out of his allowance; but there was no evidence before the County Court Judge that the deceased or any other guard ever did, in fact, make any such profit; and the guards who gave evidence stated that at times the cost of their board and lodgings exceeded the allowance, and always was as much as it, and that they made no profit, and that they never stayed with friends. The deceased man never lodged in the company's lodgings, but always found his own lodgings; and during the 3 years previous to his death he drew for his lodging allowance on various occasions sums amounting to £23 2s. No witnesses were called on behalf of the applicant. The County Court Judge held that the sum of £23 2s. formed part of the deceased's "earnings," within the meaning of the Act, and that his earnings during the 3 years next preceding his injury amounted to £259 11s. 10d.; and he awarded the payment of this sum, to be apportioned among the dependants of the deceased. The company appealed; and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal.—*Sharpe v. Midland Railway Company, Court of Appeal, April 23rd and May 4th.*

COMPENSATION INCLUDING FUNERAL EXPENSES.

A workman employed by an iron and steel company having met with a fatal accident, compensation was claimed from the company by his father, as being partially dependent on the earnings of the deceased, and the Sheriff-Substitute awarded him a sum, which included £7 4s. paid by him in defraying his son's funeral expenses. On appeal, the Court of Session confirmed this decision.—*John Hughes v. The Summerlee and Mossend Coal Company, Limited, Court of Session, May 16th.*

COMPENSATION FOR PARTIAL INCAPACITY.

In the case of a non-fatal accident the compensation provided by the Act, where total or partial incapacity for work results from the injury, is a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week, not exceeding 50 per cent. of the workman's average weekly earnings, such weekly payment not to exceed £1. "In fixing the amount of the weekly payment regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident."

A workman, employed by an iron and steel company, who had been injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, claimed compensation from the company. His average weekly earnings before the accident were £2 3s. 4d., and the company paid him £1 per week from two weeks after the accident until they gave him a light job at £1 per week, from which date they offered to pay him 11s. 8d. per week, being 50 per cent. of the difference between what the man earned before the accident and his wages for this light job, but declined to pay more. The Sheriff-Substitute awarded compensation at the rate of 11s. 8d. per week, and gave expenses to the company. On appeal, the Court of Session recalled the judgment of the Sheriff-Substitute, holding that the Sheriff-Substitute was wrong in assuming that he was restricted to allowing only 50 per cent. of the difference between the old and the new earnings of the workman.—*Thomas Corbet v. The Glasgow Iron and Steel Company, Limited, Court of Session, May 14th.*

APPEAL: SECURITY FOR COSTS.

A stevedore, who had suffered injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, claimed compensation from his employers. The County Court Judge made an award in favour of the employers. Upon the application of the stevedore execution was stayed pending an appeal to the Court of Appeal. Notice of appeal having been given, and the appeal entered, the employers applied for an order for security for costs. For the stevedore it was contended that an order for security for costs would not be made when the County Court Judge had stayed execution with a view to an appeal. The Court of Appeal held that the case came within the ordinary rule, and that security for costs must be given.—*Shea v. Drolenoux and Another, Court of Appeal, May 11th.*

(2) Employers' Liability.

WHO IS A "WORKMAN"? SEAMSTRESS.

In an action brought against her employers by a seamstress under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, the question arose whether the plaintiff was within the Act as a workman, within the meaning of the Act, which defines "workman" to mean "a railway servant and any person to whom the Employers and Workmen Act, 1875, applies." In the last named statute "the expression 'workman' does not include a domestic or menial servant, but save as aforesaid, means any person who, being a labourer, servant in husbandry, journeyman, artificer, handicraftsman, miner or otherwise engaged in manual labour, whether under the age of 21 years or above that age, has entered into or works under a contract with an employer, whether the contract be made before or after the passing of this

Act, be express or implied, oral or in writing, and be a contract of service or a contract personally to execute any work or labour."

The plaintiff was a skirt assistant; she used both treadle machine and needle and thread to sew seams, and she ironed seams with an iron heated at a stove.

The County Court Judge held that the seamstress was not a workman, within the meaning of the Employers' Liability Act; but, on appeal, the King's Bench Division held that she was, and ordered a new trial, leave to appeal being granted.—*Maynard v. Peter Robinson, Limited, King's Bench Division, May 14th.*

(3) Factory and Workshop Act.

TEMPERATURE OF WORK ROOMS.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, declares that "in every factory and workshop adequate measures must be taken for securing and maintaining a reasonable temperature in each room in which any person is employed, but the measures so taken must not interfere with the purity of the air of any room in which any person is employed."

A dressmaking company were proceeded against by the Factory Department for having infringed the provision just cited in respect to 22 workrooms, in which 350 persons were employed. The rooms, which were heated by steam pipes, were visited on February 4th, and again on February 18th, by a Factory Inspector, and it was alleged that they were then too cold, the temperature varying from 54 degrees to 61 degrees in the different rooms. In some of them gaslights were burning. The Magistrate convicted the company, imposing fines with costs, and ordering them to make good the alleged defects. The company appealed. On behalf of the prosecution medical witnesses were called, and stated that, in their opinion, the temperature in workshops used for sedentary occupations should be from 60 degrees to 65 degrees, and that if the gas was used for heating purposes it would vitiate the atmosphere. Counsel for the defendants stated that the company had spent £500 in putting steam pipes into these rooms 3 years ago, and called medical and other witnesses who said that they considered 56 degrees to 60 degrees a reasonable temperature, and also the forewomen of the several rooms, who proved that none of the workpeople complained of the cold, and that the gas was burning only when additional light was required. The appeal was allowed, with costs, and the convictions and order were quashed.—*County of London Sessions, April 30th, reported May 1st.*

(4) Merchant Shipping Act.

RELIEF OF DISTRESSED SEAMEN.

The Merchant Shipping Acts empower the Board of Trade to make regulations with respect to the relief, maintenance, and sending home of seamen found in distress abroad. Certain authorities, including Governors of British possessions, are required to provide in accordance with and on the conditions prescribed by such regulations for the maintenance of distressed seamen, and to provide such seamen with a passage home; and it is provided that those authorities shall be paid in respect of the expenses of such maintenance and conveyance such sums as may be allowed by the Board of Trade, which is given power to recover the same from the owners of the ship to which the distressed seamen belonged. Section 193, Sub-Section (3) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, provides as follows: "In any proceeding for such recovery, the production of the account (if any) of the expenses furnished in accordance with the Act or the distressed seamen regulations, and proof of payment of the expenses by or on behalf of the Board of Trade, shall be sufficient evidence that the expenses were incurred or repaid under this Act by or on behalf of the Crown." On February 1st, 1901, while off the coast of South Australia, a British ship, with a crew of 26 hands (including the master) struck on a sunken rock and became a total wreck. The crew lost the whole of their effects except the clothes they were wearing, but were saved and taken in the ship's boats to a South Australian port, arriving there on February 2nd, 1901. Between February 2nd and 4th, 1901, the crew were subsisted by the Governor of the Colony on behalf of the Crown. On February 4th, 1901, the crew were provided with passages to another port by the same authority. The crew on their arrival at the port last referred to on February 4th were (except the master) subsisted there by the same authority, and were also provided by the same authority with necessary clothing. On February 6th, 1901, the representatives of the owners of the ship paid each member of the crew the balance of the wages due to him under the agreement with the crew up to the time the vessel was lost. The majority of the crew obtained employment on the spot, but 8 members thereof failed to obtain any employment, and were provided with passages to the United Kingdom by the same authority. The total expenses incurred on behalf of the crew (excluding the master) by the said authority amounted to the sum of £236 5s. 1d. The Board of Trade, on behalf of the Crown, paid the sum of £236 5s. 1d. to the authority as money due in respect of expenses incurred on account of distressed seamen within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Acts. The shipowners paid to the Board £136 6s. 2d. in respect of the expenses of members of the crew, 14 in number. As regards these 14 members of the crew, the wages paid to them were in every case less than the amount expended on their behalf. The Board of Trade brought an action against the shipowners to recover the balance. Such balance represented the amount of expenses incurred on behalf of the 11 remaining members of the crew, the wages paid to whom were in every case greater than the expenses so incurred. The Court held that these also were "distressed seamen" within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Acts, and that the Board of Trade could recover, and that production of the account mentioned in the Section cited above and

proof of payment was conclusive evidence, and gave judgment for the Board of Trade, who did not ask for costs.—*Board of Trade v. Sailing Ship Glenpark, King's Bench Division, May 12th.*

(5) Miscellaneous.

ARRIVING LATE FOR WORK.

A collier brought an action against the company, by which he was employed, to recover one day's wages, which had been stopped because the plaintiff was not in the cage on the way down to the bottom of the pit by 7 a.m. There was a rule or practice at the defendants' colliery that the miners must be in the cage or at the bottom of the pit by 7 a.m., the cage running from 6 to 7 for that purpose. The workman went to the company's premises about 6.40, got his lamp, and took his place in the queue without loitering. The cage was in motion when it struck 7, and the workman would have gone in the cage on its next journey, but was not allowed. The County Court Judge gave judgment for the company on the ground that they had offered the plaintiff sufficient facilities to get down before 7 o'clock. The workman appealed; and the King's Bench Division dismissed the appeal, with costs.—*Williams v. Penrhyber Colliery Company, King's Bench Division, May 12th.*

POLICE PENSIONS: HOW CALCULATED.

By the Police Act, 1890, a constable is entitled, after completing a certain time of service, to a pension to be calculated "according to the amount of his annual pay at the date of his retirement." Confirming a judgment given by the Court of Appeal, the House of Lords has held that a special allowance in addition to his ordinary pay, paid to a constable in respect of permanent special duty, is not "annual pay" within the meaning of the Act, and cannot be taken into account in calculating the amount of his retiring pension.—*Upperton v. Ridley, House of Lords, May 26th.*

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, etc.)

Canada.

THERE is a good demand for farm labourers throughout Canada during the next three months. A report from St. John, New Brunswick, states that there is a good demand for farm labourers, and a very good demand for female servants, but no demand for miners, and not much for general labourers; the strike at the Milltown Cotton Mills has been settled. At Montreal there is a good demand for farm and general labourers, female servants and mechanics; the strike of the street car men has broken down. At Toronto (Ontario) there is a good demand for farm and general labourers, female servants and mechanics in various trades, and wages have risen in many cases, but there have been several strikes and labour disputes. The metal, engineering and shipbuilding branches, and the woodworking and furnishing trades have been especially busy throughout Canada. Young men, who have been well brought up, should not come to Canada to learn farming, unless they go to work with farmers who pay them wages. In New Ontario family men are wanted to take up free farms; single men are not wanted.

There has lately been a good demand for mechanics and coal miners at the mines and works at Sydney in Nova Scotia, but the labour market is now in an unsatisfactory condition, and men without capital are not recommended to go there. In other parts of Nova Scotia there is some demand for good coal miners. Large numbers of mechanics and farm hands have entered Manitoba and the North West this season, and the supply seems now to be sufficient. In British Columbia lumbering has been brisk both in the mills and in the bush, and gold and silver mining at Rossland has improved since the settlement of the Fernie coal strike; the wages of mechanics have in several cases been raised or their hours decreased from 10 to 9 a day, and the supply of men seems quite sufficient.

Australia.

New South Wales.—There is no demand for more labour, and persons are not advised to go to New South Wales at the present time in search of work.

Victoria.—There is no demand for more labour, and prices of provisions have increased in parts owing to the bad season. The strike of coalminers at the Outtrim mines continues.

Queensland.—Reports for the quarter ending 31st March

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

last show as follows:—In the north there is no demand for anyone except female servants and some general labourers; in the central districts there is practically no demand for anyone; and in the south there is a good demand for agricultural labourers and general labourers only. More mechanics, station hands, miners, or married couples on farms and stations are not wanted in any part of Queensland. The drought has caused great losses in the central districts and elsewhere: since rains have fallen both pastoral, agricultural and mining prospects have improved, but there is still no demand for more labour other than that mentioned.

Western Australia.—There is a good demand for farm labourers and female servants, but none for miners. Skilled men in the building trades (except masons) can get work at Perth, Northam, and one or two other places, but not at Coolgardie, where many mechanics and general labourers have been out of work. The timber mills have been busy.

New Zealand.

The building and engineering trades have been busy in nearly all the principal places. The clothing trade has been busy at Auckland and Dunedin, and competent hands have been in demand. The boot trade has been fairly busy. Saddlers and carriage makers have been busy in several places, and also men in the saw mills, flax mills, coal mines, and tanneries and fellmongeries. Competent farm and general labourers have no difficulty in finding employment.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Carpenters are in demand at Kimberley, Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. Compositors are wanted at Cape Town. Employers domiciled in Cape Colony can obtain cheap passages at £3 a head for male or female servants engaged by them in England.

Natal.—The building and other trades are for the most part busy; skilled men and general labourers obtain work at good wages, but the cost of living is high, and the local supply of labour has recently been increased by many arrivals. There is a demand on the Government Railways for a few skilled boilermakers with at least 5 years' experience in locomotive workshops, and for good platelayers, from 25 to 40 years of age, with 5 years' experience; free passages are provided; application must be made, stating experience, age, height, whether married or single, and enclosing testimonials—to the Agent General for Natal, 26, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Transvaal.—Permits are necessary for those entering the Transvaal. Carpenters at Pretoria have struck for a minimum standard of £6 16s. a week. The building trades continue brisk, and good carpenters and bricklayers can obtain work, but there is no opening for inferior or unskilled men. Plasterers and stone cutters (free stone) are in demand. There is a fair demand for first class painters, but none whatever for rough painters; they must be thoroughly good men, capable of mixing their own paints, &c. There is practically no demand for tailors, and some men are idle; most of the employees are Russians. There is always work for good saddlers, but the market is limited. There is no demand whatever for ironworkers, foundries having not yet been fully restarted owing to depression. Good fitters and turners are in demand, but the market is limited, and only the best men can obtain work; there are plenty of indifferent hands. There is no demand for butchers. There is a fair demand for compositors. Emigrants must remember that the standard of work required from workmen is very high in all trades, and that inferior men have little chance of employment, also that the cost of living is two or three times as high as in England. Female servants may obtain assisted passages, provided they undertake to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages; they must apply to the South Africa Colonisation Committee, 47, Victoria Street, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—Residents in the Colony can now obtain, through the Local Magistrates, advanced and reduced passages for persons from England, the

cheapest fare for men to Bloemfontein being £9 11s. 3d. Permits are necessary for all persons entering the Colony.

Pietermaritzburg.—Building Trade.—The Department has received from the Masters' Building Trades Association of Pietermaritzburg, a copy of the monthly report of the Association, dated April 30th. The report states that the building trade "is brighter than ever," and refers to scarcity of bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and plasterers, and also of good plumbers and painters, though indifferent men in these two branches are said to be fairly plentiful.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in April.—On the whole the state of employment was less satisfactory in April than in March. Cold and frosty weather in the former month impeded agricultural operations and delayed wood peeling and barking in many districts. The building trades, however, were not affected, and were in full operation. The textile trades continued well employed in the Nord department and in the western and south-western parts of the country, but showed a slight decline in the Vosges and Roanne districts. As regards silk manufacture no change was reported. The hosiery trade experienced a general depression. The garment-making trade re-entered on its busy season, while hat-making and boot-making were almost everywhere in their slack season. The improvement already reported in the metal trades was maintained, but there was no resumption of work for the tin-box makers of Brittany. In the furniture trades the improvement reported in March was not maintained. Makers of wooden shoes continued very actively employed.

Of 156,144 members of 1,050 Trade Unions (not including those of the miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made returns as to the state of employment in April, 1903, 14,978, or 9·6 per cent., were stated to be out of work, as compared with 7·5 per cent. in the preceding month, and 11 per cent. in April, 1902.

Coal Mining in April.—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in April was 5·88, as compared with 5·90 in the preceding month, and 5·84 in April, 1902. Taking all workpeople together (surface and underground), 72 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 28 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, as compared with 83 and 13 respectively in March.

Labour Disputes in April.—Thirty-two disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in April, 31 of these involving 4,752 workpeople. In the preceding month there were 37 disputes, 34 of which involved 4,728 workpeople, while in April, 1902, there were 107 disputes, 26,941 workpeople being involved in 104 of them. Ten of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 6 in the metal trades, 8 in the textile trades, 2 in brushmaking, and 6 in trades not included within any of these groups. Thirty new and old disputes came to an end in April; of these 9 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 11 in favour of the employers, and 10 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in April.—Seven cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department during April. The initiative was taken by the Justice of the Peace in 3 cases, and by the workpeople in 1. As regards the remaining 3 cases, information on this point is not given.

In one case the employers declined, and in another ignored the invitation of the Justice of the Peace to form a Committee of Conciliation. In 5 cases conciliation proceedings took place in the presence of the Justice of the Peace, and resulted in the settlement of 2 disputes. In one of the 3 cases in which no agreement could be arrived at, the dispute was afterwards settled by a compromise between the parties.

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).

GERMANY.

*Employment in April.**—The slight improvement reported for March was maintained, but not accentuated in April. In a few industries, however, employment declined owing to special causes; thus, breweries and (to some extent) the ready-made clothing trade were adversely affected by the colder weather which prevailed in April.

AUSTRIA.†

Employment in April.—The statistics of the labour registries (public and private), which furnished returns to the Austrian Labour Department for April, show that, on an average, 175 applications were made for every 100 situations offered in that month, as compared with 168 in the previous month and 166 in April, 1902. Taking the sexes separately, there were, in the case of men, 228 applications on an average for every 100 situations, as against 210 in the previous month and 231 in April, 1902; while in the case of women there were 99 applications, as compared with 101 in the previous month and 85 in April, 1902.

Labour Disputes in April.—Twenty-six disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in April, the number of workpeople taking part in 24 of these being 6,874. Five of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 3 in the metal trades, 5 in the textile trades, 4 in the clothing trades, 4 in the woodworking trades, 2 in the food preparation trades, and 3 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups. Of 22 disputes of which the results were reported, 2 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 11 were compromised.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information contained in despatches to the Foreign Office from Sir P. Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated May 8th and 19th.

Strike in New York Shipyards.—With reference to this dispute (see GAZETTE, April, 1903, p. 99), H.M. Consul-General reports that an agreement has been arrived at between the New York Metal Trades' Association and the Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders. The endeavour to enforce the demand that none but members of the latter organisation should be employed has failed.

Disputes in the Building Trade.—On May 6th a lock-out was declared by the dealers in building material and lumber in Greater New York and its vicinity, owing to the demand made by the Building Material Drivers' Union and the Material Handlers' Union, that none but Union workmen should be employed. The number of men affected was said to be 3,500 drivers and 750 handlers of material, and the lock-out had caused the cessation of all building operations in New York.

The building trades were also seriously affected by a strike of carpenters, the Brotherhood of Carpenters, an entirely American organisation, having struck against the employment of any member of the Amalgamated Carpenters' Society, which is affiliated to a Carpenters' Union in Great Britain.

Some 5,000 Italian labourers belonging to the Rockmen and Excavators' Union employed on the subway of the Rapid Transit Line in New York were also on strike at the date of Sir P. Sanderson's last report. The men had been advised by the Committee of the Central Federated Union to return to work pending arbitration, but they had refused to do so unless their wages were raised to 8s. 4d. per day.

From newspaper reports, it appears that on June 10th the difficulty in the building trades was at an end, and 65,000 workmen were to resume work at once.

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Dispute in the Building Trades.—Reporting to the Foreign Office under date of May 7th, Mr. W. Powell, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, states that on May 1st 6,000 carpenters, belonging to the Brotherhood of Carpenters, struck for an advance in wages from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 1d. per hour, and a working day of 8 hours on ordinary week days, and of 4 hours on Saturdays, the new conditions to take effect at once, and by next day some 1,500 other workmen in various branches of the building trades had struck in sympathy. The employers offered a compromise of 1s. 10½d. per hour after July 1st, which the men refused. The Unions of the hoisting engineers, stone derrick men and marble cutters subsequently struck in sympathy, and the Plasterers' Labourers' Union struck on May 4th for an advance from 1s. 5½d. to 1s. 8d. per hour.

Dispute in the Textile Trade.—At the date of H.M. Consul's report, dissatisfaction also prevailed among the textile workers, who threatened to strike on June 1st unless granted a 9 hours' day at 10 hours' pay.

A cutting from a New York newspaper, dated June 2nd, and transmitted to the Board of Trade by Mr. E. Seymour Bell, British Commercial Agent in the United States, reported that a strike had been begun by 90,000 textile operatives in Philadelphia.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Disputes in various Trades.—Reporting to the Foreign Office, under date of May 4th, Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, stated that about 10,000 workers were on strike in different trades, about 7,000 of these being at the Deering Harvester Works and 2,000 employees at different laundries through the city. Reporting on May 21st, H.M. Consul stated that about 21,000 men were on strike at that date.

The Deering strike was practically for recognition of the Unions, and better working conditions in the twine factories.

The Laundry workers all demanded increased pay; the Companies said that any advance in wages must be paid by the customer, and were afraid that trade will fall off.

The engineers at the stock yard struck for an eight-hour day and increased wages, and returned to work pending a settlement by arbitration by which they bound themselves to abide by the decision of the three arbitrators. The three chosen were clergymen, and they rendered a decision that while, in their opinion, 12 hours a day was much too long for a man in the responsible position of an engineer to remain at his post, yet it would so disrupt the business of the packers to grant an 8-hour day that the men must continue to work 12 hours. They also decided that the men must be skilled men, and that their wages should not be less than 1s. 3d. an hour, which is less than some branches of unskilled labour. A fee of £200 each was also asked for arbitrating, of which the Unions were to bear half, but the Unions have sent the arbitrators cheques at the rate of 1s. 3d. an hour for the time occupied.

Every trade in Chicago is wanting an advance in wages, shorter hours and better conditions, and in most trades concessions have already been granted or are under consideration.

Free Employment Agencies: Law declared unconstitutional.—The Supreme Court has decided that the law of the State of Illinois creating the Free Employment Agencies managed by the State and which have done very good work, is unconstitutional as it contained a clause prohibiting the officers from furnishing to applicants for work the names of any firm or person whose employees are out on strike.

Growth of Trade Unions.—On the 1st of May, 1902, there were in Chicago 327 recognised labour Unions with 120,000 members, while now there are 550 with over 200,000 members, and more Unions are being formed.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—BUILDING TRADES.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns supplied by 77 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 87,000 building operatives of all classes, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 191,000, employment in the building trades generally was moderate during May, and about the same as a month ago. It is not quite so good as a year ago.

The returns from Employers' Associations covering 54 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the returns show employment to have been dull or bad, 33 per cent. fair or moderate, and 13 per cent. good.

With bricklayers employment is reported as fair; it is better than a month and a year ago. Employment with masons is fair, but not so good as a month or a year ago.

With carpenters and joiners employment is fair, and shows an improvement compared with a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 2.6 at the end of May, compared with 2.8 in April, and 2.5 a year ago.

Employment with painters is good. It is, on the whole, better than a month ago, and about the same as in May, 1902. With plasterers employment is dull in England and Scotland, but fair in Ireland. The plumbers continue to report employment as fair. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union plumbers was 6.4 at the end of May, compared with 7.1 in April, and 5.9 in May, 1902. The slaters and tilers report employment as fair in England, good in Scotland.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1903.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for May, 1903, as compared with a	
		May, 1903.	Apr., 1903.†	May, 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	6,673	3.7	4.2	2.6	- 0.5	+ 1.1
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	6,045	3.8	2.2	1.1	+ 1.6	+ 2.7
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,192	2.4	2.6	3.2	- 0.2	- 0.8
Yorkshire	5,117	3.1	3.2	3.5	- 0.1	- 0.4
East Midlands	2,802	3.1	2.3	3.5	+ 0.8	- 0.4
West Midlands	4,629	2.4	4.3	2.3	- 1.9	+ 0.1
Eastern Counties ...	1,204	1.2	2.1	0.8	- 0.9	+ 0.4
S. and S.W. Counties ...	5,618	1.2	2.0	1.3	- 0.8	- 0.1
Wales and Monmouth ...	1,362	3.7	4.9	2.6	- 1.2	+ 1.1
Scotland	5,033	2.4	0.5	0.6	+ 1.9	+ 1.8
Ireland	4,764	1.3	2.9	4.6	- 1.6	- 3.3
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	1,134	8.6	9.3	10.1	- 0.7	- 1.5
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,561	5.8	6.7	3.5	- 0.9	+ 2.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,418	6.2	6.7	7.2	- 0.5	- 1.0
Yorkshire	1,021	6.1	5.2	6.5	+ 0.9	- 0.4
East Midlands	631	5.5	8.2	2.7	- 2.7	+ 2.8
West Midlands	488	7.2	10.1	5.1	- 2.9	+ 2.1
Eastern Counties ...	125	0.8	3.2	2.2	- 2.4	- 1.4
S. and S.W. Counties ...	467	3.2	7.7	5.3	- 4.5	- 2.1
Wales and Monmouth ...	256	5.5	8.9	7.4	- 3.4	- 1.9
Scotland	1,865	5.4	4.6	3.9	+ 0.8	+ 1.5
Ireland	616	11.7	10.7	7.4	+ 1.0	+ 4.3

London.—Employment in London is about the same as in April, but is not so good as a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 71 employers show that in the last week of May they paid wages to 16,490 men, as compared with 16,700 in April, and 17,398 in May, 1902.

Employment with bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners and painters is moderate; with plasterers it is bad.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † Amended Figures.

Northern Counties.—In the Tyne and Wear district employment with painters is reported as good, with carpenters and joiners as fairly good, with masons as improving, with plumbers as moderate, with slaters and tilers as quiet, and with plasterers as bad. Employment with bricklayers on the Wear is moderate; on the Tyne it is rather better than last month. At Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool employment is fairly good in most branches, but with plasterers at Hartlepool it is bad, and slack with plumbers at Stockton.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Liverpool employment remains fair; at Manchester an improvement is shown in some branches, but masons are slack. In the Blackburn and Burnley district all branches are busy. Employment in the Bolton district, though improving, is not so good as a year ago. At Chorley all branches are slack. At Oldham employment is moderate and about the same as a month and a year ago.

Yorkshire.—Employment still remains moderate and about the same as a month ago. At Sheffield a slight improvement is shown. At Hull some branches are slack, but masons and painters report employment as good, and plasterers as fair. In Leeds employment with masons, bricklayers and plumbers is quiet. Employment at Huddersfield, Brighouse and Halifax is moderate; quiet at Bradford.

East Midland Counties.—Employment continues quiet. At Derby it is reported as good with painters and plasterers, quiet with other branches. In Nottingham employment is dull with bricklayers and plasterers, slack with masons, and fairly good with painters. At Leicester employment with bricklayers and painters has improved; with other branches it remains quiet.

West Midland Counties.—Employment still continues dull, but shows a slight improvement on the previous month. Employment at Wolverhampton is quiet, fairly good at Stourbridge, and brisk at Tamworth. At Birmingham it is quiet, and throughout North Staffordshire it continues dull for the time of year.

Eastern Counties.—Employment at Norwich and Cromer is fairly good with plasterers, but with bricklayers it is slack. At Ipswich it is moderate with bricklayers and carpenters; fair with masons; good with painters, and bad with plasterers. At Colchester bricklayers are well employed; carpenters fairly so.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment has slightly improved during the month. At Bristol employment is fair with masons and painters; moderate with bricklayers. At Gloucester it is fair with plasterers; improving with bricklayers. Employment in the Plymouth district is good with bricklayers and painters; fair with masons, plasterers and carpenters; dull with plumbers.

Wales and Monmouth.—Employment in South Wales is good with painters, fair with masons. With carpenters and joiners, plumbers and plasterers it is bad in the seaport towns, but moderately good inland. In North Wales employment is fair with bricklayers and plasterers, good with painters, and slack with carpenters and joiners.

Scotland.—Employment shows little change from the previous month and is not quite so good as a year ago. In Glasgow employment is good, except with bricklayers and masons; overtime is being worked by painters and joiners. In Edinburgh it is bad with masons, dull with bricklayers, quiet with plasterers and plumbers, fair with joiners, and good with glaziers and painters. In Dundee employment with masons is dull but improving, with joiners and slaters fair, with painters good, with plumbers and plasterers bad. At Aberdeen it is fairly good on the whole.

Ireland.—In Dublin most branches are well employed. At Belfast employment is good with carpenters and painters, dull with bricklayers, and bad with plumbers. At Cork employment is fair with carpenters and plasterers; moderate with masons; dull with plumbers.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—COAL MINING; OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

COAL MINING.

[NOTE.—The following Tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and ground at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during May was on the whole fairly good. The number of workpeople employed at collieries for which returns have been received for both periods was 3.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Returns received relating to pits employing 489,731 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked by the collieries included in the returns during the four weeks ended 23rd May was 5.21 per week, as against 4.82 in April and 4.89 in May, 1902.

In the following Table detailed particulars are given for the different mining districts:—

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MAY, 1903 AND 1902, AND IN APRIL, 1903.

District.	No. employed in May, 1903, 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 May, 1903, as compared with	
		23rd May, 1903.	25th April, 1903.*	24th May, 1902.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	40,013	5.38	4.87	5.19	+ .51	+ .19
Durham	94,686	5.47	5.06	5.24	+ .41	+ .23
Cumberland	6,799	5.37	5.07	4.86	+ .30	+ .51
Yorkshire	71,340	4.98	4.65	4.60	+ .33	+ .38
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,226	4.96	4.67	4.60	+ .29	+ .36
Derbyshire	49,386	4.80	4.52	4.34	+ .28	+ .46
Nottingham and Leicester	29,085	4.52	3.94	4.08	+ .58	+ .44
Staffordshire	28,983	4.80	4.52	4.55	+ .28	+ .25
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	7,546	5.28	4.75	4.60	+ .53	+ .68
Gloucester and Somerset...	8,006	5.04	4.75	4.77	+ .29	+ .27
North Wales... ..	13,015	5.52	5.12	5.13	+ .40	+ .39
South Wales and Mon. ...	59,727	5.84	5.09	5.29	+ .75	+ .55
ENGLAND & WALES ...	449,812	5.20	4.78	4.84	+ .42	+ .36
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	20,380	5.23	5.28	5.17	- .05	+ .06
The Lothians	4,696	5.48	5.44	5.48	+ .04	...
Fife	14,255	5.48	5.31	5.60	+ .17	- .12
SCOTLAND	39,331	5.35	5.31	5.37	+ .04	- .02
IRELAND.	588	4.77	5.00	4.62	- .23	+ .15
United Kingdom	489,731	5.21	4.82	4.89	+ .39	+ .32

It will be seen from the above Table that the average number of days worked by the pits during May was greater than in April, or in the corresponding period of last year. In both April, 1903, and May, 1902, however, the average number of days worked by the pits was reduced by holidays.

Comparing the average number of days worked by the collieries during May in the different districts shown in the above Table, it will be seen that the highest average (5.84 days) was worked in South Wales, and the lowest (4.77 days) in Ireland, and also that in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Leicester, and Staffordshire less than 5 days per week were worked by the pits during the month.

Of the total number of workpeople included above 74.2 per cent. were employed 20 or more days during the four weeks ended May 23rd, as against 52.6 per cent. a month ago, and 58.9 per cent. a year ago. Here again the comparison is affected by the days lost through holidays in April, 1903, and May, 1902, respectively.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland steam coal pits worked on an average rather less than 5½ days per week and house coal pits about 5½ days per week. Employment is stated to have been better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. In Durham employment was fair, but not so good as either a month or a year ago; manufacturing, house, gas and coking coal pits worked on an average 5.4, 5.2, 5.4 and 5.7 days per week respectively. In the Leeds

* Easter Holidays are included in this period. † Whitsuntide holidays are included in this period.

district employment in the house coal pits has slightly fallen off. At Castleford and Morley between four and five days per week have been worked, at Dewsbury employment continues bad. In the Sheffield district 4.58 days per week have been worked; in Derbyshire the average was about 4½ days per week. In the Burnley, Accrington and Oldham districts employment has been fairly good; in the Bolton district slack. In Leicestershire employment was not quite so regular as in April, though better than a year ago. In the North Staffordshire district employment continued fairly brisk. In the Cannock Chase and in the Halesowen, Old Hill and Blackheath districts 3 and 4½ days per week respectively were worked. In the Tipton, Oldbury and Dudley districts, and in Shropshire 4½ days per week were worked. In the Forest of Dean employment slackened in the house coal pits, the steam coal pits however were busy; in the Bristol and Radstock districts the miners were not fully employed; in North Wales employment was fair, practically full time being worked in most collieries.

In Ayrshire some short time was worked; in Stirlingshire employment was irregular. In the West Lothian district employment was about the same as in April. In Mid and East Lothians employment was steady. In Fifeshire employment has slightly improved.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during May amounted to 4,413,595 tons, as compared with 3,582,361 tons in April, and 3,865,311 tons in May, 1902.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing 18,584 workpeople, from 5 Employers' Associations and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in iron and shale mines has been good, in tin and copper mines, quiet; at slate, limestone and sandstone quarries it has been fairly good, and in granite quarries it was good in England, and in Scotland it was good in Aberdeenshire, but bad in Forfarshire.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. During the four weeks ended 23rd May, the average number of days worked per week by the 133 mines and openworks, returns respecting which have been received from employers was 5.78, as against 5.61 days in April, 1903, and 5.72 in May, 1902.

It should be noted when comparing these averages, that those for April, 1903, and May, 1902, were affected by the Easter and Whitsuntide holidays respectively.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

District.	No. employed in May, 1903, 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 May, 1903, as compared with	
		23rd May, 1903.	25th April, 1903.*	24th May, 1902.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,810	5.93	5.77	5.75	+ 0.16	+ 0.18
Cleveland	7,021	5.89	5.70	5.77	+ 0.19	+ 0.12
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	882	5.66	5.71	5.69	- 0.05	- 0.03
Northamptonshire	631	5.66	5.36	5.75	+ 0.30	+ 0.09
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,135	4.47	4.25	5.08	+ 0.22	- 0.61
Other places in England... ..	131	5.87	5.11	5.44	+ 0.76	+ 0.43
Total, England	14,610	5.77	5.69	5.70	+ 0.18	+ 0.07
SCOTLAND	1,212	5.85	5.91	5.95	- 0.06	- 0.10
IRELAND	100	5.94	5.95	6.00	- 0.01	- 0.06
Total and Averages	18,922	5.78	5.61	5.72	+ 0.17	+ 0.06

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,922, as compared with 15,912 in April, and 15,476 in May last year. Of these,

* Easter holidays are included in this period. † Whitsuntide holidays are included in this period.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—MINING AND QUARRYING; IRON AND STEEL WORKS; PIG IRON.

91.2 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended May 23rd, as compared with 85.2 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners in the Lothians continues good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that 2,662 workpeople were employed in May, compared with 2,638 in April and 2,658 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines during the four weeks ended 23rd May, was 5.83, as compared with 5.77 in the four weeks ended 25th April, and 5.59 for the four weeks ended 24th May, 1902.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—In Durham the lead ore miners were fully employed. In the Calstock and Liskeard districts employment in the tin and copper mines is dull. In Camborne it is moderate, and has improved in the more western mines.

Quarrying.

Slate.—In the Festiniog district, North Wales, employment with slate quarrymen has been good, and much the same as last month, but rather better than a year ago. In Devon and Cornwall employment was moderate.

Limestone.—In Wearside employment continues good. In Derbyshire and Leicestershire limestone quarrymen are well employed. In Devon and Cornwall employment is moderate; in North Wales it continues good.

Granite.—In Leicestershire the quarrymen have been fairly well employed. At Dartmoor and Gunnislake employment has been good; in the more western quarries of Cornwall it has been fairly good; in North Wales it has been good. In Aberdeenshire employment was good and better than a month ago, but not quite so good as a year ago. In Forfarshire it was bad and worse than either a month ago or a year ago, a good deal of machinery being idle.

Other Stone.—In the Gateshead district employment with quarrymen was rather better than a month ago; in the grit stone quarries in Rowsley and district, Derbyshire, it has been fair. In the sandstone quarries of Hollington and Alton (Staffs) overtime is being worked. In North Wales freestone quarries employment has been fully maintained.

Settmaking.—In Leicestershire settmakers have been fairly well employed. In North Wales and at Clee Hills (Shropshire) employment has been good. In Aberdeenshire it has been fair. In the Edinburgh district employment shows no improvement.

Clay Works.—In Cornwall employment with china clay workers is steady.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works shows a slight improvement as compared with April, but a falling off as compared with a year ago.

At 202 works, covered by returns received from employers, 74,564 workpeople were employed during the week ending May 23rd, an increase of 1,517 compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 714 compared with a year ago. The falling off, however, in the numbers employed in May as compared with a year ago was confined to Scotland, the figures for England and Wales showing an increase both as compared with a month and a year ago.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1903, as compared with	
	May 23rd, 1903.	Apr. 25th, 1903.	May 31st, 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales ...	62,734	61,250	62,241	+1,484	+ 493
Scotland ...	11,830	11,797	13,037	+ 33	-1,207
Total ...	74,564	73,047	75,278	+1,517	- 714

* Including iron puddling and rolling and steel making and rolling.

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table given below relates to the number of shifts worked at iron and steel works at which 90 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table were employed.

The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended May 23rd was 5.37, as compared with 5.36 in the week ending April 25th, and 5.42 in May, 1902.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in May, 1903, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			Apr., 1903.	May, 1902.
Under 5 per week ...	7,481	11.2	13.9	10.6
5 per week ...	22,426	33.4	32.1	35.9
5½ per week ...	726	1.1	1.0	1.1
6 per week ...	35,324	52.6	52.3	51.7
Over 6 per week ...	1,172	1.7	0.7	0.7
Total ...	67,129	100.0	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the above Table (10 per cent. of the total number returned as employed) worked the same average number of shifts as those who are included, the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first Table may be estimated to have been 400,146, compared with 391,766 in the week ended April 25th, and with 408,381 in May, 1902.

On this basis the volume of employment at the works included in the returns shows an increase of 2.1 per cent. compared with April, but a decrease of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. The following reports relating to the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment with steel smelters at Newburn, Consett and Jarrow has been good; and full time was worked in steel plate and bar mills at Newburn and Consett. Sheet and bar mills in the Jarrow district were better employed than last month, but cogging mills show little change. At the finished iron and steel works employment has improved.

Cleveland District.—Employment in the rail mills continues fairly good, in plate mills it is moderate; in other departments fair, and in metal expansion works good.

South Yorkshire.—In the Leeds district employment with ironworkers has been moderate, and with steel workers quiet. In the Sheffield district employment with steel smelters has been slack.

Midlands.—In Derbyshire the rolling mills and malleable iron works are well employed. In North Staffordshire employment in the forges and steel mills is quiet. In South Staffordshire employment at steel and iron works has fallen off somewhat, except in the sheet mills where it continues steady, while in Shropshire employment is generally fairly good.

South Wales.—Employment generally at iron and steel works has been good. At certain works, however, where new plant is being erected a considerable number of men are unemployed.

Scotland.—Employment with iron and steel workers generally has been fairly good.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows little change as compared with either a month or a year ago.

Returns received with regard to the works of 113 ironmasters, show that 325 blast furnaces were in operation at the end of May, as compared with 327 at the end of April, and 323 at the end of May, 1902. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 325 furnaces in blast at the end of May was about 22,400.

The following Table shows by districts the number of

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—PIG IRON; TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING.

furnaces in blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a month ago.			Present time compared with a year ago.		
	May, 1903.	April, 1903.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1903.	May, 1903.	May, 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1903.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	82	82	...	82	78	+ 4
Cumberland & Lancs.	41	42	- 1	41	42	- 1
S. and S.W. Yorks...	16	15	+ 1	16	16	...
Derby & Nottingham	38	38	...	38	38	...
Leicester, Lincoln } and Northampton }	26	25	+ 1	26	26	...
Stafford & Worcester	33	32	+ 1	33	33	...
S. Wales & Monmouth	16	16	...	16	13	+ 3
Other districts ...	7	7	...	7	7	...
Returned from England & Wales	259	257	+ 2	259	253	+ 6
RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND ...	66	70	- 4	66	70	- 4
Total furnaces included in returns ...	325	327	- 2	325	323	+ 2

The decrease in the number of furnaces in blast in Scotland was due to a dispute.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows a falling off as compared with a month and a year ago. At the end of May 383 mills were in operation, as compared with 390 at the end of April, and 407 a year ago. The total number of works open was 77, and at 48 of these all the mills (239) were in operation, whilst at the remaining 29 works, 144 mills, out of a total of 205 were at work. Of the 383 mills in operation, and employing about 19,000 workpeople, 371 were situated in the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire districts, compared with 378 in April, and 396 in May, 1902.

The following Table shows the number of mills at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,* at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	48	239	...	239
Works giving partial employment	29	144	61	205
Total at end of May, 1903* ...	77	383	61	444
<i>Corresponding Total for April, 1903*</i>	77	390	62	452
<i>Corresponding Total for May, 1902†</i>	81	407	62	469

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	May, 1903.	April, 1903.	May, 1902.	May, 1903.	April, 1903.	May, 1902.
To United States ...	Tons. 3,835	Tons. 3,994	Tons. 6,540	Tons. 74	Tons. 122	Tons. ...
" Other Countries ...	25,407	17,547	20,056	7,002	5,498	3,550
Total ...	29,242	21,541	26,596	7,076	5,620	3,550

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, from two large Companies, from 7 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

† Revised figures

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment is still slack and worse than a year ago, but is rather better than a month ago. In some of the smaller centres it is fair.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,971 members had 4,968 (or 8.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 9.1 per cent. at the end of April, and 6.4 per cent. in May, 1902.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Principal Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for May, 1903, as compared with a	
		May, 1903.	Apr., 1903.	May, 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,243	12.8	13.6	5.3	- 0.8	+ 7.5
Wear ...	4,694	11.7	13.8	5.3	- 4.1	+ 6.4
Tees and Hartlepoons ...	4,855	14.5	18.8	9.5	- 4.3	+ 3.0
Humber ...	2,481	5.2	6.0	13.6	- 0.8	- 8.4
Thames and Medway ...	4,311	4.9	8.5	7.2	- 3.6	- 2.3
Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton	3,657	3.1	3.1	2.4	...	+ 0.7
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,089	11.1	9.4	19.4	+ 1.7	- 8.3
Mersey ...	3,870	4.1	1.9	11.8	+ 2.2	- 7.7
Clyde ...	12,244	9.4	7.4	4.1	+ 2.0	+ 4.8
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,185	9.5	7.9	4.7	+ 1.6	+ 5.2
Belfast ...	3,235	4.2	2.6	1.2	+ 1.6	+ 3.0
Other Districts ...	3,399	1.9	2.1	2.0	- 0.2	- 0.1
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	56,971	8.7	9.1	6.4	- 0.4	+ 2.3

On the *North-East Coast* the general state of employment, though bad and much worse than a year ago, shows some improvement as compared with April. On the *Tyne* some improvement is reported by riveters and caulkers and smiths. Employment continues slack with drillers and hole cutters; with shipwrights it is fair. On the *Wear* employment is moderately good with riveters and caulkers, slack with drillers and hole cutters; with shipwrights it continues to improve. In the *Tees* and *Hartlepool* district iron ship builders and smiths and strikers report employment as moderate, shipwrights and joiners as fair.

On the *Mersey* employment generally continues fair. The class of vessel being built affords good employment to shipwrights; repair work is very slack. At Grimsby employment is bad.

In the *Thames* district employment, though still dull, is better than in April. It is worse than a year ago. At Chatham and Sheerness it continues fairly good.

On the *South Coast* employment shows no change as compared with a month ago, but is not quite so good as a year ago. Shipwrights report it as very good at Portsmouth and Devonport, but not on repairs at Plymouth. At Southampton employment is fair with shipwrights, but with iron shipbuilders is bad.

At the *Bristol Channel Ports* employment though rather worse than a month ago is not so bad as a year ago. With iron shipbuilders it is reported as slack; with shipwrights as fair generally, but very slack at Bristol.

On the *Mersey* employment generally is fair and considerably better than a year ago. As compared with a month ago it shows a decline, repair work having fallen off. On new work at Birkenhead it is rather better.

On the *Clyde* employment is rather worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. With iron shipbuilders it is slack at Greenock and Port Glasgow, moderate elsewhere. With shipwrights and drillers it is dull generally. With joiners it is reported as dull, with shipyard helpers good, with smiths fair and improving.

On the *East Coast of Scotland* employment is slack, and worse than a month and a year ago.

At *Belfast* employment is still very fair, but not so good as a month or a year ago.

Other Districts.—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft employ-

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—ENGINEERING.

ment is good. At Cowes shipwrights report it as dull, iron shipbuilders as fair. At Dublin employment is good with shipwrights, moderate with iron shipbuilders.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, two large Companies, 23 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. The information thus obtained shows that employment generally is fair and rather better than a month ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 137,561 members show that 5,209 (or 3·8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 4·2 per cent. in April and 4·9 per cent. in May 1902.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage unemployed for May, 1903, as compared with a	
		May, 1903.	Apr., 1903.	May, 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	13,850	5·0	5·7	4·8	− 0·7	+ 0·2
Manchester and Liverpool District	16,854	3·0	2·9	5·7	+ 0·1	− 2·7
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District	11,044	4·4	5·4	5·7	− 1·0	− 1·3
West Riding Towns ...	11,914	5·9	6·5	6·8	− 0·6	− 0·9
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,234	2·8	3·0	4·1	− 0·2	− 1·3
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District	5,825	2·3	2·5	2·2	− 0·2	+ 0·1
Notts., Derby and Leicester District	4,110	2·9	3·0	4·2	− 0·1	− 1·3
London and Neighbouring District	12,538	3·3	4·3	3·8	− 1·0	− 0·5
South Coast ...	3,749	1·2	1·6	1·1	− 0·4	+ 0·1
South Wales and Bristol District	5,758	2·2	2·0	3·8	+ 0·2	− 1·6
Glasgow and District	13,002	6·0	5·9	8·1	+ 0·1	− 2·1
East of Scotland ...	3,544	6·1	6·0	7·9	+ 0·1	− 1·8
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,465	2·6	3·2	7·3	− 0·6	− 5·2
Other Districts ...	5,385	3·1	2·9	2·7	+ 0·2	+ 0·4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	137,561	3·8	4·2	4·9	− 0·4	− 1·1

As compared with a month ago the figures do not indicate a marked change in any of the districts. Compared with a year ago a marked improvement is shown in the Belfast and Dublin district, and the improvement is considerable in the Manchester and Liverpool, and Glasgow districts.

North-East Coast.—Employment generally has improved, but is still worse than a year ago. With pattern makers employment continues good. With ironfounders it is good on the Tyne and Tees, moderate at Hartlepool, and slack on the Wear. Brassfounders report employment as fair. At Newcastle and Gateshead employment with engineers is quiet, at Jarrow and North and South Shields it is good. At Sunderland a slight improvement is reported in the engine shops. At Durham employment generally is bad. In the Tees district engineers and boiler-makers report it as moderate, bridge-builders as good. At Darlington it is good with boiler-makers and in railway wagon shops, bad with fitters and turners.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment generally continues fair and is better than a year ago. With patternmakers, ironfounders and core makers it is good. At Manchester employment is good with machine workers, quiet with brassfounders and finishers, moderate with boiler makers. At Liverpool fitters and turners are not quite so well employed, repair work having fallen off slightly; brassfounders report employment as good. At Crewe all branches continue busy.

Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.—The general state of employment is quiet, but the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members shows an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. At Oldham employment continues bad with engineers and iron grinders; with plate moulders it is slack, with other branches fair. In the Bolton district employment

generally is fair, and roller makers and spindle and flyer makers report it as good. In the Blackburn and Burnley district it is fairly good, except on textile machinery.

West Riding.—Employment, though dull, shows some improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. At Leeds employment is quiet, at Wakefield moderate, at Stanningley bad. At Bradford and Huddersfield employment is moderate with engineers and ironfounders; at Halifax it is bad with engineers, and declining with ironfounders. At Sheffield pattern-makers and several sections of ironfounders and iron and steel dressers report employment as good; boiler makers, brassfounders and finishers and blacksmiths as moderate; engineers and machine workers as bad. The gun finishing trade is slack.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—At Hull employment generally is fair. At Grimsby it is moderate. At Doncaster boiler-makers report it as moderate, engineers as bad. At Lincoln and Grantham it continues good generally, but ironfounders at Lincoln report it as bad.

East Midlands.—Employment generally continues fair, and rather better than a year ago. At Derby ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers and boiler-makers report it as good, engineers as moderate. With brassfounders and finishers at Nottingham it is fairly good, and moderate with engineers. With builders of lace, hosiery and shoe machinery employment is fairly good. With ironfounders it is bad at Chesterfield and Newark. With cycle makers at Nottingham it is rather quiet, but fairly brisk on motor cycles. At railway carriage and wagon works employment is rather slack at Derby.

West Midlands.—Employment generally is fairly good, and shows little change as compared with a month and a year ago. With pattern makers employment is good. Tool makers at Birmingham and Coventry report it as slack. At Wolverhampton it is fairly good with engineers and boiler-makers. In the cycle industry at Birmingham and Coventry employment is quiet, at Redditch fair; in the motor industry good. At Wolverhampton cycle and motor workers are busy. In the sporting gun trade at Birmingham employment is fair, on military work quiet.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment generally is fair and better than a month ago. It also shows some improvement compared with a year ago. Hammermen and brass finishers report employment as quiet, brassfounders as fairly good, electrical workers as bad. At Dartford and Erith ironfounders report employment as very good, engineers as bad.

South Coast.—Employment generally shows little change as compared with a month and a year ago. At Southampton employment continues fair and not so good as a year ago. Ironfounders report it as moderate at Southampton, as very good elsewhere; engineers as moderate generally, good at Cowes, bad at Weymouth.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally is fairly good, and better than a year ago. At Swindon boiler-makers continue very busy, and with engineers employment is more brisk than a month ago. Employment is reported as moderate with engineers at Cardiff, bad with ironfounders at Swansea, and with engineers at Newport, Neath and Gloucester.

Glasgow and District.—The general state of employment is more settled than a month ago, and is better than a year ago. With patternmakers employment is good generally. With other sections employment is fair generally, but dull with copper-smiths.

East of Scotland.—Employment generally shows little change as compared with the previous month, but is better than a year ago. With engineers and moulders employment is moderate generally, dull at Aberdeen; with smiths and strikers fair; with brassfounders bad.

Belfast and Dublin.—Employment shows an improvement as compared with a month ago, and is much better than a year ago. Generally employment is fair. It is reported as good with brassfounders at Belfast, and with hammermen at Dublin.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &C., TRADES; TEXTILE TRADES.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment is worse than a month and a year ago. At Lancaster ironfounders report it as very good, engineers as moderate. At York, Norwich and Ipswich employment is moderate, at Colchester and Cork good.

HARDWARE, CUTLERY, AND MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from three Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Brasswork.—With brassworkers employment is reported as generally good, and better than both a month ago and a year ago, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being small. In London, however, employment is not quite so brisk, and there is some short time worked. In Birmingham the fender and firebrass and bedstead branches are quiet; in Leeds and Nottingham employment is reported as moderate.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—In Birmingham and at West Bromwich nut and bolt makers are but moderately employed, but in the Wolverhampton district employment is reported as fair. Makers of spikes and rivets at Blackheath, and of wrought nails at Halesowen are also fairly employed, but wire and cut nail makers at Birmingham report employment as moderate.

Tubes.—The South Staffordshire tube trade shows some improvement, and employment is reported as fair, and better than a month ago. In Birmingham employment is reported as good.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—Block and dollied chain makers report employment as slack at Cradley Heath. In the Tyne and Wear district chain makers are well employed. Anchor smiths report employment as slack at Cradley, but as good in the Tyne and Wear district. Makers of anvils and vices report employment as generally slack, with some short time, but as showing signs of improvement in the Dudley district. Employment has slightly improved at Wednesbury with workers on railway axles, springs, tyres and coach iron work.

Locks, Keys, etc.—In the Willenhall and Wolverhampton districts makers of locks, keys and latches are well employed and full time is worked. Hollow-ware makers at Birmingham and West Bromwich are moderately employed, but cast hollow-ware makers at Wolverhampton report employment as fair. Employment is good with makers of electrical castings and iron fences and hurdles; fair with spade finishers and fork drawers.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—Employment in the file trade is reported as generally good at Warrington, as moderate with file-cutters at Birmingham, and fair with file-smiths at Wolverhampton. At Sheffield it is fair with hand-cutters and hardeners; moderate with forgers of small files and machine cutters, but slack with forgers of large files. Edge tool makers report employment as moderate at Birmingham; slack at Wolverhampton; moderate at Sheffield for edge tool grinders, slack for saw grinders.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment is reported as busy in Derby, fair in other parts of the district; good at Bolton, Falkirk and Glasgow; slack at Leicester; quiet at Sheffield, Nottingham and Leeds.

Sheet Metal.—In London employment is reported as improving and very fair with sheet metal workers and gas meter makers, and as slack, but improving, with zinc workers; as bad with tin canister makers and tinmen. Employment is reported as good with sheet metal workers at Exeter; as fair at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, and with tin plate workers at Wolverhampton; as moderate with workers in sheet metal at Manchester, Oldham and Hull; as quiet at Cardiff and Dublin; as slack with tinplate workers at Nottingham, and iron-plate workers at Wolverhampton, Bilston and the Lye.

Cutlery, etc.—In the Sheffield trade pen and pocket blade forgers and grinders report employment as fair, spring knife cutlers as moderate, and all sections of the table knife trade as quiet. Haft and scale pressers are slack.

Needle makers at Redditch report employment as fair, fish-hook makers as good. Employment is fair with needle makers at Loughborough, but slack at Nottingham.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Britannia metal workers report employment as quiet in Birmingham and slack in Sheffield. In London employment is good with silver spoon and fork makers, and with finishers; fair with plate polishers and with silver-smiths, moderate with electro-platers, slack with small silver workers, goldsmiths and jewellers, and bad with diamond workers. It is quiet with silver and electro-plate workers and jewellers in Birmingham, but good with watchmakers at Coventry. In Sheffield the silver-smiths are slack.

Wirework.—Employment is reported as good at Birmingham; as slack with drawers at Manchester; as fair at Warrington with drawers, but moderate with weavers; as fair at Bristol; as fair at Glasgow with wire workers, but dull with weavers; as moderate at Sheffield. In London employment is bad with weavers.

Farriers.—Farriers report employment as good on the Tyne and Wear; as quiet at Manchester, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Sheffield and Edinburgh; as bad at Glasgow.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being 221,500. Reports have also been furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department and by Trade Unions.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to 550 spinning and weaving factories, employing about 101,000 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources is as follows. Employment in the Spinning branch during May shows a marked decline as compared with April and is worse than a year ago. A good deal of short time has been reported, although during May the organised system of short time had not come into operation. Of the 28,000 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 81 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 91 per cent. in April and 83 per cent. in May, 1902.

In the Weaving branch employment is quiet, being much worse than a month and a year ago. Much short time has been reported, and many looms are standing for warps. Of the 73,000 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 70 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 83 per cent. in April and with 86 per cent. in May, 1902.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women and girls, and also gives, for comparison, the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time throughout the Month.		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
May, 1903 ...	81	6	8	6
April, 1903 ...	91	5	1	3
May, 1902 ...	83	7	9	1
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
May, 1903 ...	70	18	6	4
April, 1903 ...	83	12	3	2
May, 1902 ...	86	9	2	3

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—TEXTILE TRADES.

COTTON SPINNING.

Ashton District.—Trade in Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield and Droylsden is reported as bad and worse than last month and a year ago. The spinners' Trade Union reports employment as moderate.

Stockport and Manchester District.—In the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Compstall districts several mills are running short time, and employment is reported as worse than last month and a year ago. In the Manchester district it is reported as fairly good, being rather worse than in April and worse than a year ago.

Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde District.—Employment in this district is reported as fair, but worse than in April.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).—Some short time has been worked during May, and employment is reported as worse than in April. Card-room workers and ring frame spinners are reported as being fairly well employed.

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).—Employment is reported as moderate and worse than a month and a year ago. A few small firms worked short time or gave only partial employment.

Bury, Heywood and Rochdale District.—Employment in Bury is reported as bad and worse than a month and a year ago. In Rochdale and Milnrow irregular time has been worked and employment shows a decline as compared with April. In Heywood it is fair, though rather worse than in April and worse than a year ago.

Preston and District.—Employment in Preston is reported as unsatisfactory, and worse than a month and a year ago. In Blackburn and Burnley irregular time has been worked, and employment shows a decline as compared with a month and a year ago.

COTTON WEAVING.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as unsatisfactory, and worse than a month and a year ago. The number of looms standing for warps has increased, and some short time has been worked. The power loom overlookers report employment as moderate.

Blackburn, Darwen, and Accrington District.—Employment in Blackburn continues bad. In Darwen full time is being worked generally, but the number of looms waiting for warps has increased. In Accrington many looms are standing.

Burnley, Nelson, and Colne District.—In Burnley and Padiham employment is bad, many looms being stopped. In Colne it is fair. In Nelson trade is reported as bad; power loom overlookers report employment as fair during May.

Other Districts.—In Bury much short time has been worked, and employment is reported as bad and worse than a month and a year ago. In Rochdale it is quiet. In Radcliffe it is about the same as in April. In Bolton full time has been worked, but in many factories with only partial employment. In Chorley employment shows a decline as compared with a month and a year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from two Employers' Associations, from Local Correspondents, and also from women correspondents with regard to 184 factories in Yorkshire employing about 30,200 women and girls.

Employment in the Woollen trade continues good generally. In the Worsted trade it is fair, and about the same as in April. Of the women and girls usually employed in the Yorkshire woollen and worsted factories reported on, 81 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, to be compared with 82 per cent. of those reported on in April, and with 97 per cent. in May, 1902.

Bradford District.—Employment in the worsted weaving trade is reported as fairly good. With woolsorters it is reported as bad. With female woolcombers it has been

good; with male woolcombers employed at night there has been much short time. At Keighley employment continues quiet; at Halifax it is fair.

Huddersfield District.—Employment in the worsted trade is quiet, and shows a slight decline as compared with April. In the woollen trade in the Huddersfield district employment is reported as fairly good, and several firms are working overtime. In the heavy woollen trade in Dewsbury and Batley employment is reported as fairly good generally; full time has been worked, but with only partial employment at some firms.

Other Districts.—Employment in the Leeds mills is reported as quiet; at Wakefield as fair; at Guiseley as good. With woollen workers at Rochdale and Milnrow it continues good; at Stockport it is slack. Employment at Trowbridge is good on woollens, slack on worsted goods. In Montgomeryshire it continues good. In Hawick, Galashiels and Selkirk it continues good in all branches of the woollen industry.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from one Employers' Association, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the jute trade has been only moderate, and worse than a month ago. Employment in the flax trade in Ireland is good.

Employment in Dundee has been much worse than in April. Information has been received with regard to 54 jute and flax factories, employing about 9,200 men and boys and 22,000 women and girls. From this it appears that of the 20,000 persons employed in spinning mills 75 per cent. were employed in mills running full time, and giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 93 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in April. Of the 11,200 employed in weaving factories, 70 per cent. were employed in factories running full time and giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 82 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in April. The weavers in Forfar report employment as slack, and worse than last month and a year ago. At Brechin and Alyth employment is quiet.

In Ulster employment in the flax trade continues good. In Belfast the women workers' Trade Union reports employment as fair; the hackle and gill makers, the power loom tenters and the linen lappers as good; the beetlers as fair; the flax dressers as bad.

Employment in the linen trade at Barnsley is good.

Hosiery Trade.

According to reports from one Employers' Association, from one Trade Union and from Local Correspondents, employment shows a further decline, and is worse than a year ago.

Leicester District.—Employment at Leicester has declined in most branches, and is worse than a year ago. At Loughborough it has declined, short time being worked in most branches. At Hinckley a further decline is reported in most departments.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment on the whole is reported as worse than a month and a year ago. It is reported as bad in the hand frame branches; as moderate with power frame work knitters. With Shetland shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard it is bad; with hosiery workers at Belper it is slack.

Scotland.—Employment with hosiery workers at Selkirk and Hawick continues good; in the hand made departments it is better than a year ago.

Lace Trade.

According to information from the Employers' Association, the Lace Makers' Trade Union and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham Lace Trade shows a decline as compared with a month and a year ago. In the levers section it is reported as bad and worse than a month ago; in the plain net section as fairly

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING TRADE; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Leather Trades see p. 172.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 525 firms employing 65,320 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The reports show that employment generally is quiet, and worse than a month ago, though better than a year ago. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of May was 65,322 compared with 65,032 at the end of April, and with 63,241 a year ago, an increase of 0.4 per cent. during the month, and of 3.3 per cent. during the year. Of the total number of operatives, 78 per cent. were employed by firms working at least full time throughout May, to be compared with 81 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for April.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the number employed in the various districts at the end of May with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns:—

District.	No. of firms making returns	No. employed by these firms at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on	
		May 1903.	Apr. 1903.	May 1902.	Apr. 1903.	May 1902.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	71	5,000	4,984	4,818	+ 0.3	+ 3.8
Leicester and District	92	14,899	14,642	14,849	+ 1.8	+ 0.3
Northampton and District	136	17,167	17,223	16,141	- 0.3	+ 6.4
Kettering	27	3,250	3,286	3,182	- 1.1	+ 2.1
Stafford and District	19	2,860	2,866	2,818	- 0.2	+ 1.5
Norwich and District	35	4,936	4,933	4,767	- 0.3	+ 3.5
Bristol	14	1,670	1,638	1,524	+ 2.0	+ 9.5
Kingswood	20	2,099	1,999	1,919	+ 5.0	+ 9.4
Leeds and District	39	3,459	3,455	3,293	+ 0.1	+ 5.0
Manchester and District	14	2,353	2,351	2,190	+ 0.1	+ 7.4
Birmingham and District	7	684	684	685	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Other parts of England & Wales	25	2,102	2,107	2,087	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Total, England and Wales	499	60,479	60,188	58,273	+ 0.5	+ 3.8
SCOTLAND						
... ..	24	4,440	4,433	4,607	+ 0.1	- 3.6
IRELAND						
... ..	2	493	411	361	- 1.9	+ 11.6
Total U.K.	525	65,322	65,032	63,241	+ 0.4	+ 3.3

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Returns covering 5,000 workpeople show that 95 per cent. were in firms working full time throughout the month, the same percentage as in April. Employment amongst the Trade Union boot and shoe operatives is reported as fair, and as slightly better than a month ago; the clickers' Trade Union reports it as bad and worse than a month and a year ago. With hand-sewn boot makers it is reported as fair and as better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns covering 12,107 workpeople in Leicester and 2,792 in country districts show that 57 per cent. of the former and 51 per cent. of the latter were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 77 and 54 per cent. respectively in April. Employment with clickers has declined. With lasters and finishers at Leicester it is fairly good, at Hinckley it is quiet.

Northampton District.—Returns covering 8,195 workpeople in Northampton and 8,972 in country districts show that 82 per cent. of the former and 94 per cent. of the latter were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 87 and 90 per cent. respectively in April. Employment at Northampton and Rushden is reported as moderate. Returns covering 3,250 workpeople in Kettering show that 83 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 94 per cent. in April. Employment is reported as quiet.

Stafford, Stone, and Nantwich.—Returns covering 2,860 workpeople show that 92 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 100 per cent. in April. Employment at Stafford and Stone continues good, the majority of the operatives working overtime.

good, but as slightly worse than a month ago; in the curtain section as fair, but worse than a month ago. Employment is reported as slack at Beeston and Long Eaton, quiet at Kimberley, fair at Stapleford.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, 3 Trade Unions with about 11,100 members, and Local Correspondents. Employment with dyers in the West Riding is reported as bad; one Trade Union reports [that one-tenth of its members worked overtime during May and two-fifths worked short time; in Leeds employment has been fair. Employment is reported as good at Burnley and Colne, moderate at Bolton and Middleton, bad at Bury. The British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association reports employment as bad in the slubbing branch, fair in other branches.

Employment with dyers and trimmers in Leicester is reported as bad, the short time averaging 3½ days a week, and as worse than a month ago and a year ago. It is reported as fair with dyers at Nottingham, Basford and Bulwell; as rather quiet with hosiery trimmers; as not so good with bleachers at Basford. Calico printers at New Mills report employment as fair. In the Dundee district employment is reported as fair in the finishing branch, good in the dyeing branch but as not so good as a year ago. Calendermen in Glasgow have been working short time; calico printers in Newmills have worked overtime.

TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents and Trade Unions.

Bespoke Branch.—Employment in London in the West End is reported as moderate during May, and as not so good as in April. In East London it is reported as fair. In the provinces employment is generally reported as good and better than in April.

Ready-made Branch.—Employment on the whole has been fairly good, but in Leeds it has continued slack.

Employment in London during May was fair generally and on the whole showed little decline before the end of the month. It is reported by some employers as not so good as a year ago. The cutters' Trade Union reports employment during the month as good on contract work, quiet on stock work, and on the whole much the same as a year ago.

In Leeds, according to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 11,000 workpeople in their factories in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during May was good or fair in firms employing 41 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, poor or bad in firms employing 40 per cent., and moderate in firms employing 19 per cent. As compared with April, firms employing 33 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 27 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 40 per cent. as worse. As compared with a year ago firms employing 15 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 38½ per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 46½ per cent. as worse. The clothiers' operatives' Trade Union reports employment as worse than a year ago, but as not quite so bad as in April.

In Manchester employers and trade unions report employment as good, and as better than a month ago.

In Bristol employment is again reported as good, and by employers as better than in April and in May, 1902.

In Norwich, Ipswich and Colchester employment is reported as good.

In Glasgow employment is reported as good, considerable overtime being worked.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—HAT AND OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING, &C., TRADES.

Eastern Counties.—Returns covering 4,936 workpeople in Norwich, Ipswich, Colchester and Braintree show that 76 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 73 per cent. in April. Employment is reported as good and better than in April.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Returns covering 1,670 workpeople in Bristol show that 63 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 60 per cent. in April. Of the 2,099 workpeople in Kingswood covered by the returns, 87 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 51 per cent. in April. Employment at Bristol is reported as bad.

Leeds.—Returns covering 3,459 workpeople show that 63 per cent. were employed by firms giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 54 per cent. in April. Employment is reported as quiet generally.

Other Districts in England.—Employment at Mansfield and Manchester is reported as slack; at Birmingham as quiet; at Nottingham as bad.

Scotland.—Returns covering 4,446 workpeople show that 98 per cent. were employed by firms giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 86 per cent. in April. In Edinburgh employment is reported as good; in Aberdeen as fair. The boot operatives' Trade Union reports it as bad at Maybole.

HAT TRADE.

REPORTS have been received from two Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment generally has been quiet, but shows a slight improvement. Trade Unions with 5,420 members have 141 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2.7 per cent. at the end of April and 3.5 per cent. a year ago.

Employment with silk hatters in London is again reported as bad for the season, and worse than a month and a year ago; short time has been worked in most shops during May. In Denton employment is reported as quiet, and as worse than a month and a year ago, the majority having worked short time. In Bristol it is reported as quiet. In Glasgow and Edinburgh the silk hatters report it as good.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton again shows an improvement, but a considerable proportion of the Trade Union members worked short time. In Stockport employment is reported as moderate during May, but as better than in April; in Bury as very quiet, but improved; in Hyde, Hurst and Failsworth as quiet on frame hats, moderate on stiff felts; in Bredbury as quiet. Employment in Warwickshire is reported as fair, and as better than in April, but worse than a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from three Employment Bureaux show a decreased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago and an increase compared with a year ago, the number of fresh situations offered during the month being 105, compared with 167 in April and 92 in May, 1902. The number requiring situations was only 22, compared with 26 in April and 28 in May, 1902. Employment in the mantle and costume trades is reported as fair during the month on high-class work, but as poor generally, and as bad with outworkers; at the end of the month there was a slight improvement. Wholesale milliners report employment as fair.

In Manchester employment during the month was fair with mantle makers, but declined towards the end of the month. Employment in the costume and skirt trade continued dull; returns from manufacturers employing 2,153 workpeople in their factories at the end of May show a decrease of 2.8 per cent. on the number employed

at the end of April, but an increase of 4.5 per cent. on the number employed a year ago.

In Glasgow employment with mantlemakers was fairly good during the month.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland employing 7,662 workpeople in their factories at the end of May show a very slight increase on the number employed in April, and an increase of 3 per cent. on the number employed at the end of May, 1902. In London employment is reported as fairly good; in Manchester as quiet. On shirts and slops in Glasgow employment is reported as fairly good, normal time being worked. In Belfast and Londonderry in shirt and collar factories employment is fair and regular on the whole.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers in Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, Hampshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire, employing 5,581 workpeople in their factories at the end of May, show a decline of 4.7 per cent. on the number employed at the end of April, and of 7.2 per cent. on the number employed at the end of May, 1902. Very little overtime is reported, and many firms report short time or slackness. Employment generally is reported as dull.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been supplied by 26 Employers' Associations, by 42 Employers, by Trade Unions with over 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents. The information thus obtained shows that employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* at the end of May was quiet, and about the same as in April. As compared with a year ago, employment shows little change so far as letterpress printers are concerned, but has declined with lithographic printers and bookbinders.

Employment in the *Paper Trade*, in England, remained rather dull during May. In Scotland returns received from 42 employers show that generally employment is fairly good.

The following Table shows the percentage of Trade Union Members unemployed as compared with a month and a year ago:—

	United Kingdom.				London.			
	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of		
		May, 1903.	Apr., 1903.	May, 1902.		May, 1903.	Apr., 1903.	May, 1902.
Letterpress Printing	39,949	4.9	5.1	5.1	19,031	4.4	5.1	3.5
Lithographic Printing	6,229	4.6	4.7	2.7	1,911	6.1	6.7	3.5
Bookbinding	6,952	5.3	4.9	4.2	3,914	6.1	5.5	3.9
Total Printing and Bookbinding	53,130	4.9	5.1	4.7	24,856	4.8	5.3	3.6
Paper Manufacture	2,325	3.3	3.2	2.4	...	...	...	...

The percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* in the principal districts were as follow:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in percentage unemployed for May, 1903, as compared with a	
		May, 1903.	Apr., 1903.	May, 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	24,856	4.8	5.3	3.6	– 0.5	+ 1.2
Northern Counties ...	1,344	4.0	7.0	1.9	– 3.0	+ 2.1
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,182	7.3	6.8	9.2	+ 0.5	– 1.9
Yorkshire	3,913	4.1	4.8	5.9	– 0.7	– 1.8
East Midlands	1,827	4.6	3.9	4.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.4
West Midlands	2,236	4.5	5.3	6.2	– 0.8	– 1.7
Eastern Counties ...	369	1.6	1.4	1.7	+ 0.2	– 0.1
S. & S. W. Counties ...	2,240	2.6	2.8	4.2	– 0.2	– 1.6
Wales and Mon.	787	6.5	5.2	4.5	+ 1.3	+ 2.0
Scotland	5,966	3.7	2.7	3.3	+ 1.0	+ 0.4
Ireland	2,516	8.7	7.8	7.6	+ 0.9	+ 1.1

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES; GLASS, POTTERY, &C., TRADES.

Percentages unemployed for London are shown in the first Table for each branch of the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades*. Employment with letterpress printers is quiet but improving. With lithographic printers and bookbinders employment shows little change on the whole compared with April, but is worse than a year ago.

Northern Counties.—Employment is fairly good in this district, there being a reduction in the number of Trade Union members unemployed at Newcastle and Durham.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment with letterpress printers has improved in Manchester and is now fair, but it is dull in Liverpool. At Bolton, Newton-le-Willows, and Southport it is good; at Blackburn and Lancaster it is fair; at Preston and Stockport moderate; at Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Accrington, Rochdale and Burnley it is quiet. Employment with lithographic printers and bookbinders is slack generally.

Yorkshire.—Employment remains good at Sheffield; in other towns it is quiet with letterpress printers and bookbinders, moderate with lithographic printers.

East Midland Counties.—Employment at Nottingham is reported as fair with letterpress printers, bad with lithographic printers, moderate with lithographic artists, quiet with bookbinders. At Leicester employment is declining with letterpress printers, good with other branches. At Derby it is fairly good with letterpress printers, moderate with other branches. Letterpress printers at Northampton report employment as good; at Lincoln and Glosop as fair.

West Midland Counties.—At Birmingham employment is moderate with letterpress printers; good with lithographic printers, fair with bookbinders. Employment in other towns is fairly good generally.

Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment remains fairly good in these districts.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment remains quiet generally.

Scotland.—In Edinburgh employment remains fairly good on the whole. In Glasgow it is dull with letterpress printers; fair with lithographic printers; improving with bookbinders. In other towns employment generally remains fairly good.

Ireland.—Employment is quiet in Dublin and Belfast; fairly good at Cork.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 5 Employers' Associations, from 35 Trade Unions with 37,250 members, and from Local Correspondents. Employment, on the whole, remains moderate. It shows a slight further improvement as compared with April, but is not up to the level of a year ago.

The percentage of unemployed Trade Unionists in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of May was 2.8, compared with 3.0 in April, and 2.5 in May 1902.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers is slightly better than in April, and considerably better than a year ago. Three unions, with a membership of 4,395, show 122 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3.2 per cent. in April and 4.3 per cent. in May 1902.

In London employment is rather dull. At Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool it is fair. At Manchester it is slack; at Liverpool rather quiet. It is fair at Hull; moderate at Leeds, Sheffield, and Bradford. At Birmingham employment is improving; at Nottingham it is still slack; at Bristol it is fair; at Cardiff it is improving. At Glasgow and Dundee employment is good; at Edinburgh it is fair. It remains dull at Dublin and good at Belfast.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades is fair on the whole and shows little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Of the 15,202 members of 15 Trade Unions making returns, 257 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 1.6 per cent. at the end of April, and 1.9 per cent. at the end of May 1902.

In London employment has been fairly good in all branches.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—At Newcastle employment generally is rather quiet. At Leeds and Sheffield it is good; at Bradford and Halifax quiet; at Hull moderate.

Lancashire.—At Manchester employment is improving with cabinet makers, and good with upholsterers. At Liverpool employment is fairly good, especially in the cheap class trade, and is better than a month ago. It is also better than a year ago.

Midlands.—At Birmingham employment is moderate; at Nottingham it is quiet with cabinet makers and fair with other branches; at Leicester it is quiet.

South Western Counties and Wales.—Employment at Bristol continues fair with cabinet makers, and has improved with upholsterers. At Plymouth and Cardiff employment is moderate.

Scotland.—Employment at Glasgow is fairly good, and some overtime is being worked. At Beith and Edinburgh it is good; at Dundee fair. At Aberdeen it is fair with cabinet makers, good with upholsterers.

Ireland.—At Dublin employment is dull on the whole. At Belfast it is good with cabinet makers, fair with french polishers and upholsterers.

Coopers.

Employment among coopers remains bad generally, and is worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,233 report 322 (or 6.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.5 in April and 4.0 per cent. a year ago. Employment is described as dull or bad at all the more important centres, except at Hull, where it is fair, and at Dublin, where it is good. Employment at Glasgow has improved during the month, but elsewhere there is little change.

Coachbuilding.

Employment in the coachbuilding industry is still moderate. It is rather better than a month ago, but not quite so good as in May, 1902. Trade Unions with a membership of 9,362 report 234 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3.1 per cent. at the end of April, and 2.0 at the end of May 1902.

In London employment is moderate generally. At Manchester employment is fairly good with coachmakers, bad with wheelwrights and smiths. Employment is dull at Liverpool and Preston. At Leeds it is quiet; at Sheffield it is moderate. At Birmingham and Nottingham it is good, as also with electric tramcar builders, painters, and polishers at Loughborough. Employment is fair at Swindon. At Glasgow and Belfast it is good; at Dublin fair.

Miscellaneous.

Packing Case Makers.—Employment in London continues bad, and short time is being worked. Employment is fair at Glasgow and Belfast, but at Glasgow some short time is still being worked.

Brushmakers.—Employment generally is good. Four Unions with a membership of 1,778 report 25 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 1.6 per cent. in April and 1.2 per cent. in May 1902.

Other Trades.—With lathrenders employment is still dull; with basket makers bad in London, good at Warrington and Leicester, fair at Bristol. Stick makers and mounters in London report employment as bad, with short time.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 10 Employers' Associations, 10 Trade Unions with 5,042 members, Local Correspondents and Employers.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continues bad in the bottle making branch in many centres, but appears on the whole to be slightly better than in April, although worse than a year ago; in other branches it continues dull generally. In the *Pottery* trades a further improvement is reported, but employment is still slack. In the *Brick and Tile* trades employment continues fair.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—GLASS, POTTERY, &c., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle makers in the North of England continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the St. Helen's and Newton-le-Willows district it is fairly good, and is better than a month and a year ago. In the West Riding of Yorkshire employment shows little change, and continues bad. In the Glasgow, Alloa and Portobello district employment is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. In Dublin it is reported as fair.

In London, glass blowers report employment as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. In Birmingham flint-glass makers report it as bad; flint glass cutters as very quiet; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as fair. At West Bromwich employment continues moderate. Employment in all branches of the flint glass trade is slack at Wordsley, Stourbridge and Brettle Lane. At St. Helen's sheet glass flatteners report employment as good; the decorative glass workers as very fair. With pressed glass makers at Gateshead it has improved, but a large number are still unemployed. In the Glasgow district the flint glass makers' and pressed glass makers' Trade Unions report all their members as working short time. In Edinburgh the glass makers report employment as dull, and worse than a year ago; the glass cutters as good.

Pottery Trades.—In the Staffordshire Potteries employment showed a decided improvement, although few factories worked full time. The hollow-ware pressers report employment as moderate, the printers and transferers as good, the ovenmen as moderate; the throwers and turners report employment as slack in the electrical branch. In the Glasgow and Portobello district employment is reported as continuing fair, but as worse than a year ago. The white hollow-ware potters' Trade Union in the Glasgow district reports its members as all working short time.

Brick and Tile Trades.—In the brickyards in the Plymouth district employment is reported as fair generally. In the Leicester and Northampton district house, brick and tile makers are generally busy. In the Birmingham district it has improved. In West Bromwich and Oldbury it is reported as fair and better than a month ago. In the Nottingham district employment remains fairly good, but is worse than a year ago. In the Stockton and Hartlepool district employment is fair. In North Wales it continues good. In the Glasgow district it continues fair, but is not so good as a year ago.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trade see page 169.)

RETURNS have been received from 4 Employers' Associations, 12 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 5.2 at the end of May, as compared with 5.3 in April and 2.5 in May, 1902. The general condition of employment remains dull, and short time is still worked.

Tanners, Curriers, etc.—Skinners generally report employment as bad. With curriers and leather dressers employment is reported as generally slack, with a continuance of short time in most cases, but in Ipswich, the Bolton district, Edinburgh, Leith and Dundee it is reported fair. In Bristol and in Northampton it is bad, and in Manchester three-quarter time prevails, but in Wellingborough it is improving generally. In Leeds it is fair with leather shavers. In London employment is reported as good with fancy leather dressers, and fair with fancy leather workers.

Saddlers.—There is a slight improvement in the state of employment as compared with a month ago, though it is worse than a year ago. In London employment is fair and better than a month ago. It is also fair at Nottingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Leith, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dublin, but is quiet in Birmingham and Sheffield. In Walsall, except with brown saddle makers, employment continues slack.

Harness Makers.—With harness makers there are slight indications of improvement in the state of employment,

but it is still worse than a year ago. In London employment is not good with harness makers, but horse collar makers are fairly busy. In Walsall, except for the American trade, employment is slack with harness makers, but fair for horse collar makers: female stitchers are badly employed. In Nottingham employment is reported as fairly good, and at Leeds as improving with both harness makers and horse collar makers. At Birmingham employment is quiet with harness makers and bridle cutters, horse collar makers being on three-quarter time.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—In London pocket-book and leather case makers report employment as slack, portmanteau and trunk makers as fair and improving. Portmanteau makers at Ipswich are also well employed.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION, as to the condition of employment in Agriculture, has been received from 221 correspondents in various parts of England. The returns show that employment was a good deal interrupted by wet weather in the early part of the month. The crops were backward on the whole, and, consequently, the supply of labour was sufficient in most parts for such work as had to be done. The weather, however, improved towards the end of the month, and a scarcity of extra men for hoeing and other work was then experienced in many districts.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland report that employment was somewhat interrupted by wet weather in the first half of the month. Subsequently with more favourable weather, casual labourers were in demand, farm-work being in arrear. Agricultural labourers in Lancashire lost some time through wet weather, but in the latter part of the month they were fully employed in potato-planting and turnip-sowing. In Yorkshire work on the land was delayed by rain in the early part of the month, and casual labourers were then but little required. Afterwards when the weather improved, employment became plentiful. Correspondents in the Patrington and Ripon Unions report that some Irish migratory labourers who arrived for the hoeing, could not get immediate work owing to the backward condition of the corn and turnip crops.

Midland Counties.—Reports from Derbyshire and Cheshire show that casual labourers have been, generally speaking, fully employed, but work on the land was somewhat delayed by rain at the beginning of the month. A correspondent in the Tarvin Union states that "Irish labourers are eagerly taken on for milking and for farm work." Agricultural labourers in Nottinghamshire have been regularly employed, except at the beginning of the month, and casual men have been in some demand. Similar reports come from Leicestershire. In Staffordshire and Shropshire there has been some demand for extra farm labourers in the latter part of the month, especially for potato-planting, but the supply has in most cases been sufficient. In Worcestershire a few casual labourers were in irregular employment owing to rain in the early part of the month. A correspondent in the Shipston-on-Stour Union reports that there are many advertisements for carters and stockmen in the local newspapers. Employment for casual farm labourers in Warwickshire was somewhat irregular through bad weather and backward crops.

According to reports from Oxfordshire, employment for casual labourers has been fairly regular, and the supply has in most cases been equal to the demand. Difficulty is reported in finding men to attend to stock, on account of the objection to Sunday work. In Northamptonshire, field work was interrupted by wet weather at the beginning of the month, but farm labourers were afterwards fully employed, overtime being worked in some cases. Employment in Buckinghamshire has been fairly regular. There is a scarcity of casual labourers in some districts, owing to railway-making in the neighbourhood. Until towards the end of the month, casual labourers in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire were not in much demand. There has latterly, however, been plenty of work in weeding and hoeing. A demand for skilled men is

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

reported, especially horsekeepers, cattlemen, woodmen and hedgers.

Eastern Counties.—Employment in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire was interrupted in the first half of the month by wet weather, and some casual labourers and men on piecework lost time in consequence. At the end of the month there was much hoeing and weeding to be done, and farm labourers were generally well employed. In Lincolnshire, employment has been fairly regular, and the demand for men, except in one or two districts, has been in excess of the supply. At the May hirings, lads were difficult to obtain at advanced wages. Agricultural labourers in Norfolk have been for the most part well employed during the month, the weather having been fairly favourable on the whole. The supply of labour has in most cases been sufficient, but a scarcity of capable men for tending horses and cattle is reported in certain districts. In Suffolk, farm labourers were generally well employed, work being usually found for them on wet days. The supply of extra labour was somewhat in excess of the demand in several districts. Employment in Essex is reported to have been fairly regular during the month. The supply of casual labour is reported to have been sufficient in most parts of the county.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Most of the correspondents in Kent report regularity of employment, farm labourers being usually employed under cover on rainy days. The supply of extra men was about equal to the demand. In Surrey and Sussex employment was generally regular. There was a moderate demand for casual labour, and the supply was in most cases sufficient. Some correspondents report a difficulty in obtaining men for milking. Employment is reported as fairly regular in Hampshire, the supply of casual labour being equal to the demand, and the weather suitable for most kinds of outdoor work. In Berkshire some casual labourers were in irregular work at the beginning of the month, but employment was latterly plentiful, especially at hoeing beans and weeding. Farm labourers in Wiltshire were mostly in regular employment, work under cover being usually provided on wet days. Employment in Dorsetshire is reported as regular in most parts. Agricultural labourers in Somersetshire were generally in full employment at the end of May. A few men lost time in the early part of the month when the weather was unfavourable, but in the last two weeks there was some demand for extra labour. In Herefordshire, work on the land was somewhat interrupted by wet weather. Some casual labourers found employment in hop yards, in pole pitching and pole sharpening. Casual farm labourers in Gloucestershire are reported as having been in irregular work for some part of the month owing to rain. The supply of labour was equal to the demand in most parts. In Devon and Cornwall farm labourers were for the most part well employed; the supply of men was insufficient, although rather better than in April in some districts.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions. As regards other principal ports, information has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, Local Correspondents of the Department, and Trade Unions.

Employment in May was fair on the whole, and showed a slight improvement as compared with April, but was worse than a year ago.

LONDON.

Employment at the docks and wharves during May was better than in April, but was worse than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended May 30th, was 13,330, an increase of 5.4 per cent. as compared with the average for the previous month, and a decrease of 8.8 per cent. as compared

with the corresponding period of last year. The average number employed in May during the six years, 1897-1902 was 14,360.

(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

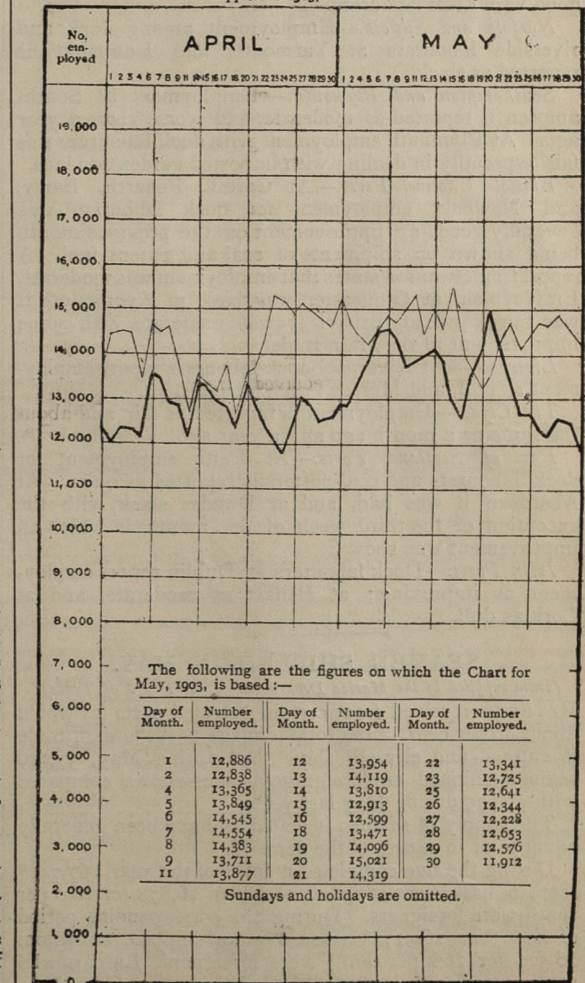
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended May 2	5,146	2,253	7,399	5,418	12,817
" " " 9	5,804	2,717	8,521	5,547	14,068
" " " 16	6,045	1,956	8,001	5,514	13,515
" " " 23	6,234	2,190	8,424	5,404	13,828
" " " 30	5,351	1,822	7,173	5,219	12,392
Average for 5 weeks ended May 30th	5,716	2,188	7,904	5,426	13,330
Average for Apr., 1903	4,928	2,250	7,178	5,475	12,653
Average for May, 1902	6,868	2,404	9,272	5,346	14,618

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in May ranged from 15,021 on the 20th to 11,912 on the 30th.

During May, 1902, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 15,568 on the 16th to 13,314 on the 20th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of April and May, 1903. The corresponding curve for April and May, 1902, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1903, and the thin curve to 1902.]



Employment in mid-stream and with deal porters,

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; SEAMEN; FISHING.

lumpers, corn porters and lightermen has been fair; with coal porters, winchmen and stevedores, it has been moderate. With fruit porters in Thames-street employment has been fair, the average daily number employed being 302, compared with 297 in April, and 287 a year ago.

Of the 3,414 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London, during May, 1903, 63 per cent. on the average were employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, compared with 60 per cent. in the previous month, and 53 per cent. in May, 1902.

OTHER PORTS.

North-East Coast.—In the Tyne, Blyth and Wear district employment for coal porters and shippers has been fair. It has also been fair with steam packet men on the Tyne but only moderate on the Wear. With tug boat men it has been generally good and better than a month ago. Tyne watermen report a slight improvement in employment. With trimmers and teamers it has been good on the whole. Pit prop carriers and deal porters have been well employed. Employment with quayside labourers has also been good, and is better than a month ago. At Middlesbrough employment for dock labourers was moderate; at the Hartlepoons it was slack for the time of year, but fairly good for riverside labour.

Hull, Grimsby, and Goole.—At Hull employment for timber workers has been fairly good; for dock labourers and coal porters moderate, and for lightermen bad. At Grimsby employment was moderate with dock labourers and other dock and coal workers, but at Goole it was good with dock labourers.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Employment among dock and riverside labourers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft is reported as slack.

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment at Southampton is reported as moderate, and worse than a year ago. At Plymouth employment with dock labourers was fair, especially in dealing with imported garden produce.

Bristol Channel Ports.—At Cardiff, Penarth, Barry, and Newport employment for dock labourers was generally good, an improvement on the previous month being shown on shipments of coal and patent fuel. A report from Swansea states that employment was moderate. Employment at Gloucester was bad; at Avonmouth it was fair; and at Bristol it was moderate with some improvement in the grain trade.

Liverpool.—At Liverpool dock labourers report employment as dull, and Mersey flatmen as fair.

The Clyde.—Employment is reported as fair and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

East of Scotland Ports.—At Leith employment for dock labourers and coal-porters is reported as quiet. At Aberdeen it was bad, and at Dundee slack, with the exception of the third week of the month in which an improvement was shown.

Irish Ports.—Dock labourers at Dublin report employment as improving; at Belfast as moderate, and at Cork as dull.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MAY.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during May, 37,749 seamen shipped on foreign-going vessels, as compared with 36,779 during May last year.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been generally equal to or in excess of the demand.

During the five completed months of the year, 167,741* seamen have been shipped, of whom 26,878 (or 16.0 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 164,171* seamen were shipped, of whom 26,520 (or 16.2 per cent.) were foreigners. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in May, 1903 and 1902, respectively, together with the number* shipped in the five months ended May in each of these years.—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in May, 1903.*			Total in May, 1902.*	Total number* shipped in five months ended May,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in May, 1903.		1903.	1902.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	57	3,574	3,631	3,608	13,149	13,471
Sunderland ... ..	...	266	266	438	1,760	1,852
Middlesbrough ... ..	...	192	192	228	986	989
Hull ... ..	...	924	924	1,040	5,003	4,811
Grimsby ... ..	...	152	152	137	477	287
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	5	646	651	626	3,079	2,488
Newport, Mon. ... ..	...	800	800	813	3,586	3,639
Cardiff †	242	4,915	5,157	4,438	22,248	22,645
Swansea	23	496	519	511	2,461	2,110
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	477	13,474	13,651	12,451	57,787	55,335
London	223	6,281	6,504	6,487	30,484	29,533
Southampton	30	1,659	1,689	2,347	10,149	11,952
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth ... ..	...	487	487	745	2,366	2,505
Glasgow	68	2,761	2,829	2,563	12,445	11,034
IRELAND.						
Dublin ... ..	...	71	71	95	550	505
Belfast ... ..	...	226	226	172	1,211	878
Total, May, 1903	825	36,924	37,749	...	167,741	...
Ditto, May, 1902	1,092	35,687	...	36,779	...	164,171

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Collectors of Fishery Statistics in England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; and also from Local Correspondents.

Employment in the fishing industry during May was generally better than a month ago. The total weight of fish landed was greater than a year ago, but the value was less. The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed:—

COUNTRY.	Quantity (Exclusive of Shell Fish).		Landing Value (Inclusive of Shell Fish).	
	May, 1903.	May, 1902.	May, 1903.	May, 1902.
England and Wales	Cwts. 879,552	Cwts. 842,119	£ 523,339	£ 566,365
Scotland	420,681†	387,296‡	172,760	170,298
Ireland	147,918	121,971	62,970	53,949
United Kingdom	1,448,151‡	1,351,386‡	759,069	790,611

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that traw and line boats were well employed during May, and good catches of white fish were landed. Fair supplies of herring were also landed.

At Grimsby employment in the fishing industry was better than a month ago; at Hull it was not so good as in the previous month, but was rather better than a year ago. Employment among fishermen at Yarmouth and Lowestoft was about the same as a month ago. From Plymouth it is reported that fishing operations have greatly improved, owing to better weather, and consequently fish packers and carters have been well employed.

Reports supplied by the Fishery Board for Scotland show that at Aberdeen employment in all branches has been good, and about the same as a month and a year ago. Employment at Fraserburgh was fair for fishermen and fish curers, and moderate for fish dock labourers; in all branches, however, an improvement on the previous month is shown. At Peterhead employment in all branches was good, and better than a month and a year ago. At Macduff employment among fishermen and fish curers was moderate, and better than in April, but not as good as a year ago.

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-seven new disputes began in May, 1903, compared with twenty-three in April, and twenty-three in the corresponding month of last year. By the twenty-seven disputes 9,623 workpeople were directly and 1,414 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, give a total of 16,888 workpeople involved in trade disputes during May, 1903, compared with 10,861 in April, and 16,197 in May, 1902.

New Disputes in May, 1903.—In the following Table the new disputes in May are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	6	423	30	453
Coal Mining	7	2,448	1,020	3,468
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	5,405	15	5,420
Textile	4	566	349	915
Other	5	781	...	781
Total, May, 1903	27	9,623	1,414	11,037
Ditto, April, 1903	23	2,898	1,817	4,715
Ditto, May, 1902	23	6,623	762	7,385

Causes.—Of the twenty-seven new disputes, eleven arose on demands for advances in wages, four on objections to reduction, three on other wages questions, three on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, four on details of working arrangements, and two from other causes.

Results.—Sixteen new disputes affecting 8,967 workpeople and seven old disputes, affecting 950 workpeople, were reported as having terminated in May. Of these twenty-three new and old disputes, seven, involving 594 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; ten, involving 7,768 persons, were decided in favour of the employers, and five, involving 1,435 persons, were compromised. In the case of the remaining dispute, involving 120 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in May of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 108,000 working days. In addition, 109,000 working days were lost in May owing to disputes that began before that month and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in May of all disputes, new and old, was 217,000 working days, which compares with 171,900 in the previous month, and 145,400 in the corresponding month of last year.

Summary for the First Five Months of 1903.—For the five completed months of 1903 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 149 disputes which commenced in these months was 36,862, as compared with 62,096 in the 167 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1902. The aggregate duration in working days of all disputes was about 1,120,000, as compared with 654,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

Principal Disputes.—Particulars of the nine principal disputes which began or were settled during May are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during May are not separately stated in this Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1903.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.‡				
Painters and Paper-hangers	Preston ...	200	...	1 Apr.	38	For advance of wages from 8d. to 9d. per hour ...	Matter referred to arbitrator appointed under Conciliation Act, who awarded an increase of 4d. per hour. (For Award see p. 156).
Bricklayers and Labourers	Walsall ...	130	80	1 Apr.	38	For advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and other alterations of working rules	Work resumed at the old rate of wages
Painters	Cardiff ...	200	...	1 May	...	For advance in wages from 8d. to 9d. per hour, and other alterations of working rules	No settlement reported.
Hauliers, Miners, &c. ...	New Tredegar	70	1,000	1 May	2	On account of dismissal of a certain man ...	Work resumed on employer's terms.
Engineers	Clyde District	5,000	...	1 May	13	Against reduction in wages of ¼d. per hour, or 1s. per week, off time rates, and 5 per cent. off piece rates	Reduction accepted, but matter to be re-considered in August.
Cotton Weavers and other Workpeople	Burnley ...	200	130	18 May	6	Alleged bad material	Strikers agreed to pay fine of 6d. per loom.
Wool Spinners, Drawers, Twisters and Combers	Alloa	300	90	19 May	7	For advance of wages	Work resumed on old conditions.
Tailors	Glasgow ...	502	...	28 May	...	Against proposed reduction of ¼d. per hour in log rates	No settlement reported.
Harness Makers and Female Stitchers	Walsall ...	160	300	13 Apr.	38	Dispute as to prices to be paid on change from day to piecework	Work resumed on employers' terms.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days. † In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended June 6th amounted to £9,128,249, an increase of £220,585 (or 2.5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £4,300,567, an increase of £120,944, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,827,682, an increase of £99,641.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during May, numbered 370, being 1 more than in May, 1902, 2 more than in May, 1901, and 2 less than in May, 1900.

Cotton Statistics.—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of May, and also during the five completed months of 1903, with comparative figures for 1902 and 1901:—

	Month of May,			Five months ended May,		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imported	Bales. 180,569	Bales. 211,221	Bales. 265,964	Bales. 1,834,179	Bales. 1,908,317	Bales. 1,617,374
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	261,499	248,865	247,839	1,536,119	1,434,725	1,339,774
Exported	34,100	39,720	24,706	196,742	173,386	131,267

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY, 1903.

(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 net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported during May was a decrease of £2,188 per week in the wages of 128,413 workpeople. Of the total number affected, 1,361 received advances averaging 1s. 8d. per head per week, and 127,052 sustained decreases averaging 4½d. per head per week. The changes of the previous month affected 24,675 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £790 per week. During May, 1903, the number affected was 259,442 and the net result of all the changes in wages was a decrease of £9,297 per week.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 107,500 coal miners in Durham, 12,540 engineers, etc., on the North-East Coast, and 4,950 engineers, etc., on the Clyde.

Methods of Arrangement.—One change, affecting 107,500 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and one change, affecting 1,054 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale. Three changes, affecting 5,013 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting 149,846 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for First Five Months of 1903.—For the five months, January to May, 1903, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have received advances or sustained decreases is 236,863 as compared with 353,630 for the corresponding period of 1902. Of these, 26,977 have obtained a net increase amounting to about £965 per week, or an average of 8½d. per head, and 96,496 have sustained a net decrease amounting to about £4,856, or an average reduction of 1s. per head, while 113,390 have had upward and downward changes and are now at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes in 1903, is a decrease of £3,891 per week, compared with a decrease of £29,639 per week in the corresponding period of 1902.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1903.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	
7 Increases—567 Workpeople.					
BUILDING TRADES. Decreases—Nil.					
Colchester ...	Bricklayers*	1 April	123	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.).*
Hereford ...	Carpenters and Joiners	1 April	245	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.).
Redditch ...	Painters and Decorators	1 May	79	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.).
Wellington (Somerset)	Painters and Decorators	1 May	44	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (6½d. to 7d.).
	Bricklayers	11 May	30	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (5d. to 5½d.).
	Carpenters and Joiners	6 April	22	...	Advance of 1d. per hour (5d. to 6d.).
	Labourers	11 May	24	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (3½d. to 4d.).
Increases—Nil. COAL MINING. 1 Decrease—107,500 Workpeople.					
Durham ...	Coal Miners, Deputies, Banksmen, Cokemen, Enginemen and Mechanics	11 & 18 May	107,500	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	Other Surface Workers	...	...	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 30½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Increases—Nil. IRON AND STEEL TRADES. 2 Decreases—1,063 Workpeople.					
Eston ...	Steel Workers	3 May	1,054	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 18½ per cent. above the standard.
Newport ...	Puddlers at Scrap Furnaces	May	8	...	Decrease of 10d. per ton (7s. 10d. to 7s.).
Increases—Nil. ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND OTHER METAL TRADES. 5 Decreases—18,490 Workpeople.					
North East Coast ...	Fitters and Turners in Shipyards	20 May	540	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates.
North East Coast ...	Engineers and Machinemen in Engine shops	1 May	12,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week off time rates.
Glasgow and Greenock Districts†	Engineers and Machinemen in Engine shops and Shipyards	May	3,800	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 3d. per hour or 1s. per week off time rates. Time wages after change—Fitters and Turners, 35s. per week.
Motherwell ...	Engineers and Machinemen	May	50	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 3d. per hour or 1s. per week off time rates.
Johnstone ...	Engineers and Machinemen	May	400	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 3d. per hour or 1s. per week off time rates. Time wages after change—Fitters and Turners 33s. per week.
Paisley District‡	Engineers and Machinemen	May	700	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 3d. per hour or 1s. per week off time rates.
Wednesbury and District	Fitting and Socket Makers (Tube Trade)	4 May & 1 Aug.	1,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates. Further decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates.
3 Increases—261 Workpeople. OTHER TRADES. Decreases—Nil.					
Barrowford	Cotton Weavers	3 June	33	...	Advance to list prices, stated to be equal to an increase of 2½ per cent.
Newmilns ...	Lace Makers	April & May	166	...	Advance of 1s. per week.
Edinburgh ...	Wood Carvers	11 April	62	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).
3 Increases—533 Workpeople. EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Decreases—Nil.					
Manchester...	Paviors and Flaggers' Labourers	23 April	200	...	Advance of 1s. per week (24s. to 25s.).
Leicester ...	Paviors	2 May	39	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).
Glasgow ...	Street-lamp Lighters	1 June	164	...	Advance of 1s. per week. Wages after change 25s. and 26s.
	Stair-lamp Lighters	1 June	130	...	Advance of 1s. in maximum rate of pay. Wages before change 14s. to 16s., after change 14s. to 17s.

* The change in wages was accompanied by a slight re-arrangement of winter hours of labour.
† Including Clydebank, Govan, Partick, Pollockshaws, Renfrew, Rutherglen, Whiteinch and Port Glasgow.
‡ Including Barrhead and Kilbirnie.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY, 1903.

THE changes in hours of labour reported in May affected 588 workpeople, whose working hours in a full week were reduced on the average by about 5½ hours per head. Of these, 149 steel workers had their hours per shift reduced from 12 to 8, and 102 tramway servants had their hours reduced from 65 to 54 per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect in 1903.	Approximate number of Workpeople affected.	Hours of labour in a full week.*		Extent of Decrease or Increase per Week.
				Before change.	After change.	
Grantham	Bricklayers ...	25 April	42	54†	53†	1
	Stonemasons ...		20	54†	53†	1
	Carpenters and Joiners		41	54†	53†	1
	Painters and Decorators		18	54†	53†	1
	Labourers		50	54†	53†	1
Arbroath	Stonemasons ...	26 May	85	51†	50†	1
Kilkenny	Labourers ...	1 May	55	51†	50†	1
Neath	Painters and Decorators	18 May	26	57†	54†	3
	Steel Sheet Rollers and Assistants	18 May	149	12‡	8‡	4§
Aberdeen	Tramway Servants	1 June	102	65	54	11

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May, 616 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 731 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 212 persons, of whom 128 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 431 to 517, and the number of servants applying rose from 307 to 315; the number permanently engaged rose from 77 to 85. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., fell from 168 to 105, and the number requiring such situations fell from 26 to 22; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 24, compared with 35 in April.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the seven Bureaux during May compared with a month and a year ago:—

Bureau.	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.		No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.		No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
	Permanently.	Temporarily.	Permanently.	Temporarily.	Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.						
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C.	49	93	13	7		
Society for Promoting Training and Employment— 22, Berners-street, W.	63	36	8	49		
Y.W.C.A.— 26, George-street (1)	453	343	77	14		
Hanover-square, W. (2)	115	66	15	7		
Other Bureaux	51	78	13	9		
Total of 7 Bureaux	731	616	126	86		
Summary by Occupations.						
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	18	56	3	5		
Shop Assistants	2	14	1	—		
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	105	22	9	15		
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	34	70	5	20		
Apprentices and Learners	15	3	5	—		
Domestic Servants	517	315	85	43		
Miscellaneous	40	136	18	3		
Total Number in May, 1903	731	616	126	86		
Total Number in Apr., 1903	726	642	125	68		
Total Number in May, 1902	746	609	111	65		

* Exclusive of overtime. † Summer hours. ‡ Per shift.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

In six Bureaux, which furnished returns for both May, 1903, and May, 1902, 1,692 fresh applications for work were registered, compared with 1,850 a year ago. Work was found by these Bureaux for 795 persons, of whom 643 were engaged by private employers. In May, 1902, the number engaged by private employers was 1,010. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 984, as compared with 578 a year ago.

Five other Bureaux, not in operation a year ago, furnished returns for May, 1903, and the figures relating to them are included in the Tables below.

The eleven Bureaux included in the Tables registered, during May, 2,470 fresh applications, and work was found for 951 persons. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 2,792, consisting of 2,341 men and lads, and 451 women and girls.

(I.) Work done in May.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau.	
	May, 1903.	May, 1902.	May, 1903.	May, 1902.	Engaged by Private Employers.	Engaged by Local Authorities.
London.						
Battersea ... (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	130	108	32	41	32	38
Salvation Army ... (Whitechapel Rd., E.)	787	884	416	...	{ 267 } { 149* }	{ 644 } { 256* }
Provincial.						
Ipswich ... (Tower Street)	46	38	56	46	23	30
Plymouth ... (East Street)	200	237	114	124	112	117
Liverpool ... (Dale Street)	142	144	7	1	...	1
Glasgow ... (158, George Street)	387	439	707	558	209	181
Total of 6 Bureaux	1,692	1,850	1,334	770	{ 643 } { 149* }	{ 1,010 } { 256* }
London.						
St. Pancras ... (Crowndale Road, N.W.)	227	...	86	...	31	42
Finsbury ... (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	104	...	21	...	14	1
Southwark ... (Borough Road, S.E.)	190	...	1	...	1	...
Westminster ... (Caxton Hall, S.W.)	195	...	88	...	52	...
Hammersmith ... (St. Church Lane, W.)	62	...	18	...	14	1
Total of 11 Bureaux	2,470	...	1,846	...	{ 755 } { 149* }	{ 951 } { 47 }

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during May.

Engaged by Private Employers.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Men:—			
Building Trades	49	39	88
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c.	22	10	32
Porters and Messengers	40	20	60
Bill Distributors, &c.	...	244	244
General Labourers	13	...	13
Other Occupations	34	15	49
Lads and Boys	49	20	69
Total Males	207	348	555
Women and Girls:—			
Domestic Servants	87	18	105
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	7	68	75
Other Occupations	20	...	20
Total Females	114	86	200
Total engaged by Private Employers	321	434	755
Engaged by Local Authorities.			
Men, Lads and Boys	2	45	47
Women and Girls	...	...	...
Total engaged by Local Authorities	2	45	47
Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.			
Men	...	149	149
Grand Total for 11 Bureaux	323	628	951

* Engaged by Salvation Army. † Bureau not in operation in May, 1902.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.)

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in May was 349,240, corresponding to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1903.

Compared with April there was a decrease of 5,061 in the number relieved, and of 3 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Twenty-six districts show decreased rates, the greatest decreases being in the South London district (15 per 10,000), and Central London (11). Six districts show slightly increased rates, and the remaining three districts show no change.

Compared with May, 1902, the number of paupers relieved has increased by 13,410, corresponding to an increase of 6 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Twenty-five of the 35 districts showed increased rates, the greatest increases being in the Leicester district (24 per 10,000), East London (16), Central London (15), North Stafford (14), Newcastle (12), Liverpool (11), and West London and Leeds (10 each). In ten districts decreases are shown, the greatest falling off being one of 8 per 10,000 in the Hull district.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of May, 1903 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, and Total for above 35 Districts in May, 1903.

* 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.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during May was 54,288, as compared with 40,665 in May, 1902. Comparing the five completed months of 1903 with the corresponding period of 1902, there is an increase of 45,172, viz., from 141,136 in 1902 to 186,308 in 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 54,288 passengers in May, 29,310 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 9,600 as compared with a year ago. This increase was mainly due to emigration to British North America. For the five completed months of 1903 the total number was 103,792, as compared with 70,613 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 33,179, due mainly to the marked increase in numbers bound for British North America and British South Africa.

The following Table gives the numbers of British and Irish passengers in the different periods:—

Table with columns: Destination (Country in which passengers contracted to land), May, 1903, May, 1902, Total for five months ended (May, 1903, May, 1902). Rows include British Empire (British North America, Australia and New Zealand, British South Africa, India, Other British Colonies and Possessions), Foreign Countries (United States, Other Foreign Countries), and Grand Total.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 54,288 passengers in May, viz., 24,978, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 4,023 more than in May, 1902. For the five months ended May, 1903, their number was 82,516, of whom 55,914 were bound for the United States and 18,984 to British North America, as against a total of 70,523 in the corresponding period of 1902 (49,720 proceeding to the United States and 16,999 to British North America).

Alien Immigration.—During May 27,574 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 19,403 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 3,603 as compared with May, 1902. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 6,863 (exclusive of seamen), or 981 more than a year ago. The figures for May, 1903 and 1902, and also for the five months ended May in each year, are as follows:—

Table with columns: May, 1903, May, 1902, Total for five months ended (May, 1903, May, 1902). Rows include Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries (Seamen, Others), Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries, and Gross Total.

ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

The 35th Annual Congress of Delegates from Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom was held at Doncaster on Whit Monday and two following days, under the presidency of Mr. John Shillito, J.P., chairman of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society. About 1,280 delegates were present. Among the resolutions adopted was one in favour of the organisation of co-operative agricultural societies in Great Britain, and another in favour of greater activity in co-operative production as a means of making co-operators independent of outside influence.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF LEAD, MERCURIAL, PHOSPHORUS, AND ARSENIC POISONING AND OF ANTHRAX REPORTED TO THE HOME OFFICE UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, DURING THE UNDERMENTIONED PERIODS.

[Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.]

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, May 1903, 5 months ended May 1903, 5 months ended May 1902, May 1903, 5 months ended May 1902. Rows include Lead Poisoning, Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, and Anthrax.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during May, 1903, was 292, as compared with 363 in the corresponding month of 1902, 377 in 1901, 440 in 1900, and 455 in 1899. The average number of fatal accidents in the month of May in these last five years was thus 385, so that the total of the past month continues below the average.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz.: Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping and Factories, the number of workpeople killed was 273, compared with 337 in May, 1902. The approximate number employed in these industries at the date of the latest returns was about 5,700,000. The number of persons in this group of industries reported as killed during the five months ended May last was 1,647, as compared with 1,709 in the corresponding period of 1902.

In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between May, 1903, and a month and a year ago.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (May, 1903, April, 1903, May, 1902), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1903, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries over 20 feet deep, Factories, Workshops, Seamen, Accidents reported under Factory Act, and Grand Total.

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

The following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

Summary for May.

The trade returns for May, 1903, show a decrease in the value as compared with the corresponding month of 1902 of the Imports into the United Kingdom, but an increase in the Exports of British produce, and also of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in May, 1903, was £41,915,106, a decrease of £1,438,599, or 3.3 per cent., as compared with those in May, 1902, whilst the total Exports amounted to £30,270,579, showing a net increase of £2,181,858. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £1,495,052, or 6.5 per cent., as

*The 4 cases in the china and earthenware industry in May, 1903, relate to females.

† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 18 cases of lead poisoning (including 7 deaths) were reported during May among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported for the five months ended May, 1903, was 63 (including 15 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1902, 56 (including 15 deaths).

compared with May, 1902, whilst there is an increase of £686,806, or 13.1 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.*—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for May, 1903, as compared with the corresponding months of 1902 and 1901, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month of May.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 17,211,217	£ 18,726,452	£ 18,032,106	- 694,346	+ 820,889
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	14,106,876	13,079,795	12,419,129	- 660,666	- 1,687,747
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	10,856,595	11,294,382	11,224,732	- 69,650	+ 368,137
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	252,071	253,076	239,139	- 13,937	- 12,932
Total value of Imports	42,426,759	43,383,705	41,915,106	- 1,438,599	- 811,653

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of May, 1903, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month of May.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 1,060,641	£ 1,099,306	£ 1,119,456	+ 20,150	+ 58,815
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	3,562,072	2,916,827	3,345,675	+ 428,848	- 216,397
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	18,330,639	18,456,718	19,508,204	+ 1,051,486	+ 1,177,565
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	383,310	359,123	353,691	- 5,432	- 29,619
Total value of Exports of British produce	23,336,662	22,831,974	24,327,026	+ 1,495,052	+ 990,364

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.

—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended May, 1903, amounted to 3,196,221 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,300,068 tons, as against 3,161,030 tons entered and 3,904,547 tons cleared in the month of May, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during May, 1903, amounted to 2,706,105 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,654,718 tons, as against 2,661,600 tons entered, and 2,618,452 tons cleared in May, 1902.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MAY.

(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in May was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 22; under the Friendly Societies Act, 77 (including 32 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, none; in all, 103.

Among the new societies registered in May were the following:—

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—3, viz., Assoc. of Power Loom Weavers, Salford and Dist., 9, Albert-square, Manchester; Old Alliance French Polishers' Soc., Cecil Tavern, Noel-street, Oxford-street, W.; Stockport and Dist. Amalgd. Hairdressers' Trade, Sick and Burial Union, Albion Hotel,

* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.
† The value of the Exports represents the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Little Underbank, Stockport. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—1, viz., National Union of Quay Labourers, 10, Beresford-place, Dublin.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—12, viz., Midland Counties Press, Ltd., 81, Orphanage-road, Erdington, Birmingham; Great Ouseburn and Dist. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Rock Cottage, Great Ouseburn, Yorks.; Framlingham and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, Framlingham, Suffolk; Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Isle of Ely Public House Trust Assoc., Ltd., 7, Downing-street, Cambridge; Rokeby Working Men's Club and Inst., Ltd., 93, Bath-street, Rugby; Beckett Working Men's Club and Inst., Ltd., Beckett-street, Bilston; Oakes Working Men's Club, Ltd., Riley's Yard, Plover-road, Oakes, Huddersfield; International Seafarers' Club and Inst., Ltd., Maritime Hall, West India Dock-road, E.; Hartlepool Fishermen's Ferry Boat Soc., Ltd., 20, Bedford-street, Hartlepool; General Transport and Supply Soc., Ltd., 133, Gower-street, W.C.; Long Eaton Sawley-road Garden Holders' Assoc., Ltd., 20, Friar-street, Long Eaton; Croydon Mutual Credit and Deposit Bank, Ltd., 69A, North End, Croydon. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Scottish Guild of Handicraft, 414, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow. *Ireland.*—9, viz., Lissan Co-op Home Industries, Lissan, co. Tyrone; County Cavan Agric., Cavan; Ardee Co-op Poultry, Ardee, co. Louth; Coolree Co-op Farmers, Coolree, co. Wexford; Cahermorry Co-op Agric. and Dairy, Cahermorry, co. Limerick; Diamond Brae Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Drumalt, co. Monaghan; Galteemore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Ballycrana, Aherlow, co. Tipperary; Ballintemple Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Ballintemple, co. Cavan; Bandon Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Bandon, co. Cork.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—41, viz., Freake's Ground Allotment Soc., Leicester; Kingston Unity Guarantee Assoc., Leeds; Barnsley and Dist. Perm. Money Soc., Barnsley; Sheffield Soc. of Artists, Sheffield; Muntz's Metal Co.'s Workpeople's Benefits Soc., Smethwick, Birmingham; Brimington Working Men's Club and Inst., Brimington, Chesterfield; Bristol Jewish Working Men's Club and Inst., Bristol; Swaythling Working Men's Club, Swaythling, Southampton; Ashton-under-Lyne Gardeners Working Men's Club, Ashton-under-Lyne; National United Order of Free Gardeners Working Men's Club, Rishton, Blackburn; Marylebone Liberal and Radical Working Men's Club, Marylebone, W.; Lower Sydenham Working Men's Social Club and Inst., Lower Sydenham, S.E.; Norwich Labour Club and Inst., Norwich; Radstock Working Men's Club and Inst., Radstock, Bath; Hednesford Progressive Working Men's Club and Inst., Hednesford, Stafford; Leamington Liberal Working Men's Club and Inst., Leamington Spa; Rowley Hill Working Men's Club and Inst., Rowley Hill, Huddersfield; Lord Wolverton Lodge of Past Grands, Wolverton, Bucks; Chester City Guilds Sick and Burial Tontine Soc., Chester; Southampton and Dist. Benefit Societies Medical Federation, Southampton; Victoria Park P.S.A. Tontine Soc., Wavertree, Liverpool; St. Gabriel's Toxteth Sick and Benefit Soc., Liverpool; White Star Sick and Benefit Soc., Bootle, Liverpool; Garthorpe Oddfellows' Friendly Soc., Garthorpe, Goole; Zionist Sick Benefit Soc., London, E.; Provident Friends Sick and Burial Friendly Soc., London, E.; Sir Redvers Buller Friendly Benefit Soc., London, E.; News of the World, Ltd., Benefit and Superannuation Soc., London, E.C.; Messrs. J. Franklin & Sons' Employees' Divisional Sick and Burial Soc., Spitalfields, E.; Prince of Wales late Albion Sick and Provident Benefit Soc., London, W.; Golden Friend in Need Sick and Burial Friendly Soc., London, W.; Bell Musical Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Devonshire Sick and Dividend Soc., Winson Green, Birmingham; Ashted Oak Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Eureka Sick and Dividend Friendly Soc., Birmingham; Birmingham Good Intent Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Six Ways Sick and Dividend Soc., Balsall Heath, Birmingham; Pilgrim Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Runcorn Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; United Avondale Friendly Soc., York; True Britons Tradesmen's Soc., Dowlais. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—4, viz., Tieranaur Agric. Bank, Mulranny, co. Mayo; Park Agric. Bank, Park, co. Londonderry; Claudy Agric. Bank, Claudy, co. Londonderry; Islandeady Agric. Bank, Islandeady, co. Mayo.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in May, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, none; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 4; under the Friendly Societies Act, 89 (including 70 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 14; in all 107.

NOTICE.

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

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