

2/3

# THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

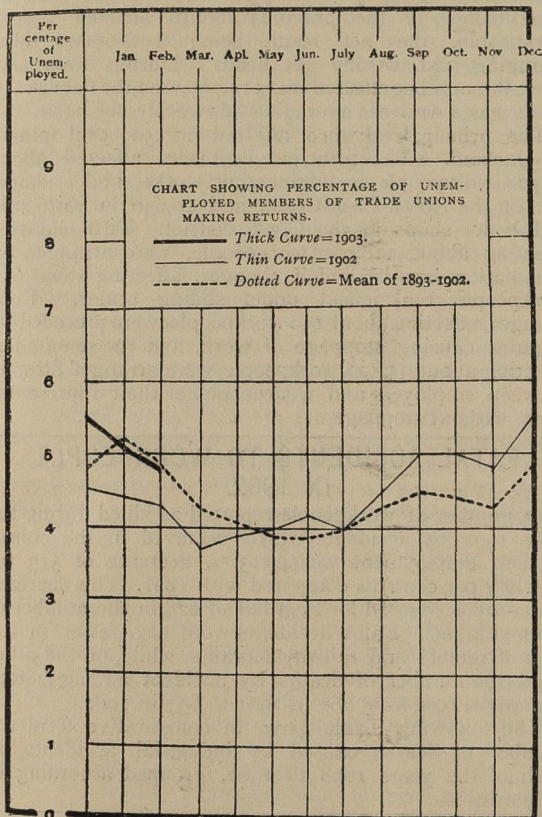
PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. XI.—No. 3.

MARCH, 1903.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

## EMPLOYMENT CHART.



## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[Based on 3,129 returns, viz.: 2,031 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,063 from Workmen and Trade Unions, and 35 from other sources.]

The general state of employment in February was slightly better than in January, but continues rather worse than a year ago.

In the 225 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 549,843 making returns, 26,471 (or 4.8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 5.1 per cent. in January, and 4.3 per cent. in the 217 unions, with a membership of 559,116, from which returns were received for February, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of February during the past decade was 4.9.

**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment in the four weeks ended February 21st was good, but shows a slight decline as compared with a year ago. At collieries employing 499,862 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5.28 days per week, as compared with 5.39 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.8 per cent. greater than a year ago.

**Other Mining and Quarrying.**—Iron miners continue well employed. In the 128 mines and open works covered by the returns received, 15,794 workpeople were

employed, the average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended February 21st being 5.79, as compared with 5.74 in the corresponding period of 1902. The number of workpeople employed was slightly greater than either a month ago or a year ago. At shale mines employment was good during the month; in tin, lead and copper mines it was quiet; in stone, granite and clay quarries fairly good; in limestone and slate quarries good; with settmakers it has been fairly good in England, but only fair in Scotland.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry shows little change compared with a month ago, and is better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 114 ironmasters show that 328 furnaces, employing about 22,500 workpeople, were in blast at the end of February, as compared with 327 in January, and 320 in February, 1902.

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Compared with a month ago, employment in this industry shows a slight improvement, but it is rather worse than a year ago. At 202 works covered by the returns, employing 74,574 workpeople in the week ended February 21st, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 3.8 per cent. compared with January, 1903, but a decrease of 2.1 per cent. compared with February, 1902.

**Tinplate Manufacture.**—Employment in this industry continues good and is better than a year ago. At the end of February 395 mills were working, an increase of 3 compared with a month ago, and of 9 compared with a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation is estimated to be about 19,700.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment generally continues quiet, but on the whole shows no change as compared with a year ago. The percentage of unemployed members of Trade Unions was 5.1 at the end of February, as compared with 5.6 in January, and 5.1 in February, 1902.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment has slightly improved but is still bad and much worse than a year ago, especially on the North East Coast. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 10.4, as compared with 12.9 at the end of January, and 5.2 in February, 1902.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is dull. It is slightly better than in the previous month, but shows little change as compared with a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 5.0 at the end of February, as compared with 6.4 in the previous month, and 6.2 in February, 1902. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 8.2 at the end of February, as compared with 6.7 in January, and 5.5 in February of last year.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment although dull is better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 5.6, compared with 6.7 per cent. in January, and 4.9 per cent. in February, 1902.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has been quiet, and shows little change on the whole compared with a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 4.6, compared with 4.6 per cent. at the end of January, and 4.5 a year ago.

Employment in the *Paper* trades has continued good, and is about the same as a year ago. The percentage

of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 2.0, as against 2.1 per cent. in January, and 2.0 a year ago.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continues bad generally. In the *Pottery* trades employment shows a marked improvement. In the *Brick* and *Tile* trades it continues dull.

Employment in the *Spinning* branch of the *Cotton* trade continues good, and is about the same as last month and a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it is fairly good generally; as compared with January it has slightly declined, but is rather better than a year ago. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 99,700 women and girls shows that 91 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 92 per cent. in January and in February, 1902. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 82 per cent. during February, compared with 85 per cent. in January, and 79 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the *Woollen* trade, although still good on the whole, shows a decline in the heavy branch; it is better than a year ago. In the *Worsted* trade it is fairly good. Information respecting woollen and worsted factories employing about 29,000 women and girls shows that 84 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment, compared with 93 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in January, and 77 per cent. in February, 1902.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade is fairly good. Employment in the *Flax* trade has improved and is good. In the *Jute* trade it continues good.

*Leather Trades.*—Employment generally continues slack, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 6.8 at the end of February, as compared with 6.2 per cent. at the end of January, and 3.3 per cent. in February, 1902.

Employment in the *Boot* and *Shoe* trade is quiet generally, but better than in January or a year ago. Returns from firms employing over 69,000 workpeople show an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed at the end of February compared with a month ago, and of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number, 76 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 69 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for January.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade is dull. In the ready-made branch it is fairly good generally, and better than a month ago.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade is dull, but shows a slight improvement in some centres. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 2.9, compared with 3.6 per cent. in January and 2.8 per cent. in February, 1902.

*Agricultural Labourers* were generally in full employment during February, the weather having been favourable on the whole. The supply of casual labourers is reported to have been sufficient in most districts. Some of these men lost a little time at the end of the month owing to wet weather.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—Employment with dock and riverside labour was generally dull, and in London it was bad. It was worse than in the previous month and in the corresponding month of last year. During the four weeks ended February 28th the number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London averaged 12,373, compared with 13,079 in the preceding five weeks, and 14,696 in the corresponding period a year ago. The average number employed in February during the six years 1897-1902 was 14,358.

**Trade Disputes.**—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during February, 1903, was 13,186, compared with 14,921 in January, 1903, and 10,015 in February, 1902. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 191,900 working days, compared with 268,000 in the previous month, and 85,000 in the corresponding month of last year.

No new disputes of importance began in February. The fourteen that occurred involved only 3,658 workpeople, compared with 2,332 in January, 1903, and 6,950 in February, 1902.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 19 disputes, new and old, affecting 4,402 workpeople. Of these 19 disputes, 5, involving 496 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 11, involving 2,881 persons, in favour of the employers, and 3 involving 1,025 persons, were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes in rates of wages reported during February affected about 146,300 workpeople, of whom about 108,000 received advances and nearly 38,300 sustained decreases. The amount per head of the advances was, however, much less than that of the decreases, and the effect of all the changes was a net decrease averaging 1½d. weekly per head of those affected. The changes of the previous month affected 23,400 workpeople, the net result being a decrease also averaging 1½d. weekly per head. During February, 1902, the number affected was 111,750, and the net weekly result was a decrease averaging 3d. weekly per head.

The principal advance affected 107,500 coal miners in Durham. The principal decreases affected about 16,700 workpeople in engineering works, boiler shops, etc., on the North-East Coast, and 20,650 in shipyards and boiler shops in the Clyde district. Two changes, affecting about 110,000 workpeople, were arranged by conciliation boards, and 2 changes, affecting about 650 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Four changes, affecting about 150 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting about 35,500 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage.

#### FATAL ACCIDENTS TO WORKPEOPLE IN 1902.

The number of workpeople reported as killed during the year 1902 by accidents which occurred in the course of their employment was 4,313, a decrease of 313 (or nearly 7 per cent.) as compared with 1901. This decrease is mainly accounted for by a fall of 228 in the number of seamen killed. Fatal accidents were also fewer in the case of miners and railway servants, while, on the other hand, the number of deaths by accident among factory operatives rose from 769 in 1901 to 837 in 1902.

The following Table gives in comparative form the number of deaths caused by industrial accidents in each of the years 1898 to 1902, grouped according to industries:—

Industry.	Number employed according to latest returns.	Total number of deaths from Industrial Accidents in				
		1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Shipping ... ..	239,690	1,598	1,839	1,889	1,722	1,494
Mines:						
Underground ... ..	681,384	806	851	931	978	929
Surface ... ..	174,829	135	121	119	153	118
Total Mines ... ..	856,213	941	972	1,050	1,131	1,047
Quarries over 20 ft. deep* Railway Servants† Factories* ... ..	94,188 575,834 3,929,213	134 522 575	117 555 675	127 612 802	98 539 769	110 465 837
Total for above Industries	5,695,138	3,770	4,158	4,480	4,259	3,962
Workshops ... ..	...	2	6	11	13	9
Works under Secs. 103-5 of Factory and Workshop Act, 1901†	...	150	190	232	253	261
Railway Service (Contractors' Servants) ...	...	20	29	19	26	19
Under Notice of Accidents Act ... ..	...	56	75	70	75	62
Grand Total ... ..	...	3,998	4,458	4,812	4,626	4,313

Of the total number of deaths in 1902, 3,962 occurred in connection with industries employing (according to the latest returns) 5,695,138 workpeople, the average death-rate by accidents for the year in these industries being

\* In 1899, accidents in works for the manufacture of bricks, tiles, &c., situated outside quarries, were included among Factories instead of Quarries. The figures shown against "Quarries" and "Factories" for 1898 are, therefore, not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years.  
† Excluding contractors' servants, shown separately below.  
‡ Up to and including 1901 these works came under Sections 22 and 23 of Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.

thus 70 per 100,000 persons employed, or about 6 per 100,000 less than in 1901. The precise number of workpeople employed in 1902 is not known, however, and the figures in the second column of the above Table relate to different periods. Those for mining relate to 1902; those for shipping, quarrying and railway service to 1901, and those for factories to 1898-9. The death-rate based upon these figures is therefore only approximate.

#### AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1902.

Information has been received by the Department as to the rates of wages obtained by farm servants at the principal hiring fairs held in Scotland during the latter half of the year 1902.

The report states that in the majority of districts the wages of ploughmen showed no change. 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.

In the larger number of districts reported on, the supply of labour has been better than for several years, and it is stated that in many districts (mainly in the Northern Counties of Scotland) the supply of male farm servants was either quite ample or slightly in excess of the demand. Owing to some dulness in the building and distilling trades in the North, it is said that some men have, no doubt, gone over to the ranks of farm labourers; but speaking generally, any change in the relation between the supply of and demand for farm labourers arises more from a slackening in the pressure of farm work than from any substantial increase in the number of the labourers. There is, however, an increased scarcity of women both for outdoor and indoor work.

Married ploughmen are most generally paid £35 to £40 per annum, with certain allowances, such as a free house and garden, fuel, oatmeal, milk and potatoes; in many cases the money payments run from £45 to £50, with free house and garden, and perhaps an allowance of milk free, or at a low price.

Unmarried men generally get, in addition to board and lodgings, about £12 to £16 or £17 per half-year, especially good men sometimes getting a pound or two more. In some parts of the country, notably the counties of Berwick and Roxburgh and in the Lothians, unmarried men are paid wholly, or almost wholly, in money and find board and lodgings for themselves, most generally with married men employed on the same farm. In these cases the men get from 16s. to 18s. per week, sometimes with an allowance of potatoes.

In the Border counties some farmers adhere to the declining system of hiring their servants in "families"—that is, engaging a man and all the working members of his family—the father, a son or two, and perhaps also one or two grown-up daughters. In cases of this kind the head of the family gets a free house and garden, an allowance of fuel, and from about 900 to 1,800 yards of potato drills, with 16s. to 18s. per week in money. The young men in his family get about 15s. to 17s. per week, in some cases with potatoes. The women workers get 8s. to 11s. per week, with harvest allowance (20s. to 35s.). The system of a money wage is fast gaining ground in the Borders. The shepherds are seeking for this method of payment in preference to the old "pack" system (under which they are allowed to keep a certain number of sheep with those of their employers).

Throughout Scotland the wages of young lads range from £8 to £11 per half-year, according to age, with board and lodging in addition. Women (outworkers and byewomen) get from £7 to £12, and house-workers from £6 to £11 per half-year with board and lodgings. Specially capable women in many cases get up to £13 per half-year.

#### Labour Co-partnership Association.

The half-yearly meeting and conference of the Labour Co-partnership Association was held at Accrington on the 6th and 7th of March. An address upon working class co-operation was delivered by the Right Hon. Earl Spencer, and papers were read on "Combinations of Capital and Co-partnership," and on "Municipal Enterprise and Labour."

#### RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

##### Letterpress Printers, Reading.

On May 30th, 1902, a dispute arose at the Reading works of Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, owing to the alleged employment of females in certain departments at less than the current rates of wages, when upwards of 100 machine minders, assistants, and warehousemen left their employment without notice. On June 5th the assistants and warehousemen employed by the same firm at their London office declined to work overtime, a number of jobbing hands failed to go to work that night, and the female folders declined to resume work the following morning.

The firm placed the matter in the hands of the Master Printers' and Allied Trades' Association, who, on June 9th, appointed a special committee with a view to a settlement of the dispute, it being mutually agreed between the parties that the hands should return to work, and that certain legal proceedings, which had been contemplated, should be dropped.

This committee presented its report on July 2nd, but as the Trade Unions concerned declined to accept the decisions arrived at, application was made to the Board of Trade by the Master Printers' Association, on July 4th, for the appointment of an arbitrator or a conciliator. Meantime overtures were being made to the firm by the Trade Unions with a view to a settlement by direct negotiation, but no arrangement was arrived at.

Accordingly, on July 24th, the Board of Trade appointed Mr. C. J. Drummond to act as conciliator, and after lengthy negotiations and several conferences between the parties, an agreement was arrived at on February 13th, 1903, for the payment of the following minimum rates at the Reading works:—

PRINTERS' WAREHOUSEMEN.		Per week.
Warehousemen and Cutters ... ..	...	30s.
Assistant Warehousemen ... ..	...	24s.
PRINTING MACHINE MINDERS.		
(Flat Machines only.)		
Minders sent from London on temporary jobs to have their railway fares paid and ... ..	...	38s.
Members of the London Machine Managers' Society when permanently employed ... ..	...	35s.
PRINTERS' ASSISTANTS.		
<i>Men.</i>		
Wharfedales any size ... ..	...	20s.
Overtime 6d. per hour.	...	...
Double and fast-running flat machines ... ..	...	21s.
Overtime 6d. per hour.	...	...
Folding machines ... ..	...	24s.
Overtime 7d. per hour.	...	...
<i>Women.</i>		
Quad royal wharfedale and bar machines ... ..	...	18s.
Wharfedale machines of lesser size ... ..	...	16s.
<i>Learners.</i>		
Not to be more than 21 years of age, and not to exceed one-fifth of the adults.		

It is also provided that no preference shall be given as between unionists and non-unionists, and that any question of interpretation shall be referred to an umpire appointed by the Board of Trade, whose decision shall be final.

The agreement was signed by the Chairman of Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, the respective secretaries of the Master Printers' and Allied Trades' Association, the Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters' Society, the London Printing Machine Managers' Society, the Operative Printers' Assistants' Society, and the Conciliator.

##### Colliery Workpeople at Alfreton.

A dispute having arisen between the Blackwell Colliery Company, Limited, and the workmen employed at their Alfreton Colliery as to the price to be paid for getting the Deep Soft Seam, the parties agreed that the questions at issue should be referred to arbitration, and that in the event of the arbitrators failing to agree to a joint award, they should appoint an umpire, who would be empowered to decide between them, and make an award. The arbitrators so appointed, having entered into



## (3) Trade Union Acts.

## DAMAGES AWARDED AGAINST TRADE UNION.

An action was brought by the Taff Vale Railway Company against the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants (a registered Trade Union), the general secretary of the Society, its organising secretary for South Wales and the West of England, and its trustees, claiming (1) damages for maliciously and unlawfully conspiring together to molest and injure the plaintiffs in their business, and for maliciously and wrongfully procuring certain of the plaintiffs' servants to break their contracts of service with the plaintiffs, and for maliciously and wrongfully watching and besetting, and causing to be watched and beset, the plaintiffs' works and approaches thereto, and the places of residence of the workmen employed by the plaintiffs, or proposing to work for the plaintiffs, and divers other places, including the Great Western Railway Station at Cardiff, and for using violence and intimidation towards the plaintiffs and their servants, and for preventing persons from working for the plaintiffs, and for otherwise committing violation of the legal rights of the plaintiffs; and (2) an injunction restraining the defendants, their servants and agents, from repeating any of the above-mentioned acts.

The interlocutory proceedings in this action are noticed in GAZETTE, September, 1900, pp. 264-265, December, 1900, p. 361, and August, 1901, p. 237. On the trial of the action, the jury, in answer to questions put to them by the Judge, found that the Society, its general secretary, and its organising secretary conspired together to molest and injure the plaintiffs by unlawful means; and that all of them unlawfully persuaded workmen employed by the plaintiffs, whose notices had not expired, to break their contracts, and authorised and assisted in carrying on a strike of the plaintiffs' employees by unlawful means. Subsequently, by arrangement between the plaintiffs and the defendants, it was agreed that the defendants should pay to the plaintiffs £23,000 in satisfaction of all damages and costs, and judgment was entered accordingly.—*The Taff Vale Railway Company v. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants and Others, King's Bench Division, December 3rd-5th, 8th-12th, 15th-19th, and February 23rd.*

## (4) Miscellaneous.

## CHECKWEIGHMAN'S FUND: DIVISION OF SURPLUS.

With respect to the case noticed in the GAZETTE for February (p. 38), in which, in an action brought against the treasurer of a checkweighers' fund, by certain miners, who in the division of the balance of such fund remaining after payment of the checkweighman's wages had been excluded from participation, the County Court Judge had made a declaration that this treasurer was a trustee of such balance, and was bound to account for it to all the contributors, and had ordered such account accordingly, and, on appeal, the King's Bench Division had dismissed the appeal, with costs, and had refused leave to appeal, an application for leave to appeal was made by the defendant to the Court of Appeal, and was granted.—*Macmaster and Others v. Benson, Court of Appeal, February 9th.*

## SICK FUND: RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEE QUITTING SERVICE.

A railway servant, who had been employed by, but had left the service of a company, sued his employers, asking for a declaration that he was entitled to remain a member of the company's sick fund, to which he had subscribed while in the employment of the company, and to the benefits arising therefrom, or alternatively for a return of the premiums paid by him to the fund.

Counsel on behalf of the plaintiff stated that when the plaintiff entered the service of the company he filled up a form which contained the terms of his service, and agreed to be guided by the rules and regulations of the company, by one of which it was provided "that every person in the service of the company shall be liable to a *pro rata* contribution from his pay to the present sick fund, or to any provident or friendly institution hereafter to be established." The plaintiff in his evidence said that he was told by the stationmaster that he would have to subscribe 3d. a week, but he had never seen a copy of the rules relating to the sick fund or heard of them during his term of service. When he left the company's service, he offered to continue paying 3d. a week to the fund. In cross-examination the plaintiff said that he had never asked for a copy of the regulations. The Judge held that no contract had been proved, by which the plaintiff was entitled to continue his connection with the sick fund after he left the employment of the company, and that he was not entitled to have the money paid by him to the fund returned, and gave judgment for the defendants, with costs.—*Warman v. The South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company, King's Bench Division, February 23rd.*

## NEW ZEALAND.

*Extension of Workmen's Compensation.*—By "The Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act Amendment Act, 1902," passed on October 3rd, 1902, the provisions of the original Act (of 1900) are extended to workers in agriculture (including horticulture, forestry, and the use of land for any purpose of husbandry, inclusive of the keeping or breeding of live-stock), and to agricultural workers employed by the same employer partly or occasionally in other work. The liability of employers to pay compensation, previously limited to injuries disabling the worker for a period of at least two weeks from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed, is now extended so as to apply to all injuries so disabling the worker for at least one week.

## 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.

THE busy season in Canada is shortly commencing, and there is an excellent demand for almost any kind of labour all over the Dominion. Emigrants should prepare to start at once. There is a very large demand for farm hands, especially in Ontario and the North West, and any able-bodied farm labourer or young man wishing to learn farming will have no difficulty in finding a place. At Sydney in Nova Scotia there is a good demand in the steel and iron works and in the coal mines for general labourers, machinists, machinists' helpers and coal miners, especially those who can operate coal cutting machines. Both in Nova Scotia and Ontario men, skilled and unskilled, are wanted for sanitary earthenware works and brickyards. The building trades are likely to be busy in all parts as soon as the season opens, so that carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers and others will be wanted; at Winnipeg, in Manitoba, there is also a demand for a number of harness makers. The metal trades have been very busy in Ontario. In the Province of Quebec and in Ontario lumbermen have been very busy. In the Algoma district of Ontario good farriers are stated to be in great demand. In British Columbia the metal trades have been fairly busy, and the building trades also, considering it was the wet season. Coal miners have been very slack at Nanaimo, but experienced men only are wanted in East Kootenay. The lumbering trade has been very busy. Many clerks are out of work. There is a brisk demand in all parts of Canada for female servants both in towns and on farms.

## Australia.

*New South Wales.*—Emigrants are advised not to go to New South Wales, at the present time, in search of work.

*Victoria.*—It has been proposed to reduce coal miners' wages from a maximum of 10s. per shift to one of 8s. 4d., and the hewing rate to 2s. 6d. instead of 3s. 6d. per ton; a strike has ensued in consequence, affecting some 1,000 miners, and the mines have been closed down. In other parts of Victoria the supply of labour is fully equal to the demand.

*Queensland.*—There is no demand for more labour, except for some agricultural labourers in the South. The Central Districts are still suffering badly from drought.

*Western Australia.*—There is no demand for anyone except farm labourers and female servants; reduced nominated passages are being granted to the Colony.

## New Zealand.

A report from Taranaki states that there is a good demand for general and farm labourers, carpenters and female servants; the building and dairying industries being especially busy. A report from Invercargill in Otago states that there is a limited demand for miners, if dredge hands; a good demand for farm labourers, if good horsemen; a limited demand for mechanics, if first-class men; and a great demand for female servants; experienced shepherds can always get places. A report from Wellington states that there is a good demand for carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers and female servants. At Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and several other places there is a good demand for men in the building and coachbuilding trades; the clothing trade also is very busy in most parts, and men in the engineering trades have generally been well employed. At this season of the year there is plenty of employment in country districts.

## South Africa.

*Cape Colony.*—There is a demand for wheelwrights, bodymakers, coachsmiths, trimmers, plasterers, bricklayers, and first class painters. There is no demand whatever for tailors unless they are first-class hands. Carpenters at Cape Town have struck for higher wages. There is no demand for fitters, general labourers, or farm

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

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.\*

*Employment in January.*—The usual seasonal slackness prevailed in the building trades and other outdoor occupations, such as agricultural labour. Differences between employers and workpeople as to the establishment of a rate of wages retarded activity amongst woodcutters in many centres. In the textile trades there was said to be, in general, a fair amount of activity in the Nord, Vosges and Loire districts, but a considerable scarcity of employment at Rheims and Elboeuf, and in the Lyons silk manufacture, where no improvement was shown, except in the manufacture of light fabrics such as tulle and silk muslin. The ribbon manufacturing industry at St. Etienne continued very well employed. In the garment-making trade the seasonal slackness was general. The improvement reported during the last two months in metal smelting and manufacture became still more noticeable; scarcity of employment in the metal trades generally has decreased by one-half since October last. On the whole, the printing and bookbinding trades continued satisfactorily employed, although in certain towns (Paris, Marseilles, Bordeaux) the introduction of a composing machine caused some disturbance in the labour market. The tin box makers of Brittany continued entirely unemployed. The furniture and pottery trades were fully employed. No improvement was shown during January in the situation of dock labourers, who have been slack for some months.

Of the 948 Trade Unions (not including the miners' Unions of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais), with a total membership of 151,822, which made returns as to the state of employment during January, 17,372, or 11 per cent., were stated to be out of work. The corresponding percentage for the previous month was 11, and for January, 1902, 13.

*Coal Mining in January.*—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in January was 5.96, as compared with 5.65 in the preceding month, and 5.94 in January, 1902. Taking all workpeople together (surface and underground), 94 per cent. worked full time (6 days per week or over) and nearly 6 per cent. from 5 to 6 days in January, as compared with 10 and 87 per cent. respectively in December.

The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and apply to over 147,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

*Labour Disputes in January.*—Thirty-one disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in January, the number of workpeople who took part in 29 of them being 4,700. In the previous month 22 disputes occurred, in 21 of which 2,198 workpeople took part; while in January, 1902, there were 40 disputes, in 37 of which 2,763 workpeople participated. Two of the new disputes occurred in mining and quarrying, 12 in the textile trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 2 in the pottery trades, 2 amongst woodcutters, and 11 in trades not included in any of these groups. Nineteen disputes came to an end in January, 4 terminating in favour of the workpeople, 8 in favour of the employers, and 7 being compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in January.*—Six cases of recourse to the French Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in January, the Justice of the Peace taking the initiative in 3 cases and the workpeople in 2; it is not stated by whom the initiative was taken in the remaining case. As a result, Committees of Conciliation were formed in 5 cases, without settling any of the disputes, however. Three of the 6 disputes were afterwards settled (one, owing to the intervention of the Sub-Prefect of Gannat), the remaining 3 still being in progress at the time of reporting.

*Eight-hours Day in Government Factories.*—The eight-hours day has been introduced in recent years in various manufacturing establishments carried on by the Government in France. Thus, on September 16th, 1899, the system was adopted provisionally at certain of

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

labourers. There is a good demand for female servants, but they should not go alone. Employers domiciled in the Colony can obtain cheap passages at £3 a head for male or female servants engaged by them here. There is some demand for female teachers, but the pay is not good. The cost of living is high.

*Natal.*—Good platelayers are wanted for the Natal Government Railways:—Applicants must be men of robust constitution, who have had at least five years' experience, age between 25 and 40. Rate of wages £12 per month (eight hours being reckoned as a working day) rising by annual increments to £14 per month if satisfactory service is rendered, and again from £14 to £16 per month will be granted only after the Maintenance Engineer has personally satisfied himself that the men are carrying out their work satisfactorily, payable as customary in the department. Eight days' leave per annum is allowed with pay, and half pay for a period not exceeding two months if disabled by sickness. Three years' agreement. Wages to commence from date of arrival, and half pay allowed for time occupied by voyage from London to Natal.

Free third-class passage from London will be provided. Applications stating age and height, whether married or single, with testimonials from Engineer-in-Chief as to experience and character, also medical certificate, to be addressed to the Agent-General for Natal, 26, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.

A report from Durban states that there is no demand for miners or farm labourers, but that general labourers, female servants, and mechanics are wanted; bricklayers, carpenters, and plumbers receive 16s. a day and plasterers 20s. The cost of living is high.

*Transvaal.*—In the building trades at Johannesburg materials are coming up from the coast somewhat more quickly, and consequently men in those trades have been better employed, but a good many are still out of work. Harness makers and saddlers, and men in the furniture and wagon and carriage trades have been slack; shop and office fitters have been well employed. Printers have been in good demand both in Johannesburg and Pretoria, but the men at Pretoria have struck for higher wages. The stab rate hitherto ruling for compositors, machine minders, bookbinders, rulers, and warehousemen has been in Pretoria £5 per week of 45 hours, and £6 for night work, and in Johannesburg £5 10s. to £5 15s. per week of 48 hours; in both places overtime has been 2s. 6d. an hour, and the wages of lino operators have been £6 10s. to £7 for day work, and £8 for night work.

The supply of unskilled labourers in all trades is more than enough. The cost of living remains two or three times as high as in England, especially for men with families. Female domestic servants may obtain assisted passages, provided they undertake to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages; they must apply to the South African Expansion Committee, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W. Crown land is now open for purchase or lease; application must be made to the Land Department in the Colony; the Department may grant reduced passages at £13 a head to Pretoria or Johannesburg to settlers, their wives and families who take up Government land. Permits are still required by all persons entering the Transvaal or Orange River Colony.

*Orange River Colony.*—There is some demand for good carpenters, masons, fitters, and painters, but it is a fluctuating one, and the cost of living is very high. Crown land is now open for purchase or lease; application for any particular portion of land desired must be made to the "Land Settlement Board" at Bloemfontein. The Board may grant reduced passages, as above.

*Orange River Colony.*—A new handbook upon the Orange River Colony has been issued, containing particulars as to the climate, conditions and cost of living, demand for labour, together with the cost of reaching the Colony and the arrangements made there for the reception of immigrants. The handbook can be obtained post free for one penny of the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

the establishments coming under the Postal Administration in Paris (stamp factory, manufacture, inspection, repair, and custody of postal stores, etc.), subsequently at the Post-Office District Stores, and on July 1st, 1900, at the Electrical Works of the General Post-Office in Paris. By decrees dated February 9th, May 1st, and September 24th, 1901, the eight-hours day was declared definitely adopted in the respective departments just referred to, while on March 1st, 1901, and July 16th, 1901, decrees were made extending the system to the telephone installation and maintenance shops of the Paris district and to the postal power supply works.

It is stated that "the application and extension of this reform has been facilitated by the good will of the workpeople, who have worked with redoubled energy, so that no appreciable reduction of output has resulted from the shortening of the working day."

By a Decree of the Minister of Marine, dated October 21st, 1902, the eight-hours system was introduced provisionally, as from November 1st, in respect to a certain section of the boilermaking staff at the Dockyard at Toulon and in respect to the workpeople employed at the ordnance works at Lorient. In a circular issued by the same Minister on January 7th, 1903, it is stated that, owing to the very satisfactory results yielded by these experiments, it has been decided to extend the eight-hours day as from January 15th, 1903, to all the naval arsenals and works situated at places other than seaports.

#### GERMANY.

*Employment in February.*—The Berlin Journal *Der Arbeitsmarkt* reports that the state of employment in February was better than either in the previous month or in February, 1902, the number of applications for work per 100 situations offered at the public employment registries being 175.9 in February of this year, 202.3 the month before, and 219.4 in February, 1902.

*Labour Disputes in February.*—According to the same journal, 40 disputes began in February, as against 21 in the preceding month. Eighteen of the new disputes occurred in the metal and engineering trades, 4 in the building trades, 4 in the woodworking trades, 3 in the textile trades, 2 in the pottery, &c., trades, 2 in the food preparation trades and 7 in trades not included within any of the foregoing groups.

#### HOLLAND.

*State Service on Railways: Proposed Legislation to prevent disturbance of traffic through Strikes.*—In a despatch dated February 26th, 1903, Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, states that in the Second Chamber of the States-General the Prime Minister, on February 25th, introduced three Bills:—

1. For the creation of a Railway Brigade to ensure the State Service on the railways in case of need.
2. For the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into the legal position and the conditions of the service of the Railway Staff; and
3. For power to punish any failure in the performance of official duties.

The following is a translation of the language used by Dr. Kuyper in describing the objects of these Bills, viz.:—

1. That henceforth the permanent resources held in reserve at the disposal of the State shall include a Railway Brigade which, in case of need, can ensure the State service on the railways.
2. That a State Commission with powers of inquiry shall examine the legal position and the conditions of service of the staff, and shall submit proposals designed to assure to the said staff now, and in the future, fixity of position under the protection of the State.
3. To furnish by law better guarantees for the protection of personal liberty in the field of labour, and to establish that, besides public services, there are duties to be carried out in the public interest in regard to which no neglect can be allowed by the Authorities to go unpunished.

*Strike of Hackney Coachmen at Amsterdam.*—Reporting to the Foreign Office on February 12th, 1903, Mr. W. C. Robinson, H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, stated that the

strike of hackney coachmen in that city terminated on February 11th, the drivers having resumed work on the former terms. (See February GAZETTE, p. 41.)

*Co-operation: Latest Statistics.*—According to the Year-book of the Netherlands Co-operative Federation for 1903,\* there were 1,298 Co-operative Societies in Holland and her Colonies on October 1st, 1902 (as compared with 1,161 on November 1st the year before), 72 of these Societies (as compared with 68 the year before) being affiliated to the Federation.

The Table below gives a classification of the Dutch Co-operative Societies:—

Class of Society.	Number of Societies.	
	1901 (November 1st)	1902 (October 1st)
<b>Associations for Distribution:</b>		
Stores .....	119	131
Agricultural Associations:		
For Purchase of Manures, Seeds, &c. ....	189	190
For Sale of Produce .....	24	26
<b>Associations for Production:</b>		
Bakeries .....	48	55
Dairies .....	498	539
Other Associations for Production .....	48	58
<b>Savings and Loan Associations:</b>		
Rural .....	113	143
Urban .....	17	32
<b>Building Associations</b> .....	91	108
<b>Insurance, &amp;c., Associations</b> .....	12	16
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>1,199†</b>	<b>1,298</b>

The figures given as to the number of Dutch Co-operative Associations are stated to be probably too high, since, in the absence of a legal obligation to register the dissolution (such as exists in regard to the formation) of a society, the Federation has no means of informing itself of all the cases in which societies have ceased to exist.

#### AUSTRIA.‡

*Employment in January.*—The statistics of the labour registries (public and private), which furnished returns to the Austrian Labour Department for January, show that on an average 20.4 applications were made for every 100 situations offered in that month, as compared with 27.9 in the previous month and 168 in January, 1902. Taking the sexes separately, there were, in the case of men, 396 applications on an average for every 100 situations, as against 387 in the previous month and 310 in January, 1902; while in the case of women there were 86, as compared with 114 in the previous month and 85 in January, 1902.

*Labour Disputes in January.*—Ten disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in January, the number of workpeople taking part in 9 of these being approximately 5,200. Three of the disputes occurred in the clothing and cleaning trades, 2 in the textile trades and 1 in each of the following groups:—metal trades, printing and bookbinding, woodworking, &c., trades, leather trades, and commercial employment. The results were reported in the case of 6 disputes; of these, 3 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 1 in favour of the employers, and 2 were compromised.

The foregoing figures do not include disputes in the mining and allied industries, returns as to which are published only once in 3 months.

#### SPAIN.

*General Strike at Corunna.*—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated February 12th, Mr. Guyatt, Acting British Consul at Corunna, reported that a general strike had begun at Corunna on that day. Telegraphing to the Board of Trade on February 16th, Mr. Guyatt reported that the strike had terminated.

\* Based on *Jaarboek van den Nederlandschen Coöperatiewen Bond, Dertiende Jaargang, 1903* (the Hague, 1903), and corresponding volume for the previous year.  
† Exclusive of 2 societies in Batavia.  
‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

#### EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—BUILDING TRADES.

### REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

#### BUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS supplied by 79 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 89,000 building operatives of all classes, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 199,000, show that employment in the building trades generally was dull during February. It was slightly better than in the previous month, but showed little change as compared with a year ago. The returns from Employers' Associations covering 65 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the returns show employment to have been dull or bad, 27 per cent. fair or moderate, and 8 per cent. good.

With bricklayers employment continues bad, and is about the same as in the corresponding month of last year. With masons it is good in England and shows no change as compared with the previous month and a year ago. In Scotland and Ireland it continues dull and is slightly worse than in the corresponding month of last year. Employment is fair with carpenters and better than in the previous month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 5.0 at the end of February as compared with 6.5 in January and 6.2 in February 1902. Employment is still bad with painters, but shows some improvement as compared with the previous month. It is worse however, than a year ago, except in Scotland, where it is better. With plasterers it is still dull generally, except in Scotland where it is fair and better than in the previous month. Plumbers report employment as moderate. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union plumbers was 8.2 at the end of February, as compared with 6.4 in January and 5.5 in February, 1902. Slaters and tilers report that employment continues dull and is slightly worse than a year ago.

The Table given below shows the state of employment in the principal districts for carpenters and joiners and plumbers, as indicated by the proportions of Trade Union members of these trades returned as unemployed at the end of the month.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb. 1903.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Feb., 1903, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.</b>						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London .....	6,969	5.1	6.8	3.2	-1.7	+1.1
Northern Counties and Middlesbro' .....	1,471	7.9	6.8	6.3	+1.1	+1.1
Lancashire and Cheshire .....	9,710	5.0	6.2	10.0	-1.2	-5.0
Yorkshire .....	5,093	7.0	8.7	7.6	-1.7	-0.6
East Midlands .....	3,007	4.3	5.3	7.5	-1.0	-3.2
West Midlands .....	4,770	5.9	6.7	6.5	-0.8	-0.6
Eastern Counties .....	1,175	3.9	5.1	2.6	-1.2	+1.3
S. and S.W. Counties .....	5,676	2.2	3.2	2.7	-3.0	-0.5
Wales and Monmouth .....	1,691	5.2	5.6	5.0	-0.4	+0.2
SCOTLAND .....	5,056	2.8	3.8	7.1	-1.0	-4.3
IRELAND .....	4,777	7.2	10.0	4.9	-2.8	+2.3
<b>PLUMBERS.</b>						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London .....	1,204	14.5	13.3	7.2	+1.2	+7.3
Northern Counties and Middlesbro' .....	177	9.0	8.5	2.7	+0.5	+6.3
Lancashire and Cheshire .....	2,025	8.7	6.4	6.2	+2.3	+2.5
Yorkshire .....	995	7.0	7.0	6.4	-	+0.6
East Midlands .....	650	9.1	4.5	4.5	+4.6	+4.6
West Midlands .....	482	7.5	4.6	7.0	+2.9	+0.5
Eastern Counties .....	130	7.7	10.3	5.8	-2.6	+1.9
S. and S.W. Counties .....	505	4.8	4.8	6.1	-	-1.3
Wales and Monmouth .....	269	5.9	4.8	11.0	+1.1	-5.1
SCOTLAND .....	1,733	5.0	3.4	4.1	+1.6	+0.9
IRELAND .....	623	7.2	6.3	3.4	+0.9	+3.8

*London.*—Employment shows an improvement, as compared with the previous month, though it is still dull. It is not so good as a year ago.

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

The returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 84 employers show that in the last week of February they paid wages to 16,377 men, as compared with 15,618 in January, and 16,779 in the corresponding week of February, 1902.

Branches of carpenters and joiners with 6,969 members had 5.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.8 per cent. in January, and 3.2 per cent. in February, 1902. Branches of plumbers with 1,204 members had 14.5 per cent. unemployed, as compared with 13.3 per cent. in January, and 7.2 per cent. in February, 1902.

*Northern Counties.*—In the Tyne and Wear district employment for bricklayers and slaters is reported as dull, with stonemasons as fair, with plumbers as bad. The carpenters and joiners are affected by a trade dispute and describe employment as bad. At Hartlepool bricklayers and painters report employment as moderate, plasterers' labourers as bad. At Stockton employment is good for slaters, moderate for other classes, but is worse than in the previous month and a year ago. At Middlesbrough employment is moderate generally.

*Lancashire and Cheshire.*—Employment generally continues dull and shows little change as compared with a year ago. At Liverpool all classes are dull, and plumbers report employment as bad. At Manchester it is generally dull and worse than a year ago. At Oldham employment is reported slack, and worse than a year ago. At Altrincham and Burnley employment is reported as better, and at Accrington, Middleton and Southport as worse.

*Yorkshire.*—Employment shows some improvement on the whole as compared with the previous month, being reported as better at Halifax, Huddersfield, Harrogate, Scarborough and Wakefield. At Sheffield employment generally is reported as dull; at Hull it is described as bad for plasterers, plumbers, carpenters and joiners, and builders' labourers, dull for other classes. At Leeds employment is reported as moderate.

*East Midland Counties.*—Employment continues dull and is worse than a year ago. At Northampton it is reported bad; at Leicester as bad for masons and plumbers, but generally improving; at Nottingham as quiet and worse than a year ago. Employment at Derby is reported generally as slack, and bad for plumbers.

*West Midland Counties.*—Employment shows some improvement as compared with the previous month. It is depressed at Birmingham, where bricklayers, plumbers and painters report employment as bad, plasterers as dull, masons as fair. In the Potteries employment is dull, but at Coventry and Rugby it is stated to be fair and improving.

*Eastern Counties.*—Employment shows a slight improvement. At Norwich it continues dull, and is worse than a year ago. At Ipswich it is fair, and better than in the previous month and in February, 1902. At Lowestoft it is dull; at Cromer fair.

*Southern and South Western Counties.*—Employment is moderate and about the same as a month ago. At Plymouth it is reported good for bricklayers, fair for masons and carpenters; other classes dull. At Exeter, Gloucester and Bath employment is dull at Bristol, improving.

*Wales and Monmouth.*—Employment generally continues dull in South Wales, especially in the seaport towns. In North Wales it is fair with bricklayers and painters, dull with other classes.

*Scotland.*—Employment continues moderate. At Glasgow it is good with masons, slaters and plasterers, dull with other classes. At Edinburgh it is on the whole fair. It is reported good with plasterers, bad with



## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORK; SHIPBUILDING.

1902. On this basis, therefore, the volume of employment at the works included in the returns shows an increase of 3·8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2·1 per cent. compared with February, 1902.

The increase in the volume of employment compared with a month ago, was greatest in the Midlands, the aggregate number of shifts worked being nearly 25 per cent. greater. An increase is also shown for Northumberland and Durham, Yorkshire and Lancashire, but in Wales and Monmouth and Scotland there was a slight falling off. Compared with a year ago, a decrease is shown in Northumberland, Wales and Monmouth and Scotland, but in Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands there was a slight increase.

The following reports on the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry in certain districts have been furnished by the Local Correspondents:—

*Tyne and Wear District.*—At Consett bar and angle mills have been working short time, and steel plate mills full time. Employment with steel smelters at Newburn has been rather better; with finished iron and steel workers it has been only moderate.

*Cleveland District.*—Employment at rail mills has been good, at plate mills and in other departments moderate. One works at Middlesbrough which has been stopped for several months has restarted. In metal expansion works employment has been fair.

*South Yorkshire.*—In the Sheffield district, employment with steel smelters has been quiet on the whole, and at some works slack. In the Rotherham district ironworkers are fairly well employed; steelworkers fairly busy.

*Lincolnshire.*—At Scunthorpe employment with steel smelters has been good.

*Midlands.*—In Derbyshire puddlers are working short time, but malleable iron workers are busy. Mill and forge workers in Shropshire have been working short time. In the Potteries district a general improvement in the furnaces and mills was reported. In South Staffordshire mill and forge workers are working short time, but steel smelters are fully employed.

*South Wales.*—Employment generally throughout the district was moderate; at Burry Port, Llanelly and Swansea, however, it was good.

## TINPLATE WORKS.\*

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues good, and is better than a year ago.

At the end of February 395 mills were working, an increase of 3 compared with the end of January and of 9 compared with the number in operation a year ago. The total number of works open was 77, and at 53 of these all the mills (275) were in operation, whilst at the remaining 24 works, 120 mills, out of a total of 163, were at work.

Of the 395 mills in operation, and employing about 19,700 workpeople, 383, employing about 19,100 workpeople, were situated in the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire districts, compared with 380 in January, and 374 a year ago.

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 ...	53	275	...	275
Works giving partial employment ...	24	120	43	163
<b>Total at end of February, 1903*</b> ...	<b>77</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>438</b>
<i>Corresponding Total for Jan., 1903*</i> ...	77	392	43	435
<i>Corresponding Total for Feb., 1902*</i> ...	78	386	61	447

\* 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.

It is reported that the demand for and supply of labour are about equal, and that boy labour is not so scarce as it was.

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

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.
To United States ...	Tons. 4,342	Tons. 4,503	Tons. 6,743	Tons. ...	Tons. ...	Tons. 49
„ Other Countries	19,495	17,833	16,880	3,932	3,572	4,053
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>23,837</b>	<b>22,336</b>	<b>23,623</b>	<b>3,932</b>	<b>3,572</b>	<b>102</b>

## SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 11 Employers' Associations, from two large Shipbuilding Companies, from 5 Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents.

The general state of employment as indicated by numbers of unemployed members of Trade Unions, improved somewhat in February but was still bad, and much worse than a year ago, especially on the North East Coast.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,164 members had 5,953, or 10·4 per cent., unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 12·9 per cent. at the end of January, and 5·2 per cent. in February, 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:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Percentage for Feb., 1903, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	8,997	13·2	16·9	6·0	— 3·7	+ 7·2
Wear ...	4,892	22·7	25·1	6·3	— 2·4	+ 16·4
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,125	23·5	28·1	5·7	— 4·6	+ 17·8
Humber ...	2,375	7·7	9·9	11·0	— 2·2	— 3·3
Thames and Medway ...	4,293	4·4	10·6	5·4	— 6·2	— 1·0
Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton	3,259	3·9	3·9	1·7	—	+ 2·2
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,493	15·7	15·6	12·3	+ 0·1	+ 3·4
Mersey ...	3,827	3·1	6·6	3·2	— 3·5	— 0·1
Barrow ...	1,521	1·3	0·4	3·6	+ 0·9	— 2·3
Clyde ...	12,522	8·7	9·9	4·1	— 1·2	+ 4·6
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,221	4·3	4·0	2·7	+ 0·3	+ 1·6
Belfast ...	3,102	2·1	3·4	2·7	— 1·3	— 0·6

As will be seen from the Table the percentage of unemployed was greatest in the Tees and Hartlepool district (23·5), on the Wear (22·7), at the ship repairing ports of the Bristol Channel (15·7), and on the Tyne (13·2), while it was least at Barrow (1·3), Belfast (2·1), and in the Mersey District (3·1). As compared with a month ago the figures show an improvement in most districts, while such declines as are indicated are of small extent. The greatest improvement has taken place in the Thames and Tees districts. There has also been an improvement on the Tyne and a further improvement on the Mersey. As compared with a year ago, the decline is greatest on the North-east Coast.

Employment generally on the North East Coast is bad and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was, however, less at the end of February than at the end of the preceding month. On the Tyne and in the Tees and Hartlepool districts employment is affected by the ship joiners' dispute, which is interfering with the completion of work. The proportion of unemployed members of Trade Unions is considerably less on the Tyne than on the Wear or Tees. On the Tyne employment with riveters, caulkers and platers has somewhat improved, especially on old or repair work, with drillers and hole cutters it is still slack, but improving. Shipwrights report employment as fair. Sail makers are slack. On the Wear there has been

## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING.

## ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 13 Employers' Associations, 2 large Employers, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. The returns from Employers' Associations report depression on the North East Coast and in Scotland; in other districts employment generally is reported as fair. Except in the Liverpool and Manchester district the returns describe employment as worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 140,044 members show that 7,077 (or 5·1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 5·6 per cent. at the end of January and 5·1 per cent. in February, 1902. The section least affected by slackness is pattern making, in which employment is good.

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 Feb., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage unemployed for Feb., 1903, as compared with a	
		Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
North-East Coast ...	13,794	7·7	8·8	5·4	— 1·1	+ 2·3
Barrow and Lancaster ...	2,316	2·7	2·9	4·1	— 0·2	— 1·4
Manchester and Liverpool	16,585	4·3	5·0	5·8	— 0·7	— 1·5
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District	10,896	7·8	8·0	8·3	— 0·2	— 0·5
West Riding Towns ...	11,893	6·0	6·1	7·8	— 0·1	— 1·8
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,132	4·5	6·4	5·9	— 1·9	— 1·4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District	5,825	2·7	2·3	2·5	+ 0·4	+ 0·2
Notts., Derby and Leicester District	4,037	3·0	3·9	7·3	— 0·9	— 4·3
London and Neighbouring District	12,788	4·0	4·0	4	...	+ 0·6
South Coast ...	3,321	1·9	1·2	1·4	+ 0·7	+ 0·5
South Wales and Bristol District	5,750	2·9	3·8	2·8	— 0·9	+ 0·1
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Glasgow and District ...	13,796	7·2	8·7	7·3	— 1·5	— 0·1
East of Scotland ...	3,667	9·5	10·7	8·4	— 1·2	+ 1·1
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,411	4·9	5·4	4·8	— 0·5	+ 0·1

As compared with a month ago some improvement is shown in nearly all the districts. As compared with a year ago a great improvement is shown in the Notts., Derby, and Leicester district, and a considerable decline on the North-East Coast.

*North-East Coast.*—Employment is still bad, and is worse than a year ago, but the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed is less than in January. Marine engineering is especially depressed, the joiners' dispute affecting the placing of orders in shipyards and marine engine shops. Employment with pattern makers is fair generally. On the Tyne there is a better demand for fitters and machine men in the higher reaches of the river, and in the lower reaches employment in the principal engine shops is reported as fairly brisk, with some double shift work. On the Wear employment with engine fitters and turners has slightly improved, but there are still a large number unemployed. Engineers report employment as moderate at Middlesbrough, bad at Hartlepool and Stockton. In the boiler shops employment is fairly steady on the Tyne and Wear, good at Darlington, slack at Hartlepool and Stockton, moderate at Middlesbrough. In the Tees district employment is good in bridge building. On railway wagon work at Darlington it is good. With moulders employment is fairly good on the Tyne, bad on the Wear, good at Darlington and Middlesbrough, bad at Hartlepool and Stockton. With brassfinishers on the Tyne and Wear it is bad.

*Barrow and Lancaster.*—Employment with some branches is reported as depressed, but pattern makers report it as fair, ironfounders as good, and the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members shows little change as compared with a month or a year ago.

some improvement with riveters, caulkers and frame benders, but employment is still bad with these branches. With shipsmiths it is fair; with drillers and hole cutters slack, though improving. In the Tees district employment with iron shipbuilders on new work is reported as slack at Hartlepool and Stockton, moderate at Middlesbrough; on repair work it is good at Hartlepool, slack at Middlesbrough and Stockton. With shipwrights employment is reported as fair at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool, bad at Stockton. On the Humber employment generally is bad, but the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is less than either a month or a year ago. At Hull employment is reported as bad with iron shipbuilders, as moderate with drillers, hole cutters, platers' helpers and general labourers, as good with shipwrights and sail makers. At Grimsby employment generally is bad.

On the Thames and Medway employment in shipbuilding has been slack and worse than a month and a year ago. In ship repairing it is reported as bad generally, but there has been a considerable amount of damage repairs to steamers. The proportion of unemployed members of Trade Unions at the end of the month was much less than in January, and somewhat less than a year ago. In large building employment continues bad. With sailmakers it is slack. At Chatham shipwrights report employment as good, iron shipbuilders as moderate. At Sheerness employment is moderate.

At Southampton employment generally is reported as fair; at Portsmouth it is moderate with iron shipbuilders, very good with shipwrights; at Devonport it is moderate with iron shipbuilders, good with shipwrights.

At the Bristol Channel Ports employment in ship repairing continues bad, and worse than a year ago. At Bristol it is reported there has been very little work during the month. The Welsh ports were temporarily busy in the early part of the month, but at the end of the month employment was bad at Cardiff, Penarth and Barry, with short time being worked. At Newport employment is good, at Swansea slightly better than in January.

On the Mersey employment generally is fair. It shows a further improvement as compared with the previous month, and is now the same as a year ago. Iron shipbuilders report employment as good, shipwrights as fair, ship joiners as very moderate.

At Barrow employment is reported as good with shipwrights, moderate with iron shipbuilders. The proportion of unemployed members of Trade Unions is not so low as in January, but less than a year ago.

On the Clyde the general state of employment is reported as depressed and much worse than a year ago. The proportion of unemployed members of Trade Unions is slightly less than in January. Employment is worst at Greenock and Port Glasgow. Some yards are on three-quarter time only. With shipwrights employment has been fairly good, with iron shipbuilders bad generally, but fairly good at Govan and Clydebank. Ship riggers report employment as fair, sail makers as bad.

On the East Coast of Scotland employment generally has been fairly good and about the same as a month ago, but the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is greater than a year ago. With iron shipbuilders employment is reported as moderate at Dundee and Leith, as slack at Aberdeen. Shipwrights report it as good, with some overtime, at Leith, as moderate at Dundee, as fair at Aberdeen.

At Belfast shipwrights report employment as good, iron shipbuilders as moderate and improving. The proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is less than in January, and shows little change as compared with a year ago.

## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—ENGINEERING; HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &amp;C., TRADES.

**Manchester and Liverpool District.**—The general state of employment shows a slight improvement as compared with a month and a year ago. With patternmakers it is good generally. At Manchester employment is moderate with most branches, but machine workers report it as improving, smiths and strikers as fair. At Liverpool it is good with brass founders; with engineers and ironfounders it is reported as bad. At Crewe employment generally is good, and much overtime is being worked. At Birkenhead employment is moderate. At Warrington it is moderate with engineers and boiler makers, good with ironfounders; at Stockport it is bad with engineers, good with ironfounders.

**Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.**—Employment on the whole is slack and shows little change as compared with a month or a year ago, but with pattern makers employment generally is good. At Oldham short time is being worked at many firms, and employment is reported as bad with engineers and ironfounders, fair with machine makers, moderate with brassfounders. At Blackburn employment is bad at both engine shops and textile machine making works. In Bolton and Bury employment generally is moderate and improving. Engineers report employment as bad at Ashton-under-Lyne, as moderate at Rochdale and Horwich. Boiler makers at Dukinfield and Horwich report it as moderate.

**West Riding.**—The general state of employment is the same as a month ago, and slightly better than a year ago. With pattern makers employment is good at Sheffield and Halifax, and fair elsewhere. At Leeds employment is reported as fair generally, but some short time is being worked, and brassfounders and finishers, and wool, comb, hackle and gill makers are slack. At Sheffield employment is dull with engineers, good with ironfounders, very slack with machine workers, engineers' tool makers and boiler makers. Employment continues to decline at Wakefield, and some short time is being worked. At Stanningley it is bad. At Bradford employment is moderate with engineers, improving with ironfounders. Engineers report it as bad at Halifax and Keighley, ironfounders as moderate at Halifax, declining at Keighley.

**Hull and Lincolnshire District.**—At Hull employment is reported as fair generally. At Doncaster it is very fair generally, but moderate with brass workers and coach-builders. At Grantham employment is good, at Lincoln moderate, at Grimsby bad. With boiler makers it is reported as moderate throughout the district.

**West Midlands.**—Employment generally continues fairly good and about the same as a year ago. At Birmingham some short time has been worked. Engineers report employment as quiet at Wolverhampton, as moderate elsewhere. In the cycle and motor trade employment has been good, overtime being worked. In electrical engineering it is good at Birmingham, quiet at Wolverhampton. Employment is fair with sporting gun makers at Birmingham, and on best gunlocks at Walsall; with military gun makers at Birmingham it is bad, owing to partial stoppage of works pending completion of new tools. Employment at railway wagon works at Birmingham has been fairly good. A great improvement during the month is reported in railway spring, axle and carriage work at Wednesbury.

**East Midlands.**—The general state of employment is fairly good. It shows some improvement as compared with the previous month, and is considerably better than a year ago. Engineers and ironfounders report employment as moderate at Nottingham, Derby and Leicester, as good at Chesterfield. With lace, hosiery and shoe machine makers employment is good. With cycle makers it is fair at Nottingham, dull at Derby. At Nottingham employment is good with brassfounders, fair with smiths and strikers. At Derby employment is moderate with boiler makers, good in the railway engineering shops. With railway carriage and wagon builders it is good at Long Eaton, dull at Derby.

**London and Neighbouring District.**—Employment

generally shows little change as compared with the previous month, but is rather worse than a year ago. Some branches of engineers report employment as moderate, others as bad. With pattern makers and brassfounders employment is fairly good; with ironfounders, coppersmiths and hammermen it is quiet.

**South Coast.**—Employment generally is fair at Southampton but not so good as a year ago. It is moderate at Portsmouth and in the Government yards at Devonport, but at private firms at Devonport and Plymouth it is not so good.

**South Wales and Bristol District.**—Employment generally is slightly better than in January, and is about the same as a year ago. At Swindon engineers report employment as fair, boiler makers as good. At Bristol it is dull generally. In South Wales employment generally is reported as fair. At Newport it is bad.

**Glasgow and District.**—Employment generally is bad, especially at Greenock and Port Glasgow, and short time is being worked at some places. With engineers employment is worse than a year ago, with moulders it is better. In marine engineering and boiler-making employment is bad, in machine toolmaking fair, in locomotive building good. Pattern makers report employment as fair, general engineers, moulders, and iron, steel and brass dressers as moderate, brass finishers as fair, copper-smiths as dull.

**East of Scotland.**—Employment generally at Dundee, Edinburgh, Leith, and Aberdeen is bad. At Falkirk iron moulders report it as fair, pattern makers as improving, with some overtime. Employment is fair with pattern makers at Dundee.

**Ireland.**—Employment generally is slightly better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At Belfast employment in textile machine making is moderate, but improving; in general engineering it is fair. With pattern makers and brass founders it is reported as good, with iron founders as quiet, with smiths and strikers as fair. At Dublin engineers and ironfounders report employment as bad, smiths as moderate, hammermen as good.

## HARDWARE, CUTLERY, AND MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from three Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions with 13,000 members, and from Local Correspondents.

With farriers, employment generally reported as slack.

With brassworkers employment is fair generally and about the same as a month and a year ago. At Birmingham and Rotherham it is reported as moderate, at Manchester as improving. In London it is dull with some short time.

At Birmingham employment in the fender and fire brasses trade is quiet, in the bedstead trade it is bad. It is fair with makers of hinges, rivets, axes and pins, quiet with nail makers.

In South Staffordshire employment is good with makers of malleable nails and protectors, cycle castings, brazil hoes, nuts and bolts and with stampers and piercers; it is fair with light hollow-ware tanners and turners, galvanisers, japanners and makers of wrought nails, builders' ironmongery and horseshoes. It is quiet with makers of iron fences and hurdles, spectacle frames and vermin traps; slack with makers of tacks and cut nails and vices. In the malleable iron trade at Walsall employment is very quiet, nearly all the works being on short time.

Employment is fair with anchor smiths at Cradley, good with chain and anchor smiths in the Gateshead district.

At Cradley employment is quiet with cable chain-makers and strikers, slack on block and dollied chains. In the lock, latch, and key trade in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall district employment continues fair, but not so good as a year ago.

## EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &amp;C., TRADES; TEXTILE TRADES.

In the tube trade employment is fair in South Staffordshire, but not so good as a month or a year ago, and some short time is being worked. At Birmingham employment is good with cased tube and locomotive tube workers, and in the copper tube and wire trade. With wire drawers at Warrington employment is good. With wire weavers and workers it is very dull in London and Glasgow. At Redditch employment is good in the needle and fish hook trade, quiet in the fancy case trade.

In the tin, iron plate, and sheet metal trades employment has been quiet in Birmingham, Leeds, and Dublin, moderate in Manchester and Oldham, fair in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Belfast. In London it has been slack, with some short time. In South Staffordshire employment has been slack in the iron plate trade.

With stove grate workers employment is quiet at Sheffield, fair at Glasgow. At Falkirk it is bad, with much short time.

In the file trade employment is moderate at Sheffield and Birmingham. Filesmiths report it as fair at Wolverhampton, as good at Warrington. In the edge tool trade employment is quiet at Sheffield, fair at Birmingham, and slack at Wednesbury.

At Sheffield employment in the pen and pocket knife trade is fairly good in all branches. In the table knife trade it is quiet with forgers and grinders; with hafers it is very slack, and much short time is being worked.

In the silver and britannia metal trades nearly all branches are slack at Sheffield. At Birmingham employment is quiet in the silver, electro-plate and jewellery trades, good with britannia metal workers. In London it is quiet in the silver and electro-plate trades, with much short time. With goldsmiths and beaters employment is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago.

## COTTON TRADE.

## General.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received through the Trade Correspondent of the Department from 24 Employers' Associations, whose members are estimated to employ 232,000 operatives. 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 546 spinning and weaving factories, employing about 99,700 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources is as follows. Employment in the Spinning branch continues good, and is about the same as last month and a year ago. Hardly any short time is reported. Of the 26,300 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 91 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 92 per cent. in January, and in February, 1902.

In the Weaving branch employment is fairly good generally, though only moderate in some districts. As compared with a month ago it has slightly declined, but is rather better than a year ago. Hardly any short time is reported, although some looms are waiting for beams. Of the 73,400 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 82 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 85 per cent. in January and 79 per cent. in February 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 Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—Spinning—</b>				
February, 1903 ... ..	91	5	1	3
January, 1903 ... ..	92	7	—	1
February, 1902 ... ..	92	7	—	1
<b>Cotton Trade—Weaving—</b>				
February, 1903 ... ..	82	13	1	4
January, 1903 ... ..	85	13	—	2
February, 1902 ... ..	79	20	1	—

## Principal Districts.

## SPINNING.

**Stockport, Manchester and Ashton District.**—Employment in the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Crumpsall district is fair, about the same as in January and slightly better than a year ago. In Manchester, Pendlebury and Patricroft it is good. In the Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield and Droydsden district it is fairly good generally, about the same as in January and better than a year ago; at Mossley it has improved, and is better than a year ago.

**Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).**—Employment is good, showing no change as compared with January, and is better than a year ago.

**Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).**—Employment is good generally, and is about the same as a month and a year ago.

**Bury and Rochdale District.**—In Bury and Elton, mills are running full time. In Rochdale and Milnrow employment is good, as in January, and better than a year ago. In Heywood employment is good, and is practically the same as in January and a year ago.

**Other Districts.**—In the Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde districts full time is being worked. In Blackburn, Burnley and Preston employment is reported as good.

## WEAVING.

**Preston District.**—The Employers' Association reports employment as moderate, but improving, and better than a year ago; two sheds are still closed.

**Blackburn, Darwen, and Chorley District.**—The Employers' Association reports employment in Blackburn and Clitheroe as good, and better than a month and a year ago. In Darwen, employment is fairly good; it shows little change as compared with January, and is better than a year ago. In Chorley employment continues rather unsatisfactory; full time is being worked, but a few looms are standing for beams.

**Burnley, Accrington and Colne District.**—In Burnley and Padiham employment is fairly good, though rather worse than in January and about the same as a year ago. In Nelson, Barrowford, and Brierfield it is good, and better than a year ago. In Accrington, Church, and Oswaldtwistle it is good, and better than a month and a year ago. In the Colne district it is fairly good, and slightly better than in January and a year ago.

**Other Districts.**—In Bury and Elton full time is being worked though looms are waiting for warps at many factories. In Rochdale employment is not good, being worse than in January, and about the same as a year ago; some looms are waiting for warps. In Radcliffe looms are on the whole better employed. In Bolton employment is fair and rather better than in January.

## WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from two Employers' Associations, from Local Correspondents, and also from women correspondents with regard to 175 factories employing about 29,000 women and girls.

Employment in the Woollen trade although still good on the whole, shows a decline in the heavy branch; it is











CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 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 February was a decrease averaging 1 1/4 d. weekly per head in the wages of the 146,301 workpeople affected.

The principal advance reported affected 107,500 coal miners in Durham. The principal decreases affected 16,707 workpeople in engineering works, boiler-shops, &c., on the North East Coast, and 20,650 in shipyards and boiler-shops in the Clyde district.

Methods of Arrangement.—Two changes, affecting 110,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and two changes, affecting 645 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Four changes, affecting 152 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting 35,504 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for First Two Months of 1903.—For the two months, January and February, 1903, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have received advances or sustained decreases is 180,271, as compared with 268,394 for 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.

Main table for left page showing changes in wages by locality and occupation. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1903, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, and Particulars of Change. Sub-sections include Building Trades (1 Increase-15 Workpeople), Coal Mining (2 Increases-107,510 Workpeople), Iron and Steel Trades (2 Decreases-645 Workpeople), Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (22 Decreases-37,537 Workpeople), and Textile Trades (3 Increases-257 Workpeople).

\* No alteration was made in the rates of wages of smiths' strikers and general labourers earning 20s. or less per week. † Clydebank, Greenock and Port Glasgow Districts. ‡ Glasgow, Paisley and Renfrew Districts.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY (continued).

Table for right page showing changes in wages. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1903, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, and Particulars of Change. Includes entries for Bolton (Tailors and Tailoresses), Derby (Cabinet Makers), and Dumbarton (Compositors).

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.—No changes in hours of labour were reported during February.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February, 789 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 712 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 209 persons, of whom 98 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 643 to 500, and the number of servants applying from 408 to 393; the number permanently engaged fell from 89 to 77. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 65 to 87, and the number requiring such situations fell from 97 to 79; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 47, compared with 25 in January.

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 February compared with a month and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN FEBRUARY.

Table showing work done in February, including Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations. Columns include No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers, and Permanent/Temporary breakdown.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUREAU OF LABOUR.

The fourth biennial report of the New Hampshire State Bureau of Labour for the years 1901 and 1902 includes information based on the returns of 1,454 manufacturing establishments. During the year ended June 30th, 1901, these establishments employed 74,883 wage earners (51,492 males and 23,391 females); of these 24,634 (11,760 males and 12,874 females) or 33 per cent. were employed in the cotton industry, 12,864 (8,627 males and 4,237 females) or 17.3 per cent. in the boot and shoe industry, and 7,005 males, or 9.3 per

cent. of the total number of wage earners, in the lumber industry. The average yearly earnings per person of the males employed by the 1,454 establishments were about £86, and of the females about £62.

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 showing number of cases and deaths of various occupational diseases. Columns include Disease and Industry, Cases (Feb. 1903, 2 months ended Feb. 1903, 1902), and Deaths (Feb. 1903, 2 months ended Feb. 1903, 1902). Categories include Lead Poisoning, Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, and Anthrax.

\* Of the 4 cases in the china and earthenware industry in February, 1903, 2 affected females.

† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 9 cases of lead poisoning were reported during February among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported for the two months ended February, 1903, was 20 (none of which were fatal), and for the corresponding period of 1902, 15 (including 2 deaths).

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in February was 367,368, corresponding to a rate of 217 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1903.

Compared with January there was an increase of 4,159 in the number relieved, and of 3 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. London and West Ham account for three-fourths of the total increase in the number relieved. The districts showing the highest increases in the rate per 10,000 are South London (15), Dublin (7), Bristol (6) and East London (5). In the Stockton and Tees district there is a decrease of 16 per 10,000.

Compared with February, 1902, the number of persons relieved has increased by 11,180, and the rate per 10,000 by 2. Twenty-three of the 35 districts showed increased rates, the greatest increases being in the Stockton and Tees district (31 per 10,000), West Ham (16), South and East London (14 each), Newcastle (12), Sheffield (10), Dublin and Central London (9 each). Decreases are shown in 11 districts, the decrease in Manchester district being 9 per 10,000 and in Wigan 7 per 10,000.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of February, 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, West Ham, Other Districts), SCOTLAND, and IRELAND.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

DURING February six Bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,744 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,364 registered in February, 1902. Work was found by these Bureaux for 676 workpeople, of whom 569 were engaged by private employers. The number engaged by private employers in February, 1902, was 457.

The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at end of February was 1,102, as against 741 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in February.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Feb. 1903, Feb. 1902), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Feb. 1903, Feb. 1902), No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities) (Feb. 1903, Feb. 1902). Rows include London (Battersea, Salvation Army), Provincial (Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Glasgow), and Total of 6 Bureaux.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during February, 1903.

Table with columns: No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total. Rows include Engaged by Private Employers (Men, Women and Girls), Engaged by Local Authorities (Men, Women and Girls), Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities (Men), and Grand Total for 6 Bureaux.

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of month.

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Registers at end of (Feb. 1903, Feb. 1902). Rows include Men (Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Clerks and Warehousemen, etc.), Women and Girls (Charwomen, Daily Work, etc.), and Grand Total for 6 Bureaux.

NOTE.—In addition to the Bureaux included in the above Tables, returns have been received showing that during February recently opened municipal bureaux or registries were at work at Hackney, Hammersmith, Lambeth, Poplar, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Southwark, Westminster, Wimbledon, Bradford, Cardiff, Leeds and Middlesbrough.

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 February.

The trade returns for February, 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 value of the Exports of British produce, and of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in February, 1903, was £40,560,585, a decrease of £1,120,006, or 2.7 per cent., as compared with those in February, 1902, whilst the total Exports amounted to £28,013,764, showing a total increase of £1,797,387. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £1,463,160, or 6.9 per cent. as compared with February, 1902, whilst there is an increase of £334,227, or 5.8 per cent., in the Exports of Foreign and Colonial merchandise.

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

Table with columns: Month of February (1901, 1902, 1903), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901. Rows include I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post); Total value of Imports.

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

Table with columns: Month of February (1901, 1902, 1903), Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901. Rows include I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post); Total value of Exports of British produce.

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 February, 1903, amounted to 2,548,327 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,258,960 tons, as against 2,584,237 tons entered and 3,102,992 tons cleared in the month of February, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during February, 1903, amounted to 2,356,826 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,353,417 tons, as against 2,378,216 tons entered, and 2,335,882 tons cleared in February, 1902.

\* 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.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during February was 21,088, as compared with 14,918 in February, 1902. Comparing the two completed months of 1903 with the corresponding period of 1902, there is an increase of 12,848, viz., from 27,717 in 1902 to 40,565 in 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 21,088 passengers in February, 12,033 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 3,636 as compared with a year ago. For the two months of 1903 the total number was 23,363, as compared with 16,178 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 7,185, chiefly accounted for by the larger numbers bound for South Africa and British North America.

The following Table gives the figures for the different periods:—

Table with columns: Destination (Country in which passengers contracted to land), Feb. 1903, Feb. 1902, Total for two months ended (Feb. 1903, Feb. 1902). Rows include United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other Places, and Total, British and Irish.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 21,088 passengers in February, viz., 9,055, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 2,534 more than in February, 1902. For the two months ended February, 1903, their number was 17,202 as against 11,539 in the corresponding period of 1902, the difference being due to increases in the numbers proceeding to the United States, British North America and South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During February 10,960 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 6,050 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,053 as compared with February, 1902. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,941 (exclusive of seamen), or 695 more than a year ago. The figures for February, 1903 and 1902, and also for the two months ended February in each year, are as follows:—

Table with columns: Feb. 1903, Feb. 1902, Total for two months ended (Feb. 1903, Feb. 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.

CHANGES IN FACTORY DEPARTMENT OF HOME OFFICE.

The following changes have taken place in this Department:— Mr. E. H. Osborn, Engineering Adviser to the Chief Inspector, Home Office, has retired. Commander Hamilton P. Smith, R.N., is transferred from Sheffield to Home Office with rank of Superintending Inspector. Mr. J. Dodgson has been transferred from the Rochdale District to be Inspector in charge of the Sheffield District. Address, 21, Fargate, Sheffield. Mr. H. Verney has been transferred from the Leeds District to be Inspector in charge of the Rochdale District. Address, 72, Bridge-street, Manchester. Mr. John Law has been transferred from the Newcastle District to the Leeds District. Address, 41, Park-square, Leeds. Mr. A. F. J. Dunolly has been transferred from the Huddersfield to the Newcastle District. Address, "Belmont," Bishopton-road, Stockton-on Tees.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGER'S CERTIFICATES.

Stafford District.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under Manager will be held at The County Technical Offices, Stafford, on the 28th and 29th April. Candidates should at once send their names to the Secretary to the Board of Examinations, Mr. Robert S. Williamson, Cannon Wood House, Hedgesford, Staffs., from whom all particulars can be obtained. Persons residing outside the District are eligible for examination.

### INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

(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 February was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 27; under the Friendly Societies Act, 74 (including 45 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all, 107.

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

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—3, viz., Northern Counties Building Trades Foremen and Clerks' Association, Norfolk-street, Sunderland; Hand-in-Hand Society of Coopers, 1A, Bromley-street, Commercial-road, E.; Oldham and District Master Butchers' Association, 42, Manchester-street, Oldham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—*Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution,* 2, viz., Feltham and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Frien-road, Feltham, Middlesex; Haslemere and District Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Glenthorne Villa, Foundry-road, Haslemere, Surrey. *Agricultural Societies,* 1, viz., Hartlebury and District Agric. Supply Assoc., Ltd., Guild House, Hartlebury, Kidderminster. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—*Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution,* 1, viz., Skreen and Dromard Co-op. Home Industries and Cottage Gardening Soc., Ltd., Skreen, co. Sligo. *Co-operative Societies mainly for Production,* 21, viz., Rathkenny Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Rathkenny, co. Antrim; Newbliss Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Newbliss, co. Monaghan; Corcaghan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Corcaghan, co. Monaghan; Rahins Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Rathduff, Ballina, co. Mayo; Burncourt Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Shanbally, co. Tipperary; Tuogh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cappagh, co. Kerry; Lismore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Lismore, co. Waterford; Ballinode Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballinode, co. Monaghan; Coraskea Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Coraskea, co. Monaghan; Donacloney Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Donacloney, co. Down; Lisbellaw Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Lisbellaw, co. Fermanagh; Ballyduff Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballyduff, co. Waterford; Aughamore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Aughamore, co. Mayo; Clifferna Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Clifferna, Stracloone, co. Cavan; Rockfield Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cappagh, co. Waterford; Glen and Donaghmore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Donaghmore, co. Down; Brosna Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Brosna, co. Kerry; Kiltveogue Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cloghan, co. Donegal; St. Mary's Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Clontibret, co. Monaghan; Inver Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Inver, co. Donegal; Maghera Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., National School, Carriga Bouise, co. Cavan.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—18, viz., Hearts of Oak Staff Provident Fund, London, W.; Halstead Working Men's Constitutional Club, Halstead, Essex; Whitworth Conservative Working Men's Club, Whitworth, Rochdale; Enderby and District Conservative and Unionist Working Men's Club, Enderby, Leicester; Bermondsey Irish National Working Men's Club and Institute, Rotherhithe, S.E.; Victoria Park Conservative Working Men's Club, Victoria Park, E.; Andover Street West End Working Men's Club, Swindon; Sefton Sick and Funeral Soc., Aintree, Liverpool; London Hebrew Coronation Divisional and Sick Benefit Soc., London, E.; Hotel and Restaurant Employees (Union Ganymede) Friendly Soc., London, W.C.; Queen Alexandra Dividing Benefit Soc., London, E.; Lynchitzer Brotherhood Friendly Sick and Benefit Soc., London, E.; Loyal Lady Mary Female Oddfellows, Farnham, Surrey; Talbot Sick and Dividend Soc., Sparkbrook, Birmingham; Derwent Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Acre Sick and Dividend Soc., Nechells, Birmingham; Cross Wells Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Ye Olde Gate Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—11, viz., St. Teresa's Friendly and Benevolent Soc., Dublin; Aughamore Live Stock Insurance Soc., Ballyhaunis, co. Mayo; Dunaff Agric. Bank, Tiernasligo, co. Donegal; Tareltan Agric. Bank, Macroom, co. Cork; Ardmalin Agric. Bank, Malin Head, Donegal; Gleneely Agric. Bank, Carramore, co. Donegal; Middle Achill Agric. Bank, Bunnacurry, Achill, co. Mayo; Capital Loan and Investment Soc., Dublin; North Dublin Patriotic Loan Fund Soc., Dublin; Kilkenny Foresters Loan Fund Soc., Kilkenny; Dromelhy Agric. Bank, Cree, co. Clare.

#### (2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in February, was as follows:—

Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 6; under the Friendly Societies Act, 44 (including 23 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 15; in all 66.

### FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

(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 February, 1903, was 298, a figure which compares with 354 in the corresponding month of 1902, 327 in 1901, 371 in 1900, and 404 in 1899. The average number of fatal accidents in the month of February in these five years was thus 351, so that the total for the past month is well 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 279, compared with 331 in February, 1902. The approximate number employed in these industries at the date of the latest returns was about 5,700,000.

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

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1903, as compared with	
	February, 1903.	January, 1903.	February, 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakesmen and Goods Guards	6	2	2	+ 4	+ 4
Engine Drivers	1	1	2	...	- 1
Firemen	2	3	...	- 1	+ 2
Guards (Passenger)	1	...	...	+ 1	+ 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	4	15	6	- 11	- 2
Porters	3	6	7	- 3	- 4
Shunters	4	6	4	- 2	...
Miscellaneous	11	11	15	...	- 4
Contractors' Servants	1	2	1	- 1	...
<b>Total Railway Service</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>- 13</b>	<b>- 4</b>
<b>Mines—</b>					
Underground	88	88	56	...	+ 32
Surface	14	11	9	+ 3	+ 5
<b>Total Mines</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	<b>+ 37</b>
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>- 7</b>
<b>Factories—</b>					
<i>Textiles—</i>					
Cotton	3	2	5	+ 1	- 2
Wool and Worsted	1	5	...	- 4	+ 1
Other Textiles	3	1	3	+ 2	...
<i>Non Textiles—</i>					
Extraction of Metals	2	4	2	- 2	...
Founding and Conversion of Metals	12	15	19	- 3	- 7
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	5	1	1	+ 4	+ 4
Ship and Boat Building	11	10	9	+ 1	+ 2
Wood	1	...	3	+ 1	- 2
Chemicals, &c.	4	1	3	+ 3	+ 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	20	24	30	- 4	- 10
<b>Total Factories</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>- 13</b>
<b>Workshops—</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>Seamen—</b>					
<i>On Trading Vessels—</i>					
Sailing	12	32	30	- 20	- 18
Steam	51	91	82	- 40	- 31
<i>On Fishing Vessels—</i>					
Sailing	2	1	2	+ 1	...
Steam	14	13	30	+ 1	- 16
<b>Total Seamen</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>- 58</b>	<b>- 65</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6—</b>					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	6	18	13	- 12	- 7
Warehouses	1	2	...	- 1	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	10	9	3	+ 1	+ 7
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>- 12</b>	<b>+ 1</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>- 4</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>- 85</b>	<b>- 56</b>