

61a

THE

LABOUR GAZETTE

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

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

VOL. VII.—No. 4.

APRIL, 1899.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Summary of the State of Employment in March	97
Special Articles and Reports—	
FAIR WAGES IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS—CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SCOTLAND	99
DISPUTE IN THE PLASTERING TRADE	99
WAGES SETTLEMENT IN THE COTTON SPINNING TRADE... ..	99
ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN GERMANY IN 1898	100
PRICE OF BREAD	101
PRICES OF COAL AND IRON	101
CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896	100
CO-OPERATION IN PRUSSIA	101
Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—	
REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.	
COAL MINING	106
IRON MINING	106
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	107
IRON AND STEEL WORKS	107
TINPLATE WORKS... ..	107
SHIPBUILDING	109
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	107
SEAMEN	110
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	110
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	111
DISTRICT REPORTS.	
LONDON	111
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	112
Lancashire	113
Yorkshire	113
Midland Counties	114
Eastern Counties	116
South Western Counties	116
WALES	117
SCOTLAND	117
IRELAND	118
Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—	
COLONIES... ..	103
FRANCE	104
GERMANY... ..	104
SWITZERLAND	104
HOLLAND... ..	104
AUSTRIA	105
DENMARK	105
UNITED STATES	105
COLOMBIA	105
Miscellaneous Reports for March—	
LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	101
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	128
FOREIGN TRADE	126
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	126
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	128
Statistical Tables for March—	
TRADE DISPUTES	124
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	120
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR	122
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	119
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	127
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX	122
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	123
PAUPERISM	123
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	126
Notes and Reviews—	
CONFERENCE OF METROPOLITAN LABOUR BUREAUX	128
EARLY CLOSING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA	104
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES	98
NEW ORDER UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS... ..	98
EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES	127
EMPLOYMENT OF RESERVE AND DISCHARGED SOLDIERS	118
WASHINGTON BUREAU OF LABOUR	122

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

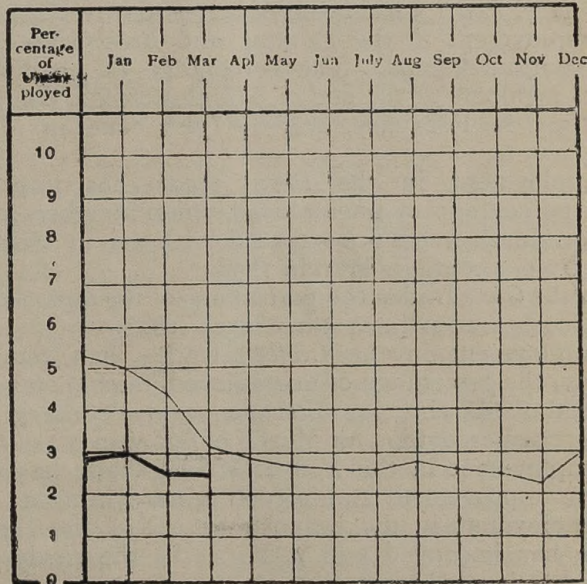
[Based on 2,351 returns, viz.: 1,624 from Employers, 584 from Trade Unions, and 143 from other sources.]

THE improvement in the state of employment reported as having taken place in February has been well maintained during March, and there have been rises of wages affecting a large number of workpeople in the coal mining, iron and steel, and cotton spinning industries.

In the 123 trade unions making returns with an aggregate membership of 494,394, 12,222 (or 2.5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 2.6 per cent. a month before, and 3.1 per cent. in the 116 unions, with a membership of 466,701, from which returns were received for March, 1898, when the figures were still affected to some extent by the late engineering dispute.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1898 and 1899. [The thick line applies to 1899, the thin line to 1898.]



Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment continued good in March, the exceptionally high average of February being practically maintained. At collieries, at which 443,631 workpeople were employed, the average time worked in the four weeks ended March 25th, was 5.62 days per week, as compared with 5.63 days in February and 5.29 days a year ago. (For further details see page 106.)

Iron Mining.—Employment continues practically unchanged. At mines and open works, at which 17,428 workpeople were employed, the average time worked per week was 5.89 days in the four weeks ended March 25th, as compared with 5.86 in February last. The average number of days worked per week in March, 1898, was also 5.89. (For further details see page 106.)

In the **Pig Iron Industry** the improvement in employment continues. Returns relating to the works of 113 iron masters show that 377 furnaces were in blast at the end of March, or four more than at the end of

February and 24 more than a year ago. The estimated number employed was 24,526, or 274 more than at the end of February and 920 more than at the end of March, 1898. (For further details see page 107.)

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment remains practically the same as in February, and continues considerably better than a year ago. At the 214 works from which returns were received, 79,831 persons were employed in the last week of March, 79,958 in the last week of February, and 76,618 in the last week of March, 1898, the average number of shifts worked in these three weeks being 5.57, 5.60, and 5.55 respectively. (For further details see page 107.)

Timplate Trade.—Employment in this industry has fallen off, but remains better than a year ago. The number of mills working at the end of March was 346, employing an estimated number of 17,541 workpeople, compared with 355 mills at work, and 17,826 workpeople employed at the end of February, and 338 mills with 17,271 workpeople at the end of March, 1898. (For further details see page 107.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has remained steady. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of March was the same as in February, viz., 2.4. The percentage for March, 1898, was 4.1.*

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has also remained steady, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March being 3.0, compared with 2.8 in February, and 5.4 in March, 1898.*

Employment in the **Building** trades has continued good, though the plasterers have been affected by a dispute. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of March was 1.6, compared with 1.5 in February. The percentage for March, 1898, was also 1.6.

Nearly all branches of the **Furnishing** trades have continued to improve, and employment is now brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 1.0, compared with 3.0 per cent. in February, and 1.3 in March of last year.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has continued good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 3.3, compared with 3.5 in February, and 3.0 per cent. in March, 1898.

Employment in the **Paper** trade has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 2.6, compared with 3.2 in February and 3.7 per cent. in March, 1898.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed was 10.9, compared with 11.3 in March, 1898.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has remained steady, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March being the same as in February, viz., 3.6. The percentage for March of last year was 4.8.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade has again shown improvement and is good in most centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade has improved and is fair. In the ready-made branch it is good generally.

Employment is good in both the **Spinning and Weaving** branches of the **Cotton** trade.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade has, on the whole, improved and is moderate. It has improved slightly in the **Worsted** trade in some centres, but is still quiet on the whole. In the **Hosiery** trade employment has again improved and is fairly good.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 531 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 92,000 women and girls, shows that 87 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 82 per cent. in February, and 74 per cent. in March, 1898. (For further details, see page 111.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—During the four weeks ended March 25th an average number of 13,576 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with averages of 13,836

* Employment still affected to some extent by the engineering dispute.

per day in the four preceding weeks and 14,340 in March, 1898. (For further details see page 110.)

Agricultural labourers were generally well employed throughout the country during the month of March, and in a number of districts the demand for labour exceeded the supply. The weather was on the whole favourable for outdoor work, though the frost in the middle of the month interfered with it to some extent, for about a week. (For further details see page 107.)

Trade Disputes.—Fifty-three fresh disputes occurred in March, 1899, involving 13,827 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for February was 36, involving 5,348 workpeople, and for March, 1898, 27 disputes, involving 2,888 workpeople. Eighteen disputes took place in the building trades, 4 in mining and quarrying, 8 in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, 5 in other metal trades, 9 in the textile trades, 2 in clothing trades, 3 in furnishing and woodworking trades, and 4 in other industries. Of the 46 new and old disputes, involving 9,003 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 22, involving 4,339 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 1,303 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 15, involving 3,361 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 124.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 331,400 workpeople were reported during March, of which number 329,900 received advances averaging 9½d. per head, and 1,500 sustained decreases averaging 3d. per head. The net result was an increase estimated at about 9½d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases were mainly in the mining industry (204,808), iron and steel manufacture (43,025), and textile trades (75,164). Changes affecting about 1,400 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work; changes affecting about 167,000 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales; and the remaining changes, affecting about 163,000 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers. (For further details, see page 120.)

Pauperism.—In 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom, 339,157 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of March. This number corresponds to a rate of 212 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, or 4 per 10,000 less than a year ago. (For further details, see page 123.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom during March for places out of Europe was 9,468, as compared with 10,072 in March, 1898. (For further details, see page 128.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES.

In the period, February 12th—April 12th, two additional schemes have been approved by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, this bringing the number of schemes now approved up to 61. The new schemes are certified under the titles of "Stanton Colliery Owners and Workmen's Mutual Accident Relief Fund" and "Writhlington and Kilmersdon Workmen's Mutual Compensation Fund" respectively. The former affects 422 workpeople employed at coal mining and brick and stoneware pipe-making at Stanton, near Burton-on-Trent, and the latter, 456 persons engaged at the Writhlington and Kilmersdon Collieries, near Radstock, Somerset.

NEW ORDER UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

THE Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, Sec. 29, requires written notice of cases of lead, phosphorus or arsenical poisoning, or anthrax, occurring in factories or workshops, to be sent to the inspector and to the certifying surgeon for the district, and also (unless such notice has been previously sent) notification to be made to the Chief Inspector of Factories by medical practitioners attending or called in to visit patients whom they believe to be suffering from any such disease contracted in any factory or workshop, and further provides that the Secretary of State may by order apply the provisions of this section to any other disease occurring in a factory or workshop. By an order dated March 27th, 1899, and coming into force on May 1st, the Home Secretary has applied the provisions above-mentioned to all cases of mercurial poisoning occurring in any factory or workshop.

FAIR WAGES IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SCOTLAND.

A PARLIAMENTARY RETURN (No. 377) has recently been issued by the Crown Agent for Scotland "showing in respect of each Local Authority in Scotland whether the contracts entered into by the Local Authority for the execution of works specify any conditions as to the wages to be paid by the contractor, or other conditions with respect to the persons employed by him; and if so, what are the conditions so specified."

In order to show, so far as possible, the character of the chief conditions attached by Local Authorities to their contracts as regards employment of labour and the relative extent to which such conditions prevail throughout Scotland, an analysis of the above return has been prepared by the Department, similar to that dealing with the urban districts of England and Wales, and published in the LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1898 (p. 99). The actual conditions imposed vary somewhat in wording and in detail, but they have been grouped under three main headings for the purpose of this summary, viz.: Conditions requiring the payment of (1) "fair," or "current" wages; (2) wages recognised by trade unions, and (3) wages specified in the contract itself.

The return applies to 235 districts, i.e., the whole of Scotland with a population in 1891, of 4,025,647.

The following table summarises the return:—

	Counties.		Burghs.		Total.	
	No.	Population in 1891, exclusive of Burghs in col. 2.	No.	Population in 1891.	No.	Population in 1891.
I.—Districts specifying in their contracts conditions as to wages, &c.—						
Rates of Wages to be—						
(1) "Fair" or "current" in the district	3	71,598	11	1,435,328	14	1,506,926
(2) Those recognised by trade unions	—	—	2	39,933	2	39,933
(3) Those fixed in contract	—	—	1	28,447	1	28,447
Total I specifying conditions as to wages, &c.	3	71,598	14	1,503,708	17	1,575,306
II.—Districts specifying various conditions as to employment, but not with regard to wages, &c.	2	265,859*	5	94,364	7	360,223
III.—Districts specifying no conditions of employment by contractors	28	1,183,547	183	906,571	211	2,090,118
Total, Scotland	33	1,521,004	202	2,504,643	235	4,025,647

Thus it appears that altogether 17 districts in Scotland with a population of over one and a half millions, impose conditions as to wages in their contracts; while 218 with a population of nearly two and a half millions, have imposed no such conditions.

Of the three classes of conditions as to wages, by far the most prevalent—as in England and Wales—is that requiring "current" or "standard" or "fair" wages to be paid; while the method least frequently adopted is the actual fixing of rates in the contract, which is only found in one district with about 28,000 inhabitants.

DISPUTE IN THE PLASTERING TRADE.

IN the last number of the GAZETTE, pages 67 and 68, an account was given of the circumstances leading up to the present dispute.

In the course of further correspondence between the parties, a letter was addressed, on March 18th, by the secretary of the National Association of Master Builders to the secretary of the National Association of Operative Plasterers, asking, *inter alia*, for definite information as to whether that association intended to "persist in coercing any men into" their Association, "and if so, what men." In his reply of March 24th, the operatives' secretary wrote:—

I have to inform you that we have not any desire, neither have we ever had any desire to coerce anyone into our association; and we claim the right and privilege to persuade any plasterer working at the trade to become a member.

* This figure is too large to the extent of the population of the Upper and Middle Wards of the County of Lanark. If this population had been separable it should have been included in the 1,183,547 below.

The secretary of the Master Builders replied on March 30th that this statement could not be reconciled with the strike against the three London firms, but that their committee were

"... satisfied with your present assurance that you have no desire to coerce anyone into your association, and you claim only the right and privilege to persuade any plasterer working at the trade to become a member."

He accordingly suggested a meeting between representatives of the Plasterers and twelve members of the Master Builders' Association, to be held on April 6th.

The conference was duly held in London on that date, representatives from London, Birmingham, Bradford, Cardiff, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle, Plymouth, and Sunderland being present on behalf of the employers; and representatives from London, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, and Nottingham on behalf of the operatives.

After some discussion the employers handed the following questions in writing to the men's representatives. Their answers are appended.

(1) Are you properly authorised to definitely agree to and sign any agreement we may arrive at with reference to the employers' circular of February 1st?

Answer: Yes.

(2) It must be understood that any agreement shall be applicable to the whole of the country.

Answer: Agreed.

(3) Are you prepared to enter into a monetary guarantee on both sides for the faithful observance of any agreement arrived at?

Answer: We cannot agree to a monetary guarantee.

(4) In your letter of March 24th you state that you have no desire to coerce anyone into your association, and claim the right to persuade only. Do you confirm or withdraw that statement?

Answer: We wish to be honest with you, therefore withdraw the words *persuade only*, as we could not guarantee that our members would agree to such action on our part; but we have no desire to coerce anyone into our association.

After some further discussion the chairman informed the operatives that as the assurance given in their letter of March 24th had been withdrawn, the employers must decline to continue the conference.

WAGES SETTLEMENT IN THE COTTON SPINNING TRADE.

EARLY in January an application was made by the Operative Spinners to the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations for a general advance of 5 per cent. in wages, and by the card and blowing room hands for an advance of 5 per cent. to piece-workers, and 10 per cent. to male hands on day wages. A preliminary discussion took place at a conference held on January 23rd, when it was pointed out that by the terms of the Brooklands Agreement, which was entered into when wages were reduced in 1893, the first subsequent change in wages, if an advance, was limited to the amount then taken off, viz., 7d. in the pound.

The operatives' delegates accordingly agreed to amend their application in this sense, except so far as concerned the male card and blowing room hands, the question of whether these could claim a higher advance being referred to the legal advisers of the two parties, who assisted in drawing up the Brooklands Agreement. Subsequently, these two gentlemen reported that these workpeople were not entitled to make such a demand. At an adjourned conference on February 6th the employers intimated that they considered the application for an advance premature.

The operative cotton spinners and the card and blowing-room operatives accordingly gave formal notice of their demand for an advance of 7d. in the pound, a ballot of their members being meanwhile taken. The ballot resulted in a large majority in favour of pressing the demand, and individual notices to cease work were handed in, these notices to expire on March 25th.

On March 20th a conference was held at Manchester between representatives of the parties, at which the employers offered to refer the question to arbitration, the arbitration to cover any period which the operatives desired, on the understanding that the same period

should hold good in future arbitrations. The proposal was declined by the representatives of the operatives. After further proposals and discussion the employers agreed to give the general advance of 7d. in the pound to take effect on March 27th, the operatives' representatives agreeing to the following resolution:—

"That in consideration of the advance being given on March 27th, we undertake to seriously consider any proposals which may be submitted for the purpose of trying to arrive at some agreement by which wages shall be governed by the state of trade, and to submit such proposals to our members."

The districts directly affected are Ashton, Bury, Darwen, Droydsden, Glossop and Hyde, Heywood, Huddersfield, Macclesfield, Manchester, Mossley, Oldham, Rochdale, Stalybridge and Stockport. Wages in Bolton are not affected by the agreement. Districts in North and North-Eastern Lancashire except those paying to the Bolton list gave the advance a fortnight later.

In all it is estimated that the advance affects about 75,000 operatives, of whom 40,000 are spinners and assistants, 30,000 in the card and blowing room department, the remaining 5,000 being reelers and miscellaneous workpeople.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE IN GERMANY IN 1898.

PROVISIONAL figures for 1898 as to the number of accidents and cost of compensation under the Accident Insurance Laws are contained in the Annual Report for that year of the Imperial Insurance Department.* The total number of accidents reported in 1898 is given as 406,958 (compared with 382,117 in 1897); the number, in respect to which indemnities were paid for the first time, as 97,432 (92,326 in 1897); and the amount spent in compensating accidents (new and old), as £3,555,134 (£3,198,677 in 1897). The number of persons who participated in that compensation was 581,995 (515,331 in 1897) and consisted of 433,485 injured workpeople, of 40,965 widows, 72,061 children and 2,515 parents, &c., of workpeople killed by accidents, and of 10,407 wives, 22,369 children, and 193 parents, &c., dependent upon injured workpeople and drawing allowances during the treatment of their bread-winners in hospitals.

There were 1,293 Arbitration Boards (6 more than in 1897) existing under the Accident Insurance Laws and subject to the Imperial Insurance Department. Appeal lies in certain cases to these Boards against the decisions pronounced by the Trade Groups and kindred bodies, with an ultimate appeal to the Imperial Insurance Department. The number and proportion of the appeals of both kinds in each of the years 1894-8 may be seen from the following table:—

Years.	Decisions of Trade Groups, &c.		Awards of Arbitration Boards.		
	Admitting of Appeal.	Appealed against.	Admitting of Appeal.	Appealed against.	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	
1894	127,479	30,104	23,6	23,724	7,052
1895	141,783	33,553	23,3	27,331	7,806
1896	160,872	38,647	24,0	32,422	9,273
1897	181,162	42,111	22,9	34,882	10,343
1898	194,433	44,313	22,8	37,403	11,183

Of the 44,313 appeals from decisions of Trade Groups, &c. brought in 1898 and the 9,236 similar appeals left over from 1897, 545 were rejected on preliminary examination on grounds of legal informality, and 2,144 were withdrawn; in 1,210 cases a compromise was effected; and in 872 the demands of the appellants were conceded in full. In regard to the 38,592 appeals which came to a hearing, in 28,235 cases (73 per cent.) the decisions of the Trade Groups, &c., were confirmed, and in 9,749 (25 per cent.) the decisions were altered in whole or in part, while in 608 cases (2 per cent.) the appeals were dismissed on grounds of legal informality.

Among the 194,433 decisions admitting of appeal pronounced in 1898 by the Trade Groups, &c., 75,440

* Geschäftsbericht des Reichs-Versicherungsamts für das Jahr, 1898, Berlin, 31/1/99. Government Printing Office.

were decisions under the clause in the law, whereby the rate of indemnity originally allowed to an injured workman is liable to subsequent modification in the event of a change for the better, or for the worse, in his condition. Of these, 16,626 were appealed against.

The number of appeals from awards of Arbitration Courts, with which the Imperial Insurance Department had to deal in 1898, was 15,769, including 4,586 appeals outstanding since previous years. Seventy-eight per cent. of these appeals were brought by the insured, and 22 per cent. by the Trade Groups, &c. In 9,725 appeal cases final judgment was given by the Insurance Department; while 731 appeals were rejected on grounds of legal informality, 519 were settled by conciliation, withdrawn, or otherwise disposed of, and 4,794 were held over till 1899.

Of the 9,725 cases in which final judgment was given in 1898, 7,502 were appeals by workpeople, and 2,223 by Trade Groups, &c. The workpeople were successful in 1,467, or 19.6 per cent. (as against 22.1 per cent. in 1897) of their appeals, and the Trade Groups, &c., in 1,217, or 54.7 per cent. (as against 48.6 per cent. in 1897).

CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Strike of Jute Weavers at Aberdeen.

ON March 3rd 168 weavers in the employ of the Aberdeen Jute Company struck work, the consequent closing of the works affecting 296 other persons, chiefly preparers, spinners and winders. The weavers on strike were dissatisfied with the quality of the material, and with the rates paid for weaving a particular fabric. On this fabric an advance of 1/3d. per cut (rs. 3d. to rs. 3 1/3d.) was conceded on the list prices in October last. The fabric had recently been made in greater quantity than formerly, and the workpeople contended that the wages they made by weaving it were lower than those made on the fabrics previously most usual. They therefore demanded a further advance of 1d. per cut.

On March 21st the secretary of the Aberdeen Mill and Factory Workers applied to the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act, 1896. An official of the Department visited the district, and had interviews with the parties, as a result of which the following letter was addressed by the manager to the operatives' secretary.

DEAR SIR,

Referring to our conversation along with Mr. Fountain of the Board of Trade to-day, in connection with our present strike, I would here repeat the conclusions we have arrived at, viz.:— That the workers are welcome to come back to their work at the rate of pay prevalent before the strike, and when the state of trade justifies to Dundee manufacturers any change in the prevailing rates of wages that this company will immediately follow.

In case any misunderstanding should exist among our workers regarding the nature of the arbitration in 1884, any representative of the workers is welcome to see or have a copy of the documents referring thereto.

I would also take the opportunity you ask for to repeat the promise and agreement which was made before the strike, viz.:— That in your own words we will "do our best to improve the present material so as to make better work for the weavers."

William Johnston, Esq., I am, yours truly,
Aberdeen. (Signed) JAMES DUCAT.

This letter was submitted on the same day to the Strike Committee and to a meeting of the operatives, who agreed to return to work on the terms therein contained. Work was resumed on April 3rd.

Wigan Building Trades.

Notice having been given to the Wigan Master Builders' Association, by the Amalgamated Slaters and Tilers Society for an advance of wages, and by the General Union and Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners Societies for an advance and alterations in working rules, and counter notices having been given in both cases by the employers for alterations in working rules, joint applications were made, on March 30th, to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire. On April 7th, the Board appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, Barrister-at-law.

PRICE OF BREAD.

(Based on returns furnished by the courtesy of the principal Co-operative Societies.)

IN continuation of the table published in the LABOUR GAZETTE of October, 1898, the Department has again collected returns from the principal Co-operative Societies, showing the price of a 4 lb. loaf in various districts in each month since that date. It appears that 23 of the 74 societies making returns have not altered the price of bread since October last, at which time their average price was 4.95d. per 4 lb. loaf. The remaining 51 societies were then selling at an average price of 5.23d., which has since been reduced by 1/3d. per 4 lb. loaf. Most of these societies made the reduction in March of this year, but some did so in February, and a few in other months.

The general effect of all the changes in the 74 societies is a fall of a little over 1/3d. per 4 lb. loaf, the average price now being 4.83d. as compared with 5.1d. in October last.

The following table compares the present price of bread in various districts with what it was in October and April of 1898:—

Average Price of Bread per 4 lb. Loaf.

District.	At April, 1899.	At Oct., 1898.	At April, 1898.	Fall since	
				Six months ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Northern Counties	4.86	5.21	5.82	.35	.96
Mid and Eastern Counties	4.22	4.84	5.32	.42	1.15
Home Counties	5.13	5.56	4.98	.43	.83
South and South-Western Counties ...	4.88	4.99	5.48	.11	.60
English societies making returns ...	4.68	5.06	5.65	.38	.97
Scottish societies making returns ...	4.99	5.14	5.97	.15	.98
All societies making returns ...	4.83	5.10	5.81	.27	.98

During the same period the average price of British wheat per quarter has fallen from 35s. 2d. in the first week of April, 1898, to 26s. 6d. in the first week of October, 1898, and 24s. 7d. in the first week of April, 1899.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

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

Product and District.	Number of work-people.	Period over which prices were ascer- tained at last audit.	Date from which last audit affects wages.	Average ascertained selling price per ton.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.
Coal.				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	Dec., Jan., Feb.	—	6 4.31	6 6.63	- 0 2.32
South Wales and Monmouth:— (Average for certain classes of coal, free on board)	125,000	Jan., Feb.	1st Apr.	10 5.14 to 10 6.86	10 0.00 to 10 1.71	+ *
Pig Iron.						
Cumberland ...	1,350	Jan., Feb., Mar.	1st Apr.	59 1.370	56 5.538	+ 2 5.832
Cleveland ...	5,500	Jan., Feb., Mar.	1st Apr.	44 10.08	42 5.21	+ 2 4.87
Manufact'rd. Iron.						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	Jan., Feb.	27th Mar.	113 2.86	109 11.14	+ 3 3.72
Midlands:— (Bars, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips)	20,000	Jan., Feb.	3rd Apr.	128 2.25	126 6.14	+ 1 8.11
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and rods)	3,500	Jan., Feb.	1st Apr.	116 0.91	112 7.65	+ 3 5.26

As the result of the increase in the average selling price of Welsh coal, the wages of the miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire have been increased 3 1/2 per

* The exact amount of the difference cannot be stated.

cent. The average selling prices of pig iron and manufactured iron show an increase in each district for which ascertainment are made. Under the various sliding scales in operation the wages of the blast-furnacemen in Cleveland and in Cumberland have been increased 3 per cent. In the North of England and Midland districts the wages of puddlers have been advanced 3d. per ton, and of millmen 2 1/2 per cent. In the West of Scotland wages remain unaltered.

CO-OPERATION IN PRUSSIA.

ACCORDING to recent official statistics* there were, on June 30th, 1898, 8,300 registered Co-operative Associations in Prussia. The aggregate membership of 8,272 of these associations was 1,117,722, or 30.64 per 1,000 of the civilian population of Prussia (31,502,253 according to the census of December 2nd, 1895). Since February 28th, 1897, the number of registered Co-operative Associations had increased by 1,342, their membership by 126,110 and the proportion of members per 1,000 of the population by 4.84.

The following statement classifies the registered Co-operative Associations existing on February 28th, 1897, according to their objects:—

Description of Associations.	Total No. of Associations.	Associations whose Membership is known.	
		Number.	Membership.
Credit Associations	4,455	4,089	645,295
Supply (Materials) Associations	367	351	29,327
Associations for marketing Members' products	43	34	3,724
Productive Sale Depot Associations	14	110	68,399
Associations for Production	1,239	1,110	68,399
Associations for Distribution (Co-operative Stores)	605	547	183,621
Building Associations	134	117	20,950
Other Associations	103	92	13,527
Totals	6,958	6,350	985,160.

By June 30th, 1898, it had been found possible to ascertain the membership of the 608 Associations as to whom information on this point had not previously been forthcoming. The amended total membership is given as 991,612.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

WHAT IS AN ACCIDENT "ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT?"

An engine-driver in the employment of a railway company met with a fatal accident on the line after he had been relieved from duty on his engine, but before he had, as the company rules required, attended at the locomotive office before proceeding home as a passenger. His widow claimed compensation from the company, on whose behalf it was submitted that the deceased was not at the time of the accident in the employment of the company. The sheriff declined to take this view, and gave decree for the amount sued for.—*Robertson or Todd v. Caledonian Railway Co., Forfar Sheriff's Court, March 6th.*

In another case a girl employed in a laundry sued her employer for compensation in respect of injury to her hand which had been caught between the rollers of a machine. The defenders stated that the pursuer not only had no right to interfere with the machine (which was in charge of another person), but had been expressly prohibited from doing so, and pleaded that the injury did not arise out of and in the course of her employment. The sheriff, however, found that the injury arose out of, and in connection with, the girl's employment, and awarded her compensation.—*Wilson v. Ferris & Co., Glasgow Sheriff's Court, March 20th.*

In another case an employer appealed from a decision of the County Court judge, who had made an award in favour of the widow of a miner (a fireman). It was one of the deceased's duties to examine the mine from time to time, and make report. On the day of the accident he had examined the mine and written report, which it was his duty to take to an office at some distance. Some trucks, drawn by a horse, were starting along a tramway in that direction, and the deceased, in breach of one of the rules of the colliery, got upon one of the trucks to have a ride. The horse took fright and bolted; the deceased jumped off the truck, and tried to stop the horse, and so doing was run over and killed. The County Court judge found as a fact that the deceased, although acting in breach of a rule, had not been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct within the mean-

* Mittheilungen der Preussischen Central-Genossenschafts-Kasse. Hefte I. & II. Berlin, 1898 and 1899. Carl Heyman's Publishing Establishment.

of section 1, sub-section 2 (c) of the Act. His award was appealed against on the ground that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the employment of the deceased, who was under no legal duty to stop the horse. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal.—*Rees v. Thomas, Court of Appeal, March 25th.*

WHAT IS A FACTORY?

A farm servant claimed compensation from her employer for injuries received under the following circumstances: A farmer having hired a steam threshing machine, the pursuer was sent by her employer (a neighbour of the farmer's) to assist in the work, and while she was so engaged, she, although directed to stop still where she was stationed, and warned of the danger of moving about, attempted to step across an opening in the machine in order to speak to a girl stationed at the other side of this opening, and her foot slipping in and being caught by the revolving drum, she was severely injured. It was shown that for the performance of her work the pursuer did not require to speak to the girl or to leave her place. The sheriff found that the pursuer, having been injured by accident arising out of and in the course of her employment, the defender, her employer, was liable to pay her compensation, and gave decree in her favour accordingly. In his note the sheriff said that, while it had been contended by the defender that the pursuer was not amongst the workmen to whom the Act applied, because she was an agricultural servant, her claim was to be judged according, not to her general relationship to her employer (that of a farm servant), but to her employment at the time of the accident, when she was for the time being at work in a factory within the meaning of the Act; that the Act applied to employment in a factory, and a factory included machinery, and, according to the Factory Act, 1878, sec. 93, included any premises where, with mechanical power, manual labour was exercised "in or incidental to the adapting for sale of any article," and it was provided that "any premises or place shall not be excluded from the definition of a factory or workshop by reason only that such premises or place are or is in the open air." The sheriff also said that the action of the pursuer in stepping across the drum was rather "contributory negligence" than "serious and wilful misconduct."—*Callaghan v. Maxwell, Lanark Sheriff's Court, reported March 2nd.*

In another case a claim for compensation was made by the widow of a workman late in the employment of a firm of builders, who were engaged in erecting a post-office and some other buildings. The deceased was employed to look after a steam engine in an engine shed and a mortar-pan, his duty being to fire the boiler, to start the engine and oil it, and to oil and feed the mortar-pan, which was outside the engine shed in the open air. The engine was used for grinding mortar for the post office, from which it was distant about 20 yards. Across the middle of the shed was a revolving shaft, worked by the engine, and placed about 4 feet from the ground. The shed had a full-sized door at the side furthest away from the mortar-pan, and there was a small door, 4 feet high, at the side of the shed nearest to the mortar-pan. This small door was sometimes used for ventilating the shed, and it was opened from the inside, and the man working at the engine would have to pass under the shaft to go to this door. The deceased had been forbidden to go out of the shed by this small door. On the day on which he was killed, the deceased started the engine, and about two minutes afterwards a labourer, hearing a rattling noise, went to the shed and found the deceased being whirled round on the revolving shaft. The deceased died shortly afterwards. No one saw how the accident happened. It was the duty of the deceased, after starting the engine, to go to the mortar pan, the proper way to which was by the main door; while, if the deceased wished to go out by the small door, he would have to creep under the shaft in order to reach it. The oil-can used for oiling the engine was found on the shelf where it was kept when not in use, showing that the accident did not happen when the deceased was oiling the engine.

The County Court judge held that the engine shed and the engine were a factory within the meaning of the Act, and that the deceased had not been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct. Upon the question whether the accident arose out of and in the course of the employment, he said that it was probable the deceased was caught by the machinery while trying to creep under the shaft; that his duty after starting the engine was to go out of the front door to the mortar-pan, and that this would not have required him to go near the shaft; that the deceased was probably "in the course of" his employment when the accident happened, but that the plaintiff must also prove that the accident arose "out of" the employment, as to which there was no evidence. He therefore gave judgment for the defendants. On appeal this decision was reversed. The Court of Appeal held that the accident to the deceased arose out of and in the course of his employment, and that he was employed on or in or about a factory within the meaning of the Act. By the Act, "factory" included any machinery to which any provision of the Factory Acts was applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, and by section 23, sub-section 1 (v), (a) and (b) of the last-named Act the Legislature made certain things factories to which the provisions of the Act with respect to the power to make orders as to dangerous machinery were to apply. This would include the engine in the present case, inasmuch as it was worked by steam for the purpose of grinding mortar, and was temporarily used for the purpose of structural work in connection with a building.—*McNicholas v. Dawson & Son, Court of Appeal, March 4th.*

In another case the widow of a workman, employed as fireman and worker of a steam winch on board a vessel belonging to a steam trawling and fishing company, who met

with a fatal accident while working the winch for the purpose of unloading cargo from the vessel on to the quay, claimed compensation from the company. The sheriff-substitute gave decree in favour of the pursuer, on the ground that the work was an employment to which the Act applied, and that the injuries to the deceased arose out of and in the course of his employment. The defenders appealed, and the decision of the sheriff-substitute was reversed, the Court of Session holding that the defenders could not be held to be the occupiers of a factory within the meaning of the Act, and that accordingly the deceased must be held not to have been in an employment to which the Act applied. The Lord President said that, according to the Act, "factory" included "any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895," and by section 23 of that Act certain provisions of older Factory Acts were to have effect as if "every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse, and so far as relates to the process of loading or unloading therefrom or thereto, all machinery and plant used in that process" were included in the word factory. But the section spoke "from the land"; and it did not apply any of the provisions which it enumerated to the loading or unloading machinery which formed part of the ship's apparatus. The winch in question was a fixed part of the steamer, and was used at sea as well as in harbour, and its use could not be said to be related to a dock or a quay. The argument that the word "dock" included ships in the dock seemed to his Lordship entirely untenable.—*Kemp & Peters v. Aberdeen Steam Trawling and Fishing Co., Limited, Court of Session, March 16th.*

MEANING OF "IN OR ABOUT" A FACTORY, ETC.

In the case, noticed in the GAZETTE for February (p. 40), in which a drayman, employed by a firm of millers, who claimed compensation for injuries received while delivering flour to customers of his employers at a place a mile and a-half distant from the firm's mills, was nonsuited, the decision of the County Court judge was confirmed on appeal.—*Louth v. Ibbotson, Court of Appeal, March 11th.*

"BUILDING WHICH EXCEEDS THIRTY FEET IN HEIGHT, AND IS EITHER BEING CONSTRUCTED OR REPAIRED BY MEANS OF A SCAFFOLDING."

The widow of a workman late in the employ of a firm of house-painters, who met with a fatal accident under the following circumstances, claimed compensation from his employers: The deceased was cleaning and painting the outside of a house over 30 feet in height, the work being done by means of long ladders. The rung of the ladder on which the deceased was standing broke, and he fell to the ground and was killed. On one ladder there was a plank with one end tied to the rung of the ladder, and with the other end resting on a window-sill; the deceased was not standing on that plank. The claim was referred to an arbitrator, who held (1) that the building was not being "repaired," and (2) that neither the ladders nor the arrangement of the plank and sill constituted "scaffolding" within the meaning of the Act, and made his award in favour of the employers, but submitted the two points above stated for decision by the County Court judge; that judge reversed the decision of the arbitrator on both points, and made an award in favour of the claimant. But, on appeal, the Court of Appeal reversed the award. The Court held that the house was not being constructed or repaired, ordinary painting not being repairing; and that the ladder was not a scaffolding within the meaning of the Act. Whether the arrangement of the plank and ladder constituted the thing a scaffolding, was a question of fact, and the arbitrator had found that it was not a scaffolding. The claimant was therefore not entitled to compensation.—*Wood v. Walsh & Sons, Court of Appeal, March 18th.*

In another case a claim for compensation was made by the widow of a workman employed by a firm of builders, who was accidentally killed while working in a building used for stables which had been erected and used, but which it was subsequently found advisable to strengthen with iron stays, the defendants being employed to put up these stays. For that purpose planks were placed on trestles about 8 feet from the ground, and the workmen stood on the planks while at work. These trestles and planks were removed every night. The deceased fell off the planks, and was killed. Two questions were raised—(1) whether the building was over 30 feet in height, and (2) whether it was being "constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding." The height of the building was 28 feet from the ground to the parapet, but to the top of the roof 36 feet. The County Court judge decided both questions in favour of the plaintiff, and awarded her compensation. On appeal, this judgment was reversed, the Court of Appeal holding that the building exceeded 30 feet in height within the meaning of the Act, but was not a building which was being either constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding. With regard to the question whether the planks and trestles constituted a scaffolding, the County Court judge had found that they did; and it could not be said that there was no evidence of a scaffolding having been used. The building, however, had already been constructed, and nothing was out of repair. What was being done was neither construction nor repair.—*Hodkinson v. Newton, Chambers & Co., Limited, Court of Appeal, March 25th.*

WHO ARE "DEPENDANTS"?

The father and mother of a boy, who was killed by an accident in the course of his employment on a railway, claimed compensation from his employers as "dependants" who were in part dependent upon the earnings of the deceased. The boy, who was fourteen years of age, was earning 17s. a week and gave all his earnings to his parents, who let him have what they thought right for pocket-money. It was given in evidence that his father was thirty-four years old, was in regular work at full wages, earning about 34s. a week; that the boy's

wages were a help to maintain the family, and the parents expected this help. The County Court judge decided that the plaintiffs were in part dependent upon the deceased, and awarded compensation. It was contended on behalf of the defendants that there was no evidence that the plaintiffs were "dependants" within the meaning of the Act, because it was not shown that they were dependent upon the earnings of the deceased, wholly or in part, for the ordinary necessities of life, having regard to their class and position. The defendants appealed. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal, holding that there was a finding of fact, and so long as there was evidence upon which the County Court judge might find that the plaintiffs were "dependants" the Court of Appeal could not interfere. A "dependant," within the meaning of the Act, is a person who is wholly or in part dependent on the earnings of the deceased for the ordinary necessities of life, having regard to his class and position, and not merely one who derives a benefit from the earnings of the deceased.—*Simmons v. White & Co., Limited, Court of Appeal, March 11th.*

ARBITRATION BY COUNTY COURT JUDGE.—NO POWER TO ALLOW NEW TRIAL.

A County Court judge having given an award in favour of a workman who had claimed compensation from his employers, these defendants applied to the County Court judge for a new trial. It was objected on the part of the plaintiff that the judge had no jurisdiction to entertain the application. The judge held otherwise, but having heard the application, refused to grant a new trial. The defendants appealed; but their appeal was dismissed, the Court of Appeal holding that when the County Court judge settles a claim for compensation under the Act, the proceeding is an arbitration and the judge is an arbitrator only, and consequently the judge has no power to entertain an application for a new trial.—*Mountain v. Parr, Court of Appeal, March 11th.*

SECURITY FOR COSTS OF APPEAL.

In a claim for compensation by the infant child of a deceased workman, suing by a next friend, the County Court judge decided upon a point of law in favour of the defendants. The plaintiff appealed. The defendants applied to the Court of Appeal for an order that the plaintiff should give security for the costs of the appeal. Affidavits were read to show that, on account of poverty, the plaintiff would be unable to pay the costs of the appeal if unsuccessful. The Court held that, in compliance with its ordinary rules, security for costs must be given. If, however, the appellant was in a position to obtain an order for leave to appeal *in forma pauperis*, she need not give security for the costs of the appeal; but in such a case the appellant must first obtain the opinion of counsel that she had a proper case for an appeal. The appellant was ordered to give security to the amount of £15.—*Hall v. Snowden, Hubbard & Co., Court of Appeal, March 6th.*

In a similar case (a claim for compensation by the widow of a workman, drowned while engaged in dredging operations) a similar order was made.—*Chambers v. Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners, Court of Appeal, March 13th.*

(2) Factory and Workshops Acts.

ELECTRICITY AN "ARTICLE."—GENERATING STATION A FACTORY.

A District Council was summoned, as the occupiers of a market hall lighted by electricity, for not affixing at the entrance of the station at which the light was generated the prescribed abstract of the Act. For the purpose of generating the electricity manual labour and steam power were used; the stalls in the market were let by the Council, who provided the light. By the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, the term "factory" includes "any premises wherein . . . any manual labour is exercised by way of trade or for purposes of gain in or incidental to . . . the making of any article . . . and wherein . . . steam . . . power is used in aid of the manufacturing process carried on there." It was contended on behalf of the Council that they were not a trading corporation, that there was no gain, but a loss, on the market hall, that electricity was not an article, and that, even if the cost of the electricity was included in the rent of the stalls, this was a hiring and not a sale. The magistrate held that electricity was an "article," and fined the defendants 2s. 6d. and costs.—*Reg. v. the Bilston District Council, Bilston Police-court, March 21st.*

(3) Miscellaneous.

POOR LAW.—RELIEF TO WORKMEN ON STRIKE.

While the dispute in the South Wales coal trade was in progress, the guardians of the Merthyr Tydfil Union, in consequence of the large number of able-bodied men in the district applying for relief, established labour yards, which remained open for some months, a large sum of money being spent out of the rates in relieving able-bodied colliers refusing to go to work. An action was brought at the relation of certain large ratepayers in the union, claiming a declaration that the establishment by the guardians of such labour yards and the expenditure of the union funds for the purpose of providing relief for able-bodied persons, to the knowledge of the guardians otherwise able to maintain themselves and their families, constituted a breach of the guardians' statutory powers and duties. These were defined by two Orders of October, 1870, made under the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834. By the Order of October 1st, 1870, able-bodied persons and their families, if objects of relief, were to be relieved wholly in the workhouses, except under special circumstances mentioned in the Order, such as sudden and urgent necessity; and by the supplemental Order of October 29th, if the guardians should depart in any particular instance from the regulations, and within fifteen days after such departure should report the same and the grounds thereof to the Poor Law Board (now represented by the Local Government Board), and the board should approve of such departure, then the relief granted in

such particular instance should, if otherwise lawful, not be deemed to be unlawful or be subject to be disallowed. The guardians by several reports had reported to the Local Government Board all the particular instances in which relief was being granted to the persons employed at the labour yards, and the grounds for granting such relief, and the board had approved of the granting of the relief in all but one of the reports which was not yet approved.

It was held (1) That the guardians were bound to give relief in urgent cases even though their urgency might have arisen from the wilful refusal of the man to work, the proper course for the guardians in case of wilful persistence in such refusal being to prosecute under the Vagrancy Act, 1824, section 3; (2) That, generally speaking, while the Court had jurisdiction in a proper case in an action at the instance of the ratepayers to restrain guardians from applying the poor rates for unauthorised purposes, it was not proper for ratepayers objecting to a poor rate as excessive to come to the Court by way of appeal against it and ask for an injunction, instead of going before the auditors appointed by the Local Government Board, and appealing therefrom, as provided by the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1844; (3) That, as in the special circumstances of this case it was not proved that the guardians had relieved a single case not of sudden and urgent necessity which they were bound to relieve, the plaintiffs were not entitled to any assistance by way of declaration or otherwise; and (4) That the guardians had not disregarded the regulations contained in the Orders made under the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834; that none of the relief given by them was not "otherwise lawful" within the meaning of the words of the Orders; and that there was such "sudden and urgent necessity" within the meaning of the Orders as would justify relief being given out of the workhouse.—*The Attorney-General (at the relation of the Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company, Limited, on behalf of themselves and all other the ratepayers of the Merthyr Tydfil Union) v. The Guardians of the Merthyr Tydfil Union, Chancery Division, March 27th.*

It has since been stated that the auditor gave his decision on April 13th in certain cases which have come before him, and has allowed relief given in kind, but has surcharged the relieving officers and the guardians the amounts expended in cash.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad-way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, etc., mostly dated February and March last.)

Canada.—April is the commencement of the busy season in Canada, and is the best month for emigrants to arrive in. The principal demand is for farmers with capital, experienced farm hands, female domestic servants, and for a limited number of competent miners, and carpenters. The routes to the Klondike goldfields are now for the most part open, but only experienced men with a capital of £300 should go there. A correspondent in British Columbia states that an experienced mechanic, who can make or repair machinery, and a skilled carpenter would get good wages; he should, however, be sure to have enough money to keep himself and family for a month after arriving, that is to say, about £6 a head.

New South Wales.—A report from Armidale, 313 miles north of Sydney, states that owing to the continued droughts there is very little demand for any kind of labour. At Tamworth, a few miles further south, "willing and capable men are often out of work," but "general female servants are difficult to obtain."

Victoria.—Reports from Bendigo and Collingwood state that there is a demand for female servants, but not for labourers, miners, or mechanics. The demand for labour in Melbourne has improved.

Queensland.—The iron foundries at Ipswich and elsewhere have been very busy, and skilled labour has been very difficult to obtain at times. There has also been a considerable increase of business in the boot and clothing factories, and the imports of boots and shoes, and ready-made clothing, have declined in proportion. At Brisbane the building trades are improving, and trade generally is better. There is a good demand in many parts of the colony for farm hands, and domestic servants; free passages are now being granted to these, and assistance is given to market gardeners and others.

Western Australia.—A report from a country district in the South-West states that there is a good demand for farm and for general labourers at 30s. to 40s. per month, with board and lodging, and for female servants at £12 to £15 a year. The 600 or 700 men employed at the locomotive workshops at Fremantle

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

are now working six days a week instead of five, as was the case during the last few months. At Perth a good many mechanics and labourers are stated to be out of work.

Tasmania.—There does not appear to be any demand for labour in Tasmania, except on the West Coast, where experienced miners and mechanics can obtain employment.

New Zealand.—The last reports from New Zealand show that the building trade continues to be brisk throughout the Colony, except at Wellington where all branches of work remain slack. The engineering trade is busy, except at Auckland. The boot trade is dull at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin; fair at Napier, Wanganui, Masterton and Invercargill; and good at Nelson, Greymouth and Oamaru. The clothing trade throughout the Colony has been busy. In the country districts unskilled labour was fully employed, but in the large towns showed a slackness.

EARLY CLOSING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

By an Act passed by the Legislature of Western Australia, which received assent on October 28th, 1898, provision is made for regulating the hours of labour of shop assistants (including clerks employed in shops). In a number of districts named in the Act (including Perth, Fremantle, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, etc.) all shops, with certain specified exceptions, must be closed on week-days from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.; but the shopkeeper may keep his shop open until 10 p.m. on either Wednesday or Saturday (provided that the day chosen be not his weekly half-holiday). The exceptions referred to include chemists' and butchers' shops, and refreshment houses, etc.; and as to the hour of opening in the morning, assistants employed in dairies, butchers', greengrocers', fruiterers', and bakers' shops are allowed to begin work before 8 a.m. All shopkeepers must allow their assistants a clear hour for dinner every day, and for tea on Saturday evenings; and must give them a weekly half-holiday. They are also forbidden to employ women, young persons, or children in or about the shop for more than 48 hours in a week, exclusive of meal-times. The provisions of the Act may be extended to other districts by proclamation of the Governor.

The Act also provides that hairdressers' assistants shall have a weekly half-holiday, and shall not be employed after 7.30 p.m., except on Saturdays and on the eves of certain holidays, when they may work until 10 p.m.

Inspectors are to be appointed to see that the Act (which is to be in force for three years from November 1st, 1898) is duly carried out, infractions being punishable by fine.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in March.*—The favourable condition of employment already reported continued during March in the mining industry, hide and skin-working trades, boot and shoe-making, hat and bonnet-making, woollen trades, cotton trades (chiefly spinning), building and certain accessory trades, quarrying, carpentry, joinery, glass-making, pottery trades, metal (smelting and manufacture) and engineering trades. An improvement took place in the case of cooks, pastry-cooks and confectioners, and in the glove-making and garment-making trades.

Out of 80,000 members of the 535 trade unions (exclusive of the trade unions of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) who furnished reports as to the state of employment on March 15th, slightly over 8 per cent. were stated to be out of employment. By 16 per cent. of the trade unions, containing 15 per cent. of the total membership, employment is considered as more plentiful than at the corresponding period of 1898; by 18 per cent., containing 20 per cent. of the membership, as less plentiful; while 66 per cent., containing 65 per cent. of the members, consider, there is no change in the state of employment.

The length of the working day has again been increased by one hour owing to seasonal causes, and (chiefly in the building and allied trades and in the engineering industry) to the increase in the number of orders.

* Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

The price of necessaries showed a downward tendency.

Coal Mining in February.†—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in February, was 5.88, compared with 6.00, in the previous month, and 5.84 in February, 1898. In February full time (6 days and over) was worked by 62 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 38 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous month being 96 and 3 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

GERMANY.

Employment in March.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the satisfactory state of employment reported in the previous month continued in March. The metal and engineering trades are stated to be so busy and the demand for pig and manufactured iron so great, that blastfurnaces and mills are unable to keep up with it, a rapid increase of their output being prevented by scarcity of coke and partly of workpeople. Coal mines are working up to their full capacity. The condition of the textile trades has so much improved that all who had been previously out of work have been re-employed. The demand for agricultural labour is particularly strong this year, and the scarcity of labourers is being felt equally in all parts of the Empire. The influx of agricultural labourers from Russia, Galicia and Italy is particularly great this year. The favourable condition of the labour market is shown by the proportion which offers of situations bore to applications for situations at the public employment registries. Fifty-one, out of a total of 58 registries supplying returns for March, showed a decrease in the proportion of applications for work to offers of work, the few towns showing an increase being of secondary importance. In March the proportion of applicants for work to every 100 offers of work at the 58 reporting registries was 88.9, compared with 111.1 in February, and 104.4 in March of last year.

Labour Disputes in March.—*Der Arbeitsmarkt* reports the number of disputes begun in March as 51, compared with 39 in February. Fourteen of these disputes were in the metal and engineering trades (8 in February); 9 in the clothing trades (none in February); 8 in the building trades (3 in February); 7 in the woodworking and allied trades (6 in February); 3 in the group which includes glass, pottery, brick, &c., making (5 in February); and 10 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups.

In respect to the clothing trades it is observed that movements were inaugurated simultaneously in various localities by workpeople employed in the garment-making trade, the object being to secure a new wages list, and strikes of considerable magnitude took place in consequence in Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Königsberg, Munich, and elsewhere.

Reduced Railway Fares for Unemployed Workpeople going to a Situation.—Since April 1st, third-class tickets are being issued at half price by the State Railways in Württemberg to workpeople proceeding to outlying parishes to apply for situations to which they have been directed by any of the Municipal labour registries of Württemberg. In order to obtain the cheap ticket, the passenger must produce the document issued to him by the Labour Registry directing him to the situation.—*Soziale Praxis*.

SWITZERLAND.

Federal Law concerning the Manufacture and Sale of Matches.—A Decree of the Swiss Federal Council, dated March 10th, 1899, fixes the dates for the coming into operation of the various provisions of the law of November 2nd, 1898, concerning the manufacture and sale of matches. (See GAZETTE December, 1898, page 361.) The provisions relative to the manufacture of matches containing yellow phosphorus take effect from April 1st, 1900; those concerning the importation of such matches, and of yellow phosphorus, from June 1st, 1899; those concerning the exportation of such matches, from January 1st, 1901; and the remaining provisions from the date of the present Decree (March 10th).

HOLLAND.

Dispute between Shippers and Forwarding Agents in Rotterdam.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 5th, Sir Henry Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, reports the termination of disputes in which the forwarding agents in the port of Rotterdam had become involved with the two federations of skippers working the craft employed in the Rhine and inland navigation. On February 24th the skippers of the Rhine (or

† Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, March, 1899.

larger) craft resolved to lie idle, owing to an alleged attempt on the part of the forwarding agents to evade conditions agreed to with the Rhine Skippers' Federation last year. This dispute ended in all the forwarding agents signing the Federation terms. Simultaneously, differences had arisen between the skippers of the smaller craft employed in inland navigation and their employers, which, after prolonged and somewhat acrimonious negotiations, were finally settled to the satisfaction of both parties.

The forwarding agents represent a powerful class in all transactions between merchants and skippers. They own publichouses, which, it is stated, almost every skipper, who wishes to obtain freight, is forced to visit, and where the best bargains are given to those who spend most at the bar. The owners of these establishments have also become keen competitors with the skippers by purchasing sailing craft and retaining the best freights for themselves.

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes, March 15th to April 4th.—The first number of the new series of *Die Gewerkschaft* (the organ of the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee) gives the number of strikes begun in Austria between March 15th and April 4th as 12. Of these, two each occurred in the building, textile, and clothing trades, the rest being strikes of tanners, button makers, metal workers, chemical workers, dock labourers, and carmen. None of these disputes involved more than 140 workpeople.

Labour Disputes in 1898 (Trade Union Statistics).—According to statistics compiled by the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee and published in *Die Gewerkschaft*, 217 strikes occurred in Austria in 1898. Of these, 203 involved 40,160 workpeople, and 182 entailed a loss of 383,677 working days. The official statistics for 1897 showed 221 strikes, with 34,835 strikers, and 354,922 working days lost; but it is to be noted that the official figures for 1897 do not include strikes in agriculture and the mining and accessory trades, which are included in the trade union figures.

DENMARK.

Dispute in the Bookbinding Trade.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 3rd, The Hon. Alan Johnstone, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen, gives particulars of a recent dispute in the bookbinding trade in Denmark, in connection with which some 1,000 to 1,200 workpeople went on strike. In Copenhagen, where from 400 to 450 workpeople were involved, the strike lasted from February 4th to 28th. In Fyen, it began a week later and only lasted a fortnight.

Under the agreement arrived at (which is to last for three years), the weekly wages of the lowest class of qualified workpeople are increased from £1 to £1 3s. 4d., as demanded by the strikers, and those of the higher classes (hitherto from 22s. 3d. to 33s. 4d.) by 2s. 3d. per week, and not by 10 per cent. as demanded.

Before the strike, young women under 16½ years of age were considered as apprentices. (Apprentices are not members of the trade union, and are not allowed to strike). In future, the apprentice time for women will end at 16 years of age, except when they have begun to learn the trade after completing that age. In such cases the apprenticeship time would be half a year.

The strikers demanded, but failed to obtain, a reduction of the daily working hours from 9½ to 9 hours, and withdrew certain demands as to payment on holidays.

Strike of Dock Labourers, etc., in Copenhagen.—According to information supplied to the Board of Trade by H.M. Consul at Copenhagen, under date of March 28th, a strike of dock labourers was then in progress in the free harbour of Copenhagen. The manager of the free harbour had engaged about 200 labourers on a permanent footing for a year, from April 1st, 1899, at wages of 800 to 1,200 kroner (say £44 to £67) per annum. He proposed that these men should form a special union, with whom he could deal if difficulties should arise as regards wages, etc., at the expiration of the contract. The Dock Labourers' Union, however, demanded that the manager should deal with them, as being the only representatives of all the dock labourers, and on his refusal declared a strike in the free port.

Reports from the same source, dated April 8th and 11th, announced the termination of this strike, and of a strike of porters at the Custom House for an increase of wages from 3s. 6d. to 4s. per day.

Increase of State Grant for Relief in Old Age.—The Hon. Alan Johnstone, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated March 29th, reports that a law has been passed raising from two million to two and a half million kroner (£1,111,111 to £1,388,888) the limit of the annual subvention granted by the State in aid of old-age relief provided under the law of April 9th, 1891.

Relief granted under this law does not involve the recipient in any of the electoral disabilities attaching to ordinary poor-relief. An applicant must be over 60 years of age, unable to provide the necessaries of life, or proper treatment in case of sickness, for himself or dependants, and he must not "have undergone sentence for any transaction generally accounted dishonourable, and in respect of which he has not received rehabilitation." His poverty must not be due to his own fault. He must, for 10 years, have had a fixed residence, not have been sentenced for vagrancy or begging, and not have received poor-relief.

The relief granted under the law of 1891 is not fixed in amount, but "must be sufficient for the support of the person relieved, and of his family and for their treatment in case of sickness; but it may be given in money or in kind, as circumstances require, or consist in free admission to a suitable asylum or other establishment intended for that purpose."

The expenses of relief are defrayed by the Communes, but one-half of these expenses is refunded to them by the State, the subvention of the State, however, being limited to a certain maximum amount.

The number of applicants for relief under the law has increased steadily since 1891-2, so that the sum of £1,111,111 per annum, originally fixed as the limit of the State grant, no longer sufficed to make up the half of the sum required during 1898-9, which falls upon the State, and a sum of 89,000 kroner (£4,950) has been voted in the estimates for that year to supply the deficiency.

UNITED STATES.

NEW ORLEANS CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike of Coalminers in Arkansas.—In a report to the Foreign Office, dated March 3, Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at New Orleans, reports the commencement, on February 28th, of a strike of coalminers in several districts of the State of Arkansas. As a result, the various railroad companies, whose lines run through the coalfields of Western Arkansas and the Indian Territory, have begun to confiscate all coal loaded in their cars. The railroads are stated to be sustained in the practice of confiscation by custom and the Courts, as they are protected under Federal Law regarding public carriers and by the laws regulating the transmission of the United States mails.

COLOMBIA.

Strike of Dock Labourers, &c., on Isthmus of Panama.—Despatches to the Foreign Office, dated January 25th and February 18th, from Mr. C. Mallet, H.M. Consul at Panama, report that on January 18th the labourers employed by the railroad and steamship companies at Colon struck work, demanding higher wages, on the plea that living on the Isthmus had become much more expensive. On January 24th the strike became general throughout the Isthmus. On February 16th it ended, the employers having increased the daily wages by about 8½d., thus bringing them up to 3s. 6d. The strike extended to the sailors and firemen on some of the ships in the bay, and the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, in order to avoid an interruption of the steamer service, agreed to pay 20 per cent. additional to the crews trading between the ports of Guayaquil and Padregal.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—COAL AND IRON MINING.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.
(a) COAL MINING IN MARCH.

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

EMPLOYMENT continued good in March, the exceptionally high average of February being practically maintained.

Returns relating to 1,286 pits, at which 443,631 workpeople were employed, show that these pits worked on an average 5.62 days per week in the four weeks ended March 25th, as compared with 5.63 days per week in February, and 5.29 days a year ago.

The following table shows the average time worked in these periods in each division of the United Kingdom. The apparent falling-off in Ireland is mainly due to the observance of holidays on March 17th and 25th in that country:—

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1899, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		25th Mar., 1899.	26th Mar., 1898.	25th Feb., 1899.
England and Wales	405,285	5.64	5.29	5.65
Scotland	37,763	5.46	5.39	5.40
Ireland	583	5.08	4.81	5.54
United Kingdom	443,631	5.62	5.29	5.63

The following table, in which the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced, shows that in all classes of pits employment continues better than a year ago, the greatest improvement being in the working of gas coal:—

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Mar., 1899, at the collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		March, 1899.	March, 1898.	February, 1899.
Coking Coal	30,178	5.79	5.65	5.74
Gas	46,356	5.64	5.22	5.65
House	106,801	5.59	5.29	5.58
Manufacturing Coal	28,621	5.68	5.51	5.71
Steam	163,043	5.65	5.29	5.65
Mixed	68,632	5.49	5.12	5.55
All Classes of Coal	443,631	5.62	5.29	5.63

In the table below the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 93.6 per cent. were employed at pits working five or more days per week in March, as compared with 92.9 per cent. in February, and 77.4 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	March, 1899.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1898.	February, 1899.
24 days (full time)	164,771	37.2	16.4	35.8
20 and under 24 days	250,380	56.4	61.0	57.1
16 " " 20 " "	24,034	5.4	17.0	6.9
12 " " 16 " "	3,162	0.7	4.6	0.8
8 " " 12 " "	705	0.2	0.4	0.1
Under 8 days	579	0.1	0.6	0.3
Total	413,631	100.0	100.0	100.0

Comparison by Districts.—Except in West Scotland the average time worked was greater in every district than a year ago, the improvement amounting to more than half a day per week in North Wales, Northumberland and Yorkshire.

The highest averages during the month were worked in Cumberland (5.92 days per week), South Wales and Monmouth (5.87 days), and Gloucester and Somerset (5.82 days), and the lowest averages in Notts and Leicester (4.93 days), Ireland (5.08 days), Northumberland (5.37 days), and West Scotland (5.40 days). In all the remaining districts 5½ days and upwards were worked per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MARCH, 1899 AND 1898, AND IN FEBRUARY, 1899.

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1899, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1899 as compared with	
		25th Mar., 1899.	26th Mar., 1898.	25th Feb., 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	35,211	5.37	4.81	5.44	+ .56	- .07
Durham	90,689	5.58	5.34	5.60	+ .24	- .02
Cumberland	6,219	5.92	5.62	5.82	+ .30	+ .10
Yorkshire	50,314	5.78	5.24	5.77	+ .54	+ .01
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,204	5.61	5.44	5.66	+ .17	- .05
Derbyshire	37,791	5.76	5.37	5.74	+ .39	+ .02
Nottingham and Leicester	24,241	4.93	4.50	4.93	+ .43	...
Staffordshire	24,232	5.72	5.23	5.72	+ .49	...
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	8,779	5.67	5.65	5.66	+ .02	+ .01
Gloucester and Somerset	8,009	5.82	5.44	5.86	+ .38	- .04
North Wales	11,914	5.79	5.16	5.79	+ .63	...
South Wales and Monmouthshire	61,592	5.87	5.60	5.83	+ .27	+ .04
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland	22,040	5.40	5.49	5.35	- .09	+ .05
The Lothians	3,605	5.70	5.61	5.60	+ .09	+ .10
Fife	12,118	5.50	5.13	5.42	+ .37	+ .08
IRELAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Ireland	583	5.08	4.81	5.54	+ .27	- .46
Grand Total & Averages	443,631	5.62	5.29	5.63	+ .33	- .01

Exports of Coal.—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during March amounted to 3,462,405 tons, as against 3,196,848 tons in February, and 3,079,982 tons in March, 1898.

(b) IRON MINING IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in March, the average time worked scarcely differing from the averages for February or for a year ago.

Returns received relating to 131 iron mines and open works at which 17,428 workpeople were employed (as compared with 17,356 a year ago) show that the average number of days worked per week by these workpeople in the four weeks ended March 25th was 5.89, the same as a year ago; the average in February last was 5.86 days. Of the 17,428 workpeople employed, 96.6 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 92.4 per cent. in February and 94.1 per cent. in March, 1898.

The following tables summarise the returns received:—

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

District.	No. employed in Mar., 1899, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1899, as compared with	
		25th Mar., 1899.	26th Mar., 1898.	25th Feb., 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	6,128	5.90	5.96	5.96	- .06	- .06
Cleveland	6,807	5.86	5.88	5.81	- .02	+ .05
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire	773	5.99	5.81	6.00	+ .18	- .01
Northamptonshire	662	5.95	5.93	5.93	+ .02	...
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,466	5.82	5.59	5.66	+ .23	+ .16
Other places in England	280	5.59	5.72	5.46	- .13	+ .13
SCOTLAND	1,186	6.00	6.00	5.78	...	+ .22
IRELAND	126	5.88	5.95	6.00	- .07	- .12
Total	17,428	5.89	5.89	5.86	...	+ .03

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

Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	March, 1899.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1898.	February, 1899.
24 days (full time)	11,721	67.3	69.4	64.7
22 and under 24 days	5,101	29.3	24.7	27.7
20 " " 22 " "	355	2.0	6.8	5.6
Under 20 days	251	1.4	0.1	2.1
Total	17,428	100.0	100.0	100.0

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—PIG IRON, IRON AND STEEL, AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES; AGRICULTURE.

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

THE improvement in employment in this industry still continues. Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters, show that there were 377 furnaces in blast at the end of March, employing an estimated number of 24,526 workpeople, or 24 more furnaces and 920 more workpeople than a year ago. During the month four furnaces were relit in the Cumberland and Lancashire district and one in Cleveland, whilst one furnace was blown out in the Midlands. The estimated number employed has increased by 274 during the month.

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Mar., 1899.	Mar., 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1899.	Mar., 1899.	Feb., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1899.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	98	96	+ 2	98	97	+ 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	52	47	+ 5	52	48	+ 4
S. and S.W. Yorks.	19	16	+ 3	19	19	...
Lincolnshire	16	14	+ 2	16	16	...
Midlands	99	94	+ 5	99	100	- 1
Glamorgan and Mon.	18	14	+ 4	18	18	...
Other districts	9	9	...	9	9	...
Total England and Wales...	311	260	+ 21	311	307	+ 4
SCOTLAND	66	63	+ 3	66	66	...
Total furnaces included in returns	377	383	+ 24	377	373	+ 4

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during March, amounted to 98,676 tons, as compared with 61,553 tons in February and 78,562 tons in March, 1898.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these industries remains practically the same as in February, and continues considerably better than a year ago.

Returns received from 214 works show that they were employing 79,831 persons in the last week of March, or 127 less than in the last week of February, and 3,213 more than a year ago. The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers Employed.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1899, as compared with	
	Mar. 25th, 1899.	Mar. 26th, 1898.	Feb. 25th, 1899.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales	66,383	64,162	66,538	+ 2,221	- 155
Scotland	13,448	12,456	13,420	+ 992	+ 28
Total	79,831	76,618	79,958	+ 3,213	- 127

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to about 94 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.57 in the last week of March, 5.60 in the last week of February, and 5.55 in the last week of March, 1898.

Average Weekly Number of Shifts worked per Man.

Number of Shifts worked per man.	Number employed in Mar., 1899, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in Mar., 1898.
Under 5 per week	3,134	4.2	4.7
5 " "	25,617	34.0	34.7
5 1/2 " "	1,701	2.3	2.1
6 " "	43,572	58.0	56.8
Above 6 " "	1,129	1.5	1.7
Total	75,253	100.0	100.0

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

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first table may be estimated at 444,305 in the last week of March, 447,831 in the last week of February and 425,322 in the last week of March, 1898.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry has been disturbed by trade disputes during the month and has fallen off, but remains better than a year ago. At the end of March 45 works with 223 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 25 others with 190 mills were giving partial employment, 123 of these mills being at work. Thus in all 346 mills were working and giving employment to an estimated number of 17,541 workpeople, as compared with 355 mills employing 17,826 workpeople at the end of February, and 338 mills employing 17,271 workpeople a year ago.

The following table shows the number of mills and workpeople employed 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.			Esti- mated No. of Work- people em- ployed.
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.	
Works giving full employ- ment	45	223	—	223	11,248
Works giving partial em- ployment	25	123	67	190	6,293
Total at end of Mar., 1899*	70	346	67	413	17,541
Corresponding Total for February, 1899*	71	355	68	423	17,826
Corresponding Total for March, 1898*	66	338	43	381	17,271

The exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above table were as follows:—

	Tinplates.	Blackplates
	Tons.	Tons.
March, 1899	20,547	10,447
February, 1899	17,807	4,915
March, 1898	24,454	4,175

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MARCH.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department on the basis of 235 returns from all parts of England reports as follows:—The month of March was a busy one for farmers, and, generally speaking, agricultural labourers were fully employed in all districts. The weather was generally favourable for outdoor employ- ment, though some outdoor work was stopped for a few days owing to the frost which occurred about the middle of the month.

Returns from correspondents in nearly every county refer to the increasing difficulty of getting extra hands, and complaints come from some districts that sufficient labour to do the necessary work cannot be obtained. There has, of course, been a gradual migration for a number of years, of the younger men from the country districts, who have left to take situations in the towns, or in the police force, or in the service of railway companies, but the great scarcity of labour which exists at the present time in a number of counties is largely attributed by the various correspondents to the present general prosperity in trade, the large increase in building which is taking place in all directions, and the making of new railway lines. In dairy districts a great difficulty is being frequently experienced in

* The figures in the table relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates but also to the manufacture of blackplates. 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 in the table are believed to give approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

obtaining milkers and capable cattlemen, and also women and girls for farmhouse work.

Changes in wages amounting to a rise of 1s. a week took place in March in certain districts in the counties of Cambridge (2s. in one district), Derby, Devon, Essex, Hants, Hunts, Norfolk, Suffolk (2s. in one district), Shropshire, and Yorkshire. A rise of from 3d. to 4d. a week is reported in certain districts in Kent, and of 1s. 6d. a week in one Poor Law Union; of 6d. to 1s. in parts of Durham; of 1s. to 1s. 6d. in parts of Sussex; of 1s. to 1s. 6d. a week in certain parts of Lincolnshire; of 1s. to 1s. 6d. a week in certain districts in Wiltshire. Reports from two districts in this county state that increases amounting to 1s. to 2s. have been given. The changes in wages in nearly all these districts represent actual increases, as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Northern Counties.—Reports from *Cumberland* state that employment was generally regular in the Unions of Bootle, Brampton, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Whitehaven, and Wigton. A correspondent from the Carlisle Union writes that the severe frost, commencing about March 18th, stopped corn sowing, and that farmers, having a short supply of roots, had to use more cake and corn for their cattle. A report from *North Lancashire* and *South Westmorland* states that everyone is fully employed; that good hands for sowing and preparing turnip and potato seed-beds are scarce, and that more men could have been employed if they could have been got. A report from the Garstang Union states that the demand for men in the construction of a new railway has caused a scarcity of agricultural labour. In *Durham* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Chester-le-Street, and Darlington (*Durham* and *Yorks*), and in *Yorkshire* in the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Driffield, Guisborough, Howden, Knaresborough, Malton, Pocklington, Ripon, Selby, and Thirsk.

Midland Counties.—In *Cheshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Macclesfield, Nantwich, and Tarvin. In the last-named union capable milkers and women for dairy work are said to be very difficult to obtain. A correspondent writes that "the matter is becoming a serious question to Cheshire farmers generally who chiefly depend upon cheese-making." A correspondent in the Tarvin Union writes that a discussion was raised at the Cheshire Farmers' Club on the question of the difficulty of obtaining agricultural labour, and that a general opinion was expressed that the farmers now regard it as their most serious difficulty. Regularity of employment is also reported from *Derbyshire* from the Unions of Ashbourne and Hayfield, and from the *Derbyshire* portion of the Mansfield Union (*Notts* and *Derby*); from the *Derbyshire* portion of the Worksop Union (*Derby* and *Notts*), and from the *Derbyshire* portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs* and *Derby*). Reports from these unions state that labour is scarce. An employer in the Burton-on-Trent Union writes that "agricultural labourers are becoming more scarce each year. I hear complaints all over the country of farmers, although having cottages, finding great difficulty to get men into them." Favourable reports come from *Shropshire* from the Unions of Bridgnorth, Ellesmere (*Salop* and *Flint*), Drayton (*Salop* and *Staffs*), Oswestry, Wellington, and Whitchurch. A scarcity of labour is reported from the Unions of Ellesmere, and Drayton. A correspondent in the Ellesmere Union writes that some farmers have been advertising for farm labourers, houses and garden found, and have not had a single application for two weeks running.

In *Staffordshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Leek, Lichfield, Tamworth, and Uttoxeter. In the Tamworth Union some scarcity of labour is reported. Favourable reports come from *Warwickshire* from the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, and Stratford-on-Avon, and from the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants* and *Warwick*). Agricultural labourers are said to be scarce in the Unions of Atherstone, and Foleshill. In the first-named union this is partly attributed to the demand for men in the collieries and quarries. Reports from Leicestershire state that agricultural labourers are generally well employed in the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, Market Harborough, Market Bosworth, Melton Mowbray, and Lutterworth (*Leicester* and *Warwick*). A report from the Blaby Union states that in the early part of the month a few of the casual labourers were out of work for a short time owing to the severe weather. In the Market Bosworth Union the demand for labour is said to be greater than the supply. In *Rutland* in the

Oakham Union work is said to be regular, the men are said to be very scarce and "bad to get for extra work of any kind."

Agricultural labourers in *Nottinghamshire* were generally well employed in the Unions of Mansfield, Retford, and Southwell, and in *Worcestershire* in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Pershore, Tenbury, Shipston-on-Strour, and Upton-on-Severn. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from all these districts. A report from the Upton-on-Severn Union states that hop yards, market gardening, and nurseries in the neighbourhood of Worcester make labour scarce and dear. An employer in the Martley Union writes that the scarcity of labour has caused such inconvenience at potato lifting and pea picking that he has lately curtailed the planting of these crops. In *Oxfordshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Thame and Witney, and in the *Oxfordshire* portions of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions (*Oxon* and *Berks*). A correspondent in the Thame Union writes that difficulty has been experienced in getting a sufficient number of men to assist the steam-threshing machines, and that some are reported to be idle from this cause. The demand for sufficient milkers is said to be a pressing question in this district. Favourable reports come from *Northamptonshire* from the Unions of Brixworth, Brackley, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, and Wellingborough and from the *Northamptonshire* portions of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants* and *Warwick*). Reports from the Unions of Hardingstone, Kettering, and Wellingborough, state that labourers are scarce. A correspondent in the Hardingstone Union writes that every man is busy ploughing, harrowing, drilling or rolling. An employer in the Wellingborough Union states that "in some parishes there is a deficiency of labour, and some difficulty has been experienced in keeping the teams going, and the stock fed. In a good many farmhouses there has been great difficulty in procuring domestic female servants." Reports from Huntingdon state that employment is regular in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neot's (*Hunts* and *Beds* portions). A correspondent in the Huntingdon Union states that labour is very scarce, and that labourers simply cannot be obtained owing to their preferring employment on railway extension works and in brickyards. Work is said to be regular in *Bedfordshire* in the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, and Leighton Buzzard. A report from the last-named Union states that more men are wanted, and that cattlemen and milkers cannot be obtained even if more wages are offered.

Eastern Counties.—In *Essex* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed, in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, Tendring, and in certain parishes in the Saffron Walden Union. There is said to be some scarcity of labour in the Billericay, Dunmow, and Saffron Walden Unions. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Norfolk* in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Gaultcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. A correspondent in the Gaultcross Union writes as follows: "During the month of March agricultural labour has been very fair throughout the Gaultcross Union. In the middle of the month we had about eight days of snow and rain, and it impeded farm labour while it lasted. A few day labourers were out in some parishes, but, generally speaking, they were found employment." Reports from the following Unions refer to a scarcity of labour, namely, Erpingham, Depwade, Docking, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Thetford, and St. Faith's. A correspondent in the Depwade Union says that many cottages are empty. In the Erpingham Union the difficulty of procuring labour is partly attributed to building operations.

Employment in *Suffolk* is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Sudbury, and Thingoe. Reports refer to a scarcity of labour in the Unions of Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Samford, and Thingoe. An employer in the Mildenhall Union says that many farm labourers have gone into the building trade. A large employer of labour in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes, that "We are short of labour, and consequently all are fully employed. A favourable period for some months finds farm work generally in a forward state; all spring planting was well and successfully got through a month in advance of the average period, and though extra labour is difficult to find, the requirements of the forthcoming season will no doubt be overcome. The extremely low rates for agricultural produce make the employment of an already higher paid labour a matter of anxious consideration, and I believe there is a constantly increasing desire to allow much of our heavier clays to remain uncultivated, put down to grass of some sort."

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; SHIPBUILDING.

Regularity of employment is said to be general in *Cambridgeshire* in the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford, Royston, and Wisbech, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants*, *Cambs*, *Hunts*, and *Lincoln*). In the Royston Union there is said to be a scarcity of labour, particularly of young men. Favourable reports come from *Lincolnshire*, from the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and from the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Lincoln* and *Notts*). In the following Unions labour is said to be scarce and difficult to obtain, namely, Boston, Brigg, Caistor, Lincoln, Spilsby, and Sleaford.

Home Counties.—Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Buckinghamshire* in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Winslow. Reports from this county generally refer to a scarcity of labourers. A report from the Unions of Newport and Winslow states that "We are so short of men we don't know what to do. Complaints of this kind come from all round the district." Favourable reports come from *Berkshire* from the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage, and from the *Berkshire* portion of the Wallingford Union (*Oxon* and *Berks*). A scarcity of men is referred to in all reports from this county. Employment is said to be regular in *Surrey* in the Unions of Godstone and Hambleton, and in the *Surrey* portion of the Farnham Union (*Surrey* and *Hants*). In the Godstone Union extra men are said to be difficult to obtain, and in the Farnham Union the supply of men is said not to be equal to the demand. In *Kent* agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Blean, Cranbrook, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, and Sevenoaks. In a number of districts agricultural labourers are said to be very scarce. A large employer of labour in the Hoo Union writes that cement, and brick-yards absorb all spare workmen, and that they will not remain with the farmers in spite of their putting the wages up to 3s. 4d. a day. Reports of a favourable character come from *Hertfordshire*, from the Unions of Barnet (*Herts* and *Middlesex*), Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, and Hitchin. Complaints of a scarcity of agricultural labourers come from the Unions of Barnet, and Hitchin. A correspondent in the Barnet Union says, "We cannot get farm men here at any price."

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In *Sussex* agricultural employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. In a number of districts in this county labour is said to be scarce. A report from the Hailsham Union says that owing to the activity in the building trade and to the construction of railways in the neighbourhood, there is a great difficulty in keeping the men on the farms, and that farmers look forward to the busy time in Summer with much anxiety. In the Petworth Union carters and stockmen are said to be wanted, and in a district in the Newhaven Union it has not been possible to obtain good men for potato planting. Employment in *Hampshire* is said to be regular in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Fareham, Havant, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Lynton, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants* and *Surrey*). Nearly all reports from this county refer to a difficulty in getting sufficient labour. A correspondent in the Havant Union writes, that "owing to the opening of brick-yards, and to building operations generally, farm labour is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain in this locality."

Favourable reports come from *Dorsetshire* from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wimborne and Cranborne, Sherborne, and Wareham and Purbeck. Labour is said to be scarce in the Dorchester Union. An employer in the Wareham and Purbeck Union writes that "throughout the whole of the district labourers were never more scarce, especially young men. I know of two or three farmers who have been advertising for men for several weeks, and have not had a single application." Employment is said to be regular in *Wiltshire*, in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, and Wilton. Agricultural labourers are said to be scarce in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Pewsey, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett. A correspondent in the Chippenham Union writes that "milkers are most difficult to obtain. They don't like getting up so early in the morning as they formerly did, and they also dislike the Sunday duties." Men for milking, and also casual labour, are scarce in the Bradford-on-Avon Union. A correspondent in the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Union writes "Good farm labourers are almost unobtainable, the young men go

to the Great Western Railway factory at Swindon, which drains the district for 10 miles round, leaving old and incapable men to do the greater part of the farm work." A correspondent in the Warminster Union states that "the Salisbury Plain Camp is much upsetting our labourers. What with making railways and roads, etc., labour is being drained from agriculture."

Favourable reports come from *Gloucestershire* from the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Thornbury, and Wheatenhurst. Reports from *Herefordshire* state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (*Hereford* and *Monmouth*), and Ross. A report from the Dore Union states that all hands were fully employed throughout the month getting forward with spring corn planting and other work which got into arrears during the bad weather. In the Bromyard Union labourers are said to be very scarce, especially cowmen and wagoners. Also in certain parishes in the Ross Union labourers are said to be scarce. Agricultural labourers are reported as being well employed in *Somersetshire* in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, and Wellington. In the Frome, Taunton, and Wellington Unions labourers are said to be scarce. In *Devonshire* employment is said to be regular in the unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, Totnes, and Torrington. A scarcity of labourers is referred to in reports from the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Totnes, and Torrington. An employer in the Kingsbridge Union writes that "men are certainly getting less plentiful, and the Admiralty is draining the district of boys. I am afraid wages will go up, although prices are so low, and that means no labour employed, consequently the land will not be half cultivated." A correspondent in the Torrington Union writes that agricultural land generally is suffering severely for want of more labour and capital. Horsemen, and also other labourers, are said to be scarce in the Axminster Union, and lads and girls in the Barnstaple Union. In *Cornwall*, in the Bodmin, and Camelford Unions work is said to be quite regular.

(g) SHIPBUILDING.

Tonnage under Construction.*

RETURNS compiled by *Lloyd's Register* show that on March 31st, 1899, there were 597 vessels (excluding warships) of 1,385,715 tons gross under construction in the United Kingdom, a decrease of 15,372 tons as compared with the tonnage under construction at the end of the previous quarter, but an increase of 200,594 tons as compared with a year ago. The number of warships under construction at the Royal Dockyards at the end of March was 17, with a displacement tonnage of 152,870 tons, and at private yards 69 warships with 281,195 tons displacement, the total tonnage of warships building being thus 434,065 tons displacement as compared with 410,985 tons at the end of December, and 355,934 tons at the end of March, 1898.

The following table summarises the above figures:—

Description of Vessels.	Tonnage under construction on			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of March, 1899, as compared with	
	Mar. 31st, 1899.	Dec. 31st, 1898.	Mar. 31st, 1898.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Merchant Vessels—					
Tons gross	1,385,715	1,401,087	1,185,121	-15,372	+200,594
War Vessels—					
Tons displacement	434,065	410,985	355,934	+23,080	+78,131

The 597 merchant vessels include 568 steam vessels of 1,382,289 tons gross, and 29 sailing vessels of 3,426 tons gross. As compared with a year ago these figures show a decrease of 11 in the number, but an increase of 201,253 tons gross in the tonnage of steam vessels, and an increase of 2 in the number but a decrease of 659 tons gross in the tonnage of sailing vessels.

The gross tonnage of vessels (exclusive of warships) under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts is given in the following table. The figures include 95 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction.

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are at various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the amount of work remaining to be done.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SEAMEN; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

District.	At			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	Mar. 31st, 1899.	Dec. 31st, 1898.	Mar. 31st, 1898.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Clyde	505,530	520,900	397,672	-15,370	+107,858
Belfast	182,430	184,344	157,530	-1,914	+24,900
Wear	169,092	168,109	169,352	+ 93	- 260
Tyne	237,739	233,913	185,185	+ 3,826	+72,554
Middlesbro' and Stockton	94,534	99,792	89,757	-5,258	+4,777
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	85,278	88,681	91,878	-3,403	-6,600
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	15,400	20,895	19,510	-5,495	-4,110

It will be seen that, as compared with the end of December, the figures show some decrease in all the principal districts with the exception of the Tyne and Wear districts, in which small increases occurred. The falling off, however, is inconsiderable. As compared with a year ago, increases took place in all the principal districts, with the exception of the Wear, Hartlepool and Whitby, and Barrow, Maryport and Workington districts.

(b) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MARCH.

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

THE number of men shipped as crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 30,542 in March, 1899, being 2,380 less than in March, 1898. The supply of seamen and firemen during the month at the ports included in the table below is reported to have been equal to or in excess of the demand. Particulars of changes in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen at certain ports will be found in the table on page 122.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March, 1899 and 1898 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the three months ended March in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in March, 1899.*			Total in March, 1899.*	Total number shipped in 3 months ended March*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in March, 1899.*		1899.	1898.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	46	2,495	2,541	2,815	7,750	8,399
Sunderland	—	480	480	486	1,378	1,746
Middlesbrough ...	9	265	274	292	785	838
Hull	16	995	1,012	1,051	3,268	3,371
Grimsby	6	80	86	48	223	199
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	5	176	181	173	520	553
Newport, Mon. ...	21	1,016	1,037	1,091	3,487	3,710
Cardiff	244	4,976	5,220	5,548	16,781	16,930
Swansea	46	453	509	463	1,715	1,693
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	144	9,109	9,253	10,370	29,163	28,469
London	240	5,360	5,600	6,145	16,378	17,634
Southampton ...	—	1,296	1,296	1,469	4,209	4,342
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	290	88	378	555	1,755	1,993
Glasgow	59	2,200	2,259	2,312	8,887	6,405
IRELAND.						
Dublin	—	101	101	40	322	274
Belfast	—	315	315	264	880	747
Total, March, 1899	1,128	29,416	30,542	—	94,419	—
Ditto, March, 1898	1,478	31,444	—	32,922	—	97,866

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves was, on the whole, not so good in March as in February, or in March of last year.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended March 25th was 13,576, as against an average of 13,836 in the four preceding weeks, and 14,340 in the corresponding period of 1898.

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

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

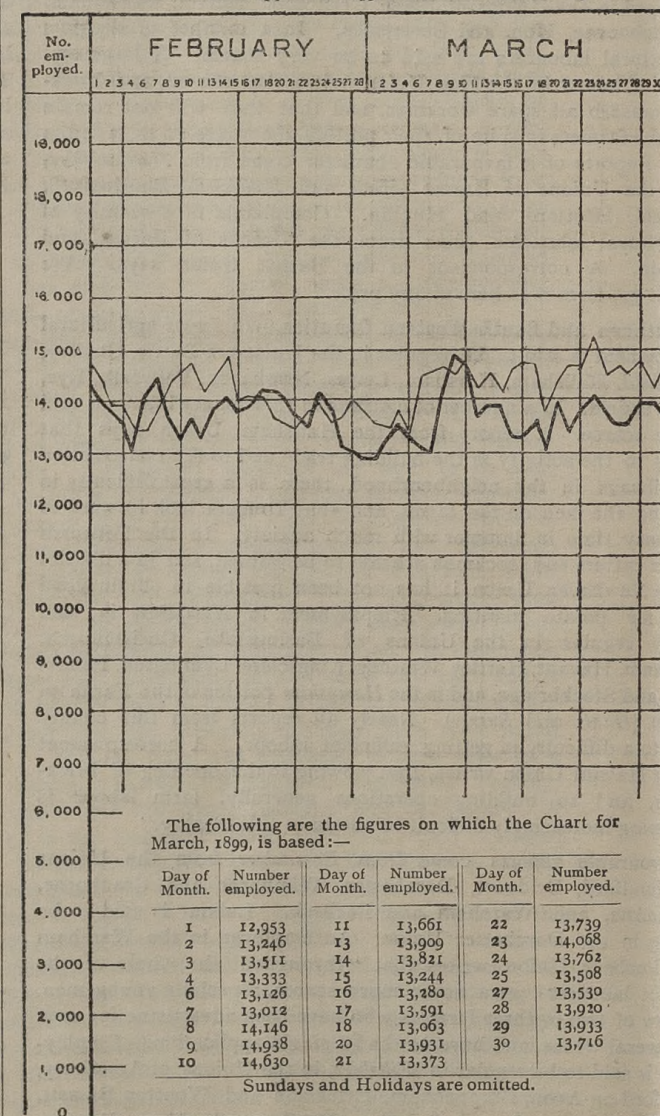
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.	
Week ending Mar. 4	5,267	2,074	7,341	13,170
" " " 11	5,710	2,337	8,047	13,919
" " " 18	5,631	2,150	7,781	13,454
" " " 25	5,670	2,264	7,934	13,730
Average for 4 weeks ending Mar. 25th, 1899	5,570	2,206	7,776	13,576
Average for Mar., 1898	5,985	2,406	8,391	14,340
Average for Feb., 1899	5,432	2,515	7,947	13,836

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and the principal wharves during February and March is shown on the chart below. The numbers in March ranged from 12,953 on the 1st to 14,938 on the 9th.

During March, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 13,430 on the 5th to 15,266 on the 24th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 15 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of February and March, 1899. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1898, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1899, and the thin curve to 1898.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for March, 1899, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	12,953	11	13,661	22	13,739
2	13,246	13	13,909	23	14,068
3	13,511	14	13,821	24	13,762
4	13,333	15	13,244	25	13,598
5	13,126	16	13,280	27	13,530
6	13,012	17	13,591	28	13,920
7	14,146	18	13,063	29	13,933
8	14,938	20	13,931	30	13,716
9	14,630	21	13,373		

Sundays and Holidays are omitted.

Employment in mid-stream has been moderately good, with some improvement towards the end of the month. With coal porters, winchmen, stevedores, and lumpers it has been moderate; with lightermen, fair; with deal porters, slack. Employment with corn porters has been slack in the Surrey docks, but moderate to fair on the North side of the river, with an improvement at the end of the month.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have been

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—TEXTILE TRADES; LONDON.

irregularly employed owing to the dispute with the orange gang. In the last week of the month, however, an average of about 300 were employed, the average in the earlier weeks of the month being about 100.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents employment for women during the month showed an improvement in both the spinning and weaving branches of the cotton trade. In the woollen and worsted trades there was practically no change. Information has been received with regard to 531 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 91,830 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time.	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.	Working Short Time.
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
March, 1899	96	2	1	1
February, 1899	90	8	2	—
March, 1898	87	8	2	3
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
March, 1899	87	11	1	1
February, 1899	81	17	2	—
March, 1898	67	31	2	—
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
March, 1899	75	16	7	2
February, 1899	74	13	10	3
March, 1898	73	12	15	—
Total of above Trades—				
March, 1899	87	10	2	1
February, 1899	82	14	3	1
March, 1898	74	20	5	1

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 23,480; of these, 96 per cent. were employed in mills working full time during the month (to be compared with 90 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in February, and with 87 per cent. in March, 1898); two per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; one per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing one per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 48,310; of these, 87 per cent. were employed in the mills working full time during the month (to be compared with 81 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in February, and with 67 per cent. in March, 1898); 11 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; one per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing one per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 20,040; of these, 75 per cent. were employed in mills running full time during the month (to be compared with 74 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in February, and 73 per cent. in March, 1898); 16 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 7 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing two per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—On the whole the condition of employment has remained steady during March. Returns from 446 branches of 109 unions, having an aggregate membership of 73,766, show that 1,937 (or 2.6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of

March, compared with 2.7 in February, and 3.1 per cent. in March, 1898.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades continues to improve. Reports from 147 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,115, show that 488 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.5 in February, and 4.4 per cent. in March of last year. Sailmakers have been quiet.

The *Building* trades continue brisk. Returns from 180 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,578, show that 87 (or 0.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.6 per cent. in February, and 1.1 per cent. in March, 1898. The bricklayers and painters and decorators describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, stonemasons, and plasterers as fair (the last-named being unsettled owing to a dispute); the plumbers as moderate; the stonecarvers as dull.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades continues to improve, and is now brisk, as is usual at this season. Reports from 48 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,622, show that 77 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.6 in February, and 1.8 per cent. in March, 1898.

Coopers remain steadily employed. Reports from two societies, with a membership of 1,000, show that 13 (or 1.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.5 in February, and 1.2 per cent. in March of last year.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights continue well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,374, show that 16 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of March, compared with 2.0 in February and 0.7 in March, 1898.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades have been scarcely so busy. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 23,038, show that 892 (or 3.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.4 per cent. in February. The percentage for March, 1898, was 2.3.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades still continues to improve. The West End bespoke tailors have been fairly well employed during the month with an improvement towards the end; the East End bespoke, contract, and wholesale trades have been good; the ladies' tailors and mantle makers, busy; the military and uniform tailors and tailoresses only partially employed. The hatters report employment as satisfactory. The fur skin dressers have been fairly employed. With silk weavers employment has been good.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the West End hand-sewn trade is fairly good; in the East End sewround trade it is quiet; with boot and shoe operatives it has slightly improved.

Employment in the *Leather* trades is not so good. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,630, show that 47 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.9 in February, and 3.6 per cent. in March, 1898.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,460, show that 103 (or 7.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.6 in February, and 7.1 per cent. in March of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 897, show that 10 (or 1.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.0 last month. The percentage for March, 1898, was 2.3.

Gold and Silver Workers have not been so well employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,120, show that 35 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 in February, and 2.0 per cent. in March, 1898.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades is not so good. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,486, show that 141 (or 5.7 per cent.) were unemployed compared with 3.8 last month and 8.4 per cent. in March, 1898.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—During the four weeks ended March 25th an average number of 13,576 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 13,836 in the four preceding weeks, and 14,340 in March, 1898. In mid-stream employment has been moderately good, with some improvement towards the end of the month. With coal porters, winchmen, stevedores and lumpers it has been moderate; with lightermen, fair; with deal porters, slack. Employment with corn porters has been slack in the Surrey Docks, but moderate to fair on the north side of the river, with an improvement at the end of the month. Fruit porters have been irregularly employed, owing to a dispute. (For further details see page 110.)

Disputes.—In addition to the lock-out of plasterers (see p. 99), three fresh disputes were reported to the Department as arising during the month—viz., two in the furnishing and woodworking trades and one with engine cleaners, involving in all 278 work-people (see p. 125).

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from six labour bureaux at which those registered are mostly men, show that 1,091 fresh applications for work were received by these bureaux, as compared with 1,252 in March, 1898. Work was found by the six bureaux for 681 persons during the month, as against 818 in the corresponding month of 1898. At the end of March the number of persons on the registers was 850 in 1899 and 1,175 in 1898. Returns received from five women's employment bureaux show that 909 fresh situations were offered by employers, and 545 fresh applications were made for employment during March. Work was found by the bureaux for 190 women. (For further particulars, see pages 122 and 123.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of March was 106,224, or 1,146 less than on the corresponding day in February. As compared with March, 1898, this number shows an increase of 397, although there was a decrease of 332 in the Central district. On the same day in March 1,028 vagrants were relieved, as against 1,133 in February, and 1,146 a year ago.

In the West Ham district the number of persons relieved was 9,983 (exclusive of vagrants), compared with 9,976 in February, and 8,997 in March, 1898 (for further details, see page 123).

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland.*—Steam coal pits have worked 5'33 days, and house coal pits 5'27 days per week for the four weeks ending March 25th, as against 5'36 and 5'29 days in February. Of the 21,594 union miners 3 are unemployed. All colliery mechanics are fully employed. *Durham.*—Bad weather has caused several collieries to be laid idle a few days, pits producing manufacturing, gas, and house coal, averaging 5'46, 5'37, and 5'36 days respectively. Coking coal collieries have averaged 5'76 days, as against 5'68 days last month. At 127 pits employing 61,440 men and boys, an average of 5'51 days per week has been worked, as compared with 5'54 days in February. There are 221 (or 0'4 per cent.) of union miners idle through bad trade, the same percentage as in February. Out of 1,704 colliery enginemen 3 are unemployed. Coke yard workers are exceptionally busy.

Metal Mining.—Lead miners continue well employed. Iron ore mines in Weardale, with one exception, are not so busy.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen have been fairly busy, though affected in places by unfavourable weather.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne.*—At most engine shops continued briskness prevails. Electrical and locomotive works are steadily employed. The ordnance works maintains its activity. Boiler shops are mostly working double shifts. At a number of yards platers and riveters have been off work over a week through stormy weather. Of the 12,655 union members of these trades 390 (or 3'1 per cent.) are idle, as against 354 (or 2'8 per cent. of their membership) in February. *On the Wear.*—Iron shipbuilders have had much broken time. Engine shops continue regularly employed; forges are busy; shipsmiths fairly so. Of these trades with 4,834 members, 130 (or 2'7 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 122 (or 2'5 per cent. of their membership) in February. Iron and steel moulders are nearly all employed; brass-finishers have 1'5 per cent. idle. Employment with drillers and hole cutters on the Tyne is good, on the Wear 8'8 per cent. are off work. Shipjoiners and shipwrights in some yards are being discharged. Steel smelting shops are busy. Plate and angle mills at Consett have worked a shift less per week. The mills in Newburn and Spanymoor districts have been fully employed, and one iron works has re-started. On both rivers sailmakers are better employed. Chainmakers have worked full time.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal porters and shippers on the Tyne and Wear, and at Blyth, are averaging 5 days per week. Trimmers and teamers have been well employed. Quayside labourers and Tyne watermen have been fairly busy. The demand for sailors and firemen has not been quite so good as a year ago.

Building Trades.—Plumbers continue slack, masons and painters are improving, other branches are still quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Two paper mills are busy, three have worked nearly full time, and three 88 shifts out of a possible 150. Letterpress printers on the Tyne are quiet; at Sunderland employment is better, bookbinders and machine-rulers on both rivers are well employed.

Woodworking Trades.—Coopers have had fair employment in chemical works and continue busy in breweries. There is a slight falling off in employment with mill-sawyers and lathrenders. Cabinet makers and upholsterers are still busy.

Other Metal, Chemical and Glass Trades.—One or two copper works on the Tyne are working night and day shifts. White lead works are fully employed, chemical factories continue fairly steady. Bottlemakers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour are fully employed. Pressed glassmakers are still slack.

Fishing.—Trawl boats have landed good catches of fish, realising above average prices. Line boats have been much interrupted by bad weather.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Employment with the Cleveland miners continues fairly good. The average number of days worked by 21 mines reported on was 5'86 per week during the 4 weeks ended March 25th, as compared with 5'81 days per week in February, and 5'88 days per week in March, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,807, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,684.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment has continued good at the finished iron works during the month. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration and Conciliation Board wages have been advanced to forge and millmen 2½ per cent., and to puddlers 3d. per ton from the 27th of March. Employment is good at the steel works, blast furnaces, bridge works and metal expansion works. At pipe foundries the workpeople continue busy; at chair foundries they are moderately employed.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is good at Stockton and Hartlepool, moderate at Middlesbrough, Darlington, and Bishop Auckland. With the ironfounders and patternmakers it is good throughout the district. Branches of these trades, with 3,683 members, have 51 (or 1'4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 36 (or 1'0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipbuilding.—All the yards in the district are reported as having plenty of work in hand, but employment has been interfered with by the weather, and in some cases by lack of materials. Shipjoiners and shipwrights report employment as good throughout the district.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at Middlesbrough, and fair at the Hartlepoons. Dock labour has been moderate at both ports. Riverside labour has been good.

Building Trades.—Plumbers at Middlesbrough and Stockton and slaters at Stockton report employment as moderate; other branches as good generally.

Miscellaneous.—Printers, cabinet-makers, sawyers and wood-working machinists, cement-workers, pulp-workers, and tailors report employment as good; saltworkers as improved.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good, and shows a marked improvement as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 25th, at the 20 pits from which returns have been received, was 5'92 per week, as compared with 5'62 days per week in the corresponding period of last year, and 5'82 days in February, 1899. The number of workpeople employed in March, 1899, at the pits covered by the returns was 6,219, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,168.

Iron Mining.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines in March fell off slightly as compared both with a month and a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 25th, at the 44 mines from which returns have been received, was 5'90 per week, as compared with 5'96 days per week in February and in March, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,128, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,247.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces at the end of March shows an improvement as compared both with a month and a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of March was 52, as compared with 48 at the end of February, and 47 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces at the end of March was 4,005, or 147 more than at the end of February, and 349 more than a year ago.

Shipbuilding.—According to the returns of Shipbuilding compiled by *Lloyd's Register*, there were 9 vessels other than warships under construction (see note, p. 109), in the Barrow, Maryport and Workington District at the end of March, with a gross tonnage of 15,400 tons, as compared with 11 vessels and 20,895 tons gross at the end of December, and 9 vessels and 19,510 tons a year ago. Of warships, 2 were under construction at the end of March, with

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—LANCASHIRE; YORKSHIRE.

a displacement of 24,950 tons, compared with 3 vessels with 35,950 tons displacement at the end of December, and 7 vessels with 36,270 tons, a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—Employment in Oldham and the surrounding districts continues satisfactory, full time being worked at all the mills. It is also reported as good in Stockport, Stalybridge, and Mossley, and as moderate in Rochdale, Ashton, Dukinfield, and Droylsden. In the twining trade employment is slack, much machinery having been stopped during the past few weeks. Ring-frame spinners and throstle-frame tenters are fully employed. Cardroom workers report employment as good, reelers as slack, and winders as moderate. *Weaving.*—Powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as good in calicoes; as moderate in velvets; and as bad in fustians. Ball warpers are fully employed. *Woollen and Silk Trades.*—Woollen workers in Rochdale and Millrow districts report employment as moderate; and in Stockport a gradual improvement is being experienced. Silk dressers in Rochdale are slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, iron grinders and gas meter makers report employment as moderate; toolmakers, patternmakers, plate and machine moulders and brassfounders as good; tinsplate workers, boilermakers, ironfounders and textile machine makers as fair.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners, painters, bricklayers and plumbers report employment as moderate; plasterers as fair.

Coal Mining.—Full time is being worked at the pits in Shaw and Crompton, Royton, Chadderton and Oldham.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—In Bolton employment is reported as exceptionally good. In Wigan, Chorley, Bury, Walkden, Farnworth, and Leigh employment continues fairly good on the whole. Cardroom operatives are reported as well employed. *Weaving.*—Employment is rather better in the white goods trade, but rather slack in coloured work in Walkden and Farnworth. In Chorley, the improvement reported is well maintained. In Bury, employment is fairly steady.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers and steam engine-makers is reported as good; machine men, boilermakers, patternmakers, range-fitters and machine-fitters are fully employed. In Bury and district, engineers and machine-making firms are busy. In Chorley and Wigan, ironworkers are reported as fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—In Bolton a further improvement is reported. In Wigan and Chorley employment is reported as somewhat irregular, except with plumbers and painters; in Bury as fair.

Coal Mining.—In Bolton, Little Lever, Westhoughton, Leigh and Tyldesley, employment continues good. In Wigan, Pemberton, Ince, Hindley and Ratcliffe, all collieries are fairly active.

Miscellaneous.—Tanners, printers, bleachers and finishers, carters, tailors and shoemakers are moderately well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Weaving.*—Employment in the weaving industry in the Blackburn district is good; in Burnley and Darwen fairly good; in Preston moderate; in Colne a further improvement is reported. Employment in the hard waste trade is not quite so good; winders, warpers and twisters and drawers report employment as good; warp dressers in the Nelson, Colne and Brierfield district as fair. *Spinning.*—Employment with spinners is reported as fair in Preston; good in Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington and Padiham; only moderate in Burnley. Ring frame spinners and card room workers continue fully employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warp dressers with 4,399 members have 134 (or 3'0 per cent.) unemployed as against 173 (or 3'9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Joiners report employment as bad at Blackburn and Burnley, quiet at Accrington. Painters are showing an improvement; plumbers are slack; masons and bricklayers are quiet.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in engineering is good; with ironfounders at Blackburn and Colne moderate. Fitters in the machine shops are busy.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with miners is brisk at Burnley, good at Townley and Accrington. With stone quarrymen it continues moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet makers report an improvement. Boot, shoe, and slipper makers report employment as brisk; felt printers as slightly improved; tailors as fair. Calico printers and dyers show no improvement.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,187 members have 505 (or 2'4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 579 (or 2'7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Ironfounders continue busy. Boilermakers in Manchester, Stockport, and Warrington report employment as good; smiths and strikers as fair. Brassfounders and finishers, and sheet-metal workers are busy in Manchester and Warrington. Engineers throughout the district, and ironworkers in Warrington and Macclesfield report employment as moderate. Wire-drawers and wire-weavers are fully employed, filesmiths moderately so.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners as fair; painters as good; plumbers in Manchester as bad, in Warrington as moderate. Decorative glassworkers are busy. Employment in Macclesfield is not good.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners in Manchester and Stockport report employment as moderate. In Macclesfield cotton operatives are in full work, fustian cutters are moderately employed; silk hand-loom and power-loom weavers are more fully employed; silk finishers are busy; silk dyers are only moderately employed. The "bleachers, dyers and finishers" report employment as moderate; the "dressers, dyers and finishers" are busy on velvets and cords.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are busy; in the wholesale tailoring trade employment is fair. Shirt makers, cap makers, and mantle makers are fairly busy. Waterproof garment makers are quiet. Boot and shoe makers are busy throughout the district. Felt hat makers and trimmers are busy.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—In Manchester, Warrington and Stockport, employment in the coachmaking trade continues good. Cabinet-makers are fairly well employed, and upholsterers and French polishers report an improvement. Coopers are fairly busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographic artists and lithographic printers as moderate; electrotypers and stereotypers as fair. Bookbinders are busy. Pattern card makers are slack.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders, brass and ironfounders, fitters and turners, whitemiths, iron and steel dressers, drillers and hole cutters, hammermen, shipwrights, ship joiners, and painters and patternmakers report employment as good.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and firemen report employment as fair; the dock labourers as rather slack at South Docks, fair elsewhere; quay and railway carters and flatmen as fair; salt-heavers as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers report employment as good; French polishers, upholsterers, coopers and coachmakers as moderate; mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as fair.

Clothing Trades.—All branches of the tailoring trade report employment as good; boot and shoe makers as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as quiet; lithographic printers as moderate.

Building Trades.—The plumbers report employment as improving. Employment in other branches is good.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Miners report employment as fair, an average of 20 days being worked during the month; quarrymen as busy.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as good; glassmakers as fair; decorative glass workers as brisk; chemical workers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Bakers and confectioners report employment as good; saddle and harness makers as fair; pavlois as busy.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from *Winsford* states that employment is bad in the bulk salt trade, good in the block salt branch. It is slack with iron moulders, good in the building trades. Fustian cutters in Winsford and Middlewich report employment as good.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues moderate in some departments. Work in the shipyards continues to be retarded through backward deliveries of plates, etc. The engineers, machine workers, brassfounders and finishers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, and sailmakers report employment as good; the steam engine makers, smiths and strikers, pattern-makers, boilermakers, drillers and hole cutters, shipwrights and general labourers as moderate. Engineers and

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

moulders at Doncaster, and shipwrights at Beverley, Goole and Selby report employment as moderate. Otherwise employment at these towns and at Grimsby is good.

Building Trades.—Employment in Hull is good generally, but affected by the general plasterers' dispute and the local joiners' dispute. At Beverley, Goole, Grimsby and Selby employment is good; at Driffeld moderate.

Transport Trades.—Railway workers at Hull and Selby, and seamen at Hull report employment as good; seamen at Grimsby, and dock labourers at Hull, Goole and Grimsby as moderate.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen at Hull report employment as good, at Grimsby as fair; steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull as fair, at Grimsby as moderate; curing-house workers at Grimsby as moderate; other branches at both ports as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers at Hull report employment as good; the lithographic printers and bookbinders and machine-rulers as quiet.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coopers, mill sawyers and wood machinists and cabinetmakers at Hull report employment as moderate; the coachbuilders as good at Hull, moderate at Doncaster.

Leather Trades.—The tanners, leather belt and lace makers at Hull report employment as fair; the curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster as moderate.

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

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,329 members have 194 (or 2·3 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Leeds the engineers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, steel workers, pattern-makers, spindle and flyer makers, and machine workers continue well employed; employment with brassworkers is fair. At Wakefield engineers and ironfounders are fairly employed. At Stanningley they are busy in steam crane works, moderate in the bridge building works.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has been good with bespoke tailors and in the readymade tailoring factories, fair with Jewish operatives. In the boot and shoe trade employment has been fairly good but slacker in Leeds, fair at Bramley and Heckmondwike.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds linen workers are busier; blanket raisers, woollen spinners, and willeys and fetlers are only moderately employed; dyers are quiet. At Wakefield worsted and cloth mills are fairly well employed. At Yeadon and Guiseley employment continues quiet.

Building Trades.—In Leeds employment with bricklayers, joiners and masons is brisker; with painters fair; with plumbers moderate. At Harrogate employment is good; at York and Wakefield fair.

Mining.—Coal miners continue well employed, full time being worked at the pits in Leeds, and at Castleford, Pontefract, Wakefield and South Kirkby.

Leather Trades.—Employment at the tanneries is fairly good; with belt makers and lace cutters moderate; with curriers dull; with saddlers and harness-makers good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographers, and bookbinders and machine rulers as fair; paper mill-workers as busy.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle-makers in Leeds, Wakefield, and Castleford are fairly employed; decorative glass-workers moderately so.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with cabinetmakers is fairly good; with coachmakers busier; with mill sawyers moderate. —O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsteds Trade.—Employment in the piece trade in Bradford seems to be slightly improved. The woolsorters and woolcombers, however, describe employment as only moderate. In the Worth Valley it is described as busy on mohair, bright wools and botany, quiet on other classes, although people generally in the district are fairly employed. In Halifax and Huddersfield employment is fair.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield continues good, some firms working overtime, others night and day, and one or two being a little quiet. In the heavy woollen trade employment continues quiet.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham is described as good; at Halifax as slightly improved. Employment in the cotton trade at Huddersfield and Halifax is fair.

Metal Trades.—The engineers at Bradford, Keighley, and Huddersfield describe employment as moderate, at Dewsbury as good; ironfounders at Keighley, Huddersfield and Halifax as good, and at Bradford as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good.

Miscellaneous.—Dyers at Bradford report employment as moderate; printers as quiet; tailors as improving; bottlemakers as brisk; rag and mungo workers as quiet. —A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—In all sections of the heavy trades workmen are busy. Iron and steel founders, boiler-makers, stove grate workers, iron-rollers, core-makers, dressers and engine-makers report employment as good; wire drawers and kitchen range-fitters as fair; railway spring-fitters as quiet. At Rotherham steelworkers are busy; ironworkers fairly so. At Barnsley engineers are moderately employed. Branches with 4,427 members have 31 (or 0·7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of February.

Cutlery and Tool Trades.—Workmen employed in the engineers', joiners', and general edge tool trades are all well employed. Makers of mining tools, spades and shovels, agricultural and horticultural implements are busy. Sawmakers report employment as good; razormakers and filemakers as fair; table, pen and pocket knife cutlers as improved; handle and scale cutters and pressers as moderate.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 60 of the principal collieries show an average of 5·9 days per week worked during March.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment in the silver, Britannia metal and brass trades continues moderate; at Rotherham the brass workers in all branches continue well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good except at Barnsley, where it is moderate. Quarrymen and brickmakers are busy.

Glass Trade.—Employment in the bottle trade continues to improve; and flint glass workers are moderately well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers is fair; with bookbinders good; with lithographers moderate; paper makers are busy.

Woodworking and Coach Building Trades.—Cabinetmakers continue well employed; coachbuilders are busy; wheelwrights and box, and bobbin makers report employment as good; railway wagon and carriage builders are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is moderate with bespoke tailors in Sheffield, and with ready made tailoring operatives in Barnsley; slack with boot and shoe makers in Barnsley.

Linen Trade.—Employment continues slack.

Miscellaneous.—Harness makers and saddlers report employment as fairly good; railway workers, colliery surface and forge labourers are well employed; upholsterers are busy. Down quilt makers continue slack. —S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,983 members have 93 (or 1·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 57 (or 0·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 65 collieries, employing upwards of 29,000 men, show an average of nearly 6 days per week during the month, as against 5·8 days in February.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Employment continues fair at the locomotive works, and good in the bridge, girder and boiler yards. Ironfounders, brass moulders and finishers, stove grate workers, wire drawers, merchant iron rollers, makers of railway materials, malleable ironworkers, farriers, iron and steel dressers, blast furnacemen, pipe moulders, and lace machine builders report employment as good; cycle workers as bad.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen are fairly well employed; chert quarrymen are busy.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good throughout the district.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in Derby and Long Eaton is good with railway carriage and wagon builders; moderate with carriage builders in private shops. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as improving. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good with cotton-spinners and weavers in Hayfield, Glossop, Draycott, and Belper, and with

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

hosiery workers in Ilkeston and Belper. It is rather slack with calico printers, but good with engravers in Dinting, Hayfield and New Mills. Elastic web weavers and lace workers report employment as bad; merino and silk workers at Lea and Holloway, dyers and bleachers, and silk throwsters and winders as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment in Derby as moderate, in Chesterfield as quiet; corset-makers, dress and mantle-makers as moderate; wholesale garment-makers and bespoke tailors as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers, lithographic printers, bookbinders, and machine-rulers report employment as fair. —C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment generally has improved. In the levers branch it is not very good; but in most other branches it is satisfactory.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment in the hand frame branch has somewhat declined, but on the whole employment is fairly good, and the improvement previously reported has been well maintained.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Lace machine and hosiery machine builders are well employed. Fitters and mechanics in general engineering report employment as bad; cycle makers as much improved; ironfounders, boiler makers, pattern makers, machine makers, smiths, and strikers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths, farriers, bobbin and carriage makers, and carriage straighteners, report employment as good; brassfounders and brassworkers as quiet. Cycle makers report employment as slack at Beeston. Employment generally is good at Grantham, moderate at Newark. Branches with 2,908 members have 108 (or 3·7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 106 (or 3·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 32 collieries employing 16,223 men, show an average worked of slightly less than 5 days per week.

Building Trades.—The plasterers' dispute has not affected the local building trade. Painters are now busy, and all branches, with the exception of the plumbers, report employment as good.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers, coachmakers, coopers, French polishers, upholsterers and shopfitters report employment as good; mill sawyers as fair; coachmakers at Newark as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair, and good at Retford; lithographic printers and artists as moderate; bookbinders as good; printers' cutters as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate at Nottingham, good at Mansfield; tailors as fair at Nottingham, slack at Grantham, moderate at Newark and Mansfield; mantle makers and ready-made clothing operatives as good.

Miscellaneous.—Silk dressers are working only five days a week. Gasworkers report employment as moderate; blastfurnacemen at Bulwell as busy; stationary engine drivers, engine and crane-men, female cigar-makers, leather workers and boxmakers as good. —W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—Employment continues to improve at Leicester, Hinckley and Northampton in all branches, overtime being worked in most departments.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors has slightly improved at Northampton, Leicester and Rugby; in the wholesale tailoring it is good. Capmakers, felt and silk hatters, corset makers and dressmakers are in full work.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—At Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley hosiery workers are more fully employed. Overtime is being worked in the shirt and pant factories at Loughborough. Employment is good with dyers and trimmers at Leicester; moderate at Hinckley. Full time is now being worked in woolspinning factories.

Elastic Web Trade.—Makers of boot webs are more fully employed. Employment with the cord and narrow braid workers is fair.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Employment with engineers at Leicester and Loughborough is good; at Northampton slack. With ironfounders, boiler-makers and pattern-makers it is good; with boot machine and cycle makers brisk.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment is good with coalminers in Leicestershire, and with quarrymen and ironstone workers.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Employment with letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders at Leicester and Northampton continues good.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with bricklayers, stone-masons, painters, and bricklayers' labourers at Leicester and

Northampton; slack with bricklayers at Kettering and Rugby. Plumbers and carpenters and joiners are fairly well employed.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment with cabinetmakers and car builders is good; with coachmakers moderate.

Leather Trades.—Employment is brisk in all branches.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with all grades of railway workers, and with cigar-makers, bakers, mill sawyers and basket-makers. —T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—The improvement previously reported has been generally maintained. Hollow-ware pressers continue fairly busy, slightly better time being worked. Sanitary pressers in some branches are fully employed, but in others four days per week is the rule. Flat pressers report a slight improvement. Printers and transferers average five days per week. Women gilders and decorators, men artists, and throwers and turers in the general and furniture trades are working well, but electrical turners report a slight decline. Designers, modellers, and mouldmakers and encaustic tilemakers continue busy. Packers, crate makers, women stilt and spur makers, and ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggar-makers maintain the improvement mentioned last month.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Throughout the district all classes of iron and steelworkers continue well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boiler-makers, and moulders in North Staffordshire continue exceptionally busy, overtime being prevalent. At Crewe employment is good; at Stafford moderately brisk. At Oakamoor and Froghall copper-workers continue busy, and brassworkers slack. Brassfinishers at Longport and Milton, and agricultural engineers at Rugeley and Uttoxeter are well employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Full time is general with colliers and ironstone workers throughout North Staffordshire, and with stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington.

Textile Trades.—At Leek trimming weavers are fairly busy; braidworkers and twisters report no change; pickers, winders, doublers, spinners and throwsters are fully employed; dyers are working overtime. At Congleton silk dressers report employment as good; throwsters and pickers as moderate; fustian cutters as improved. At Cheadle and Tean employment continues good.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors throughout the district, and boot and shoemakers at Stafford and Stone report an improvement. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne continue busy.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers report an improvement. The painters have a small percentage unemployed. Other branches are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a slight improvement; at Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers are fairly busy. Bookbinders and machine rulers are moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers and gas stokers are moderately employed; brick and tile makers continue busy. —I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is good with steel smelters, and is improved in the angle, hoop, iron-bar and steel trades. Employment in the sheet trade is good. The mills and forges throughout the district are well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with engineers, moulders, boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers continues good; electrical shops continue to work overtime; employment in the cycle trade is better; at Walsall employment in the malleable iron trade is improved; at Coalbrookdale and Madeley employment is good.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, axles, springs and coach ironwork, iron fences, hurdles, builders' ironmongery, tips, cut nails, gunlocks, protectors, malleable nails, cycle and electrical castings and with stampers and piercers. Employment is quiet with makers of spectacle frames, hinges, light hollow ware, black castings, edge tools, plantation and brazil hoes, and spring traps, and with galvanizers, brass and tinplate workers and file smiths. Lock, padlock and latch makers are slack. Employment in the ironplate trade at Lye and Bilston is slack; at Wolverhampton moderate. At Halesowen the wrought nail makers are slack. At Blackheath spike and rivet makers are fairly well employed. The chain makers and strikers at Old Hill and the block chain makers at Cradley Heath report employment as good. Workers in the anvil and vice trade at Dudley and district are not busy. A further slight improvement is reported by the anchor smiths at Cradley.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND, E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Coal Mining.—On Cannock Chase employment on inferior seams is good, and nearly full time is worked generally. Pits at Dudley, Old Hill, Oldbury, Tipton, Gorral and Pensnett, and in Shropshire are working full time. Employment in the Tamworth pits has improved.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is moderate.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers at Wordsley and district are well employed. The glass bottle makers at Brierley Hill continue well employed.

Leather Trades.—Employment at Walsall with harness makers and brown saddlers is slack; with gig saddlers it has slightly improved; with buckle, chain, cart gear and case hame makers it is fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster and Bridgnorth continues steady, overtime being worked at both places. Employment with wool staplers has improved, and is good at Tamworth in the tape mills.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with tailors has been fair; with boot and shoe makers brisk.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,043 members have 398 (or 1·8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 459 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering.—Six branches of engineers report employment as moderate, two as good, and two as bad; the tool-makers as moderate; the pattern makers, smiths and strikers and ironfounders as good. At Coventry and West Bromwich employment is good; at Redditch moderate. Employment in the cycle industry is good throughout the district, with much overtime, and in the motor industry continues fair.

Brass and Copper Trades.—In the brassworking industry employment is fair. Fender and firebrass makers are fairly busy. Metal workers, including casters, rollers, annealers, wire drawers (in brass and copper), are only moderately employed at some works, better at others. Solid-drawn and brass and copper brazed tube workers are fairly employed.

Silversmiths, Jewellers and Electro-platers.—Jewellers report employment as fairly good; electro-platers as moderate; Britannia metal workers as fairly good; plate glass bevellers and silverers as good.

Other Metal Trades.—Bedstead workers return employment as quiet, with some men still on short time; tinplate and ironplate workers as fair; edge toolmakers as quiet, but improved; heavy and light steel toy makers as brisk; matchette makers as moderate; machine nut and bolt makers as fair; nail and odd side casters as brisk; scale weighing machine and steel yard makers as good; file cutters as quiet; cut nail makers as fair; wire nail makers as quiet; wrought iron and steel hinge makers and tube makers for gas, water and steam are fully employed. At West Bromwich the iron, spring and nut and bolt workers are fully employed; hollow ware workers fairly so. At Redditch needle makers and fish hook makers are busy; fishing tackle makers are only moderately employed.

Building Trades.—Employment throughout the district is fair.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers and flint glass cutters return employment as good.

Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers report employment as fair; coachmakers as improving; mill-sawyers and machinists as good; coopers as quiet. Employment continues good in the railway and wagon shops.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoemakers are quiet; tailors are moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers report employment as good. Saddlers return employment as slightly improved; harness makers and bridle cutters as quiet; bag makers as fair; cycle saddlers as busy; gas workers and gas fitters as good; brickmakers and general labourers as moderate. At Coventry employment with watch makers is fairly good; the ribbon weavers are fully employed.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.**Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

Clothing Trades.—Ready-made tailoring factories are on full time, and bespoke tailors are fairly busy throughout the district. Boot and shoe makers at Norwich and Cambridge are fairly well employed. Corset makers are fairly busy at Norwich, Diss and Lynn. Shirt, dress and blouse makers are becoming busy.

Building Trades.—Throughout the district work is in full swing.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers are well employed throughout the district. Shipwrights and boat-builders are fairly well employed at Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

Fishing Industry.—Trawl fishing at Yarmouth and Lowestoft has been dull. At Lynn and Wells shell fishing and shrimp fishing are improving.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Letterpress printers are fairly busy throughout the district. Employment with lithographic printers is fair; with bookbinders good.

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting weavers report employment as good. Silk and crape-workers are on full time. Horse-hair weavers are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Horticultural builders at Norwich are busy. Steam flour mills, oil cake mills, paper mills, steam saw mills, joinery works, and paper factories, are running full time. Artificial manure workers are well employed. Organ builders at Norwich are fairly busy. Electrical workers generally are well employed at Norwich and Lynn. Riverside, dock and wharf labourers are fairly well employed at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is reported as good with engineers at Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Chelmsford, Halstead, and Earl's Colne. Boilermakers are well employed, shipwrights moderately so.

Clothing Trades.—In the boot and shoe trade employment is improving at Ipswich. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is slack at Ipswich, fairly good at Colchester. Corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Mat weavers report employment as good at Sudbury, Long Melford, Hadleigh, and Lavenham, moderate at Glemsford; silk weavers as quiet at Braintree, good at Sudbury.

Building Trades.—Employment with bricklayers, carpenters, and plumbers generally is satisfactory, with painters moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Beccles, Bury St. Edmunds, and Southend; fair at Ipswich; moderate at Colchester. Bookbinders have been well employed at Ipswich; lithographers fairly so.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour at Ipswich has been dull, but is improving; at Parkston it has been good. Labourers, gasworkers, and brickmakers report employment as good.

R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol and District.**

General.—Branches of societies with 9,172 members have 151 (or 1·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 221 (or 2·5 per cent.) of their membership at the end of February.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors and silk hatters is reported as good; with wholesale garment-makers as dull; with corset-makers as steady. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as good in Bristol; slack at Kingswood.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is reported as good with fitters, pattern-makers, moulders, boilermakers, toolmakers, smiths, and coachmakers. Brassfounders, and firishers are fairly busy. Tinplate-workers and shipwrights are slack.

Mining and Quarrying.—Cocalmners continue in full work. Stone quarry men and iron ore workers in the Forest of Dean are busy.

Building Trades.—The stonemasons and bricklayers report employment as good; the decorators and painters as improving; the plumbers as quiet; the carpenters, joiners, and plasterers as moderate; the builders' labourers as brisk.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The coopers report employment as bad; the woodcutting machinists as slack in Bristol and good at Gloucester; the cabinetmakers and upholsterers as moderate; the French polishers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as good, bookbinders and machine rulers as moderate; paper bag and envelope makers as fair.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—The glass bottle-makers, glass bevellers and cutters report employment as good; the stone potters as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The tobacco workers report employment as good; the curriers as improving; the sailors and firemen as steady; the dock labourers as dull; the saddle and harness makers as fair; the brick and tile makers, and oil and colour workers as brisk.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Employment in the tin mines continues to improve. In granite quarries employment is good; in slate and limestone quarries steady; with china clay workers moderate.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—WALES; SCOTLAND.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers report employment as moderate; ironfounders and iron shipbuilders and boilermakers as good; shipwrights as good in Plymouth and Devonport, moderate at Brixham and Dartmouth. In the Government establishments all these trades are busy. Branches with 2,170 members have 15 (or 0·7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of February.

Building Trades.—With stonemasons employment continues good generally, except at Penzance; with bricklayers, plumbers and painters it is good; with plasterers moderate; with carpenters and joiners good at Plymouth and Devonport; fair at Tavistock and Exeter; quiet at Torquay. Branches with 3,300 members have 8 (or 0·2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 26 (or 0·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Clothing Trades.—In the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade employment has improved; in the ready-made branch work is fair. Boot and shoe makers report employment as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate in Plymouth and Devonport; still quiet in Exeter, Torquay, and Penzance; lithographic printers as fair; bookbinders and paper rulers as moderate; paper mill workers as steady.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Machinists and mill-sawyers report employment as good; cabinet makers as moderate; upholsterers as still quiet.

Dock and Quayside Work.—General employment has been better and more regular; employment with lumpers has been good.

Fishing Industry.—Trawling has been quiet at Brixham, good at Plymouth and Newlyn. Hook and line boats generally have done well. Mackerel are scarce for the season. Prices have been good.

Miscellaneous.—Government labourers continue well employed. Employment is generally good with labourers, excavators, and brickyard workers, moderate with gasworkers, quiet with bakers and confectioners. In the market and fruit gardens work is plentiful.—W. Hedge.

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment continues brisk, and full time has been generally maintained. At the lead and blende mines of Denbighshire employment continues good.

Quarrying.—Employment at slate, granite sett, lime and road stone, and free stone quarries continues good.

Building Trades.—Employment is fair at Colwyn Bay, good at Llandudno, moderate at Wrexham and Oswestry.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with the engineers at Oswestry is moderate; in other parts of the district employment is good generally with engineers, ironfounders, wagon builders and iron and steel workers.

Clothing and Textile Industries.—Employment in the flannel and tweed industries of Montgomeryshire in the ready-made department is brisk; in other departments fair. The bespoke tailors at Rhyl and Bangor report employment as good; at Wrexham and Oswestry as improving.

Brick and Terra Cotta Industry.—Employment at brick and terra cotta works is fully maintained.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Nearly all the collieries have worked full time. The sliding scale audit shows an advance of 3½ per cent. from the 1st of April.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Reports from eight large steel works show that mills and furnaces are working to their utmost capacity. Mechanics and general labourers have been working overtime. At a meeting of the Iron and Steel Workers' Sliding Scale Committee an advance of 2½ per cent. was granted to all iron and steel workers, the advance to take place at once.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Employment has not been so brisk as during the three previous months. Branches of engineers with 2,505 members return 72 (or 2·9 per cent.) unemployed as against 14 at the end of February. Boilermakers return 30 per cent. unemployed and the shipwrights 50 per cent. Employment with mechanics' helpers and general labourers has declined.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have declined. Imports of iron ore, pitwood and timber have been good. Corn porters and general hoppers have been quiet. The shipment of crews has been unusually dull. Ship painters and cleaners have been well employed.

Building Trades.—Reports show that employment has declined. Branches of the carpenters, joiners, and plumbers with 1,613

members return 72 (or 4·5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 36 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Employment with masens and bricklayers has been quiet.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the patent-fuel trade has been good; in chemical and metallurgical works quiet. Lithographic and letterpress printers have been slack; bookbinders have been well employed.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—Employment has been disturbed during the month by trade disputes and has fallen off. At the end of March 331 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black-plates), giving employment to an estimated number of 16,943 workpeople, as compared with 340 mills employing 17,235 workpeople at the end of February, and 322 mills employing 16,631 workpeople at the end of March, 1898.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches of societies with 16,128 members have 192 (or 1·2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 266 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good. The miners are generally working full time, any idleness being due to want of wagons.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 30 mines, employing 3,096 workpeople (as compared with 3,039 in March, 1898), show that these mines all worked full time during the four weeks ended March 25th, 1899.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,281 members have 27 (or 1·2 per cent.) idle, as against 25 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Branches in Falkirk with 3,264 members have 12 (or 0·4 per cent.) idle, as against 15 (or 0·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipbuilding.—Branches of shipwrights and boilermakers with 590 members, have 44 (or 7·5 per cent.) idle, as against 46 (or 7·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Textile Trades.—Employment with woollen spinners and weavers continues to improve in Hawick and Galashiels. In Selkirk both spinners and weavers are fully employed. Employment in the hosiery industry continues good in both Hawick and Selkirk. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,512 members have 9 idle, as against 41 at the end of February.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,091 members have 33 (or 3·0 per cent.) idle, as against 47 (or 4·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipbuilding and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen, and the dock labourers and coal porters are fairly well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,248 members have 34 (or 1·5 per cent.) idle, as against 48 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Miscellaneous.—The settmakers, shoemakers, glass-cutters and saddlers report employment as good; the bakers, curriers, tailors and glass-makers as fair.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues good. Branches with 13,427 members have 162 (or 1·2 per cent.) idle, as against 267 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good. Branches with 28,075 members return 508 (or 1·8 per cent.) as idle, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of February.

Building Trades.—Employment during the month has been good.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire on the whole miners are fully employed. In Dumbartonshire and Ayrshire employment is good. In Lanarkshire work is plentiful; but there is a scarcity of wagons. In Renfrewshire the men are working 10 and 12 days per fortnight.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report a great improvement; operatives in the ready-made tailoring branch are busy; mantle-makers are less busy. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as improving; kneebot and shoemakers and curriers as fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment in Glasgow with weavers is fairly good; with beamers and dyers dull; with warpers fair. At Darvel, New Mills, Kilmarnock and Kilbirnie textile workers are busy; at Galston and Port Glasgow they are steadily employed. At one thread works at Paisley extra hands are being taken on; at another employment continues dull.

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

Transport Trades.—With sailors, and firemen, and dock labourers employment is unchanged; carters, hackney carriage drivers, railway men and tramway men are all well employed.

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

Glass Trades.—Decorative glass workers, flint-glass cutters and makers and bottle-makers report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—Sett makers, paviors, gilders, spindle and flyer makers, scale and beam makers, potters, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, and calico engravers report employment as good.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry remains satisfactory; in the linen trade also looms are fully employed.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the Fifeshire pits has continued steady. Reports from collieries employing 11,297 workpeople show an average of 5.4 days per week worked during the four weeks ending March 25th, the same percentage as in the month of February.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in engineering shows a decline. The shipbuilding yards continue well employed. Branches of societies with a membership of 2,363, have 86 (or 3.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 45 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is good in most branches of the building trade; and in the furniture trade considerable improvement is shown. Societies with 1,713 members return 17 (or 1.0 per cent.) as idle, compared with 45 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Fishing Industry.—The haddock fishing has been prosecuted with but poor success. The salmon fishing has also continued unsuccessful.

Dock Labour.—There has been a large amount of traffic at the harbour during the month, and employment has been good.

Miscellaneous.—The printing and kindred trades are still well employed. Tailors are busy, and boot and shoe makers fairly so. Floorcloth and linoleum makers remain brisk. Bleachers are well employed.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,646 members have 59 (or 0.9 per cent.) idle, as against 46 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen, masons, and settmakers report employment as good; granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners, masons, painters and plasterers report employment as good; plumbers as moderate; slaters as dull.

Transport Trades.—The railway servants, carters, and general labourers report employment as good; dock labourers as dull.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,476 members have 18 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 19 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The tinplate workers report employment as fair; other branches as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives and boot and shoe makers report employment as bad; tailors as quiet; carpet weavers as good; mill and factory workers as fair.

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

Fishing.—In March at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 70,284 cwts., with a value of £49,075, an increase in quantity and value as compared with February.

Miscellaneous.—The comb makers, saddlers, saw millers, and cabinetmakers report employment as good; upholsterers as fair.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment during the month has been fair; it is returned as good with the bricklayers and plasterers; fair with the carpenters and glaziers; dull with the painters.

Metal Trades.—Work is reported as good with the ironfounders, engineers and boiler-makers; fair with the brassfinishers, tinsmiths, silver-plate workers and whitesmiths; slack with the gas-fitters.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment is reported as dull with the lathsplitters; fair with other branches.

Clothing Trades.—Employment shows an improvement in the tailoring and boot trades.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers and lithographers return employment as fair; the bookbinders as dull. Branches with 1,353 members return 94 (or 6.9 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 85 (or 6.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Miscellaneous.—The dock labourers, ropemakers, and stationary engine drivers report employment as fair.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches with 8,481 members have 163 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 236 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The engineers report employment as dull; strikers, brassfounders, steam engine makers, enginemen, firemen and crane-men, carpenters and joiners, spindle and flyer makers, and the furnishing trades as fair; pattern-makers as steady; blacksmiths, boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, ironfounders, machine makers, hole cutters and drillers, tinplate workers, shipwrights, general labourers, and platers' helpers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 3,961 members have 136 (or 3.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 122 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The tenters report employment as bad; flaxroughers as dull; flaxdressers, yarn beamers, yarn bundlers, beetlers, hackle and gill makers, linen lappers, yarn dressers, and women workers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 2,208 members have 72 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed as against 152 (or 6.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The bricklayers report employment as bad; plumbers as dull; hodsmen, carpenters and joiners as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 789 members have 24 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 67 (or 8.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The cabinet makers report employment as middling; coopers as quiet; mill-sawyers as dull; packing case makers as fair; French polishers as improving; upholsterers and coachbuilders as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 930 members have 55 (or 5.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 79 (or 8.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Letterpress printers report employment as dull; lithographic printers as moderate; lithographic artists and bookbinders as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with tailors and boot and shoe makers has shown some improvement.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with 1,734 members have 34 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The bakers report employment as fair; carters, railway workers, butchers, locomotive engine drivers, municipal employees, and paviors as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as moderate in Cork, Passage West, Haulbowline, and Limerick; dull in Waterford; engineers, shipwrights, and riggers as fair throughout the district; ship joiners as bad.

Building Trades.—Employment is dull in Cork and Limerick, fair in Waterford and Tralee.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment with the flax, tweed and feather operatives in Cork, Millfield, Blarney and Douglas, is reported as steady; with tailors as fair; with boot and shoe operatives as dull.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate in Limerick and Cork, dull in Waterford.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and woodcutting machinists, coachmakers and packing-case makers report employment as fair; coopers as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants report employment as steady; tramway employes, quay labourers, coal porters and corporation labourers as good; hackney car drivers as dull.—P. O'Shea.

Employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers.

According to the thirteenth annual Report of the Birmingham Society for the Employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers employment was found for 334 men during 1898. Fifty were found work as postmen, 22 as grooms and coachmen, 24 as watchmen of caretakers, and situations were secured for 49 in railway, iron and other works.

From the thirteenth Report of the Scottish Society, it appears that 196 permanent and 252 temporary situations were filled through the society during 1898.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during March was 303, or 101 less than in February, and 43 less than in March, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,291,998 persons (according to the latest available figures), 287 persons were killed, and 7,485 reported injured by accidents in March, as compared with 328 killed and 5,664 reported injured in March, 1898. These figures give one death in March, 1899, for every 18,439 persons employed in those industries. During the three completed months of 1899, 1,068 persons were reported killed and 21,143 injured, as against 975 reported killed and 15,407 injured in the corresponding period of 1898.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 16 persons were reported killed, and 976 injured, in March, as compared with 18 reported killed and 588 injured in March, 1898.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Mar. 1899.	Mar. 1898.	Mar. 1899.	Mar. 1898.	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	36	37	396	333	465,112
Other Accidents	1	1	826	862	
Total Railway Service	37	38	1,222	1,195	465,112
Mines	73	63	372	366	728,713
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	14	8	103	114	123,370
Shipping	115	175	247	195	231,385*
Factories	48	44	5,541	3,794	3,743,418
Total of above	287	328	7,485	5,868	5,291,998
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23	9	13	771	467	Cannot be stated.
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	6	4	193	100	

DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed		Injured		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	3	74	—	14	88
Engine Drivers	—	47	—	32	79
Firemen	1	49	—	42	91
Guards (Passenger)	—	3	—	7	10
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	10	21	—	80	101
Porters	3	57	—	226	283
Shunters	4	58	—	14	72
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	15	87	1	411	498
Total for March, 1899	36	396	1	826	1,222
Total for March, 1898	37	333	1	862	1,195
Mines—					
Explosions of Firedamp	3	14	—	—	17
Falls of ground	37	150	—	—	187
In shafts	19	10	—	—	29
Miscellaneous	17	152	6	46	198
Total for March, 1899	67	326	6	46	73
Total for March, 1898	54	331	9	35	366
Quarries over 20 feet deep					
Explosives or Blasting	—	15	—	—	15
Falls of ground	5	22	—	—	27
Miscellaneous	5	40	4	26	66
Total for March, 1899	10	77	4	26	103
Total for March, 1898	7	80	1	34	114

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.
Shipping*—						
On Trading Vessels—						
Sailing	11	—	15	37	26	37
Steam	33	1	150	194	83	195
On Fishing Vessels—						
Sailing	—	—	—	2	—	2
Steam	—	—	4	13	6	13
Total for March, 1899	46	1	69	246	115	247
Total for 3 months Jan., 1899, to March, 1899	266	6	224	954	490	959
Total for 3 months Jan., 1898, to March, 1898	320	11	178	747	498	768

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Factories—					
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—					
Adults	40	1,080	1	138	41
Young Persons	7	429	—	104	7
Children	—	13	—	6	—
Total	47	1,522	1	248	48
(b) Other Accidents—					
Adults	—	3,186	—	54	—
Young Persons	—	490	—	33	—
Children	—	8	—	—	—
Total	—	3,684	—	87	—
Total Factories—					
March, 1899	47	5,206	1	335	48
March, 1898	44	3,548	—	246	44
Workshops—					
Adults	—	9	1	—	1
Young Persons	—	3	—	—	—
Children	—	—	—	—	—
Total Workshops—					
March, 1899	—	12	1	—	1
March, 1898	1	17	—	4	1

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Factories & Workshops (classified by trades).					
Textiles—					
Cotton	1	206	1	134	2
Wool and Worsted	1	58	—	48	1
Other Textiles	—	36	—	36	—
Non-Textiles—					
Extraction of Metals	6	88	—	—	6
Founding and Conversion of Metals	5	703	—	—	5
Machines, Engines and Engineering	1	1,388	—	3	1
Ship and Boat Building	11	872	—	—	11
Wood	3	154	—	1	3
Chemicals, &c.	1	151	—	2	1
Other Non-Textile Industries	18	1,552	1	111	19
Total March, 1899	47	5,218	2	335	49
Total March, 1898	45	3,665	—	250	45

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	4	401	—	—	4
Warehouses	2	285	—	—	2
Buildings to which Act applies	3	58	—	1	3
Laundries	—	5	—	21	—
Total for March, 1899	9	749	—	22	9
Total for March, 1898	13	459	—	8	13

	Construction or repair.		Use or Working.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894—					
Bridge	—	2	—	—	—
Canal	—	2	1	11	1
Railway	3	69	—	—	3
Tramroad	—	—	—	—	—
Tramway	—	1	—	24	—
Tunnel	—	11	—	—	—
Other Works	1	72	—	—	1
Traction Engine	—	—	—	—	—
Total for March, 1899	4	157	2	36	6
Total for March, 1898	4	74	—	26	4

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1897, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

† One of this number was included in the number of non-fatal injuries in the return for February last.

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

§ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

|| Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1899.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during March affected about 331,400 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of about 9½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those of 3¼ per cent. (under sliding scale) to 125,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 3d. per day to upwards of 78,000 coal miners in Scotland (with an additional 5 per cent. in Fife, Kinross and Clackmannan), 7d. in the £ to 75,000 operatives in the cotton spinning industry of Lancashire and adjoining counties, and about 42,000 iron and steel workers in the North of England, Midlands, and South Wales had their wages raised by varying amounts under sliding scales.

Decreases.—The only decrease of importance was that of ½ per cent. (under sliding scale) to 1,220 steel workers at Middlesbrough.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 1,400 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 167,000 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales, and the other changes, affecting about 163,000 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers.

Summary for First Three Months of 1899.—For the three months, January to March, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 634,000. The net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected is estimated at an increase of about 10½d. per head.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES and MINING AND QUARRYING.

Table for MINING AND QUARRYING section, detailing changes for Clay Miners, Enginemen and Boiler Firers, and Coal Miners.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Includes sections for MINING AND QUARRYING and IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.

Table for IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE section, detailing changes for various occupations like Ironworkers, Steel Millmen, and Blastfurnacemen.

Table for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES section, detailing changes for occupations like Smiths, Ironfounders, and Shipbuilders.

Table for OTHER METAL TRADES section, detailing changes for occupations like Block Chain Makers and Tinplate Makers.

Table for TEXTILE TRADES section, detailing changes for occupations like Cotton Spinners and Dyers.

* Exclusive of overtime. † New work. ‡ Old work.

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

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

NOTE.—The advance of 2½ per cent. to gas producers in the West of Scotland (see p. 88 of MARCH GAZETTE) has now been increased to 5 per cent., as obtained by the steel smelters.

Table with columns: Port, Voyage, Occupation, No. shipped at new Rate during Mar., Particulars of Change, Monthly Rates (Feb., Mar., In-c., De-c.).

Wages of Agricultural Labourers. Various increases have been reported of which particulars are given on p. 108.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH, 1899.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during March affect 364 workpeople, whose working hours are reduced on an average by 1.74 hours per week. The changes were all decreases.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Extent of decrease per week.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March 610 fresh applications for work were registered by the eight bureaux (See LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36), furnishing returns, and 941 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 202 persons, of whom 115 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency (by correspondence only) and the Liverpool, Manchester and Edinburgh Bureaux, are for the

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. † Exclusive of overtime. ‡ Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are the result of averaging the hours for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. § See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during March.

Table with columns: No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Work-people seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.

The increase in the number of situations offered in March is almost entirely due to an increased demand for dressmakers and milliners. In this group 190 situations were offered, compared with 99 in February; only 57 workpeople applied for such work, compared with 88 in February; 34 were engaged by employers, compared with 60 in February.

Washington Bureau of Labour.

The Department has received a copy of the first biennial report of the Bureau of Labour of the State of Washington, created in 1897. The report includes an account of the principal industries of the State, and of the results of the inspection of factories, mills, railroads and coal mines.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March 1,796 fresh applications for work were registered by the 10 bureaux furnishing returns, as compared with 1,990 in March, 1898. Work was found by the bureaux for 947 persons, a decrease of 97 as compared with a year ago. Of these 947 persons, 566 (419 males and 147 females) were engaged by private employers, 239 (235 males and 4 females) by Local Authorities and 142 men by the Salvation Army authorities.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of March, 1899, was 1,409 as compared with 1,730 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in March.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found Worked by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during March, 1899.

Table with columns: No. Permanently engaged, No. Temporarily engaged, Total.

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

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of March, 1899, March, 1898.

* Engaged by Salvation Army authorities.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.) THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of March was 339,157. This corresponds to a rate of 212 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with February, 1899, there is a decrease of 2,816 in the number of persons relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000. Twenty-four of the 35 districts (including the 5 Metropolitan districts) show decreased rates, the most marked decreases being in the Paisley and Greenock district (8 per 10,000), Stockton and Tees (7), and Leicester (7). In 6 districts increases are shown, while in the remaining 5 districts the rate is unaltered.

Compared with March, 1898, the number relieved shows a decrease of 2,645 and the rate per 10,000 of 4. The rate has decreased in 23 districts, increased in 11 districts, and remained the same in 1 district. The largest decreases were in the Bristol district (1,368 in the number relieved and 43 in the rate per 10,000), and in the Galway, Newcastle, Coatbridge and Airdrie, Stockton and Tees, Hull, Bolton, and Liverpool districts. The principal increases were at West Ham (17 per 10,000), Dublin (13), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (11), and Birmingham (8).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of March, 1899, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES*, Metropolitan, Other Districts, West Ham, Total.

Table with columns: SCOTLAND*, IRELAND†, Total for above 38 districts in March, 1899.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. † Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.) Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.

Number and Magnitude.—Fifty-three fresh disputes were reported as beginning in March, 1899, compared with 36 in February, and 27 in March, 1898. In these 53 disputes, 9,364 workpeople were directly, and 4,463 indirectly affected, a total of 13,827, which compares with 5,348 in February, and 2,888 in March, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 18 disputes took place, involving 5,724 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 4 disputes, involving 2,131 workpeople; engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 8 disputes, involving 898 workpeople; other metal trades, 5 disputes, involving 1,660 workpeople; textile trades, 9 disputes, involving 2,555 workpeople; clothing trades, 2 disputes, involving 39 workpeople; furnishing and woodworking trades, 3 disputes, involving 97 workpeople; and in other industries, 4 disputes, involving 723 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 53 new disputes, 38 arose chiefly on wages questions, 8 on matters of working arrangements, and 7 from other causes.

Results.—Thirty-seven new disputes, involving 7,824 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, involving 1,179 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 46 new and old disputes settled, 22, involving 4,339 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 1,303 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 15, involving 3,361 persons, resulted in a compromise. At the end of March 19 old disputes were known to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 2,300 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total duration in March of all the disputes, new and old, was about 207,700 working days, compared with 118,000 in February, and 19,100 in March, 1898.

Summary for the First Three Months of 1899.—For the three completed months of 1899 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 133 disputes which commenced in those months was 23,253, as compared with 14,406 in the 101 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1898. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 503,300, as compared with 1,000,000 for the first quarter of 1898, during part of which time the dispute in the engineering trade was in progress.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH, 1899.

Table for Building Trades (5,724 Workpeople affected). Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Mining and Quarrying (2,131 Workpeople affected). Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (898 Workpeople affected). Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by dispute, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH, 1899.—(continued).

Table for Other Metal Trades (1,660 Workpeople affected). Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Textile Trades (2,555 Workpeople affected). Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Clothing Trades (39 Workpeople affected). Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Furnishing and Woodworking Trades (97 Workpeople affected). Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades (723 Workpeople affected). Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH COMMENCED BEFORE MARCH, 1899, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Mining and Quarrying. Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Engineering and Shipbuilding. Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Other Metal Trades. Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Textile Trades. Columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work by the dispute, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE MARCH, 1899, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 19 disputes, which have been previously reported in the monthly statement of disputes, were still unsettled at the end of March. The number of workpeople then involved was about 2,300. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in brackets.

Building Trades:—Joiners, Halifax; plasterers, Kilmarnock (Jan.)—(since settled—April); joiners, Waterford (Feb).
Mining:—Coal miners, Normanton (Sep., 1897); Pontefract (April, 1898); East Kirkby, Notts (Nov.); Barnsley (Nov.); lead miners, Leadhills (Aug.); coal miners, Blantyre (Feb.); stone quarrymen, Bristol (Feb.).
Metal Trades:—Ironfounders, Barnsley (Oct.); wire-drawers, etc., Birmingham (Dec.); bedstead-makers, Manchester; foundry labourers, Paisley; sailmakers, River Clyde (all in Feb.).
Textile Trades:—Dyers, Honley (Sept.); lacemakers, Nottingham (Feb).
Other Trades:—Brushmakers, London (Sept.); boot and shoe operatives, London (Feb.).

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

The following table shows the number of cases of lead poisoning (classified by industries) and anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during March. It will be seen that of the 121 cases of lead poisoning reported in March, 1899, 20 affected females, and of the 101 cases reported in March, 1898, 48 affected females. The china and earthenware industry and lead works accounted for 56 cases in March, 1899, and 74 cases a year ago. The 121 cases of lead poisoning reported included 4 deaths resulting from that disease. It should be understood that the fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Lead Poisoning—									
China and Earthenware	11	9	1	6	—	—	12	15	27
Glass	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
White, Red and Orange Lead Works	25	4	—	—	—	—	25	4	29
Paints and Colours	11	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	11
Smelting	9	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	9
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron and other metals	3	1	1	—	—	—	4	1	5
Other Industries	34	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	36
Total Lead Poisoning	97	14	1	6	—	—	101	20	121
Corresponding Total for March, 1898	62	46	7	2	—	—	53	48	101
Anthrax									
Ditto, March, 1898	5	1	1	—	—	—	6	1	7
	4	7	—	—	—	—	4	7	5

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during March show a considerable decrease as compared with March, 1898, and a smaller decrease as compared with March, 1897, the decline in both cases being chiefly due to a falling off in the imports of American cotton. For the first three months of the year, however, the imports in 1899 exceed those in the corresponding period of 1898 and 1897 respectively. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns during March also shows a decrease as compared with March, 1898, and March, 1897.

The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

	Imports Bales.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales.	Exports Bales.
March, 1899	269,599	279,425	60,766
" 1898	379,796	322,662	44,697
" 1897	286,540	307,364	38,102
Three months ended			
March, 1899	1,486,872	856,840	163,450
" 1898	1,433,061	915,340	114,535
" 1897	1,320,101	883,912	108,605

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended April 1st, amounted to £6,280,152, an increase of £419,901 (or 7.2 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,521,465, an increase of £288,773, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,758,687, an increase of £131,128.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during March was £683,347, an increase of £73,007, as compared with March, 1898. In England and Wales there was an increase of £77,186, and in Scotland of £643, while in Ireland there was a decrease of £4,822.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during March numbered 423, being 22 more than in March, 1898, 10 more than in March, 1897, and 13 less than in March, 1896.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

The trade returns for the month of March last show a decrease as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British Possessions, but an increase in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures and also of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for March, 1899, were valued at £41,492,388, a decrease of £1,920,441, as compared with March, 1898, or 4.4 per cent.; and the exports amounted in value to £27,566,671, as against £25,934,439 in 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures in 1899 alone amounted to £22,324,401, an increase of £1,490,536, or 7.1 per cent. The latter increase, however, it should be observed, includes the value of new ships, viz., £1,474,067, this being the first year for which these exports are shown. Foreign and Colonial merchandise exported amounted in value to £5,242,270, an increase of £141,696, or 2.7 per cent. as compared with March, 1898.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for March, 1899, as compared with March, 1898, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month ended Mar. 31st.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1898.	1899.		
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 18,470,761	£ 16,978,466	—	£ 1,492,295
Metals	2,053,908	2,791,459	737,551	—
Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances	751,784	744,106	—	7,678
Oils	681,632	697,645	15,993	—
Raw Materials for Manufactures	11,372,390	10,055,401	—	1,316,989
Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles	10,082,334	10,225,320	142,986	—
Total	£ 43,412,829	£ 41,492,388	—	£ 1,920,441

With regard to the imports of articles of food, etc., wheat shows a decrease in quantity of 1,200,660 cwt., and in value of £942,164; wheat meal and flour an increase of 119,137 cwt., and a decrease in value of £115,379; barley has fallen off to the extent of 1,099,580 cwt., and £317,623; oats, peas, beans, oatmeal and Indian cornmeal all shows decreases in quantities and values. Indian corn or maize, although it has decreased in quantity has increased in value. Among other articles of food and drink (duty free) beef, hams, meat preserved otherwise than by salting, pork, cheese, eggs and fruit, rice and sugar have all increased in quantity and value, while the most notable decreases are to be found in the case of fresh mutton, potatoes, butter and fish; in the case of butter the falling off is to the extent of £142,105, and in the case of potatoes £114,506. Among dutiable articles of food and drink, cocoa, other than prepared, shows an increase in quantity of 2,896,992 lbs. and in value of £78,384; spirits and raisins have also increased, but chicory, cocoa prepared, coffee, currants, tea and wine have all decreased in value. Unmanufactured tobacco has fallen off both in quantity and value, but manufactured tobacco has increased.

In the imports of metals, all descriptions, with the exception of quicksilver, have increased in quantity and value; in the case of tin, iron ore, and copper, unwrought and partly wrought, the imports are valued respectively at £183,815, £145,950 and £123,002 more than in March, 1898. In the class of raw materials, cotton has decreased by £868,530, jute by £240,989, and sheep or lambs' wool by £111,030. Flax, hemp, and silk have also fallen off. On the other hand, alpaca and goats' wool have increased. Peruvian bark, hides, manures, paper-making materials, and wood and timber have all fallen off, but caoutchouc, guttapercha, paraffin, rosin and tallow, and stearine have all increased in quantity and value. Among manufactured articles the most notable increases are in the case of

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MARCH.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions.	Amount of Penalties.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:				
Neglecting to Limewash	4	3	5 15 0	0 18 4
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	12	11	13 16 0	4 15 4
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	—	—	—	—
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—	35	35	22 17 0	18 0 2
Before or after the legal hour	76	75	47 3 6	25 17 4
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	40	39	22 7 6	16 12 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	6	6	14 0 0	4 12 10
At night	20	20	24 10 0	9 4 8
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	3	3	1 9 0	1 15 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers	18	17	28 18 0	6 4 11
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	13	13	7 12 6	6 8 6
Not sending Notices required by Act	8	8	3 17 6	3 16 10
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty	1	1	2 0 0	0 2 0
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars for Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules	2	2	1 10 0	0 16 6
Prosecutions under Education Acts, 1878-83	6	—	—	—
Prosecutions under Truck Acts, 1831-96	1	1	1 0 0	0 7 6
Other Offences	2	2	1 5 0	1 1 0
By Workmen:				
Employing child on successive Saturdays	1	1	0 1 0	0 15 0
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty	1	1	0 2 6	1 6 10
Total for March, 1899	287	246	198 14 6	104 0 9
Total for March, 1898	226	221	169 15 0	95 15 11

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c.	2	2	—	—	£ 3 12 6
Ventilation	1	—	—	1	—
Miscellaneous	3	3	—	—	5 12 0
By Workmen:					
Safety Lamps	1	1	—	—	0 12 6
Shot-firing and Explosives	2	2	—	—	2 18 0
Timbering	4	4	—	—	3 19 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	7	7	—	—	3 1 6
Riding on Trams	5	5	—	—	2 6 6
Miscellaneous	5	5	—	—	6 10 0
Total for March, 1899	30	29	—	1	28 12 6
Total for March, 1898	54	47	5	2	52 1 0

UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:				
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	7	7	—	—
Fencing	1	1	—	—
Other Special Rules	2	2	—	—
By Workmen:				
Explosives and Blasting	4	4	—	—
Total for March, 1899	14	14	—	20 8 4
Total for March, 1898	15	14	—	22 15 0

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitors' Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:				
Submerging Disc	1	1	£ 5 0 0	£ s. d.
Carrying excessive Deck Cargoes	1	1	0 5 0	0 8 6
Secreting Wreckage	1	1	1 0 0	0 8 0
Failure to send assistance after collision	2	2	35 0 0	—
Non-entry of collision in Official Log	1	1	10 0 0	29 0 6
By Seamen:				
Giving false name or falsely stating last ship	1	1	0 5 0	—
Total for March, 1899	7	7	61 10 0	29 17 0
Total for March, 1898	12	12	48 0 0	9 15 0

* One offender sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment, another admonished.

cotton, iron and steel, linen yarn and unenumerated silk manufactures, while plate glass, jute manufactures, paper, silk broad stuffs, straw plaiting, and manufactures of wool (other than goats, wool) have all fallen off.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for March, 1899, and the increase or decrease of each principal category:—

	Month ended Mar. 31st.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1898.	1899.		
Animals living	£ 95,199	£ 65,959	—	£ 29,240
Articles of Food and Drink	819,210	890,779	71,569	—
Raw Materials	1,659,560	2,046,447	376,887	—
Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, viz.—				
Yarns and Textile Fabrics	8,868,694	8,360,910	—	507,784
Metals, and Articles Manu- factured therefrom (except Machinery and Millwork)	2,921,931	2,952,290	31,259	—
Machinery and Millwork	1,527,622	1,713,482	185,860	—
Ships, new (not registered as British)	(not recorded)	1,474,067	1,474,067	—
Miscellaneous	4,931,519	4,820,437	—	111,112
Total	£ 20,833,865	£ 22,324,401	£ 1,490,536	—

Amongst articles of food and drink, all classes, with the exception of biscuits and bread, butter, cheese, and provisions including meat, show increased values. In the class of raw materials, coal, coke, and fuel have increased by £378,265, and sheep and lambs' wool has also increased. Amongst yarns and textile fabrics cotton yarn has fallen off to the extent of 4,801,600 lbs. in quantity and £182,586 in value, and jute, linen, woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarns all show diminished quantities and values. In the case of piece goods, cottons show a decrease in the quantity of 28½ million yards, and in value of £240,744, linen piece goods of £17,911, silk manufactures of £11,851, and worsted tissues of £8,104; but woollen tissues have increased by 346,400 yards and £45,014, and jute piece goods, though showing a diminution in quantity of 365,500 yards, have increased in value to the extent of £2,023.

Machinery has increased by £185,860, due principally to increased shipments of locomotives to the British East Indies, textile machinery to Russia and the British East Indies, and agricultural machinery and sewing machines to European countries. In the category of metals there is an increase chiefly accounted for by larger shipments of unwrought copper and iron, but in telegraphic wire and apparatus there is a decrease amounting in value to £113,713, as compared with the corresponding month of 1898.

In the three months ended March 31st, 1899, the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at £118,242,584, as compared with £119,099,209 for a similar period of 1898, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £62,054,041 (including £2,224,289, the value of new ships, not registered as British, not included prior to 1899), as compared with £57,707,118 for the three months ended March 31st, 1898. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise for the three months amounted in value to £16,240,640, as compared with £15,110,772 in 1898.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions during March, 1899, amounted to 2,860,422 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,507,867 tons, as compared with 2,780,231 tons entered and 3,292,247 tons cleared in March, 1898. As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during March last was 2,682,849 tons, and the tonnage cleared 2,626,384 tons, as against 2,576,853 tons and 2,556,110 tons respectively in March, 1898.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

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

East Scotland Mining District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under-manager of a mine will be held on May 18th. Intending candidates should communicate on or before May 8th with the secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. R. Calder, Finty-place, Broughty Ferry, N.B.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MARCH.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in March, it will be seen that 6 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Societies for Distribution, 13 Co-operative Societies for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Societies, 35 new Friendly Societies, 29 branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 4 Building Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during March. Four Trade Unions, 17 Building Societies, and 49 Friendly Societies (including 26 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registrations cancelled. In addition to the above the registry of 99 Friendly Societies (in England) was cancelled during the month on the ground that the Societies had ceased to exist.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Liverpool Operative Fish-mongers' & Poulterers' Association, British Workman Cocoa Rooms, Williamson-square, Liverpool; Darlington Builders' Labourers' Union, Lord Nelson Hotel, Parkgate, Darlington; Workers' Union, 181, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.; National Union of Horse Shoe Makers, Park-street, Lye, Stourbridge; National Soc. of Asphalt Workers, 16, Creek-road, Deptford, S.E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—South County Dublin Labourers Union, 8, Patrick-street, Kingstown.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Newmarket Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Market-street, Newmarket, Suffolk; Oakham Co-op. Soc., Ltd., High-street, Oakham, Rutland; Pontycymmer Ind. Co-op. Soc. Ltd., 109, Oxford-street, Pontycymmer, Glamorgan; Cromwell Co-op. Agricultural Soc. Ltd., Cromwell, Nottingham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Kilcaslagh Co-op. Poultry Soc. Ltd., Kilcaslagh, Co. Donegal; Lettermaccaward Co-op. Poultry Soc. Ltd., Meengowan, Co. Donegal; Cornian Co-op. Home Ind. Soc. Ltd., Cornian, Fivemiletown, Co. Fermanagh; Desertmartin Co-op. Poultry Soc. Ltd., Desertmartin, Co. Antrim. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Halifax Cabinet Manufacturers, Ltd., Greenmount Cabinet Works, Pellon-lane, Halifax, Yorks. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—St. John's Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Lecarrow (co. Roscommon); Kilmoyler Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kilmoyler, Cahir (co. Tipperary); Pettigo Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Pettigo (co. Donegal); Loughgall Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Loughgall (co. Donegal); Kiltoom Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballylay (co. Roscommon); Glau Cross Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Glau Cross, Shaularagh (co. Cork.) Newtownsville Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Newtownsville (co. Tyrone); Glenhest Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Glenhest (co. Mayo); Monageer Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Monageer (co. Wexford); Clonoe Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Clonoe, Coalisland (co. Tyrone); Killasnet Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Lurganboy, Manorhamilton (co. Leitrim); Brookboro Co-op. Lace Soc. Ltd., Brookboro (co. Fermanagh). (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Co-op. Insurance Soc., Ltd., Long Millgate, Marchester; Oxhill Central Workman's Club and Institute, Ltd., Oxhill, Durham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 9; Dividing, 4; Female, 1; Juvenile, 1; Order, 1; Collecting, 1; Specially Authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 9. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly 1; Specially Authorised, 7.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—26. *Scotland.*—3. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—3. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—1.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Ship Riveters and Holders-up Assc., Portsea; Humber Steam Tug Men's Union and Protective Assc., Hull; Journeymen Curriers Mutual Benefit Society, 49, Alscot-road, S.E.; Steel and Iron Ship Builders, Boiler and Gasometer Makers' Trade Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1, Janet-road, E. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Cancelled by Request: Nonpareil Dressmaking Association, Ltd., Baker-street, London, W. Dissolved by instrument: Congleton Trimming Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., Congleton; Easton Provident and Ind. Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Easton, Suffolk. Liquidators final return received: Macclesfield Co-op. Fustian Cutters, Soc. Ltd., Macclesfield. Resolution to wind up: Gwawr-y-Gweithwyr Ind. and Prov. Soc., Ltd., Aberdare; Wareham Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Wareham, Dorset. Amalgamated with other societies: Edgehill and Wavertree Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Liverpool; Walthamstow Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Walthamstow, Essex. *Scotland.*—Notice of winding up received: Blackford Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Perth. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary 5; Dividing, 2; W.M. Club, 1. Branch, 1. *Scotland.*—Ordinary, 2; Branch, 1. *Ireland.*—None. Registration cancelled. *England and Wales.*—Ordinary, 5; Medical, 1; Order, 1. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. Dissolved otherwise. *England and Wales.*—Ordinary, 2; Juvenile, 4; Branches, 24. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None. In addition to the above, the registry of 99 Friendly Societies (in England) was cancelled during March on the ground that they had ceased to exist.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 2; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 11. *Scotland.*—Instrument of dissolution, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during March was 15,985 as compared with 16,294 in March, 1898.

British and Irish.—Of the 15,985 passengers, 9,468 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 604, as compared with a year ago. There were marked decreases in the numbers bound to the United States and South Africa, and an increase in the number bound to Australasia. The table below gives the figures in detail.

Destination.	March, 1899.	March, 1898.	Total for three months ending—	
			March, 1899.	March, 1898.
United States	5,011	5,564	10,328	11,639
British North America	1,596	1,569	2,622	2,595
Australasia	929	758	2,429	2,272
South Africa	1,669	1,444	3,845	4,646
Other places	863	737	2,851	2,645
Total	9,468	10,072	22,075	23,797

Foreign.—The remainder of the 15,985 passengers, viz., 6,517 were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 295 more than in March, 1898.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during March was 8,665. Of these, 4,128 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 3,996 so stated in March 1898. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,537 (including 1,222 sailors), the corresponding figure for March, 1898, being 4,604 (including 1,284 sailors). The figures for March, 1899 and 1898, and also for the three months ended March in each year are as follows:—

	March, 1899.	March, 1898.	Total for three months ending—	
			March, 1899.	March, 1898.
Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom	4,537*	4,604*	11,897*	10,707*
Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom...	4,128	3,996	6,907	6,666
Total	8,665*	8,600*	18,804*	17,373*

CONFERENCE OF METROPOLITAN LABOUR BUREAUX.

A CONFERENCE of representatives of Metropolitan Vestries and District Boards was held in Islington Vestry Hall on Wednesday, March 22nd last, for the purpose of considering "the subject of Labour Bureaux, their legal position, and how best to extend their efficiency and usefulness." Forty-six representatives were appointed by 17 local authorities. An official from the Labour Department of the Board of Trade was also present as a visitor. Mr. Stonelake, of the Islington Vestry, was elected to preside.

A paper, urging the extension and development of Labour Bureaux, and the establishment of a National Labour Exchange, was read by Mr. C. J. Peers, of the Polytechnic Labour Bureau.

After considerable discussion as to the attitude taken by Labour Bureaux in relation to labour disputes, and other points involved in the working of the bureaux, resolutions were adopted recommending all Local Authorities, which had not yet done so, to establish bureaux, and that a request should be forwarded to the Board of Trade to establish a Central Labour Exchange.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors to the number of 1,222 in March, 1899; 1,284 in March, 1898; and 3,412 and 2,939 respectively for the three months ended March in each year.

Printed by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & Co., Ltd., 31 to 37 Cursitor Street, London, E.C. and Published for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by HORACE MARSHALL & SON, Temple House, Temple Avenue, London, E.C. Sole Advertising Agents—RATCLIFFE, DUNBAR & Co., 3 George Yard, Lombard Street, E.C.—April, 1899.