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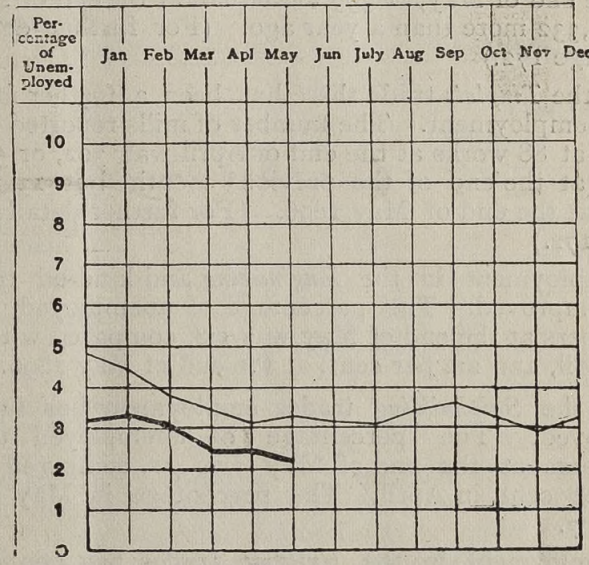
## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.\*

DURING May the state of employment has continued to improve, the proportion of trade unionists returned as unemployed being less than in any month since the summer of 1890. All the important branches of industry, except the cotton trade, shared in the improvement.

In the 113 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 460,685, 10,418 (or 2·3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2·5 per cent. in April, and with 3·3 per cent. in the 110 unions, with a membership of 422,194, from which returns were received for May 1896.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1896 and of each completed month of 1897.



The following table classifies the total membership of the 113 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of May 1897.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Under 1 per cent.	38	175,412	38·1	20·3
1 and under 2 per cent.	21	122,080	26·5	29·7
2 " 3 "	17	17,049	3·7	20·4
3 " 5 "	16	85,936	18·6	8·9
5 " 7 "	10	48,063	10·4	3·2
7 " 10 "	6	6,680	1·5	16·1
10 per cent. and upwards	5	5,465	1·2	1·4
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>460,685</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>

**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment during May was better in almost every district than a year ago. The average number of days

\* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of May, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between May 31st and June 15th. This remark also applies to the reports on pp. 170-184.

worked per week at pits employing 412,205 persons was 5.20, compared with 4.88 in May 1896. Unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted at the end of May to 0.7 per cent. of the membership, as compared with percentages of 0.9 in April last, and 1.8 in May 1896. (For further details, see page 170.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment was good during May, the average number of days worked per week by 17,109 workpeople covered by the returns being 5.87, as compared with 5.66 in April, and 5.76 in May 1896. The number of workpeople employed in May was about 3½ per cent. more than a year ago. The increase in the average number of days worked in May as compared with April is accounted for by the Easter holidays falling in April. (For further details, see page 171.)

In the **Pig Iron Industry** employment at the end of May was slightly better than a year ago. It was better in the Midlands than at the end of April, whilst in other districts it remained practically unchanged. At the end of May the iron masters making returns had 354 furnaces in blast, or four more than a year ago, and three more than at the end of April. The number of workpeople employed was 22,363, as compared with 22,240 at the end of April, and 22,204 at the end of May 1896. (For further details, see page 171.)

Employment at **Steelworks** was again slightly better than last month, and much better than a year ago. At 134 works 38,814 persons were employed at the end of May, or 111 more than at the end of April, and 2,764 more than at the end of May 1896. (For further details, see page 172.)

Employment at **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** improved during the month, and was much better than a year ago. At 95 works 18,886 persons were employed at the end of May, or 399 more than at the end of April, and 1,332 more than a year ago. (For further details, see page 172.)

In the **Tinplate** trade there has been a further falling off in employment. The number of mills reported as at work at 88 works at the end of April was 302, or 5 less than at the end of the previous month, but 13 more than at the end of May 1896. (For further details, see page 172.)

Employment in the **Engineering and kindred trades** has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 1.8, compared with 2.1 in April, and 2.2 per cent. at the end of May 1896.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has further improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 4.1, compared with 4.9 per cent. in April. The percentage in May 1896 was 7.7.

Employment in the **Building** trades has continued brisk. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns for May was only 0.8, compared with 1.0 in April and with 1.6 in May 1896.

The **Furnishing** trades show as light falling off, though still busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 1.1, compared with 0.5 in April, and 1.1 per cent. at the end of May 1896.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades continues good for the season, and has somewhat improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 3.4, compared with 3.7 in April and 5.6 per cent. in May 1896.

Employment in the **Paper** trade has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 3.3, compared with 4.8 in April and 3.9 per cent. at the end of May last year.

In the **Glass** trade the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 11.4, compared with 11.6 in April and 14.1 per cent. in May 1896.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has improved and continues good. The percentage of unemployed union

members at the end of May was 2.2, compared with 2.9 in April and 5.3 per cent. at the end of May 1896.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade was good at the end of May in most of the principal centres. In the bespoke branch employment generally was good.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade continued good. In the bespoke branch it improved and was good at the end of the month.

In the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade employment has been only moderate. The **Weaving** branch has again declined and was very slack at the end of May.

In both the **Woolen** and **Worsted** trades the slight improvement in employment reported for April has been maintained. In the **Hosiery** trade employment has been moderate.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 496 mills employing 80,000 women and girls, shows that 74 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 81 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for April, and 93 per cent. for May 1896. (For further details, see page 173.)

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—In London employment was not so good as in April, but better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily in the docks and principal wharves was 14,033, as compared with 14,315 in April, and 13,610 in May 1896. (For further details, see page 173.)

**Agriculture.**—In the month of May the state of agricultural employment was generally of a satisfactory character, reports referring to irregularity of work being exceptional. (For further details, see page 172.)

**Trade Disputes.**—One hundred and six fresh disputes occurred in May 1897, involving 16,674 workpeople, as compared with 97,\* involving 8,617\* workpeople, in April, and 135 disputes, involving about 41,000 workpeople, in May 1896. Forty disputes took place in the building trades, 20 in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, 5 in other metal trades, 8 each in the mining and clothing trades, 11 in the textile trades, 7 in the furnishing and woodworking trades, and 7 in the miscellaneous group of industries. Of the 94 new and old disputes, involving 26,830 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 42, involving 14,876 persons, were successful from the workpeople's point of view, 25, involving 8,193 persons, partially successful, and 27, involving 3,550 persons, unsuccessful. (For further details, see page 188.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in rates of wages affecting about 33,500 workpeople were reported during May, of which number about 33,470 received increases, and 30 sustained decreases. The net result of these changes is an advance estimated at 1s. 9½d. per head on the weekly wages of those affected. The increases include 8,700 building trade operatives, 19,750 workpeople engaged in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, and 3,050 workpeople in the furnishing and woodworking trades. Changes affecting about 13,900 workpeople were preceded by strikes, changes affecting about 600 workpeople were settled by arbitration, and the remainder, involving about 19,000, by negotiation or other means. (For further details, see page 182.)

**Pauperism.**—In the 35 selected urban districts 320,312 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of May. These figures correspond to a rate of 204 per 10,000 of the population of those districts, or 4 less per 10,000 than in May 1896. (For further details, see page 187.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during May was 14,286, as compared with 18,754 in May 1896. (For further details, see page 191.)

\* Corrected figures, disputes being included which occurred in April, but of which information was received too late for insertion in the April GAZETTE.

## DISPUTES IN THE ENGINEERING TRADES.

### (1) The Questions of Overtime and Machines.

IN the April number of the **GAZETTE** (page 99) an account was given of various matters in dispute between the Employers' Federation of Engineering Associations and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the record being brought down to the conclusion of the second day's sitting of the conference between representatives of these bodies on April 14th, when the parties arrived at an agreement on the question of allowances for trial trips in war vessels. On the following day the final sitting of the conference was held, when an arrangement was come to on the overtime question, in pursuance of which the Federation Board recommended the employers to dispense with overtime wherever possible. If overtime should be found necessary they recommended that all excessive and systematic overtime should be refrained from, and, as a basis for guidance, that no man should be allowed to work more than 248 hours in any four weeks. Exceptions to this arrangement are breakdowns in plant, shop repairs, repair or replace work whether for the employer or customers, and trial trips.

As to the machine question, however, the employers declined to accept the proposal of the men's representatives described in the April **GAZETTE**, viz., the formation of local joint committees with an independent referee to settle the rate of wages to be paid for the working of machines in dispute, no change likely to lead to dispute to be made without reference to such committee.

The employers considered that the acceptance of these proposals would have the effect of superseding the Federation by committees with outside referees, who would practically control the management of the employers' works. Their objections to this change were so vital that they declined to make counter proposals, considering that the existing organisations on both sides already afforded adequate means of negotiation.

In a further statement, issued on April 29th, the employers re-stated their position, and claimed freedom on the part of the employers to select the most suitable man for the various operations carried out in their workshops, without any collective agreement between employers and employed. Further correspondence followed between the two organisations on the same subject.

Communications also passed between the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the United Machine Workers' Association, which claimed representation on any joint committees established to decide the rates of wages on machines. In the course of this correspondence the Amalgamated Society of Engineers disclaimed hostility to the machine workers as such, but stated that they were now seeking to establish a standard wage rate for labour of whatever class at machines requiring skilled attendance.

On May 27th the machine at the works of the Sunderland Forge and Engineering Company, Limited, which had caused the strike there, was restarted by a machine man. The similar machine which was laid idle during negotiations was also restarted at the same time by the engineers who had worked it before the dispute. The engineers have since remained at work under the orders of their executive, by whom the question is now regarded as one of rate of wages rather than of class of workman.

### (2) The Eight Hours' Day in London.

For some time during the present year the chief trade societies of the engineering trades in the London district have been considering the desirability of reducing the hours of labour from nine to eight per day. On May 1st a circular, signed on behalf of seven trade unions, representing over 15,000 members, was issued to London employers of engineering labour, asking for this reduction, replies to be given before May 26th. Circulars were sent out to 800 employers, including not only those directly engaged in the engineering trades, but also those employing engineers as part of the auxiliary labour of their establishments.

Up to June 12th 95 employers are reported to have

complied with the request of the men, and these are estimated to employ between 6,000 and 7,000 workpeople of the classes concerned. This number is in addition to about 3,500 employed in Government factories and elsewhere, who had already obtained the eight hours' day. Altogether, therefore, roughly 10,000 members of the trades affected in London have obtained the reduction. Of the employers who have acceded to the men's demand some are directly engaged in engineering work, but many employ engineers only as accessories to other branches of trade, such as large building contractors, newspaper and other printers, brewers, &c. Many of the larger engineering firms have not, however, conceded the men's demands, and at a meeting on May 26th resolved to form an association affiliated to the Employers' Federation, in order that concerted action might be taken. On June 5th the Federation decided to take up the question and to refuse the men's demands. Meanwhile the members of the Engineers' Trade Societies employed in shops where the shorter hours have not been conceded refuse to work overtime.

## WAGES OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

IN the **LABOUR GAZETTE** for June 1894 and January 1895 tables were given showing the average money wages of 678 female domestic servants in London and 306 female domestic servants in Manchester and neighbourhood, the particulars being supplied by heads of households.

Similar particulars with regard to 651 servants in Scottish towns are given below in summary form. The great majority of these servants were employed in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee. The wages stated are exclusive of allowances, and relate solely to female servants boarded and lodged by their employers. The corresponding figures, already published for London and Manchester, are also given for the sake of comparison.

AVERAGE MONEY WAGES AT DIFFERENT AGE PERIODS.

Age Period.	SCOTTISH TOWNS.				London	Manchester.
	All Returns	Glasgow.	Edinburgh.	Dundee.		
Average wages of servants of undermentioned ages—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Under 18 years ... ..	10.3	10.6	10.4	9.8	9.0	10.6
18 years ... ..	13.3	13.8	13.2	13.0	12.1	13.0
19 " ... ..	13.8	14.0	14.5	14.0	13.5	14.8
20 " ... ..	15.6	16.2	15.4	15.1	15.0	15.5
21 " and under 25 ...	17.4	17.9	16.0	18.0	17.4	16.8
25 " " 30 ... ..	19.8	20.5	19.2	18.8	19.9	18.8
30 " " 35 ... ..	21.5	21.0	23.2	21.4	21.6	19.9
35 " and upwards ...	23.2	26.1	20.2	21.8	23.8	20.7
Number of servants on which above averages are based	651	241	154	182	678	306

The similarity disclosed in the above table between the returns for London and for Scottish towns is even more striking when the comparison is made according to the number of servants in the household.

AVERAGE MONEY WAGES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF SERVANTS IN HOUSEHOLD.

Households with	Total Scottish Towns.	Glasgow.	Edinburgh.	Dundee.	London.	Manchester.
One Servant ... ..	£ 15.5	£ 15.8	£ 15.2	£ 15.5	£ 15.4	£ 14.6
Two Servants ... ..	16.2	16.5	16.0	16.3	16.8	16.3
Three Servants ... ..	18.5	18.7	18.8	17.7	18.5	18.7
Four Servants ... ..	20.6	20.7	21.8	21.0	20.7	18.8
Five or more Servants	21.4	22.5	20.5	20.4	21.7*	22.0

Very young servants and servants in one-servant households are insufficiently represented in all the returns. The uncorrected average of the wages of the total number of servants would not therefore represent the true average wage of all classes of servants in the district. An estimate, however, based on the average wages at each age period and the age distribution of servants, as shown by the census returns for the different districts, would probably be approximately correct. The census returns for 1891 give the following age distribution, from which it will be seen that the proportion of younger servants is greatest in rural districts and least in large towns.

\* In the published returns for London large households with over seven servants were not represented; supplementary returns show the average in this last group to be considerably higher.

NUMBER OF FEMALE INDOOR DOMESTIC SERVANTS IN 1891, AND PERCENTAGE AT EACH AGE PERIOD.

Table with 5 columns: District, Number, Under 15 years, 15 and under 20, 20 and under 25, 25 and under 35, 35 and upwards.

On the above basis the average early wages of servants of all ages in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee is £17 12s. The figures for other aprts of Scotland are not sufficiently comprehensive to enable a similar average to be calculated for the whole country.

The appended table, gives the average wages of servants according to the branch of service to which they belong. It will be noted that the difference in the average for the Scottish towns and for London is nearly always accompanied by a corresponding difference in age.

Table of Average Wages and Average Age according to Class of Service. Columns: Class of Servant, Scottish Towns, London, Manchester, Average Age.

THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS AT PERTH. The twenty-ninth annual Co-operative Congress was held at Perth on Whit Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and was attended by about 1,000 delegates.

The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, which is a federation of 1,059 co-operative societies, comprising a total membership of 1,281,503 shareholders, or 85.8 per cent. of the total membership of the 1,741 existing societies.

The President of the Congress was Mr. Wm. Maxwell, Chairman of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Vice-President being Mr. James Deans, Secretary of the Scottish section of the Co-operative Union.

The annual report to the Congress of the Central Board stated that at the end of 1896 there were in existence in the United Kingdom 1,741 societies, with a total membership of 1,492,371, with a share and loan capital of £4,561,032, and that the total sales during the year amounted to £57,318,426, an increase over 1895 of £4,806,300, or 9.2 per cent.

Among the more important subjects discussed were the alleged boycott of co-operators in Scotland by cattle salesmen and certain manufacturers, the direct representation of co-operators in Parliament and upon municipal bodies, and a scheme of superannuation for all co-operative employees.

An exhibition of goods produced by co-operative societies was held in connection with the Congress, and was opened by the Lord Provost of Perth.

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 on 12th July.

South Durham District. - An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a mine will be held on 26th and 27th July.

\* Fifty-four laundrymaids are included in the Scottish returns; only four in those for Manchester.

SICKNESS INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

With the exception of miners, who must belong to their own associations, workers subject to the Sickness Insurance Law of June 15th, 1883, may fulfil their obligation by insuring in any one of the following classes of sick funds.

(1.) Communal Sick Funds.—These are managed by town authorities, and include those who cannot insure in any of the other classes of funds. (2.) Local Sick Funds.—These are the most important of the associations. They may be established by the Communal Authority for a single trade if the number of persons to be insured be at least one hundred; or a number of different trades with less than 100 workers each may unite within a district and form a joint local fund.

(3.) Factory Sick Funds.—Employers, if they have 50 workpeople, may form an association of their own. If there is peculiar risk connected with the work they may be compelled to do this either by the commune or by the sickness association of which their workpeople have been members. The fund is managed by the workpeople themselves and the employers. (4.) Building Sick Funds.—These are for workers on high-roads, railways, canals, &c. The employers are placed under special obligations, as the labourers are often put to great risks, and the working time is very unequal. The commune may compel an employer to form such a fund.

(5.) Trade Guild Sick Funds.—These are not independent organisations. When a guild establishes a sickness fund all those employed by the masters of the guild, with the exception of members of the free friendly societies, become at once members of the guild sick fund and cease to belong to any other. (6.) Friendly Society Sick Funds.—Friendly societies have to afford at least the same benefits as the town sick fund would have to do in those places where the members have their work. These funds receive no contributions from employers nor help from officials.\*

The following particulars are based on the final figures relating to sickness insurance in 1894, recently issued by the Imperial Statistical Office in Berlin.†

The statistics of membership and sickness for all the sick funds, except those of miners, from 1888 to 1894, were as follows:—

Table showing statistics of membership and sickness for males, females, and total from 1888 to 1894. Columns: Years, Mean Membership, Cases of Sickness (Total, Per 100 Members), Days of Sickness (Total, Per Member).

On an average from 1888 to 1894, there were 35.2 cases of sickness per 100 members of both sexes per annum, viz., 36.4 for males, and 30.7 for females. The

\* Fourth Special Report of the United States Commissioner of Labour 1895, Compulsory Insurance.

† Statistik der Krankenversicherung im Jahre 1894. Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, Neue Folge, Band 84, Berlin, 1897. Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht. Price 5 marks (5/-).

† The figures for males and females are not given separately for this year.

average number of days of sickness per member per annum for the period 1888-1894 was 5.9 (6.0 for males and 5.5 for females). It is to be noted, however, that ordinary confinements of women are not counted as sicknesses.

The following statement gives particulars of the various kinds of sick funds in 1893 and 1894:—

Table of Classes of Sick Funds for 1893 and 1894. Columns: Classes (Communal, Local, Factory, Building, Guild, Friendly Society, Total), 1893, 1894. Rows: Mean Membership, No. of cases of Sickness, Ditto per 100 Members, No. of days of Sickness, Ditto per Member.

The only class of sick fund whose membership declined, is that of the Friendly Societies, which shew a falling off in membership of 2,526. The greatest increases are in the Local Funds (85,962), and the Factory Funds (64,158). The receipts of all the above classes of sick funds in 1894 amounted to £6,466,460 (compared with £6,245,734 in 1893) including contributions from employers and workpeople, amounting to £5,504,907 (compared with £5,243,002 in 1893). The expenditure reached £6,372,118 in 1894 (compared with £6,268,474 in 1893) and at the end of 1894 the reserve funds amounted to £4,189,622 (compared with £3,799,152 at the end of 1893).

LABOUR ORGANISATIONS IN NEW YORK.

THE thirteenth Annual Report of the New York Bureau of Statistics of Labour (Vol. 1.), gives the results of enquiries with regard to labour organisations in the State. Altogether particulars have been obtained of 927 labour organisations, with a membership of 180,231 persons, on July 1st 1895. These unions may be classified as follows, according to groups of trades:—

Table of No. of Unions reporting and Membership by industry: Building Trades, Clothing Trades, Food, Drink and Tobacco Trades, Engineering and Metal Trades, Printing and kindred Trades, Railroad Employees, Marine Trades, Others.

The number of societies reporting a year previously was 860, with a membership of 157,197.

Of the above unions 90 included a certain number of women in 1895; the total number of women belonging to these unions being 10,102, compared with 7,488 members of 73 unions reporting a year previously. Of these 7,002 belonged to 39 clothing trade unions, 2,078 to 26 unions of cigar and cigarette makers, 254 to 14 unions in the printing and binding trades, 479 to 2 unions of theatrical employees and actors, 149 to 3 textile trade unions, and the remaining 140 to 6 unions in other groups of trades.

During the year ending June 30th 1895, 67 new organisations were reported as formed, with 7,618 members (6,392 male and 1,226 female). Of these 16 unions with 3,285 members belonged to the clothing trades group.

Of the 927 unions 848 made returns of the members

employed and not employed in July 1895; the number reported as employed being 132,260, and not employed 32,237, or 19.6 per cent. of their total membership, compared with 24.4 per cent. in July 1894.

A large number of organisations reported the standard hours of labour constituting a day's work in their trades. Omitting societies with a total membership of about ten thousand, which reported a range of hours too wide to admit of classification, and 54 societies with 14,760 members which reported irregular hours, the remainder may be summarised as follows:—

Table of Working Day and Societies. Columns: Working Day (Under 8 hours, 8 and under 9 hours, 9 and under 10, 10 and under 11, 11 and under 12, 12 hours and over), Societies, Members.

The number of societies reporting an eight hours' day was 208, with 54,250 members, a large proportion belonging to the building and constructive trades.

During the year ending June 1895, 69 unions reported a decrease of hours and 18 an increase. During the same year 113 unions reported an increase in the rate of wages and 70 a decrease.

The report contains tables showing the standard rate of daily wages recognised by a large number of unions in different districts.

STATISTICS OF MINES & QUARRIES IN 1896.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED, PRODUCTION AND FATAL ACCIDENTS.

THE following particulars are taken from the annual summaries of statistics relating to mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, issued by the Home Office.\*

(1) Mines under the Coal Mines Act.—The total number of persons employed at the 3,385 mines under the Coal Mines Act during 1896 was 692,684, of whom 557,026 were employed below ground. The number of underground workers was less than in the previous year by 7,612. The number of surface workers was practically the same in the two years. The total output of coal amounted to about 195 million tons and was the highest recorded. It exceeded that of the previous year by nearly 5½ million tons.

During 1896 there were 849 fatal accidents, causing 1,025 deaths, or 19 fewer accidents and 17 fewer deaths than in 1895. The death rate from accidents among those employed below ground amounted to 1.619 per thousand, as compared with 1.635 in 1895. Above ground the death rate amounted to .907 per thousand, as compared with .877 in 1895. The death rate among all employed above and below ground was 1.480 in 1896, and 1.488 in 1895. The death rate varied considerably from district to district, being highest (2.728 per thousand) in South Wales, and lowest (.780 per thousand) in the Midlands. The causes of the fatal accidents are shown in the following table, the figures for 1895 being given for comparison. It will be seen that the number of deaths among underground workers from each class of accident was smaller in 1896 than in 1895, except in the case of deaths from explosion, a number which varies greatly from year to year.

Table showing the number of fatal accidents and number of resulting deaths due to various causes in 1895 and 1896.

Table of fatal accidents and deaths in 1895 and 1896. Columns: Nature of Accidents, 1895 (No. of separate accidents, No. of Deaths), 1896 (No. of separate accidents, No. of Deaths).

\* Mines and Quarries: Summaries of Statistics. [C.—846c.] Price 6d. Eyre and Spottiswoode.

(2) *Mines under the Metalliferous Mines Act.*—The total number of persons employed at the 731 mines under this Act in 1896 was 33,119, as compared with 33,373 in 1895. The number of underground workers was 19,299, and the number of surface workers 13,820. The total output of minerals amounted to 3,873,697 tons, of which 2,237,327 tons were iron ore. These figures represent increases of about 214,000 tons and 109,000 tons respectively on the amounts raised in 1895.

During 1896 there were 37 fatal accidents, causing 40 deaths, as compared with 46 accidents causing 54 deaths in 1895. These figures correspond to a death rate of 1·208 per thousand employed, as compared with 1·618 per thousand in 1895. The death rate underground was 1·710 per thousand, and above ground 0·507 per thousand. Of the 33 deaths below ground 15 were due to falls of ground, and 11 to accidents in shafts.

(3) *Quarries under the Quarries Act.*—The quarries under this Act include all open workings for minerals which are more than 20 feet deep. These gave employment in 1896 to 56,123 persons inside the actual pits or excavations, and 56,706 persons outside. The total output of stone and minerals was 35,641,411 tons. There were 117 fatal accidents resulting in 124 deaths. Although these figures are greater than those for 1895, the increase is believed to be probably more apparent than real, and due to a more complete notification of accidents. The death rate from accidents at quarries was 1·099 per thousand employed, or 1·604 per thousand among those employed inside, and 0·600 per thousand among those employed outside the quarries. In 1895 the death rate per thousand among those employed inside and outside was 0·75.

**DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.**  
RETURNS showing the rates of dividend paid to members on purchases for the first quarter of 1897 have been received from 914 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,162,126, as compared with 782 societies with a total membership of 1,036,992, making returns for the corresponding period of 1896.

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

The figures given in the table show an average dividend of 2s. 8·57d. in the £ on purchases, as compared with 2s. 8·33d. in the first quarter of 1896.

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

TABLE showing the number and membership of Co-operative Distributive Societies paying the under-mentioned rates of dividend per £1 of purchases in the first quarter of the year 1897:—

Rates of Dividend per £1 of Purchases.	Number of Societies.			Membership of Societies making returns in 1st quarter of 1897.		Percentage for corresponding period of 1896.
	Eng-land and Wales.	Scot-land and Ire-land.	Total.	Number.	Per-centage.	
No dividend	10	—	10	1,343	0·1	0·2
Sixpence and under	5	—	5	2,526	0·2	0·1
Over 6d. but not exceeding 1s.	29	—	29	14,397	1·2	1·0
" 1s.	67	3	70	38,798	3·3	3·3
" 1s. 6d.	124	10	134	132,794	11·4	10·9
" 2s.	102	29	131	180,642	15·6	16·6
" 2s. 6d.	168	51	219	453,576	39·0	37·4
" 3s.	136	48	184	231,387	19·9	19·8
" 3s. 6d.	64	33	97	91,471	7·9	9·5
" 4s.	17	8	25	10,071	0·9	0·9
" 4s. 6d.	4	3	7	3,508	0·3	0·3
" 5s. to 6s.	1	2	3	1,614	0·2	0·1
Totals	727	187	914	1,162,126	100·0	100·0

**Fourth International Congress on Workmen's Accidents and Workmen's Insurance.**—This Congress will meet in Brussels from the 26th to the 31st of July next, and intending participants are reminded that they should apply without delay to M. Louis Wodon, Secrétaire du Comité d'Organisation du Congrès International des Accidents du Travail et des Assurances Sociales, 2 Rue Latérale, Bruxelles. The minimum subscription is 10 francs (about 8s.).

## RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

### Carpenters and Joiners at Prescott. (Conciliation Act.)

THE working rules for the Liverpool, Birkenhead and District Building Trades as mutually agreed to by the Liverpool Master Builders' Association and the Building Trades' Federation, provide that the term "Liverpool, Birkenhead and District" shall mean a radius of ten miles from the Liverpool Landing Stage. In November 1896 the Joint Committee of the three unions of Carpenters and Joiners gave notice to the Prescott employers that, being within this area, they must conform to the conditions of labour laid down under the rules, after May 1st 1897. This involved an advance in wages of 3d. per hour and some other changes. The employers were willing to work under the rules in operation for St. Helens district. No agreement was arrived at, and on May 3rd the men suddenly left work. The Joint Committee declined arbitration lest the position of the great body of the men working under the Liverpool rules should be prejudiced thereby. On May 20th the principal employer concerned in the dispute made application to the Board of Trade to take action under the Conciliation Act. An officer of the Labour Department visited the district, and, after interviews with the parties, arranged for a joint conference, to be presided over by a neutral chairman. The conference was held on May 28th, under the presidency of Mr. W. E. Willink, Architect, Liverpool. It was found that Prescott came within the ten mile radius from the landing stage, and the employer agreed to conform to the Liverpool working rules.

### Demarcation between Shipwrights and Joiners on the Tyne.

ON April 26th a dispute arose between the shipwrights at Newcastle-on-Tyne and certain employers, the shipwrights objecting to the claim of the joiners to bulwarks and wash streaks in yacht yards. The number of shipwrights directly on strike amounted to 121. On May 19th they agreed to resume work on the understanding that the shipwrights should be started on the jobs at once, and that in the event of the work being disputed, "the job or jobs be stopped until decided by three expert referees or a conciliation board mutually appointed." Provision was also made for the settlement of other disputed questions as follows:—

That a committee of five shipwrights, five joiners, and three employers shall be appointed forthwith, to settle the working arrangements of the future. Failing mutual arrangements, three referees shall settle all disputed matters, such committee to be appointed within seven days of date.

### Nottingham Carpenters and Joiners' New Working Rules.

In November last the Nottingham branch of the Carpenters and Joiners' Society gave notice to the local Master Builders' Association for an advance in wages of 3d. per hour, and alterations in the working hours and rules. Negotiations took place between six representatives of each side, and new working rules were agreed upon to come into force on May 1st. These rules give an advance of 3d. per hour to the 840 persons affected, together with reductions of hours equivalent to half-an-hour per week in summer and one hour per week in winter. The following new rule dealing with the reference of disputes to a special conciliation committee was also added to the rules:—

(a) Should any dispute arise between employer and employed, either party may require the same to be laid before six members of each association to discuss the question in dispute, and their decision shall be final and binding.

(b) Before any strike or lock-out, or workmen leave their employment, or be discharged for refusing to work with non-union men, or refusing to fix or finish joinery prepared under unfair conditions, or contrary to the recognised rules of the district in which it is prepared, the meeting shall be held within twenty-four hours after the notice is received by the secretary, of either side fixing the time of such meeting.

### Arbitration in the Cheltenham Building Trades.

At a meeting between the Cheltenham branch of the Amalgamated Society of House Decorators and Painters and the employers of the district, the men asked for an advance of 1d. per hour, and the employers offered 3d. per hour. The two parties agreed to refer the matter to arbitration, and early in May the arbitrator awarded the men an advance of 3d. per hour. The number of members in the branch affected is 147.

### Working Rules in the Building Trades.

NEW working rules came into effect on May 1st in the following branches of the building trade:—Painters and decorators at Hyde and Denton, and Eccles and Patricroft; carpenters and joiners at Malvern and Nottingham. New working rules for the carpenters and joiners at Bath came into effect on June 1st. At Eccles and Patricroft the painters secured an advance of 1d. per hour. The other branches above referred to secured advances of 3d. per hour. The rules for the two branches of painters provide for the reference of future disputes to arbitration.

## INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN MAY.

(For Detailed Tables see p. 186.)

THE following table contains a summary of the number of workpeople killed or injured by industrial accidents in May 1897 and 1896 respectively, so far as reported. It will be seen that the number killed was greater by 62 in May 1897 than in May 1896, and the number reported as injured by 910. The particulars are given in greater detail in the tables on page 186.

Occupations.	Killed.		Injured.	
	May 1897.	May 1896.	May 1897.	May 1896.
Railway Servants:—				
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	37	31	396	237
Other accidents	5	4	872	722
Miners	105	78	392	505
Quarrymen	12	5	74	65
Seamen	177	154	212	164
Factory and Workshop Operatives:—				
(1) Accidents reported to Certifying Surgeons—				
In Factories	53	52	1,356	1,118
In Workshops	—	—	—	—
(2) Other Accidents (non-fatal and only reported to Inspectors)—				
In Factories	—	—	2,133	1,638
In Workshops	—	—	6	—
Others (so far as reported)	3	6	98	80
Totals	392	330	5,439	4,529

## LABOUR CASES IN MAY.

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

### (1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.\*

**Precautions in dangerous employment.**—This was an action brought under the Employers' Liability Act, and under Lord Campbell's Act, by a widow to recover damages for the death of her husband while in the employment of an Urban District Council. The action was tried in October 1896 (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE, November 1896), but the judge held that there was no evidence to go to the jury of negligence on the part of the defendants, and gave judgment for them. The plaintiff appealed, and the Court of Appeal ordered a new trial. (LABOUR GAZETTE, January 1897.) The deceased met his death under the following circumstances:—He went down a manhole into a sewer for the purpose of cleaning a screen, but was overcome by noxious gas, and died in the sewer. Three other workmen, and the foreman, who had ordered deceased to go into the sewer, attempted to rescue him and were all killed. It was contended on the part of the plaintiff that the defendants had been negligent, because there was no cradle or life line provided in case of accident; because two ventilating pipes had been blocked up; and because the foreman had not tested the air before sending deceased into the manhole. In support of this case plaintiff called expert evidence to show that the manhole could have been ventilated by mechanical means, and that the other precautions named should have been taken. On the other hand, the defendants called expert witnesses who stated that they considered the ventilation was sufficient. They suggested that the accumulation of sulphuretted hydrogen in the sewer on the day of the accident might have been due to the breaking of a carboy in the neighbourhood. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for £225, giving £25 to the son, £50 to the daughter, and £150 to the widow.—*Queen's Bench Division, May 24th.*

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

### (2) MISCELLANEOUS.

**Procuring Dismissal of Workmen.—Cause of Action.**—This was an appeal from an order of the Court of Appeal dismissing the appellants' appeal from so much of the judgment of the Queen's Bench Division as was in favour of the respondents in an action in which the respondents were plaintiffs and the appellants were one of the defendants. The appellant was the London District Delegate of a Trade Union, whose headquarters were at Newcastle, and his co-defendants in the action were the chairman and general secretary of the society. The respondents were shipwrights, and members of a Trade Union. In 1894 the respondents sought to recover damages against the appellant and his co-defendants for maliciously and wrongfully procuring an iron company, who were ship repairers, to break and refuse to perform an alleged contract with the respondents to employ them to execute and complete certain repairs to a steamship, and for maliciously and wrongfully inducing the company not to employ the respondents in any other shipwright's work, and for other alleged wrongful acts. There had been a dispute between the shipwrights and the boiler makers as to the limits of the work which they were respectively entitled to do, according to the practice in the North, which was also observed at the Iron Company's yard on the Thames. The boiler makers sent for their local delegate, the appellant, and informed him of their dissatisfaction at having to work with the respondents, and that they intended to leave their work at dinner time. The appellant told the men that they must not do this, and that he would see the foreman and the manager of the company. The appellant then told the foreman and manager of the company the circumstances of the case, and the respondents were discharged, on the ground that, if they were not, all the iron men would go out on strike. The action was tried before a jury. The judge held that there was no breach of contract by the company, because the employment was day by day, and that there was no evidence of intimidation or conspiracy, but he left the following questions to the jury: (1) Did the defendant (the appellant) maliciously induce the company to discharge the plaintiffs (the respondents) from their employment? (2) Did he maliciously induce the company not to engage the plaintiffs or either of them? The jury answered both questions in the affirmative, and assessed the damages at £40. The appellant appealed, and the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal with costs, on the ground that the jury having found that the appellant had acted maliciously with the intention of procuring the discharge of the respondents from their employment, he was liable in the action, notwithstanding the fact that he had not actually procured a breach of contract. The appellant thereupon brought the present appeal, which was heard in December 1895, but their Lordships reserved judgment, and owing to the difficulty of the point raised decided to have the case reargued in the presence of the judges of the Queen's Bench. At the conclusion of the arguments their Lordships put the following question to the judges: "Whether assuming the evidence given by the plaintiffs' witnesses to be correct, there was any evidence of a cause of action fit to be left to the jury?" Six of the judges answered the question in the affirmative and two in the negative. The further consideration of the appeal was adjourned.—*House of Lords, June 3rd.*

## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

**Canada.**—A report from Toronto states "there is actually a great surplus of every kind of labour here at the present time;" near Niagara Falls there is a good opening for farmers with a capital of £150, but not for ordinary farm labourers or mechanics. At St. John, New Brunswick, the market is overstocked at the present time with mechanics and miners.

**New South Wales.**—Large portions of the country, especially the Southern districts, are suffering severely from drought, and sheep have been dying in thousands. This is badly affecting the demand for labour in the farming and pastoral districts, and work on several of the goldfields also is stopped through want of water.

**Victoria.**—Parts of Victoria—especially those which lie in the western portion of the Colony—are being seriously damaged by the continuance of the drought, and there is in consequence no improvement in the demand for labour in the agricultural and pastoral districts. In the towns local labour is quite sufficient, and a report from Melbourne states that there "the labour market is over-glutted." A correspondent in the rich agricultural district of Nathalia states that wheat growers and dairy farmers do well there; but that fruit growing is overdone at present, though it will improve when canning factories are established.

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

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

**South Australia.**—A report from the manufacturing town of Gawler states that there is not much demand for men in the building or metal trades. There was a moderate demand lately in the Colony for single ploughmen and general farm hands.

**Queensland.**—A report from Mackay in the north, states that there is a demand for farm hands on the sugar estates during the crushing season, from June to December. A report from the large sheep district of Blackall states that there is no demand for station hands there. The towns in Queensland are for the most part well supplied with mechanics at the present time.

**Tasmania.**—A report from the important mining town of Zeehan, on the West Coast, states: "Skilled mechanics are very rare. Good miners may be certain of continuous work provided they work with an 8 hour stroke; the general wages are 9s. 3d. and 8s. 4d. a day, with overtime at the same rate, but contractors make 10s. to 20s., a day, averaging about 12s. to 14s." The output of minerals in the Colony was steadily maintained during the first quarter of this year, but the number of miners was rather less than in the corresponding quarter of 1896.

**New Zealand.**—The last reports from New Zealand show that work, both for mechanics and general labourers, was satisfactorily plentiful in nearly every part of the Colony. The supply of local men was however sufficient, so that there was no demand for more hands. At Christchurch many general labourers were out of work, and the demand for general labourers—who are not miners—is limited on the Northern goldfields. The opening of the labour settlement at Otaihape has considerably relieved the labour market in the Wellington district. As winter is now near at hand the general demand for labour is likely to decline.

**Natal.**—The Immigration Restriction Act, 1897, which has just been passed, prohibits the landing in Natal of any person (amongst others) (1) who cannot himself write out and sign in the characters of some language of Europe a prescribed application form for admittance, giving his name and address and his business; (2) any one who is a pauper or likely to become a public charge; and (3) any one who—not having received a free pardon—has within two years been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime or misdemeanour involving moral turpitude, and not being a mere political offence.

**Mashonaland**—The Local Chamber of Mines warns prospectors and artisans against emigrating to Mashonaland at the present time.

**Transvaal.**—There is no respectable agency in Johannesburg for the obtaining of domestic servants from this country, and for their reception on arrival. No young woman should go there unless she goes to join friends, as otherwise she will be very likely to get into trouble. Moreover, at the present time there is no demand for housemaids, cooks, or nursemids. Many of the miners, fitters, blacksmiths, and engine-drivers at Johannesburg have been on strike, owing to a proposed reduction in their wages, and trade generally is very depressed. A correspondent says:—"I cannot too strongly urge those in Great Britain, who are contemplating coming here, to refrain from doing so for the present."

## LABOUR ABROAD.

### FRANCE.\*

**Employment in May.**—Compared with last month the situation has, on the whole, changed somewhat for the worse. On May 15th, 450 trade unions with 117,205 members, reported a little under 7 per cent. unemployed, the proportion reported unemployed in the previous month being 6 per cent. The trades in which employment was less plentiful in May were:—*leather working, wool, cotton and silk spinning and weaving, hatmaking, and the building trades.* Employment continued good in May in the *quarrying, boot and shoe, glove making, clothing, and iron and steel trades.*

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

**Coal Mining in April.**—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in April was 5·93 as compared with 5·81 in the previous month. In April, full time (six days and over) was worked by 89 per cent., and from five to six days by 10 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 39 and 59 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

**Labour Disputes in May.**—Forty-three labour disputes were notified to the French Labour Department as having begun in May, as compared with 35 in the preceding month and 70 in May, 1896. Eight disputes began before the 1st of May were also in progress. The number of persons known to have been directly involved in 40 of the newly-reported disputes was 7,047. Disputes were most frequent in May in the building trades, the number reported being 16, of which one (in Lyons) begun on May 10th, involved 5,000 masons and labourers who struck for increased wages, and were still out on June 10th. A strike in the same branch and with a similar object, began on the same day in Nice and was settled after lasting ten days, by the Prefect, who acted as arbitrator. The number of workers affected was 1,200.

The strike of miners in La Grand Combe, begun on April 12th, and alluded to in last month's GAZETTE (p. 137), was still in progress on June 10th. Two thousand workers were involved in the first instance, but of these 500 have left the district, and 300 have resumed work.

During May, 32 disputes were terminated, the workpeople being successful in 9, partially successful in 15 and unsuccessful in 8. Three disputes were settled by conciliation and 2 by arbitration during the month.

### GERMANY.

**Important Disputes in May.**—The following were the most important disputes reported on in May by the "Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger":—  
In Bremen, 400 jute weavers at one establishment struck for an increase of 1·2d. in the daily rate of wages, and asked the Industrial Court to act as a Board of Conciliation. The management refused to enter into negotiations, and, on the strike extending somewhat, closed the mill, with the result that 1,400 operatives were deprived of work.

In Wiesbaden, the masons struck to procure payment of 4·8d. per hour, and were afterwards joined by the men in other branches of the building trades; the total number said to be on strike towards the end of the month being 1,000.

In Bielefeld, 500 out of 700 masons struck on May 2nd to protest against the locking-out of certain men who had remained away from work on May 1st. They also demanded that the working day should be fixed at 9½ hours, in which demand they were joined by the carpenters. General strikes of joiners are reported in Breslau, affecting some 1,000 men, and in Stettin affecting 620 men.

**Extension to Ready-made Clothing Trades of Provisions of Factory Act Governing Employment of Women and Children.**—The "Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger" of June 3rd contains the text of an Imperial Decree, dated May 31st, to take effect from July 1st, by which sections 135 to 139 of the Industrial Code are, with some modifications—chiefly as regards overtime—extended to workshops in the ready-made clothing trades. Workshops are exempt, in which, only members of the employer's family are usually engaged or in which the manufacture of ready-made clothing is only occasionally carried on.

Briefly stated, the effect on the trades concerned is as follows: Children under the age of 13 may not be employed. From 13 to 14 they may be employed for 6 hours only (with at least half-an-hour's interval), and from 14 to 16, for 10 hours only per day; in the latter case the intervals must amount to at least an hour and a half.

Women, and girls over 16, may not be employed for more than 11 hours (on Saturdays and the eves of holidays 10 hours) per day, with a midday interval of at least an hour. Children under 16 may not be employed on Sundays or holidays, or at any time set apart for religious instruction. Neither women nor children may be employed at night, i.e., from 8.30 p.m. to 5.30 a.m. Persons intending to employ women or children must notify the police authorities beforehand, in writing. Overtime is permitted in the case of women, and girls over 16, on not more than 60 days in the year, provided the hours worked on any one day do not exceed 13, and that work be not prolonged beyond 10 p.m.

Overtime must be entered each day on a special list, to which the police and the factory inspector shall have access.

**Work of Industrial Courts in 1896.**—"Das Gewerbegericht," the organ of the German Federation of Industrial Courts, in its issue of May 6th, gives an account of the work of these courts in 1896. The number of courts in existence is stated to be 284, as compared with 272 in August 1895, and 208 in September 1893. The number of plaintiffs brought before the courts in 1896 was 68,798, viz., 63,462 by workpeople against employers, 5,176 by employers against workpeople, and 160 by workmen against workmen. In about half of the cases the sum in dispute was £1 or less; and in 4·5 per cent., over £5. The courts dealt with 67,556 cases during the year, but had to pronounce judgment in 19,448 cases only, as, in the remaining cases the disputants were either induced to compromise (30,798 cases), or the claims were withdrawn or abandoned (16,485 cases), or were admitted by the defendants.

**The German Metalworkers' Federation.**—The report presented by the Committee of the Metalworkers' Federation at the third general meeting, held in Brunswick from the 20th to the 24th of April gives the total membership of the Federation, at the end of 1896, as 49,954, as compared with 33,189 in December 1895. The total receipts during the year were £27,534, of which £26,023 consisted of members' subscriptions and entrance fees. The expenditure during the year was £26,412, the chief items being:—£6,933 for support of strikes, £5,760 to branch federations, £4,428 for the Federation journal, £3,628 for travelling benefit, and £1,896 for administration. A proposal to introduce unemployed benefit was discussed at the meeting but was rejected, 51 out of 74 of the delegates present voting against it. According to the "Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger" of May 6th, the Berlin Metalworkers' Federation, numbering 9,000 members, has decided to dissolve on June 1st, when its members are to join the German Metalworkers' Federation.

**Operations of Public Labour Registries in May.**—The total number of situations offered by employers in May at 35 of the municipal or municipally-subsidized registries which have sent returns to "Soziale Praxis" was 21,893, compared with 21,802 in the preceding month and 18,003 in May 1896.

The number of situations sought by workpeople during the month was 26,319, compared with 24,019 in the previous month, and 23,352 in May 1896. The number of situations found was 16,582, compared with 15,945, in the previous month and 13,604 in May 1896. (This last set of figures is subject to some deduction, since in some registries a situation found is counted twice—viz., once to the employer and once to the workman.)

**The General Federation of Protestant Workmen's Unions.**—A meeting of delegates of unions belonging to this Federation took place in Elberfeld, on April 20th and 21st, this being the first occasion on which the Federation has held a meeting, independently of the Protestant Social Congress. It was reported that 280 unions with 56,000 members belong to the Federation.

### SWITZERLAND.

**Labour Disputes in May.**—The most important dispute reported on in May in "Der Grüllianer" was a strike of the employees at a number of chemical works in Bâle, whose chief demand was a minimum wage of 3s. 2d. a day. The number of workers engaged in the strike, which began on May 24th, was 600. By June 5th arrangements had been come to at all the establishments affected.

The strike of housesmiths and similar metal workers at Interlaken (see May GAZETTE, p. 137) has been settled, the employers being reported to have conceded the ten hours day.

**Workers' International Congress for Labour Protection.**—Arrangements are being made by the Swiss Workmen's Federation for the holding of an International Congress of Representatives of Workers' Societies in Zürich from August 23rd to 28th, to discuss labour protection.

### BELGIUM.

**Dispute in Antwerp Shipyards.**—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated May 21st, Mr. G. R. de Courcy Perry, H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp, reports that a strike started by the men employed by a firm of marine engineers had extended to the principal shipyards in Antwerp. The demands of the men were: Double wages for work done during overtime or on holidays, and the dismissal of all men who worked during the strike. The men are said in some cases to have taken steps for rendering it impossible for substitutes to take their places. On May 19th, the firms whose workmen had not already struck, declared a general lock-out, after ascertaining from their men that they intended to join the strike.

The following is based on information supplied, through the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department, by Dr. F. Vercruyse:—

**Employment in May.**—The general condition of the labour market in May was very favourable. The iron and steel trades, the coal mining industry, and the building, clothing, and engineering trades had more than the average amount of work. Wool and cotton spinning were, however, the only branches of the textile trades in which employment was quite satisfactory. Wool weaving was slack in Verviers, and in Ghent the cotton weaving industry continued depressed by the crisis which it has been undergoing for several months past. A serious crisis—the approach of which is already being felt—is expected in the glass trade, owing to the customs policy about to be adopted by the United States Government. One firm employing about 600 workpeople has just closed and stopped payment.

**Labour Disputes in May.**—Twelve new disputes, affecting some 2,600 workpeople, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in May. All except two of these disputes were confined to single establishments. The trades most affected were engineering (2 disputes involving 1,600 workers, and coal mining (2 disputes involving 440 workpeople).

In 6 out of 8 disputes terminated, 1,250 workers were unsuccessful; 400 engaged in one dispute being successful, and 4 engaged in another partially successful.

**Belgian Inquiry into Flaxworking in England.**—The Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour recently commissioned two factory inspectors to visit this country in order to study the conditions of hygiene in English flax spinning mills. These gentlemen have just made their report. They note in the first place that in restricting the hours of labour for protected workers to 56½ hours per week, the English Law goes much further than the Belgian, the limit under which is 69 hours. As to the rules laid down in England relating to cubic air space, humidity &c., in flax spinning mills, the report observes that "when dealing with the same difficulties as have to be encountered in Belgium, English spinning-mill owners are no more able to ensure a sufficiently dry atmosphere or absolute cleanliness in their workshops than we in Belgium are." It was found, however, that, while real flax was used and very fine counts spun in almost all parts of England, a good deal of tow is spun and coarse counts of yarn (Nos. 10 to 12) are produced in Belgium, which require a higher temperature and greater humidity.

**Erratum.**—In the April GAZETTE (p. 103) it was stated under the heading "Employment in March," that "Thirty per cent. of cotton weavers are unemployed in Ghent." This should have read "Thirty per cent. of wool weavers are unemployed in Verviers."

### AUSTRIA.

**Principal Labour Disputes in May.**—The most serious of the disputes reported during May was a strike of brickmakers in Siebenbirten and the surrounding district, begun on the 16th and terminated on the 27th of May, and involving some 3,000 workers. The immediate cause of the strike is stated to have been the dismissal of two workpeople connected with the union. The strikers demanded their re-instatement and also the dismissal of certain workmen who had refused to join in a demand for reduction of hours of labour. As a result of the strike, the dismissed workers have been re-instated and a reduction of hours has been promised.

The whole of the workpeople at Lloyd's Arsenal in Trieste, 1,500 in number, struck on May 21st, owing, it is reported, to the dismissal of two operatives for a breach of discipline. The demands of the men included the re-instatement of the dismissed operatives, the dismissal of two unpopular officials, the regulation of contract work and the removal of sanitary defects. One of the dismissed men was re-instated, enquiry being promised into the other case, and also into the men's complaints about contract work and sanitary matters. The two unpopular officials were transferred to other posts. Work was resumed on the 23rd of May.

At Jaromirz (Bohemia), 700 jute spinners of one factory have been on strike since May 4th, for an increase of 2d. per day in wages, and at Smichow, a suburb of Prague, 600 operatives at a calico works, since May 31st, for a working day of 10 hours and 10 per cent. increase of wages.

\* From information contained in Austrian employers' and workers' papers including "Die Industrie" (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), "Das Handels-Museum Die Gewerkschaft," "Die Arbeiter Zeitung," and others.

Central Labour Registry for the Province of Styria.—The "Handels-Museum" of May 20th, states that the rules for a central labour registry for the Province of Styria have been approved by the Styrian Benevolent Association, and that the registry will begin operations this year.

ITALY.

Bill for the Protection of Miners—"La Cooperazione Italiana" of May 15, states that a Bill has been laid before the Chamber of Deputies by the Government for the protection of persons employed in mines and quarries.

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike in the Tailoring Trade of New York.—In reports to the Foreign Office, dated May 17th, 21st and 26th, Mr. Percy Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, gives particulars of a strike of tailors in that city, declared on May 16th, and involving about 24,000 workpeople.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Reporting under date of May 22nd, Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at Chicago, describes the labour situation as being far from satisfactory, the building trade being very dull, and a large number of workpeople without employment.

Labour Disputes.—Strikes of stonecutters, plumbers, hod-carriers and builders are reported in Chicago. The stonecutters have struck to resist a reduction in wages from 16s. 5d. to 10s. 3d. per day.

deprived of work in the event of the strike being successful.

The mine owners and miners of the Northern Illinois district, who met in conference at Streator (Ill.) on May 14th, were unable to reach an agreement about the wages scale, and a general strike has resulted.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN MAY.

(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.

Summary.—Employment in May was considerably better than a year ago.

Returns received respecting 1,312 pits, employing 412,205 workpeople, show that during the four weeks ended May 22nd, an average of 5.20 days was worked per week, as compared with 4.88 days in May 1896, and 4.84 days in April 1897.

Table with 4 columns: District, No. employed in May 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table, Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended, and sub-columns for 22nd May 1897, 23rd May 1896, and 24th April 1897.

The following table gives the average number of days worked in the pits, classified according to the class of coal principally raised. It will be seen that house and gas coal pits were the only classes of pits at which an average of less than five days per week was worked.

Table with 4 columns: Description of Coal, No. employed in May 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table, Number of days worked per week, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1897.

If the workpeople be classified according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed, it will be seen that 73.3 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as compared with 56.6 per cent. in May 1896.

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

Table with 5 columns: Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks, May 1897 (No. of Workpeople employed, Percentage proportion to total), and April 1897 (No. of Workpeople employed, Percentage proportion to total).

The number of workpeople now employed at pits covered by the returns is greater by 4,968, or 1.2 per

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

cent. than a year ago.—This increase was made up of increases of 4,597 in England and Wales, 311 in Scotland, and 60 in Ireland.

Comparison by Districts.—In Northumberland and in Fife employment was not quite equal to a year ago. In all other districts there was an improvement amounting to nearly a whole day in Staffordshire, and to over two-thirds of a day in Salop, Worcester and Warwick, Ireland, Cumberland, and Derbyshire.

The highest average during the month, 5.71 days, was worked in Cumberland, followed by the Lothians (5.70 days), South Wales and Monmouth (5.60 days), and West Scotland (5.57 days).

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MAY 1897 AND 1896, AND IN APRIL 1897.

Table with 7 columns: District, No. employed in May 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table, Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended, and sub-columns for 22nd May 1897, 23rd May 1896, and 24th April 1897, plus Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1897 as compared with a year ago.

The percentage of unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted to 0.7 per cent. of the membership at the end of May, as compared with 0.9 per cent. in April.

Exports of Coal.—During May, 3,502,240 tons of coal, coke, cinders, and patent fuel were exported, as compared with 2,825,593 tons in April, and 3,107,896 tons in May 1896.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN MAY.

EMPLOYMENT is good in this industry. Nearly every district shows an improvement as compared with a year ago, the only noticeable falling off being one of about a quarter of a day per week in Scotland.

The average number of days per week worked in May last was in every district greater than in April, in which period, however, the Easter Holidays interrupted employment.

Returns received relating to 131 mines and open works show that in the four weeks ended May 22nd, the 17,109 workpeople employed at these mines worked an average of 5.87 days per week, as compared with 5.66 in April, and 5.76 in May 1896.

The following tables show for the mines included in the returns received:—

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

Table with 6 columns: District, No. employed in May 1897 at the Mines included in the Table, Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended, and sub-columns for 22nd May 1897, 23rd May 1896, and 24th April 1897, plus Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1897, as compared with a year ago.

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

Table with 5 columns: Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks, May 1897 (No. of Workpeople employed, Percentage proportion to total), and April 1897 (No. of Workpeople employed, Percentage proportion to total).

(c) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN MAY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was slightly better at the end of May than a year ago. During the month it improved in the Midlands, and in other districts was practically stationary.

The 110 ironmasters from whom returns have been received, and who own about 93 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, had 354 furnaces in blast at the end of the month, or four more than a year ago.

During the month the number of furnaces in blast in the Midlands was increased by 3, leading to an increase in the number employed in that district of 168 persons. In Glamorgan and Monmouth one furnace was re-lit and one blown out.

The subjoined table gives:— Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of May 1897, with the number in blast at end of May 1896, and at end of April 1897, so far as included in the returns made to the Department by 110 ironmasters owning 93 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom:—

Table with 6 columns: Districts, Present time compared with a year ago (May 1897, May 1896, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1897), and Present time compared with a month ago (May 1897, April 1897, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1897).

\* Amended figures

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British Possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during May amounted to 129,762 tons, as compared with 107,135 tons in April, and 88,093 tons in May 1896.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES AND ROLLING MILLS.

As compared with a month ago the number employed at the end of May showed a slight increase in the steel and iron trades, counterbalanced, however, by a falling off in the tinplate trade.

Of the 83,336 persons employed in these industries at the end of May by 254 employers, from whom returns have been received, 38,814 were employed at 134 Steel-works, this number being greater by 111 than at the end of April, and by 2,764, or 7·7 per cent. than at the end of May 1896.

The number employed at 95 Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills was 18,886, or 399 more than a month ago, and 1,332, or 7·6 per cent. more than a year ago.

Table showing the number of persons employed\* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of May 1897 and 1896 and April 1897 respectively, by 254 employers making returns:—

Table with columns: Occupation, Number Employed (May 1897, May 1896, April 1897), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1897 as compared with April 1897, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1897 as compared with May 1896. Rows include Steel Making, Iron Puddling and Rolling, Tinplate Manufacture, and Other Workpeople.

Returns received respecting 88 Tinplate Works show that out of 488 mills at these works 302 were working at the end of the month, as compared with 307 at the end of April.

Table showing number of tinplate works and mills in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire fully or partially employed, or wholly idle, at the end of May, so far as stated in the returns received by the Department:—

Table with columns: No. of Works, No. of Mills in such Works (Working, Not Working, Total). Rows show Works giving full employment, partial employment, and Works idle, plus totals for April 1897 and May 1896.

\* This table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes. † The figures on this line relate to only 316 of the 488 mills referred to in the next table.

Returns received from the owners of 54 tinplate works show that they had 11,637 persons employed at the end of May, or 516 less than at the end of April and 56 less than at the end of May 1896.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during May amounted to 22,298 tons, as compared with 25,489 tons during April, and 21,649 tons during May 1896.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MAY.

THE agricultural correspondent to the department on the basis of 190 returns from various parts of the country reports as follows:—Generally speaking, agricultural employment was regular during the month of May.

Changes in Wages.—In the following districts the weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers rose to the extent of 1s. a week in May, making them 1s. a week higher than in May 1896, namely, in Bedfordshire, in part of the Union of Leighton Buzzard; in Essex, in part of the Tendring Union; in Cambridgeshire, in part of the Whittlesea Union; in Kent, in part of the Faversham Union; in Leicestershire, in part of the Union of Lutterworth; in Norfolk, in parts of the Unions of Forehoe, Gaultcross, Swaffham, Walsingham, and Wayland; in Sussex, in part of the Union of Rye.

In Lincolnshire, in part of the Lincoln Union the seasonal change of weekly wages from 13s. 6d. to 15s., which took place in June 1896, took place in May this year.

In the Darlington district of Durham the yearly wages of the hinds advanced by 6d. a week compared with last year.

In Gloucestershire, in part of the Cirencester Union, there was a seasonal rise of 1s. a week, the wages being the same as a year ago.

Northern Counties.—Reports from certain unions in the counties of Cumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland, and Yorkshire, state that employment was generally regular in the month of May.

Midland Counties.—Favourable reports come from Cheshire from the Unions of Nantwich, and Tarvin; from Derbyshire from the Belper, and Chesterfield Unions, and from the Derbyshire portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (Stafford), and of the Mansfield Union (Notts).

Eastern Counties.—Employment in Essex is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Billericay, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, and Tendring.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Sussex reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Chailey, Cuckfield, Horsham, and Rye; in Hampshire from the Unions of Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, and Stockbridge; in Dorsetshire from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne; in Wiltshire from the Unions of Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Pewsey, Warminster, Westbury and Whorwellsdown, and Wilton; in Gloucestershire from the Unions of Barton Regis, and Gloucester.

Sunderland and County Durham.—Reports from the Unions of Aylesbury, Newport Pagnall, and Winslow. In the Buckingham Union some slight irregularity of work is reported.

Homes Counties.—Reports from Buckinghamshire state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Newport Pagnall, and Winslow.

Home Counties.—Reports from Buckinghamshire state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Newport Pagnall, and Winslow.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Thetford, Wayland, and Walsingham. In a few parishes in the Giltcross Union a considerable irregularity of work is reported, while in one or two parishes labour is said to be rather scarce.

Home Counties.—Reports from Buckinghamshire state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Newport Pagnall, and Winslow.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Sussex reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Chailey, Cuckfield, Horsham, and Rye; in Hampshire from the Unions of Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, and Stockbridge; in Dorsetshire from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne; in Wiltshire from the Unions of Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Pewsey, Warminster, Westbury and Whorwellsdown, and Wilton; in Gloucestershire from the Unions of Barton Regis, and Gloucester.

Sunderland and County Durham.—Reports from the Unions of Aylesbury, Newport Pagnall, and Winslow. In the Buckingham Union some slight irregularity of work is reported.

(f) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MAY.

As compared with April employment for dock labourers in London fell off, but at the wharves it was better.

At all the docks and at 114 of the principal wharves the average daily number employed during the five weeks ended May 29th was 14,033, as compared with 14,315 in the four preceding weeks and 13,610 a year ago.

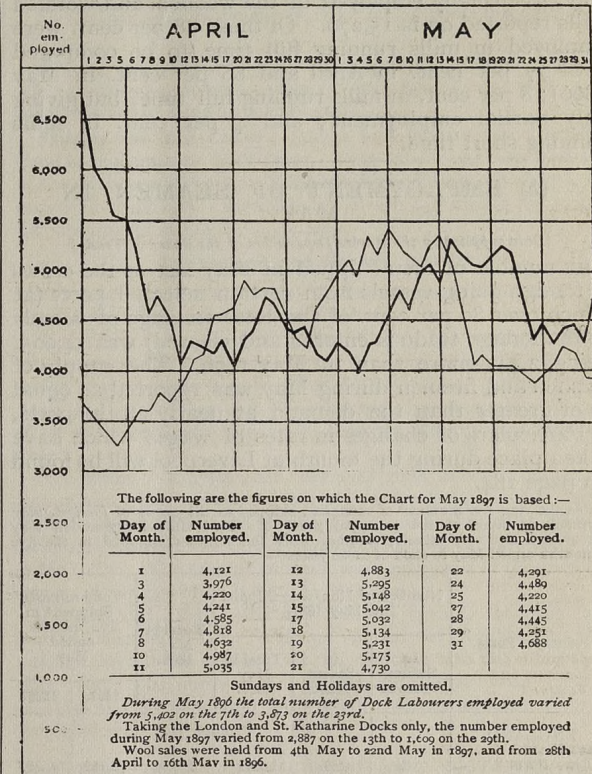
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Table showing Labourers employed in Docks, Wharves, and Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns for various periods from 1st week of May to average for April 1897.

\* Amended figures.

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during April and May is shown on the chart below.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of April and May 1897. The corresponding curve for April and May 1896 is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1897, and the thin curve to 1896.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for May 1897 is based:—

Table with columns: Day of Month, Number employed (1897), Day of Month, Number employed (1896), Day of Month, Number employed (1897). Rows list days from 1 to 11 for both years.

Work in mid-stream was not so good as in April, but improved a little during the last week of the month.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have had fair employment. The average daily number employed was 380, compared with an average of 376 for April, and 313 in May 1896.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN MAY.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women in the cotton trade during May showed a considerable decline.

Table showing State of Employment, Number of Mills, Approximate No. of Women and Girls employed, and Corresponding Percentages in April 1897 and May 1896. Rows include Full time, Ditto, but partial employment, Short time, Closed for repairs, and Total.

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

63,980. Of these, 71 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 82 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in April, and with 95 per cent. in May 1896); 20 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 6 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 3 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

**Woollen and Worsted Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 15,270. Of these 88 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 77 per cent. in April and 86 per cent. in May 1896); 8 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 4 per cent. in mills running short time.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MAY.

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

THE number of men shipped in May last as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 34,905, being 2,447 more than in May 1896. The supply of seamen and firemen during May was reported as equal to or greater than the demand at nearly all the ports. Particulars of changes in rates of wages which have taken place during the month at Liverpool will be found on page 184.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in May 1897 and 1896 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the five months ended May in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in May 1897.			Total in May 1896.	Total number Shipped* in five months ended May	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in May 1897.		1897.	1896.
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	84	3,281	3,365	2,896	16,182	
Sunderland ...		698	698	642	3,029	
Middlesbrough ...	44	414	458	473	2,213	
Hull ...	44	1,266	1,310	1,289	5,580	
Grimsey ...	8	101	109	50	324	
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	—	157	157	178	967	
Newport, Mon. ...	47	1,245	1,292	1,069	6,105	
Cardiff ...	690	4,854	5,544	5,172	29,042	
Swansea ...	204	485	689	673	3,217	
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	338	10,138	10,476	10,050	46,442	
London ...	517	5,678	6,195	5,545	29,013	
Southampton ...	16	1,460	1,476	1,390	6,820	
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth Glasgow ...	76	2,101	2,177	2,215	10,807	
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	—	51	51	27	390	
Belfast ...	—	266	266	173	1,146	
<b>Total, May 1897</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>32,771</b>	<b>34,905</b>		<b>164,392</b>	
Ditto, May 1896	2,629	29,827		32,468	157,113	

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in Various Industries.**—The state of employment remained practically unchanged during May, most branches of industry continuing busy. Returns from 392 branches of 104 unions, with an aggregate membership of 72,529, show that 1,589 (or 2.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2.3 in April and 2.8 per cent. at the end of May 1896.

The **Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding** trades continued well employed, though the latter were not quite so busy. Reports from 118 branches of 24 unions, with a membership of 22,803, show that 560 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, as com-

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

pared with 2.2 in April and 2.4 per cent. at the end of May last year.

**Employment in the Building trades** remained brisk. Reports from 169 branches of 6 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 10,457, show that 130 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 1.0 in April and 1.2 per cent. in May 1896. The bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, mill-sawyers, painters and decorators and stone carvers describe employment as good; the plasterers and stonemasons as fair; the plumbers as moderate.

**Employment in the Furnishing trades**, though still good, was scarcely so brisk. Reports from 35 branches of 9 unions, with a membership of 6,352, show 86 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 0.5 in April and 1.0 per cent. at the end of May 1896.

The **Coopers** were better employed. Two societies with a membership of 970 return 8 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2.1 in April and 0.2 per cent. in May of last year.

The **Coachbuilding** trades still continued actively employed. Returns from 11 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,245, show that 5 (or 0.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.9 in April, and 1.0 per cent. in May 1896.

The **Printing and Bookbinding** trades improved during the month, and employment in several branches was brisk. Reports from 22 unions, with a membership of 21,438, show that 411 (or 1.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.8 at the end of April. The percentage in May 1896 was 3.8.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade remained busy; in the East End bespoke trade it was also busy; in the West End bespoke trade it was good. Employment in the mantle trade was fair; the hat trade was busy; the cap trade fair; the helmet trade good; the fur skin dressers were slack; the furriers fairly well employed for the season. Employment with silk weavers was bad.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—Employment in the machine branch was good; in the high-class bespoke branch it was also good, especially with ladies' work, for which there was a demand for good workmen; the slipper-makers were better employed, the season having commenced early.

The **Leather** trades were busier. Returns from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,787, show that 30 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2.8 in April, and 2.3 per cent. in May 1896.

**Glass and Pottery Trades.**—Employment in these trades improved. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,458, show that 71 (or 4.9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 5.9 in April and 4.1 per cent. at the end of May 1896.

**Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.**—Employment in these trades continued good. Returns from 5 societies, with a membership of 901, show that 15 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.0 in April and 2.1 per cent. in May of last year.

The **Gold and Silver** trades were steadily employed. Reports from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,066, show that 17 (or 1.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.9 in April and 0.6 per cent. in May 1896.

The **Tobacco** trades were not busy. Reports from 3 societies, with a membership of 2,182, show that 121 (or 5.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.4 in April and 8.9 per cent. in May of last year.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—At the docks and wharves employment was better than a year ago, but not so good as in April. During the five weeks ended May 29th an average daily number of 14,933 were employed at all the docks and the principal wharves, compared with 14,315 in April, and 13,610 a year ago. Stevedores, corn and deal porters have had fair employment. Employment with lumpers was better than in April, fairly busy with lightermen, and only moderate with coal porters and winchmen. Mid-stream workers have not been so well employed as in April, but a little improvement was felt in the last week of the month. Fruit porters have had fair employment. (For further details, see page 173).

**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—Three fresh disputes for advances in wages were reported as taking place and terminating during the month—one of ferriers and two of upholsterers—involving in all about 3,028 persons (see pp. 189 and 190). The ship painters, to the number of 800, have had their wages increased from 8d. to 9d. per hour, and 350 brickmakers have obtained an increase of 9d. per 1,000 for moulding (see pp. 182 to 184).

**Labour Bureaux.**—The eight labour bureaux which furnished returns, registered 1,347 fresh applications for work during May,

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

being 732 less than in May 1896. Work was found during the month for 781 persons (698 being engaged by private employers and 83 by local authorities), as compared with 1,641 persons (1,297 by private employers and 344 by local authorities) during May 1896. The falling off was chiefly attributable to a large decline in the operations of one of the bureaux. (See table on p. 187.)

**Pauperism.**—The number of persons relieved on the last day of the second week of May was 98,889, being a decrease, as compared with the corresponding day of April, of 1,833. As compared with May 1896 there were decreases in all the Metropolitan districts except the Western and Northern districts, which showed a small increase. The decrease for the whole of London amounted to 312.

The number of vagrants relieved in London on one day in the second week of May was 949, as against 904 in May 1896.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 8,268 in May, 8,315 in April and 8,783 in May 1896.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—Northumberland.—Steam coal collieries are working much better, having averaged 5.09 days per week out of a possible 5.50. House coal pits have also improved, averaging 5.38 days per week, as against 4.80 in April. Of the 20,117 union miners only five are idle. Durham.—Gas and coking coal collieries have been steadily employed, several working extra time; the average number of days worked has been 5.19 and 5.58 per week respectively, as against 4.87 and 5.03 in April. Returns from 92 pits employing 48,411 men and boys show an average of 5.36 days per week, compared with 4.94 days shown by 103 returns in April. The number of unemployed union miners owing to bad trade is 558 (or 0.9 per cent.), as against 661 (or 1.1 per cent.) in April.

**Metal Mining.**—The lead mines in Weardale are working full time, but employing fewer men. Iron mines continue slack.

**Quarrying.**—Limestone quarries have worked 6 days per week. Whinstone and freestone quarries in Weardale and at Blyth and Gateshead are brisk.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—On the Tyne.—Branches with 11,260 members of these trades have 139 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 157 (or 1.4 per cent.) in April. In the engine works and ordnance factory employment continues good. At one or two shops, however, night shifts of smiths and machine men have been stopped. Boiler-makers are still working double shifts. At most of the shipyards employment remains full and steady. Two yards are slack. There is, however, a good demand for riveters. Repair work is busy. On the Wear.—Of the 4,457 members of these trades, 82 (or 1.8 per cent.) are idle, as against 114 (or 2.6 per cent.) of their membership in April. All yards except three are busy. Boiler shops are also well employed. Engine works upon the whole show little change. Of the 1,500 drillers and hole-cutters on the Tyne, Wear, and at Blyth all are fully employed and working much overtime. Shipwrights on both rivers are scarce. Steel smelting, plate and angle mills, and blast furnaces have worked full time; iron plate mills at Consett five shifts per week.

**Dock Labour.**—Trimmers and teamers have been badly employed, especially on the Tyne. Quay-side labourers and Tyne watermen report work as better.

**Building Trades.**—Plumbers on both rivers have 3.3 per cent. unemployed. All other branches are well employed.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Coopers report little improvement, most of them working short time. Millsawyers and woodcutters are busy. Upholsterers in Newcastle and Sunderland report none idle.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers on the Tyne are quiet, with 8 per cent. of members signing the unemployed book. At Sunderland, over 10 per cent. are idle. Bookbinders are fairly employed. Three paper mills have worked full time; five others a little over half time.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour continue fully employed. Chemical workers are moderately employed, cement makers fairly so. Whitelead factories continue busy.

**Fishing.**—The fishing industry is reported as having been fairly successful during the month, but the herring-boats have not had large catches.—J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

**Iron Mining.**—Cleveland miners are reported as being fairly employed during the month.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment continues good at the steel-works, most of the mills being reported as busy. Finished iron-

workers are reported as fairly employed. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration Board, wages remain unchanged for June and July. Blast furnacemen have been well employed. Foundries and bridge works report employment as fairly good with one or two exceptions.

**Engineering.**—Employment continues exceptionally good, particularly at Stockton and at Middlesbrough. Branches with 3,374 members report 17 (or 0.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 14 (or 0.4 per cent.) of their membership at the end of April.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment is reported as good throughout the district.

**Building Trades.**—All branches of these trades are well employed. The bricklayers, joiners, sawyers and machinists, with 1,424 members, report none as unemployed.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate at both ports. Dock labour has been moderate at the Hartlepoons and at Middlesbrough during the month, but improved at the end. Riverside labour was fair during the month, but was quieter at the end.—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 has again shown an improvement, the average number of days worked at the pits from which returns have been received being 5.71, as against 5.30 in April, and 4.97 in May 1896. The number of workpeople employed, so far as shown by the returns, is, however, slightly less than last year.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good at the Cumberland iron mines. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended 22nd May at the 41 mines for which returns have been received was 5.95, as against 5.79 days in April and 5.93 in May 1896. The number of workpeople employed at the 41 mines was 6,148, compared with 5,899 in May 1896.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast remains the same as in April, viz., 44, which is also the same as in May 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 3,332, a decrease of 5 as compared with April, and an increase of 17 as compared with last year.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—Spinning.—Employment is reported as good in Stockport; moderate in Rochdale, Stalybridge and Mossley, Oldham and the surrounding districts; and as slack in Ashton. Out of 9,176 union members, 355 (or 3.9 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, as against 432 (or 4.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Most mills in the district are working full time. The cardroom operatives in Oldham and Mossley, with 12,026 members, report employment as moderate, with 388 (or 3.2 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 317 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Ring frame spinners report employment as good; twiners as moderate. Weaving.—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as moderate in calicoes, and as slack in velvets and fustians, with a number of looms standing idle. Employment is slack in sectional warping, and moderate in reeling and winding.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment is reported as slack in Stockport, and moderate in Rochdale and Milnrow.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers report employment as fair; the pattern-makers, tinplate workers, machine moulders, ironfounders, and boiler-makers as moderate; gas meter makers as slack; spindle and flyer makers, brassfounders, and irongrinders as good. Branches with 3,377 members return 35 (or 1.0 per cent.) as on unemployed benefit, as against 43 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers, painters and carpenters and joiners report employment as good; the plasterers and plumbers as moderate. Branches with 906 members have none idle.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns received from three collieries show one as on full time and the other two working five days a week.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—Spinning.—Employment is still reported as moderate in Bolton and district. Out of 4,506 union members 57 (or 1.3 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit. In Bury employment continues fairly good; in Chorley a slight improvement is reported.



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

Card and blowing room operatives are fairly well employed. Weaving.—Employment continues slack in Bolton; in Bury increased activity is reported; in Chorley more looms are standing idle.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—In Bolton the engineers report employment as good. Machine shops continue well employed in most departments. In Bury, Chorley and Wigan engineers are fairly busy, with few unemployed. Steel smelters at Wigan are still busy, with fewer idle. Steel rolling mills are moderately active.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is good in all branches, especially with painters and decorators.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment is reported as slightly less active. Many large collieries are, however, still working on an average five days a week.

*Clothing Trades.*—Cloggers, shoemakers and tailors are busy. R. Tootill.

**Blackburn, Burnley, and District.**

*Cotton Trade.—Weaving.*—Employment taken all round shows a further decline, many more looms being stopped for want of warps in almost all districts. In Burnley the number of looms working short time is 2,300, together with a considerable number stopped for warps. In Darwen 1,360 looms are stopped. In Blackburn, Nelson, and Colne also employment is worse. Employment in the hardware trade is fair; in the coloured goods trade it shows no change; in looming and drawing it is bad, both in the Blackburn and Burnley districts. Winders and warpers are working short time in almost all the districts. *Spinning.*—Employment is reported as good in Blackburn, Accrington and Darwen; fair in Burnley, Preston and Padham. Cardroom operatives continue well employed. Branches of twisters, warp dressers and spinners with 4,032 members return 218 (or 5.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 155 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Building Trades.*—Employment continues good with joiners, bricklayers, masons and painters. Plumbers are rather slack.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Employment continues fair in the machine shops; in other works moulders and engineers are only moderately employed.

*Coal Mining.*—Miners report work in the Burnley district as brisk, two pits, employing 200 men, working five days per week and the rest working full time. In Accrington employment is good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Tinplate workers are fully employed; tailors are busy; boot, shoe and slipper makers in the Rossendale district report employment as fair.—W. H. Wilkinson.

**Manchester and District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies with 25,303 members have 470 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 523 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers in Manchester, Stockport and Northwich report employment as moderate; in Warrington as slack; steam engine-makers as good; boiler-makers in Manchester and Stockport as moderate. In Macclesfield the iron trades are well employed. Ironfounders throughout the district, and machine workers and brassfounders and finishers in Manchester report employment as good; braziers and sheet metal workers and smiths and strikers as bad. Wire drawers, wire weavers and file-smiths are well employed. Branches with 11,392 members have 266 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 280 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Textile Trades.*—Cotton spinners report employment as moderate, with frequent temporary stoppages at some mills. The number of looms running short time has been increased. Employment with silk weavers in Macclesfield has slightly improved, and silk dressers are fairly well employed, but silk dyers are only partially employed. Fustian cutters are moderately employed. The "dressers, dyers, and finishers" report employment as good, and the "bleachers, dyers, and finishers" as bad.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors in the bespoke department are busy in Manchester, Macclesfield, Stockport and Warrington. Wholesale tailoring operatives and capmakers report employment as good, and ready-made mantle-makers as moderate. Shirtmakers in Macclesfield are fairly well employed, but in Manchester they are slack. Waterproof garment and umbrella makers report employment as bad; felt hatmakers and trimmers as good; boot and shoe makers as fair.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is moderate with joiners, plumbers, and plasterers; good with bricklayers, painters, and masons. Branches with 6,626 members have 52 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed,

as compared with 68 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. In Macclesfield and Warrington employment is moderate.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers are better employed. Employment is moderate with lithographic printers and bookbinders; bad with pattern cardmakers.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers and French polishers report employment as good. Coachmakers are busy in Manchester, but in Warrington employment is only moderate; coopers are fully employed.—G. D. Kelley.

**Liverpool and District.**

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders are better employed; the engineers and pattern-makers, brassfounders, iron and steel dressers and whitesmiths are well employed. Employment with shipwrights is dull, with shipjoiners and painters fair. Branches of boiler-makers, brassfounders, shipjoiners, and whitesmiths with 3,990 members return 104 (or 2.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 169 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers and French polishers are well employed; woodworking machinists, coopers and coachmakers fairly so.

*Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.*—Employment with sailors and firemen continues to improve. Dock labourers report employment as moderate; quay and railway carters as unchanged; Mersey flatmen as fair.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment has improved with letterpress printers; with lithographic printers, electrotypers and stereotypers it continues good; with bookbinders and rulers it is rather quiet. Branches with 1,302 members return 54 (or 4.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 72 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

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

*Building Trades.*—Employment continues good in all branches.

*Coal Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment with coal miners in St. Helens and Skelmersdale continues fair; with quarrymen good.

*Glass and Chemical Trades.*—Employment with glass bottle-makers continues good; with chemical workers it is unchanged.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has been fairly good. In the chemical trade at Middlewich it is normal, but one set remains closed. The building trades at Winsford and Middlewich report employment as moderate; the moulders at Winsford as good; the fustian cutters both at Winsford and Middlewich as good.

**YORKSHIRE.****Hull and District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies with 11,678 members have 174 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 247 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—The shipbuilding yards, engineering works and boiler shops continue fairly busy. Branches of societies with 6,347 members have 89 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 152 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Boiler-makers, engineers, and shipwrights at Grimsby and Goole report employment as good; engineers at Doncaster as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is good generally in Hull, Beverley, Driffield, Grimsby, Goole and Selby. Branches with 2,798 members have 17 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of April.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The seamen and marine firemen are fairly well employed. The dock labourers at Hull, Grimsby and Goole have fewer unemployed.

*Fishing Industry.*—The steam fishing-vessel engineers and firemen report employment as good; the trawl fishermen and fish-curers as moderate.

*Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Works.*—Employment in the seed crushing trade at Hull is reported as bad. The paint and colour trade workers are fully employed.

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

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—The coopers, coachbuilders, cabinet-makers and brushmakers at Hull report employment as good; the coach builders at Doncaster as moderate.

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

*Miscellaneous.*—The tailors, curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster report employment as good; the bakers and confectioners at Hull as moderate.—W. G. Millington.

**Leeds and District.**

*General.*—Branches with 7,999 members have 158 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 150 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment in the Leeds engineering trade continues good, most branches being busy, and few men unemployed. Ironfounding is good at Leeds, Stanningley, and Rodley. Steelworkers, whitesmiths, machine workers, and brassworkers are well employed; boiler-makers fairly so; pattern-makers are busy; stove grate workers dull.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the boot and shoe trade has shown some improvement; at Bramley it continues quiet; at Heckmondwike it is bad. The ready-made tailoring has been fairly busy, but now shows a decline. Bespoke tailors are well employed.

*Textile Trades.*—At Hunslet the blanket raisers and flax workers are fairly employed; linen workers moderately so. Willeyers and fettleers report employment as bad; woollen spinners as moderate. Dyers are fairly employed at Leeds and Yeadon. Employment continues slack in the mills at Yeadon, and is quiet at Stanningley and Wakefield.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with bricklayers, masons and plasterers is good; with painters fair; with plumbers moderate. At the quarries and brickyards work is very brisk. At Wakefield, Harrogate, Morley, Yeadon and Stanningley the building trades are busy.

*Coal Mining.*—Work at the pits in Leeds continues fairly good.

*Leather Trades.*—At the tanneries employment has been rather better. Leather shavers report employment as bad in the calf kid department, and as moderate on fancy leathers; curriers as quiet.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate; lithographers and bookbinders and machine rulers as fair. Papermill workers are fully employed.

*Glass Trades.*—Glass bottle-makers at Leeds, Wakefield, and Castleford are well employed.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment is good with coachmakers, cabinet-makers, and brushmakers.—O. Connellan.

**Bradford and Huddersfield District.**

*Worsted Trade.*—Employment in Bradford is slightly better. In the Worth valley and at Keighley, Halifax, and Huddersfield employment also seems a little better, and there is some overtime with weavers and warpers at one or two places.

*Woollen Trade.*—Employment in and around Huddersfield is about the same, with perhaps a slight change for the better. Several mills are working overtime, and one or two all night. In the heavy woollen trade employment is bad, although slightly better than last month.

*Other Textile Trades.*—In the silk trade employment is still bad at Manningham; at Brighouse and Halifax it is a little better. Carpet weavers report employment as about the same; carriage cloth weavers are working overtime at Halifax. In the cotton trade employment is reported as good; in the rag trade as rather quiet.

*Metal Trades.*—Engineers and ironfounders are fairly well employed throughout the district. Branches of these societies at Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, Huddersfield and Dewsbury with 2,947 members have 51 (or 1.7 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 63 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is fairly good throughout the district. The masons' dispute at Huddersfield has caused some irregularity of employment.

*Miscellaneous.*—Dyers and tailors are fairly well employed; printers are rather quiet.—A. Gee.

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

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 14,392 members have 62 (or 0.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 81 (or 0.6 per cent.) of their membership at the end of April.

*Iron and Steel Industries.*—Blast furnacemen, puddlers, shinglers, pilers, shearers and iron rollers continue well employed. Hydraulic pressmen are fairly well employed on medium sized armour plates, but quiet on larger sizes. The engineers are exceptionally busy. The ironfounders are well employed; Siemens steel smelters, Bessemer steelmakers, crank and axle makers, railway spring and

tyre makers, stove grate workers, coremakers, and iron and steel dressers report full employment and a considerable amount of overtime. Wire drawers report a slight improvement. Branches of societies with 5,078 members have only 22 unemployed (0.4 per cent.) as against 32 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. At Barnsley, engineers and ironfounders are busy, and at Thorncliffe and Chapeltown all classes of ironworkers are well employed. At Rotherham, Parkgate and Eccles, both iron and steel workers are busy.

*Cutlery and Tools.*—Workmen in the engineers', joiners' and general tool trade and makers of table cutlery continue well employed; the pen and pocket knife forgers, grinders and cutlers, saw and saw handle makers, haft and scale pressers, and all branches of the razor trade report employment as very fair. All branches of the file trade are busy. Horticultural and agricultural implement makers and makers of cycle parts have plenty of work. The sword and bayonet makers and wool shear grinders and benders are on short time. Societies with 6,090 members have 20 (or 0.3 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of March and April.

*Other Metal Trades.*—Silver and electro-plate workers and brass workers are well employed, britannia metal workers fairly employed. Branches with 970 members report only 2 on the unemployed list. At Rotherham the brassworkers are exceptionally busy.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 55 collieries show an average of 5.05 days worked per week.

*Building Trades.*—Branches of masons, bricklayers, carpenters, and plumbers with 1,326 members, have none unemployed. At Rotherham there is considerable activity. At Barnsley, employment is slack.

*Linen Trade.*—Employment has steadily improved.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade has been good; in the ready-made department fair. Employment in the boot and shoe trade in Barnsley is bad.

*Glass Trades.*—The bottle-makers at Barnsley and Mexborough are busy, although extensive repairs at the latter place have temporarily thrown about 60 hands idle. The flint glass workers are well employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers are rather quiet. Lithographers and bookbinders report employment as good.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding.*—Cabinet-makers, coachmakers and railway carriage and wagon builders are well employed. S. Uttley.

**ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.****Derbyshire District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 6,531 members have 43 (or 0.7 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 32 (or 0.5 per cent.) of their membership at the end of April.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Branches with 2,355 members have 13 (or 0.6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 19 (or 0.8 per cent.) of their membership at the end of April. Employment in the locomotive and other engineering branches, and in girder and boiler yards, continues good. Ironfounders report employment in Derby as improving, at Butterley as moderate, at Chesterfield and Somercotes as good; brassmoulders and finishers at Derby and Burton-on-Trent as good; iron wagon builders at Long Eaton as busy; lace machine builders as slack. Cycle-makers at Draycott and Long Eaton continue well employed, and stove-grate workers in Derby, Belper and Langley Mill are fairly well employed.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 50 collieries, employing nearly 20,000 men, show an average worked of about 4.4 days per week. A few pits continue playing on Saturdays, and one or two are working extra hours.

*Quarrying.*—Employment in limestone quarries in Wirksworth, Buxton, Miller's Dale, and Peak Forest has been fairly maintained.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment with cotton spinners and weavers at Borrowash, Belper, Glossop and Hadfield is reported as moderate. Hosiery-workers at Heanor, Belper and Ilkeston show a slight improvement, but short time prevails. Lacemakers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton are slack. Surgical bandage makers report employment as fair; elastic-web weavers as dull; calico printers and engravers in Dinting and New Mills as fair.

*Building Trades.*—All branches continue well employed. Branches with 162 members have 9 (or 0.5 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of April.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment with boot and shoe operatives, tailors and dress and mantle makers is reported as good.

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

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

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—The coopers report employment as good in Burton-on-Trent; cabinet makers as good. In most timber yards employment continues moderate.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment with letterpress printers, bookbinders and lithographic printers is good.—C. White-Deacon.

**Nottingham and District.**

*Lace Trade.*—In the curtain branch employment is bad; in the levers branch moderate; in the plain net branch good. Warp lace workers, wipers, designers and draughtsmen are slack; auxiliary and female lace-workers moderately employed; curtain readers show no improvement. Bleachers on lace goods are fairly busy; finishers in dressing rooms are moderately employed.

*Hosiery Trades.*—The rotary power frame branch is slack, with nearly one-half employed less than half time; the circular branch is slack. Shetland shawl workers are well employed at Hucknall Torkard, and hand frame workers moderately so at Sutton. Employment is fair at Arnold and Mansfield. Hosiery trimmers and dyers at Basford are only moderately employed. Dyers at Nottingham are slack.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment is fair in machine and engine shops; it has declined at cycle works. Employment is quiet at Beeston and Lenton, good at Colwick, and moderate at Mansfield and Newark. Ironfounders are busy at Nottingham, Grantham and Retford, and quiet at Mansfield. Farriers are rather slack. Other branches at Nottingham are well employed. Blastfurnacemen are fairly well employed at Bestwood. Branches with 3,428 members have 56 (or 1·6 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of April.

*Building Trades.*—All branches throughout the district, except plumbers and stone-masons at Nottingham, report employment as good. Branches, not including plumbers, with 2,586 members, have only 3 unemployed, as against 6 at the end of April.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 33 collieries give an average of slightly under 4 days per week.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers are slack. Lithographic printers are only moderately employed. Lithographic artists are busy. Bookbinders are well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Bespoke tailors, mantle-makers and clothing factory operatives are busy. Boot and shoe operatives report an improvement.—W. L. Hardstaff.

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

*Boot and Shoe Industry.*—At Northampton, Kettering and throughout the county generally workpeople in the shoe trade are still working overtime. Lasters and finishers at Leicester continue fully employed, but in the clicking and rough-stuff departments there is a slight decline. The leather tanning trades are busy.

*Hosiery, Yarn and Woolspinning Trades.*—Although the slight improvement in the hosiery trade has been generally maintained, workpeople are not very fully employed. Employment in the yarn and woolspinning mills is not brisk; it is reported as moderate in the trimming and dyeing branches.

*Clothing Trades.*—Both in the wholesale and bespoke branches of the tailoring trade employment is exceptionally good, and most operatives are working overtime. Dressmakers, milliners and corset-makers are also busy, and some branches of the hatting trade are working overtime.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—Employment is slightly better in the gusset web department. It is quieter in the belt, cord, and braid branches.

*Engineering and Cycle Trades.*—The principal branches of these trades continue to report employment as good throughout the district.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment with coal miners is not quite so good. Of 15 pits in Leicestershire, from which reports have been received, 2 worked over five days per week, 6 worked four days and under five, and 7 worked three days and under four per week. Stone quarrymen are in full work, paving setmakers being busy. Ironstone miners are in regular work.

*Printing and Bookbinding Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Leicester and Kettering, moderate at Northampton, fairly good at Loughborough and Rugby. It is good with lithographic printers and bookbinders.

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

*Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.*—Employment continues good with cabinet-makers and upholsterers; coachmakers are busy. Road and tram car builders are also in full work.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is good with cigar-makers; fairly good with brushmakers, bakers, and farriers; slack with gas stokers.—T. Smith.

**Potteries District.**

*Pottery Trades.*—Employment with hollow-ware pressers is good; with sanitary pressers much better; with flat pressers fairly good, except at Burslem. Printers and transferrers report employment as steadily improving; women gilders and decorators as unchanged. Modellers, mouldmakers and designers are well employed; throwers and turners report a further improvement. Ovenmen, kilnmen and sagger-makers are better employed, but have a few unemployed at Burslem.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Employment has declined in the mills; in the forges it is fairly steady. Blast furnace-men are well employed; iron and steelworkers in some departments are working short time. Anchor chainmakers at Ford Green are busy.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers at Crewe, Stafford and the Potteries are fairly well employed. At Longport the heavy brass moulders are busy; finishers report a decline. Copper workers at Froghall and Oakmoor continue busy. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley report a further improvement.

*Coal Mining.*—In the northern part of the district miners are working well. In the Potteries employment averages less than 4 days per week. At Cheadle and Rugeley those working are not averaging 4 days per week, while a considerable number are totally unemployed.

*Textile Trades.*—At Leek trimming weavers are fairly well employed; throwsters are busy; dyers are working overtime; hard silk workers report a decline. At Congleton weavers are busy on silk bindings and ribbons; fustian cutters are working well. At Cheadle and Tean both silk and tape operatives are well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors throughout the district report an improvement; boot and shoe operatives at Stafford and Stone, and corset makers at Uttoxeter are busy.

*Building Trades.*—Employment continues good in all branches.

*Miscellaneous.*—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue well employed. Railway servants are working well. Gas workers report a further decline.—I. S. Harvey.

**Wolverhampton and District.**

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is still good in the steel smelting and steel and iron bar trades; in the sheet steel trade it is reported as declining; in the iron sheet trade, mills and forges are well employed. In Shropshire full time is now being worked at the mills and forges, and at the furnaces at Prior's Lee.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—In all branches of the engineering trade in this district employment is reported a good; cycle workers are not so busy.

*Hardware Trades.*—Employment in the chain trade is fair. Makers of anchors, anvils and vices, nuts and bolts, iron fencing, hurdles, wrought nails, malleable nails and protectors, cycle castings, tin and galvanised oddware, hand-cut files, wrought iron odd work, builders' ironmongery, keys and hollow-ware, and brass-workers, tinplate workers, stampers and piercers report employment as good. In the tube trade there is a slight falling off in employment. Makers of tips, tacks, cut nails, spring-traps, iron-plate, steel-toys, rim and mortice, latch and cabinet locks, edge-tools, plantation hoes, Brazil hoes and padlocks are moderately employed. Axe makers are busy.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment is reported as unchanged in the Cannock Chase and Tamworth district. In Shropshire pits producing manufacturing coal are busy; house coal pits are slack.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally continues good.

*Glass Trades.*—The flint glass-workers at Wordsley and Brettle Lane are well employed, except in the etching and engraving branches. The glass bottle-makers at Brierley Hill are still working half time.

*Textile Trades.*—Carpet workers at Kidderminster are not fully employed. The Bridgnorth carpet mills and the Tamworth tape mills are running full time.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment is good in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring and boot and shoe trades.—C. Anthony.

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

**Birmingham and District.**

*Engineering.*—All branches are still busy, and overtime is general. *Brass and Copper Working.*—Employment on chandelier and cabinet work is active; on bedstead and fender-mount work, and cased tube work moderate; in all other branches good. Copperworkers are in regular employment.

*Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.*—Jewellers report slackness in the general branches, though best diamond work is busy. Medalists and ornament makers are just now very brisk. Silversmiths' work maintains a fair level. Electro-plate work is fairly good, with overtime at several firms. Britannia metal workers are not all in full employment.

*Other Metal Trades.*—Bedstead-makers report employment as fair. Ironfounders and file-smiths are busy. Iron-plate workers report employment as fair, but with several out of work in the Lye district. Most wire-drawers are in full employment.

*Building Trades.*—Six branches of the carpenters return none unemployed. Stonemasons, bricklayers and plasterers report employment as good, plumbers as moderate.

*Glass Trades.*—Glass blowers, bevellers and silverers report employment as good.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Workers in house and school furniture are busy, and cabinet-making is generally good. Coachbuilders report employment as very good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is good; in the button trade fair, except on vegetable ivory work; printers report employment as good; gas-workers and labourers are in constant employment. In Coventry employment in all trades is good, except in weaving, in which short time is being worked. W. J. Davis.

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

*General.*—Branches with 2,907 members return 24 (or 0·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 17 (or 0·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Clothing Trades.*—Clothing factories at Norwich are on full time. Bespoke tailors at Yarmouth, Lynn, Cambridge and Norwich are fairly busy. Except at Norwich, where the dispute still continues, the boot and shoe makers are fairly busy.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally is good.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Employment with engineers is very fair at Norwich and Yarmouth, and good at Melton Constable, Thetford and Lynn. Ship and boatbuilders at Yarmouth and Lowestoft are dull, although few are unemployed. Several have left both ports for other centres.

*Textile Trades.*—Silk and crape factories are on full time at Norwich and Yarmouth.

*Fishing Industry.*—Trawl fishing has not been good at either Yarmouth or Lowestoft. Many of the boats have returned from the westward mackerel fishing, and are now being fitted out for the midsummer herring fishing.

*Miscellaneous.*—Electric light workers are busy in Norwich; gas workers are exceptionally busy on illumination work. Horticultural builders are busy.—G. Cleverley.

**Suffolk, Essex, and District.**

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—The engineers report employment as good at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Chelmsford, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; as moderate at Ipswich; and as bad at Wickham Market. At Colchester all firms are working overtime. The moulders and boiler-makers at Ipswich, and the shipwrights at Ipswich, Wivenhoe, and Rowhedge, report employment as good.

*Clothing Trades.*—The boot and shoe operatives at Ipswich and Colchester report employment as moderate; employment in the bespoke and wholesale departments of the clothing trade is reported as good at Ipswich and Colchester; corset-makers are well employed at Ipswich and Sudbury.

*Textile Trades.*—The matmakers at Sudbury, Lavenham, Hadleigh, and Glemsford report employment as good; at Long Melford as fair; the horse-hair weavers at Lavenham as good. The silk weavers report employment as good at Sudbury and Braintree, and the factories at Halstead and Earl's Colne are running full time.

*Building Trades.*—At Sudbury employment is moderate; elsewhere in the district it is good.

*Printing and Kindred Trades.*—Employment with letterpress printers is good at Ipswich, Beccles, and Southend; moderate at

Colchester; dull at Bury St. Edmunds. Employment with bookbinders and lithographers at Ipswich is good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is reported as good with horticultural builders; moderate with leather workers at Colchester; good with brickmakers at Sudbury, Chelmsford, and Braintree; dull with seamen, and moderate with dock labourers at Ipswich, and good with general labourers at Ipswich and Colchester.—R. W. Mather.

**ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.****Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies with 7,486 members have 75 (or 1·0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 94 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Building Trades.*—Branches of joiners, plumbers, painters, masons, bricklayers and plasterers with 2,244 members report no unemployed.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—In the Somerset district coal miners worked from 3½ to 6 days per week. In the Forest of Dean the house coal miners are working on an average about 3 days per week; the steam coal men about 4½ days. Employment in the stone quarrying trade is good.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Branches with 3,093 members have only 11 unemployed, as against 18 at the end of April; except the brass finishers and boiler makers in Bristol, all branches report employment as good.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—A moderate demand is reported for seagoing men. Dock labourers in Bristol report employment as slack in the early part of the month, but improved toward the end. At Gloucester employment in the grain and timber trades is bad; in the general cargo trade fair.

*Clothing Trades.*—The wholesale garment-makers, bespoke tailor and hatters report employment as good.

*Boot and Shoe Trades.*—Employment in all branches of the boot and shoe trade is reported as dull.

*Textile Trades.*—At Trowbridge employment is improving. At Wellington all hands are busy except sorters. At Westford employment is reported as good.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—The coopers are dull; other branches are well employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good; the lithographic printers as steady; the letterpress printers as slack at Bristol and Bath. J. Curle.

**Plymouth and South-Western District.**

*Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.*—Employment in the metal mining industry of Cornwall continues depressed, no improvement being reported. The clay workers and quarrymen are still busy throughout the district.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Employment continues good with the engineers, boiler-makers, brassfounders and finishers, 5 only being reported as unemployed. The ironfounders again show a decline.

*Clothing Trades.*—In both the ready-made and bespoke departments of the tailoring trade employment continues good. The boot and shoe operatives continue well employed; the bespoke branch has improved.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is brisk generally, except at Torquay. At Plymouth and Tavistock, however, it has been interrupted by a dispute.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Seamen, except in the coasting trade, are still quiet. Employment with the quayside and dock labourers has shown an improvement.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate, with several idle; the lithographic printers and bookbinders as fair.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment continues fair with the upholsterers, polishers, cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers and machinists. The brushmakers report an improvement.

*Miscellaneous.*—Brickyard workers, bargemen, excavators and general labourers are well employed. The fishing industry has shown an improvement.—J. Welland.

**WALES.****North Wales District.**

*Mining.*—At most collieries employment continues good. Another colliery near Buckley has become exhausted. The work of development of Lead and Blende Mines is in active progress in the Mold district. Employment is fair at the Minera lead mines.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—WALES AND SCOTLAND

*Quarrying.*—Employment continues good in the slate quarries, brisk in the granite sett quarries, good in the freestone quarries, and fair in the lime and road stone quarries.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment is good at the Brymbo steel works; employment continues moderate with the engineers at Sandycroft and Oswestry; brisk at Ruabon and Cefn. Employment is active at the tinplate works at Mold, and at the spelter works at Mold and Bagillt. The coach makers at Oswestry report employment as moderate. Waggon-workers at Johnstown, Ruabon, are fully employed.

*Building Trades.*—The bricklayers at Wrexham report employment as moderate; the carpenters and joiners at Wrexham and Llandudno as fair; at Oswestry as moderate; the painters as brisk. Employment in the Mold district is quiet; in the Ruabon, Rhos and Cefn districts it is good in all branches.

*Brick and Terra Cotta Works.*—Employment is good in the brick and tile works of the Mold and Buckley districts, and at Wrexham, Rhos, Ruabon and Penybont.

*Chemical Trades.*—The men at the Ruabon and Flint chemical works are fully employed.

*Textile and Clothing Trades.*—In the tweed industry of Montgomery employment is moderate; employment in the warehouses is good. The tailors at Oswestry, Rhyl and Bangor are well employed.

G. Rowley.

**South Wales District.**

*Coal Mining.*—At Blaenavon, the collieries have averaged about 4 days a week; in the Garw valley and the western district, from 4½ to 5 days a week. The Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, and Dowlais collieries have worked full time. In the eastern and western valleys employment has slightly improved. Of the Rhondda Valley and Ferndale collieries 40 have worked full time and 8 have made stoppages amounting in the aggregate to 19 days.

*Building Trades.*—All branches report an improvement. Branches of carpenters and joiners with 1,292 members have 17 (or 1·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 34 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Ship Repairing and Engineering.*—Employment generally is moderate. Branches of the engineers with 2,704 members have 81 (or 3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 60 (or 2·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The boiler-makers return about 15 per cent. unemployed. Moulders report employment as good. Engineering works and foundries in colliery and inland districts are busy. Labourers have had fair employment.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The shipping of sailors and firemen has continued fairly active. Coal shipments have been steady at all ports. Employment in the pitwood, iron and copper ore and general cargo trades has been good; in the timber and corn trades it has been better.

*Iron and Steel Industry.*—At Ebbw Vale, Dowlais, Cyfarthfa, Briton Ferry, Neath, Blaenavon and Rogerstone employment continues good, most mills and furnaces going regularly.

*Miscellaneous.*—Fuel workers report employment as moderate, wagon builders and lifters as good. In the copper smelting and chemical industries employment is still dull. Letterpress printers report employment as bad.—T. Davies.

*The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.*—A further falling off has taken place in the number of mills at work. At 88 works, respecting which returns have been made, out of 488 mills, 302 were at work at the end of May, as compared with 307 at the end of April and with 289 out of 494 mills at the end of May 1896. Forty-four works with 245 mills were giving full employment, and at 27 works all the mills, numbering 140, were idle. The remaining 17 works were giving partial employment, 57 mills being at work and 46 idle. On May 31st the week's stoppage referred to in the last number of the GAZETTE commenced in two districts. In some other districts it has been arranged that a stoppage shall take place during the Jubilee week.

**SCOTLAND.****Edinburgh and District.**

*General.*—Branches with 16,414 members return 183 (or 1·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 168 (or 1·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in the coal industry in the Lothians continues fairly good. In Mid and East Lothian 90 per cent. are fully employed, and the remainder nearly so. In West Lothian full time is generally obtained.

*Mineral Oil Trades.*—Employment in these trades continues fairly

regular. Returns have been received covering 25 pits, employing 3,134 workpeople, compared with 3,404 in May 1896. Full time was worked at 22 pits, employing 2,861 workpeople, while at the remaining 3 pits the number of days worked during the four weeks ended 22nd May were 22, 21 and 20 respectively.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Branches with 2,411 members have 26 (or 1·1 per cent.) idle, as against 36 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

Branches of the iron trades in Falkirk with 2,205 members again report none idle.

*Shipbuilding.*—Employment in the shipbuilding yards in Leith has declined considerably. Three branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 560 members have 80 (or 14·3 per cent.) idle, as against 15 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in the linen industry in Dunfermline continues to improve, all departments being fully employed. In the woollen industry in Hawick employment is fairly good with both spinners and weavers; in Selkirk, weavers are busy and spinners are quiet; in Galashiels both spinners and weavers are quiet. Employment in the hosiery trade is fair in Selkirk and in Hawick, except in the hand-made department. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as busy on the broad looms and slack on the narrow looms.

*Building Trades.*—Branches with 5,742 members have 4 (or 0·1 per cent.) idle, as against 18 (or 0·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—Branches with 1,049 members have 17 (or 1·6 per cent.) idle, as against 29 (or 2·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The sailors and firemen report employment as fair, with few idle. Dock labourers and coal porters are fairly well employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Branches with 2,251 members have 38 (or 1·7 per cent.) idle, as against 57 (or 2·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Miscellaneous.*—The tailors, shoemakers, settmakers and saddlers report employment as good; the glassmakers, carriers and bakers as fair.—J. Mallinson.

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**

*Shipbuilding.*—Employment on the Clyde still continues good. Branches with 11,018 members have 235 (or 2·1 per cent.) idle, as against 311 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment is still good throughout the district. Branches with 25,378 members have 511 (or 2·0 per cent.) idle, as against 537 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Mining.*—In Lanarkshire the majority of the pits are working from five to six days a week. In Stirlingshire the miners are finding constant employment. In Ayrshire employment continues fair; in a few places short time is being worked. The ironstone miners report no change. At Dalry miners are working four days a week. In Renfrewshire coal miners generally and ironstone miners except at Nithill are fully employed. In Dumbartonshire the men are still well employed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is reported as good, except with plumbers. Branches with 12,719 members return 83 (or 0·7 per cent.) as idle, as against 71 (or 0·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment is good in most branches of these trades. Branches with 3,796 members return 64 (or 1·7 per cent.) as idle, as against 49 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Textile Trades.*—In Glasgow cotton weavers are not busy. With weavers of woollen and mixed goods employment has improved, but with silk weavers it is unchanged. Rope and twine spinners are hardly so busy. Dyers and carpet weavers report employment as good; calendar men and power loom beamers as unsatisfactory; calico engravers as unsteady. In Ayrshire, at Newmilns, Darvel and Galston, employment is still good. In Kilbirnie employment in the thread and rope works continues brisk; the networkers are still working short time. In Paisley the thread mills are still on short time; carpet weavers are reported to be busy. In Port Glasgow textile workers are on full time. In Greenock employment is still dull.

*Clothing Trades.*—The boot and shoe operatives report employment as not very good. Tailors and clothiers' operatives are well employed.

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

*Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.*—The sailors and firemen report employment as still dull; the dock labourers as improved during the month. Carters have not been quite so busy; railway and tramway servants are well employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers at Glasgow and Paisley report no improvement. The lithographic printers report employment as fairly good during the month; the electrotypers and stereotypers as slightly improved.

*Miscellaneous.*—Flint glassmakers and cutters report employment as slightly improved; potters and medical bottle-makers as good; basket-makers, saddlers, and gilders as very good; tobacco pipe-makers and finishers as fairly good; spindle and flyer makers, sett-makers and scale beam makers as very good.—A. J. Hunter.

**Dundee and District.**

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in all branches continues steady. The percentage of unemployed is small, but owing to a breakdown a number of the workers are temporarily idle.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from collieries employing nearly 11,000 workpeople show that an average of a little over 5 days per week has been worked during the four weeks ending 22nd May.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Engineers continue well employed, and work at the shipbuilding yards has been plentiful. Eight branches of the engineering and shipbuilding trades, with 2,232 members, report 43 (or 1·9 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 45 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Building and Woodworking Trades.*—Plumbers are slack, but other branches of the building trades are well employed. Cabinet-makers, polishers and upholsterers are fully employed. Societies with 1,456 members return 11 (or 0·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 6 (or 0·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Dock Labour.*—Employment at the harbour and docks during the month has been fairly good.

*Fishing Industry.*—The white fishing has been prosecuted with moderate success. The line fishing is now giving place to the herring fishing. Salmon fishing has improved.

*Miscellaneous.*—Letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographers and bookbinders as moderate; tailors as busy; boot and shoe operatives as fairly steady. Floorcloth and linoleum workers are fully employed.—P. Reid.

**Aberdeen and District.**

*General.*—Branches with 5,340 members return 63 (or 1·2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 107 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Quarrying.*—The blockers, drillers, settmakers, cranemen and labourers report employment as good; monumental masons and granite polishers as still improving.

*Building Trades.*—Branches with 2,007 members have only two idle. All report employment as good.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—Employment is reported as good by boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, except on bridge work, and by shipwrights, blacksmiths, engineers, ironmoulders, brass moulders and finishers, toolsmiths, tinplate-workers and horse-shoers. Branches with 1,196 members return 13 (or 1·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 22 (or 1·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

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

*Clothing and Textile Trades.*—The boot and shoe makers (hand sewn) report employment as good; boot and shoe riveters and finishers as bad; tailors as good. Jute, woollen and cotton operatives report employment as good; flax operatives as fair; carpet weavers as bad.

*Transport Trades.*—Railway servants and sailors and firemen report employment as good.

*Fishing.*—In May, at the port of Aberdeen, the trawl and line boats landed 56,753 cwt. of fish, valued at £30,436, a decrease in weight and value as compared with the previous month.

W. Johnston.

**IRELAND.****Dublin and District.**

*Building Trades.*—Employment continues brisk. Branches with 2,958 members return 79 (or 2·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 100 (or 3·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Employment is quiet with the brushmakers, coachmakers, cabinet-makers and saddlers; fair with upholsterers and coopers. Branches with 759 members return 49 (or 6·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 64 (or 8·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Metal Trades.*—Employment has been exceptionally good in most branches, the boiler-makers working overtime. Branches with 828 members return 9 (or 1·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Employment in all branches has been fair. Of the 1,237 members in this group, 68 (or 5·5 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 72 (or 5·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Clothing Trades.*—The tailors have been fairly busy, but still a number have been only casually employed; the same remark applies to the boot and shoe trade.

*Dock and Transport Labour.*—Employment has been dull with dock labourers; fairly busy with the tramway men and railway servants.—J. P. Nannetti.

**Belfast and District.**

*General.*—Societies with 21,572 members return 278 (or 1·3 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 430 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—Branches with 10,131 members have 103 (or 1·0 per cent.) out of employment, as against 188 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The drillers and hole cutters report employment as slack; iron shipbuilders as improving; other branches as good.

*Linen Trades.*—Societies with a membership of 3,996 return 82 (or 2·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 121 (or 3·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The power loom tenters and yarn dressers report employment as dull; the flax dressers, flax roughers, and yarn bundlers as fair; beetling enginemen, linen lappers, spindle and flyer makers, and the hackle and gill makers as good.

*Building Trades.*—Branches with 3,375 members report employment as good, none being unemployed.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Societies with 652 members return 7 (or 1·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 22 (or 3·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. All sections report employment as good.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Societies with 890 members return 28 (or 3·1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 30 (or 3·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The letterpress printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as fair; the lithographic printers and artists' designers and engravers as good.

*Clothing Trades.*—The boot and shoe operatives and the operative tailors with 720 members report 10 (or 1·4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 2·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate; the tailors as good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Societies with 1,808 members report 48 (or 2·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 47 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The bakers, butchers and carters report employment as fair; the loco motive engine drivers, railway servants, tinplate workers, paviors and sailmakers as good.

R. Sheldon.

**Cork and District.**

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as fair in Cork, and slightly declining in Passage West. All branches of the engineering trade, shipwrights and shipjoiners report employment as dull throughout the district.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is fair in all branches of these trades in Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

*Clothing and Textile Trades.*—Tailors report employment as good throughout the district; boot and shoe operatives as dull; feather, flax and tweed operatives in Millfield, Blarney, Douglas and Cork as fair.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment is reported fair with all branches except coopers, who continue dull.

*Fishing.*—The salmon and mackerel fishing have been good throughout the district.

*Miscellaneous.*—The letterpress printers report employment as fair; cork cutters as dull; brewery workmen and railway employees as steady; the bacon curers as fair.—P. O'Shea.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY.

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

Summary.—Most of the changes in rates of wages reported in May were increases, only 30 persons being affected by decreases. The total number of workpeople affected was about 33,500, and the effect of all the changes on the week's wages of these workpeople was an average increase of 1s. 9½d. per head.

Increases.—About 19,750 workpeople engaged in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades received advances, the most important advance in this group being that given to the engineers and iron grinders at Oldham. About 8,700 workpeople in the building trades, and 3,050 workpeople in the woodworking and furnishing trades also received advances.

Decrease.—Thirty miners at Denny sustained a reduction of 2d. per ton.

Method of Settlement.—Of the 33,500 workpeople whose wages were changed, about 600 had their wages altered by arbitration, and about 19,000 after negotiation, mutual arrangement, or by the voluntary concession of employers. The changes in the case of the remaining 13,900 workpeople were preceded by strikes, although in some cases only a portion of the workpeople whose wages were altered actually struck work.

Totals for first Five Months of 1897.—For the five months, January-May, about 331,800 workpeople were reported as affected by advances of wages, and 5,300 as having sustained decreases. The net effect of all these changes on the weekly wages of these 337,100 workpeople is estimated at an increase of 1s. 1d. 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 changes in the pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, 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. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

† See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full Week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, 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. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

† See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with multiple columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for OTHER METAL TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES, and MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

\* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

Table for SEAMEN. Columns: Port, Voyage, Occupation, No. shipped at new Rate during May, Particulars of Change, April, May, Increase, Decrease. Includes sub-section for Steamships-Liverpool.

Rise in Agricultural Wages.—In some of the Poor Law Unions of Beds, Cambs, Essex, Kent, Leicester, Norfolk and Sussex, wages of agricultural labourers were increased from the beginning of May, and are higher by 1s. per week than in May last year.

Wages under Sliding Scales.—As the result of the bi-monthly ascertainment of the average selling prices of coal under the South Wales, and of finished iron under the North of England and the Midlands sliding scales, the wages of the workpeople regulated by these scales remain unchanged for the months of June and July.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY.

The changes in hours of labour reported during May affected about 7,700 workpeople; 2,500 french polishers in London obtained a reduction of 3 hours per week in their hours of labour, and 3,000 carpenters and joiners at Liverpool had their hours shortened by half an hour per week.

The reduction of hours to 48 per week in many of the engineering shops in London is not included in the above total, since the movement at the end of May was as yet too incomplete to admit of statistical treatment (see p. 163).

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of change per week.

DECREASES.

Table listing decreases in hours of labour across various trades: Building Trades, Iron and Brass Founders, Stovegrate Workers and Ironfounders, Printing, &c., Trades, Lithographic Artists and Engravers, Bookbinders, Lithographic Artists and Engravers, Letterpress Printers, Lithographic Artists and Engravers, Letterpress Printers, Miscellaneous Trades.

Friendly Societies.—Alternative to Statutory Declaration in Registering Rules, &c.—A draft Treasury Regulation was laid on the table of the House of Commons on April 27th, and (no objection having been raised to it) has now been approved by the Treasury, under which the Chief or other Registrar of Friendly Societies is empowered to require and to receive, as an alternative to a statutory declaration, information in the form provided for in the schedule to the regulation.

\* Summer Hours. † Winter Hours. ‡ Hours previous to change 55½ for 39 weeks, 51 for 13 weeks. § Hours after change 55½ for 38 weeks, 51 for 7 weeks, and 48 for 7 weeks. || See also under Changes in Wages. ¶ May be obtained from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, price 1d.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

England and Wales.—During May four new distributive and two new productive societies were registered in England and Wales.

The report of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society for the quarter ended March 27th, 1897, shows that the federation included 1,044 societies with a total membership of 1,023,374, and that its sales during the quarter in the distributive departments amounted to £2,774,912, as compared with £2,621,841 in the corresponding period of 1896, an increase of 5½ per cent.

In the manufacturing departments the sales, i.e., transfers to distributive departments amounted to £334,713, as compared with £288,629 in the corresponding period of 1896, an increase of 16 per cent.

The society is establishing a depot at Sydney, New South Wales, for the purchase, direct from the producers, of the Australasian produce required by the society.

Reports received from 727 English and Welsh retail distributive societies, with 966,207 members, show that the average dividend on purchases paid to members in the first quarter of 1897 amounted to 2s. 7½d. in the £1.

The fourteenth annual report of the Women's Co-operative Guild shows that at the end of February 1897 the organisation comprised 223 branches with 10,555 members, as compared with 200 branches and 9,093 members in February 1896.

Scotland.—During May no new societies have been registered in Scotland.

The report of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society for the first quarter of 1897 shows that the sales in the distributive departments amounted to £992,325, as compared with £868,200 in the corresponding period of 1896, an increase of 14½ per cent.

In the manufacturing departments the sales, i.e., transfers to distributive departments, amounted to £212,971, as compared with £136,624 in the corresponding period of 1896, an increase of 55½ per cent.

Returns received from 187 retail distributive societies (including 3 Irish) with 195,919 members show that the average dividend on purchases paid to members for the first quarter of 1897 was 2s. 11½d. in the £1.

The fifth annual report of the Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild shows that at the end of February it comprised 34 branches, 29 of which returned a total membership of 2,128.

Ireland.—During May two new agricultural and dairying societies and one co-operative bank were registered in Ireland.

The fourth annual meeting of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society was held in Dublin on May 21st, when, in addition to 26 individual members of the society, 45 delegates, representing 28 co-operative agricultural and dairying societies, were present.

A report presented to the Congress states that the number of co-operative societies in Ireland connected with agriculture had increased from 95 societies with 10,120 members in March 1896 to 138 societies with 14,290 members in March 1897. Of these 83 were dairying societies, with 8,750 members; 46 societies, with 3,865 members, were for the sale and purchase of agricultural produce and requirements; 4 miscellaneous societies, with 1,537 members, were engaged in pig-feeding, bacon curing, and the promotion of home industries; the remaining 138 members forming three agricultural credit banks.

There were two federations of societies for the wholesale purchase and sale of the produce and requirements of the societies, but of these the membership is not stated.

The societies are distributed over 29 counties in the four provinces as follows: Leinster, 35 societies with 3,232 members; Munster, 65 societies with 4,772 members; Ulster, 21 societies with 1,753 members; and Connaught, 17 societies with 4,533 members.

Returns received for the year ended December 31st, 1896, from the societies at work and making returns, show the total trade for the year to be £435,905, made up as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Society Name, Amount. Includes Dairy and Agricultural Societies (£283,438\*), Agricultural Societies (39,741), Co-operative Banks (388†), Miscellaneous Societies (1,612), Wholesale Federation (110,726).

£435,905

\* Of this £16,489 was for agricultural produce other than butter. † Advances on loan to members.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

(For Summary of these detailed Tables, see p. 167.)

I. Railway Servants.

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned, during the month of May 1897.

[The number of Servants employed by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom was 465,112 on 31st December, 1895.]

Table with 8 columns: Class of Service, Killed, Causing Amputations, Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries, Contusions and Bruises, Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total Injured.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 5 servants killed and 872 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during May, as compared with 4 killed and 722 injured in May 1896.

II. Miners and Quarrymen.\*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of May 1897.

[The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 725,803, and in and about quarries (more than 20 feet deep) as 112,829, in 1896.]

Table with 4 columns: Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured), Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured).

\* Supplied by the Home Office.

III. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).

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

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of May 1897 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

Table with 7 columns: Cause and Class of Accident, On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels, Total for 3 months Mar. to May 1897, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1896.

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatic serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.\*

(A) Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of May 1897, distinguishing Factories and Workshops.†

[The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 (2) of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

Table with 6 columns: Class of Accident, Number of Males (Adults, Young Persons, Boys, Total), Number of Females (Adults, Young Persons, Girls, Total), Total Males and Females.

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 2,139 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, viz., 2,133 in Factories and 6 in Workshops.

(B) Table showing the number of persons killed or injured by accidents reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories by occupiers of factories and workshops during May 1897, grouped according to industries.

Table with 3 columns: Groups of Industries, No. of Persons Killed, No. of Persons Injured.

V. Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

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

Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of May 1897.

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Works, &c., Construction or Repair, Use or Working, Injured, Killed.

\* 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.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

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 in May was 320,312—a number which corresponds to a rate of 204 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1897.

Compared with April last there has been a decrease of 4,712 in the number relieved, and of 3 in the rate per 10,000. Four districts only showed an increase, viz., Barnsley (4 per 10,000), Galway (3), Bolton, Oldham, &c. district, and Bradford district (1 each). The districts showing the largest decreases are Central London (12), Bristol district and Coatbridge and Airdrie district (7 each), and Manchester (6). All the London districts show decreased rates, the fall in the rate for the whole Metropolis amounting to 4 per 10,000.

Compared with May 1896 the total number relieved has decreased by 2,416, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 4. The decrease was entirely in outdoor pauperism, indoor pauperism showing an increase. In 11 districts the rate has increased, the largest increases being in the Paisley and Greenock district (23 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (12), Bolton, Oldham, &c., district and Dublin districts (7 each). Of the 24 districts showing decreases, those in which the falling off was most marked were Hull (18 per 10,000), West Ham, and Stockton and Tees district (17 each), Leicester (16), Wolverhampton (15), Nottingham (14), Bristol (12), and Leeds (10).

Table with 5 columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of May 1897, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population.

Table with 5 columns: ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolitan, Total Metropolitan, West Ham.

Table with 5 columns: Other Districts, Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea.

Table with 5 columns: SCOTLAND, Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock Dist., Edinburgh & Leith Dist., Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie.

Table with 5 columns: IRELAND, Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District.

Table with 5 columns: Total for the above Irish Districts, Total for above 35 districts in May, Total for previous month.

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

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May 2,001 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns. Private employers engaged 905 persons, and local authorities 90. Of the 2,449 workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month, 1,246 were men, 138 lads and boys, and 1,065 women and girls.

Comparing the figures of the 12 bureaux which also furnished returns for May 1896, the number of fresh applicants for work decreased by 24 per cent.

(I.) Work Done in May.

Table with 8 columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities.

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

Table with 9 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Warehouse-men, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men.

Table with 10 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Workers, &c., Servants, Dress-makers and Seamstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, May 1897, May 1896.

\* New register opened 1st January 1897. † Not furnished. ‡ Women and Girls are not registered.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.

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

Number and Magnitude.—One hundred and six fresh disputes occurred in May 1897, compared with 97\* in April and 135 in May 1896. In these disputes 16,674 workpeople were involved, compared with 8,617\* in April and about 41,000 in May 1896.

Trades affected.—In the building trades 40 disputes occurred, involving 3,940 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 8 disputes, involving 2,778 workpeople; engineering and shipbuilding, 20 disputes, involving 1,480 workpeople; other metal trades, 5 disputes, involving 3,751 workpeople; textile trades, 11 disputes, involving 1,239 workpeople; clothing trades, 8 disputes, involving 2,981 workpeople; furnishing and woodworking trades, 7 disputes, involving 158 workpeople; and, in the miscellaneous group of industries, 7 disputes, involving 347 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 106 disputes, 64 arose chiefly on wages questions (in a number of cases the question of hours being a supplementary cause), 1 was for reduced hours of labour, 27 were on questions of working arrangements and working rules, 7 on questions of employment of non-unionists, defence of union customs, &c., 4 were demarcation disputes, and 3 arose from other causes.

Results.—Sixty-seven new disputes, involving 12,564 workpeople, and 27 old disputes, involving 14,266 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the new and old disputes of which the terms of settlement are known, 42 involving 14,876 persons, were successful from the point of view of the workpeople; 25, involving 8,193 persons, partially successful; and 27, involving 3550 persons, unsuccessful.

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in May owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 450,000, as compared with 360,000 in April, and 470,000 in March.

Total Disputes for first five Months of 1897.—For the five completed months of 1897 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 451 disputes which commenced in those months was nearly 99,000, as compared with about 92,000 in the corresponding months of 1896. The number of working days lost owing to disputes in the first five months of 1897 was about 1,760,000

Table with 6 columns: Employment, Locality, Date when Dispute began, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected, Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1897.

Main table for page 188, detailing 40 disputes in building trades. Columns include Employment, Locality, Date, Cause, No. of Workpeople affected, Duration, and Result.

\* Corrected figures, disputes being included which occurred in April, but of which information was received too late for insertion in the May GAZETTE.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY—(continued.)

Table with 6 columns: Employment, Locality, Date when Dispute began, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected, Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Result.

1.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1897—(continued.)

Table for Building Trades (continued), showing 3 disputes involving 337 workpeople.

8 Disputes. MINING AND QUARRYING. 2,778 Workpeople affected.

Table for Mining and Quarrying, showing 8 disputes involving 2,778 workpeople.

20 Disputes. ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 1,480 Workpeople affected.

Table for Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, showing 20 disputes involving 1,480 workpeople.

5 Disputes. OTHER METAL TRADES. 3,751 Workpeople affected.

Table for Other Metal Trades, showing 5 disputes involving 3,751 workpeople.

11 Disputes. TEXTILE TRADES. 1,239 Workpeople affected.

Table for Textile Trades, showing 11 disputes involving 1,239 workpeople.

8 Disputes. CLOTHING TRADES. 2,981 Workpeople affected.

Table for Clothing Trades, showing 8 disputes involving 2,981 workpeople.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY—(continued).

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly Affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
<b>DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1897—(continued).</b>						
<b>FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES. 158 Workpeople Affected.</b>						
Cabinet Makers	St. Helen's	May 1	For a reduced charge by firm for cutting out wood	17	..	Still unsettled.
French Polishers	Bristol	1	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour generally conceded	20	..	Advance conceded.
Cabinet Makers, Polishers and Upholsterers	Dundee	21	To raise the minimum rate of wages to 7d. per hour	38	3	Minimum rate of 7d. per hour granted, except to young journeyman, who are to receive 6d. for first six months. Concessions made on both sides, and work resumed.
Cabinet Makers	Govan	19	Against extension of system of division of labour	43	12	Advance conceded.
Upholsterers	London, E.C.	21	For advance in wages of 3/3 per cent. on time value of jobs	15	1	Advance conceded.
Upholsterers	London, E.C.	31	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour	13	1	Advance conceded.
Lathsplitters	Musselburgh	24	Alleged excessive number of apprentices	12	..	Still unsettled.
<b>MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 347 Workpeople Affected.</b>						
Salt Workers	Greatham, Co. Durham	8	Men desired labourers to be employed in removing and tipping ashes from fires	40	20	Demands conceded.
Pottery and Sanitary Pipe makers	Darfield	7	For advance in wages of 10 per cent., and reinstatement of two discharged men.	100	13	The lower paid men to be advanced to a minimum rate of 2s. 6d. per week, but discharged men not reinstated. Agreement to continue till November at a guaranteed weekly rate of wages. Still unsettled.
India Rubber Workers	Pendleton, Manchester	19	Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent.	59	5	Agreement to continue till November at a guaranteed weekly rate of wages. Still unsettled.
Railway Sheet Dressers	St. Helens	3	Against further requirement to accept new system of working (see Part III.)	30	..	Still unsettled.
Tramway Drivers (mechanical) and conductors	Wigan	7	For reduction in hours of labour	43	..	Still unsettled.
Skimmers	Kilmarnock	10	Against reduction in wages	15	..	Still unsettled.
Carters and Street Sweepers	Limerick	5	Against employment of elderly men at a reduced rate of wages	60	11	Work resumed unconditionally.
<b>II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE MAY, AND WERE SETTLED DURING THAT MONTH.</b>						
Silversmiths	Sheffield	15 Apl.	For an improved price list and better system of apprenticing boys	24	23	Revised price list conceded, with limitation of number of apprentices and improved conditions of working. Places filled by non-union men.
Wire Drawers	Sheffield	1 April	Alleged refusal of employer to pay the trade union rate of wages	3	..	Fitters, turners, &c., earning 4/8s. or less per week to be advanced 5 per cent. on piecework earnings; grinders to be paid 1s. per week over and above present piecework earnings. Advance conceded.
Engineers, Iron Grinders, &c.	Oldham	13 Mar.	For advance of 2s. per week to piecework men	11,992	50	Shop closed to union men. Employers agreed to the date desired by men. Advance of 3d. per hour granted for a working week of 54 hours. Work resumed without alteration in rate.
Anchor Smiths	Cradley Heath District	17 Apl.	For advance in wages of 15 per cent.	116	33	Shop closed to union men. Employers agreed to the date desired by men. Advance of 3d. per hour granted for a working week of 54 hours. Work resumed without alteration in rate.
Ironfounders	Plymouth	22 Feb.	For advance in wages	6	76	Shop closed to union men. Employers agreed to the date desired by men. Advance of 3d. per hour granted for a working week of 54 hours. Work resumed without alteration in rate.
Joiners	Ayr	26 Apl.	Dispute as to date on which agreed code of byelaws should come into operation	300	12	Employers agreed to the date desired by men. Advance of 3d. per hour granted for a working week of 54 hours. Work resumed without alteration in rate.
Tinplate Workers	Ayr	5 Feb.	Alleged payment at less than usual rates of the trade	15	..	Employers agreed to the date desired by men. Advance of 3d. per hour granted for a working week of 54 hours. Work resumed without alteration in rate.
Builders' Labourers	Kilmarnock	29 Mar.	For advance in wages of 3/4d. per hour	88	34	Work resumed without alteration in rate.
<b>III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE MAY, BUT OF WHICH INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN OBTAINED.</b>						
<b>Building Trades.</b>						
Bricklayers' Labourers	Batley	9 April	Alleged infringement of local rules as to proportion of labourers to bricklayers	32	4	After a conference the employer agreed to adhere to local rules.
Joiners	Blackpool	22 Mar.	Against employment of an unskilled man	21	52	Man in question resigned his position, and work was resumed.
Masons	Blackpool	9 April	For advance in wages, and revised code of working rules	160	..	Dispute settled, but full details not yet to hand.
Slaters and Tilers	Bolton	20 April	Refusal of a fellow-workman to pay a fine inflicted by union	28	12	Man paid a reduced fine, and work resumed.
Bricklayers	Felixstowe	1 April	Alleged infringement of working rules as to apprentices	6	1	Employer agreed to observe apprentice rule.
Ditto	London, E.C.	7 Jan.	Refusal to work with a non-union man	41	..	Places filled gradually by other men.
Carpenters and Joiners	Bexley Heath	Mar.	Alleged discharge of union delegates by foreman	250	18	Foreman dismissed.
Bricklayers and Labourer	St. Mary Cray	12 Mar.	For London rate of wages	31	6	Places filled by other men.
<b>Metal Trades.</b>						
Engineers	Leeds	22 April	Alleged refusal of employers to grant the 53 hours week generally conceded	9	6	Men obtained work elsewhere, and the employers filled up as many of the vacancies as they desired.
Engineers	Southampton	5 April	Complaint of distance to be travelled to obtain food during the meal hours allowed when working on passenger steamer	76	4	Ship owners agreed to provide facilities for meals on board.
Shipwrights	Southampton	29 Apr.	Against employment of joiners upon bulwark work	137	21	Referred to Joint Committee, bulwark work to be meanwhile in abeyance. Still unsettled.
Tinplate Workers	Gowerton, Glam.	27 Mar.	For restoration of the 1874 list of prices	138	..	Work resumed without reduction.
<b>Other Trades.</b>						
Coal Miners	Sunderland	15 Feb.	Against proposed reduction in hewing prices in a certain seam	250	65	Work resumed without reduction.
Cardroom Operatives	Patricroft	16 Mar.	Objection to discharge of a fellow worker	64	1	Man reinstated after union officials had interviewed employers.
Railway Sheet Dressers	St. Helens	23 April	Against proposed new system of working	24	3	Work resumed on old conditions.
Boot & Shoe Operatives	Birmingham	19 April	Objection to action of an official in discharging fellow-workpeople	20	8	Men reinstated, and official in question dismissed.
Printing Machine Girls	Beebles	25 Mar.	For advance in wages	29	4	Advance in wages granted of 1s. per week.
Brickmakers	Near Norwich	29 Mar.	For advance in wages of 1s. per 1,000 bricks	70	3	Advance granted of 6d. per 1,000 bricks
Brickmakers	London District	12 April	For advance in moulding rates of 6d. per 1,000	350	13	Advance conceded.
French Polishers (planoforte trade, and a shop in cabinet trade)	London	12 April	For improved code of working rules, involving advance in wages of 3/4d. per hour, and reduction in hours	270	..	Still unsettled.
Skimmers	Barrhead	24 April	Against proposed reduction in wages and increase of output	51	..	Still unsettled.
Coopers	Peterhead	1 Feb.	Dispute as to earnings on introduction of machinery for cleaning barrels	73	18	Work resumed at the rate per barrel desired by the men.

IV.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE MAY, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 32 disputes, the commencement of which has previously been reported, and which now involve about 4,404 workpeople, were still unsettled at the end of May: Disputes commencing in February 1896: fustian weavers, Norden; June 1896: joiners, Chorley; July 1896: cabinet makers, Shipley; August 1896: cotton weavers, Padiham; September 1896: quarrymen, Bethesda; October 1896: cotton operatives, Oldham; November 1896: flax-dressers, Belfast; engineers, Shipley; December 1896: plasterers and plasterer's labourers, Douglas; plasterers, Ipswich; January 1897: plush weavers, Reddish, Stockport; boot and shoe operatives, Cork (since settled—June); lace curtain operatives, Nottingham; boot and shoe operatives, Norwich; sawmillers, boxmakers, &c., Glasgow; March: coal miners, Pontefract; leather shavers, Leeds; carriers, Walsall; tinplate-workers, Pentyrch; boot and shoe operatives, Leicester; April: carpenters and joiners, Dudley, Erith and Tavistock; plumbers, Coventry; plasterers, Liverpool; woollen weavers, Skelmanthorpe and Kirkburton; packing box makers, Glasgow; coal miners, Ruabon; stove grate workers, Falkirk; hosiery operatives, Ilkeston; coal miners, Barnsley.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead and Phosphorus poisoning, or Anthrax, reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during May, classified by industries [M.=Males, F.=Females]:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b> China, Earthenware, and Glass White Lead and Colour Works Smelting Tinning and Enamelling Coach-making, &c. Other Industries ...	19	11	3	—	—	—	22	11	33
<b>Total Lead Poisoning</b>	55	34	3	1	—	—	88	35	16
Corresponding Total for April 1897	42	30	5	3	—	—	47	33	80
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning—</b> Lucifer Match Works ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corresponding Total for April 1897	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
<b>Anthrax—</b> Tanners, Fellmongers, Curriers* Other Industries ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
<b>Total Anthrax—</b> Ditto, April 1897	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2

\* Including sorting of hides.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MAY.

**Imports.**—The imports during May were of a total declared value of £36,336,348, an increase of 90 per cent. on the value for May 1896. For the first five months of the year the imports are greater by 4.4 per cent. than during the corresponding period of 1896. The following table gives the total declared value of the imports grouped in large classes for May 1897 and 1896:—

Class of Goods.	May, 1897.	May, 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 15,696,616	£ 13,633,613	£ 2,063,003	£ —
Metals	1,683,518	1,767,629	—	84,111
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances	1,056,560	1,042,657	13,903	—
Raw Materials for Manufacture	9,393,264	9,098,342	294,922	—
Manufactured Articles	7,452,715	6,608,402	844,313	—
Miscellaneous	1,143,675	1,199,345	—	55,670
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36,336,348</b>	<b>33,349,988</b>	<b>2,986,360</b>	<b>—</b>

The imports of wheat and of Indian corn were each greater by over a million cwt. than in May 1896, the total increase in value of the imports of all classes of corn amounting to £732,529. Live cattle (for food), fruit, cured and salted fish, and butter were also imported in greatly increased quantities, whilst the imports of sugar show a decline. Raw materials for textile manufactures show a decrease in value amounting, in the case of sheep and lambs' wool, to £466,194, and in the case of raw cotton to £112,004, corresponding to decreases in amount of 5 1/2 million lbs. and 42,167 cwts. respectively. The increase in the value of iron and steel manufactures amounted to £181,093, and in that of woollen manufactures to £130,810.

**British and Irish Exports.**—The exports during May were of a total declared value of £19,322,146, or 2.5 per cent. more than the value for May 1896. For the first five months of the year the value of the exports is slightly (by 0.3 per cent.) lower than for the corresponding period of 1896.

The following table shows the declared value of the exports in May 1897 and 1896 grouped in large classes:—

Class of Goods.	May 1897.	May 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink	£ 871,245	£ 841,769	£ 29,476	£ —
Raw Materials	1,803,937	1,546,614	257,323	—
Yarns and Textile Fabrics	7,739,063	7,628,614	110,449	—
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery)	2,954,991	2,951,548	3,443	—
Machinery and Mill Work	1,403,366	1,467,166	—	63,800
Miscellaneous	4,549,544	4,399,532	150,012	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,322,146</b>	<b>18,535,243</b>	<b>786,903</b>	<b>—</b>

The exports of coal, coke and patent fuel were greater than in May 1896 by 394,344 tons, the increase in value amounting to £186,208. Cotton piece goods decreased in value by £107,045, and in yardage by 1 1/2 million yards. Worsteds tissues and linen piece goods on the other hand increased by about 3 1/2 million yards each, and in value by £175,354 and £58,294 respectively. The increase in the exports of iron, wrought and unwrought, amounted to £73,990.

**Re-Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.**—These amounted in May to £4,954,692 or £206,050 more than in May 1896.

**Tonnage of Vessels entered and Cleared.**—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom in May from foreign countries and British possessions was 3,011,271 tons, or 417,492 tons more than in May 1896. The tonnage cleared was 3,513,819 tons, an increase over the tonnage cleared in May 1896 of 177,423 tons. The tonnage entered coastwise amounted to 2,782,433 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,616,230 tons, being increases over May 1896 of 146,110 tons and 119,861 tons respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The imports of raw cotton during May were 1.3 per cent. less than in May 1896, this decrease being almost entirely due to American cotton, which shows a falling off of 19,803 bales in the quantity imported. As compared with May 1896 the total imports show a decrease of 30.1 per cent. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was less than in the corresponding month of 1896 and 1895.

The following are the figures for the different periods:—

	Imports. Bales.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales.	Exports. Bales.
May 1897	197,652	239,359	37,866
May 1896	200,245	248,131	31,000
May 1895	282,927	284,221	36,542

**Traffic Receipts.**—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended May 29th amounted to £6,083,899, being £15,725 (or 0.3 per cent.) more than for the corresponding period of 1896. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,598,852, a decrease of £350,514, while the receipts from goods and mineral traffic amounted to £3,485,047, an increase of £366,239.

**Fishery Statistics.**—The total value of the fish (including shellfish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during May was £726,538, an increase of £70,475 as compared with May 1896. In England and Wales the increase amounted to £72,392, in Ireland to £937, while in Scotland there was a decrease of £2,854.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during May numbered 296, being 52 less than in May 1896, 78 less than in May 1895, and 148 less than in May 1894.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

**Total Emigration.**—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during May was 20,343, as compared with 27,057 in May 1896.

**British and Irish.**—Of the 20,343 passengers 14,286 were of British or Irish origin, being a decrease of 4,468 as compared with a year ago. This decrease affected all the destinations shown in the table below, which gives the figures for May 1897 and 1896:—

Destination.	May 1897.	May 1896.
United States	10,288	13,766
British North America	1,565	2,017
Australasia	613	649
South Africa	1,247	1,595
Other places	573	727
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,286</b>	<b>18,754</b>

**Foreign.**—The remainder of the 20,343 passengers, viz., 6,057, were foreigners, and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 2,246 less than in May 1896.

**Alien Immigration.**—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during May was 9,031. Of these 4,092 were stated to be en route to America, compared with 5,384 so stated in May 1896. The number of those not stated to be on their way to America was 4,939 (including 984 sailors), the corresponding figure for May 1896 being 4,275 (including 886 sailor



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

Nature of Offence.	Informations laid.	Convictions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. :-</b>				
Neglecting to Limewash ... ..	4	4	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ... ..	5†	6	3 11 0	1 0 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ... ..	43	43	24 4 6	20 9 2
<b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>				
Before or after the legal hour ... ..	106	100	50 18 0	36 2 8
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ... ..	18†	19	8 7 6	8 9 10
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ... ..	60†	68	27 18 3	21 6 6
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays ... ..	3	3	1 5 0	1 11 0
At night ... ..	35†	36	14 1 0	13 1 6
Employing Children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. ...	5	5	7 7 6	3 4 8
In Factory or Workshop and in Shop beyond total legal period ... ..	6	6	2 12 0	1 9 9
<b>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &amp;c. :-</b>				
Not keeping Registers ... ..	23	22	17 19 0	9 6 0
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ... ..	6	5	3 7 9	1 2 0
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	7	7	6 19 6	3 15 3
Other offences respecting Notices, &c. ...	1	1	5 0 0	0 19 0
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars ... ..	2	2	2 0 0	1 10 0
Other offences ... ..	6	6	4 1 0	3 6 6
<b>By Workmen :-</b>				
Employment before or after the legal hour	7	7	3 10 0	3 6 6
Other offences respecting Notices, &c. ...	1	—	—	—
<b>Total for May 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>338†</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>264 19 6</b>	<b>133 5 7</b>
<b>Total for May 1896 ... ..</b>	<b>260†</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>162 9 6</b>	<b>118 5 2</b>

**II.—Under the Mines and Quarries Acts.\***

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. :-</b>					
Ventilation ... ..	1	1	—	—	£ s. d.
Shafts and Manholes ... ..	1	1	—	—	5 9 6
Miscellaneous ... ..	4	2	2	—	2 7 6
<b>By Workmen :-</b>					
Safety Lamps ... ..	2	2	—	—	1 18 2
Shot-firing and Explosives ... ..	5	5	—	—	5 5 0
Lucifer Matches, &c. ... ..	18	18	—	—	15 4 8
Miscellaneous ... ..	13	13	—	—	12 18 6
<b>Total for May 1897...</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>45 9 4</b>
<b>Total for May 1896 ... ..</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>50 19 8</b>
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. :-</b>					
Abstracts, Registers, Notices	3	2	—	1	£ s. d.
Miscellaneous ... ..	4†	4†	—	—	0 13 0
<b>By Workmen :-</b>					
Miscellaneous ... ..	—	—	—	—	2 5 6
<b>Total for May 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2 18 6</b>
<b>Total for May 1896 ... ..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4 7 0</b>

**III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.**

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Penalties.	Costs.
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships :-</b>				
Submerging Disc ... ..	1	1	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Carrying passengers in excess of certificate ... ..	1	1	5 0 0	—
Not providing life-saving appliances	1	1	10 0 0	§
Non-entry in official log ... ..	2	2	2 10 0	—
Failure to serve out lime juice ... ..	1	1	0 10 0	10 10 4
<b>By Seamen :-</b>				
Serving as 2nd hand without certificate ... ..	2	2	1 10 0	4 14 5
<b>Total for May 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21 10 0</b>	<b>16 14 3</b>
<b>Total for May 1896 ... ..</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>33 0 0</b>	<b>10 6 6</b>

**IV.—Under the Friendly Societies and Building Societies Acts.**

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	With-drawn on compliance with Act.	Convictions.	Fines & Costs.
<b>Under the Friendly Societies Act :-</b>				
For Failure to send Annual Returns ...	16	2	14	£ s. d.
Valuations ... ..	1	—	1	23 17 0
give Notice of Removal	2	—	2	2 17 0
<b>Under the Building Societies Acts :-</b>				
For Failure to send Annual Statement	2	2	—	2 0 0
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4 4 0</b>

\* Supplied by the Home Office.  
† In these cases the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.  
‡ Three of these cases were for not sending in the Annual Return under the Quarries Act.  
§ Or two months' imprisonment. The costs are included in the penalty.  
|| The same defendant.

**INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MAY.**

(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 May it will be seen that 1 Trade Union, 1 Employers' Association, 4 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 4 Associations for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 29 new Friendly Societies, and 52 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Fifteen Building Societies, and 3 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, or to have commenced "winding up."

**NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.**

**Trade Unions.—England and Wales.**—National Society of Sporting and Military Gun Workers, Rose and Crown Inn, Whittall St., Birmingham; Hebrew Cabinet Employers' Association, Campdown House, Half Moon Passage, Whitechapel, E. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.**—Withington District Produce Supply Association, Ltd., Stile House, Withington, Hereford; Halifax Brotherhood Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 9 Orange St., Halifax; Thrapston Industrial Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Thrapston; Godalming and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Town End Rd., Godalming. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.**—Long Buckby Co-op. Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., 13 Sanders Ter., Long Buckby, Rugby; Broughton Boot and Shoe Manufacturers, Ltd., Boot Manufactory, Broughton. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Societies at Dromahair (Leitrim), and Kinlough (Leitrim).

**(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.**—Gorton Socialist Land and Builders' Society, Ltd., Labour Hall, Old Lane, Higher Openshaw, Manchester. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Ballindaggin Co-op. Bank, Ltd, Ballindaggin, Wexford.

**Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.**—Ordinary Friendly, 8; Dividing, 13; Working Men's Clubs, 6; Specially Authorised, 1; Medical, 1. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.**—A.O. Foresters, 4; I.O. Rechabites, 20; A.N.O.U. Odd Fellows, 2; Grand U.O. Odd Fellows, 2; I.O. Odd Fellows, M.U., 4; N.U.O. Free Gardeners, 2; O.G.O.T.A. Sons of the Phoenix, 2; G.I.O.L. Caledonian Corks, 2; Various, 6. **Scotland.**—Caledonian Order, U. Oddfellows, 2; B.O.A. Free Gardeners, 2; Various, 2. **Ireland.**—Various, 2.

**OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.**

**Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.**—Resolutions to wind up received:—Rainton Gate Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Rainton Gate, Durham; Ystradyfodwg Co-op. and Ind. Soc., Ltd., Station Rd., Ystrad Rhondda (Glam.). Dissolved by Instrument:—Essex Builders and Decorators' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 10 Gladstone Rd., St. James St., Walthamstow. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Building Societies.**—By instrument of dissolution, 3; notice of commencement of dissolution, 5; notice of termination of dissolution, 7.

**H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

**New Addresses.**—Mr. W. A. Beaumont, 25 Park-square, Leeds; Mr. K. H. Garvie, Clarence-arcade, Ashton-under-Lyne; Mr. O. A. Shinner, 41 Piccadilly, Bradford, Yorks; Mr. J. H. Crabtree, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.; Capt. H. W. Kindersley, 1 Albany-place, Edinburgh; Mr. E. F. May, 35 Paradise-street, Birmingham (to act as a peripatetic Inspector).

**New Appointment.**—Mr. H. C. D. Fearon, Stanhope Lodge, Herne Hill, S.E.