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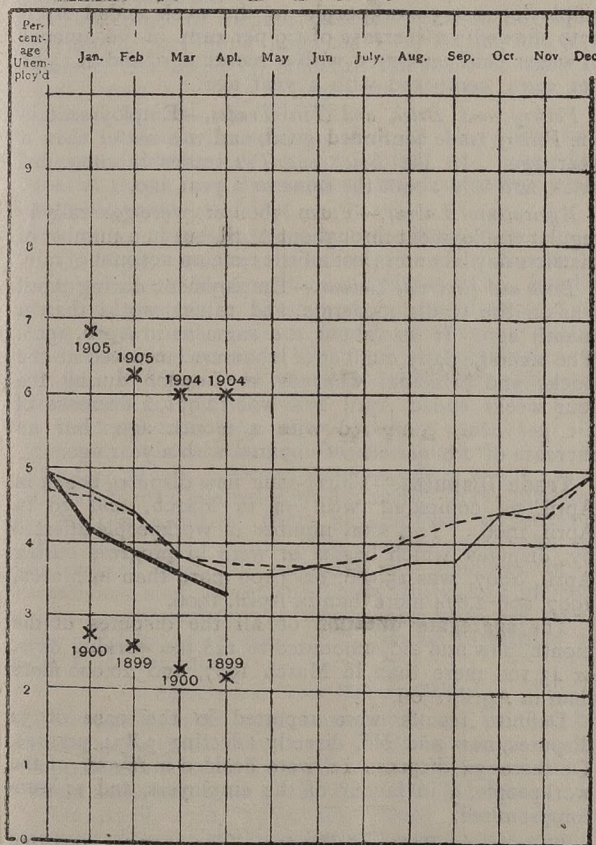
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1907. ——— Thin Curve=1906.
----- Dotted Curve=Mean of 1897-1906.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike, or locked-out, sick or superannuated are excluded from the figures. For April, 1907, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 619,591 members in the following trades:—

Building	65,147	Printing & Bookbinding	54,178
Coal Mining	119,686	Woodworking and Fur-	
Engineering	157,911	nishing	34,981
Shipbuilding	58,609	Miscellaneous	21,506
Other Metal Trades ...	28,868		
Textiles	78,705	Total	619,591

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

[In addition to the 2,704 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,880 were received from employers relating to 1,124,511 workpeople, employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,584 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good in April. There was a general improvement in the metal, engineering, shipbuilding, and textile trades, and a seasonal improvement in the building and clothing trades. In the printing and bookbinding trades there was a slight decline.

As compared with a year ago, most of the principal industries showed an improvement.

The changes in rates of wages reported in April resulted in a net weekly rise of over £12,000.

In the 273 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 619,591, making Returns, 20,310 (or 3.3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of April, 1907, as compared with 3.6 per cent. at the end of March, 1907, and 3.7* per cent. at the end of April, 1906.

Building Trades.—Employment in April, though still dull, showed a seasonal improvement and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 59,148 workpeople at the end of April showed an increase in the number employed of 2.4 per cent. as compared with a month ago.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry in April remained very good. The average number of days worked per week at the pits during the four weeks ended April 20th was 5.17, compared with 5.08 a year ago. These averages are affected by holidays.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good, and showed little change generally compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during April continued very good. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing over 25,000 workpeople, showed 349 furnaces in blast at the end of the month, as compared with 350* in March, and 341 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works continued very brisk, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended April 27th, 1907, at the 201 works from which Returns were received, was 0.7 per cent. greater than a month ago, and 5.5 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment continued good during April, and was much better than a year ago. The number of sheet mills showed a decline as compared with March, due to a stoppage caused by a

* Corrected figure.

dispute. At the works covered by the Returns 437 tinsplate and sheet mills were working at the end of April, as compared with 443 a month ago and 394 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in April continued good and showed little change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago. In several districts it was reported that overtime was being worked. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 2·8, as compared with 2·9 a month ago and 2·7 a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment was fair, and better than in March, but was not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with 58,609 members had 6·6 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 7·1 per cent. in March, and 5·1 per cent. in April, 1906.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 135,161 workpeople in the week ended April 27th, showed an increase of 1·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4·9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,170 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 1·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,074 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 1·8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,116 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 0·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,996 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 1·6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5·2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was good on the whole, and showed an improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,074 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 2·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with March, and an increase of 7·3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, slightly worse than a month ago, but considerably better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 9,128 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed a decrease of 0·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 6·2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment on the whole was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 16,618 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9·2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was better than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it was good, and better than a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment during April in the *Silk Hat* branch was quiet; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was fairly good; in both branches it was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of April in the *Silk Hat* trade was 5·1, compared with 6·0 at the end of

† The comparison with a year ago is affected to some extent by a recent advance in the rates of wages.

March, and 13·6 a year ago. The corresponding percentages in the *Felt Hat* trade were 2·1, 2·0, and 4·7.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was fairly good, except in the heavy boot centres, and showed little change compared with a month ago; it was slightly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,093 workpeople showed an increase of 0·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,926 had 5·8 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6·0 per cent. in March, and 6·4 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment remained fair on the whole, and was better than a year ago. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 3·8, as compared with 3·4 in March, and 5·2 in April, 1906. In the bookbinding trade the percentages were 5·4 for April, 1907, 4·4 for March, 1907, and 5·9 for April, 1906.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment was fairly good, and generally better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,981 reported 2·9 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3·4 per cent. a month ago, and 3·3 per cent. in April, 1906.

Glass Trades.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, and was about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 9,213 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 15·7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the *Pottery* trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it continued slack, and was about the same as a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Farm labourers were generally in regular employment throughout April, but in a number of districts day labourers lost a little time on account of rain.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during April was on the whole moderate, and rather worse than a month ago. It was about the same as in April, 1906. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended April 27th was 12,971, a decrease of 1·1 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1·8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-nine new disputes began in April, as compared with 32 in March, and 30 in April, 1906. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during April, 1907, was 15,586, or 3,409 more than in March, 1907, and 2,874 more than in April, 1906.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 148,500 working days, or 43,100 more than in March 1907, and 20,000 more than in April, 1906.

Definite results were reported in the case of 32 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 3,874 persons. Of these 32 disputes, 12 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 11 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported in April affected 221,800 workpeople, of whom 211,700 received advances, and 10,100 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included 150,500 coal miners in England and Scotland, 7,500 ironstone miners in Cleveland, 11,000 blastfurnacemen in various parts of England, and 23,000 engineers in Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was an advance of over £12,000 per week.

† The comparison with a year ago is affected to some extent by an advance in rates of wages in the glass bottle making trade, which took effect in January-February, 1907.

RECENT CONCILIATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Carpenters and Joiners, Glasgow.

On April 17th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the Conciliation Board for the Carpenter and Joiner Trade in the Glasgow district, for the appointment of a conciliator to decide and determine three points in dispute between the operative joiners of Glasgow and their employers.

On April 20th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Coal Miners, Cwmaman.

The coal miners in the employment of the Cawdor and Garnant Collieries Co., Ltd., having put forward a claim for a new price list, it was agreed on April 6th that the question be referred to the workmen's committee and the Company's officials, and, in the event of their failing to agree, to four arbitrators; and that any items of the list not settled by the arbitrators should be referred to an umpire.

Certain items were settled by the parties; certain other items were settled by the arbitrators, but they were unable to agree on three items, and on April 20th application was made on their behalf to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire.

On April 26th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity, and further appointed Mr. J. T. Robson, late Chief Inspector of Mines, Swansea District, to act as technical assessor.

The points in dispute were the price to be paid for (1) cutting and filling large coal; (2) cutting and filling through coal; and (3) standard thickness of seam 4 ft. scale from 4 ft. to 3 ft. 6 ins. per inch per ton: when under 3 ft. 6 ins., special.

Mr. Askwith issued his award on May 10th, fixing the standard rate per ton for cutting and filling large coal at 1s. 9d., and the standard rate for through coal at 1s. 2½d., seam 3 ft. 6 in.

Printers' Warehousemen, Reading.

On April 20th, 71 printers' warehousemen in the employment of Messrs. Wyman and Sons, Ltd., Reading, handed in notices to cease work unless all employees in that department, male or female, became members of the National Society of Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters, and the rate of wages of assistant warehousemen was raised to 27s. per week.

On April 22nd they ceased work in support of their demand, and the Board of Trade having been notified of the fact, Mr. C. J. Drummond, an officer of the Labour Department, conferred with the parties to the dispute.

As the result of these negotiations a settlement was effected on April 24th, under which the firm agreed to offer no objection to members of the warehouse staff joining the Trade Union, and increased the wages of assistant warehousemen from 24s. to 25s. per week; men engaged from London to receive 27s. per week minimum.

Spindle and Flyer Makers, Belfast.

On October 25th, 1906, 120 spindle and flyer makers in the employment of six firms at Belfast struck work in support of a demand for a minimum day rate of 28s. per week, and a minimum piece rate of 35s. per week.

On April 17th, 1907, the Board of Trade was requested by the workpeople to take such steps as might be necessary to bring about a settlement of the dispute, and appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to investigate the matter. Mr. Askwith interviewed the parties to the dispute, and succeeded in inducing the parties to meet. The workpeople, however, adhered to their original demands as a condition of returning to work, a condition which the employers refused to entertain, and the dispute still continues.

Printers' Assistants, Manchester.

On October 26th, 1905, an agreement was entered into by the Lancashire Newspaper Society and the

National Society of Operative Printers' Assistants, which provided that in the event of any dispute arising which the parties were unable to settle such matters should be referred to arbitration, and should the arbitrators disagree application should be made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of a referee.

A dispute having recently arisen between a member of the Lancashire Newspaper Society and the National Society of Operative Printers' Assistants, three arbitrators were appointed by each side, and on May 2nd application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an independent chairman.

On May 7th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

The question submitted related to the rates to be paid in certain departments of the works involved, and on May 15th Mr. Askwith issued his award, fixing the rates.

The award becomes operative from the first pay day in June, and, by consent of the parties, is to stand for not less than three years, thereafter to be subject to three months' notice on either side.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Stafford.

The boot and shoe operatives at Stafford having put forward a claim for an advance in the minimum rate of wages to 30s. per week, the question was considered by the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Stafford, who referred it to two arbitrators for settlement.

The arbitrators were unable to arrive at a settlement, and on May 4th, under the rules of the Conciliation Board, application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to hear and determine the question in dispute.

The Board of Trade on May 7th appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act in that capacity.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Kettering and Rothwell.

On January 2nd, the clickers and pressmen at Kettering and Rothwell served upon their employers notice of a demand for an increase in their minimum rate of wages to 30s. per week. The question was brought before the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Kettering and Rothwell (No. 2 Section, clickers and pressmen) who were unable to agree either upon the wage to be paid or upon an Umpire who should determine the matter.

On May 9th application was made to the Board of Trade on behalf of the Conciliation Board for the appointment of an umpire to decide the question.

On May 11th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Leicester.

The boot and shoe operatives at Leicester having put forward a claim for an extra to be paid to lasters for pulling over patent caps on a certain machine, and for a price to be fixed for clickers for the alphabetical marking of uppers, the questions were considered by the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Leicester, and by them referred to two arbitrators for settlement.

The arbitrators were unable to agree on the matter, and accordingly, under the rules of the Board, application was made on 10th May to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to determine the questions at issue.

The Board of Trade on May 13th appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act in that capacity.

Newspaper and Periodical Distributors, London.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the conciliator appointed in this case (see GAZETTE for March, p. 72), again met the parties on April 17th and 18th, to discuss the question of continuous shifts for drivers, which had been left over from the previous meeting. The employers reported that, after trial, they found they were unable, except at a much increased cost, to extend the system to all drivers, but could put about 25 per cent. of the drivers on it without loss. The men were unwilling to accept this, and an arbitration became necessary.

On April 29th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the Federation of Wholesale Newsagents and the National Society of Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the correct interpretation of the following clause of the agreement of February 4th, 1907:—

"Drivers are to be paid 28s. per week of 54 hours, day or night (times at option of employer)."

On May 2nd the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. D. Kelley, M.P., to act in that capacity.

Mr. Kelley, at the hearing of the case on May 6th, acted rather as a conciliator than as an arbitrator, with the result that the following agreement was mutually arrived at:—

"Times at employers' option shall be deleted from the Agreement of February 4th, 1907, and the following words shall be substituted: 'The working week of 54 hours shall be spread over a period of 72 hours; but not more than 13½ hours, including the necessary cessation from work owing to the exigencies of the business, shall be worked in one day, and no more than 54 hours shall be worked in one week.'"

Steel Workers, Middlesbrough.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see GAZETTE for March, p. 71) issued his award on April 24th.

The question at issue was as to whether the rate offered (7·66d. per ton) to melters employed on the Talbot continuous process furnaces at Cargo Fleet Works, Middlesbrough, was a fair price, and should be taken as the base rate at this works.

Mr. Askwith decided that this rate was fair and proper, and should be taken as the base rate at Cargo Fleet, carrying the percentage current in the trade.

(b) COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Agreement Regulating Wages of Cardroom Operatives.

A joint committee of representatives of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations and of the Amalgamated Association of Cardroom Operatives, has been engaged for the past eight years in the compilation of "Universal" lists to regulate the rates of wages and conditions of employment of cardroom operatives. In March, 1903, the first list, which relates to single revolving flat cards, was completed and signed by the Committee (see GAZETTE for April, 1903, p. 95), and four years later (April 17th, 1907) the "Universal List for frames" was formally adopted.

In this list the work is divided into three classes: fine, medium, and coarse. The medium section has been taken as the basis for the calculation of wages, and the other sections have been arranged in proportion, the fine section being at 5 per cent. less, and the first and second sub-divisions of coarse counts 5 and 10 per cent. more respectively, the wages being fixed at figures based upon a series of averages ascertained by the secretaries of both parties to the agreement for all mills in the Federation area, Bolton excepted.

The list contains a table of "big tenters" wages for standard lengths on drawing, slubbing, intermediate and roving frames respectively, together with statements of wages for "back tenters" and "can tenters." A table is also given showing percentage additions and deductions for increased and reduced spindleage. Other clauses relate to joiner tenters, double-gear frames and other matters.

The final clause provides that:

With a view to getting this list for frames into operation with as little friction as possible, on and after May 1st, 1907, due notice shall be given by the Employers' Association to the Operatives' Association, and by the Operatives' Association to the Employers' Association, of the names of firms desiring to be put upon the basis of the list, when it shall be an instruction to the officials of the two respective Associations to arrange for its being put into operation without delay, and in accordance with the Brooklands agreement.

The work of the joint committee is not yet completed, as no agreement has been made, so far, respecting wages and conditions of work of blowing room operatives.

Mill Sawyers and Wood-Cutting Machinists in the London District—New Working Rules.

A new code of working rules was signed on March 14th by representatives of the London Master Builders Association and the Affiliated Societies of Mill Sawyers' and Wood-Cutting Machinists in the London district. The principal changes in conditions of employment effected by the new rules are the re-arrangement of the winter working hours and the extension of the winter period. The hours in winter are now 44 per week for thirteen weeks, and correspond with those which have been observed by other branches of the building trade in London since October 1st, 1905.

CHILD LABOUR IN THE UNITED STATES.

The enumerators engaged in the United States Census of 1900 were instructed to report the occupations of all children of 10 and under 16 years of age, who were "earning money regularly by labour, contributing to the family support, or appreciably assisting in mechanical or agricultural industry." The results of this special enumeration have now been published in a Bulletin (No. 69) of the United States Census Bureau.

The total number of children occupied (in the sense defined above) was 1,750,000; but of these no less than 1,062,000, or 60 per cent., were engaged in agriculture. Four-fifths of the children employed in agriculture were boys, and most of them were employed on farms belonging to their own families. A very large proportion of these farm-boys, and a great majority of the girls employed on farms, were negroes.

Deducting the children employed in agriculture—whose work, in the words of the Report, "is usually not injurious to health or morals, and does not necessarily interfere with the opportunities for schooling"—the number of children engaged in other occupations is 688,000; but over half-a-million of these were 14 years of age or over. The remaining 186,000, who were 10 and under 14, appear to be the only children with regard to whom the problem of child labour is likely to present itself in an acute form. The number of occupied boys between these ages was 110,000, of whom 59,000 were described as messenger and office boys, servants and waiters, or "labourers"; 12,500 were employed in textile mills, and no less than 9,000 in mines and quarries. The girls numbered 76,000, of whom 50,000 were servants or waitresses, laundresses, or "labourers"; 14,000 were employed in textile mills, and 4,000 as dressmakers, tailoresses, &c.

The Report contains an exhaustive analysis of the statistics relating to child labour in mines; a typical county in the State of Pennsylvania (where such labour is most prevalent) being selected. In this county it was found that the great majority of the child-miners were of foreign parentage. As 14 years is the age limit usually taken by reformers as that below which child labour in mines should be prohibited by law the families containing child-miners were classified according as these were (a) 10 and under 14 years of age; (b) 14 years of age; and it was found that the number of families containing the younger class of child-miners was twice as many as the number containing the older class. In other words, about two-thirds of the selected families relied to some extent upon the earnings of children below the age of 14, the proposed limit.

The statistics relating to child labour in cotton mills are also minutely analysed in the Report. Four-fifths of the children, 10 and under 16 years of age, in cotton mills were reported from two comparatively small areas. The first, composed of the New England States, contained three-tenths of the total number; the second, composed of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, contained half the total number. Almost two-thirds of the total number were in the Southern States.

The concentration of the child operatives in the Southern States is due not so much to the concentration of the industry in that section of the country as to the

greater tendency in the South to employ children. The number of cotton-mill operatives in the Northern and Western States is half as large again as the number in the Southern States; but in the North only 1 cotton-mill operative out of every 10 was under 16 years of age, while in the South about 3 out of every 10 were under 16. Massachusetts, which reported the largest number of mill operatives, had the smallest percentage of child-labour; North Carolina had the highest percentage.

Of the total number of cotton-mill operatives of 10 years of age and over in the United States 12·3 per cent. were under 15 years of age, compared with 11·3 per cent. in England and Wales.

Of the total number in the Southern States of the United States 22·7 per cent. were under 15, compared with 5·6 per cent. in the Northern and Western States. In these latter States only 1·9 per cent. of the total cotton operatives were under 14 years of age; but in the Southern States 16·7 per cent. were under 14. In England and Wales 6·4 per cent. were under 14.

The number of negro children employed in the cotton mills was exceedingly small; practically all the very young children were native white with both parents native. Of the children of 10 and under 14 years of age 86 per cent. were whites of native birth and native parentage on both sides. Of the children of 14 years of age only 56 per cent., and of those of 15 years only 49 per cent. belonged to this group, the remainder being either native born of foreign extraction, or foreign born, the foreign born being slightly in the majority.

It is stated in the Bulletin that this concentration of those of foreign birth or parentage in the older ages is due probably, not to any desire on the part of their families to keep the children out of the mills, but to the fact that they live in States in which child labour is to some degree regulated by law. Less than 3 per cent. of the total number of children of foreign birth or extraction were in cotton mills in the Southern States.

LABOUR TRIBUNALS IN FRANCE.

New Law.*

A NEW French law consolidating and in certain respects amending the enactments hitherto in force in regard to the tribunals known as *Conseils de Prud'hommes* was promulgated on March 27th, 1907. It may be stated that while institutions resembling the *Conseils de Prud'hommes* are already in existence under various other names in several continental countries—e.g. the *Gewerbegerichte* in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the *Probi-Viri* in Italy, the *Arbeidskamers* in Holland, and the *Conseils de l'Industrie et du Travail* in Belgium—nothing analagous to them is to be found in the United Kingdom.

The function of the *Conseils* is to settle, by methods of conciliation, all disputes arising out of the contract of labour between employers or their representatives on the one hand and employees on the other, and all disputes between workmen arising out of their work; and, failing a settlement by amicable means, to give judgment in the matter like ordinary courts of justice. Thus a dispute arising out of a claim for wages in arrears, which in the United Kingdom would be dealt with in a County Court, would in France come before a *Conseil de Prud'hommes*.

The principal change made by the new law is the extension of the jurisdiction of the *Conseils*, which was previously limited to persons ranking as manual workers, to clerks, shop-assistants and other classes of salaried as distinguished from wage-earning employees. Further, the creation of a *Conseil* is no longer to depend on the initiative of the Government. It is to follow of necessity on the demand of the municipal council of the place in which it is to be established, with the consent of the consultative Chambers of Commerce, and of Arts and Manufactures, the General Council of the department, the councils of the *arrondissement* (urban district), and the majority of the municipal councils in the district forming the projected sphere of jurisdiction of the proposed tribunal. No town can have more than one such tribunal.

* Journal Officiel de la République Française: March 28th, 1907.

By the new law alterations are made in the qualifications to be possessed by (1) those who elect the members of the *Conseils*, (2) those who seek membership. The chief alterations as regards the Electorate are (i) the names of electors must figure in the political electoral lists; and (ii) an elector must have resided for the previous year within the sphere of jurisdiction of the *Conseil*, and must, for the three years immediately preceding, have been engaged in one of the occupations mentioned in the decree establishing the tribunal. Previously these terms were three years and five years respectively. Moreover, French women possessing the qualifications of age, occupation and residence demanded of males are now also electors. Under the former law those eligible for membership were male electors, aged at least 30, who were able to read and write. Under the new law eligibility is acquired through continued residence during the previous three years within the sphere of jurisdiction of the *Conseil*, by (1) male electors, aged at least 30, able to read and write; (2) former male electors who have not abandoned their occupation more than five years, and who had been engaged in it within the sphere of jurisdiction of the *Conseil* for five years. Employers are elected by employers, and employees by employees.

The minimum number of members composing a *Conseil* has now been altered from 8 to 12. Each group of occupations subject to its jurisdiction (these groups being determined by the decree establishing the *Conseil*) must be represented by at least two employers and an equal number of employees. A *Conseil* may, by the new law, divide itself into "sections," every "section" dealing with some special branch or branches of labour. The conciliation bureau of every such "section" is composed of two members of the *Conseil* (one an employer and the other an employee). The adjudication bureau of a "section" is composed of not less than two employers and an equal number of employees. The chairmanship of the *Conseil* is taken by an employer one year and by an employee the next.

CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION IN SWEDEN.

New Law.*

Royal sanction was given on December 31st, 1906, to a law,* which took effect on January 1st, 1907, and which provides for the appointment of conciliators, whose principal duty consists in "promoting the settlement of disputes between employers and workpeople or between members of either class among themselves." Each conciliator has a particular district assigned to him, and he must reside within the same. He is required "to keep under close observation the conditions of labour within his district; to apply himself, in the manner and under the circumstances prescribed by the law, to the settlement of any disputes which may have broken out in such district; and, on request, to advise and otherwise assist employers and workpeople in framing agreements affecting the conditions of labour, if and so far as such agreements are designed to promote good relations between the two classes, and to obviate stoppages of work." For the purposes of this Act Sweden has been divided into seven districts, for each of which a conciliator has been appointed by the Crown. When a labour dispute, accompanied by, or likely to result in, an extensive stoppage of work has broken out, the conciliator for the district must visit or communicate with the parties concerned, must ascertain the cause of the difference, and urge the disputants to refrain from a stoppage or to resume work, as the case may be. He must invite the parties to appear before him to discuss their differences, and must endeavour to bring about a settlement at the meeting. Failing such a settlement he may, on his own initiative, or at the request of either party, appoint experts, who, together with himself, will constitute a Board of Arbitration. Failing a settlement by either of these means the conciliator or the Board of Arbitration will urge the parties to appoint an umpire, or umpires, by whose award they would agree to abide. When a strike

* Lag angående medling i arbetstvister; gifven Stockholms stott den 31 December, 1906. Meddelanden fran K. Kommerskollegii afslutning for Arbetsstatistik. Nr. 1, 1907.

extends beyond the limits of a single district the conciliators in the districts affected must at once notify the Government of the extent of the dispute, when the Crown will decide which conciliator shall intervene.

Compared with the various methods of official conciliation and arbitration at present applied in other countries, that just introduced in Sweden marks a new departure in creating a special staff of permanent salaried officials appointed by the Crown for the purpose of promoting industrial peace.

The French system differs from that of the countries just named, as well as from the new Swedish system, in assigning the duty of conciliator to the local magistrate or Juge de Paix, while in most of the States of the North American Union that function appertains to State Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration.

ALIEN IMMIGRATION IN 1906.

THE First Annual Report* of H.M. Inspector under the Aliens Act, 1905, has just been published, containing particulars of alien immigration into the United Kingdom during 1906.

The total number of alien passengers to the United Kingdom from European countries during the year was 465,500; but of these 137,692 were cabin passengers, 93,707 were exempted second-class passengers, and 169,788 were transmigrants.

It should be noted that cabin passengers are not subject to inspection under the Act; while the "second-class exempted passengers" are second-class passengers—nearly all of whom entered at the Channel ports (Dover, Harwich, Newhaven, etc.).

Out of the 64,313 steerage passengers who were liable to inspection 25,786 fell under the following heads:—

- 7,991 were found to be proceeding to a destination outside the United Kingdom;
6,138 held return tickets to a foreign country;
11,105 were seamen: 8,121 of these were actually under contract to join ships in British waters;
492 were refused leave to land.

As regards the remainder (38,527), nothing is known as to their intentions or movements after arrival in this country; the principal nationalities among them were as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: Nationality, Count, Nationality, Count. Rows include Russians and Poles (12,832), Germans (3,186), French (10,116), Scandinavians (1,295), Italians (5,360), Other nationalities (5,738).

Of the total of 38,527 alien immigrants 10,888 (including 3,938 Russians and Poles) arrived in "non-immigrant

* Cd. 3473: price 6d.

ships," and were consequently not subjected to inspection. The arrivals in London numbered 10,289, and of these 5,653 (including 4,647 Russians and Poles) were inspected under the Act, and 4,636 (including 2,979 Russians and Poles) were not inspected.

The total number of persons who were refused leave to land by the Immigration Officers was 935, of whom 733 were refused on account of want of means, etc., and 202 on medical grounds. 796 of these rejected persons appealed, 442 successfully and 354 unsuccessfully.

Transmigrants are liable to be rejected by the shipping companies at the ports of departure in the United Kingdom; and the companies are under obligation not to allow those so rejected to remain in the United Kingdom.

Appended to the Inspector's Report is a statement (Part II.) as to the expulsion of aliens showing that 448 aliens resident in the country were "recommended for expulsion" on being convicted of various crimes, and that 8 others, though not actually convicted, became liable to expulsion for various reasons.

Figures are also given as to the alien prison population for the last few years.

SCOTTISH DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN 1905-6.

THE Local Government Board for Scotland have published a Report* upon the proceedings of Distress Committees in Scotland from the date of their appointment to May 15th, 1906.

Distress Committees were constituted in 14 burghs; but four of these committees were nearly, or quite, inactive. One of the committees was exceptional, in being set up in a burgh of only 3,500 inhabitants (Dalbeattie).

The total number of applicants for relief was 8,867, of whom only 172 were females. Of the male applicants 17.7 per cent. belonged to the building trades, and 8.6 per cent. to the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades; these percentages include labourers in such trades, as well as skilled artisans.

The number of applicants found, on investigation, to be qualified for relief was 6,771, or 76 per cent. of the total applicants. The proportion passed as "qualified for assistance" varied in a remarkable degree from burgh to burgh, Glasgow rejecting 61 per cent. of the applicants, and Edinburgh only 8 per cent.

The relief work was mostly provided through the local authority. In Aberdeen, however, the Distress Committee provided employment for most of their applicants themselves, having secured an old quarry near the city for the breaking of road metal.

The Labour Exchanges established or taken over by the Distress Committees were very poorly supported by employers: there were 87 applications to the Distress

* Cd. 3431: price 2½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

Committees from employers at Aberdeen, and 259 at Edinburgh; but in all the remaining towns taken together there were only fourteen such applications. The report emphasises the fact that the Labour Exchanges are intended for a different class from the ordinary applicants to the Distress Committees, viz., for persons seeking work at their own trades with ordinary employers of labour, and not persons seeking relief work under the Distress Committee.

The total receipts of the committees were £10,598, of which £2,036 was from rates, £6,451 from the Queen's Unemployed Fund, and £1,849 from other voluntary contributions. The total expenditure was £9,351; of which £6,968 was spent in providing, or contributing towards, employment-relief, £834 in emigration, and £1,100 in establishment charges.

The various Distress Committees were invited to give their observations on their working during the time under review. Most of them state that the work carried out by way of relief was not equal to work performed under ordinary conditions, or that, if equal, it was done more slowly. The amount of wages paid to those engaged on relief-works in Glasgow was £3,635, but the work done (digging and draining) was valued at only £1,114.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT PRICES OF 1900.

A PARLIAMENTARY Paper* has been issued showing, for each of the years 1900-1906, the estimated value of the imports and exports of the United Kingdom at the prices prevailing in the year 1900; the object being to show how far the changes in the amount of the foreign trade of this country are due to fluctuations in the volume of merchandise imported and exported, and how far to fluctuations in prices †

The result of this calculation may be shown as follows, the figures for each year being given as percentages of those for 1900:—

Table with 7 columns: Year, Imports (Declared Value, Value at 1900 prices), British Exports (Declared Value, Value at 1900 prices), Re-exports (Declared Value, Value at 1900 prices). Rows for years 1900 to 1906.

It will be observed that, except in the year 1906, the declared values were generally lower than the estimated values at prices of 1900, sometimes to a considerable extent. This is due to the fact that 1900 was itself a year of high prices for coal and metals, and for cotton. In 1906, however, general values were inflated to a higher level than in 1900; so that, while the volume of imports increased 12 per cent. since 1900 the declared value increased 16 per cent.; and the declared value of re-exports increased nearly twice as much as the volume.

The following table shows (in thousands of £) the declared value, and the estimated value at 1900 prices,

* Cd. 3446: price 2½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

† In the case of about 5 per cent. of the imports, and 10 per cent. of the exports, it has been necessary to estimate the values at 1900 prices: these are the articles entered by value only, the average values of which are therefore not known.

of the principal classes of imports, re-exports, and British exports respectively, in the years 1900, 1905, and 1906:—

Table with 5 columns: Values in 1900, Declared Values (In 1905, In 1906), Estimated Values (In 1905, In 1906). Rows for Imports, Re-Exports, and British Exports, including sub-categories like Cotton, Iron and Steel, etc.

LABOUR ON FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

ON April 17th, 1907, there was promulgated a new French maritime law, dealing, inter alia, with the regulation of labour on board ship. At sea or in open roadsteads the deck officers and crew are to be divided into at least two watches, so arranged that not more than twelve hours' duty shall be required each day.

Whenever possible the day of weekly rest is to be Sunday, but the captain may appoint another day for some or all of the crew. In port or in sheltered roadsteads the crew must not be required to work on the day of weekly rest unless the work cannot be deferred; at sea, except in cases of emergency, no work is to be done other than that which is essential to the management of the ship or proper attention to the passengers.

* Including miscellaneous articles.

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal Unions for which figures are available, the number of members to whom the returns as to unemployment relate, and the percentage of such numbers unemployed:—

Name of Union.	Number of Members to whom Returns as to Unemployment relate.		Percentage of such Membership Unemployed on		
	Mar. 30, 1907.	Mar. 31, 1906.	Mar. 30, 1907.	Feb. 23, 1907.	Mar. 31, 1906.*
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)...	349,519	285,985	1·1	1·2	1·0
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Duncker) ...	45,205	56,831	0·6	0·7	0·5
Woodworkers ...	151,310	137,775	2·5	2·9	1·7
Miners ...	110,421	103,233	+	+	+
Printers ...	47,633	48,968	1·7	1·9	1·8
Commercial and Transport Employees	82,760	55,422	0·6	1·0	0·5

Dock Dispute at Hamburg.—The dock dispute at Hamburg, referred to in last month's GAZETTE, p. 105, terminated on April 19th, when the men accepted proposals which had been drawn up on the previous day by the representatives of the employers and workpeople. Foreign workpeople were to be deported and their places filled by German dockers as soon as practicable. Unionists and non-unionists agreed to work together at the rates of pay formerly in operation until the introduction of a new system of shifts. Should night-shifts not be introduced by October 1st, negotiations are to be set on foot for the settlement of the question of night work and Sunday work on a different basis. The men resumed work on April 22nd.

HOLLAND.‡

Employment in March.—The favourable weather during the latter half of the month resulted in some revival of activity in the building trades, but in several towns the improvement was confined to stucco workers, painters, and decorators. In the greater metal and engineering establishments and in the shipbuilding trades employment was generally plentiful. In the textile trades it was not quite so good as in February, the decline being partially due to the dearth of raw material. The usual seasonal improvement took place in the clothing trades. Employment in the woodworking trades was on the whole somewhat better than in February. In the printing and allied trades it was good. Employment was generally satisfactory in the cocoa, chocolate and confectionery trades, and also with distillery workers, but with margarine makers the state of employment varied greatly in different localities. In the bulb-growing industry there was some improvement.

Labour Disputes in March.—Nine strikes, 7 of which directly affected 245 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in March. Three of these strikes were in the building trades, and 2 among cigar makers. Two of these new strikes came to an end during the month, and, in addition, 2 strikes begun in previous months also terminated. Two of the disputes resulted in favour of the employers and 1 was settled by a compromise, while the result of the fourth dispute was unknown. No lock-outs commenced in March, but 1, which began in December, 1906, terminated during the month, the result being described as "doubtful."

BELGIUM.‡

Employment in March.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 0·9 per cent. of the 30,763 members of the 122 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the end of the month, as compared with 2·2 per cent. in the preceding month, and 2·1 per cent. in March, 1906. (As regards these figures, which do not include particulars relating to miners, homeworkers, or agricultural labourers, see note under "Labour Abroad.")

* Compiled on the old basis, and therefore not strictly comparable.
† Less than 0·1 per cent.
‡ Based on despatches from H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg and on newspaper reports.
§ Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek. (Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau).
|| Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

Labour Disputes in March.—Twenty-seven strikes, involving 6,495 workpeople (4,175 directly and 2,320 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in March. In addition to these, 4 strikes, which commenced in previous months, and which involved 1,132 workpeople (588 directly and 544 indirectly), were in progress during March. Of the 4,763 workpeople on strike in March, 1,923 were employed at collieries, 1,176 in textile trades, and 535 in woodworking trades.

Twenty-one disputes terminated during the month. Of these, 9, directly affecting 977 workpeople, terminated in favour of the employers, and 6, directly affecting 264 workpeople, in favour of the workpeople, while 5, directly affecting 1,037 workpeople, were compromised. The remaining dispute affected 6 establishments, and was settled in favour of the workpeople (numbering 75) in 2 of the establishments, and against the workpeople (numbering 145) in the 4 remaining establishments.

NORWAY.*

Employment in March.—Of the 18,041 members of Trade Unions forwarding returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 750 (or 4·2 per cent.) were described as unemployed at the end of March, 1907. For purposes of comparison, the figures are given for March, 1907, February, 1907, and March, 1906, for certain Unions which made returns for each of these months (as regards these figures, see note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 137).

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of month.		
	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Metal Workers and Moulders	5,946	5,893	4,440	1·3	0·5	2·0
Carpenters, etc.	564	568	450	6·9	12·1	12·9
Painters and Masons	601	599	360	10·8	32·2	30·5
Bakers	244	258	320	10·7	10·9	14·1
Printers	1,151	1,178	769	3·4	1·5	3·8
Bookbinders	250	250	171	0·8	0·4	1·2
Boot and Shoe Makers	312	273	209	1·6	4·0	2·4
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers	648	641	345	...	...	...
Total	9,776	9,658	7,114	3·1	3·6	4·9

DENMARK.†

Dispute in the Shipbuilding Trades at Copenhagen and Elsinore.—Prior to February 1st the rate of wages of ship-carpenters at Copenhagen and Elsinore was fixed by agreement at 5½d. per hour, but many of the men received 6d. an hour. On expiry of this agreement on the above date a demand was made that wages should be fixed at a uniform rate of 6d. per hour for all ship-carpenters irrespective of merit, and that if wages were raised above that rate for any workmen, they should be so raised for all. The employers declared their willingness to grant an increase in wages, but declined to accept the demand for a uniform rate of wages for all ship-carpenters. On March 10th, negotiations having failed, the men struck work. After the strike had lasted a month, the employers decided on a lock-out of ship-smiths, coppersmiths, joiners, riggers, and unskilled workmen, affecting in all about 2,800 men. Work was resumed on April 22nd, the employers having raised the minimum rate of wages for ship-carpenters to 6d. per hour, and the men having abandoned their demand for a uniform rate of wages.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.‡

Strike of Longshoremen in New York.—On May 3rd about 4,000 longshoremen in New York struck work, demanding 1s. 8d. per hour for ordinary work, 2s. 6d. per hour for overtime, and 3s. 4d. per hour for work performed on holidays—increases of 33½ per cent. in each case. The number of strikers has since increased, and it was estimated that on May 10th they numbered about 12,000.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
† Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen.
‡ Based on despatches from H.M. Acting Consul-General at New York, and on newspaper reports.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN APRIL.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 529 Returns—462 from Employers, 53 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued very good during April, and was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,410 pits employing 606,697 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended April 20th, 1907, was 5·17, as compared with 5·67 in March (when no time was lost on account of holidays), and 5·08 in April, 1906. In April, 1907, holidays accounted for 0·57 of a day per week; and in April, 1906, 0·54 of a day per week was lost from this cause.

Of the 606,697 workpeople covered by the Returns, 467,298 (or 77 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended April 20th, 1907; while 193,742 (or 31·9 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

Compared with a month ago there was a slight improvement on the whole, but a continued decline at house-coal pits in the Forest of Dean (Gloucestershire), and a slight decline in the Midland Counties generally.

Compared with a year ago, the greatest increases in the average number of days worked were in the Nottingham and Staffordshire districts, while in the Gloucester and Somersetshire there was a decline.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in April, 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended				Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in April, 1907, as compared with	
		April 20th, 1907.*	Mar. 23rd, 1907.	April 21st, 1906.†	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Northumberland ...	47,710	5·18	5·48	5·20	– '30	– '02	
Durham ...	114,410	5·24	5·58	5·24	– '34	...	
Cumberland ...	7,500	5·26	5·71	5·25	– '45	+ '01	
South Yorkshire ...	60,365	5·29	5·90	5·20	– '61	+ '09	
West Yorkshire ...	22,018	5·00	5·67	4·71	– '67	+ '26	
Lancashire and Cheshire	56,529	5·07	5·66	4·88	– '59	+ '19	
Derbyshire ...	39,586	4·72	5·47	4·64	– '75	+ '08	
Nottingham and Leicester	50,559	4·54	5·30	4·18	– '76	+ '36	
Staffordshire ...	27,237	4·94	5·77	4·57	– '83	+ '37	
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	10,516	4·84	5·74	4·76	– '90	+ '03	
Gloucester and Somerset	7,945	4·71	5·49	5·08	– '78	– '37	
North Wales ...	11,117	5·24	5·84	5·06	– '60	+ '18	
South Wales and Mon. ...	124,265	5·42	5·92	5·35	– '50	+ '07	
ENGLAND AND WALES	553,767	5·15	5·69	5·04	– '64	+ '11	
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
West Scotland ...	25,767	5·38	5·47	5·30	– '09	+ '08	
The Lothians ...	5,478	5·68	5·71	5·59	– '05	+ '09	
Fife ...	21,086	5·40	5·43	5·52	– '05	– '12	
SCOTLAND	52,331	5·42	5·48	5·42	– '06	...	
IRELAND ...	599	4·78	5·14	4·82	– '36	– '04	
United Kingdom ...	606,697	5·17	5·67	5·08	– '50	+ '09	

In the Northern Counties employment continued very good.

In the Midlands employment continued good, but was hardly so good as a month ago. In the Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire districts employment was much better than a year ago.

In Wales and Scotland employment remained good.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.
† Easter holidays are included in these periods.

pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 197,666 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in employment at all classes of pits except those producing coking coal, which show a very slight decline.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in April, 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in April, 1907, as compared with	
		April 20th, 1907.*	Mar. 23rd, 1907.	April 21st, 1906.†	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	7,040	5·31	5·85	5·17	– '54	+ '14
Coking ...	32,354	5·34	5·75	5·36	– '41	– '02
Gas ...	39,913	5·21	5·53	5·08	– '32	+ '13
House ...	82,325	4·81	5·44	4·78	– '63	+ '03
Manufacturing and Steam	247,399	5·25	5·76	5·15	– '51	+ '10
Mixed ...	197,666	5·17	5·67	5·09	– '50	+ '08
All Descriptions ...	606,697	5·17	5·67	5·08	– '50	+ '09

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in April, 1907, amounted to 5,282,322 tons, or 370,969 tons more than in March, 1907, and 740,993 tons more than in April, 1906.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 82 returns—66 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines, and was about the same as a year ago. In shale mines it also continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Employment continued good in tin, copper, and lead mines, and fair on the whole in quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended April 20th the average number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5·67, as compared with 5·82 a month ago, and 5·63 a year ago. The April figures, however, are affected by holidays, to the extent of 0·26 of a day in both 1907 and 1906.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in April, 1907, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in April, 1907, as compared with	
		April 20th, 1907.*	Mar. 23rd, 1907.	April 21st, 1906.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland ...	7,535	5·79	5·96	5·64	– '07	+ '05
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,170	5·63	5·77	5·67	– '04	– '04
Scotland ...	1,002	5·67	5·63	5·67	+ '04	...
Other Districts ...	8,934	5·44	5·61	5·49	– '07	– '05
All Districts ...	16,641	5·67	5·82	5·63	– '05	+ '04

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns, 87·9 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended April 20th, as compared with 90·6 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,210 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended April 20th, as compared with 3,244 a month ago, and 3,173 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked in the four weeks ended April 20th was 5·69, as compared with 5·75 a month ago, and 5·45 a year ago. These averages are not affected by holidays.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall continued good, and the demand for skilled miners was maintained.

* Easter holidays are included in these periods.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in Denbighshire and Flintshire and in Weardale, and was fairly good in the Matlock district.

Quarrying.

Slate.—In the Festiniog district in North Wales employment was slack, but slightly better than a month ago. There was also a slight improvement on a month ago at Ballachulish (Argyllshire), where employment was fair.

Granite.—Employment continued fair in Aberdeenshire. In Leicestershire it was dull, and worse than a month ago. It was quiet on Dartmoor and bad in the Penryn district, but slightly better than a month ago.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in Weardale, Cleveland, and the Gateshead districts. In Derbyshire, the Plymouth district, and North Wales employment continued fair. In the Somerset blue lias quarries there was a slight improvement on a month ago, when employment was reported as bad.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good in the Clee Hill quarries. It was fairly good in the Sheffield district, and showed a further improvement in the Gateshead district. In building stone and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district employment continued moderate. It continued dull in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries, and was bad in the Bath stone quarries. Employment continued bad in Forfarshire.

Setmakers.—Employment continued fair in Aberdeenshire, at Airdrie, and in North Wales. It was fair, but not so good as a month ago, at Glasgow. Employment was also fair at Rowley Regis (Staffs.). In Leicestershire employment was reported as improved compared with a month ago, when it was dull. Employment continued dull in the Clee Hill district.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district, where a demand for more labour was reported.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during April continued very good, and was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing over 25,000 workpeople, showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of April was 349, as compared with 350* in March, 1907, and 341 in April, 1906. During April 6 furnaces were re-lit (1 each in Cumberland, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Lanarkshire, and Ayrshire); while 1 (in Cumberland) was damped down, and 6 were blown out (1 each in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Monmouth, and Stirlingshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with	
	April, 1907.	March, 1907.	April, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	89	89	86	...	+ 3
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks.	38	38	36	...	+ 2
Derby & Nottingham	16	17	16	- 1	...
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	43	43	42	...	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester	27	27	29	...	- 2
S. Wales & Monmouth	36	36	35	...	+ 1
Other districts ...	16	17	15	- 1	+ 1
England & Wales	271	273	265	- 2	+ 6
Scotland ...	78	77*	76	+ 1	+ 2
Total ...	349	350*	341	- 1	+ 8

* Revised Figures.

The Imports of iron ore in April, 1907, amounted to 672,878 tons, or 62,469 tons more than in March, 1907, but 26,182 tons less than in April, 1906.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during April, 1907, amounted to 187,271 tons, or 19,857 tons more than in March, 1907, and 73,172 tons more than in April, 1906.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 217 Returns—201 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 4 from Trade Unions; and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very brisk, and was better than a month ago and a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended April 27th, 1907, at the 201 works from which Returns were received, was 0.7 per cent. greater than in the week ended March 23rd, 1907, and 5.5 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 549,600, as compared with 545,800 a month ago, and 520,700 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man	
	In week ended April 27th, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago. A year ago.	In week ended April 27th, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago. A year ago.
IRON:				
Puddling Forges ...	10,792	+ 353 + 429	5.19	- 0.04 + 0.18
Rolling Mills ...	4,562	+ 48 + 134	5.11	... + 0.29
Forging ...	511	+ 99	5.43	... - 0.06
Founding ...	2,158	+ 12 - 108	6.00	+ 0.04 ...
Other Departments ...	685	- 6 + 33	5.91	+ 0.02 + 0.04
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,681	+ 33 + 159	5.62	- 0.03 + 0.06
Total Iron ...	20,389	+ 344 + 746	5.32	- 0.02 + 0.16
STEEL:				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,951	+ 22 + 460	5.90	... + 0.01
Crucible Furnaces ...	586	+ 2 - 45	5.44	- 0.12 + 0.26
Bessemer Converters ...	1,766	+ 261 + 19	5.37	+ 0.04 + 0.17
Rolling Mills ...	16,672	+ 191 + 934	5.51	- 0.01 + 0.03
Forging and Pressing ...	2,986	+ 10 + 250	5.64	- 0.04 + 0.07
Founding ...	8,225	+ 56 + 200	5.88	... ..
Other Departments ...	6,778	+ 109 + 163	5.87	+ 0.01 + 0.06
Mechanics, Labourers ...	9,044	+ 43 + 560	5.93	- 0.02 ...
Total Steel ...	58,008	+ 476 + 2,858	5.74	- 0.01 + 0.03
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):				
Rolling Mills ...	11,373	- 119 + 109	5.37	+ 0.03 + 0.10
Forging and Pressing ...	733	+ 7 + 23	5.62	+ 0.02 + 0.08
Founding ...	777	+ 40 + 66	5.94	... - 0.01
Other Departments ...	3,065	+ 141 + 290	5.90	+ 0.01 + 0.04
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,404	- 125 + 204	5.81	+ 0.02 + 0.05
Total Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	22,352	- 56 + 692	5.60	+ 0.02 + 0.08
Grand Total ...	97,749	+ 764 + 3,976	5.62	- 0.01 + 0.07
Districts.				
Northumberland & Durham	12,405	- 59 + 279	5.64	- 0.01 + 0.09
Cleveland ...	8,114	+ 107 + 330	5.67	... + 0.02
Sheffield and Rotherham	17,675	+ 145 + 771	5.71	- 0.04 + 0.03
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,562	+ 37 + 165	5.62	+ 0.03 + 0.17
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	10,843	- 4 + 547	5.53	+ 0.03 + 0.09
Staffordshire ...	10,536	+ 336 + 791	5.54	+ 0.04 + 0.17
Other Midland Counties	5,139	- 39 - 2	5.63	- 0.03 + 0.11
Wales and Monmouth	10,292	+ 340 + 464	5.70	+ 0.01 + 0.08
Total, England and Wales	79,566	+ 863 + 3,345	5.63	- 0.01 + 0.08
Scotland ...	18,183	- 99 + 631	5.57	- 0.01 + 0.02
Total ...	97,749	+ 764 + 3,976	5.62	- 0.01 + 0.07

Compared with a month ago there were considerable increases in the number of workpeople employed at puddling forges and Bessemer converting departments, while there were no large decreases. The improvement was most marked in Staffordshire, and in Wales and

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,056 Returns—11 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1,005 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 40 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good, and showed little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

The following Table gives a summary of Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 157,911, and shows that at the end of April the percentage unemployed was 2.8, as compared with 2.9 a month ago and 2.7 a year ago. Compared with a month ago the figures indicate an improvement in employment in eight districts, the most noticeable being in London, while in six districts a slight decline is shown. Compared with a year ago an improvement is shown in seven districts, and a decline in seven districts.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apr., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Apr., 1907, as compared with a	
		Apr., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Apr., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,479	4.3	4.5	3.3	- 0.2	+ 1.0
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,725	2.4	3.0	2.9	- 0.6	- 0.5
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,092	2.1	2.5	2.4	- 0.4	- 0.3
West Riding Towns ...	12,710	3.1	2.9	3.2	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Hull and Lincolnshire District	7,799	1.4	1.5	2.2	- 0.1	- 0.8
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,322	1.9	1.6	1.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District	4,138	2.3	3.2	3.7	- 0.9	- 1.4
London and Neighbouring District	12,445	3.3	4.8	2.9	- 1.5	+ 0.4
South Coast ...	4,683	2.8	2.2	2.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.8
South Wales and Bristol District	6,887	2.6	1.8	3.1	+ 0.8	- 0.5
Glasgow and District	15,787	4.0	3.8	2.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
East of Scotland ...	3,907	3.6	4.6	3.7	- 0.4	- 0.1
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,376	4.0	3.2	3.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.2
Other Districts ...	3,587	2.2	2.4	2.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	187,911	2.8	2.9	2.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1

Monmouth. The number employed was greater than a year ago in every department except iron foundries and crucible furnaces, and in every district except the Midland Counties (other than Staffordshire) where it remains about the same.

There was very little variation compared with a month ago in the average number of shifts worked per man per week. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 0.29 of a shift at iron rolling mills, and 0.26 of a shift at crucible furnaces. The districts in which the average number of shifts worked showed the greatest increase were "Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire towns," and Staffordshire, in each of which it amounted to 0.17 of a shift.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during April, 1907, amounted to 64,096 tons, as compared with 64,117 tons in March, 1907, and 109,104 tons in April, 1906.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) amounted to 245,647 tons in April, 1907, as compared with 235,029 tons in March, 1907, and 197,054 tons in April, 1906.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 62 Returns—57 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good during April, and was much better than a year ago. The supply of labour continued about equal to the demand. The decline in the number of sheet mills as compared with March is due to a stoppage on account of a dispute.

At the works covered by the Returns, 386 tinplate and 51 sheet mills were working at the end of April. The corresponding figures for the previous month were 386 and 57; and those for April, 1906, 344 and 50.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and steel sheet mills reported to the Department as working in March and April, 1907, and April, 1906. The works to which these Returns relate are chiefly in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople:—

	April, 1907.		March, 1907.		April, 1906.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	26	36	75	386	68	344
Sheet Mills ...	8	51	9	57	9	50
Total ...	84	437	84	443	77	394

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets and of black plates for tinning are given in the Table below for the months stated:—

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.				
	April, 1907.	March, 1907.	April, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with March, 1907. April, 1906.	
To United States ...	6,191	4,727	4,186	+ 1,464	+ 2,005
British East Indies ...	4,300	6,146	3,078	- 1,846	+ 1,422
Germany ...	3,598	3,435	2,041	+ 163	+ 1,557
Other Countries ...	21,587	18,632	22,075	+ 2,955	- 488
Total ...	35,676	32,940	31,380	+ 2,936	+ 4,496
Black Plates for Tinning.					
T a Countries ...	5,887	5,586	4,415	+ 271	+ 1,472

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

At Birmingham employment with engineers and ironfounders continued good; with patternmakers it was moderate. At Coventry and Wolverhampton employment was good. The cycle and motor industry throughout the whole district continued very busy, and overtime was again reported.

In the Nottingham district employment continued to improve and was good generally. It was much better than a year ago. Overtime was again reported with toolmakers and with lace and hosiery machine builders. With ironfounders employment was moderate. At Derby employment continued good in railway shops, with night shifts and much overtime; in general engineering shops it was fair on the whole. It was also fair with boiler makers and good with ironfounders. In the Leicester and Northampton district employment in general engineering shops showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, except at Leicester; with shoe machinery makers and with tool makers it continued good. In the Potteries employment with engineers continued moderate and was still affected by a dispute; with ironfounders and boiler-makers it was good.

Employment in the Norwich district continued good, as also with agricultural implement makers at Ipswich.

In London employment continued quiet, but showed an improvement on the previous month. With iron and brassfounders, however, it continued good, and with toolmakers fair.

At Southampton employment in marine engine and boiler works was fair, but not so good as a month ago. In Devon and Cornwall it continued fair with engineers and pattern makers. With ironfounders and boiler-makers in the Plymouth district it was dull. At Bristol employment was moderate with engineers, ironfounders and boiler-makers, and fair with brassmoulders and finishers. At Swindon and Gloucester it was good and overtime was general. At Weymouth it was bad. In South Wales it was fair on the whole.

In the Glasgow district employment continued good, and overtime was again reported. It was better than a month ago with brassfinishers, copper-smiths and electrical engineers. With ironmoulders short time was reported in some shops. At Edinburgh it continued good with engineers and ironmoulders; fair with pattern makers. At Falkirk employment with pattern makers and moulders continued bad, short time being worked. At Aberdeen and Dundee it continued good.

Employment was generally good at Belfast except with pattern makers, with whom it was dull. At Dublin and Cork it was dull.

The values of Imports and Exports of machinery are shown in the following Table:—

Description.	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with	
				Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.
Imports:					
Steam Engines	£ 8,338	£ 4,842	£ 10,053	+ 3,496	- 1,715
Other Machinery (including Electrical)	556,313	440,326	416,685	+ 115,987	+ 139,628
Exports:					
Steam Engines	£ 646,863	£ 648,262	£ 523,019	- 1,699	+ 123,544
Other Machinery (including Electrical)	1,972,839	1,859,478	1,630,000	+ 113,161	+ 342,639

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 334 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 313 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, and showed an improvement compared with March, but was not so good as a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,609 members had 3,884 (or 6·6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 7·1 per cent. at the end of March, and 5·1 per cent. at the end of April, 1906.

Compared with a month ago decreases in the percentage of unemployed members took place in nine districts, and increases in three districts. Compared with a year ago there were increases in ten districts and decreases in two districts.

District.	No. of Members at end of Apr., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Apr., 1907, as compared with	
		Apr., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Apr., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,891	4·3	5·1	1·8	- 0·8	+ 2·5
Wear	5,101	5·9	5·6	1·4	+ 0·3	+ 4·5
Tees and Hartlepool	4,702	7·6	9·4	4·5	- 1·8	+ 3·1
Humber	2,528	3·8	4·7	11·2	- 0·9	- 7·4
Thames and Medway	4,534	9·4	9·5	9·2	- 0·1	+ 0·2
South Coast	3,995	3·1	3·4	4·4	- 0·3	- 1·3
Bristol Channel Ports	2,685	19·0	10·0	13·6	+ 9·0	+ 5·4
Mersey	3,551	10·3	12·0	5·7	- 1·7	+ 4·6
Clyde	13,469	5·7	7·3	4·5	- 1·6	+ 1·2
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen	2,379	6·3	7·3	6·0	- 1·0	+ 0·3
Belfast	2,982	4·9	4·4	3·8	+ 0·5	+ 1·1
Other Districts	2,882	7·3	9·1	7·2	- 1·8	+ 0·1
United Kingdom	58,609	6·6	7·1	8·1	- 0·5	+ 1·5

Employment on the Tyne, Wear, and Tees was fairly good, but not so good as in April, 1906. On the Humber it was good with shipwrights; iron shipbuilders reported it as good in trawler building, bad on merchant shipbuilding, and moderate on repair work. There was a considerable decrease in the percentage unemployed in the Humber district compared with a year ago.

In the Royal Dockyards employment was fairly good generally. At private yards in the Thames and Bristol Channel districts it was slack on the whole, repair work in the latter district having fallen off at the end of the month; at Southampton employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago. On the Mersey employment was fair, and better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago.

On the Clyde employment was good, and better than a month ago, except at Greenock, where it continued bad. At Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen, employment was fair.

At Belfast employment was fairly good. It was dull at Dublin and Cork. At Barrow it was slack, but rather better than a month ago, though worse than a year ago. With shipwrights at Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was good.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 53 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 25 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during April continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,605 had 507, or 3·2 per cent., of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3·2 per cent. in March, and 2·6 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers was moderate at Birmingham, good at Bolton, Bury and Wigan; fair at Manchester and at Nottingham; and dull in London. At Birmingham it continued bad with bedstead makers.

Tubes.—Employment was good in South Wales; fair in South Staffordshire, and fairly good at Birmingham.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was moderate with block chain makers, and slack with cable chain makers. At Dudley it continued good with anvil and vice makers. At Sheffield it was fair with railway spring fitters and vicemen. With spring makers it was fair at Birmingham; good at West Bromwich. With axle makers it was moderate at Birmingham; quiet at West Bromwich. With anchor makers it was good on the Wear.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers continued good at Manchester. With sheet metal workers it was fair in London; good at Oldham. With iron plate workers it was quiet in the

Lye district; fair at Birmingham. With tin plate workers it was good at Nottingham; fair at Aberdeen; bad at Edinburgh; moderate at Glasgow.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Birmingham it was good with nut, bolt, shoe rivet and wire nail makers. At Darlaston it was good with nut and bolt makers. At Blackheath it was good with bolt, rivet, etc., makers.

Wire.—Employment continued good generally.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad. At Wolverhampton it was good in all branches of the hollow-ware trade. It was quiet with hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich; slack with hollow-ware stampers and buffers at Sheffield.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was quiet at Rotherham; fair at Falkirk; good at Glasgow.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the Sheffield district employment was slack with cutlers generally; fair with saw-makers, good in the file trades. At Birmingham it was moderate with file cutters, and fairly good in the edge tool trade. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish-hook trades continued good.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment was fair with goldsmiths, jewellers and silver workers. At Birmingham it continued quiet with jewellers, silversmiths, and electro-platers. At Sheffield it continued bad with silversmiths. At Coventry it was fair in the machine-made watch trade; quiet in the hand-made watch trade.

Farriers.—Employment was fair generally. It was quiet in London.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with	
				Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.
Imports:—					
Cutlery	£ 10,218	£ 15,444	£ 9,626	- 5,226	+ £ 592
Hardware	84,056	77,200	50,337	+ 6,856	- 6,281
Exports:—					
Cutlery	62,927	57,787	51,633	+ 5,140	+ 11,294
Hardware	211,404	206,985	183,068	+ 4,419	+ 28,336
Implements and Tools	178,782	187,950	164,135	- 8,274	+ 14,947

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 489 Returns—401 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 79 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very good, and was better than a year ago.

In many districts a general shortage of weavers, piecers, and juvenile workers was reported.

The average price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool during April was 14d. more than in March, and 10d. more than in April, 1906. The average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 91d. less than in March, but 43d. more than in April, 1906.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended April 27th, was 135,161, being 0·5 per cent. more than a month ago, and 2·2 per cent. more than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1·3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4·9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Every department showed an improvement in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Compared with a month ago ten of the twelve districts covered by the Returns showed some improvement in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, every district showed an improvement, the increase in the amount of wages paid being greatest in the Bolton and Burnley districts.

Analysis by Departments and Districts.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. paid Wages on pay day in week ended April 27th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended April 27th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.		Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	15,327	+ 0·3	+ 0·5	15,957	+ 0·3	+ 3·9
Spinning	26,857	+ 0·4	+ 1·0	26,445	+ 0·8	+ 4·3
Weaving	63,028	+ 0·5	+ 2·4	57,954	+ 1·4	+ 4·7
Other	11,185	+ 0·0	+ 3·1	12,909	+ 1·1	+ 4·6
Departments not specified	18,764	+ 1·4	+ 3·5	19,821	+ 2·6	+ 7·0
Total	135,161	+ 0·5	+ 2·2	131,056	+ 1·3	+ 4·9
Districts.						
Ashton District	9,050	- 0·0	+ 0·1	8,946	+ 0·9	+ 1·6
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	7,066	+ 3·7	+ 1·5	6,653	+ 4·1	+ 5·9
Oldham District	14,844	+ 0·1	- 0·2	15,574	+ 0·4	+ 3·8
Bolton and Leigh	17,160	+ 0·4	+ 7·6	15,917	+ 0·8	+ 9·5
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	10,065	+ 1·5	+ 0·4	9,534	- 0·9	+ 3·1
Manchester District	10,186	+ 0·2	+ 0·3	7,964	+ 4·1	+ 4·9
Preston and Chorley	12,194	- 0·1	+ 2·4	10,831	+ 0·6	+ 4·8
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	18,994	- 0·0	+ 0·1	18,230	+ 1·7	+ 2·0
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	17,924	+ 1·2	+ 5·0	21,415	+ 2·6	+ 7·4
Other Lanes Towns	6,316	+ 0·3	- 0·4	5,498	...	+ 1·1
Yorkshire Towns	5,812	+ 0·1	+ 3·3	5,446	+ 0·8	+ 5·6
Other Districts	6,250	- 0·2	+ 2·5	4,948	+ 0·5	+ 6·3
Total	135,161	+ 0·5	+ 2·2	131,056	+ 1·3	+ 4·9

Exports of Cotton Goods.

The following Table shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	April, 1907.	March, 1907.	April, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with	
				March, 1907.	April, 1906.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	+ 740	+ 2,411
Bleached and Dyed	16,542	15,802	14,131	+ 25	- 299
Total	19,272	18,507	17,160	+ 765	+ 2,112
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	- 1,231	+ 10,854
Bleached	186,826	188,057	175,962	+ 706	+ 32,872
Printed	158,195	158,901	125,323	- 6,954	+ 21,306
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	100,644	107,578	78,318	- 11,850	+ 12,918
Total	535,900	556,641	456,940	- 20,741	+ 78,960

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of April the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6·21d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6·46d., and the lowest 5·90d. The price for March was 6·07d., and for April, 1906, 6·11d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of May, 1907, the average price of "middling American" was 6·68d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during April averaged 10·19d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 10·28d., and the lowest 9·14d. The price for March was 11·10d. per lb., and for April, 1906, 9·76d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of May, 1907, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9·9d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on May 10th, 1907, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,251,030 bales, as compared with 974,840 bales on May 11th, 1906.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns during March and April, 1907, and April, 1906, are given in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: Description of Cotton, April 1907, March 1907, April 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1907, as compared with March 1907, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1906, as compared with March 1906. Rows include American, Brazilian, East Indian, Egyptian, Miscellaneous, and Total.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 364 Returns—357 received from Employers, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 28,170 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the Huddersfield district employment showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was still good. In the Leeds district, and in the Dewsbury and Batley district, employment was good. In Scotland a slight decline in the number employed was shown as compared with a year ago; employment was good at Galashiels, fairly good at Selkirk and Hawick.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for Woollen and Worsted trades. Columns include No. employed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-), and Aggregate amount of Wages paid. Rows include Departments (Wool Sorting, Spinning, Weaving, etc.) and Districts (Huddersfield, Leeds, etc.).

Worsted Trade.

Employment in the worsted trade was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 47,074 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment showed an improvement in every department compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the Bradford, Keighley, and Halifax districts employment was good, and a deficiency of spinners and weavers was reported. In the Huddersfield district employment was good.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for the Woollen and Worsted trades. Columns include No. employed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-), and Aggregate amount of Wages paid. Rows include Departments and Districts.

Prices of Raw Material.

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

Table showing Average Prices and Course of Prices for Raw Material. Columns include Pence per lb. for April 1907, March 1907, and April 1906. Rows include Lincoln Hogs, Crossbred tops, Super Botany tops, etc.

Imports and Exports.

Table showing Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (Sheep or Lambs). Columns include April 1907, March 1907, April 1906, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1907, as compared with March 1907.

Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS)

Table showing Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (Sheep or Lambs). Columns include Imports (less Re-Exports), British Exports, and Yarn (Woolen, Worsted, Alpaca & Mohair). Rows include Total and Piece Goods.

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

Based on 110 Returns—104 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 46,116 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

From the following Table it will be seen that, compared with a year ago, every department showed an increase in the amount of wages paid, the increase being specially marked in the preparing and spinning branches. In Belfast the amount of wages paid showed a slight decline compared with a month ago.

* The comparison with a year ago is affected to some extent by a recent advance in the rates of wages.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for Flax (Linen) Trade. Columns include Number paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-), and Aggregate amount of Wages paid. Rows include Departments (Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.) and Districts (Belfast, Ireland, etc.).

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and manufactured goods for the months stated.

Table showing Imports and Exports of Flax (Linen) Trade. Columns include Description, April 1907, March 1907, April 1906, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1907, as compared with March 1907.

JUTE TRADE.

Based on 34 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,996 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for Jute Trade. Columns include Number paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-), and Aggregate amount of Wages paid. Rows include Departments (Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.).

From the above Table it will be seen that, compared with a month ago, the preparing and spinning departments showed a decline in the number of workpeople employed, and the preparing department a decline in the amount of wages paid.

* The comparison with a year ago is affected to some extent by a recent advance in the rates of wages.

in the number of workpeople employed, but every department showed an increase in the amount of wages paid.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the months stated were as follows:—

Table showing Imports and Exports of Jute Trade. Columns include Description, April 1907, March 1907, April 1906, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1907, as compared with March 1907.

SILK TRADE.

Based on 53 Returns—50 from Employers and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this trade was good on the whole, and showed an improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 10,074 workpeople and paying £6,814 in wages on the pay-day in the week ended April 27th, 1907, show that, compared with a month ago, there were increases of 2.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table showing Workpeople covered by returns and Earnings for Silk Trade. Columns include No. paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-), and Aggregate amount of Wages paid. Rows include Branches (Throwing, Spinning, etc.) and Districts (Lancashire, Yorkshire, etc.).

At Macclesfield employment continued good except with handloom weavers, with whom it was moderate. At Congleton it was good with throwsters; fair with spinners and dressers; and moderate with trimming weavers. At Leek employment was good with throwsters and twisters; fair with trimming weavers.

Imports and Exports.

Table showing Imports and Exports of Silk Trade. Columns include Description, April 1907, March 1907, April 1906, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1907, as compared with March 1907.

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 92 Returns—87 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during April was fairly good on the whole, slightly worse than a month ago, but considerably better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,128 workpeople in the week ended April 27th, and paying £9,792 in wages, showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

At Nottingham employment was good in the levers and plain net branches, fair in the curtain branch. In the Long Eaton district it was fairly good; in the West of England it was good. In England, generally it was much better than a year ago.

Table with columns: District, Workpeople covered by Returns (No. paid wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)), Earnings (Aggregate Amount of Wages paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)). Includes rows for Leicestershire, Nottingham, and Total United Kingdom.

Table with columns: Branches, Districts, Per cent., £, Per cent. Includes rows for Levers, Curtain, Plain Net, and Districts like Nottingham City, Long Eaton, etc.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the values of lace imported and exported during the months stated:—

Table with columns: Description, April 1907, March 1907, April 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1907, as compared with March 1907, April 1906. Includes rows for Imports (Silk Lace) and Exports (Cotton Lace, Silk Lace).

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 94 Returns—89 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 16,618 workpeople, and paying £13,163 in wages in the week ended April 27th, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

At Leicester employment was good on the whole, and better than a year ago. At Loughborough it was fairly good, and at Hinckley all departments were busy. At Nottingham employment with power framework knitters showed an improvement compared with a month ago; with hand framers in the Notts country districts it

was, on the whole, fairly good. In Derbyshire employment was good, and better than a year ago. At Selkirk and Hawick it continued good.

Table with columns: District, Workpeople covered by Returns (No. paid wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)), Earnings (Aggregate Amount of Wages paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)). Includes rows for Leicester, Leicestershire, Notts, and Total United Kingdom.

The Imports of Woollen and Cotton Hosiery in April, 1907, amounted to £29,109 and £102,851 respectively, compared with £38,063 and £115,069 in March, 1907, and £26,672 and £84,518 in April, 1906.

The Exports of Woollen and Cotton Hosiery in April, 1907, amounted to £91,295 and £33,284 respectively, as compared with £121,280 and £41,852 in March, 1907, and £73,587 and £32,782 in April, 1906.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 18 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment was fairly good in the West Riding, and better than a year ago. About one-sixth of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-half worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment on the whole was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment at Macclesfield and Leek was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Calico Printers, etc.—Employment at New Mills and Dinting was good, and better than a year ago. At Glasgow it was good with calico printers, engravers and block printers, some overtime being reported in all three branches.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester employment showed a slight improvement, but much short time was still worked; at Hinckley a decline was reported; at Loughborough operatives were working full time. With dyers at Nottingham and with dyers and bleachers at Basford employment continued good; with hosiery trimmers at Nottingham it was reported as good: at Basford and Bulwell as fairly good; employment on the whole was better than a year ago.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment continued good. In Dundee it was good with bleachfield workers, fair with calender workers.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 123 Returns—95 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was better than a year ago; in the ready-made branch it was good, and better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £11,359 in wages during the four weeks ended April 27th showed an increase of 16.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as good in Glasgow, Dublin, and Belfast; fair in Edinburgh.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment showed a decline, but was still fair and about the same as a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as good on contract and measure work, fair on shipping work and stock work.

Leeds.—Employment during the month continued good, and was better than a year ago. Firms employing 7,420 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended April 27th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment in the Jewish workshops was reported as good.

Other Centres.—Employment in Manchester, Bristol, and Norwich was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Glasgow it continued good and was about the same as a year ago; with the Trade Union cutters it was reported as fair.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in April, 1907, were valued at £295,061, as compared with £321,120 in March, 1907, and £272,454 in April, 1906, and the Exports for the same periods £363,874, £431,842, and £311,210.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 492 Returns—479 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 4 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, except in the heavy boot centres, and showed little change compared with a month ago; on the whole it was slightly better than a year ago.

Firms employing 62,093 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment at Leicester was reported as good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Bristol employment was moderate; at Kingswood it was bad, and worse than a year ago. Employment was good at Northampton; at Kettering short time was reported. Employment at Leeds and in Scotland was bad, and worse than a year ago.

Table with columns: District, Workpeople covered by Returns (No. employed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)), Earnings (Aggregate Amount of Wages paid, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)). Includes rows for England & Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and United Kingdom.

The following Table shows the quantities and values of the imports, exports and re-exports of boots and shoes during the periods stated:—

Table with columns: Description, April 1907, March 1907, April 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1907, as compared with March 1907, April 1906. Includes rows for Imports, Re-Exports, and Exports (British and Irish).

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 13 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 10 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during April in the Silk hat branch was quiet, in the Felt hat branch it was fairly good; in both branches it was better than a year ago.

In the Silk hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 5.1, compared with 6.0 at the end of March, and 13.6 a year ago. Employment on the whole was quiet.

In the Felt hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 2.1, compared with 2.0 at the end of March, and 4.7 a year ago. At Denton and Stockport employment was reported as good; it continued fair in Warwickshire; on the whole it was better than a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantities of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, of British manufacture, exported in the months stated:—

Table with columns: Description, April 1907, March 1907, April 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1907, as compared with March 1907, April 1906. Includes rows for Felt, Straw, and Other Sorts.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 193 Returns—188 from Employers, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London showed a further improvement in the dressmaking trade, and was better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse, &c., trades, and in the shirt and collar trade, it was fairly good; in the corset trade it was good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end, employing 1,821 dressmakers in the week ended April 27th, showed an increase of 4.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was good. Court dressmakers employing 1,336 workpeople showed an increase of 6.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good. Employment with milliners in the West-end was good, and better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 4,163 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers), showed a decrease of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago: employment during the month was fairly good, but worse than a year ago.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed no change in the demand for, and an increase in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there was a marked decrease in the demand, which was much greater than the supply.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair, and slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was fairly good, and better than a year ago; firms employing 2,083 workpeople in the week ended April 27th showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers employing 6,981 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £5,052 in wages in the week ended April 27th, showed an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was good in London, Taunton and Glasgow; fairly good in Manchester, Belfast and Londonderry.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,173 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended April 27th, showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and no change compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good, and slightly better than a year ago.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 42 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 26 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was quiet, though slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,926 had 5.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6.0 per cent. in March, and 6.4 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment with skinner was quiet at Leeds and fair at Birmingham. With carriers it continued fair generally; it was quiet at Birmingham. With dressers it was moderate generally; bad at London and Leeds. With leather workers generally it was good at Bolton, Bury, Wigan and Manchester; quiet at Leeds.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was good generally; at Walsall quiet, but improving; at Edinburgh fair. In London it was slightly better than a month ago.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. With portmanteau and trunk makers it was fair in London.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, are shown in the following Table for the months stated:—

Description.	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with	
				Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	39,793	40,410	36,474	- 617	+ 3,319
Ditto, wet	41,966	39,199	40,060	+ 2,767	+ 1,906
Total, hides, dry and wet	81,759	79,609	76,534	+ 2,150	+ 5,225
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	1,497,678	1,558,973	2,014,273	- 61,295	- 516,595
Sheep skins .. (value) £	341,943	255,316	186,281	+ 86,627	+ 155,662
Exports:—					
Leather*	86,990	84,726	107,196	+ 2,264	- 20,206
Saddlery and harness .. (value)	£ 45,540	£ 46,762	£ 43,333	- 1,222	+ 2,202

* Includes hides tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheep skins tanned or dressed as leather.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 407 Returns—133 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 252 from Trade Unions, and 22 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued fair on the whole. It was not quite so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades remained good, and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 20,831 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with April, 1906.

—	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week in April, 1907, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	5,602	- 0.5	+ 0.7
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	1,927	+ 0.9	+ 0.1
Southern Counties	6,676	+ 0.3	+ 4.0
Scotland	5,726	- 0.1	+ 2.6
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	19,931	...	+ 2.3
Hand-made Paper	900	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Total	20,831	...	+ 2.2

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 1,810 members had 2.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.4 per cent. in March, and 2.7 per cent. in April, 1906. In the hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 615 members had 6.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3.5 a month ago and 5.9 a year ago.

The imports of paper in April, 1907, amounted to £494,267, as compared with £499,771 in March, 1907, and £476,175 in April, 1906, and the exports for the same periods amounted to £194,533, £185,074 and £147,327 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was fair on the whole and better than a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was some decline with letterpress printers; with lithographic printers there was an improvement, especially in London. Trade Unions with a membership of 47,216 had 3.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3.4 in March and 5.2 a year ago.

The following Table shows the percentages for the various districts:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apl., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	19,032	3.2	3.1	5.3	+ 0.1	- 2.1
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,247	4.9	3.3	4.5	+ 1.6	+ 0.4
Lancashire and Cheshire...	6,434	5.3	5.0	6.1	+ 0.3	- 0.8
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,348	3.9	2.7	4.0	+ 1.2	- 0.1
West Midlands	2,415	4.8	3.5	5.4	+ 1.3	- 0.6
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,816	2.7	2.1	2.7	+ 0.6	...
Scotland	5,481	2.5	2.8	3.7	- 0.3	- 1.2
Ireland	2,443	4.9	3.2	11.0	- 0.3	- 6.1
United Kingdom	47,216	3.8	3.4	5.2	+ 0.4	- 1.4

London.—Trade Unions with a membership of 19,032 had 3.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3.1 in March and 5.3 a year ago. Employment was fairly good generally; with lithographic printers it was better than a month ago.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers showed a decline at most of the principal towns in

England and Wales. At Edinburgh it was fair and better than a month ago. It was fair also at Glasgow and Dundee. At Belfast and Dublin it was good.

With lithographic printers employment was moderate generally; good at Manchester, and dull at Liverpool. At Leeds, Edinburgh, and Dublin it was better than a month ago and a year ago.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

In London employment continued quiet, with short time, and was worse than a month ago. In the provinces it remained fairly good generally.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed in Trade Unions in the Bookbinding Trades:—

—	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apl., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,624	7.8	5.9	7.5	+ 1.9	+ 0.3
Other Districts	3,338	2.9	2.8	4.1	+ 0.1	- 1.2
United Kingdom	6,962	5.4	4.4	5.9	+ 1.0	- 0.5

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,890 Returns—908 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 927 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in April, though still dull, showed a seasonal improvement and was better than a year ago.

Returns from 825 firms, employing 59,148 workpeople at the end of April, showed an increase in the number employed of 2.4 per cent. as compared with a month ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns:—

District.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on the last pay-day of the month.							
	Skilled Workmen.		Labourers.		Lads and Boys.		Total.	
	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.
London	10,573	10,761	6,996	6,867	577	596	18,146	18,224
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	3,756	3,597	3,313	3,174	566	850	7,935	7,621
Lancashire and Cheshire	5,037	4,717	3,980	3,815	1,141	1,135	10,158	9,667
Midland and Eastern Counties	3,501	3,351	3,783	3,462	478	469	7,762	7,282
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,960	3,627	2,258	2,426	688	615	6,906	6,668
England & Wales	46,827	46,053	20,350	19,744	3,750	3,665	50,907	49,462
Scotland	3,248	3,349	2,016	1,867	877	874	6,141	6,090
Ireland	994	1,020	996	1,066	110	106	2,100	2,192
United Kingdom	31,069	30,422	23,342	22,677	4,737	4,645	59,148	57,744

Employment was dull with most branches of the building trades, but, as usual at this time of year, it was good with painters, who frequently worked overtime. Compared with a month ago there was a general improvement with carpenters and painters, and a slight improvement with plumbers, while in Scotland masons and plasterers reported a decline owing, in the case of plasterers, to the gradual completion of term work.

Compared with a year ago an improvement was reported by carpenters and plumbers, and a decline by slaters in England, and by masons and plasterers in Scotland.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners in the United Kingdom unemployed at the end of April was 4.3 as compared with 5.6 a month ago and 5.4 a year ago, the improvement being common to all districts except London. The percentages of Trade Union plumbers unemployed for the same

periods were 7.1, 7.8, and 9.0 respectively, employment being better than a year ago in nearly every district.

London.—Employment continued dull generally. With carpenters and joiners it was worse than a month ago and a year ago, Trade Union Returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showing that 7.6 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 5.5 per cent. a month ago, and 6.5 per cent. in April, 1906. With plumbers there was an improvement in employment, the percentages being 9.3, 12.8, and 13.5 respectively. Bricklayers reported little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. Painters were well employed, with overtime.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—Employment was dull generally (except with painters), but rather better than a month ago, and at Leeds a decided improvement was reported.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment was moderate with carpenters and bricklayers, but dull with plumbers. At Manchester it was better on the whole than a month ago, and plasterers' labourers reported it as good.

Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment was dull on the whole, but better than in March. At Coventry it was good. Plumbers at Birmingham and Leicester reported a decline in employment.

Southern and South Western Counties and Wales.—Employment was better than a month ago. With bricklayers, masons, and painters at Plymouth and at Cardiff it was reported as fairly good. With carpenters and joiners it remained slack generally.

Scotland.—Employment continued dull with bricklayers and masons, fair with plasterers, and good with painters. With carpenters and plumbers it was moderate generally; with slaters fair. Many bricklayers and masons have left Edinburgh for other towns, while a number of carpenters have left Aberdeen. At Dundee employment was better than a month ago.

Ireland.—At Dublin carpenters and plasterers were well employed on the exhibition buildings; bricklayers and masons were slack. At Belfast employment was fair, except with bricklayers, who reported it as dull.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 159 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 124 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades was fairly good, and generally better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,981 reported 2.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3.4 per cent. a month ago, and 3.3 per cent. in April, 1906.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was on the whole fair, and better than a month ago. Trade Unions reported 2.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3.4 per cent. a month ago and a year ago. Employment was good in all branches in the Glasgow district, and at Belfast. In the Newcastle district employment was moderate with cabinet makers, and worse than a month ago.

The imports of furniture and cabinet ware in April, 1907, were valued at £60,336, as compared with £42,985 in March, 1907, and £55,101 in April, 1906.

The exports of furniture and cabinet ware in April, 1907, were valued at £59,219, as compared with £67,130 in March, 1907, and £52,964 in April, 1906.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

With millsawyers and woodcutting machinists employment continued fair. At Edinburgh, however, employment was dull and worse than a month ago. Employment was also dull at Nottingham. Trade Unions

reported 4·6 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4·2 per cent. a month ago and a year ago.

The Imports of hewn and sawn timber, and of house frames, &c., are shown in the following Table:—

Description.	April, 1907.	March, 1907.	April, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with	
				March, 1907.	April, 1906.
Timber, hewn	77,811	27,667	61,940	+ 50,144	+ 15,871
„ sawn	230,704	136,749	208,660	+ 93,955	+ 22,044
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 23,199	£ 19,847	£ 32,085	+ 5,352	- 8,886

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was fair, showing an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Employment continued good at Peterhead and Fraserburgh and Aberdeen, and bad at Edinburgh. At Burton employment was dull, though somewhat better than a month ago.

Coachbuilding.

With coachmakers employment continued to show an improvement compared with a month ago, and was good generally. With wheelwrights and smiths employment was moderate. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., reported 1·7 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 2·4 per cent. a month ago, and 1·3 per cent. in April, 1906.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 2·2 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3·2 per cent. a month ago, and 2·9 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment with packing-case makers was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was fair, however, at Nottingham and Belfast. With basket-makers employment showed some improvement on a month ago; it was good at Oldham, but bad in London and at Leicester.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in April, 1907, were valued at £30,748, as compared with £30,826 in March, 1907, and £30,628 in April, 1906.

The Exports of brushes and brooms in April, 1907, were valued at £16,281, as compared with £15,156 in March, 1907, and £13,182 in April, 1906.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 88 Returns—62 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 15 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good on the whole, and was about the same as in the previous month; it was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 9,213 work-people in the week ended April 27th, and paying £11,017 in wages, showed an increase of 2·9 per cent. in numbers employed, and an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with the previous month. Improvement was shown in the glass bottle branch, but flint glass ware (other than bottles), showed a decrease. All the principal districts showed increases.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 8·4 per cent. in numbers employed, and an increase of 15·7* per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the increases being shared by the principal districts and departments, with the exception of the plate glass branch, which showed a general decline in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

* The comparison with April, 1906, is affected to some extent by an advance in rates of wages in the glass bottle making trade, which took effect in January-February, 1907.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Apr. 27th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Apr. 27th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.		Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.
Glass Bottle* ...	6,066	+ 4·7	+ 13·5	7,577	+ 3·0	+ 24·6
Plate Glass ...	848	+ 0·5	+ 1·9	954	+ 0·7	+ 3·8
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,933	- 0·9	+ 1·1	2,096	- 0·8	+ 4·2
Other Branches ...	366	+ 0·8	- 10·5	390	- 1·0	- 11·2
Total ...	9,213	+ 2·9	+ 8·4	11,017	+ 1·9	+ 15·7
Districts.	Per cent.		Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
North of England	1,031	+ 6·4	+ 5·1	1,163	+ 8·3	+ 9·9
Yorkshire ...	4,685	+ 3·3	+ 13·4	5,919	+ 0·7	+ 22·0
Lancashire ...	881	+ 5·1	+ 4·5	969	+ 6·6	+ 28·0
Westminster and Warwick	1,325	+ 0·1	+ 3·9	1,502	+ 0·1	...
Scotland ...	840	+ 1·4	+ 2·7	1,038	+ 2·4	+ 9·6
Other parts of United Kingdom	450	- 1·3	+ 0·2	426	- 2·3	+ 3·9
Total	9,213	+ 2·9	+ 8·4	11,017	+ 1·9	+ 15·7

Employment with glass bottle makers was generally good, but it was only moderate at Leeds and Castleford and fair at Wakefield and Dublin; it continued to improve at Mexborough. Employment was good with medical glass bottle makers at Leeds. With flint glass makers it was generally fair. At Birmingham and at Barnsley, however, it was good. It continued very good with flint glass cutters and makers at Wordsley and at Stourbridge. Employment with plate glass bevellers at Birmingham was fair, but some short time was worked. It continued good with sheet glass flatteners and makers at St. Helens. With London glass blowers it was fairly good. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was moderate, and a considerable amount of short time was still being worked.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	April, 1907.	Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with	
				Mar., 1907.	April, 1906.
Imports:	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	105,128	105,174	120,515	- 46	- 21,387
Plate	43,249	39,567	23,140	+ 3,682	+ 20,109
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented, &c.	62,016	62,838	67,481	- 792	- 5,435
Manufactures, other sorts...	1,360	975	2,528	+ 394	- 1,259
Bottles	150,997	148,143	115,154	+ 2,854	+ 35,843
Exports:	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Plate	12,404	9,831	9,063	+ 2,573	+ 5,341
Flint	5,175	6,481	3,952	- 1,306	+ 1,223
Manufactures, other sorts ...	33,361	31,652	19,364	+ 1,709	+ 13,497
Bottles	72,588	60,184	54,913	+ 12,404	+ 17,675

POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 23 Returns—11 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued good and was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued slack, and was about the same as a year ago.

Pottery Trade.—Employment continued good in Staffordshire and at Bristol. In South Yorkshire and the River Aire district, and at Newcastle-on-Tyne, it was fair. It was moderate in Devonshire and at Glasgow. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was good at Manchester and Waterford and fair at Gateshead and Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued slack at Peterborough, Ruabon, Wrexham, and Nottingham, some short time being worked. It was dull in Shropshire and in the Plymouth district. At Exeter it was moderate, but showed an improvement on the previous month. At Birmingham, Stourbridge, Ipswich, and in the South Staffordshire and Tees and Hartlepool

districts employment was fair. In South Wales and Monmouth it continued good.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in April, 1907, were valued at £83,091, as compared with £85,111 in March, 1907, and £80,087 in April, 1906.

The Exports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in April, 1907, were valued at £216,685, as compared with £218,140 in March, 1907, and £175,832 in April, 1906.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 176 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

AGRICULTURAL labourers were generally in regular employment throughout April; sowing spring corn and mangolds, planting potatoes, and hoeing, affording a good deal of employment. Day labourers, however, lost a little time in a number of districts in the latter part of the month on account of showery weather. The supply of this class of labour was generally sufficient, and in a number of districts was somewhat in excess of the demand.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmorland there was generally full employment in sowing spring corn and mangolds, and preparing the land for potato planting. Regularity of employment is reported from Lancashire, with the supply of labour about equal to the demand. There was full employment in Yorkshire in spring sowing, potato planting, fencing, and other outdoor work. The supply of extra labour was, however, somewhat in excess of the demand in several districts.

Midland Counties.—According to reports from Cheshire farm labourers were fully employed during April. A correspondent in the Nantwich Union states that a few Irish migratory labourers have arrived and found work. In Derbyshire some day labourers were reported to be in irregular work on account of the supply being in excess of the demand. In Nottinghamshire there was some interruption of work through showery weather at the end of the month. Employment was generally regular in Leicestershire. The supply of extra labour was somewhat greater than the demand, but there was a scarcity of men for permanent situations. Unsettled weather slightly interrupted the employment of day labourers in Staffordshire and Shropshire. Employment was generally regular in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, where, however, some odd men were unable to find employment on account of the forward state of farm work. A few day labourers lost time in Northamptonshire on account of wet weather. Employment was generally regular in Oxfordshire. In Buckinghamshire wet weather caused some interruption to hoeing. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire work was somewhat hindered by rain, and there was but little demand for extra men.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was regular in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, except for some interruption from rain in the case of day labourers engaged in hoeing and other outdoor work. In Lincolnshire sowing spring corn proceeded with little or no interruption, and there was in some parts a demand for extra labour, which was fully met by the supply. In Norfolk and Suffolk employment was regular until the end of the month, when rain caused day labourers engaged on hoeing, rolling and other field work to be in somewhat irregular employment. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand in Norfolk, but was in excess in several districts of Suffolk. In Essex also wet weather caused some interruption to the employment of day labourers at the end of the month.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Kent, Surrey, and Sussex employment was generally regular, though some day labourers lost time on account of rain. There was a plentiful supply of this class of labour, but some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from the Eastry Union of Kent and the Chailey,

Petworth and Rye Unions of Sussex. Rain hindered the employment of day labourers in Hampshire and Berkshire towards the end of the month, while in several districts the supply of this class of labour was above the demand. Employment in Wiltshire was irregular towards the end of the month, when stormy weather interfered with the sowing of spring corn and mangolds. Little interruption to employment was reported from Dorset and Somerset, where the supply of labour was generally sufficient for the demand. Employment was regular in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire; in the latter county, however, some day labourers could not find work, while men for permanent situations continued to be somewhat scarce. Correspondents in Devonshire and Cornwall report that employment was fairly plentiful, although in one or two districts, owing to the rainy weather, there was little or no demand for extra labour. The supply of day labourers was, generally speaking, just sufficient for requirements.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 21 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in April, 1907, showed a decrease in quantity but an increase in value as compared with April, 1906.

Employment at the principal ports, on the whole, continued fair. At Yarmouth employment was fair with fishermen, but bad with fish curers, and showed little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Employment was generally fair at Lowestoft, where it improved on a month ago with fishermen. Employment was good and better than a month ago and a year ago at Grimsby; it was also good at Hull, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. At Aberdeen employment was reported as good. It was fair at Fraserburgh and Peterhead, and showed an improvement on a month ago at the latter port. At Macduff employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago. On the south and south-west coast of England it was generally bad, though some improvement was shown at the end of the month. At the South Wales ports employment continued good. Off the south and south-west coasts of Ireland fishing operations were hindered by unfavourable weather.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in April, 1907, and April, 1906, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	April, 1907.	April, 1906.	April, 1907.	April, 1906.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	944,038	860,045	649,661	612,629
Scotland	275,285	266,433	226,528	128,137
Ireland	37,871	31,547	18,418	16,874
Total	1,257,194	1,158,125	794,607	757,640
Shell Fish	—	—	43,972	35,056
Total Value	—	—	838,579	793,296

The exports of herrings in April, 1907, were valued at £26,375, as compared with £61,920 in March, 1907, and £7,631 in April, 1906.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 135 Returns—116 from Employers, 7 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during April was on the whole moderate in London and at Liverpool, where it was worse than a month ago, and fair at the other principal ports, where employment remained about the same as a month ago. It was about the same as in April, 1906.

London.*—Employment generally was moderate, and worse than a month ago. It was better on the whole, however, than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended April 27th was 12,971,

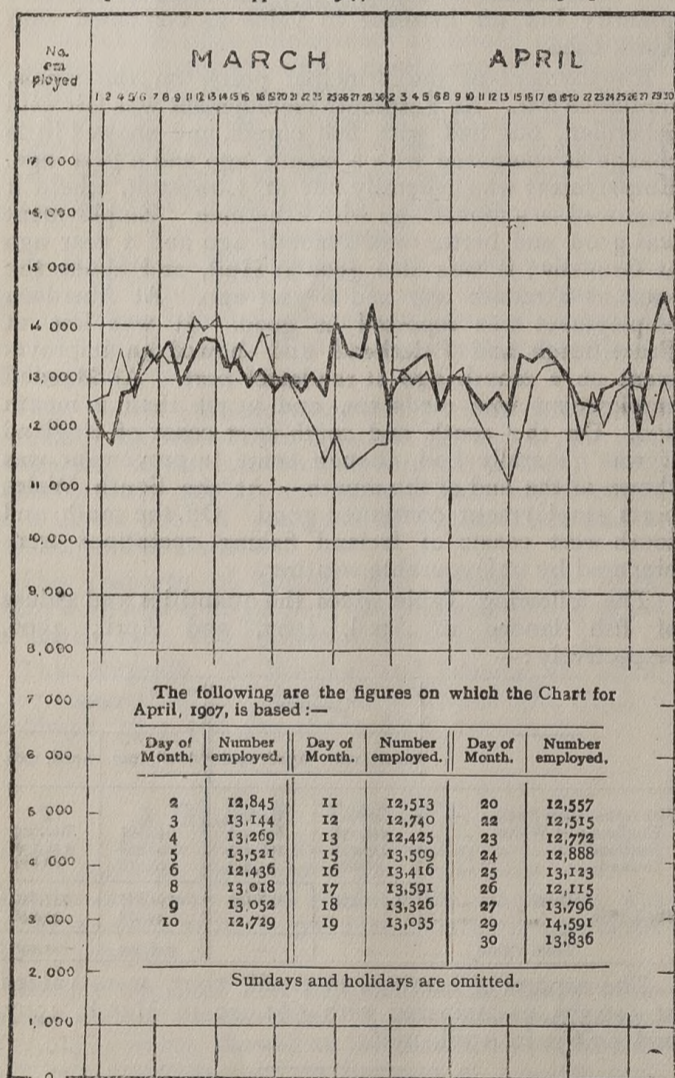
* Exclusive of Tilbury.

a decrease of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The daily numbers in April ranged from 12,115 on the 26th to 14,591 on the 29th. During the corresponding period of 1906 the numbers ranged from 11,168 on the 14th to 13,354 on the 2nd.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks*			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Apl. 6th	3,960	3,036	6,996	6,047	13,043
" " 13th	4,158	2,381	6,539	6,207	12,746
" " 20th	4,099	3,074	7,173	6,066	13,239
" " 27th	3,978	2,823	6,801	6,067	12,868
Average for 4 weeks ended Apl. 27th, 1907	4,053	2,819	6,872	6,099	12,971
Average for Mar., 1907	4,122	2,749	6,871	6,239	13,110
Average for Apl., 1906	3,779	2,977†	6,756†	5,990†	12,746†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 111 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of March, 1907, and April, 1907. The corresponding curve for March, 1906, and April, 1906, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1907, and the thin curve to 1906.]



The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,429 in April, as compared with 1,222 in March and 1,165 a year ago. At *Liverpool* employment with dock labourers was dull, and worse than a month ago. With quay and railway carters it was moderate.

Other Ports.—On the Tyne and Wear employment with dock and quayside labourers was fair. On the Tees employment was good. At Hartlepool employment was good with riverside labourers, but moderate with dock labourers. Employment was good at Manchester. At Hull, Grimsby, and Goole employment was good with coal workers, but generally

* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised

moderate with dock labourers. Dock labourers were fairly well employed at Lynn, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Southampton. At Bristol and Avonmouth employment was on the whole moderate. Employment was generally good at the South Wales ports. It was fair and better than a month ago at Glasgow and it continued fair at Leith and Aberdeen; seasonal slackness was reported at Dundee. Employment was good at Dublin, fair at Belfast.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN APRIL.

(Based on 27 Returns received through the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during April, 40,397* seamen, of whom 4,588 (or 11.4 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. In ten cases there were increases, and in seven cases there were decreases, as compared with April, 1906, the net result being an increase of 5,529.

For the four months ended April, 1907, the total number of seamen shipped was 153,338,* or 12,219 more than during the corresponding period of 1906, due chiefly to large increases at Liverpool, Cardiff, Southampton, and Glasgow.

Lascars, who are engaged in Asia, are not included in these figures.

The following Table shows the number of persons* shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom during the periods mentioned:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	April,		Four months ended April,			
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1907.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1907.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
<i>East Coast.</i>						
Tyne Ports ...	2,559	2,505	- 54	10,019	9,608	- 411
Sunderland ...	413	281	- 132	1,602	1,435	- 167
Middlesbrough ...	150	529	+ 379	833	1,628	+ 795
Hull ...	1,123	1,072	- 51	4,794	4,896	+ 102
Grimsby ...	68	70	+ 2	275	206	- 69
<i>Bristol Channel.</i>						
Bristol ...	612	562	- 50	2,508	2,458	- 50
Newport, Mon. ...	727	877	+ 150	3,520	3,435	- 85
Cardiff ...	3,754	4,929	+ 1,175	18,513	21,139	+ 2,626
Swansea ...	480	420	- 60	1,614	1,785	+ 171
<i>Other Ports.</i>						
Liverpool ...	13,066	15,445	+ 2,349	50,232	56,142	+ 5,910
London ...	5,811	6,520	+ 709	23,026	23,724	+ 698
Southampton ...	1,523	2,496	+ 973	8,142	9,706	+ 1,564
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	222	575	+ 353	2,022	1,851	- 171
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth ...	253	221	- 32	796	837	+ 41
Glasgow ...	3,507	3,587	+ 80	11,852	13,219	+ 1,367
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	128	13	- 115	403	233	- 170
Belfast ...	142	295	+ 153	963	1,036	+ 68
Total ...	34,868	40,397	+ 5,529	141,719	153,338	+ 12,219

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT: DISOBEDIENCE TO RULE. Where injury by accident is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the injured workman, it is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, that compensation in respect of that injury shall be disallowed. An engine driver, employed on a passenger train, left his engine while it was running and got on to the tender. In so doing he came in collision with a bridge and was killed. There was no evidence as to his reason for getting on the tender, but it was suggested that he was intending to pick out some of the best of the coal to increase the pressure of steam in the boiler, which had got lower than it ought to have been. The railway company had issued and posted a notice that "Enginemen

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

and firemen must not leave the footplate of their engine when the latter is in motion," and the driver was fully aware of this notice.

The widow of the deceased man claimed compensation under the Act, but her claim was disallowed by the County Court judge, on the ground that the conduct of the deceased in disobeying the notice without any adequate reason amounted to serious and wilful misconduct. This decision was affirmed by the Court of Appeal, and by the House of Lords.—*Bist v. London and South Western Railway Company, House of Lords, April 25th, 1907.*

(2) Factory Acts.

WHAT IS A WORKSHOP? ROOM WHERE FLOWERS ARRANGED. It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that there shall be affixed at the entrance of every factory and workshop, and in such other parts as directed by an inspector, an abstract of the Act in the prescribed form. It is an offence punishable by a fine to disregard this provision. The word "workshop" is defined so as to include "any premises, room or place, not being a factory in which . . . any manual labour is exercised by way of trade or for purposes of gain in or incidental to any of the following purposes, namely: (i.) The making of any article or of part of any article; or (ii.) the altering, repairing, ornamenting or finishing of any article; or (iii.) the adapting for sale of any article, and to or over which premises, room or place the employer of the persons working therein has the right of access or control.

A company carried on business as florists, the premises consisting chiefly of a shop with a room behind. On these premises were employed ten young women called "assistants," whose ages ranged from 17 years to 23 years, and eight girls called "beginners," of from 15 to 17 years of age. They served in the shop, and also arranged flowers in the room behind, which they called the workshop. The arrangement of the flowers into wreaths, crosses, bouquets, &c., required considerable artistic skill, and sometimes involved the fastening of flowers to frames of wood and wire. The assistants were employed all the year, but during part of the year their time was not fully occupied, and they spent the spare time in practising and in teaching the beginners. The company were charged under the Act with not affixing the prescribed abstract, but the magistrate dismissed the charge on the ground that the room in question was not a "workshop" within the meaning of the Act.

On appeal the High Court decided that the magistrate was wrong, and should have convicted the company. The judges held that the arrangement of flowers into crosses, wreaths, &c., constituted the making of an article, and also the adapting of an article for sale, and that the work was manual labour; therefore the room was a "workshop" within the Act.—*Hoare v. Robert Green, Ltd., King's Bench Division, April 27th, 1907.*

(3) Friendly Societies' Act.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY: RULES: PROVISION FOR EXPULSION: ORANGE LODGE.

It is provided by the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, that the rules of any society registered under the Act must contain, amongst other things, "the terms of admission of members, the conditions under which any member may become entitled to any benefit assured thereby, and the fines and forfeitures to be imposed on any member, and the consequences of non-payment of any subscription or fine." By the rules of a registered society it was provided that the society "should be exclusively composed of members of the Loyal Orange Institution of England . . . that any Protestant of good character and sound health not under the age of 18 years or over 40 years of age may be admitted a member of this lodge . . . Each member on his initiation shall sign a declaration to the above effect." The rules also provided for certain fines to be payable, for the expulsion of any member convicted of felony, and that any member joining the Regular Army or Royal Navy should cease to be a member. There was no specific provision for the expulsion of a member if he ceased to be a member of the Loyal Orange Institution of England.

A member of this society was expelled from the Orange Institution for political reasons. In consequence of this he was expelled from this society. He then took proceedings in a County Court to be re-instated, but his claim was dismissed. On appeal to the High Court it was held that, as it was a condition precedent that persons who belonged to the society should be members of the Orange Institution, a person who ceased to be a member of the Orange Institution, ceased to be a member of the society; that that appeared with sufficient clearness in the rules; and that the plaintiff was not entitled to be re-instated.—*Sargeant v. Butterworth and Others, King's Bench Division, April 16th, 1907.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of bread on May 1st, 1907, have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources, and the figures are summarised in the following Tables.

Compared with a month ago there has been no change in the predominant price of bread in any district. As compared with a year ago slight decreases have occurred in every district except the Midlands, which shows no change.

London:—	1st May, 1907.			and April, 1907.			1st May, 1906.		
	Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.		
	High est.	Low est.	Mean.	High est.	Low est.	Mean.	High est.	Low est.	Mean.
N. & N.W. ...	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
E. & N.E. ...	5	4	4.7	5	4	4.7	5	4	4.8
S.E. ...	5	4	4.6	5	4	4.6	5	4	4.9
S.W. ...	5	4.5	4.9	5	4.5	4.9	5.5	4.5	5.1
W. & W.C. ...	5	5	5.0	5	5	5.0	5.5	4.5	5.3
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4	5.0	6	4	5.0	6	4.5	5.1
Midlands ...	5.5	4	4.8	5.5	4	4.8	5.5	4	4.8
Eastern Counties ...	5.5	4	4.8	5.5	4	4.8	5.5	4	5.0
Southern Counties	6	5	5.4	6	5	5.4	6	5	5.5
S. Western Counties and Wales	5.5	4	4.8	5.5	4	4.9	5.5	4	4.9
Scotland ...	6	4.5	5.2	6	4.5	5.2	6	5	5.6
Great Britain ...	6	4	4.9	6	4	4.9	6	4	5.1

From the following Table it will be seen that, as compared with a month ago, bread is 1d. per 4lbs. cheaper at Oldham and in the Potteries. As compared with a year ago the price per 4lbs. is 1/2d. less in nine towns—4 in Scotland, 4 in England, and 1 in Ireland.

PRICE OF BREAD IN 28 LARGE TOWNS.

Place.	Predominant Price at May 1st, 1907	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
Birmingham ...	5	...	...	...	...
Bolton ...	5	...	...	...	...
Bristol ...	5	...	...	Oct. '05	- 1/2
Cardiff ...	...	...	...	...	...
Derby... ..	4.5	...	...	...	...
Gateshead ...	5	...	...	...	...
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	5	...	...	Feb. '04	+ 1/2
Ipswich ...	5	...	...	Sept. '06	- 1/2
Leeds... ..	5	...	...	...	...
Leicester ...	4.5	...	...	...	...
Liverpool ...	4.5	...	...	...	...
Manchester ...	4.5	...	...	...	...
Middlesbro' ...	4	...	...	Feb. '07	- 1/2
Newcastle ...	5	...	...	Jan. '06	- 1
Norwich ...	5	...	...	...	...
Nottingham ...	5	...	...	...	...
Oldham ...	4	...	...	April '07	- 1/2
Plymouth ...	5	...	...	Feb. '05	- 1/2
Portsmouth ...	5.5	...	...	...	...
Potteries ...	4	...	...	April '07	- 1/2
Wolverhampton ...	4	...	...	Feb. '07	- 1/2
Aberdeen ...	4.5	...	...	Dec. '06	- 1/2
Dundee ...	5.5	...	...	Aug. '06	- 1/2
Edinburgh ...	5.5	...	...	Aug. '06	- 1/2
Glasgow ...	5	...	...	July '06	- 1/2
Belfast ...	5	...	...	Sept. '06	- 1/2
Dublin ...	5.5	...	...	Dec. '05	- 1/2

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The following Table gives the mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat, the average declared value of wheat and flour imports, and the market price of London flour (Town Households) for the periods stated.

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
		Average Declared Value.		
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1906.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
Apr ...	6 9	7 1 1/2	9 9 1/2	8 9 1/2
1907.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
March ...	6 4	6 10 1/2	9 3 1/2	8 9 1/2
April ...	6 2	6 10 1/2	9 4	8 10 1/2

The imports of wheat from September 1st, 1906, to April 30th, 1907, amounted to 56,012,400 cwts., or 2,686,678 cwts. more than in the corresponding period of 1905-6. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during the period September 1st, 1906, to April 30th, 1907, amounted to 9,379,605 cwts., or 784,195 cwts. less than in September-April, 1905-6.

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.*

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-nine new disputes began in April, 1907, as compared with 32 in March, 1907, and 30 in April, 1906. By the 39 disputes, 8,024 workpeople were directly and 1,706 indirectly affected, and these figures when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before April, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 15,586 workpeople involved in trade disputes during April, 1907, compared with 12,177 in March, 1907, and 12,712 in April, 1906.

New Disputes in April 1907.—In the following Table the new disputes in April are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	5	328	20	348
Coal Mining	7	4,122	907	5,029
Quarrying	2	245	...	245
Metal and Engineering... ..	8	1,108	348	1,456
Cotton Manufacture	5	738	145	883
Boot and Shoe Manufacture	2	892	31	923
Dock, Wharf, and Riverside Labour... ..	3	230	245	475
Printing and Allied Trades	3	180	...	180
Leather	2	135	...	135
Other Trades	2	46	10	56
Total, April, 1907	39	8,024	1,706	9,730
Total, March, 1907	32	5,311	4,045	9,356
Total, April, 1906	30	6,441	2,856	9,297

Causes.—Of the 39 new disputes, 9 arose on demands for increased wages, 2 on objections to reduction in wages, 10 on other wages questions, 7 on questions of Trade Union principle, 5 on details of working arrangements, 2 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 4 on other questions.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 24 new disputes, directly affecting 3,364 persons, and 8 old disputes, directly affecting 510 persons. Of these 32 new and old disputes, 12, directly involving

977 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 790 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 11, directly involving 2,107 persons, were compromised. In the case of 1 other dispute, directly involving 3,000 persons, work has been resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in April of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 47,400 working days. In addition, 101,100 working days were lost during April owing to disputes which began before that month, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in April of all disputes, new and old, was 148,500 working days, as compared with 105,400 in the previous month, and 128,500 in the corresponding month of 1906.

Summary for the First Four Months of 1906 and 1907.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the four months, January to April, 1906 and 1907, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—April, 1906.			January—April, 1907.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Work-people affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	8	625	27,100	11	483	6,400
Mining and Quarrying... ..	18	6,440	367,300	33	14,931	173,900
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	33	8,376	76,800	29	5,863	146,600
Textile	28	24,599	225,500	73	20,729	202,200
Clothing	15	583	12,800	13	2,123	14,100
Transport	2	99	400	8	2,101	7,900
Other Trades	13	593	10,800	22	1,893	37,500
Total	117	41,115	720,700	189	48,123	588,600

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1907.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object †	Result.†
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.†				
Coal Mining— Miners, Fitters, &c.	Blaina	3,000	150	17 Apl.	5	For change in system of tram-sharing	Work resumed pending negotiations.
Engineering— Foundry Labourers, Engineers and Joiners	Burnley	550	150	15 Apl.	6	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	Advance of 1s. per week granted.
Cotton Weaving— Weavers, Winders, Warp-ers, Over-lookers, Warehousemen, &c.	Heywood	325	25	24 Jan.	58	Alleged bad material	Temporary advance of 2½ per cent. granted as compensation.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture— Weavers, Winders, Warp-ers, Drawers, &c.	Blackburn	250	80	17 Apl.	...	Alleged bad material	No settlement reported.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture— Boot and Shoe Makers... ..	London, W... ..	800	...	27 Apl.	...	For advance in price for making boots	No settlement reported.

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

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CHECK-WEIGHING IN IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

The Home Secretary has appointed a Departmental Committee to consider and report what would be the best method of securing to workers in the iron and steel trades, who are paid by weight, the means of checking the correctness of the wages they receive. The Committee is composed as follows:—Ernest F. G. Hatch, Esq. (chairman); George Ainsworth, Esq.; Herbert Eccles, Esq.; John Hodge, Esq., M.P.; John Lloyd Morgan, Esq., K.C., M.P.; Alderman P. Walls; and

Harry J. Wilson, Esq., one of H.M. Inspectors of Factories. Correspondence on the subject may be addressed to A. Maxwell, Esq., at the Home Office.

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

UNDER the powers conferred upon him by Section 6 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, the Home Secretary has made an Order*, called the Explosives and Coal Mines Order of April 8th, 1907, amending the *Explosives in Coal Mines Order* of December 17th, 1906, by adding to the list of "permitted explosives" the substance called "Oxalite, No. 2," the chemical composition of which is given in the Schedule to the Order, and which is made at the works of the Explosives and Chemical Products, Limited, at Bramble Island, Essex.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907. No. 256. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in April.—The net effect of all the changes reported in April was an increase of £12,053 per week, as compared with an increase of £25,622 in March, 1907, and one of £11,795 per week in April, 1906. The number of workpeople affected was 221,789, of whom 211,689 received advances amounting to £12,310 per week, and 10,100 sustained decreases amounting to £257 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 506,799, and in April, 1906, 403,079.

One change, affecting 1,010 workpeople, was settled by arbitration; five changes, affecting 132,807 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards or by mediation, and 24 changes, affecting 24,314 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 63,658 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In four cases, affecting 1,249 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the Four completed Months of 1907.—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported during the four months ended April 30th, 1907, was 977,861, as compared with 641,603 for the corresponding period of 1906. The changes arranged gave 977,034 workpeople a net increase of £79,231 per week, and 827 workpeople a net decrease of £43 per week. The net effect of all the changes was thus an increase of £79,188 per week, as compared with an increase of £20,101 in the corresponding period of 1906.

Summarised by trades the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January-April.			
	1906.		1907.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	2,177	+ 114	1,232	+ 63
Coal Mining	158,250	+ 2,350	778,150	+ 68,508
Iron Mining... ..	8,272	+ 501	11,314	+ 799
Quarrying	2,864	+ 10	2,596	+ 129
Pig Iron Manufacture	12,548	+ 952	15,301	+ 1,171
Iron and Steel Manufacture	45,440	+ 1,944	44,563	+ 2,758
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	75,070	+ 4,299	26,521	+ 1,340
Textile Trades	336,047	+10,044	89,001	+ 3,705
Other Trades	414	+ 25	8,699	+ 677
Employees of Local Authorities	515	+ 30	684	+ 41
Total... ..	641,603	+20,101	977,861	+79,188

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during April, 1907, affected 653 workpeople, of whom 16 had their working time increased by 5 hours per week, and 637 had their working time decreased by 431 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the four months ended 30th April was 2,910, the net decrease in their working hours being 11,468 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in April.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages reported in April are given below. The details of the other changes reported are not separately stated in the Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1907.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)		
					In-crease.	De-crease.	
Building ...	Manchester ...	1 May	Painters and Decorators	1,010	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).	
	Northumberland... ..	8 & 15 April	Underground Workers and Banks-men (except Deputies, Mechanics, Enginemen and Firemen).	38,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 30 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.	
			Other Surface Workers ... ..	...	...	Advance of 4 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 24 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
Coal Mining	Bristol District ...	3 April	Hewers, other Underground Workers and Banksmen.	2,500	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off standard rates.	
	Somerset (Rad-stock District)	28 Mar.	Hewers, other Underground Workers, Banksmen and Screen men.	4,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 32½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.	
			Enginemen and Stokers	100	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 17½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.	
	Scotland	23 April	Underground Workers	90,000	...	Advance, under Conciliation Board, of 6¼ per cent., making wages 62½ per cent. above the standard of 1888.	
Iron Mining ...	Lanarkshire and Ayrshire	6 April	Enginemen	1,800	...	Advance of 1¼d. per shift.	
	Cleveland... ..	15 April	Ironstone Miners	7,500	...	Advance of 5½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 36¾ per cent. above the standard of 1879.	
			Limestone Quarrymen	1,700	...	...
	Pig Iron Manufacture	Cleveland and Durham	6 April	Blastfurnacemen	5,500	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 2¼ per cent., making wages 28¾ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
		West Cumberland	1 April	Blastfurnacemen	1,400	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 1½ per cent., making wages 42½ per cent. above the standard of 1889.
South Staffordshire		1 April	Blastfurnacemen	1,000	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.	
Iron and Steel Manufacture	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 April	Blastfurnacemen	1,250	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 6 per cent., making wages 25 per cent. above the standard of 1895.	
	Scotland	1 May	Blastfurnacemen and Labourers	3,500	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1st January, 1899.	
	Consett, Jarrow and Newburn	April	Steel Millmen	1,184	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent., making wages 15 per cent. above the standard.	
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 April	Iron and Steel Workers and Mechanics	5,000	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 6 per cent., making wages 25 per cent. above the standard.	
			Iron Puddlers, Iron and Steel Millmen, Enginemen, &c.	1,564	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.	
	Liverpool	4 May	Engineers, Machine Workers, Brass Finishers, Pattern Makers, &c.	3,000	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.	
	Manchester	8 June	Engineers, Machine Workers, Brass Finishers, Pattern Makers, &c.	15,000	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.	
Engineers, Machine Workers, Brass Finishers, Pattern Makers, &c.			5,143	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.		

NOTE.—Durham Coal Mining.—Early in May it was arranged that Durham Miners' wages should be advanced 3½ per cent., making their wages 40 per cent. above the standard of 1879. Full particulars will appear in the June GAZETTE.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during April, 1907, was 228, a decrease of 27 as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 8 as compared with April, 1906.

The mean number for April in the years 1902-1906 was 219, the maximum year being 1902 with 248 deaths, and the minimum 1905, with 180 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during April, 1907, was 117, as compared with 94 in March, 1907, and 107 in April, 1906. The mean for the five years 1902-1906 was 107, the highest number being 163 in 1903, and the lowest 52 in April, 1904.

In the following Table the accidents reported in April, 1907, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year:—

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (April 1907, March 1907, April 1906), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1907, as compared with (Month ago, Year ago).

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A copy of a monthly Return showing names of seamen whose deaths have been reported to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade may be seen at any Free Library, Mercantile Marine Office, or Sailors' Home throughout the country.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during April was 45, there being 39 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of mercurial poisoning, and 5 of anthrax. In addition to these, 10 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during April among house painters and plumbers.

During the four months ended April, 1907, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 161, as compared with 225 in 1906. The number of deaths during the same period was 14, as against 23 in 1906. In addition there were 47 cases of lead poisoning (including 13 deaths) among house painters and plumbers in 1907, as compared with 52 cases (including 13 deaths) in the first four months of 1906.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of April 1907, Four Months ended April 1907), Deaths (Month of April 1907, Four Months ended April 1907). Includes sub-sections for Lead Poisoning and Other Forms of Poisoning.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases, Deaths. Includes sub-sections for Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, and Arsenic Poisoning.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases, Deaths. Includes sub-sections for Anthrax and Total Anthrax.

* Of the 10 cases in the china and earthenware industry 2 affected females. † Of the 5 cases of anthrax 2 affected dock labourers.

LABOUR CO-PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATION.

The half-yearly meeting of this association was held at Manchester on May 4th, when about 400 delegates from co-operative societies and trade unions, and visitors, were present.

The meeting was presided over by the President, Prof. S. J. Chapman, M.A., who delivered his presidential address on "Labour

Co-partnership in relation to Social Progress." This was followed by a paper read by Mr. Aneurin Williams on "Labour Co-partnership and the Aspirations of Labour."

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for April.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE. NOTE.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

Table with columns: Month ended 30th April (1905, 1906, 1907), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907, as compared with (1906, 1905). Includes categories like Food, Drink, and Tobacco.

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c. † Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

NOTE.—The value of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Table with columns: Month ended 30th Apr. (1905, 1906, 1907), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907, as compared with (1906, 1905). Includes categories like Food, Drink, and Tobacco.

The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce amounted to £6,303,877 in April, 1905; £7,332,086 in April, 1906; and £9,669,898 in April, 1907.

‡ Coal, wood, oil seeds, hides and skins. § Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended April 27th, 1907, amounted to £4,253,068, an increase of £215,741 (or 5.3 per cent.) as compared with April, 1906.

For the seventeen weeks ended April 27th, 1907, the receipts were £18,239,296, an increase of £572,985 (or 3.2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

Table with columns: 4 weeks ended April 27th, 1907, 17 weeks ended April 27th, 1907, Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1906.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in April, 1907, in the 35 selected urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 216 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with March, 1907, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 14,635 (3.7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 8. In the Galway district there was no change; in all other districts there were decreases, the most marked being in the Central district of the Metropolis (30 per 10,000), and in the Leicester district (20 per 10,000). The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 7,346 (4.2 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers a decrease of 7,289 (3.3 per cent.).

Compared with April, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 6,872 (1.8 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 6. Decreases took place in 25 districts, the most marked being in West Ham (56 per 10,000), and in the Leicester district (20 per 10,000). There were increases in 8 districts, and in the Barnsley and Nottingham districts there was no change. The number of indoor paupers increased by 2,328 (1.4 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 9,200 (4.2 per cent.).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of April, 1907 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 48 Bureaux during April*...

The total number of applications for work during the month was 10,157, of which 8,156 were in London, and 2,001 in the provinces.

follows: building trades (artisans and labourers) 206; wood-working trades, 80; metal and engineering trades, 47; other skilled trades, 52; "transport and general," 377; other trades, men and boys, 355; women and girls, 290.

The number of applicants registered at the 10 bureaux for which figures for both 1907 and 1906 can be given was 2,993 in April, 1907, as compared with 3,002 in April, 1906.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING APRIL.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, New Applicants, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, All Situations), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, Total).

* The figures for the Central Employment Exchange and the 25 affiliated London Bureaux relate to the four weeks ended April 26th... † For Bureaux exclusively concerned with women, see page 159.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

DURING April 806 fresh applications for work (428 from domestic servants, &c.) were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 868 situations were offered by employers...

The work done by the Bureaux during April is shown in the following Table:—

Table showing work done by bureaux during April, categorized by bureaux and occupations.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING APRIL.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Boiler Explosions. Report upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, with Appendices. During the year ended 30th June, 1906, 41 preliminary inquiries and 13 formal investigations were held.

Imports and Exports at Prices of 1900. Tables showing for each of the years 1900-1906 the estimated Value of the Imports and Exports of the United Kingdom at the Prices prevailing in 1900.

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. The Labour Gazette, March, 1907. Articles: Dominion Government Employment Agencies for Immigrants: Building operations in Canada during 1906, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States. State of New York. Department of Labour Bulletin. March, 1907. State of Employment; disputes in the last quarter of 1906, with work of Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration...

Statistics of German Co-operative Societies in 1905. Prussian Central Co-operative Bank, 1907. [Berlin: pp. 164.]

Proceedings of the Council of Labour Statistics, March 22nd, 1907. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: pp. 38.]

Quarterly Statistics of the German Empire. Part I., 1907. Contains German emigration statistics for 1906. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht.]

Sickness Insurance in 1904. Imperial Statistical Office, 1907. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: lii. + 192: price 5s.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, March, 1907. Contains statistics of the mining industry in France for 1905. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie.: price 2d.]

Employment of Women in Industrial Occupations. R. Gonnard, 1906. [Paris: Librairie Armand Colin: pp. 283.]

Austria.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, February and March, 1907. The February issue contains an article on wages, &c., agreements in Austria in 1906. [Vienna: Alfred Hölder, K. und K. Hof- und Universitäts-Buchhändler: price 2d.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, March, 1907. Contains article on labour disputes in February. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

Journal of the Italian Department of Credit and Thrift. January and February, 1907. Contains text of the law of December 30th, 1906, modifying the laws of July 28th, 1901, and March 13th, 1904, on Old Age Pensions. [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero e C.: price 9½d.]

Conditions of the Working Classes of Milan. Wages, hours, &c. Result of Inquiry of July 1st, 1903. Labour Department of the Societa Umanitaria. 1907. [Milan, Via A. Manzoni, 9: pp. 253: price 4s.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, March 31st and April 15th, 1907. Contains article on the strikes in the Cotton Industry of Ghent. [Brussels: Imprimerie F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price of each fortnightly part, 1d.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Labour Department. March, 1907. Contains articles on employment and labour disputes in February. [The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante: price 2d.]

Denmark.

Statistics of Denmark. Vol. XXII. Series IV. Contains statistics for 1906 of co-operation in agriculture, etc. Government Statistical office, 1907. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel Nordisk Forlag: pp. 282.]

Norway.

Report of the Norwegian Insurance Funds for 1905. Department of Commerce and Industry, 1907. [Christiania, pp. 12.]

Sweden.

Quarterly Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, No. 1. 1907. Contains text of new Swedish law on conciliation in labour disputes.

Statistics of Agriculture and Cattle Raising in 1905. Central Statistical Bureau, 1907. [Stockholm; Kungl. Boktryckeriet. P.A. Norstedt and Söner.]

Report on the Work of Post Office Savings Bank during 1905. Savings Bank Department of Sweden, 1907. [Stockholm: Imprimerie K. L. Beckman: pp. 17.]

Population Statistics, December 31st, 1906. Central Statistical Bureau, 1907. [Stockholm: Kungl. Boktryckeriet. P.A., Norstedt & Söner: pp. 17.]

Report of the Committee on the Regulation of Wages of Persons Employed on State Railways. With Supplement. 1907. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckmans Boktryckeri: pp. ix. + 387 + 253.]

Registered Sickness Insurance Funds in 1903. Central Statistical Bureau, 1907. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckmans Boktryckeri: pp. lvii. + 149.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department. March, 1907. Contains articles on labour disputes in February, and prices of articles of food in fourth quarter of 1906. [Madrid: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: price 2½d.]

Statistics of Workmen's Societies (Trade Unions, Friendly Societies, &c.), on November 1st, 1904. Labour Department, 1907. [Madrid: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: pp. 228, with diagrams.]

Russia.

Statistics of Labour Disputes, 1895-1904. Ministry of Trade and Industry, 1905. [St. Petersburg: V. Kirschbaum: pp. 116, with diagrams.]

Switzerland.

Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland, 1906. Contains Statistics of Prices of Meat and of Agricultural Produce. Federal Statistical Bureau, 1907. [Berne: Kommissionsverlag A. Francke: pp. 360.]

Servia.

Statistics of Prices of Agricultural Produce, 1901-1905. Vol. III. Statistical Department, 1906. [Belgrade: Imprimerie d'Etat: pp. lvii. + 429. With diagrams.]

Bulgaria.

Statistics of Foreign Trade, Navigation, Prices of Articles of Food, and Wages during First Quarter of 1906. Statistical Department of Bulgaria, 1907. [Sofia: Imprimerie de l'Etat: pp. viii. + 81.]

Consular Reports. Annual Series, No. 3752. Shipping and Navigation of the Port of Antwerp for the year 1906. Transmission of seamen's wages, British seamen engaged and discharged at Antwerp, &c. [Cd. 3283-13: pp. 35: price 2½d.]

Consular Reports. Annual Series, No. 3752. Trade and Agriculture of Wurtemberg for the year 1906. Numbers employed in certain industries; workmen's train fares, &c. [Cd. 3283-27: pp. 12: price 1d.]

Trade of Leipzig for the year 1906. Strikes in 1906, &c. [Cd. 3283-26: pp. 10: price 1d.]

Trade of Consular District of Rome for the year 1906. Working of the special agricultural bank, statistics of industries, &c. [Cd. 3283-29: pp. 23: price 1½d.]

(The Consular Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING APRIL.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

AMONG the new Societies registered in April were the following:—

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—3, viz., Birmingham and Midland Counties Enginemens' and Firemen's Soc., 143, St. Luke's Road, Birmingham; Huddersfield and Dist. Brick-makers, Assoc., Builders' Exchange Rooms, Northumberland Street Huddersfield; North Wales Surface Men's Union, 9, Long Lane, Broughton, Wrexham. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—Nil.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—10, viz., *Co-operative Productive Society* (1): Keighley and Dist. Co-op. Laundries Assoc., Ltd., West Lane, Keighley. *Co-operative Distributive Society* (1): Bletchley and Dist. Mutual Coal Soc., Ltd., 21, Brooklands Road, Fenny Stratford, Bletchley Station. *Co-operative Agricultural Societies* (4): Craven Tenant Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Castle Chambers, Skipton; Rossett and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Dr. W. S. Sprents, Bodalyn, Rossett, Denbighshire; Guildford and Mid-Surrey Farmers' Co-op. Assoc., Ltd., Perivale, Wherwell Road, Guildford; Burwarton Poultry Soc., Ltd., Burwarton, Bridgnorth. *Miscellaneous* (4). *Scotland.*—1, viz., *Co-operative Agricultural Society*: Stormont Fruit Growers' Soc., Ltd., 1, Bank Street, Blairgowrie. *Ireland* (5).—viz., *Co-operative Productive Society* (1): Swilly Valley Co-op. Flax, Soc., Ltd., Tullyrap, Rappoe, Co. Donegal. *Co-operative Agricultural Societies* (4): Corraghoe Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Corraghoe, Co. Cavan; Gortroe Co-op. Agric., Soc., Ltd., Gortroe; Irishtown Co-op. Agric., Soc., Ltd., Oldtowne Dry Mills, Ballindine, Co. Mayo; Drumurcher Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Drumurcher, Co. Monaghan.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—16, viz., Romford Mutual Loan and Investment Soc., Woolpack Inn, Romford; St. Luke's West Norwood Self-Help Soc., West Norwood; Tredegar and Dist. Perm. Money Soc., Tredegar; Moorthorpe Working Men's Club, Moorthorpe, Doncaster; West Green Working Men's Club and Inst., Monk Bretton, Barnsley; Hoyland Town Belmont Working Men's Club and Inst., Hoyland, Barnsley; O'Connell Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Central London Postmen's Benefit Soc., 12, Claremont Square, N.; United Sons of Prosperity Sick Benefit Soc., Stepney, E.; Lee & Eastwood and Eastwood & Co. Annuity Soc., Lambeth, S.E.; Christ Church (Forest Hill) Men's Benefit Soc., Forest Hill, S.E.; Crown and Horse Shoes Friendly Benefit and Dividing Soc., Enfield; Gooch Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Fox and Dogs Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Blythe Street Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Bromfield Sick and Burial Tontine Benefit Soc., Mold. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Donside Juvenile Foresters' Friendly Soc., Bucksburn, Co. Aberdeen. *Ireland.* 4, viz., Donnybrook Christian Burial Soc., Donnybrook, Co. Dublin; Dolphin Burial and Benefit Soc., Dolphins Bard, n. Dublin; Dublin Industrial Loan and Investment Soc., Dublin; Roundstone Credit Soc., Roundstone, Co. Galway.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in April of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions	1	...
Industrial and Provident Societies	...	2	2
Friendly Societies...	13	8
Building " Branches	112	...
Building "	6	...

NOTE.—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, etc.) which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object

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