

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

VOL. XIII—No. 4.

APRIL, 1905.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

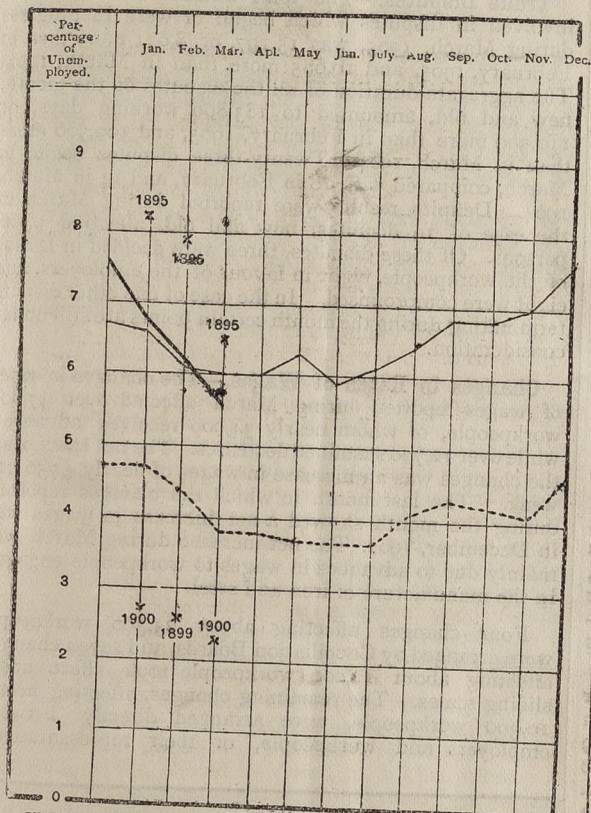


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve=1905.  
Thin Curve=1904.  
Dotted Curve=Mean of 1895-1904.

The crosses indicate the maxima and minima percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[Based on 4,574 returns, viz.: 3,228 from Employers or their Associations; 1,255 from Trade Unions, and 91 from other sources.]

On the whole employment improved in March as compared with the preceding month. In the engineering and shipbuilding trades there was some decrease in the numbers unemployed. The cotton trade was very brisk.

As compared with a year ago there was considerable improvement in the iron and steel trades generally, and in the cotton industry. On the other hand the building, coal mining, and boot and shoe industries showed some decline.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 578,684, making returns, 32,558 (or 5.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, 1905,

as compared with 6.2 at the end of February, and 6.0 at the end of March, 1904.

There was a slight rise in wages during March.

**Employment in various Industries.**—*Building Trades.*—Employment continued dull during March, but on the whole was slightly better than a month ago. It was worse than a year ago.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment during the month of March showed a slight decline as compared with a month and a year ago. At collieries employing 531,609 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5.09 days per week during the four weeks ended March 25th, 1905, compared with 5.31 days in February, and 5.28 in March, 1904.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment was good, showing little change compared with a month or a year ago. At the 122 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended March 25th was 5.84, as compared with 5.90 in February and 5.83 in March, 1904.

*Pig Iron Industry.*—Employment in this industry continued to improve during March and was considerably better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that 316 furnaces, employing about 22,500 workpeople, were in blast at the end of March, 1905—an increase of 4 as compared with the previous month, and of 13 as compared with March, 1904. The number of furnaces in blast was greater than in any month since October, 1903.

*Iron and Steel Manufacture.*—Employment at iron and steel works was good and showed little change as compared with a month ago. It was considerably better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 206 ironmasters, employing 89,821 workpeople, showed that the volume of employment in the week ending March 25th, 1905, was about the same as in the week ending February 25th, 1905, and 4.8 per cent. greater than in the corresponding week of March, 1904.

*Tinplate Industry.*—Employment in this industry continued to improve, and was considerably better than a year ago. At the end of March 407 mills were working, as compared with 405 at the end of February, and 364 at the end of March, 1904. The number of mills at work was higher than at any time since June, 1900.

*Engineering Trades.*—Employment in this industry continued to improve somewhat, and was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 6.1, as compared with 6.5 at the end of February, and 6.4 at the end of March, 1904.

*Shipbuilding Trades.*—Employment on the whole showed improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 11.2, as compared with 11.5 at the end of February, 1905, and with 11.8 per cent. a year ago.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment continued very brisk, and was much better than a year ago in every department. Returns from firms employing 115,865 workpeople on the last pay day in March showed an increase of 1·7 per cent. in the amount of weekly wages paid compared with a month ago and of 17·7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment showed a slight decline, but continued good and was better than a year ago. Firms employing 15,853 workpeople showed a decrease of 1·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in March, as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5·5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment showed an improvement, and was a little better than a year ago. Firms employing 33,772 workpeople showed an increase of 2·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in March, as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2·8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Flax Trade.**—Employment generally showed little change as compared with February, and was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 58,000 workpeople showed an increase of 0·3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1·1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment in this industry continued moderate. Returns from firms employing 28,500 workpeople showed an increase of 0·8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2·3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment was moderate in England, and better than a month and a year ago. In Scotland it was fair, and better than a year ago.

**Tailoring.**—Employment in the *bespoke branch* was moderate, and better than a month ago, but worse than in March, 1904, which included the busy season immediately preceding Easter. In the *ready-made branch* it was moderate, and about the same as a month ago, but better than a year ago.

**Hat Trade.**—Employment was slack but better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. In the *Silk hat trade* the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 12·1 per cent., compared with 12·7 per cent. in February, and 9·1 per cent. a year ago. In the *Felt hat trade* in the corresponding periods the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed were 2·9, 3·6, and 3·5.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment showed a further slight improvement, but was still quiet and worse than a year ago. Returns from 478 firms, employing 63,169 workpeople, and paying £60,423 in wages during the last week of March showed an increase of 1·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 3·2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment in these trades continued bad generally, but showed a slight improvement as compared with a month and year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of the month was 9·1, against 9·3 in February and 9·7 in March, 1904.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment in March was slightly better on the whole than a month ago, but continued quiet and worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of the month was 4·5, as compared with 4·8 in February and 3·4 in March, 1904.

**Papermaking Trade.**—Employment remained fairly good. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 2·9, against 3·2 in February and 2·9 a year ago.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment at the end of March was, on the whole, fair and much better than a month ago. Compared with a year ago a slight improvement was shown. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed (exclusive of coopers)

at the end of March was 5·1, as compared with 8·4 at the end of February and 5·7 at the end of March, 1904.

**Glass and Pottery Trades.**—Employment in the *Glass trades* was rather slack, but better than a month ago. It was, however, worse than a year ago. In the *Pottery trades* there were indications of improvement, but in the *Brick and Tile trades* it continued bad on the whole.

**Agricultural Labourers** were for the most part in regular employment, but some day labourers lost time in the early part of the month, owing to unfavourable weather.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment remained moderate, showing little change on the whole compared with a month and year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended 25th March was 12,350, an increase of 3·9 per cent. on the average for February, and a decrease of 4·1 per cent. on that for March, 1904.

**Trade Disputes.**—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during March, 1905, was 15,197, or 8,021 more than in February, 1905, and 10,685 more than in March, 1904. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 183,800 working days, or 110,300 more than in February, 1905, and 109,300 more than in March, 1904. Twenty-three disputes began in March, compared with 18 in February, and 14 in March, 1904. Definite results were reported during March in the case of 19 disputes, new and old, affecting 9,128 persons. Of these disputes, three were decided in favour of the workpeople, eight in favour of the employers, and eight were compromised. In the case of one other dispute terminating during the month certain points are still under consideration.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes in rates of wages reported during March affected over 47,600 workpeople, of whom nearly 34,900 received advances, while over 12,700 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was an increase in wages of nearly £750 per week. The last month in which the changes reported during the month showed a net increase in wages was in December, 1902. The net increase during March was mainly due to advances in wages to workpeople engaged in the manufacture of iron and steel.

Four changes affecting about 25,300 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and seven changes affecting about 12,000 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting nearly 10,300 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES.

### Workmen's Insurance.

THIS Congress will meet at Vienna on September 17-23, 1905. Among the questions to be discussed at the Congress will be the different forms of insurance of disabled and aged workmen, and the possibility of organising the compilation of international statistics of accidents. Further information may be obtained from the Organising Committee of the Congress (*Organisations-Komitee des VII. Internationalen Arbeiter-Versicherungs-Kongresses*, 1, Wipplingerstrasse Nr. 34, Vienna). The last Congress was held at Düsseldorf in June, 1902 (see LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1902, p. 186).

### Legal Protection of Workpeople.

AN International Congress will be held at Berne on May 8th, under the auspices of the Swiss Government, for the consideration of certain matters relating to the protection of workpeople, viz., the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of wax matches, and the prohibition of night work in the case of women and girls in industrial establishments.

## WAGES IN THE COTTON TRADE.

### Cotton Weaving.

WAGES of cotton weavers are mainly regulated by the "Uniform" list of prices. This list is in general use in North and North-East Lancashire, and was prepared by a Joint Committee of Employers' and Operatives' representatives in 1892. It replaced the Blackburn list which had been in operation from 1853, and also the Burnley and Preston lists for weaving. A full account of the list is given in a report by the Labour Department on Standard Piece Rates of Wages.\*

Changes in wages are reckoned by percentage additions to or deductions from the list prices. Under the Blackburn list adopted in 1853, and revised in 1867, the following changes took place:—

Year.	Advances.	Reductions.	Year.	Advances.	Reductions.
1853	10 per cent.	...	1878	...	10 per cent.
1854	...	...	1879	...	5 per cent.
1860	5 per cent.	...	1881	5 per cent.	...
1861	...	5 per cent.	1883	...	5 per cent.
1869	...	5 per cent.	1884	5 per cent.	...
1870	5 per cent.	...			

The result of these changes was to leave wages 10 per cent. below Blackburn list prices in 1891. In 1892 this list was superseded by the "Uniform" list (which at the date of its adoption was subject to a 10 per cent. reduction) under which an advance of 2½ per cent. took place in 1899, leaving wages at their present level, viz., 7½ per cent. below list prices.

A further advance is, however, to take place in July, as the result of negotiations between representatives of employers and operatives which followed upon a meeting held on January 17th by the Central Committee of the Northern Counties Amalgamated Associations of Weavers. At this meeting the secretary was instructed to ask for a joint meeting with the Central Committee of the North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers' Association to consider a demand of the operatives for an advance in weavers' wages.

A Joint Committee of the two organisations named has been in existence for a number of years, its object being (according to rules agreed upon in 1896) "to consider in their preliminary stages all trade disputes occurring in the weaving department, and coming within the knowledge of the officials of the Operatives' Amalgamation within the district of North and North-East Lancashire, and thereby endeavouring to preserve good feeling between employers and operatives." The committee is not authorised to come to any final conclusion on matters brought to its notice.

A meeting of the Joint Committee referred to took place on February 3rd, when the operatives put forward a demand that wages, which are now 7½ per cent. below the Uniform list, should be raised to full list prices. A meeting of specially appointed representatives of the employers and workpeople was held on March 24th, when it was agreed that an advance of 5 per cent. should be given from the second Saturday in July, the question of the other 2½ per cent. being reserved for consideration in January next.

The average earnings of a weaver in a full week have, however, been affected not only by changes in the percentages on list prices but also by other causes, e.g., the speeding up of machinery, the increase in the average number of looms per weaver, and the working in some cases without a tenter where one had previously been employed. As a result average earnings in a normal week have increased in recent years in slightly greater proportion than is indicated by the percentage changes. It is estimated that the 5 per cent. advance which has been agreed upon will be equal to an increase in a weaver's earnings of about 3½d. per loom per week.

### Cotton Spinning.

Wages in the spinning trade are mainly regulated by the Oldham and Bolton price lists. The Oldham list was agreed to in the latter part of 1875, and came into operation on 1st January, 1876. The Bolton list dates back to 1858. Both have been amended from time to

\* Cd. 144 of 1900.

time. The percentage of wages above or below list prices since 1877 in the case of these two lists is shown in the following Table:—

End of Year.	Bolton List.	Oldham List.
1877	List prices.	— 5
1878	List prices.	— 15
1879	— 5	— 20
1880	— 10	— 15
1881-1884	— 5	— 10
1885-1887	— 10	— 15
1888-1889	— 5	— 10
1890	List prices.	— 10
1891-1892	List prices.	— 5
1893-1898	List prices.	— 7 9t
1899	List prices.	— 5
1900-1904	+ 5	List prices.

As in the case of the weavers there has been a tendency for wages to increase apart from variations in the percentages, owing to the speeding up of machinery, and the increase in the number of spindles per mule.

In addition to the lists for spinners, lists for other sections of the spinning trade are in operation, the most important of which is the Universal Cardroom list. This list was agreed to at a joint meeting of representatives of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, Ltd., and of the Amalgamated Association of Card and Blowing Room Operatives on March 13th, 1903, and was the first recognised uniform list for the regulation of the wages of Cardroom Operatives.

Machinery for the arrangement by conciliatory means of differences with respect to working conditions in the spinning trade is provided by the Brooklands Agreement entered into in March, 1893, and amended in December, 1897. The parties to this agreement are the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners, the Amalgamated Association of Card and Blowing Room Operatives, and the Amalgamated Northern Counties Association of Warpers, Reelers, and Winders. The Brooklands Agreement provides for the reference of any matters in dispute in the cotton spinning trade over a large portion of Lancashire to the secretaries of the local employers' and operatives' organizations in the first instance, or to a joint committee of these organizations, and finally, failing settlement, to a joint committee of the employers' Federation and the operatives' Amalgamated Association.

## CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

CO-OPERATIVE Credit Societies in the United Kingdom—of which the larger number are in Ireland—are combinations of farmers, labourers, and artisans for the purpose of raising capital with the object of enabling the societies to make advances on loan to members requiring the temporary use of capital, for reproductive purposes, at a reasonable rate of interest.

With few exceptions, the societies are established in agricultural districts, and are organised upon what is known as the "Raiffeisen" system, the main features of which are that no shares are issued, the capital being raised by entrance fees, subscriptions, and deposits and loans bearing a fixed rate of interest; that the liability of the members is unlimited, every member being jointly and severally responsible for any losses that may be incurred by the society; that the loans advanced by the societies are for reproductive purposes only, the borrower being required to satisfy the managing committee that the object for which the loan is required is one that affords a reasonable security for his being able to repay the loan at the date fixed; and that the operations of a society are confined to a small area in order that the personal character and needs of applicants for loans may be known to the members and committee.

All the societies with the exception of 15 (13 of which are town societies), are registered under the Friendly Societies Acts as "Specially Authorised Societies." The 15 societies are registered as Industrial and Provident Societies, with share capital and limited liability. In a number of cases in Ireland, where sufficient local capital has not been available at the commencement of the society, loans ranging in amount from £50 to £100 have been advanced to the society at a low rate of interest

by the Congested Districts Board, or by the Department of Agriculture.

Except in the case of the 15 societies referred to above, no dividends are paid by the societies, the profits, after working expenses and interest on loans and deposits have been paid, being carried to the reserve funds and used as working capital.

It is claimed for these societies that, by advancing loans for the purchase of a cow, or a few pigs, and for similar purposes, they have enabled many labourers to realise considerable additions to their income, and that as yet no bad debts have been incurred.

In the following Table the progress of these societies during each of the six years for which statistics are available is shown. It will be seen that in 1903, as compared with 1898, the number of societies had multiplied five times and the membership four times; the capital had more than doubled; the amounts of loans advanced and repaid had each multiplied about 2½ times; while the working expenses had doubled and the profits trebled.

Year.	Number of Societies making Returns.	Total Number of Members.	Total Capital (Share, Loan and Reserve).		Amount of Loans.		Working Expenses, including Interest on Capital.	Profit after allowing for Interest on Capital.
			£	£	Advanced during year (including renewals).	Repaid during year (including interest).		
1898	31	2,659	42,245	14,955	11,734	1,396	212	
1899	48	3,472	47,511	17,773	12,712	1,658	309	
1900	64	5,015	53,922	23,938	14,461	1,921	493	
1901	81	6,014	64,746	29,938	19,777	2,012	568	
1902	114	7,924	77,507	31,107	23,279	2,671	813	
1903	154	10,509	85,128	33,753	27,194	2,938	652	
Percentage Increase in 1903 over 1898	396.8	295.2	101.5	125.7	131.8	110.5	207.5	

The information relating to the working of these societies in 1903 has been obtained from returns supplied to the department by the societies concerned, supplemented by particulars kindly furnished by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and from the published statistics of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. The particulars obtained have been classified so as to show the number, membership, capital and business of the societies in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, and to distinguish between town and country societies.

Considerable progress is shown in 1903 as compared with 1902, the number of societies in 1903 being 154 as compared with 114, and the membership 10,509 compared with 7,921. The total capital was £85,128, or an increase of 9.7 per cent.; the amount of loans advanced £33,753, an increase of 8.5 per cent.; and the profit after allowing for all expenses £652, a decrease of about 20 per cent.

The following Table shows the membership, capital, business and profits of Co-operative Credit Associations during the years 1902 and 1903, distinguishing England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland and town from agricultural districts:—

—	No. of Societies making Returns.	No. of Members.	Capital.		Amount granted in Loans during year.	Amount of Loans repaid during year including interest.	Working Expenses, including interest on Capital.	Profit after allowing for interest on Capital.
			Share and Loan.	Reserve.				
England & Wales:—								
Town Districts	11	1,931	£ 9,182	£ 239	£ 6,648	£ 4,676	£ 417	£ 123
Agricultural Districts	7	199	962	140	679	723	41	21
Total England and Wales, 1903.	18	2,130	10,144	377	7,327	5,399	458	144
Ditto, 1902	17	1,549	10,567	282	4,450	4,286	581	262
Scotland:—								
Town Districts, 1903.	2	777	47,156	6,176	5,340	6,047	1,854	209
Ditto, 1902	2	768	46,852	5,963	10,822	8,283	1,656	288
Ireland:—								
Agricultural Districts, 1903.	134	7,602	20,249	1,026	15,748	626	299	
Ditto, 1902	95	5,604	13,350	593	15,835	10,710	434	263
United Kingdom, 1903.	154	10,509	77,549	7,579	33,753	27,194	2,938	652
Ditto, 1902	114	7,921	70,769	6,838	31,107	23,279	2,671	813

### RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

#### (a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

##### Steelworkers at Morriston.

On March 6th the men engaged at the steel smelting and bar mill departments of the Dyffryn Steel and Tinplate Works, Morriston, presented a month's notice for a revision of rates of wages. Subsequently the notices were withdrawn, and on March 31st joint application was made on behalf of the employer and the British Steel Smelters' Amalgamated Association, representing the workpeople affected, for the appointment of an arbitrator by the Board of Trade to fix the conditions and rates of wages to be paid in the departments referred to.

The Board of Trade, on April 6th, appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act as arbitrator.

##### London Sew Round Shoe Trade.

Differences having arisen between the London Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association and the City Women's section of the Amalgamated Society of Boot and Shoe Makers, in regard to a proposed statement for Louis heel work, put forward by the workpeople in February, the men early in March gave notice that they would refuse to take out any more work.

On March 30th the Employers' Association brought the matter before the Board of Trade, and after negotiations between representatives of both sides and officers of the Department, it was arranged that a joint committee, consisting of four representatives of each side, should be appointed to consider the new statement, the committee to be presided over by a chairman (not connected with the Boot and Shoe Trade) appointed by the Board of Trade, and assisted on technical points by two experts, each side appointing one, the decision of the chairman on any matters upon which the joint committee disagreed to be final and binding upon both sides.

In accordance with this arrangement the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act as chairman, and the first meeting of the joint committee was held on Friday, April 14th.

#### (b) OTHER CASE.

##### Leicester Building Trades.

In November and December, 1904, notices were given by the employers and workpeople for certain alterations of working rules in the building trades of Leicester, to take effect on April 1st, 1905. A conference was held on March 31st, under the presidency of Alderman T. Smith, as mediator, at which there were present representatives of the Leicester Master Builders' Association, the Amalgamated Society and the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners, the London and Manchester Societies of Bricklayers, the Leicester and District Builders' Labourers' Society, and the Navvies', Bricklayers' Labourers' and General Labourers' Union.

At the conference an extension of the boundary line, beyond which walking time is allowed at the rate of three miles an hour, was agreed upon, the new boundaries to be in operation for a period of five years from March 31st, 1905. An alteration was made in the rules for bricklayers and labourers, providing for work to cease on the first five days of the week from March 1st to October 31st at 5 p.m., instead of 5.30 as previously. An alteration was made in the rules for carpenters and joiners by which increased payment for overtime is to commence at leaving off time. Previously the increased payment commenced half an hour after leaving off time, and on Saturdays at 1 p.m.

### RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN MARCH.

(Based on Returns received from Town Clerks and Local Correspondents, relating to the Metropolis and surrounding district, and nearly all towns with a population of 50,000 and over, and in the case of smaller towns to most of those in which exceptional distress has been reported.)

ACCORDING to returns recently received the decrease in the amount of exceptional distress due to unemployment noted in the March LABOUR GAZETTE was more than maintained in March. The number of provincial towns in which exceptional distress was reported, which had been 79 for January and 65 for February, fell to 50 in March. In London and neighbourhood the proportion of districts reporting exceptional distress was one-half in March, as compared with two-thirds in February.

The work provided for the unemployed was continued in March in London and neighbourhood, and in 55 Provincial towns. In three London districts, and in 16 Provincial towns, where work had been provided in February, it was not continued into March. Of the localities where work was in progress at the beginning of March, operations have since ceased in 14 districts of London and neighbourhood and 25 Provincial towns, while in another London district and in five Provincial towns it has been decided to discontinue employment relief about the end of April. Part of the work provided by the Central Committee of the London Unemployed Fund has also been brought to a close.

The total number of persons for whom some employment was found in March on the relief works as to which returns have been received, was 26,805, including 12,528 in London and district. Compared with a month ago the total number given employment relief has fallen about 28 per cent., and in London 22 per cent. In the case of those works for which the information is available, the average number of days' work which each man received was about 10; in the London district the average was about eight.

London and Neighbourhood.—Exceptional distress was reported in half of the districts as to which information on this point was received. Local work for the unemployed was provided by the Local Authorities in nearly all the boroughs and urban districts in the Metropolis and surrounding district, 10,171 men, or about 22 per cent. less than a month ago, receiving employment-relief at some time during March according to the returns received.

In addition the Central Committee of the London Unemployed Fund, found continuous employment for 2,070 men, by arrangement with the Office of Works, the London County Council, the Corporation of the City of London, the Salvation Army and the Garden City Company, and for 116 men at the Hollesley Bay Farm Colony. The Middlesex Unemployed Fund also provided 171 men with work at the Alexandra Palace and Park, as compared with 805 employed in February.

In 14 districts the Local Authorities have now discontinued employment relief, and in another it has been decided to discontinue it at the end of April. The work provided in connection with the London Unemployed Fund at Hadleigh ceased at the end of March, while that at Epsom and in the L.C.C. Parks was to be discontinued about the middle of April.

Northern Counties.—Exceptional distress was reported in three towns as compared with four in February, but there was a general improvement in the district. Work for the unemployed was provided during March by the Municipal Authorities at Jarrow and Newcastle. It has ceased at Jarrow, and will be discontinued at Newcastle about the end of April.

Yorkshire.—According to the returns received there was exceptional distress in nine towns as compared with 11 in February. A slight improvement was reported in three towns, while in Sheffield the distress was stated to be greater. In the following ten towns the employment relief was continued, viz.: Bradford, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Hull, Leeds, Rotherham, Scarborough, Sheffield, and York. It has ceased at Rotherham.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—In most towns of this district

there was less distress than in the previous month, but in Liverpool and Birkenhead the distress was rather greater. It was reported as exceptional in the same nine towns as a month ago. Employment relief given by the municipal authorities at Manchester, Salford, Birkenhead, Bolton, Preston, Warrington, Stockport and Barrow was continued, but ceased during the month at the last two towns, and will be entirely discontinued at Salford at the end of April.

Midlands.—The reports received indicate a general improvement, but exceptional distress was still reported in 15 towns as compared with 19 a month ago. Work for the unemployed was continued during March by the Local Authorities at Burslem, Gloucester, Hanley, Leicester, Leamington, Nottingham, Oldbury, Oswestry, Stoke, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Bilston, Coventry, Northampton and Smethwick, but has ceased at the first 11 of these towns and will be discontinued at Northampton towards the end of April.

Eastern Counties.—Exceptional distress was reported in four towns, as compared with five a month ago. Employment relief was continued in March at Ipswich and Norwich, but has now ceased.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—An improvement was reported in four towns, but the distress was still reported as exceptional for the time of year in seven towns, as compared with eight in February. Work for the unemployed provided by the Local Authorities was continued at Brighton, Folkestone, Tunbridge Wells, Southampton, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Devonport, Plymouth and Reading, but at the five first-named towns operations were not continued beyond the end of the month.

Wales and Monmouth.—The employment relief was continued by the Municipal Authorities at Cardiff and Newport during March.

Scotland.—A general improvement is noted in the reports, and exceptional distress was reported in only three towns, as compared with seven a month ago. Employment relief was continued by the Local Authorities at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley, Dundee, Aberdeen and Hamilton, but has now practically ceased at the three first-named towns, and will be discontinued at Aberdeen at the end of April.

Ireland.—An improvement was reported in two towns, but exceptional distress continued at a third, and was worse than a month ago.

The following Table gives certain particulars of the work for the unemployed provided in March:—

Locality.	No. of days in March, during which works were open.	No. of Men Employed.		No. of days worked in month.	
		Total.	Average per day during period works were open.	Aggregate.	Average per Man.
<b>London and Neighbourhood.</b>					
<i>London Unemployed Fund Central Committee—</i>					
City Markets	23	45	45	1,055	23.0
Garden City, Hitchin	27	255	175	4,725	18.5
Hadleigh Colony	21	200	150	3,150	15.0
Hollesley Bay Farm	27	116	64	1,733	14.9
L.C.C. Asylum, Epsom	23	800	700	16,100	20.1
L.C.C. Parks	23	620	493	9,275	15.0
Royal Parks	27	150	125	3,375	22.5
<i>Middlesex Unemployed Fund—</i>					
Alexandra Palace and Park	27	171	125	3,377	19.7
<i>East—</i>					
Bethnal Green	27	512	104	2,806	5.5
East Ham	24	70	26	620	8.9
Hackney	27	2,922	201	5,439	1.8
Leyton	27	163	34	920	5.6
Poplar	24	446	350	8,400	18.8
Shoreditch	28	70	35	980	14.0
Stepney	21	152	152	3,189	21.0
Walthamstow	27	175	175	4,734	21.7
West Ham	27	870	88	2,388	2.7
<i>South—</i>					
Bermondsey	27	3,351	303	8,193	3.5
Deptford	27	173	49	1,311	7.6
Greenwich	27	74	44	1,201	16.2
Wandsworth	27	106	56	1,512	14.3
Wimbledon	27	148	35	933	3.9
Woolwich	27	270	270	7,250	27.0
<i>North—</i>					
Ilkington	27	254	46	1,242	4.9
Stoke Newington	27	43	6	154	3.6
Tottenham	27	232	36	966	3.8
<i>West—</i>					
Chelsea	16	80	80	1,280	16.0
Hammersmith	23	294	30	666	2.4
Kensington	25	50	50	1,250	25.0
Paddington	27	411	152	4,117	10.0

Locality	No. of days in March, during which works were open.	No. of Men Employed.		No. of days worked in month.	
		Total.	Average per day during period works were open.	Aggregate.	Average per Man.
<b>Central—</b>					
City of London ... ..	27	35	35	945	27.0
Finsbury ... ..	27	96	64	1,739	18.1
City of Westminster ... ..	27	74	74	1,998	27.0
<b>Provincial Towns.</b>					
<b>Northern Counties—</b>					
Jarrow ... ..	26	132	13	347	2.6
Newcastle ... ..	27	567	58	1,577	2.8
<b>Yorkshire—</b>					
Bradford ... ..	27	657	288	7,782	11.8
Doncaster ... ..	24	180	83	4,320	24.0
Halifax ... ..	27	231	83	2,330	9.7
Harrrogate ... ..	27	500	107	2,880	5.8
Hull ... ..	27	126	85	2,288	18.2
Leeds ... ..	27	694	326	8,800	12.7
Rotherham ... ..	27	85	9	255	3.0
Scarborough ... ..	27	137	15	411	3.0
Sheffield ... ..	27	724*	20	540	13.5
York ... ..	27	40	5	100	20.0
<b>Lancs. and Cheshire—</b>					
Barrow-in-Furness ... ..	22	5	5	6,204	19.2
Birkenhead ... ..	27	323	20	460	23.0
Bolton ... ..	23	20	20	10,176	12.0
Manchester ... ..	27	848	377	10,350	27.0
Preston ... ..	27	50	50	1,079	25.8
Salford ... ..	27	391	373	4,404	6.0
Stockport ... ..	22	737	200	590	20.3
Warrington ... ..	27	29	22	62	9.6
<b>Midland Counties—</b>					
Bilston ... ..	27	66	23	168	6.0
Burslem ... ..	27	28	6	3,640	24.3
Coventry ... ..	27	150	135	1,551	12.6
Gloucester ... ..	27	123	57	28	4.0
Hanley ... ..	13	2	2	84	4.2
Leamington ... ..	27	20	9	935	3.1
Letchworth ... ..	27	297	35	2,347	9.2
Northampton ... ..	23	254	102	1,300	13.0
Nottingham ... ..	26	100	50	392	10.6
Oldbury ... ..	26	37	15	231	16.5
Oswestry ... ..	27	14	9	921	11.8
Smethwick ... ..	27	78	34	70	4.7
Stoke-on-Trent ... ..	6	15	12	804	3.0
West Bromwich ... ..	22	272	37	200	6.7
Wolverhampton ... ..	13	30	15	217	2.7
<b>Eastern Counties—</b>					
Ipswich ... ..	4	80	54	810	3.0
Norwich ... ..	25	270	32	8.3	6.1
<b>S. &amp; S.W. Counties—</b>					
Bath ... ..	14	120	77	8,232	18.8
Brighton ... ..	27	529	120	1,118	19.6
Bristol ... ..	27	437	395	335	4.5
Devonport ... ..	27	47	41	246	6.0
Folkestone ... ..	10	75	34	2,930	18.7
Plymouth ... ..	27	41	9	3,019	3.0
Reading ... ..	27	157	109	385	6.5
Southampton ... ..	27	1,009	112	309	2.5
Swindon ... ..	16	59	24	1,850	23.1
Tunbridge Wells ... ..	11	123	28	108	27.0
<b>Wales and Mon.—</b>					
Cardiff ... ..	27	80	69	4,358	16.4
Newport ... ..	27	4	4	2,335	15.5
<b>Scotland—</b>					
Aberdeen ... ..	23	265	189	6,398	18.3
Dundee ... ..	27	185	105	28,250	19.3
Edinburgh ... ..	27	350	237	1,338	19.6
Glasgow ... ..	27	1,460	49	751	12.3
Hamilton ... ..	27	68	47	164	15.5
Paisley ... ..	16	61	47	183	18.3

NOTE.—In addition to the numbers employed as given in the above table, for whom the number of days worked is stated, 872 men were employed on piece work for whom the number of days worked cannot be stated, viz., at Birkenhead, 319; Burslem, 3; Bristol, 131; Hull, 193; Newport, 138; and York, 88.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE results of the latest ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron are given in the Table below.

**Coal.**—Little change is shown in the price of Northumberland coal for the three months ending February, 1905, as compared with the price for the previous three months, which was the lowest recorded since that for the period March-May, 1898. In connection with the recent ascertainment, it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board on April 1st that no change should be made in the wages of the coal miners.

**Pig Iron.**—The prices given in the Table below relate in the case of Cleveland to the net average invoice price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron as shown by the books of certain firms. In the case of Cumberland the quarterly averages are based on the daily average cash price of Cumberland Hematite warrants in the Glasgow market.

The price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron for the first quarter of 1905 averaged 45s. 6.89d. per ton, or about 2s. 2d. more than in the previous quarter, and over 3s. 2d. more than in the corresponding period of 1904. The price as shown by the last ascertainment is higher

\* Number at work at end of March.  
† Most of money expended on Relief Works raised by Voluntary Subscriptions.  
‡ Work provided by Charitable Association.

than any since that for July-September, 1903. Cumberland prices also rose, the last quarterly average being over 3s. 4d. per ton higher than that for the last quarter of 1904, and nearly 4s. 5d. per ton higher than that of a year ago. It is also higher than the average for any quarter since April-June, 1903.

As a result of these ascertainment the wages of blast-furnacemen have been advanced 2½ per cent. on "standard" in Cleveland, and 4¼ per cent. in Cumberland.

**Manufactured Iron.**—The prices given for the North of England and West of Scotland are based on the selling price of specified classes of manufactured iron as shown by the books of certain firms. In the North of England the ascertained price was slightly higher in January and February than in the previous two months, when it reached the lowest point touched since the beginning of 1899. In Scotland there was a slight fall in the price for January and February as compared with that for the last two months of 1904, and it is now lower than at any time since the end of 1898.

As a result of the last ascertainment an advance in wages has taken place in the North of England. No change has taken place in Scotland.

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with	
		Last Audit.*	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
<b>Coal.</b>						
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Dec.-Feb.	6 2.94	6 2.69	6 4.45	+ 0 0.25	- 0 1.51
<b>Pig Iron.</b>						
Cleveland No. 1 ... ..	Jan.-Mar.	45 6.89	43 4.59	42 3.97	+ 2 2.30	+ 3 2.92
Cumberland ... ..	Jan.-Mar.	57 6.65	54 1.97	53 1.71	+ 3 4.63	+ 4 4.94
<b>Manufact'd Iron.</b> (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)						
North of England:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops, and rods)	Jan.-Feb.	117 6.76	116 4.89	120 6.17	+ 1 1.87	- 2 11.41
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops, and rods)	Jan.-Feb.	112 11.91	113 9.87	117 1.81	- 0 9.96	- 4 1.90

Further particulars with regard to the changes in wages referred to above will be found on page 124.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

This is the best season of the year for going to Canada. There is now a very good demand for farm labourers. The principal demand is for capable single men and boys who understand farm work, milking cows, looking after cattle, horses, sheep, or pigs, killing and dressing animals, etc. Even inexperienced hands may get places in the spring, provided they are willing to learn, and are strong and able; their wages at first will be not more than 10 dollars a month, but board and lodging will be supplied free. There is a good demand for competent mechanics in the building trades during spring and summer; and the manufacture of iron and steel has been very active at the large works at Sydney, Nova Scotia, and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Skilled men, such as carpenters, bricklayers, masons, carriage and wagonmakers, coopers, bookbinders, iron moulders, coremakers, ironworkers and helpers, engineers, electrical workers and linemen, blacksmiths, horse shoers, stove mounters, and boilermakers, should have little difficulty in finding work at this season.

Coal miners are fairly well employed in Nova Scotia, and at the Crow's Nest Pass mines in British Columbia. There is a good demand everywhere, both in towns and on farms, for female servants.

\* Under the various sliding scale agreements, changes in wages, if any, resulting from these audits take place in the pig iron industry immediately after the period to which the audit relates, while in the manufactured iron trades they follow one month later. In Northumberland there is no sliding scale, but the ascertainment are taken into consideration by the Coal Trade Conciliation Board when determining the rate of wages of the miners.  
† Handbooks with maps on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.

Commonwealth of Australia.

**New South Wales.**—A report from the large silver mines at Broken Hill, states that there is a good demand for good hard ground miners, but no demand for general labourers, mechanics or female servants. There is no demand for miners at the Newcastle collieries, and in other parts of New South Wales the supply of labour is sufficient. Emigrants to Australia should bear in mind that "any persons under a contract or agreement to perform manual labour within the Commonwealth," are with few exceptions prohibited from landing in New South Wales or in any other State of the Commonwealth. This does not apply to New Zealand.

**Victoria.**—A report from Melbourne states that there is no demand for any class of labour, except domestic servants. The lowest wages for bakers have been fixed at 50s. per week of 48 hours, for coremakers at 8s. per day of 8 hours, and for stonecutters at 52s. 6d. per week of 45 hours. In country districts the supply of labour is sufficient, but there is an opening for those who have sufficient capital to take up land for farming purposes.

**South Australia.**—An official report from Adelaide states that the supply of labour equals the demand. Speaking generally, no working-man is advised to go there, unless he is specially skilled in his trade, or has friends to go to, or has sufficient money to live on for a time.

**Queensland.**—The supply of mechanics and miners in Queensland is sufficient, but competent farm labourers can find work in the South. Reduced nominated passages can be obtained by those who have friends in the State. Some of the unemployed are being supplied with work by the Government at clearing roads, scrub, or prickly pear land. The average wages earned are from 3s. 7½d. to 7s. 10d. a day.

**Western Australia.**—There is no demand for miners, and only an occasional demand for mechanics and farm labourers. Free homestead farms of 160 acres are given to settlers, and persons with a little capital, or with friends in Western Australia, can obtain reduced passages.

New Zealand.

From the last reports from New Zealand the busiest trade appears to have been the clothing trade, and in several factories, dressmakers, milliners and tailors were working overtime. The building and engineering trades were fairly busy, but there was not much demand for more labour, and none at all in the engineering trades at Christchurch and Wellington. In country districts there was, generally speaking, plenty of work at shearing, road metalling, haymaking, etc., and good dairymen, fencers, ploughmen, milkers, and farm labourers were wanted in several places. The flax and saw mills were busy, and boat-building at Auckland.

South Africa.

**Cape Colony.**—No persons are allowed to land in Cape Colony, unless they have secured work beforehand, or possess £20 on arrival, and otherwise conform to the requirements of the Immigration Act. There is no improvement in the building trade at Cape Town. At Kimberley there are many persons unable to get work. At Knysna "things are so dull that there is no demand for labour from a distance." In the present state of the Colony no one should go there on the chance of getting work, unless he is well provided with means.

**Natal.**—There is no improvement in the building trades either at Durban or Maritzburg. Wages remain about the same, and labour is plentiful.

**Transvaal.**—No one is allowed to enter the Transvaal without a permit. The building trades at Johannesburg and Pretoria are quiet, and in all trades the supply of men on the spot is more than sufficient for the demand. Men are therefore warned against going to the Transvaal at the present time, unless they have secured work beforehand. There is a demand for female servants, especially house parlourmaids, cooks and cook-generals, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The cost of house rent, and of living generally, remains

very high, and lodgings for female emigrants going by themselves are difficult to obtain.

**Orange River Colony.**—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. There is no improvement in the demand for labour, and persons are warned against going to the Colony, unless they obtain reduced passages through friends in the Colony, or through the South African Colonisation Society mentioned above.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.\*

**Employment in February.**—A slight revival took place during February in the building and allied trades. Employment in the metal trades was good on the whole. Short time was again being worked in the textile trades in the Northern, the Ardennes, and the Roanne districts. These trades were described as Normally active in the Western districts, while in the cotton centres of the Vosges, and among silk weavers of the Loire and Rhone, employment was stated to show a slight tendency to decline. In the garment-making trades employment was slack. The printing and bookbinding trades were fully employed, and a great improvement was reported in the coopering trade. To make up for the delay caused by the rains of January, work was actively pushed forward in the vineyards of the south, thereby materially decreasing the amount of unemployment among agricultural labourers. In the north forestry work was almost at an end.

Out of a total of 178,906 members of 953 Trade Unions (not including the unions of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made returns as to the state of employment during February, 19,662, or 11.0 per cent., were out of work on the 15th of the month, as compared with 13.8 per cent. in the previous month, and 10.4 per cent. in February, 1904.

The following statement shows the percentages of members of Trade Unions reported unemployed in certain trades for which this information is given separately:—

Trade Union.	Percentage reported Unemployed at the end of		
	Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
<b>Building Trades:—</b>			
Carpenters and Joiners ... ..	15.5	17.0	18.0
Other Branches ... ..	29.0	40.4	29.0
<b>Metal and Engineering Trades ... ..</b>	6.3	6.4	10.0
<b>Textile Trades ... ..</b>	8.1	8.7	9.6
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking) ... ..	24.0	17.1	11.0
<b>Printing Trades:—</b>			
Paris ... ..	3.0	6.5	5.0
Provinces ... ..	2.8	3.9	2.1
<b>Leather and Fur Trades:—</b>			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ... ..	22.5	28.9	48.0
Boot and Shoemaking ... ..	7.2	22.4	4.0
<b>Furniture and Upholstery Trades ... ..</b>	15.0	18.0	12.0
<b>Food Preparation Trades (including Confectionery) ... ..</b>	20.7	20.6	8.0

**Coal Mining in February.**—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground during February was 5.95, as compared with 5.81 in the previous month, and 5.69 in February, 1904. Taking surface and underground workers together, 91.45 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 8.43 per cent. from 5 to 6 days per week; the corresponding percentages in the preceding month were 34.8 and 64.0, while in February, 1904, they were 43.5 and 49.4. The above figures were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 160,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all workpeople employed in and about the mines.

**Labour Disputes in February.**—Seventy-five disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in February, as compared with 47 in the previous month, and 96 in February, 1904. The number of workpeople who took part in 71 of the disputes of February last was 17,781, as compared with 5,518 in 41 disputes in January, and with 13,645 in 73 of the disputes of February, 1904. Thirteen disputes were in the building trades, 1 in quarrying, 14 in

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

the metal trades, 13 in the textile trades, 3 in the transport and warehousing trades, 3 in agriculture, 6 in the chemical and pottery trades, 2 in the printing trades, 6 in the woodworking trades, 13 in the leather trades, and 1 among musicians. Fifty-two disputes came to an end in February; of these 15 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 13 in favour of the employers, the remaining 24 being compromised.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in February.**—Fifteen cases of recourse to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having taken place during February. In 13 cases the initiative was taken by the Justice of the Peace, and in 2 by the workpeople. Committees of Conciliation were formed in 9 cases, of which, however, only one was settled by the committee. Of the 6 cases in which committees were not formed, one came to an end before the meeting of that body could take place, while the proffered mediation was refused by the employers in 3 cases, by the workpeople in 1 case, and by both parties in the remaining case.

GERMANY.

**Employment in February.**\*—As is usually the case in February, employment increased considerably as compared with the previous month. The mild weather allowed outdoor building operations to be resumed, and brought about a considerable increase of employment in all branches of the building and allied trades. The coal mining industry during the first part of the month was affected by the strike in the Ruhr district, which can only be considered as having completely terminated by about the middle of February. As soon as the strike had ended there was a great demand for coal, so that employment in the second half of February was very plentiful in nearly all mining districts. The satisfactory situation in the metal, chemical and electrical trades reported in January continued throughout February. Employment in the textile trades was on the whole satisfactory; in cotton spinning it was very good, but in cotton weaving it was rather less plentiful. Towards the end of the month the clothing trades (ready-made and bespoke) showed considerable signs of activity.

BELGIUM.†

**Employment: November-January.**—Returns made to the Belgian Labour Department by Trade Unions show that in January 3.7 per cent. of their total membership were unemployed, as compared with 2.8 per cent. in December, and 2.3 per cent. in November. The number of Unions reporting was 143 in January (with a membership of 31,855), 144 in December (with 31,641 members), and 157 in November (with 27,637 members). The returns do not include any figures as to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers.

**Labour Disputes: November-January.**—Excluding the extensive stoppage of work in the glass trade of Charleroi which began last May, and was still in progress at the date of reporting (see January GAZETTE, p. 8), twenty disputes affecting 7,283 workpeople (6,945 directly, and 338 indirectly) were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in the period November-January. Of these 6 occurred in mining, 5 in the metal trades, 7 in the textile trades, and 1 each in the bootmaking and food preparation trades. During the same period 16 disputes came to an end; 4 of these (involving 947 workpeople) terminated in favour of the workpeople, 9 (involving 1,209 workpeople) in favour of the employers, and 3 (involving 340 workpeople) were compromised.

AUSTRIA.‡

**Employment in February.**—According to reports made to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries, relief stations, and other agencies for procuring employment, the number of situations offered, the number applied for, and the number of applications per 100 situations offered were as follows:—

\* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).  
† Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).  
‡ Soziale Rundschau (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department).

		Feb., 1905.	Jan., 1905.	Feb., 1904.
Number of Situations:	Males ...	11,784	10,663	13,380
	Females ...	23,936	25,271	21,941
	Total ...	35,720	35,934	35,321
(i.) Offered ...	Males ...	58,143	37,174	39,125
	Females ...	28,021	25,700	23,426
	Total ...	66,164	62,874	62,551
No. of Applications per 100 Situations offered	Males ...	324	349	292
	Females ...	117	102	107
	Total ...	185	175	177

**Labour Disputes in February.**—The number of disputes reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in February was 20 (exclusive of any which may have occurred in the mining industry, the returns for which are quarterly). One of these is described as a lock-out and affected 2,982 workpeople in the wood-working, &c., trades; the remaining 19 are classed as strikes, the total number of workpeople who took part directly in these strikes being 1,680. Two of the strikes occurred in the building trades, 6 in the metal and engineering trades, 3 in the textile trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 2 in the pottery trades, 2 in the leather trades, 1 in the paper trades, and 1 in the food preparation trades. The results were reported in the case of 16 disputes which came to an end in February; of these 4 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 4 in favour of the employers, and 8 were compromised.

NORWAY.

**Employment in January.**\*—Out of 10,252 members of 133 Trade Unions, which made returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 837 (or 8.2 per cent.) were out of work at the end of January; 911 (9.1 per cent.) out of a membership of 10,064 were reported out of work by the same 133 Unions at the end of the previous month, and 539 (5.3 per cent.) out of a membership of 10,085 at the end of November, 1904.

The following statement shows, by trades, the percentage reported unemployed by the same Unions at the end of each of the three months under review:—

Occupation.	Total Membership of the Unions reporting in Jan., 1905.	Percentage of Membership reported unemployed at the end of		
		Jan., 1905.	Dec., 1904.	Nov., 1904.
Masons and Bricklayers ...	108	42.6	58.2	36.7
Sawyers and Planers ...	446	43.0	43.4	8.3
Painters ...	512	30.3	36.6	30.9
Miners ...	76	4.3	6.7	10.5
Metal Workers ...	4,732	3.5	4.8	3.8
Moulders ...	773	1.7	3.8	0.7
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	367	9.5	4.4	0.5
Railway Employees ...	102	—	—	—
Printers ...	1,042	6.5	6.2	3.3
Bookbinders ...	173	0.6	1.3	2.4
Woodworkers ...	366	6.8	7.6	3.4
Cabinet Makers ...	281	7.5	3.6	1.8
Bakers ...	479	11.1	8.9	6.2
Fish, &c., Preservers ...	99	8.1	21.8	3.9
Other ...	676	7.2	7.5	5.0
Total ...	10,252	8.2	9.1	5.3

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.†

Work was fairly plentiful in Chicago in March. A strike in the garment-making trade, begun in November last, still continued. The carpenters threatened a strike for an increase of pay from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per hour, but a compromise was reached, whereby the wages remain at 2s., but the carpenters are to be given more finishing work on staircases and doors, which up to that time had been done at the mills. The steel mills at Indiana Harbour, closed since November last, resumed work at lower wages, so that the Union men are leaving. This reduction is stated to be in spite of the increased wages about to be paid in all the mills of the United States Steel Corporation.

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.  
† Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 1st, from Mr. Alexander Finn, H.M. Consul in Chicago.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN MARCH.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on Returns from the Trade Correspondent, from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades continued dull during March, but on the whole was slightly better than a month ago. It was worse than a year ago.

Employment with carpenters and joiners continued bad. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 7.9 at the end of March, as compared with 9.6 in February, and 6.7 a year ago. With plumbers employment was bad in England, and worse than a year ago. In Scotland it was moderate, and better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 11.8 at the end of March, compared with 12.5 in February, and 9.4 in March, 1904.

The percentage of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts, according to the returns of certain Trade Unions, is shown in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1905.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Mar., 1905, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.				
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ...	6,648	8.1	10.1	7.1	-2.0	+1.0
Northern Counties†	6,040	9.9	10.7	9.3	-0.8	+0.6
Lancashire and Cheshire	9,988	8.1	9.3	7.9	-1.2	+0.2
Yorkshire ...	5,191	9.4	11.1	9.5	-1.7	-0.1
East Midlands ...	3,065	6.7	8.5	6.8	-1.8	-0.1
West Midlands ...	4,640	7.8	9.4	8.5	-1.6	-0.7
Eastern Counties ...	1,142	5.5	7.8	8.1	-2.0	-2.6
S. and S.W. Counties ...	5,929	6.0	7.5	3.2	-1.5	+2.8
Wales and Monmouth ...	1,819	4.6	6.4	4.1	-1.8	+0.5
Other Districts ...	624	3.8	7.3	6.2	-3.5	-2.4
SCOTLAND ...	5,662	5.6	7.6	2.4	-2.0	+3.2
IRELAND ...	4,651	11.2	14.7	5.1	-3.5	+6.1
UNITED KINGDOM ...	55,399	7.9	9.6	6.7	-1.7	+1.2
PLUMBERS.‡						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ...	1,133	14.6	16.0	9.1	-1.4	+5.5
Northern Counties†	1,620	10.9	10.1	8.7	+0.8	+2.2
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,565	13.0	12.7	9.8	+0.3	+3.2
Yorkshire ...	1,120	12.3	12.3	11.0	—	+1.3
East Midlands ...	657	7.5	8.5	11.8	-1.0	-4.3
West Midlands ...	465	10.6	12.1	10.8	-1.5	-0.2
Eastern Counties ...	166	11.3	5.5	8.8	+5.8	+2.5
S. and S.W. Counties ...	415	9.9	11.1	5.8	-1.2	+4.1
Wales and Monmouth ...	284	7.7	7.7	9.3	—	-1.6
Other Districts ...	35	8.6	5.7	6.7	+2.9	+1.9
SCOTLAND ...	1,905	11.0	13.0	8.4	-2.0	+2.6
IRELAND ...	605	13.9	19.3	10.0	-5.4	+3.9
UNITED KINGDOM ...	10,908	11.8	12.5	9.4	-0.7	+2.4

With bricklayers employment generally was dull, and about the same as a month ago. With masons it was bad, and slightly worse than a year ago. With plasterers it was bad in England. In Scotland it was rather better than a month ago. With slaters and tilers it was dull, and worse than a month ago in England, but slightly better in Scotland. With painters employment improved, but it was worse on the whole than a year ago. With builders' labourers employment was slack generally.

The returns received from 83 Employers' Associations show that employment generally was dull, but rather better than a month ago. It continued worse than a year ago.

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

**London.**—Employment generally was slack, and about

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † And Middlesbrough.  
‡ Revised figures for Mar., 1904.

the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 76 employers show that in the last week of March they paid wages to 14,810 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 14,718 in February and 16,642 in March, 1904.

**Northern Counties.**—Employment continued dull generally, except with painters with whom it was good, and considerably better than a month ago.

**Yorkshire.**—Little change took place as compared with a month ago, and employment continued dull generally. With joiners at Leeds and Sheffield, however, a slight improvement is reported.

**Lancashire.**—With most branches of the trade employment continued dull. Bricklayers at Liverpool, however, report some improvement, and painters in certain districts were fairly well employed.

**Midlands.**—Employment was dull on the whole. With painters, however, it improved. A slight improvement also took place with carpenters and joiners at Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham and Stafford, with bricklayers at Walsall, Burslem, Rugby, Hinckley and Kettering, with masons at Rugby and Nottingham, with plasterers at Nottingham, with plumbers at Northampton and in the building trade generally at Coventry.

**Eastern Counties.**—A slight improvement was reported in certain trades and districts, but on the whole employment continued slack.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Employment improved slightly during the month.

**Wales and Monmouthshire.**—Employment in both North and South Wales and in Monmouthshire, though slightly better than in February, was slack.

**Scotland.**—Employment in Glasgow and Edinburgh was dull on the whole, but slightly better than a month ago. In Aberdeen and Dundee it continued dull. With painters at Dundee, however, it was fair.

**Ireland.**—In Dublin employment was affected by a dispute. In Belfast a slight improvement took place. In Cork employment was moderate on the whole.

COAL MINING.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal-mining industry during the month of March showed a decline as compared with both a month and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,277 pits, employing 531,609 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the colliers during the four weeks ended March 25th, 1905, was 5.09, compared with 5.31 in February, 1905, and 5.28 in March, 1904.

Of the 531,609 workpeople covered by the returns, 345,199 (or 65 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended March 25th, 1905, and of these, 226,913 worked 22 days or more.

As compared with a month ago, a decline was shown in all districts except Cumberland, Shropshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and the Lothians. The decline was greatest in South Wales, Fifeshire, and Northumberland, and in South Wales it amounted to nearly half a day per week. It was very slight in Durham, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Leicestershire. Employment was to some extent adversely affected by the termination of the German and Belgian miners' disputes.

As compared with a year ago a slight improvement took place in three districts, viz., Durham, the Lothians, and Fifeshire. A decline took place in all the other districts, which was most marked in Gloucester and Somerset, South Wales, West Yorkshire, Cumberland, and Staffordshire, and was least marked in South Yorkshire, Northumberland and Lancashire and Cheshire.

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

Districts	No. of Workpeople employed in Mar., 1905, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1905, as compared with	
		Mar. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Mar. 19th, 1904.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	38,044	4'95	5'31	5'06	- '35	- '10
Durham ...	95,403	5'39	5'42	5'26	- '03	+ '13
Cumberland ...	6,532	5'16	4'69	5'68	+ '47	- '52
South Yorkshire ...	59,222	5'24	5'42	5'27	- '18	- '03
West Yorkshire ...	18,604	4'52	4'76	5'04	- '24	- '52
Lancashire and Cheshire...	49,116	5'11	5'33	5'24	- '22	- '13
Derbyshire ...	42,573	4'77	4'87	5'15	- '10	- '38
Nottingham and Leicester	27,216	4'43	4'54	4'84	- '11	- '41
Staffordshire ...	25,343	4'85	5'04	5'34	- '19	- '49
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick ...	8,752	5'24	5'00	5'50	+ '24	- '26
Gloucester and Somerset	7,891	4'75	4'93	5'49	- '18	- '74
North Wales ...	11,171	5'09	5'09	5'44	...	- '35
South Wales and Mon. ...	102,244	5'21	5'70	5'79	- '49	- '58
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES...</b>	<b>492,411</b>	<b>5'08</b>	<b>5'30</b>	<b>5'29</b>	<b>- '22</b>	<b>- '21</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland ...	18,888	5'11	5'37	5'28	- '26	- '17
The Lothians ...	5,031	5'66	5'60	5'64	+ '06	+ '02
Fife ...	14,640	5'12	5'51	4'99	- '39	+ '13
<b>SCOTLAND ...</b>	<b>38,559</b>	<b>5'18</b>	<b>5'43</b>	<b>5'21</b>	<b>- '27</b>	<b>- '03</b>
<b>IRELAND.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
United Kingdom ...	831,609	5'09	5'31	5'28	- '22	- '19

In Northumberland employment was fair generally, but worse than a month ago, there being some decline in collieries producing steam coal. In Durham employment remained fairly good and was rather better than a year ago. Employment with cokemen was fair, and improved somewhat during the month.

Employment in Cumberland was fair, and showed a considerable improvement as compared with a month ago. It was, however, considerably worse than a year ago.

In South Yorkshire employment was fair, rather worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. In West Yorkshire it was dull, being worse than a month ago and a year ago. With cokemen in the Sheffield and Rotherham district employment was dull.

In Lancashire and Cheshire employment remained fair on the whole, though some decline is shown both as compared with a month and a year ago.

In Derbyshire employment was fair generally but moderate in the house-coal trade. There was a decline in the Nottingham and Leicester district, and in Leicestershire much short time was worked.

In Staffordshire employment declined somewhat and was worse than a year ago. In the Cannock Chase district about 3½ days per week were worked, and in the Pelsall district about 4 days.

In the Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire district employment improved somewhat and was fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago.

Employment was moderate in the Bristol coalfield, and quiet in the Forest of Dean. It was, however, fair with hewers of steam coal in the latter district.

Employment in South Wales and Monmouthshire showed a decline both as compared with a month and a year ago. In the anthracite collieries employment averaged about 4½ days per week.

In North Wales employment continued moderate.

In the West of Scotland district employment remained fair generally, though it was not so good as a month ago. In the Lothians it continued good, though short time has been worked at some collieries producing steam coal.

In Fife employment declined somewhat as compared with a month ago. It was, however, better than a year ago.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during March amounted to 3,927,228 tons, as compared with 3,906,128 tons in February, and 4,222,654 tons in March, 1904.

## IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on information from Employers, Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in March was good in iron mines, showing little change compared with a month or a year ago. Employment in shale mines was good, but it was not so good as last month, though better than a year ago. In tin, copper, and lead mining employment was fair generally, but little change was shown compared with a year ago. Employment was moderate with quarrymen, being rather better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago.

### Mining.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continued good. During the four weeks ended March 25th, the average weekly number of days worked by the 122 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers was 5'84, as compared with 5'90 in February, and 5'83\* in March, 1905.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Mar., 1905, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1905, as compared with	
		Mar. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Mar. 19th, 1904.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,268	5'89	5'97	5'94	- '008	- '005
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,619	5'94	5'94	5'79	...	+ '015
Scotland...	1,036	5'42	5'54	6'00	- '012	- '058
Other Districts ...	2,493	5'68	5'74	5'58	- '006	+ '010
<b>Total and Averages</b>	<b>15,416</b>	<b>5'84</b>	<b>5'90</b>	<b>5'83</b>	<b>- '006</b>	<b>+ '001</b>

Of the 15,416 workpeople covered by the returns 13,960, or 90·6 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended March 25th, as compared with 92·7 per cent. in February, and 93·4 per cent. in March, 1904.

**Shale Mining.**—Employment with shale miners was good. Returns received relating to 26 mines show that in March 3,153 men were employed, as compared with 3,166 a month ago, and 2,903 in March, 1904. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended March 25th was 5'81, as compared with 5'91 in the previous month, and 5'61 in March, 1904.

**Tin, Copper, and Lead Mining.**—Employment was fair in tin and copper mining in the Camborne and Redruth district, and it improved somewhat in the Calstock district, though it was still rather dull there. In lead mining employment was good in Denbigh and Flint, and fair in Weardale, where five days a week were worked.

### Quarrying.

**Slate.**—Employment was dull in North Wales, and bad in Argyllshire, where in many cases only four days a week were worked.

**Granite.**—In Aberdeenshire employment improved during March, but it continued bad in the Dartmoor quarries, and was dull in Cornwall and North Wales. Employment was fair in Leicestershire.

**Limestone.**—Employment was fairly good at Stanhope (Durham) and fair at Blyth; it was fair also in the Westgate and Upper Weardale quarries, where, however, only five days a week were worked. In Cumberland employment was good and better than a month ago. It improved also in the Plymouth district, but was still

\* Revised figures.

below the average there. Employment in Derbyshire and North Wales was fair.

**Other Stone.**—Employment continued good in the Clee Hill quarries (road material), and in the chert quarries in Derbyshire. It was fairly good in the Gateshead district, and in sandstone quarries in North Wales it was fair. In Devon employment was dull on the whole, and it was slack in the Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham district. It continued bad in the Rowsley (Derbyshire) grindstone and building stone quarries, and in Forfarshire, where half the machinery was reported as idle.

**Setmaking.**—Employment continued good in the Clee Hill district, and fair in the Aberdeen, Airdrie, and Edinburgh districts. It was fairly good at Rowley Regis (Staffs), but was dull on the whole in North Wales.

**China Clay.**—Workers in this industry were well employed in the St. Austell district.

## PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on Returns from Employers, a Trade Union, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued to improve during March, being better than in February, and considerably better than a year ago. The number of furnaces now in blast is greater than in any month since October, 1903.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters show that 7 furnaces were re-lit during the month and three blown out. Of those re-lit three were in the Cleveland District, two in Scotland, and one in each of the districts of S. and S.W. Yorks, and Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton. One furnace was blown out in each of the districts of Cumberland and Lancashire, Derby and Nottingham, and Scotland. At the end of March, 316 furnaces were in blast, as compared with 312 at the end of February, and 303 at the end of March, 1904. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the returns, is estimated at about 22,500.

The following Table shows by districts the number of furnaces in blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1905, as compared with	
	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>					
Cleveland ...	82	79	76	+ 3	+ 6
Cumberland & Lancs.	34	35	32	- 1	+ 2
S. and S.W. Yorks.	14	13	13	+ 1	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham	36	37	37*	- 1	- 1
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	27	26	25	+ 1	+ 2
Stafford & Worcester	31	31*	31	...	...
S. Wales & Monmouth	14	14	13	...	+ 1
Other districts ...	7	7	6	...	+ 1
<b>Returned from England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>242*</b>	<b>233*</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	<b>+ 12</b>
<b>Returned from Scotland ...</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>+ 1</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>312*</b>	<b>303*</b>	<b>+ 4</b>	<b>+ 13</b>

## TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on Returns from Employers, a Trade Union, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry during March continued to improve, and was considerably better than a year ago. The number of mills at work continues steadily to increase, and is now higher than at any time since June, 1900. Additional mills are in course of erection. The demand for and supply of labour continued to be fairly equal, except in the case of boys' labour, the demand for which was in excess of the supply.

At the end of March 407 mills were at work, as compared with 405 at the end of February, and 364 at

\* Revised Figures.

the end of March, 1904. At the 78 works open, 65 had all their mills (351) in operation, while the remaining 13 had 56 mills working out of a total of 81. Of the mills shown as not working some are reported as undergoing repairs consequent on breakages. The number of workpeople employed at the 407 mills is estimated at 20,350.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	65	351	—	351
Works giving partial employment ...	13	56	25	81
<b>Total at end of March, 1905*</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>432</b>
<i>Corresponding Total for Feb., 1905*</i>	77	405	22	427
<i>Corresponding Total for Mar., 1904*</i>	72	364	36	400

The Exports of iron and steel tinplates and tinned sheets and blackplates for tinning from the United Kingdom are shown below for the periods stated:—

	Month ended March.			Three Months ended March.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
To United States ...	Tons. 5,896	Tons. 6,802	Tons. 6,299	Tons. 14,741	Tons. 15,460	Tons. 19,190
Other Countries	28,846	28,501	35,572	73,678	81,197	89,953
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>34,742</b>	<b>35,103</b>	<b>41,871</b>	<b>88,419</b>	<b>96,657</b>	<b>109,143</b>

## IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on Returns received direct from Employers, and through the Trade Correspondent, and on those from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was good and showed little change as compared with a month ago. It was considerably better than a year ago, both in the numbers employed and in the average number of shifts worked. Returns from 206 iron and steel works showed that the total volume of employment (taking into account both the numbers employed and the number of shifts worked) during the week ended March 25th, 1905, was 4·8 per cent. greater than in the corresponding week of March, 1904, and practically the same as a month ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the returns was approximately 493,100, as compared with 493,000 last month, and 470,500 in the corresponding month a year ago.

The number and percentage of workpeople who worked the undermentioned number of shifts per week is shown in the following Table:—

Number of Shifts worked.	Number of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended			Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended		
	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Mar. 26th, 1904.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Mar. 26th, 1904.
Under 5 per week	8,510	7,931	12,619	9'5	8'8	14'5
5 per week ...	28,259	28,334	22,811	31'4	31'6	26'3
5½ per week ...	912	936	1,108	1'0	1'1	1'3
6 per week ...	51,801	54,142	49,608	57'7	58'1	57'1
Over 6 per week	339	356	675	0'4	0'4	0'8
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>89,821</b>	<b>89,699</b>	<b>86,931</b>	<b>100'0</b>	<b>100'0</b>	<b>100'0</b>

### Analysis by Departments.

From the following Table, it will be seen that, compared with last month, an increase in the number employed of 3·9 per cent. took place in puddling forges, whilst a decrease of nearly 13 per cent. occurred in the Bessemer converting departments. In no other branches did the number employed differ by so much as 2 per

\* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate.

cent. from last month's number. As compared with a year ago, an increase is shown in all branches, except puddling forges and founding, in which a slight decline took place.

The average number of shifts was greater than the number in March, 1904, in all departments except one (founding), the greatest increase being in crucible furnaces (over 10 per cent.) and Bessemer converters. As compared with a month ago, no great differences are shown.

Department.	Numbers employed in week ended			Average Number of Shifts worked per man in week ended		
	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Mar. 26th., 1904.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Mar. 26th., 1904.
Open-Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,527	7,637	7,268	5.89	5.89	5.84
Crucible Furnaces	563	*	549	5.70	*	5.18
Bessemer Converters	2,125	2,441	1,979	5.16	5.05	4.79
Puddling Forges	9,805	9,435	9,888	4.93	4.81	4.74
Rolling Mills	29,480	29,120	28,539	5.24	5.23	5.16
Forging and Pressing	3,535	3,530	3,342	5.53	5.50	5.42
Founding	10,637	10,454	10,667	5.81	5.81	5.84
Other Departments	8,515	9,281	7,993	5.78	5.83†	5.77
Mechanics and General Labourers	17,634	17,858	16,766	5.73	5.74	5.69
Total	89,821	89,699	86,931	5.49	5.50	5.41

Analysis by Districts.

The following Table shows by districts for the periods named the changes in the number of workpeople employed, and the average weekly number of shifts worked:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Average Number of Shifts worked per man in week ended		
	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Mar. 26th., 1904.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Feb. 25th, 1905.	Mar. 26th., 1904.
Northumberland and Durham	11,061	11,366	10,401	5.60	5.55	5.55
Cleveland	8,401	8,103	9,081	5.56	5.51	5.45
Sheffield and Rotherham	17,847	18,158	16,916	5.66	5.67	5.62
Leeds, Hull and other Yorkshire Towns	3,834	3,792	3,770	5.32	5.12	5.07
Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire	11,625	11,986	11,189	5.26	5.29	5.06
Staffordshire	8,311	8,150	8,297	5.33	5.40	5.28
Other Midland Counties	4,721	4,459	4,741	5.06	5.01	5.04
Wales and Monmouth	8,112	7,584	7,585	5.64	5.66	5.65
England and Wales	73,912	73,538	71,980	5.48	5.48	5.40
Scotland	15,909	16,161	14,951	5.54	5.57	5.47
Total	89,821	89,699	86,931	5.49	5.50	5.41

As compared with a month ago, there was little change in the number of workpeople employed. The greatest increases took place in Wales and Monmouth (7.0 per cent.), and in the Midland Counties, other than Staffordshire (5.9 per cent.). The largest decline was in the Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire district (3 per cent.) Compared with a year ago, the only appreciable decrease was in the Cleveland district, whilst in four districts increases of over 5 per cent. were recorded, the greatest being 6.9 per cent. in Wales and Monmouth.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.49, against 5.50 a month ago, the greatest difference being an increase of 3.9 per cent. in Leeds, Hull, and other Yorkshire towns. Compared with a year ago, an increase of 1.5 per cent. was shown, an increase being recorded in every district except Wales and Monmouth, the greatest increase being in Leeds and other Yorkshire towns (nearly 5 per cent.) and in Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire (nearly 4 per cent.).

The following is a summary of reports received from Local Correspondents in various districts relating to employment during the month of March:—

**Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland.**—Employment with steel smelters was moderately good. Workers in steel plate mills at Consett and Newburn were fully employed. Employment in bar and cogging mills at Jarrow was good, but sheet mills worked only half-time. With

\* Included under "Other Departments."  
† Including Crucible Furnaces.

forge and hammermen on the Tyne employment was fairly good and better than a month ago. On the Wear employment was reported as fair. With finished iron and steel workers employment continued moderate. In iron and steel works at West Hartlepool employment continued good, and also at metal expansion works. Employment in pipe foundries was reported brisk, and in chair foundries moderate.

**Sheffield and Rotherham.**—In this district employment was fair generally, but Siemens steel smelters and Bessemer steel workers were not so well employed as a month ago. Iron workers report employment as bad at Parkgate, moderate at Masboro' and Rotherham.

**Other Yorkshire Towns.**—Employment was fair generally and better than a month and a year ago. At Leeds some improvement took place, and employment was fairly good at the end of the month.

**Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire.**—Employment in this district continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

**Midlands.**—In Staffordshire, on the whole, employment continued good. It was reported as moderate at Smethwick and West Bromwich. In Shropshire iron and steel workers were well employed, and in Derbyshire employment in steel works continued to show some improvement. Iron and steel workers at Frodingham were well employed.

**Wales and Monmouthshire.**—Employment was fairly good generally, and with smelters good in all branches. At Brymbo employment continued steady.

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**—With steel smelters employment was good on the whole; other iron and steel workers reported employment as fairly good.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally continued to improve somewhat and was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 143,498 members of Trade Unions show that 8,792 (or 6.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.5 per cent. at the end of February and 6.4 in March, 1904.

The percentages for the various districts are shown in detail in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1905, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Mar., 1905, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	12,723	5.8	5.7	4.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,794	8.3	8.5	6.9	- 0.2	+ 1.4
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,392	8.8	10.5	11.5	- 1.7	- 2.7
West Riding Towns	11,753	9.2	9.0	8.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,454	5.3	4.6	8.4	+ 0.7	- 3.1
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,037	4.5	4.0	4.8	+ 0.5	- 0.3
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,067	9.8	11.0	5.5	- 1.2	+ 4.3
London and Neighbouring District	12,287	4.0	4.6	4.4	- 0.6	- 0.4
South Coast	4,050	2.6	3.1	2.1	- 0.5	+ 0.5
South Wales and Bristol District	6,552	3.7	3.5	3.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Glasgow and District	14,015	6.7	7.3	9.2	- 0.6	- 2.5
East of Scotland	3,642	8.7	10.5	9.2	- 1.8	- 0.7
Belfast and Dublin	3,378	8.0	9.8	7.4	- 1.8	+ 0.6
Other Districts	5,662	4.9	5.1	4.9	- 0.2	- 0.4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	143,498	6.1	6.5	6.4	- 0.4	- 0.3

The percentage of unemployed was greatest in the Notts, Derby and Leicester, West Riding, Oldham,

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

Bolton and Blackburn, and East of Scotland districts. It was least in the South Coast, South Wales and Bristol, London, and Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry districts.

As compared with a month ago, the majority of districts showed an improvement, which was greatest in the East of Scotland, Belfast and Dublin, and Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn districts. In the districts showing a decline the falling off was not great.

In comparison with a year ago employment was worse in seven districts, there being a marked decline in the Notts, Derby, and Leicester district. Six districts showed a decrease in the percentage unemployed, the improvement being greatest in the Hull and Lincolnshire, Glasgow, and Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn districts.

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

**North-East Coast.**—Employment on the whole continued moderate and not quite so good as a year ago. In Newcastle, Gateshead, and on the north side of the mid-reaches of the Tyne, it was fairly good. At Jarrow it was bad, short time being worked. On the Wear employment was moderate. It was bad at Hartlepool and Darlington. With ironfounders and boiler-makers employment generally was moderate. With pattern makers employment was fair generally, and improving at Newcastle and Jarrow. It was improving with smiths. With ironfounders it was good at Hartlepool, Durham and Wallsend, improving at Carlisle. On the Tyne and Wear employment was bad with engine-shop plumbers; dull and rather worse than a month ago with brass finishers. With enginemen it was fair on the Tyne and Wear, moderate in the Tees district. In the latter district it was slack with wagon makers.

**Manchester and Liverpool District.**—Employment generally was slack and worse than a year ago, but showed a slight improvement on February. At Liverpool it was bad. At Manchester it was moderate with pattern makers, fair with machine workers. Ironfounders reported it as improving at Warrington. Employment with boiler-makers was improving at Crewe, moderate at Northwich.

**Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District.**—Employment in this district showed some further improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago, but the proportion of unemployed was still above the average. It was moderate with some branches at Oldham, where the improvement in the textile machine trade was well maintained, good at Bury, moderately good at Blackburn, and moderate at Burnley and Rochdale. Ironfounders reported employment as good at Oldham, Blackburn, Burnley, Bury and Rochdale.

**West Riding Towns.**—Employment remained bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Leeds employment was fair in the textile machinery trade, but in other departments continued bad. At Sheffield employment was fair with pattern makers, moderate and much better than a month ago with boiler-makers, moderate with core makers and dressers, but slack with other sections, much short time being reported.

**Hull and Lincolnshire District.**—Employment was not quite so good as in February, but was much better than a year ago. Generally it was moderate, but at Doncaster it was slack, with short time, and at Grimsby it was dull. It was bad with ironfounders at Lincoln and Grantham.

**West Midlands.**—Employment continued moderate, but not quite up to the level of a month ago. At Birmingham employment generally was reported as moderate to fair. With pattern makers it was quiet generally. It was moderate and improving at Birmingham, and good with ironfounders at Coventry. At Wolverhampton pattern makers and ironfounders reported an improvement; with electrical engineers employment was bad. It was good in the cycle and motor industries at Wolverhampton; in

the Birmingham and Coventry district it was very fair with cycle makers, good in the motor section.

**East Midlands.**—Employment in this district showed an improvement, but was much worse than a year ago. Generally it was bad. It was moderate at Burton and Loughborough; fairly good at Leicester, except with boiler-makers and ironfounders. At Derby it was fair with boiler-makers and with brass moulders and finishers. At Nottingham employment was very good in the motor car and cycle making trades; steady with lace machine builders, bad with hosiery machine builders. At Leicester overtime was worked in the hosiery machine making trade.

**London and Neighbouring District.**—Employment generally continued moderate, and about the same as a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed continued low, however. With smiths and hammermen the improvement noted last month was maintained; with brass founders and finishers employment was rather worse; with copper-smiths fair; with tool makers on the whole it was slightly better. The ship repairing branch was dull.

**South Coast.**—Employment generally continued much the same as a month ago. Employment was fair at Southampton, moderate at the dockyard towns, but slack with boiler-makers.

**South Wales and District.**—Employment in this district was moderate on the whole. With ironfounders it was fairly good. At Ebbw Vale it was brisk.

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**—Employment with engineers was fairly good, and rather better than a month ago; with pattern makers it was good; with brassmoulders and finishers, and tool makers and machinists it was fair; with ironmoulders, and iron, steel, and brass dressers it was moderate.

**East of Scotland.**—Employment was dull generally, but on the whole was better than a month ago. With ironmoulders, blacksmiths and hammermen at Edinburgh it was fair; with pattern makers, engineers and brassfounders it was bad. At Leith employment generally was fair, except with pattern makers and brassfounders, who were slack. At Dundee employment was moderate, but rather better than a month ago. At Aberdeen it continued much the same as a month ago, being dull generally, and worse than a year ago. At Falkirk employment with ironmoulders continued fair, but with pattern makers it was dull.

**Belfast and Dublin.**—At Belfast employment continued to improve with nearly all branches. At Dublin it was bad generally, with considerable numbers on short time.

**Other Districts.**—Employment at Barrow was irregular, being better than a month ago in some departments, but worse in others. In the Eastern Counties employment was moderate generally. At Stoke employment was moderate with engineers and fair with boiler-makers. At Hanley it was bad with engineers and ironfounders; at Cork it was dull.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed, on the whole, an improvement as compared with a month and a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 57,597 members had 6,428 (or 11.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, 1905, as compared with 11.5 per cent. at the end of February, 1905, and with 11.8 per cent. at the end of March, 1904.

As compared with February the figures in the following Table show an improvement in seven districts, and a decline in five, the most marked improvement being shown in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and the greatest falling off in the Clyde district. As compared with March, 1904, five districts show an improvement, that in the Humber

district being the most considerable, while seven districts show a decline, notably the Mersey and Bristol Channel.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1905, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Mar., 1905, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		1905.	1905.	1904.		
Tyne and Blyth ... ..	9,357	11.8	13.8	14.0	- 2.0	- 2.2
Wear ... ..	4,871	11.0	11.9	9.4	- 0.9	+ 1.6
Tees and Hartlepool ... ..	5,105	11.1	16.0	16.1	- 4.9	- 5.0
Humber ... ..	2,474	14.2	12.3	24.0	+ 1.9	- 9.8
Thames and Medway ... ..	4,329	8.8	8.0	8.4	+ 0.8	+ 0.4
Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton ... ..	3,824	4.8	5.2	2.1	- 0.4	+ 2.7
Bristol Channel Ports ... ..	2,631	15.4	13.2	10.2	+ 2.2	+ 5.2
Mersey ... ..	4,049	11.8	14.1	3.7	- 2.3	- 3.1
Clyde ... ..	12,148	13.0	10.5	15.7	+ 2.5	- 2.7
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ... ..	2,147	11.0	14.7	17.1	- 3.7	- 6.1
Belfast ... ..	2,918	12.9	11.4	9.8	+ 1.5	+ 3.1
Other Districts ... ..	3,066	6.6	6.8	5.0	- 0.2	+ 1.6
<b>United Kingdom</b> (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	<b>87,897</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>

In the Tyne district employment continued to improve and was better than a year ago, smiths in particular being busy. At Blyth, however, it was not so good on new work, and at Jarrow it remained dull.

On the Wear employment was affected by the continuance of the shipsmiths' dispute. Drillers and hole cutters, however, report employment as good on new work, and shipwrights report a slight improvement.

Employment in the Tees and Hartlepool district, though affected by the shipsmiths' dispute, was better than a month ago and a year ago. It was improving with iron and steel shipbuilders at Stockton, Middlesbrough and the Hartlepoons. On ship repairing employment was fair and better than a year ago. With shipwrights it was moderate at Stockton, fair at Middlesbrough, slack at Hartlepool.

In the Humber district employment fell off slightly during the month, but showed considerable improvement as compared with a year ago. It was still slack at Hull and Grimsby, though moderate or fair at Beverley, Goole and Selby.

On the Thames and Medway employment continued slack, but with signs of slight improvement, especially on repair work.

South Coast.—Employment was, generally speaking, moderate with shipwrights, dull with iron and steel shipbuilders. It was not so good as a year ago, and the dockyards were not so well employed. At Southampton it was moderate with yacht builders, fair in other departments.

Employment in the Bristol Channel Ports remained dull and was worse than a year ago. Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as slack. At the end of the month, however, they became busier at Cardiff and Barry. With shipwrights it was quiet generally.

On the Mersey employment was slightly better on the whole than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. An improvement is reported in the case of shipwrights.

Employment on the Clyde showed a decline on the whole during the month, especially with iron shipbuilders at Govan and Partick, notwithstanding an improvement at Greenock and Port Glasgow. It was, however, somewhat better than a year ago, and remained fair with shipwrights and smiths.

Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.—Employment was fair at Leith, but was not so good as in February, though better than a year ago. At Dundee also it was fair. At Aberdeen it remained bad.

At Belfast employment showed little change as compared with a month ago. It was not so good as a year ago.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continued moderate. At Ipswich it was fair. At Lowestoft, Yarmouth and Dublin it was bad.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's quarterly return the gross tonnage of merchant vessels, and the tons displacement of war vessels under construction in each of the principal

shipbuilding districts and at the Royal Dockyards, were as follows at the dates mentioned:—

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	March 31st, 1905.	Decr. 31st, 1904.	March 31st, 1904.	March 31st, 1905.	Dec. 31st, 1904.	March 31st, 1904.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde ... ..	417,131	365,935	294,104	38,190	62,830	81,700
Belfast ... ..	192,425	169,510	193,633	48,840	47,760	75,530
Tyne ... ..	255,730	202,615	186,006	...	...	...
Wear ... ..	190,241	166,362	121,936	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby	69,500	49,617	58,520	...	...	...
Middlesbrough and Stockton	76,713	44,610	69,455	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	8,530	8,680	35,420	34,590	38,450	67,400
Other Districts...	41,073	42,531	31,590	21,100	24,640	28,985
Royal Dockyards	...	...	...	119,950	109,150	125,500
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,251,343</b>	<b>1,049,860</b>	<b>988,664</b>	<b>262,670</b>	<b>282,810</b>	<b>377,115</b>

Compared with the previous quarter there was an increase of 201,483 tons (or 19.2 per cent.) on the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction. Increases are shown in all the principal districts, except Barrow, Maryport and Workington, where a slight decrease appears. As compared with the corresponding quarter of 1904, there was an increase of 262,679 tons (or 26.6 per cent.). On the Clyde there was an increase of 123,027 tons (or 41.8 per cent.); and on the Tyne an increase of 69,724 tons (or 37.5 per cent.). At Belfast there was a slight decrease, and the only other decrease occurred in the Barrow district, where the tonnage dropped from 33,420 tons at end of March, 1904, to 8,530 tons at end of March, 1905.

With regard to warships under construction, there were decreases on the Clyde and at Barrow, and a slight increase on the Tyne, as compared with the end of 1904. As compared with a year ago every district shows a decline. The tonnage under construction at the Royal Dockyards increased 9.9 per cent. as compared with the end of 1904, but decreased 4.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally in these trades showed little change, but in many of them a slight improvement was reported.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—The brassworkers generally reported an improvement, but employment in the bedstead and fire-brass branches in Birmingham was dull, and there was still some short time.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers and machine rivet makers employment was moderate at Birmingham and Smethwick; it had improved with nut and bolt makers at Dudley, and was slack in South Wales. It was bad with rivet and wrought nail makers at Blackheath. With wire nail makers employment was quiet.

Tubes.—Some improvement was reported in the South Staffordshire tube trade, but in South Wales employment continued slack. In Birmingham on brass and copper tubes employment was fairly good, except in the brazed copper branch.

Chains, Anchors, etc.—At Cradley employment was moderate with drolled, side welded and cable chain makers; with block chain makers it had greatly improved; in South Wales employment was good. At Gateshead it was good on large chains, very moderate on small. Anchor smiths reported an improvement in South Wales, but were slack at Cradley. Anvil and vice makers were fairly well employed at Dudley. Employment was bad at Walsall on furniture for harness and cart gear. The spring and axle trades were fairly well employed at Birmingham and West Bromwich, quiet at Wednesbury. At Cardiff employment with spring makers was fair.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—In the lock and latch trade employment remained bad with much short time. Employment with hollow-ware makers was moderate at Birmingham and Wolverhampton, quiet at West Bromwich, slack at Sheffield. It was good

with spade and fork finishers at Stourbridge, moderate at Wolverhampton on iron fences and hurdles, quiet with enamellers, slack with vermin trap makers and on builders' ironmongery.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the cutlery trade employment remained very slack, with a good deal of short time. Edge-tool makers at Wednesbury reported employment as good, at Birmingham as improving. At Sheffield employment was moderate with tool makers. At Birmingham file cutters reported employment as quiet, at Sheffield as slightly improving. At Wolverhampton it was moderate with filesmiths. At Redditch the needle and fish-hook trades were well employed. Machine needle makers were well employed at Leicester, badly employed at Nottingham, at Sheffield slack.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—At Falkirk employment had improved and was fair, the number on short time being much less. In Glasgow, Nottingham, Bolton and Bury employment was fair, in Derbyshire improving, in Leeds bad.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment generally was dull, but at Manchester good, at Hull and Exeter fair, at Oldham moderate, improving at Nottingham; fair with London zinc workers.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment in the silver spoon and fork and small silver trades was bad, as also with goldsmiths, jewellers, and gold beaters. In Birmingham these trades were quiet, and in Sheffield all sections were slack but the platers and gilders. The watch trade was dull.

Wire.—In the wire trade employment on the whole was fairly good and the improvement reported last month was maintained. It was, however, bad in London with wire-workers, and at Birmingham with weavers.

Farriers.—Employment was reported as quiet generally, but as better than a year ago.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent, and on Returns from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the cotton trade in March was very brisk and continued to improve. Compared with a year ago, when much short time was worked, employment and wages paid showed a great increase. There was a further slight improvement compared with a month ago.

The price of "middling American" raw cotton in March was 4.24d. per lb., or very little more than half the price a year ago. The price of "good fair Egyptian" was also considerably less, but not to such a marked extent, being now 6.66d. per lb., as compared with 9.29d. a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the last pay day in March was 138,086, an increase of 0.4 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, and of 3.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 115,865 operatives have stated the amount of weekly wages paid on the last pay day in March and February, and in March, 1904. From these returns it appears that, compared with a month ago, the number employed showed an increase of 0.3 per cent., and the amount of wages earned showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed an increase of 3.8 per cent., and the amount of wages earned an increase of 17.7 per cent.

Analysis by Departments.

In the Preparing department there was no change in the amount of wages earned compared with a month ago, and an increase of 21.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the Spinning department there was an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages earned compared with a month ago, and of 22.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the Spinning and Preparing branch the percentage

employed in mills working short time was 1.5, compared with 3.0 per cent. a month ago and 55.5 per cent. a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Preparing ... ..	11,489	- 0.1	+ 3.1	10,256	...	...	21.7	
Spinning ... ..	17,955	+ 0.1	+ 4.6	17,765	+ 0.7	+ 2.4	18.5	
Weaving ... ..	60,031	+ 0.3	+ 3.5	55,509	+ 2.6	+ 11.8	11.8	
Other ... ..	8,538	+ 1.5	+ 4.5	10,577	+ 1.3	+ 11.8	11.8	
Departments not specified	16,952	+ 0.5	+ 4.4	17,104	+ 1.1	+ 12.5	12.5	
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>115,865</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 3.8</b>	<b>109,211</b>	<b>+ 1.7</b>	<b>+ 17.7</b>		

In the Weaving department there was an increase of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages earned compared with a month ago, and of 18.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The percentage of the total number employed in mills working short time in the Weaving department was 0.5, compared with 1.6 per cent. a month ago and 26.4 per cent. a year ago.

Analysis by Districts.

From the following Table it is seen that compared with a month ago there was a slight increase in the amount of wages earned in every district, except the Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde district, and the miscellaneous group. The greatest increase was apparent in the Preston and Chorley district (3.6 per cent.), and the Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson district (3.0 per cent.).

Districts.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay day in Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Ashton District ... ..	7,820	- 0.1	+ 5.2	7,392	+ 1.1	+ 28.7	28.7	
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,516	- 1.0	+ 3.8	5,795	- 0.1	+ 32.5	32.5	
Oldham District ... ..	12,572	+ 0.4	+ 2.2	12,745	+ 1.2	+ 21.4	21.4	
Bolton and Leigh ... ..	14,489	+ 0.3	+ 6.2	12,046	+ 0.6	+ 19.4	19.4	
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	9,054	- 0.1	+ 8.0	8,017	+ 1.4	+ 19.1	19.1	
Manchester District ... ..	9,932	+ 0.8	+ 5.1	7,554	+ 1.6	+ 23.6	23.6	
Preston and Chorley ... ..	11,085	+ 0.7	+ 1.1	10,466	+ 3.6	+ 12.6	12.6	
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	24,001	...	+ 1.5	23,506	+ 1.5	+ 14.7	14.7	
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	18,638	+ 1.0	+ 3.9	20,380	+ 3.0	+ 10.3	10.3	
Other Districts ... ..	1,757	+ 1.6	+ 12.1	1,310	- 0.8	+ 34.6	34.6	
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>115,865</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 3.8</b>	<b>109,211</b>	<b>+ 1.7</b>	<b>+ 17.7</b>		

Compared with a year ago there was a great increase in wages paid in every district, none showing an increase of less than 10 per cent. The increase was highest in the Stockport and Hyde district (32.5 per cent.), the miscellaneous group (34.6 per cent.), the Ashton district (28.7 per cent.), the Manchester district (23.6 per cent.) and the Oldham district (21.4 per cent.).

Short Time.

From the following Table it is seen that in the Spinning and Preparing branch compared with a month ago there was an increase of short time in the Blackburn and Burnley districts, but a decrease in most of the other districts, which was especially marked in the Ashton district. Compared with a year ago every district showed a great decrease, the improvement in the Manchester, Ashton, Oldham and Stockport districts being the most marked.

In the Weaving branch short time was reported in three districts only, the Manchester district showing the highest percentage affected (4.7 per cent.). In the



Preston and Bury districts, in which short time was reported a month ago, full time was being worked. Compared with a year ago there was a great and universal improvement, which was especially marked in the Ashton and Oldham districts.

Districts.	Preparing and Spinning Departments.			Weaving Departments.			
	Total number employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Percentage of total number employed who were in Mills working short time at end of		Total number employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Percentage of total number employed who were in Mills working short time at end of		
		Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.		Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.
Ashton District ...	5,323	0.7	7.1	67.5	3,267	...	93.6
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde ...	3,646	3.6	3.6	64.2	3,771	...	52.8
Oldham District ...	12,266	1.1	3.4	66.5	2,231	2.3	81.6
Bolton and Leigh ...	7,110	0.4	0.5	35.2	6,837	1.0	25.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden ...	4,204	3.5	7.4	50.4	6,318	...	33.9
Manchester District ...	3,338	...	...	67.6	6,527	4.7	47.4
Preston & Chorley ...	2,111	1.2	1.2	17.4	9,109	...	7.5
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen ...	3,333	2.4	1.3	38.1	23,362	...	13.8
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson ...	1,297	7.2	...	65.8	17,842	...	13.3
Other Districts ...	2,078	...	...	63.4	1,986	...	74.8
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>44,646</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>81,240</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>

RAW COTTON.

**American Cotton.**—During the month of March the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 4.24d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 4.39d., and the lowest 4.10d. The price for February was 4.13d., and for March, 1904, 8.28d. For the period from 1st to 10th April the average price of "middling American" was 4.28d. per lb.

**Egyptian Cotton.**—The price of "good fair Egyptian" in March averaged 6.66d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.12d., and the lowest 6.1d. The price for February was 6.55d., and for March, 1904, 9.29d. For the period from 1st to 10th April, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 6.63d. per lb.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns are given below:—

Description of Cotton.	Month of March,			Three Months ended March.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
American ...	Bales. 270,274	Bales. 189,640	Bales. 266,318	Bales. 836,294	Bales. 584,669	Bales. 811,069
Brazilian ...	12,811	10,118	2,660	34,163	24,250	7,216
East Indian ...	3,502	5,667	1,591	10,835	17,201	8,994
Egyptian ...	27,877	29,940	35,220	102,463	103,350	99,401
Miscellaneous ...	5,404	2,418	3,044	16,032	11,923	9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>319,928</b>	<b>237,783</b>	<b>368,833</b>	<b>999,787</b>	<b>741,375</b>	<b>935,680</b>

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on April 7th was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 922,000 bales, compared with 569,080 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

EXPORTS OF COTTON GOODS.

The following Table shows the quantities of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in the following periods:—

Description.	Month of March.			Three months ended March.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.
Grey ...	11,118	9,932	14,444	34,595	31,389	39,223
Bleached and Dyed	3,161	2,194	3,867	9,830	7,609	9,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,279</b>	<b>12,126</b>	<b>18,311</b>	<b>44,425</b>	<b>40,998</b>	<b>48,935</b>
Cotton Piece Goods:	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.	yds.
Grey or Unbleached	196,764	149,854	200,095	567,018	489,510	560,800
Bleached	128,541	130,116	153,661	366,345	388,977	445,456
Printed	86,036	79,769	94,138	259,559	256,913	252,020
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	78,135	78,080	91,902	231,966	242,099	272,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>486,476</b>	<b>437,819</b>	<b>539,796</b>	<b>1,424,888</b>	<b>1,377,439</b>	<b>1,530,740</b>

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent and on returns from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

Returns received from firms giving information as to wages paid and numbers employed in the three periods specified, show that on the whole employment in the Woollen and Worsted trades had improved in March, as compared with February, 1905, and March, 1904.

The total number of workpeople employed by these firms was 49,625 in March, 49,775 in February, and 49,368 in March, 1904. The amount of wages paid by the same firms was £37,530 in March, £37,200 in February, and £36,166 in March, 1904.

Woollen Trade.

Employment in the Woollen trade showed a slight decline during March as compared with a month ago, but continued good, and was better than a year ago. Overtime and some night work were again reported from Huddersfield, but were less frequent in the heavy woollen district than in the previous month. In Scotland employment continued good with all classes of workers, and was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 15,853 workpeople at the end of March, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the number employed by the same firms showed an increase of 1.1 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 5.5 per cent.

In the *Sorting* branch, there was a decline in the number employed as compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the same periods the amounts of wages paid showed little change.

In the *Spinning* branch there was a decrease in the number employed and the wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, there was a slight increase in the number employed, and a more marked one in the wages paid.

The *Weaving* branch and other departments showed changes similar to those in the *Spinning* branch.

The following Table (relating only to those firms who furnished information as to wages paid as well as numbers employed in the three periods mentioned) enables a comparison to be made of the numbers employed and wages paid in the various processes of manufacture at end of March, 1905 and 1904, and February, 1905:—

Branch.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Number employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Wool Sorting ...	429	- 3.4	£ 44	- 0.4
Spinning ...	2,571	- 1.8	2,124	- 1.6
Weaving ...	6,077	- 0.9	4,958	- 1.0
Other Departments ...	4,892	- 0.4	4,625	- 2.5
Unspecified ...	1,884	- 0.5	1,571	+ 1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,853</b>	<b>- 0.9</b>	<b>13,722</b>	<b>+ 5.5</b>

The proportion of workpeople affected by short time was considerably less than a month ago, and much less than a year ago. Of the 22,143 operatives employed by firms making returns, 11.4 per cent. were working in departments of mills in which short time was reported during the last week of March, compared with 15.1 per cent. in February, and 19.2 per cent. in March, 1904.

The following Table shows for the various districts the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid by firms making returns for the three periods March, 1905, February, 1905, and March, 1904.

It will be seen from this Table that, compared with a month ago there was a considerable decline in employment in the Huddersfield district, very little change at

Leeds and in Scotland, and a slight improvement in the Dewsbury and Batley District, notwithstanding the decline reported on Japanese orders and on blankets. Compared with a year ago, there was an improvement in all the principal districts, particularly at Dewsbury and Batley, and in the Huddersfield district.

District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with
Huddersfield ...	3,586	- 4.7	3,426	- 6.5
Leeds ...	1,304	- 0.7	1,051	- 0.1
Dewsbury and Batley ...	1,634	+ 1.4	1,508	+ 2.2
Other Parts of West Riding	1,059	- 0.7	885	- 1.6
<b>Total West Riding</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>- 2.2</b>	<b>6,870</b>	<b>- 3.1</b>
Scotland ...	6,139	+ 0.2	5,143	+ 0.9
Other Districts ...	2,131	+ 0.1	1,769	+ 5.0
<b>Total Woollen</b>	<b>15,853</b>	<b>- 0.9</b>	<b>13,722</b>	<b>+ 5.5</b>

Worsted Trade.

Employment in the Worsted Trade in March showed an improvement over the previous month, and was a little better than a year ago. It was bad with wool sorters, wool combers and spinners at Bradford; fairly good with all classes at Huddersfield, and bad in the remainder of the West Riding.

Returns received from firms employing 33,772 workpeople at the end of March showed no change in the number employed, and an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the number employed by the same firms showed very little change; the amount of wages paid showed an increase of 2.8 per cent.

In the *Sorting* and *Combing* branch, employment showed very little improvement as compared with a month ago, the number employed and amount of wages paid showing only a very slight increase. The improvement compared with a year ago was more marked.

In the *Spinning* branch the number employed and wages paid showed little change as compared with a month ago. Compared with the corresponding period of last year employment showed a decline.

In the *Weaving* branch employment showed an improvement. It was a little better than a month ago and considerably better than a year ago.

In the other departments there was an increase in employment compared with a month ago and a year ago.

The following Table (relating only to those firms who furnished information as to wages paid as well as numbers employed in the three periods mentioned) enables a comparison to be made of the numbers employed and wages paid in the various processes of manufacture at the end of March, 1905 and 1904, and February, 1905.

Branch.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Wool Combing and Sorting	3,485	+ 0.8	£ 3,330	+ 0.6
Spinning ...	16,774	+ 0.1	8,587	+ 0.2
Weaving ...	8,059	- 0.2	6,893	+ 3.8
Other Departments ...	3,666	- 0.3	3,646	+ 3.6
Unspecified ...	1,838	- 0.9	1,352	+ 2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,772</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>23,808</b>	<b>+ 2.2</b>

The proportion of workpeople affected by short time was slightly less than a month ago, and greater than a year ago. Of the 45,063 operatives employed by firms making returns, 17.8 per cent. were working in departments of mills in which short time was reported during the last week of March, as compared with 19.1 per cent. in February, and 14.2 per cent. in March, 1904.

The following Table shows for the various districts the number of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid by firms making returns for the three periods, March, 1905, February, 1905, and March, 1904:—

District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with
Bradford ...	18,767	- 0.5	13,044	+ 0.2
Keighley ...	5,710	- 0.7	3,918	+ 3.4
Halifax ...	3,130	- 0.1	2,021	+ 0.5
Huddersfield ...	2,689	+ 1.6	2,548	+ 15.3
Other Parts of West Riding	2,343	+ 0.7	1,548	+ 2.2
<b>Total West Riding</b>	<b>32,639</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>23,119</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>
Other Districts ...	1,133	- 0.1	689	+ 5.4
<b>Total Worsted</b>	<b>33,772</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>23,808</b>	<b>+ 2.2</b>

It will be seen from this Table that, compared with a month ago, employment at Bradford and Halifax showed little change. There was an improvement in all other districts, notably in Huddersfield, which had shown a marked decline in February. Compared with a year ago there was a slight improvement at Bradford, a very considerable one at Huddersfield, and a decline in the Halifax district. The remainder of the West Riding showed little change.

Prices.

The course of prices at Bradford for the three periods March, 1905, February, 1905, and March, 1904, is shown in the Table given below. Compared with a month ago there was a slight fall in the prices of Lincoln Hogs which, however, continued much above the level of March, 1904. A more decided fall in Crossbred tops brought their prices more nearly to the level of a year ago. Botany tops showed a slight rise compared with the previous month, and were higher than at the corresponding period of last year.

	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
Lincoln Hogs ...	d. 11 1/2 to 10 1/2	d. 12 to 11 1/2	d. 8 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ...	14 1/2 to 15 1/2	15 1/2 to 14 1/2	15 1/2 to 12 1/2
60's Botany tops ...	23 1/2 to 24 1/2	24 to 23 1/2	23 to 22 1/2

Imports and Exports.

The Table given below shows the quantities of imported and exported raw wool, and of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and woollen and worsted piece goods in the following periods:—

	Month of March.			Three Months ended March.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
<b>Raw Wool.</b>						
Imported ...	72,753,034	67,344,811	94,016,732	230,460,552	203,778,101	273,546,498
Exported ...	3,085,100	2,947,700	2,259,200	10,531,500	8,472,900	6,998,400
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported.</b>						
Yarn—						
Woolen ...	196,000	126,000	143,200	513,100	406,100	636,200
Worsted ...	4,595,700	4,438,700	4,038,600	12,991,900	13,303,100	11,108,300
Alpaca and Mohair	1,088,100	960,700	1,250,200	3,063,700	2,953,200	3,328,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,879,800</b>	<b>5,525,400</b>	<b>5,432,000</b>	<b>16,568,700</b>	<b>16,662,400</b>	<b>15,073,300</b>
Piece Goods:						
Woolen ...	3,313,990	4,245,900	5,943,700	12,453,600	16,073,500	20,249,400
Worsted ...	9,241,600	7,506,600	9,882,200	31,534,300	28,026,000	29,856,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,555,590</b>	<b>11,752,500</b>	<b>15,825,900</b>	<b>44,287,900</b>	<b>44,099,500</b>	<b>50,105,800</b>

\* Revised figures.

**FLAX AND JUTE TRADES.**

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

**Flax Trade.**

EMPLOYMENT generally showed little change, as compared with February, but was not so good as a year ago.

The total number of workpeople employed by the firms making returns for the last pay day in March was 58,379, an increase of 0.3 per cent. on the number employed at the end of February, and a decrease of 1.1 per cent. on the corresponding week a year ago. The percentage affected by short time was the same as a month ago, and showed a slight increase compared with a year ago.

In the following Table are shown the numbers employed in the different departments of the industry, and the percentage proportion of workpeople who were in departments working less than 54 hours per week;—

District.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on last pay-day in March, 1905.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in numbers employed as compared with		Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Departments working Short Time in the last week of		
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
Ireland—						
Preparing ...	6,565	- 1.4	- 3.9	...	...	1.5
Spinning ...	12,748	+ 0.0	+ 0.6	...	...	...
Weaving ...	18,226	+ 0.7	- 0.2	4.8	4.7	3.6
Other ...	6,430	+ 0.5	- 0.8	20.5	23.9	18.0
Total ...	43,959	+ 0.1	- 0.6	5.0	5.4	4.4
Scotland—						
Preparing ...	1,439	- 0.1	- 3.6	3.8	5.0	17.1
Spinning ...	2,171	+ 0.2	+ 0.1	...	...	...
Weaving ...	6,641	+ 1.1	- 3.1	21.5	18.3	7.6
Other ...	2,716	+ 2.2	- 1.0	14.8	11.8	7.5
Total ...	12,967	+ 1.0	- 2.2	14.6	13.2	9.4
England ...	1,443	- 1.0	- 4.6	39.8	39.9	26.5
Total United Kingdom	58,379	+ 0.3	- 1.1	8.0	8.0	6.1

It will be seen that, as compared with a month ago, no important change occurred.

Compared with a year ago less short time was worked in the *Preparing* and *Spinning* departments, but an increase is shown in the *Weaving* and *Other* departments.

The following Table shows that a decline in the percentage of short time, as compared with a year ago, occurred in Belfast and in the miscellaneous group of districts in Scotland, an increase being shown in other districts which was especially marked in Fifeshire.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on last pay-day in March, 1905.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in numbers employed as compared with		Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Departments working Short Time in the last week of		
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
Belfast ...	20,004	- 0.3	- 2.1	5.0	5.9	6.2
Other Places in Ireland ...	23,965	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	5.0	5.0	2.8
Fifeshire ...	6,569	+ 1.4	- 2.6	22.3	22.3	4.1
Other Places in Scotland ...	6,398	+ 0.7	- 1.7	6.7	3.9	14.9
England ...	1,443	- 1.0	- 4.6	39.8	39.9	26.5
Total United Kingdom	58,379	+ 0.3	- 1.1	8.0	8.0	6.1

The Employers' Association for Belfast and Ulster reported employment with spinners as remaining fair. Trade Unions in Belfast reported employment as dull generally, though improving in some branches. At Dunfermline employment was reported as worse than a year ago; at Aberdeen as good; at Arbroath, Brechin and Forfar as still slack; at Barnsley as only moderate.

**Jute Trade.**

Employment in this industry continued moderate.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the last pay day in March was 28,488, an increase of 0.8 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, and a decrease of 2.3 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. The percentage of the total number of workpeople who were employed in departments working less than 54 hours per week was 4.3, as against 4.5 in February, and 4.9 in March, 1904.

The following Table shows the numbers employed in the different departments of the industry and the proportion working short time, compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

Department.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on last pay day in Mar., 1905.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in numbers employed as compared with		Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Departments working Short Time in the last week of		
		A month ago.	A year ago.	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
Preparing ...	6,574	+ 2.5	- 1.9	2.5	3.6	3.5
Spinning ...	8,145	- 0.4	- 2.5	3.4	3.4	4.2
Weaving ...	10,084	+ 0.1	- 3.0	5.4	5.1	6.2
Other ...	3,735	+ 2.4	- 0.9	6.6	7.0	5.7
Total ...	28,488	+ 0.8	- 2.3	4.3	4.5	4.9

Of the total number, 24,489 were employed in Dundee, an increase of 0.9 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax and jute, and of British and Irish exports of linen and jute yarn and manufactured goods, in March, 1905, and in the corresponding months of 1904 and 1903:—

Description.	Month ended March			Three months ended March		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1905.	1904.	1903.
<b>Imports:</b>						
Flax (Dressed and Undressed To w and Codilla) Tons	15,052	8,773	15,080	34,762	29,946	32,944
Jute ... "	15,520	33,494	20,726	60,677	129,857	95,915
<b>Exports:</b>						
Linen Yarn Lbs.	1,247,200	1,059,500	1,488,600	3,492,000	3,598,500	3,491,900
Linen Manu- factures Yds.	13,232,300	13,532,400	17,049,100	42,223,700	43,766,400	49,326,200
Jute Yarn Lbs.	3,041,600	2,769,700	4,249,200	10,808,700	9,720,200	11,681,400
Jute Manu- factures Yds.	16,059,900	16,779,100	15,483,800	49,193,300	48,535,400	49,319,500

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

**Hosiery Trade.**

(Based on Returns from Employers through the Local Correspondent at Leicester, and on Returns from an Employer's Association and Local Correspondents.)

Employment in England was moderate, and better than a month ago and a year ago; in Scotland it was fair, and better than a year ago.

*Leicester District.*—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 12,567 workpeople in their factories at the end of March showed practically no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 40 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 38 per cent. in February. At Leicester, Hinckley, and Loughborough, employment showed an improvement compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago.

*Nottingham and Derby District.*—Employment at Nottingham was better than a month ago and a year ago. It was fairly good with framework knitters at Nottingham, Sutton and Mansfield; slack with circular hosiery workers and rib top makers. With hand frame workers employment continued bad generally, but improved at Arnold. Employment at Belper continued bad.

*Scotland.*—In Selkirk employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In Hawick it was quiet, but better than a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**

(Based on Returns from an Employers' Association, a Trade Union, and Local Correspondents.)

Employment generally showed little change compared with February; it was worse than a year ago. In Nottingham employment was reported as bad in the levers branch, fairly good in the plain net branch, and moderate in the curtain branch; it was worse in the levers branch than a year ago. Employment showed a further improvement at Beeston; it continued moderate at Stapleford, Sandiacre, and Kimberley; at Bulwell a

slight decline was reported. Employment was bad at Long Eaton and Ilkeston. With lace makers at Glasgow it was reported as good, at Newmilns as fair; it was better than a month ago at both places, some overtime being worked.

**Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.**

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

*Woollen and Worsted Dyers.*—Employment in the West Riding remained quiet, and was worse than a year ago. About three-fifths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-tenth worked overtime.

*Cotton Dyers.*—Employment was fairly good, slightly better than a month ago and better than a year ago.

*Calico Printers, etc.*—Employment was reported as fair at New Mills; at Manchester there was still much short time. With printers' engravers at Dinting it was fair. At Glasgow it was fair with calico printers, good with calico printers' engravers and bad with block printers.

*Hosiery Dyers, Trimmers, &c.*—At Leicester employment was better than a month ago, but still slack for the season of the year. At Hinckley employment was fair. At Loughborough most operatives were fully employed. Employment continued moderate with dyers at Nottingham, and with bleachers at Basford; with hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Basford it was moderate.

*Calenderers, etc.*—In Glasgow employment was dull, and worse than a month ago. In Dundee employment was slack with bleachfield workers and calender workers; dyers continued busy.

**TAILORING TRADE.**

(Based on Returns from Employers, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

Employment in the *bespoke* branch was moderate, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment was fair in Leeds, Bristol, and Glasgow; moderate or dull in other large centres; on the whole it was about the same as a month ago and better than a year ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

*London.*—Employment showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was moderate; it was not so good as during the corresponding month a year ago, which included the busy season immediately preceding Easter. Firms paying £13,146 in wages to their workpeople during the four weeks ended March 25th showed an increase of 13.2 per cent. on the amount paid in the preceding four weeks, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount paid in the corresponding period a year ago.

*Other Centres.*—Employment was reported as improving at Liverpool, fair at Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast; quiet at Dublin.

**Ready-made Branch.**

*London.*—Employment was reported by employers as only moderate on the whole, and much the same as a year ago; but with the cutters' it was reported as fair, and better than a year ago.

*Leeds.*—Employment was fair, and better than a year ago. According to returns received from firms employing 9,700 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during March was good with firms employing 42 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 44 per cent., and bad with firms employing 14 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 40 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 20 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 40 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 55 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 18 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 27 per cent. as worse. The Jewish operatives reported employment as improved; the Trade Union clothiers' operatives as below the usual standard, but as improved with female operatives.

*Other Centres.*—In Manchester employment was a little better than a month ago, although still only moderate, and worse than a year ago. In Bristol employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In

Leicestershire employment was good. In Norwich employment was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, and Colchester district employment was dull but improved. In Glasgow employment was fair, being better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago.

**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent, and on Returns from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed a further slight improvement, but was still quiet and worse than a year ago.

Of the total number of operatives covered by the returns 69 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments during the last week in March. This compares with a percentage of 67 for February.

The number employed by the 585 firms making returns for the last pay day in March was 74,283, an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed, 478 firms, employing 63,169 workpeople, have given returns of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in March and February, and in March, 1904. The returns from these firms are analysed in the following Table:—

District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.			
	No. employed at end of Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Per cent.	Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay day of Mar., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
						A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London ...	3,009	+ 2.9	- 4.1	3,846	+ 4.3	- 0.7
Leicester ...	13,484	+ 0.7	- 3.6	14,809	+ 3.6	- 1.3
Leicester Country District	2,975	+ 0.2	- 1.0	2,720	+ 2.0	- 2.2
Northampton ...	7,946	+ 3.0	- 0.5	7,734	+ 1.0	- 0.8
Northampton Country District	9,098	+ 0.7	- 0.4	8,093	- 0.4	- 1.4
Kettering ...	2,924	+ 2.9	...	3,016	+ 5.3	...
Stafford and District ...	2,765	+ 1.4	+ 6.1	2,415	+ 0.2	+ 2.9
Norwich & District ...	3,759	+ 1.0	+ 2.8	3,094	+ 3.1	+ 4.4
Bristol & District ...	2,090	+ 0.5	- 5.6	1,853	- 1.5	- 10.0
Kingswood ...	2,446	- 3.4	+ 0.3	2,036	- 6.3	- 13.3
Leeds and District ...	2,774	- 1.4	- 14.6	2,139	+ 2.7	- 22.0
Manchester & District ...	1,955	+ 0.1	+ 5.4	1,837	+ 0.6	- 5.4
Birmingham & District ...	923	- 0.2	- 1.2	817	+ 5.7	+ 1.6
Other parts of England and Wales	2,541	- 0.7	- 2.9	1,875	- 2.2	- 5.9
England and Wales ...	58,689	+ 0.9	- 1.8	56,254	+ 1.7	- 2.8
SCOTLAND ...	3,978	- 0.6	- 6.4	3,806	+ 2.0	- 8.9
IRELAND ...	502	- 0.2	- 7.7	363	+ 0.8	- 1.1
UNITED KINGDOM ...	63,169	+ 0.8	- 2.1	60,423	+ 1.7	- 3.2

Compared with a month ago, five districts showed a decrease in the amount of wages earned, and eleven show an increase. The decrease was greatest in the Kingswood district (6.3 per cent.). The increase was highest in the Birmingham district (5.7 per cent.), Kettering (5.3 per cent.), and London (4.3 per cent.). The net result was an improvement of 1.7 per cent.

Compared with a year ago only four districts showed an increase in the amount of wages earned, the highest being in the Norwich district (4.4 per cent.). The decrease was greatest in the Leeds district (22.0 per cent.), Kingswood (13.3 per cent.), the Bristol district (10.0 per cent.), and Scotland (8.9 per cent.). The net result was a decrease of 3.2 per cent.

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

*London.*—Employment, although still quiet, was better than a month ago; it was a little worse than a year ago. With hand-sewn bootmakers it was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

*Leicester and District.*—Employment showed a further slight improvement, but was only moderate, and a little worse than a year ago.

*Northampton, Kettering and District.*—In Northampton and Kettering there was a further improvement, especially marked in Kettering, and employment was

only slightly worse than a year ago. At Higham, Daventry, Desborough, and Wellingborough a decline was reported. Employment among army bootmakers was interrupted by a dispute.

*Stafford and District.*—Employment at Stafford continued good, and was better than a year ago. At Stone it improved, but short time was still reported.

*Eastern Counties.*—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month and a year ago.

*Bristol and Kingswood.*—Employment was worse than a month ago, especially at Kingswood, and was much worse than a year ago in both districts.

*Leeds and District.*—Employment continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago.

*Other Districts in England.*—The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as good at Kendal, slightly better at Newcastle-on-Tyne, bad at Nottingham, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham.

*Scotland.*—Employment was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported it as still bad at Maybole with factories on short time, as good at Kilmarnock, slack at Edinburgh, better at Aberdeen.

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table gives the quantities and the values of the boots and shoes imported and exported during the following periods:—

	Month of March.			Three months ended March.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Imports	Dozen pairs...	23,582	26,824	22,834	62,845	60,082
	Value £ ...	96,725	100,237	89,252	245,793	212,650
Re-Exports	Dozen pairs...	1,689	1,666	1,203	6,851	6,624
	Value £ ...	5,010	4,126	2,794	17,743	15,635
Exports (British and Irish)	Dozen pairs...	70,477	52,213	66,410	224,334	160,617
	Value £ ...	173,697	121,356	155,531	538,413	368,079

### OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Local Correspondents, Trade Unions, and Employment Bureaux in London.)

EMPLOYMENT in the London dressmaking trade was fairly good, and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the millinery trade it was better than a month ago and a year ago. In the mantle trade employment was moderate and about the same as a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade it was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the corset trade it was good and better than a month ago and a year ago.

*Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.*—In London returns received from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,389 dressmakers in the last week in March showed an increase of 9.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment generally was fairly good. Court dressmakers, employing 1,941 workpeople, showed an increase of 14.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment was fair and about the same as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle and costume trade employment was fair and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Employment with makers of blouses and underclothing was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 1,563 milliners showed an increase of 5.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 9.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed a great increase in the demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago and little change compared with a year ago; the number applying for situations was less than the demand, but was greater than a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair and better than a month ago, and slightly better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment continued fair, but was worse than a year ago; firms employing 1,935 workpeople showed an increase of

1.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was moderate and about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

*Shirt and Collar Trade.*—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,325 workpeople in their factories (in addition to 3,635 outworkers) showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago; employment generally was fairly good and better than a month ago; in Belfast it was good, in Londonderry and Glasgow only moderate, in London and Manchester fair. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, but firms employing 69 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 28 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 3 per cent. as worse. With the outworkers (of whom 3,431 were in Ireland) employment continued fairly good.

*Corset Trade.*—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,202 workpeople in their factories at the end of March showed practically no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was good and better than a month ago. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 82 per cent. of the total number employed reported employment as better, 9 per cent. as unchanged, and 9 per cent. as worse.

### HAT TRADE.

(Based on Returns from Employers' Associations and Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT in the hat trade was slack, but was better than a month ago, and much the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with 5,395 members had 224 (or 4.2 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.9 per cent. in February, and 4.3 per cent. a year ago.

With *silk* hatters employment in London was very slack, about two hours short time being worked per day, and it was rather worse than a year ago. In Denton employment was reported as better than a month ago, but the Trade Union branch reported it as quiet, and with more unemployed than a year ago. The Trade Union silk hatters had 12.1 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 12.7 per cent. in February, and 9.1 per cent. a year ago.

With *felt* hatters in Denton employment, although quiet, showed a further improvement, and was about the same as a year ago. At Stockport it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Hyde, Hurst, and Failsworth it continued moderate in the stiff hat branch, and was quiet in the soft hat branch. In Bury and Bredbury employment was bad. In Warwickshire employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. The Trade Union felt hatters had 2.9 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 3.6 per cent. a month ago, and 3.5 per cent. a year ago.

### OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

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

THE state of employment in March remained bad, but showed a further slight improvement compared with the previous month. It was also rather better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of the month was 9.1, against 9.3 in February, and 9.7 in March, 1904.

*Skimmers, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.*—Employment continued bad generally, but was good with curriers and fancy and morocco leather finishers in London, and had improved with curriers and light leather dressers at Northampton and Wellingborough.

*Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.*—Employment remained bad generally.

*Miscellaneous Leather Workers.*—Employment continued bad. With fancy leather workers, however, it was fair, and better than a month and a year ago.

### PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

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

THE returns show that employment at the end of March remained quiet, and was worse than a year ago.

#### PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was worse than a year ago. It was slightly better on the whole than a month ago, but the improvement was principally confined to London and Scotland. In *letterpress printing* Trade Unions with 39,382 members had 4.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.4 per cent. a month ago, and 3.0 per cent. a year ago. In *lithographic printing* some improvement is shown as compared with February, the percentage unemployed of 6,508 Trade Union members being 5.4, against 6.3 a month ago, and 4.0 in March, 1904. With *bookbinders* little change is shown. Of 7,002 Trade Union members in this section 5.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of March, against 5.3 in February, and 5.0 a year ago.

In the following Table are shown the percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* in the principal districts, compared with those for a month ago and a year ago:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1905, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London ... ..	22,825	4.0	4.4	3.5
Northern Counties ..	1,481	3.9	3.6	3.0	- 0.3	+ 0.9
Lanes. and Cheshire..	6,925	6.8	7.0	3.6	- 0.2	+ 3.2
Yorkshire ... ..	4,305	4.9	4.5	3.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.4
East Midlands ... ..	2,021	4.3	3.7	3.2	+ 0.6	+ 1.1
West Midlands ... ..	2,450	3.7	5.3	4.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.4
Eastern Counties ...	395	2.3	3.8	2.5	- 1.5	- 0.2
S. & S. W. Counties...	2,748	2.8	2.1	1.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.1
Wales and Mon. ...	838	3.7	3.6	1.6	+ 0.1	+ 2.1
Scotland ... ..	6,283	3.3	4.7	2.1	- 1.4	+ 1.2
Ireland ... ..	2,621	6.9	6.6	7.0	+ 0.3	- 0.1
United Kingdom ...	52,892	4.5	4.8	3.4	- 0.3	+ 1.1

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

*London.*—Employment improved during March. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 17,115 members had 3.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.7 per cent. a month ago, and 2.6 a year ago. In the lithographic trade the percentage unemployed of 2,007 Trade Union members was 6.1, against 8.0 in February, and 5.0 in March, 1904. With bookbinders employment was better than a year ago, Trade Unions with 3,703 members having 5.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, against 5.7 in February, and 6.5 in March, 1904.

*Northern Counties.*—Employment was quiet generally.

*Lancashire and Cheshire.*—Employment was slack generally, and much worse than a year ago. With letterpress printers at Bolton and Oldham, however, it was good, and with lithographic artists at Manchester fairly good.

*Yorkshire.*—Employment was dull generally.

*East Midland Counties.*—At Nottingham employment was reported as slack generally, short time being worked by lithographic printers. At Leicester it was moderate with letterpress printers, and good with other branches. At Derby it was fairly good.

*West Midland Counties.*—Employment was slack on the whole. With lithographic printers at Birmingham, however, it was good.

*Eastern, Southern, and South-Western Counties and Wales.*—Employment continued fairly good generally.

*Scotland.*—In Edinburgh employment with letterpress printers was reported as fair and improving. With lithographic printers and bookbinders it was quiet. Employment remained bad at Glasgow; fair at Dundee and Aberdeen.

*Ireland.*—Letterpress printers at Dublin remained fairly well employed; elsewhere employment was slack.

#### PAPER TRADES.

Employment in England continued good in the machine trade, and improved in the hand-made trade. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,368 members had 2.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, the same percentage as a year ago, compared with 3.2 per cent. in February. In Scotland returns received from 32 employers showed that 5,546 workpeople were employed by them at the end of March, as compared with 5,540 at the end of February, and 5,495 at the end of March, 1904, but that employment, though still fairly good, remained worse than a year ago.

### FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally during March showed a marked improvement as compared with a month ago. It was rather better than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades (exclusive of coopers) at the end of March was 5.1, as compared with 8.4 at the end of February, and 5.7 at the end of March, 1904.

#### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was slack. Compared with a month ago it showed little change, but it was slightly worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,764 showed 273 (or 5.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 5.8 per cent. at the end of February, and 5.4 per cent. a year ago.

#### Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment has improved considerably. It was better than a month ago and a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 13,904, showed 736 (or 5.4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 11.1 per cent. at the end of February, and 6.8 per cent. at the end of March, 1904.

#### Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued dull and showed very little improvement compared with either a month ago or a year ago. It continued, however, fair at Hull, and good at Peterhead and Fraserburgh.

#### Coachbuilding.

Employment in the coachbuilding industry varied somewhat in different departments, but showed, on the whole, an improvement, as compared with a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago. In London and in the Midlands employment was, generally speaking, fair, and better than a month ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,901, reported 345 (or 4.4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 5.8 per cent. at the end of February, and 4.0 per cent. at the end of March, 1904.

#### Miscellaneous.

*Brushmakers.*—Employment with brushmakers was fair generally, and better than a month ago or a year ago. With ivory and bone brushmakers in London, however, it was slack, and worse than a month ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,745 reported 58 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.0 per cent. at the end of February, and 4.4 per cent. at the end of March, 1904.

*Other Trades.*—With packing-case makers employment continued slack generally. With basket makers it was fairly good at Leicester, but quiet at Glasgow. Bobbin makers at Barnsley continued to be well employed.

### GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the Glass trades was rather slack, but better than a month ago. It was, however, worse than a year ago. In the Pottery trades some signs of improvement were shown, but in the Brick and Tile trades employment continued bad on the whole.

*Glass Trades.*—Employment with glass bottle-makers was bad in the Mexboro' and Barnsley district, moderate

at St. Helens, Newton-le-Willows, Wakefield, Leeds, and Belfast; fair at Bristol and Dublin; and good at Seaham Harbour, Portobello and Glasgow. With makers of medicine-bottles at Rotherham employment was quiet.

Employment with flint-glass makers was bad at Edinburgh and Warrington; moderate at Manchester and Barnsley; fair at Stourbridge and Glasgow; and fairly good at Birmingham. With flint-glass cutters it was bad at Edinburgh; quiet at Birmingham and Wordsley; and fair at Glasgow. Employment with plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was fair. It was good with sheet-glass makers and sheet-glass flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed-glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was bad. Employment with glass-blowers in London was fairly good.

**Pottery Trades.**—In Staffordshire employment in the pottery trades showed a slight improvement, but short time was general. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) the potters again worked four days per week. At Newcastle-on-Tyne employment continued fair. With hollow-ware and sanitary workers at Wolverhampton it was bad. In the Woodville district employment was good with conduit pipe makers, and quiet with makers of sanitary ware and drain pipes. It was fair at Barnstaple and in South Devon.

In Scotland employment generally was moderate, and some short time was worked. At Glasgow it was bad with tobacco-pipe makers, quiet with white hollow-ware potters, and good with stoneware throwers.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment continued bad at Peterborough, Nottingham; and at Glasgow. It was dull in Shropshire, slack in the Barnsley district, and in the Tees and Hartlepool district; improving in North Wales and in Suffolk and Essex; quiet at Birmingham, Cambridge, Norwich, Wroxham, Calstock and Gunnislake; moderate in the Oldham district with short time; fair in the Woodville district and in South Wales, except at Glyn Neath, where it was slack; and good at Exeter, in the Stourbridge district, and at Gateshead.

**AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.**

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

ACCORDING to the Reports received, the weather in the early part of March was somewhat showery and boisterous, and there was some interruption of spring sowings and other outdoor work in consequence. Owing to this cause, some day labourers in several districts were not in full employment. The supply of extra men was generally equal to the demand, and in some districts rather in excess. Men for permanent situations, though still scarce in some districts, are said to be rather less difficult to obtain than a year or two ago.

**Northern Counties.**—A report from Cumberland states that employment was, on the whole, regular, although some day labourers lost time through wet weather. The supply of labour was rather greater than the demand. In Lancashire out-door work was somewhat interfered with by wet weather. A correspondent in the Prescot Union states that a few Irish labourers had come to look for work, and that those known to be useful soon found employment. In Yorkshire the weather was fairly favourable, and few farm labourers were in irregular employment. The supply of day labourers was rather in excess of the demand.

**Midland Counties.**—Correspondents in Cheshire and Derbyshire state that agricultural labourers were but slightly affected by the showery weather at the commencement of March. In Nottinghamshire a few day labourers were in irregular work; the supply of such men was, on the whole, greater than the demand, and was better than a year ago. Men for permanent situations were also rather more plentiful. Similar reports come from Leicestershire. In Shropshire and Staffordshire some delay in the spring sowings was caused by wet days, but farm labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment. Reports from Worcestershire state that some day labourers were irregularly employed during March, on account of wet

weather. Men for permanent situations were a little more plentiful, but there was some demand in certain districts for carters, stockmen and shepherds. The weather is reported to have been favourable for working on the land and in the fruit plantations in Warwickshire, and employment was plentiful. In Northamptonshire men on piece-work lost a day or two through rain. Day labourers were somewhat in excess of requirements, owing to work being well forward. Some interruption to outdoor work was caused by the weather in Oxfordshire. Extra men were in little demand, except for an occasional day's threshing. Farm labourers were mostly in regular employment in Buckinghamshire. Difficulty is reported in obtaining men for permanent situations where Sunday work, especially milking, is involved. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire men on piece-work lost some time through the unsettled weather. Day labourers were plentiful, but were not in much demand.

**Eastern Counties.**—Agricultural work in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire is stated to be well forward, and more farm labourers were unemployed in March than for some time past. Employment in Lincolnshire is stated to have been affected by the forward state of the work, and by rainy weather. Some day labourers were not in constant employment. A report from the Grimsby Union states that at the hirings for foremen, shepherds, &c., there appeared to be "more men than places." The spring sowings in Norfolk were somewhat delayed by the wet weather in the early part of March, but there was latterly a good deal of work in drilling barley, peas and beans, and in preparing the land for mangels. The supply of day labourers was quite equal to the demand, and a few men of this class were not in regular employment. In Suffolk and Essex there was little demand for extra men, most of the winter work in the fields being finished and hoeing not begun, and some day labourers were in irregular work.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Field work in Kent was somewhat interrupted by bad weather, and many day labourers lost a few days during the month. A correspondent in the West Ashford Union states that there were in March "more men in irregular work than for the last twelve months." In Surrey and Sussex a few day labourers in certain districts lost time through unfavourable weather. A scarcity of carters and of men and boys for tending cattle is mentioned in reports from these counties. In Hampshire and Berkshire the regularity of employment was affected by the unsettled weather. There was, however, a good deal of work in hedging and manure carting. The supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of requirements. The spring corn sowing in Wiltshire and Dorsetshire was somewhat delayed by wet weather in the early part of March, and some day labourers were irregularly employed in consequence. The supply of this class of men was quite sufficient, but men for permanent situations were somewhat scarce. Agricultural labourers in Somersetshire were not much affected by the wet days, but some men were not in full employment. In Herefordshire and Gloucestershire some time was lost by men on piece-work, owing to rainy weather. Farm labourers in Devon and Cornwall were for the most part regularly employed. The supply of extra men was generally sufficient.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based, as regards London, on Returns from Dock Companies, the Owners of the principal Wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions; as regards other principal ports, on information supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, Trade Unions and Local Correspondents of the Department.)

EMPLOYMENT in March remained moderate, showing little change, on the whole, compared with a month ago and a year ago.

**London.**

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended March 25th was 12,350, an increase of 3.9 per cent. on the average for February, and a decrease of 4.1 per cent. on that for March, 1904.

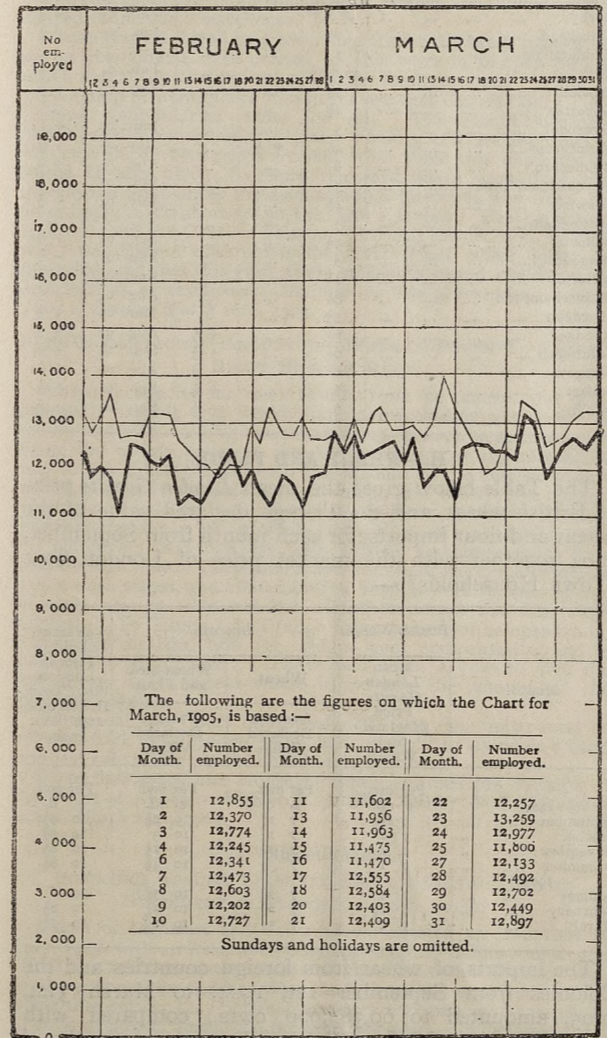
(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the four weeks ended March 25th:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 109 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Mar. 4th	4,186	2,790	6,976	5,415	12,391
" " " 11th	4,723	2,036	6,759	5,566	12,325
" " " 18th	4,797	1,786	6,583	5,584	12,167
" " " 25th	4,443	2,506	6,949	5,559	12,508
Average for 4 weeks ended Mar. 25th	4,537	2,280	6,817	5,533	12,350
Average for Feb., 1905	4,270	2,027	6,297	5,685*	11,982*
Average for Mar., 1904	5,011	2,204	7,215	5,657*	12,872*

(2) **Daily Fluctuations.**—The daily fluctuations in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers are shown in the following Chart. The numbers in March ranged from 11,470 on the 16th to 13,259 on the 23rd. During March, 1904, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 14,009 on the 15th to 12,036 on the 19th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 109 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of February and March, 1905. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1904, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1905, and the thin curve to 1904.]



Employment generally was moderate. It was moderate with workers in mid-stream, lumpers, deal porters, corn porters, and winchmen. With lightermen, stevedores, and coal porters employment was fair. It was fair also with fruit porters in Thames Street, the average daily number employed being 271, as compared with 267 in the previous month, and 271 in March, 1904.

\* Revised figures.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during March, 55 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 45 per cent. in February, and 72 per cent. in March, 1904.

**Other Ports.**

**North-East Coast.**—Employment with dock and quay side labourers on the Tyne and Wear was fair, and better than a month ago. With trimmers and teamers on these rivers and at Blyth it was moderate. Employment with dock labourers continued good at Middlesbrough, but it was still slack at Hartlepool. Riverside labourers were only moderately employed at both Middlesbrough and Hartlepool.

**Hull, Goole and Grimsby.**—Employment generally was slack, though it was reported as fair with dock-shed workers and one branch of coal workers at Grimsby.

**Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.**—Employment continued slack at Lowestoft, Yarmouth and Harwich, but it was still good at Parkeston and fair at Lynn, while some improvement was shown at Ipswich.

**Southampton and Plymouth.**—Employment at Southampton was reported as moderate and worse than a year ago. At Plymouth employment was fair with coal-lumpers and grain carriers, but slack with timber carriers and men employed in stone shipments.

**Bristol Channel Ports.**—Employment at Bristol was moderate, though not so good as a year ago. In South Wales employment continued fair on the whole.

**Liverpool and Manchester.**—At Liverpool employment remained slack, and was reported as worse than a month ago. It improved at Manchester, as compared with last month and was fair generally.

**Glasgow.**—Employment was reported as moderate.

**East of Scotland Ports.**—Employment at Leith was good and better than a month and a year ago. At Dundee it was good with weekly men, but slack with casual labourers. Employment was moderate at Aberdeen.

**Irish Ports.**—Employment was fair at Dublin and Belfast; dull at Cork.

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

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

THE fish landed during March showed a decrease in quantity and an increase in value as compared with a year ago. The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in March, 1905, and in March, 1904, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales ... ..	685,499	771,553	580,639	562,810
Scotland ... ..	342,472	315,951	143,635	140,261
Ireland ... ..	14,673	18,273	12,844	12,452
Total ... ..	1,042,644	1,105,777	737,118	715,524
Shell Fish ... ..	—	—	29,830	29,785
Total Value ... ..	—	—	766,948	745,309

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that the weather was more favourable, and trawl boats landed better catches than in February.

At Hull employment among fishermen and fish dock labourers was fair, the same as a month and a year ago. With trawl fishermen it was not so good. There was an improvement in the latter part of the month with fish curers, making employment in that branch better than in February, and about the same as a year ago. Employment in all branches at Grimsby was better than a month and a year ago. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft it improved with fishermen, being better than in February and about the same as a year ago. At the former port it continued bad with fish dock labourers

and fish curers, but improved in these branches at Lowestoft. Employment at Harwich continued poor.

Off the South-western coast fishing continued slack. The weather in the first half of the month was stormy, and catches in the latter half were poor. The greater part of the fish landed at Plymouth and Brixham was by steam trawlers from distant grounds: other fishing vessels were poorly employed. Fish-packers, carters, and curers were very badly employed.

At Cardiff, Swansea, and Milford, the catches were fair during the month.

Employment at Aberdeen was good in all branches, being better than a month ago, and the same as a year ago. At Peterhead it was moderate with fishermen, and bad among fish dock labourers and fish curers. In all branches it was worse than a month ago and the same as a year ago. At Macduff it was moderate generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Arbroath and Montrose fishing was hindered by bad weather, but good supplies were obtained during the last week of the month. Employment at Fraserburgh was good with fish curers and barrel makers, moderate with fishermen and bad among fish dock labourers. In all branches it was the same as a month ago.

Off the South and South-West coasts of Ireland deep sea fishing was very bad owing to stormy weather.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MARCH.**

(Based on Returns from the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

DURING March the supply of seamen was either equal to or in excess of the demand at the ports included in the returns.

Returns received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during March 33,708\* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, a decrease of 2,981 on the number shipped during March, 1904, the only increase of importance being at Glasgow. The most marked decreases were at London and at the Tyne ports.

During the three completed months of 1905, 101,146\* seamen were shipped, of whom 15,883 (or 15.7 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 102,381\* seamen were shipped, of whom 16,868 (or 16.5 per cent.) were foreigners. Increases were greatest at Liverpool, Swansea, Newport, and the Scottish ports, and the principal decreases occurred at London, the Tyne ports, Southampton and Belfast.

Table showing the number\* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March, 1905 and 1904 respectively, together with the number shipped in the three months ended March in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	March.		Three months ended March.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ... ..	3,086	2,452	- 629	8,173	7,438	- 735
Sunderland ... ..	558	431	- 127	1,496	1,275	- 221
Middlesbrough ... ..	202	193	- 9	612	611	- 1
Hull ... ..	992	1,032	+ 40	3,208	3,097	- 111
Grimsby ... ..	46	34	- 12	104	111	+ 7
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ... ..	547	528	- 19	1,928	1,809	- 119
Newport Mon. ... ..	793	370	- 423	2,181	2,513	+ 332
Cardiff ... ..	4,557	4,601	+ 44	13,995	14,082	+ 86
Swansea ... ..	373	329	- 44	1,008	1,619	+ 611
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ... ..	13,021	12,581	- 440	35,040	36,304	+ 1,264
London ... ..	6,338	5,227	- 1,111	18,420	16,310	- 2,110
Southampton ... ..	2,495	1,944	- 553	6,492	5,819	- 673
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Burntisland, Methil, & Grangemouth ... ..	675	507	- 168	1,505	1,763	+ 258
Glasgow ... ..	2,647	2,950	+ 303	7,012	7,462	+ 450
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ... ..	142	67	- 75	344	233	- 111
Belfast ... ..	232	204	- 28	802	703	- 99
Total ... ..	36,689	33,708	- 2,981	102,381	101,146	- 1,235

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

**PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.**

**I.—BREAD.\***

THE Returns as to the price of 4 lbs. of bread furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large provincial towns at the beginning of April.

As compared with a month ago, the price has remained the same at all the towns given in the Table below except at Manchester, where an increase of ½d. per 4 lbs. has taken place. In London the number of shops selling at 5½d. per 4 lbs. shows some decline, but the predominant prices are still 5d. and 5½d.

As compared with a year ago, present prices are ½d. more for 4 lbs. at Bristol, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin. At Birmingham and Norwich the prices are now lower by ½d. At other towns in the Table no change is shown.

Place.	Presen Price (1st April 1905.)	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't. per 4 lb.
London ... ..	d. 5 & 5½	d.	d.	Feb. '05	d. + ½
Birmingham ... ..	4½ & 5½	— ½	— ½	Aug. '04	— ½
Bolton ... ..	5	—	—	...	...
Bristol ... ..	5½	+	+	Oct. '04	+ ½
Derby ... ..	4½ & 5	—	—	Feb. '05	— ½
Gateshead ... ..	5½	—	—	Jan. '05	+ ½
Huddersfield ... ..	5	—	—	...	...
Hull ... ..	4½ & 5½	—	—	Feb. '04	+ ½
Ipswich ... ..	5½	—	—	Aug. '03	+ ½
Leicester ... ..	4½	—	—	...	...
Liverpool ... ..	5	—	—	June, '03	+ 1
Manchester ... ..	4½	+ ½	—	Mar. '05	+ ½
Middlesbro' ... ..	6	—	—	Aug. '03	+ ½
Newcastle-on-Tyne ... ..	5½	—	—	Jan. '05	+ ½
Norwich ... ..	4½	— ½	—	July, '04	- ½
Nottingham ... ..	5	—	—	...	...
Oldham ... ..	4½	—	—	Sep. '03	+ ½
Plymouth ... ..	5	—	—	Feb. '05	- ½
Potteries ... ..	4½	—	—	Aug. '04	+ ½
Wolverhampton ... ..	5½	—	—	Aug. '04	+ ½
Aberdeen ... ..	5½	+	+	Mar. '03	+ ½
Dundee ... ..	6½	+	+	Aug. '04	+ ½
Edinburgh ... ..	6½	+	+	Sep. '04	+ ½
Glasgow ... ..	6	+	+	Aug. '04	+ ½
Belfast ... ..	6	+	+	Sep. '04	+ ½
Dublin ... ..	6	+	+	Sep. '04	+ ½

**II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.**

The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each month from September, 1904, together with the market price of London flour (Town Households):—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
September 1904.	s. d. 6 11½	s. d. 7 1½	s. d. 9 9½	s. d. 10 9½	
October ... ..	7 1	7 1½	10 3	10 9½	
November ... ..	7 1	7 2½	10 1½	10 8½	
December ... ..	7 1	7 3½	10 4½	10 8½	
January 1905.	7 1	7 2½	10 5½	10 6	
February ... ..	7 1½	7 2½	10 2½	10 8½	
March ... ..	7 2	7 3½	10 0½	10 7½	

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1904, to March 31st, 1905, amounted to 60,389,900 cwts., compared with 51,764,200 cwts. in the corresponding seven months of 1903-4. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the seven months September to March of 1904-5 amounted to 6,963,523 cwts., compared with 13,951,734 cwts. from September 1st to March 31st, 1903-4.

\* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the present prices for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

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

**(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.**

**ACCIDENT ON WAY TO WORK: ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT.**

An employer is bound to pay compensation to an injured workman under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, only where the accident which caused the injury arose out of and in the course of the injured man's employment. A miner in the employment of a colliery company was on his way to his day's work, and was passing over a bridge which had been erected by the company for the convenience of their workmen, when he fell and was injured. He was at the time actually on his way to the lamp cabin, where he had to obtain his lamp and tally before going into the pit. He claimed compensation under the Act, but the company resisted the claim on the ground that the accident had not arisen out of or in the course of his employment, as he had not at the time commenced his day's work. Both the County Court and the Court of Appeal decided that the man was entitled to compensation, and the company appealed to the House of Lords. The House of Lords dismissed the appeal, holding that in this case the man was doing something on his employer's behalf when he was on his way to get his lamp, and that it was not correct to say that a miner's employment did not begin till he struck coal with his pick.—*Coltrevell v. Cross, Tetley & Co., Ltd., House of Lords, March 16th, 1905.*

**WHAT IS A WAREHOUSE? STONE BREAKING YARD.**

The Act applies to employment in a factory, and "factory" is defined to include "warehouse."

A man was employed by a town corporation to break stones for use as road metal. He carried on this work in an open yard in which a quantity of stone was stored for road purposes. While at work a chip of stone struck him in the eye and caused injury. He claimed compensation under the Act. The Sheriff-Substitute decided that a warehouse is a place where goods are deposited as well as a place where goods are sold; that stone was deposited or stored in this yard; therefore the yard was a warehouse, and therefore it came under the definition of a factory in the Act. He accordingly made an award in the man's favour. The employers appealed, and the Court of Session over-ruled the decision, holding that "warehouse" does not include every place where goods are deposited, and that this yard where stone was stored could not be described as a warehouse.—*McEwan v. The Corporation of Perth, Court of Session, March 16th, 1905.*

**PARTIAL INCAPACITY: AMOUNT OF WEEKLY PAYMENT: JUDGE'S RIGHT TO MAKE RULE.**

Where incapacity for work results from an injury, the compensation payable is a weekly sum not exceeding 50 per cent. of the injured man's average weekly earnings before the accident. In fixing the weekly payment the Act provides that regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the man before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident. A workman whose wages averaged 24s. 9d. a week met with a serious accident, and his employers paid him 12s. 4½d. a week as compensation for a considerable time. They then found him light work and paid him 11s. a week wages, and offered him 6s. 10½d. a week further by way of compensation. He was not willing to accept this offer, and applied to the County Court Judge for an award of compensation. The Judge awarded him 12s. 4½d. a week compensation, and in making his award said: "I have laid down a rule to give the full 50 per cent., except where it exceeds the amount of the previous earnings."

On appeal the Court of Appeal held that the matter must be referred back to the Judge, as he had no right to lay down a hard and fast rule which should bind him in all cases.

On further appeal the House of Lords affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal.—*Webster v. J. & M. Sharp & Co., House of Lords, March 24th, 1905.*

**(2) Miscellaneous.**

**INSURANCE AGAINST LIABILITY FOR ACCIDENTS: UNTRUE STATEMENT IN PROPOSAL: VOID POLICY.**

A firm of engineers and boiler-makers effected an insurance in July, 1903, with an Assurance Company against liability under the Workmen's Compensation Acts and the Employers' Liability Act. In the proposal for the insurance the firm made a statement to the effect that neither they nor their insurers had paid any compensation for accidents during the previous five years. In October, 1903, two accidents occurred to workmen in the employ of the firm while working on board a ship lying in a dock, and the firm had to pay them compensation. The Assurance Company refused to indemnify the firm according to the terms of the policy, contending that the policy was void, on the ground that the statement that no compensation had been paid for five years was untrue, and also on the ground that the firm had concealed the fact that they did work on board ship. It turned out to be the fact that in the year 1900 a sum of 10s. had been paid by an Assurance Company without the knowledge of the plaintiffs to a workman of the firm who had met with a slight accident.

The dispute was referred to an arbitrator, who decided that there was no design on the part of the firm to conceal that they did work on board ship, and that the policy was not void on that account; but that it was void because of the untrue statement that no compensation had been paid for five years. The firm were, therefore, not entitled to receive anything from the Assurance Company. It appeared that the untrue statement was made perfectly innocently by the firm. The Arbitrator stated a case for the opinion of the High Court as to the correctness of his decision. The High Court held that the decision of the Arbitrator was correct.—*Williamson & Co. v. The Life and Health Assurance Association, Ltd., King's Bench Division, March 3rd, 1905.*

**DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

DURING March 53 cases of lead poisoning and 1 case of phosphorus poisoning were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No cases of mercurial, arsenic or anthrax poisoning were reported. One death due to lead poisoning was reported.

During the three months ended March the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 159 as compared with 157 in 1904. The number of deaths was 8, being 5 more than in 1904, an increase mainly due to anthrax.

[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.]

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Mar., 1905.	Three Months ended March.	Mar., 1905.	Three Months ended March.
		1905.		1904.
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>				
Smelting of Metals ... ..	2	7	1	—
Brass Works ... ..	1	1	3	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ... ..	3	1	1	—
Plumbing and Soldering ... ..	—	0	7	—
Printing ... ..	1	3	5	—
File Cutting ... ..	1	1	9	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	—	—	—	—
Yellow-ware ... ..	3	4	5	—
White Lead Works ... ..	7	23	22	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ... ..	1	1	4	—
China and Earthenware* ... ..	11	26	33	—
Litho-transfer Works ... ..	—	2	1	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ... ..	—	1	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ... ..	—	1	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ... ..	2	7	3	—
Paint and Colour Works ... ..	8	17	3	—
Coach Making ... ..	5	15	10	—
Shipbuilding ... ..	2	9	15	—
Paint used in other Industries ... ..	1	5	5	—
Other Industries ... ..	8	14	12	—
<b>Total Lead Poisoning†</b> ... ..	<b>53</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	—	1	—
Furriers' processes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	1	—	—
<b>Total Mercurial Poisoning</b> ... ..	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning</b> ... ..	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of	—	—	2	—
Arsenic ... ..	—	—	1	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Arsenic Poisoning</b> ... ..	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Anthrax—</b>				
Wool Sorting ... ..	—	2	2	—
Wool Combing ... ..	—	5	3	—
Handling of Horsehair ... ..	—	3	3	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ... ..	—	1	2	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	1	4	—
<b>Total Anthrax</b> ... ..	<b>—</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Grand Total</b> ... ..	<b>54</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1</b>

\* Of the eleven persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in March, 1905, eight were females.

† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 11 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during March, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the 3 months ended March, 1905, was 31 (including 5 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1904, 36 (including 6 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

(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 March, 1905, was 276, being 87 more than in February, 1905, and 43 more than in March, 1904. The mean number for March in the years 1900-1904, was 239, the maximum year in this period being 1900, with 263 deaths, and the minimum year 1902, with 204 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in March, 1905, was 201. The number reported in March of the years 1900-1904 varied from 141 to 394, the mean for the five years being 257.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 450, as compared with 333 in the corresponding period of 1904. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

In the following Table the accidents reported in March 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:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1905, as compared with	
	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	5	2	- 4	- 1
Engine Drivers	2	2	...	...	+ 2
Firemen	4	...	...	...	+ 1
Guards (Passenger)	...	...	...	...	...
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	8	6	...	+ 2	...
Porters	4	3	3	+ 1	+ 1
Shunters	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
Miscellaneous	13	7	14	+ 6	- 1
Contractors' Servants	...	...	3	...	- 3
<b>Total Railway Service</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>+ 10</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Mines—</b>					
Underground	122	58	82	+ 64	+ 40
Surface	6	11	17	- 5	- 11
<b>Total Mines</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>+ 59</b>	<b>+ 29</b>
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>- 6</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
<b>Factories—</b>					
<b>Textile—</b>					
Cotton	8	...	3	+ 8	+ 5
Wool and Worsted	5	4	1	+ 1	+ 4
Other Textiles	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Non-Textile—</b>					
Extraction of Metals	8	...	6	+ 8	+ 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	13	8	10	+ 5	+ 3
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	6	3	2	+ 3	+ 4
Ship and Boat Building	5	11	6	- 6	- 1
Wood	...	4	1	- 4	- 1
Chemicals, &c.	2	2	6	+ 8	+ 10
Other Non-Textile Industries	30	22	20	...	...
<b>Total Factories</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>+ 23</b>	<b>+ 22</b>
<b>Workshops</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—</b>					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	8	13	14	- 5	- 6
Warehouses	...	...	6	+ 3	+ 3
Buildings to which Act applies	12	9	9	+ 1	+ 1
Laundries	1	...	...	...	...
<b>Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>- 8</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>- 4</b>
<b>Total, exclusive of Seamen</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>+ 87</b>	<b>+ 43</b>
<b>Seamen—</b>					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	73	40	93	+ 33	- 20
Steam	91	53	44	+ 38	+ 49
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	6	...	2	+ 6	+ 4
Steam	31	10	4	+ 21	+ 27
<b>Total Seamen</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>+ 98</b>	<b>+ 60</b>
<b>Total, including Seamen</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>+ 185</b>	<b>+ 103</b>

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

**Total Emigration.**—The number of passengers who left for places out of Europe during March, was 45,117 as compared with 35,203 in March, 1904. During the three months ended March, 1905, the number of passengers was 93,244, being 24,810 (or 36.3 per cent.) more than in the corresponding period of 1904.

**British and Irish.**—Of the 45,117 passengers in March, 1905, 26,538 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 6,791 as compared with a year ago. For the three months ended March, 1905, the number was 48,933 as compared with 39,354 in 1904, an increase of 9,579. The number of passengers to British South Africa showed a decrease of 866, while the numbers travelling to the United States and British North America increased by 7,665 and 2,980 respectively.

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

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Three months ended	
			Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
<b>British Colonies and Possessions:</b>				
British North America	10,068	8,917	15,102	12,122
Australia and New Zealand	593	657	2,485	2,488
British South Africa	1,631	1,875	5,257	6,123
India (including Ceylon)	214	290	815	1,004
Other British Colonies and Possessions	330	306	1,178	1,169
<b>Total, British Empire</b>	<b>12,856</b>	<b>12,045</b>	<b>24,837</b>	<b>22,906</b>
<b>Foreign Countries:</b>				
United States	13,121	7,204	22,478	14,813
Other Foreign Countries	561	498	1,618	1,635
<b>Total, Foreign Countries</b>	<b>13,682</b>	<b>7,702</b>	<b>24,096</b>	<b>16,448</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26,538</b>	<b>19,747</b>	<b>48,933</b>	<b>39,354</b>

**Foreign.**—The remainder of the 45,117 passengers in March, viz., 18,579 were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 3,123 more than in March, 1904. For the three months ended March, 1905, the number of such passengers was 44,311, of whom 36,204 were bound for the United States, 3,851 for British North America, and 1,027 for British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1904, the number was 29,080, of whom 20,331 were bound for the United States, 5,342 for British North America, and 1,397 for British South Africa.

**Alien Immigration.**—During March, 20,115 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 11,997 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,008 as compared with March, 1904. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 6,828 (exclusive of seamen), or 1,971 more than a year ago. For the three months ended March, 1905, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 26,602, and the number not so stated, 18,398 (exclusive of seamen) compared with 18,664 and 12,782 respectively in 1904.

The figures for March, 1905 and 1904, and also for the three months ended March, 1905 and 1904, are as follows:—

	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Total for three months ended	
			Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	1,200	1,042	3,287	2,991
Seamen	6,828	4,857	18,398	12,782
Others	11,997	10,989	26,602	18,664
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	20,115	16,888	48,277	34,437

LEAD POISONING.

**Prize Competition.**—The International Association for the Legal Protection of Workpeople has offered a series of prizes, from £37 10s. to £500 in value, for essays dealing with the prevention of lead poisoning in lead mining and lead working industries, and amongst painters, type foundrymen, printers, &c. Essays may be written in English, French or German, and must be in the hands of the International Labour Office at Bale by December 31st, 1905, at the latest.

(Further particulars regarding this competition can be obtained on application at the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, 43, Parliament-street, S.W., between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on any weekday.)

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Twenty-three new disputes began in March, 1905, compared with 18 in February, and 14 in March, 1904. By the 23 disputes, 7,647 workpeople were directly and 3,239 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before March, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 15,197 workpeople involved in trade disputes during March, 1905, compared with 7,176 in February, 1905, and 4,512 in March, 1904.

**New Disputes in March, 1905.**—In the following Table the new disputes in March are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	2	750	500	1,250
Mining and Quarrying	4	1,566	1,502	3,068
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	6	285	670	955
Textile	6	3,729	161	3,890
Boot and Shoe Manufacture	2	687	120	807
Other Trades	3	629	286	915
<b>Total, March, 1905</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7,647</b>	<b>3,239</b>	<b>10,886</b>
<b>Total, February, 1905</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>3,949</b>
<b>Total, March, 1904</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,305</b>

**Causes.**—Of the twenty-three new disputes, six arose on demands for increased wages, five on objection to reduction, four on other wages questions, four as to re-arrangement of hours of labour, one for re-instatement of discharged workpeople, and three on details of working arrangements.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in March in the case of fourteen new disputes, affecting 6,905 workpeople, and five old disputes, affecting 2,223 workpeople. Of these nineteen new and old disputes, three, involving 882 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; eight, involving 2,261 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and eight, involving 5,985 persons, were compromised. In the case of one other dispute

terminating during the month, and involving 1,253 workpeople, certain points are still under consideration.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in March of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 131,100 working days. In addition, 52,700 working days were lost in March, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 183,800 working days, which compares with 73,500 in the previous month, and 74,500 in the corresponding month of 1904.

**Summary for the First Three Months of 1904 and 1905.**—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the three months January-March, 1904 and 1905, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January to March.					
	1904.			1905.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	9	244	2,900	5	1,302	34,300
Mining and Quarrying	19	8,056	136,600	18	8,168	146,400
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	15	2,416	50,600	17	2,205	78,500
Textile	9	921	24,300	17	6,657	69,100
Clothing	3	72	400	11	1,676	24,500
Transport	1	400	16,100	1	100	4,200
Other Trades	12	997	21,000	9	1,711	22,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>13,105</b>	<b>251,900</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>21,877</b>	<b>379,600</b>

**Principal Disputes.**—Particulars of the eleven principal disputes which began or were settled during March are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during March 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.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object. ‡	Result. §
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
<b>Building Trades—</b>							
Painters	Aberdeen	250	...	1905. 1 Mar.	28	For changes in working rules ...	Compromise effected.
Bricklayers and other Building Trade Operatives	Dublin	500	500	1 Mar.	...	Disagreement as to proposed working rules	No settlement reported.
<b>Coal Mining—</b>							
Hauliers, Hewers, &c.	Pontypool	113	1,298	16 Mar.	3	On account of "bonus turn" being stopped	Work resumed on old conditions.
Colliers, Drawers, Dattlers, &c., Underground Labourers, Surfacemen and Screeners	Wigan (near)	793	562	8 Feb.	25	Dissatisfaction with working conditions	Amicable arrangement arrived at.
<b>Metal Trades—</b>							
Moulders, Moulders' Helpers, Labourers, &c.	Thornaby-on-Tees	350	...	1904. 14 Dec.	77	Against proposed reduction in piece rates	Modified reduction agreed upon.
Refining men, Tippers, and Furnacemen, Furnacemen, Mechanics, Labourers, &c., (Copper Works)	Briton Ferry	38	379	1905. 16 Mar.	...	For advance of wages	No settlement reported.
<b>Textile Trades—</b>							
Linen Weavers	Burnley	300	...	19 Jan.	48	For new price list	Workpeople replaced.
Cotton Weavers, Winders, Warpers, Warehousemen, &c.	Todmorden	517	161	8 Mar.	22	Dissatisfaction with rates of wages and alleged excessive fines for inferior work	Employers agreed to recognise the Uniform List in three months' time; grievance as to fining removed.
Thread Workers	Paisley	3,000	...	10 Mar.	6	For increase in wages of 150 white hank winders; other workers struck in sympathy	Minimum wage of 26s. a fortnight for three full pays to be given pending inquiry.
<b>Other Trades—</b>							
Army Boot Makers	Raunds, Rushden, &c.	676	120	2 Mar.	...	For payment by new statement for army work	No settlement reported.
Labourers, Carters, Paviers and Sett Dressers	Belfast	500	270	3 Mar.	7	Complaint that work was too intermittent	Amicable arrangement arrived at.

\* 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

**Wages.**  
*Changes reported in March.*—The net effect of all the changes reported in March was an increase of £745 per week, as compared with a decrease of £261 per week in February, and a decrease of £1,969 per week in March, 1904. The number of workpeople affected was 47,619, of whom 34,876 received advances amounting to £1,317 per week, and 12,743 sustained decreases amounting to £572 per week\*. The total number affected in February was 10,775, and in March, 1904, 61,038.

The net increase during March was mainly due to advances in the wages of workpeople engaged in the manufacture of iron and steel. Previous to March, the last month in which the changes reported showed a net increase in wages was in December, 1902, when 10,884 workpeople received advances amounting to £477 per week, and 9,564 sustained decreases amounting to £114 per week.

The principal changes reported were increases affecting 7,850 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, West Cumberland and South Staffordshire, 20,000 ironworkers in the Midlands, 3,200 puddlers, and iron and steel millmen in the North of England, and decreases affecting 9,590 coal miners in the Forest of Dean and Radstock districts, and 1,930 workpeople in shipyards at Hull and district.

Four changes, affecting 25,320 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and seven changes, affecting 12,041 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 10,258 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting 50 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the first three Months of 1905.†—For

the three months, January-March, 1905, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) respecting whom wages changes have been reported was 95,119, as compared with 266,110 in the corresponding period of 1904. The changes arranged give 12,911 workpeople a net increase amounting to £724 per week, and 57,392 a net decrease amounting to £1,870 per week, whilst the remaining 24,816 have had upward and downward changes which have left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £1,146 per week, as compared with a decrease of £8,981 in the corresponding period of 1904.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by changes reported during the three months January-March, 1904 and 1905, respectively, and the net results of the changes on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—March.			
	1904.		1905.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building ... ..	188	+ 13	220	— 18
Coal Mining ... ..	152,690	— 2,316	48,190	— 1,394
Iron Mining ... ..	10,859	— 321	—	—
Quarrying ... ..	1,964	— 49	622	— 19
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	11,169	— 590	7,969	+ 256
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	49,415	— 2,330	27,965	+ 5
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	28,901	— 2,545	5,086	— 339
Textile Trades ... ..	2,200	— 68	305	— 5
Glass, Chemical, &c., Trades ... ..	4,728	— 677	627	— 27
Other Trades ... ..	2,067	— 46	1,063	+ 43
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	2,199	+ 148	3,072	+ 262
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>266,110</b>	<b>— 8,981</b>	<b>95,119</b>	<b>— 1,146</b>

**Hours.**  
 No changes in hours of labour were reported during March.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1905.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1905.

1 Increase—40 Workpeople. BUILDING TRADES. Decreases—Nil.					
Walsall ... ..	Painters ... ..	1 April	40	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (7d. to 7½d.).†
1 Increase—230 Workpeople. MINING AND QUARRYING. 2 Decreases—9,590 Workpeople.					
West Cumberland	Limestone Quarrymen ... ..	1 April	230	...	Advance of 5 per cent.
Forest of Dean ... ..	Hewers and Other Underground and Surface Workers (including Enginemen and Mechanics)	20 Mar.	5,500	...	Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving wages 25 per cent. above the standard of 1888.‡
Somerset (Radstock District)	Coal Hewers and other Underground Workers	31 Mar.	4,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 25 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	Banksmen and Screenmen ... ..	31 Mar.	...	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent.
	Enginemen and Stokers ... ..	31 Mar.	90	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 10 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
10 Increases—83,050 Workpeople. IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE. Decreases—Nil.					
Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	Puddlers ... ..	27 Mar.	700	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (7s. 9d. to 8s.) under sliding scale.
	Iron and Steel Millmen ... ..	...	2,500	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Cleveland and Durham	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	1 April	5,500	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 16½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Eston ... ..	Steel Workers ... ..	5 Mar.	1,225	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 11 per cent. above the standard.
Teams (Gateshead)	Iron and Steel Millmen, &c. ... ..	27 Mar.	82	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 12½ per cent. above the standard of 1896.
West Cumberland	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	April	1,350	...	Advance of 4½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 19½ per cent. above the standard of 1889.
Workington ... ..	Ironworkers:—Puddlers ... ..	27 Mar.	100	...	Advance of 3d. per ton under sliding scale.
	Millmen ... ..		200	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
South Yorkshire (three firms)	Puddlers and Forgemmen ... ..	27 Mar.	384	...	Advance of 3d. per ton under sliding scale.
	Iron and Steel Millmen ... ..		...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Midlands (including parts of S. Yorks. and S. Lancs.)	Ironworkers:—Puddlers ... ..	3 April	20,000	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d.).
	Millmen ... ..		...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent.
South Staffordshire	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	First making-up day in April	1,000	...	Advance of 2½ per cent.
Morrison ... ..	Masons in Steel Works ... ..	5 Mar.	9	...	Advance of 4d. per day (5s. 6d. to 5s. 10d.).

\* The above figures exclude the changes affecting Post Office employees, for particulars of which see p. 126.  
 † Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen, and railway servants. 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.  
 ‡ A further advance of ¼d. per hour is to take effect from 1st April, 1906.  
 § At a few of the collieries the percentage is stated to be 20 per cent. above standard.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1905—continued.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1905.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	
2 Increases—62 Workpeople. ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 7 Decreases—2,577 Workpeople.					
Leeds (near) ... ..	Pattermakers ... ..	24 Feb.	12	...	Advance of 1s. per week (35s. to 36s.).*
	Iron and Steel Shipbuilders ... ..	2 Feb.	1,000	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates for new work.
Hull and District	Shipwrights ... ..	23 Mar.	808	...	Decrease of 1s. per week. Rates of wages after change: New Work, 37s. 6d.; Old Work, 40s. 6d. per week.
Barrow-in-Furness	Drillers and Hole Cutters in Shipyards	30 Mar.	122	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates for new work.
	Platers, Riveters, and Caulkers ... ..		446	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. 6d. per week off time rates.
	Caulkers' Packers ... ..		26	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 6d. per week off rates of 22s. per week and above.
Liverpool ... ..	Drillers ... ..	16 Feb.	149	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1s. per week off time rates.
	Angle and Beam Smiths' Strikers ... ..		26	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Boilermakers' Labourers ... ..	23 Feb.	50	...	Advance of 1s. per week (23s. and 24s. to 24s. and 25s.).
2 Increases—23 Workpeople. OTHER TRADES.† 1 Decrease—676 Workpeople.					
Preston ... ..	Lithographic Printers ... ..	4 Feb.	8	...	Advance of 2s. 6d. in minimum weekly wages (50s. to 32s. 6d.).
Gateshead, Sunderland, Shields, and Glasgow.	Pressed Glass Makers ... ..	4 Mar.	576	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off wages of 20s. 6d. per week and above.
Swansea ... ..	Hydraulic Hoistmen ... ..	23 Feb.	15	...	Advance of 1s. per week (27s. to 28s.).
3 Increases—1,471 Workpeople. EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Decreases—Nil.					
Middlesbrough ... ..	Passage Sweepers ... ..	1 April	9	...	Advance of 1s. per week (20s. to 21s.).
Liverpool ... ..	Ordinary Labourers ... ..	1 Feb.	610	...	Advances to a rate of 6d. per hour.
	Destructor Labourers and Street Sweepers	1 Feb.	760	...	Advances to a rate of 4s. per day.
Edinburgh ... ..	Lamplighters ... ..	21 Mar.	92	...	Advance of 1s. per week. Rates of wages after change: First five years, 23s.; after five years' service, 24s. per week.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.—None.

\* A further advance of 1s. per week is to take effect three months later.  
 † Cotton Weavers', Winders' and Warpers' Wages.—An advance of 5 per cent. on piece prices was agreed upon on March 24th at a meeting of specially appointed representatives of the North and North East Lancashire Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, and the Northern Counties Amalgamated Associations of Weavers. The advance will take effect on the second pay day in July, see p. 99.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for March.

	IMPORTS.*				
	Month of March.			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£18,577,593	£20,519,970	£20,038,862	— £481,108	+ £1,461,269
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.†	£15,665,952	£15,145,659	£15,592,929	+ £447,270	— 73,023
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.‡	£12,530,178	£12,797,335	£13,130,497	+ £333,162	+ £600,319
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).§	£142,801	£229,311	£221,024	— £8,287	+ 78,223
<b>Total value of Imports</b>	<b>£46,916,524</b>	<b>£48,692,275</b>	<b>£48,983,312</b>	<b>+ £291,037</b>	<b>+ £2,066,788</b>

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.¶

	Month of March.				
	Month of March.			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£1,079,121	£1,218,041	£1,356,237	+ £138,196	+ £277,116
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.†	£2,911,241	£3,142,918	£2,900,265	— £242,653	— 10,976
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.‡	£20,796,817	£19,559,677	£23,430,855	+ £3,871,178	+ £2,634,038
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).§	£321,015	£331,160	£383,466	+ £52,306	+ £62,451
<b>Total value of Exports of British produce</b>	<b>£25,108,194</b>	<b>£24,251,796</b>	<b>£28,070,823</b>	<b>+ £3,819,027</b>	<b>+ £2,962,629</b>

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £5,458,353 in March, 1903; £5,946,649 in March, 1904; and £6,812,209 in March, 1905.

\* 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.  
 † 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.  
 § The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.  
 ¶ Coal, wool, oilseeds, hides and skins, &c.  
 ¶ Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, machinery, chemicals, &c.

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the three months ended March, 1905, amounted to 8,746,485 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 11,468,392 tons, as against 9,115,065 tons entered, and 11,325,968 tons cleared during the corresponding period of 1904. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during the first three months of 1905 amounted to 7,874,983 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 7,812,833 tons, as against 7,928,953 tons entered, and 7,755,358 tons cleared during the corresponding period of 1904.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during March, numbered 486, being 61 more than in March, 1904. During the three months ended March, 1905, the number of bankruptcies gazetted was 1,311, as against 1,179 in the first three months of 1904. The 1,311 bankruptcies in 1905 included 86 publicans, 83 grocers, 76 farmers, and 71 builders, as compared with 64, 74, 48, and 83 respectively in the three months ended March, 1904.

APPRENTICESHIP AND EMPLOYMENT OF GIRLS.

The Central Bureau for the Employment of Women in 1903 appointed a Central Industrial Committee to help girls to enter skilled trades and to secure thorough technical training in them by promoting and assisting the work of Local Industrial Agencies. The Committee forms a Central Agency, whereby all local agencies dealing with the industrial employment of girls may become connected. During the year 1904 eight affiliated local agencies found work for 338 girls, of whom 144 were formally apprenticed. Of the 338 girls, 102 were found work in millinery, 82 in dressmaking, 23 in tailoring, 18 in embroidering, 5 in cap making, 5 in corset making, 23 in other clothing trades, 5 in artificial flower making, 5 in cigar making, 7 in book sewing and folding, 26 in domestic service, 19 as clerks, and 18 in other occupations.

The following are the agencies affiliated in January, 1905:—Apprenticeship and Registry Committee, 45, Nelson Square, Blackfriars Road, S.E.; Union of Jewish Women, 59, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, W.; Employment Bureau, 8, Dean Street, Soho, W.; Skilled Employment Sub-Committee, C.O.S., 52, High Street, Whitechapel; Central Apprenticeship Committee, I.C.A.A., 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C.; Industrial Sub-Committee for Girls, Butler Street Club, Spitalfields; Trades' Registry and Apprenticeship Committee, Maurice Hostel, 51, Herbert Street, Hoxton, N.; Apprenticeship and Skilled Employment Committee, Club Room, Wells Buildings, Oriol Place, Hampstead; Daisy Club, High Street, Lambeth, S.E.; Apprenticeship and Skilled Employment Committee, 37, Sutherland Avenue, Harrow Road, W.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE total receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended April 1st, 1905, amounted to £8,463,146, a decrease of £239,092 (or 2·7 per cent.) on the total for the corresponding period of 1904. The passenger receipts showed a decrease of £182,796 (or 5·2 per cent.) and the goods and mineral receipts a decrease of £56,296 (or 1·1 per cent.).

During the thirteen weeks ended April 1st, 1905, the total receipts amounted to £21,474,457, a decrease of 1·0 per cent. on the total for the corresponding period of 1904. Of this total £8,522,498 were derived from passenger traffic, and £12,951,959 from goods and minerals. In the passenger receipts small increases are shown in the Scottish and Irish lines, but the receipts for English railways decreased, particularly on the North-Western and Midland lines. The Easter holidays, however, came into this period in 1904. Goods and mineral receipts during this period showed a considerable increase on the North-Western and Midland lines, the Western lines showed practically no change, but in every other case decreases occurred, the most marked being in the North-Eastern and Eastern group.

The following Table summarises the receipts of the railways grouped according to the districts they serve:—

	5 weeks ended April 1st, 1905.		13 weeks ended April 1st, 1905.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.	Amount	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.
<b>Passenger Traffic.</b>	£	£	£	£
<i>English Lines:—</i>				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	884,941	- 58,422	2,222,881	- 78,124
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	456,531	- 23,454	1,168,026	- 28,793
Lancs. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	426,263	- 20,974	1,073,060	- 28,635
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	685,400	- 45,000	1,766,300	- 17,000
L. B. & S. C. and S. E. & C.	475,021	- 29,414	1,197,538	- 18,801
<i>Scottish Lines:—</i>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	315,587	+ 5,687	814,091	+ 2,394
<i>Irish Lines:—</i>				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland, G.W., & Gt. Northern	111,365	+ 155	280,602	+ 3,572
Total ... ..	3,355,108	-182,796	8,522,498	-165,387
<b>Goods and Mineral Traffic.</b>				
<i>English Lines:—</i>				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	1,816,774	+ 13,520	4,693,829	+ 41,330
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	562,009	- 25,258	1,439,600	- 56,983
Lancs. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	990,552	- 12,019	2,474,626	- 16,188
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	753,900	- 10,500	1,919,700	+ 100
L. B. & S. C. and S. E. & C.	188,142	- 9,434	480,397	- 5,639
<i>Scottish Lines:—</i>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	654,425	- 9,363	1,604,132	- 2,210
<i>Irish Lines:—</i>				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland, G.W. & Gt. Northern	142,236	- 3,242	339,675	- 14,757
Total ... ..	5,108,038	- 56,296	12,951,959	- 54,347
<b>Grand Total ... ..</b>	<b>8,463,146</b>	<b>-239,092</b>	<b>21,474,457</b>	<b>-219,734</b>

POST OFFICE WAGES\*

According to a Memorandum of the Postmaster-General, dated 24th March, 1905, changes in the wages of certain classes of Post Office servants, to take effect from 1st April, 1905, have been decided upon. The male sorters, counter clerks and telegraphists, telegraphists (London), and sorting clerks and telegraphists (Provinces, except in the smallest provincial towns) have been granted a special increase of pay at the age of 25, "when the responsibilities of a family make themselves felt in many cases." This age increase has been fixed at 3s. per week in the case of London, and at 1s. 6d., and 2s. 6d., per week in the Provinces, according to the classification of the office. The starting pay of men and women in the largest provincial towns, and also of women telegraphists and counter clerks in London, will be raised by 1s. Improvements have also been made in the wages of the various grades and classes of postmen, and every postman of the age of 25 and upwards will receive not less than three increments above the minimum of his scale. An increase in the minimum pay of rural postmen has also been granted, and a number of concessions have also been made to various established and unestablished Post Office servants.

The increased cost of all the changes for the year 1905-6 is estimated to amount to £224,400, and the average cost in later years, when there has been time for the new scales to have their full application will amount to £372,300.

\* Post Office Wages. P.P. No. 98 of 1905. Price 1½d.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in March corresponded to a rate of 241 per 10,000 of the estimated population. This rate is higher than that for March in any year since 1895, when the rate was 252.

Compared with February, 1905, the number of persons relieved increased by 603 (0·1 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 1. The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 985 (0·6 per cent.) but there was an increase of 1,588 (0·7 per cent.) in the number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 16 districts, decreases in 18 districts, and in one district no change occurred.

Compared with March, 1904, the number of persons relieved increased by 29,917 (7·7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 15. The number of indoor paupers increased by 4,413 (2·6 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 25,504 (11·7 per cent.). Increases occurred in twenty-eight districts, the most marked being in West Ham (69 per 10,000), East London (60), and Leicester (51). Decreases were shown in five districts and two districts showed no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in March, 1905.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.†</b>						
<b>Metropolises.</b>						
West District ... ..	12,117	4,250	16,367	197	+ 3 + 10	
North District ... ..	16,462	10,577	27,039	282	- 5 + 17	
Central District ... ..	7,395	3,072	10,467	538	- 3 + 17	
East District ... ..	15,647	9,744	25,391	383	+ 3 + 60	
South District ... ..	25,491	22,178	47,669	289	- 1 + 11	
Total Metropolises ... ..	77,112	49,821	126,933	272	- 1 + 19	
<b>West Ham ... ..</b>	<b>4,278</b>	<b>19,399</b>	<b>23,677</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>+ 2 + 69</b>	
<b>Other Districts.</b>						
Newcastle District ... ..	2,188	5,284	7,472	173	- 3 + 8	
Stockton & Tees District ... ..	1,374	4,298	5,672	263	- 18 + 9	
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ... ..	4,323	8,911	13,234	174	- 2 - 10	
Wigan District ... ..	2,090	6,442	8,532	211	- 2 - 2	
Manchester District ... ..	10,496	11,891	22,387	238	+ 11 + 26	
Liverpool District ... ..	12,390	12,500	24,890	243	+ 15 + 32	
Bradford District ... ..	1,841	3,138	4,979	136	+ 1 + 10	
Halifax & Huddersfield ... ..	1,353	4,124	5,477	180	+ 2 + 3	
Leeds District ... ..	2,587	6,805	9,392	197	- 12 + 12	
Barnsley District ... ..	773	3,018	3,791	187	+ 2 + 4	
Sheffield District ... ..	3,437	3,986	7,423	170	+ 3 + 6	
Hull District ... ..	1,631	5,457	7,088	280	- 8 + 1	
North Staffordshire ... ..	2,417	8,360	10,777	288	- 1 + 10	
Nottingham District ... ..	2,213	5,988	8,201	201	+ 3 + 11	
Leicester District ... ..	1,565	5,210	6,775	299	- 9 + 51	
Wolverhampton District ... ..	3,866	14,775	18,641	289	- 8 + 24	
Birmingham District ... ..	5,382	3,780	9,162	188	- 1 + 3	
Bristol District ... ..	2,936	7,206	10,142	287	+ 1* + 6	
Cardiff & Swansea ... ..	2,066	7,566	9,632	288	- 1 - 13	
Total "Other Districts" ... ..	64,928	128,759	193,687	217	+ 1 + 11	
<b>SCOTLAND.†</b>						
Glasgow District ... ..	5,777	18,058	23,835	246	+ 1 + 5	
Paisley & Greenock District ... ..	781	2,553	3,334	190	- 2 ...	
Edinburgh & Leith District ... ..	1,929	5,779	7,708	192	- 1 + 6	
Dunfermline ... ..	1,148	3,010	4,158	209	- 1 + 6	
Aberdeen ... ..	748	3,269	4,017	243	+ 1 + 19	
Coatbridge & Airdrie ... ..	383	1,498	1,881	199	+ ... + 15	
Total for the above Scottish Districts ... ..	10,766	34,167	44,933	224	+ ... + 6	
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District ... ..	7,496	5,692	13,188	337	+ 2 + 14	
Belfast District ... ..	3,730	307	4,037	101	- 6 ...	
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District ... ..	4,496	5,066	9,562	360	+ 6 - 1	
Galway District ... ..	365	350	715	201	+ 2 - 2	
Total for the above Irish Districts ... ..	16,087	11,415	27,502	287	+ ... + 4	
<b>Total for above 35 Districts in March, 1905.</b>	<b>173,171</b>	<b>243,561</b>	<b>416,732</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>+ 1 + 13</b>	

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

TWELVE Bureaux furnished returns for March which can be compared with similar returns for a year ago. Seven other bureaux also furnished returns for March, 1905, for which no figures for a year ago are available. A bureau not included in the Tables was recently opened at Dudley. It registered 111 applicants between March 24th and 31st, and found work for 3 persons.

(I.) Work done in March.

Name of Labour Bureau.	Applica-tions by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Workpeople found Work during	
	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
<b>London.</b>						
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.) ...	207	125	7	25	7	25
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd, E.)	2,160	926	722	385*	857	460
St. Pancras (Crownale Rd., N.W.)	256	268	47	84	...	69
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.) ...	34	96	1	5	...	...
Hammersmith (Brook Green Rd., W.)	135	46	51	16	331	50
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	322	196	172	48	100	27
Westminster (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.)	303	137	105	102	73	60
Kensington (Lancaster Road, W.)	239	135	21	20	53	50
<b>Provincial.</b>						
Ipswich (Fore Street) ... ..	45	44	20	35	12	24
Plymouth (Basket Street) ... ..	112	137	94	73	92	72
Liverpool (Dale Street) ... ..	285	161	4	3	3	3
Glasgow (158, George Street) ... ..	479	552	536	656	156	178
Total of 12 Bureaux ... ..	4,577	2,823	1,800	1,454	1,775	1,023
<b>London.</b>						
Hampstead (Finchley Road, N.W.)	96	...	38	...	27	...
Islington (93, St. Paul's Road, High-bury, N.)	795	...	81	...	371†	...
<b>Provincial.</b>						
Wigan (Library Street) ... ..	42	...	18	...	18	...
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Pilgrim St.)	438	...	97	...	72	...
Leith (Junction Street) ... ..	122	...	20	...	204	...
Coventry (3, Market Hall Arcade)	131	...	106	...	104	...
Eastbourne (Public Library) ... ..	3	...	...	...	...	...
Total of 19 Bureaux ... ..	6,204	...	2,160	...	2,571	...

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during March, 1905.

Engaged by	Capacity in which employed.	No. per-manently engaged.	No. tem-porarily engaged.	Total.
<b>Engaged by Private Employers.</b>				
Men:—				
Building Trades ... ..	...	78	100	178
Carmen, Stablenen, Horsemen, &c. ...	...	22	13	35
Porters and Messengers ... ..	...	29	47	76
Bill Distributors ... ..	...	...	697	697
General Labourers ... ..	...	14	28	42
Other Occupations ... ..	...	97	65	162
Lads and Boys ... ..	...	118	4	122
Women and Girls:—				
Domestic Servants ... ..	...	72	13	85
Charwomen, daily work, &c. ... ..	...	20	76	96
Other Occupations ... ..	...	36	13	49
Total engaged by Private Employers ...		486	1,056	1,542
<b>Engaged by Local Authorities ... ..</b>		203	685	888
<b>Engaged by Salvation Army ... ..</b>		...	141	141
Total of 19 Bureaux ... ..		689	1,882	2,571

(III.) Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers at the end of March, 1905.

Name of Bureau.	Men,					Lads and Boys.	Women and Girls.
	Build-ing Trades.	Engin-eering Trades.	General Labour-ers.	Porters, Messen-gers, &c.	Other Occu-pations.		
<b>London.</b>							
Battersea ... ..	6	6	80	5	52	1	22
Salvation Army ... ..	72	57	142	56	302	—	—
St. Pancras ... ..	157	40	170	79	275	124	41
Southwark ... ..	2	2	4	12	14	1	2
Hammersmith ... ..	52	8	126	12	18	—	3
Finsbury ... ..	46	4	141	53	172	24	57
Westminster ... ..	3	12	59	112	147	100	193
Kensington ... ..	100	31	60	34	79	25	19
Hampstead ... ..	60	16	15	14	54	12	10
Islington ... ..	450	20	2,100	60	335	8	61
<b>Provincial.</b>							
Ipswich ... ..	3	—	9	5	6	6	16
Plymouth ... ..	32	4	42	14	65	2	—
Liverpool ... ..	5	5	75	—	60	6	13
Glasgow ... ..	39	28	40	18	75	29	152
Wigan ... ..	51	41	123	4	71	26	—
Newcastle-on-Tyne ... ..	32	36	277	29	30	8	159
Leith ... ..	101	66	65	2	76	—	—
Coventry ... ..	40	370	89	22	139	20	—
Eastbourne ... ..	72	10	80	6	47	—	—
Total of 19 Bureaux	1,323	756	3,697	837	1,826	392	748

\* Revised figure.  
† In addition, 23 men were found work by Unemployed Committee.



Regulations dated November 22nd, 1904, under the Factories Acts: [pp. 3.]

#### FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

##### United States.

*Biennial Report of the Bureau of Immigration, Labour and Statistics of Idaho for the year 1903-4.* [Boise, Idaho: pp. 199 with photographs.]

*Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour and Industries of New Jersey for the year ending October 31st, 1904.* Statistics of Manufactures—number of persons employed, and aggregate wages earned; cost of living in New Jersey; trade unions, strikes, and lock-outs, &c. [Trenton, N.J., MacCrellich & Quigley, State Printers: pp. viii. + 617.]

*Monthly Consular Report for December, 1904.* Foreign Breadstuffs and Provisions in the United Kingdom.

*Special Consular Report.* No. XXXIII. Industrial Education and Industrial Conditions in Germany.

No. XXXIV. Marketing Goods in Foreign Countries.

##### France.

*Report on Trade Unions, Vol. IV.* French Labour Office. Deals with building trades, transport and warehousing. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1904; pp. 821: price 4s.]

##### Germany.

*Statistics of Accidents in Agriculture and Forestry in 1901, Part 2.* Imperial Insurance Department. [Berlin: A. Asher & Co., 1904.]

*Factory Inspection in Baden, 1904.* Baden Ministry of the Interior. [Karlsruhe: Ferd. Thiergarten, 1905: pp. 140, price 2s. 6d.]

*Proceedings of Council for Labour Statistics, Session of January 9-13, 1905.* Berlin, 1905: pp. 179.

*Wurtemberg Year Book for 1904, 2 vols.* Wurtemberg Statistical Office, Stuttgart. Contains article on Labour Statistics in Wurtemberg. [W. Kohlhammer, 195: pp. xxiv. + 207 + 183.]

##### Austria.

*Workmen's Accident Insurance in 1902.* Ministry of Interior. [Vienna: Government Printing Office, 1904: pp. 255.]

*Workmen's Sickness Insurance in 1902.* Ministry of Interior. [Vienna: Government Printing Office, 1904: pp. 169.]

##### Belgium.

*Wages in the Flax Spinning Industry of Ghent, Vol. II.* Report by L. Varlez. Belgian Labour Office. [Brussels: Société Belge de Librairie, rue Treurenberg, 16.]

*Notice concerning the Belgian Labour Office.* Prepared for the St. Louis Exhibition. An account of the foundation, organization, and work of the Belgian Labour Department. [Department of Industry and Labour. Brussels, 1904, pp. 80.]

##### Holland.

*Provisional Statistics for 1904 relating to Amsterdam.* Amsterdam Statistical Office. Contains statistics of labour registries and of wholesale prices. [Amsterdam: Johannes Müller, 1905: pp. vi. + 49: price 5d.]

##### Switzerland.

*Wages and Conditions of Labour of Workpeople on Permanent Staff of Zurich Municipality on October 31st, 1902.* [Zürich Statistical Office: pp. vi. + 100 + Tables.]

##### Norway.

*Savings Banks in Norway in 1903.* Norwegian Statistical Central Bureau. [Kristiania: H. Aschehoug & Co., 1904: pp. ix. + 81; price 7d.]

*Consular Report.* Annual Series. No. 3326. *Trade of Consular District of Baltimore, 1904.* Gives rates of wages of men engaged in rebuilding the burnt districts and number of persons employed in certain industries, prices, &c. [Cd. 2236-70: pp. 24: price 1½d.]

No. 3327. *Shipping and Navigation of the Port of Antwerp, 1904.* Number of seamen shipped and discharged during 1903-04; number of men transmitted and balance of wages paid to them 1897-1904, &c. [Cd. 2236-71: pp. 23, with map: price 7½d.]

No. 3331. Annual Series. *Trade of Amsterdam, 1904.* Prices of various commodities imported and exported. [Cd. 2236-75: pp. 15: price 1d.]

No. 631. Miscellaneous Series. *Coal Industry of the United States, 1903.* Statistics of production by States, average production per man, average price of coal at the mines, average prices in United States for 24 years, numbers employed, strikes, &c. [Cd. 2237-12: pp. 36: price 2½d.]

Miscellaneous Series. No. 629. *Cotton Mills of China.* Number of Spinning and Weaving Mills operated by steam machinery, with number of spindles and looms, exports and imports of cotton; average hours worked, and wages, &c. [Cd. 2237-10: pp. 15: price 2d.]

No. 630. *Technical Instruction in Germany: Supplementary and Miscellaneous.* [Cd. 2237-11: pp. 78: price 4d.]

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

NOTE.—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, State of Massachusetts, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Belgium.

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

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

### (1) REGISTERED.

Among the new Societies are the following:—

**Trade Unions.**—*England & Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Edinburgh & Dist. Builders' Labourers' Union, Edinburgh. *Ireland.*—1, viz., United Operative Brick & Stonelayers' Soc. of Dublin, Dublin.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England & Wales.*—12, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Distribution; 1, viz., Broad St. Goods Station Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 12, Eldon Street, Shoreditch, E.C.—Co-op. Agric. Socs.—3, viz., Heathfield & Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Heathfield, Heathfield Tower, Sussex; Tendring Hundred Farmers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Tendring, Colchester; Mayfield, Sussex, & Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Mayfield, Sussex. *Misc. Socs.*—8, viz., Working Men's Clubs, 3, others, 5. *Scotland.*—2, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Distribution: 1, viz., Creetown & Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Creetown. *Misc. Socs.*—1. *Ireland.*—11, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Production: 2, viz., Tipperary Bacon Curing Factory, Ltd., Tipperary; Irish Bee Journal, Ltd., Clooncahir, Lough Rynn, Dromod, Co. Leitrim. Co-op. Agric. Socs.—9, viz., River Finn Co-op. Flax Soc., Ltd., Liscovley, Co. Donegal; Raferagh Co-op. Agric. & Dairy Soc., Ltd., Raferagh, Co. Monaghan; Tirkane Co-op. Agric. & Dairy Soc., Ltd., Tirkane, Co. Londonderry; Killanny Co-op. Agric. & Dairy Soc., Ltd., Killanny, Co. Louth; Cushendall Co-op. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Cushendall, Co. Antrim; Jonesboro' Co-op. Agric. & Dairy Soc., Ltd., Jonesboro', Flurrybridge, Co. Armagh; North Kilkenny Co-op. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny; Kilsaran Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Kilsaran, Co. Louth; Glassdrummond Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Glassdrummond, Co. Armagh.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England & Wales.*—33, viz., N.W. Ham Liberal & Radical W.M.C., West Ham, E.; Ilford & Dist. Conservative & Unionist Assoc. and Club, Ilford; Grayshott W.M.C. & Inst., Grayshott, Haslemere, Surrey; Rishton Harmonic Inst. & W.M.C., Rishton, Blackburn; Metropolitan W.M.C. & Inst., Bethnal Green, E.; Lowestoft Democratic W.M.C. & Inst., Lowestoft; Brotton & Dist. W.M.C. & Inst., Brotton, Yorks; Brownroyd W.M.C. & Inst., Bradford; Ossett Central W.M.C. & Inst., Ossett, Yorks; Riley Street W.M.C., Lydgate, Todmorden; Reading & Dist. Mutual Benefit Money Soc., Reading; Camborne & Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Camborne; Landor Mutual Loan Soc., Clapham, S.W.; City of Newcastle Mutual Self-Help Permanent Money Soc., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Robin Hood 50/- Money Soc., Sherwood, Nottingham; Bath & Dist. Mutual Permanent Investment Soc., Bath; Egbert Independent Friendly Soc., Ashwell, Baldock, Herts.; George Wise Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Hallé Orchestra Pension Fund, Manchester; Manchester Independent Order of Ahabath Achim Friendly Soc., Manchester; Achei Zedek Brethren of Justice Friendly Benefit Soc., Windmill Street, Golden Square, W.; United Brethren of Israel Sick Benefit & Divisional Soc., Mile End, E.; West Green P.S.A. Slate Club, Tottenham, N.; White Rose Soc. of Ancient Free Gardeners, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Widow & Orphans' Fund, Lichfield Dist. G.U.O.F. Friendly Soc., Hammersmith, Lichfield; Old Guy Friendly Sick & Dividend Soc., Digbeth, Birmingham; Witton Branch General Electric Co., Ltd., Sick, Accident & Burial Soc., Witton, Birmingham; Gun Barrels Hotel Sick & Dividend Friendly Soc., Edgbaston, Birmingham; Brougham Street Sick & Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Good Samaritan Sick & Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Lily of the Valley Juvenile Oddfellows' Friendly Soc., Kempsey, Worcester; Breedon Cross Hotel Sick & Dividend Soc., King's Norton, Birmingham; Brymbo Workmen's Sick & Burial Tontine Benefit Soc., Brymbo, Wrexham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—11, viz., St. Paul's Mortality Soc., Wexford; Clanbrassil Str. Christian Burial Assoc., Blackpits, Dublin; Killeen Credit Soc., Killeen, Co. Mayo; Ballymoyer Credit Soc., Ballymoyer, Co. Armagh; Newtown Credit Soc., Newtown, Mount Kennedy, Co. Wicklow; Stratford-on-Slaney Credit Soc., Stratford-on-Slaney, Co. Wicklow; Reaghstown Credit Soc., Ardree, Co. Louth; Mount Nugent Credit Soc., Mount Nugent, Co. Cavan; Donaghmoynne & Tisdoonan Credit Soc., Donaghmoynne, Co. Monaghan; Drummin Credit Soc., Drummin, Co. Mayo; Croaghpatrick Credit Soc., Murrish, Co. Mayo.

### (2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or as dissolved, or as having registration cancelled in March, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 44; under the Ind. & Prov. Socs. Acts, 6; under the Friendly Socs. Acts, 41 (including 12 branches of Socs.); under the Building Socs. Acts, 10; in all 101.

NOTE.—A Co-op. Soc. is entered under the heading (distribution, production, &c.) which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

Printed by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & Co., Ltd., 31 to 37 Cursitor Street, London, E.C., and Published for His Majesty's Stationery Office by HORACE MARSHALL & SON, Temple House, Temple Avenue, London, E.C. Sole Advertising Contractors—RATCLIFFE, DUNBAR & Co., 1, Lombard Court, Lombard Street, E.C.—April, 1905