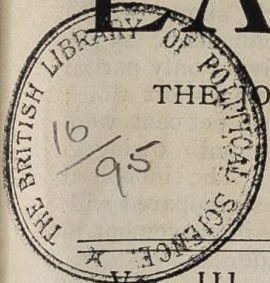


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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

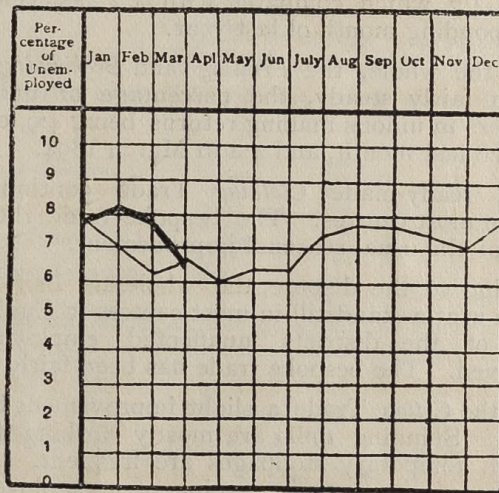
The state of employment at the end of March showed a marked improvement compared with the end of February. In the Building Trades, Shipbuilding, Agriculture and other outdoor industries, which were much affected in the early part of the year by the long spell of frost, there is now a good deal of work to be done, and employment in these trades shows considerable improvement. There has also been an appreciable improvement in several other trades.

In the 83 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 387,907 making returns, 25,146 (or 6.5 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 7.9 per cent. in February, and 6.5 per cent. in the 45 unions making returns for March 1894.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1894 and of each completed month of 1895.

The thick line applies to 1895, the thin line to 1894.



The proportions of unemployed in the 83 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	18	39,386
3 and under 5 per cent.	27	117,762
5 and under 7 per cent.	17	141,423
7 and under 10 per cent.	7	7,858
10 per cent. and upwards	14	81,478
Total	83	387,907

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Returns received from the owners of 963 pits, employing 247,203 workpeople, show that in spite of some renewed activity in steam coal pits there was a slight seasonal falling off in employment in March as compared with February, the average weekly number of days worked by the collieries being 4.93, compared with 5.00 in

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in the Iron Mining Industry shows very little change in March as compared with February. At 93 iron mines and open works, respecting which returns have been furnished by the owners, the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 23rd March, was 5.59 per week, as against 5.70 in February. The particulars may be summarised as follows:—

District.	No. of Mines from which returns were received.	Total No. of work-people employed at end of March.	Average number of days worked per week in 4 weeks in	
			March.	February.
Cumberland and Lancashire	41	5,704	5.61	5.79
Other places in England ...	41	5,131	5.53	5.66
Scotland ...	8	1,016	5.89	5.90
Ireland ...	3	123	4.96	4.12
Total ...	93	11,974	5.59	5.70

Of the 11,974 workpeople employed at these 93 mines, 6,289, or 52.5 per cent., were at mines which worked full time; 3,178, or 26.5 per cent., at mines which worked 22 and under 24 days in the four weeks; 786, or 6.6 per cent., at mines working 20 and under 22 days; and 1,721, or 14.4, where the time worked was less than 20 days.

(c) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

EMPLOYMENT in the Pig Iron Industry, judged by the number of furnaces in blast, again shows a falling off as compared with the previous month, and is also worse than in the corresponding month of last year.

From the returns furnished by 108 ironmasters, owners of 85 per cent. of the total number of furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, it appears that these employers had 280 furnaces in blast at the end of March, or 8 less than in March 1894. Cumberland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cleveland and the Midlands show a decrease of 14 furnaces, while in Scotland there is an increase of 6. The number of workpeople employed at these 280 furnaces was 19,085, being 97 more than at the 288 furnaces in blast at the same time last year. This result is due to the fact that the six furnaces re-lit in Scotland gave employment to 301 additional men, while the number of men employed at the English and Welsh furnaces included in the returns, is now only 204 less than twelve months ago.

As compared with February, the ironmasters making returns have now 4 fewer furnaces in blast, 12 furnaces having been blown out or damped down during March, while only 4 furnaces have been re-lit and 4 which were damped down in February brought into blast again. The total number of workpeople employed was, however, 49 more at the 280 furnaces than at the 284 furnaces at work in February.

The following table summarises the returns received:—
Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of March 1895 with the number in blast at end of March 1894, and at end of February 1895, so far as included in the returns made to the Department:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Mar. 1895.	Mar. 1894.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar. 1895.	Mar. 1895.	Feb. 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar. 1895.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	90	92	-2	90	92	-2
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks...	30	37	-7	30	24	+6
Lincolnshire ...	7	11	-4	7	10	-3
Midlands ...	14	14	...	14	14	...
Glamorgan and Mon. Other districts ...	68	69	-1	68	74	-6
	17	17	...	17	17	...
	6	6	...	6	6	...
Total England and Wales...	232	246	-14	232	237	-5
SCOTLAND ...	48	42	+6	48	47	+1
Total furnaces included in returns ...	280	288	-8	280	284	-4

The monthly circular issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association gives the following particulars respecting the Pig Iron Industry in Cleveland:—

Production.—During March 247,202 tons of pig iron were produced, as compared with 225,811 tons in the previous month and 247,482 tons in March 1894.

Stocks.—At the end of the month these were returned as 316,823 tons, or 11,668 tons more than in February and 163,633 tons more than in March of last year.

Shipments.—The total shipments of pig iron at Middlesbrough amounted during the month to 72,905 tons, being 26,052 tons more than in the previous month, but 6,912 tons less than in March 1894.

(d) SHIPBUILDING IN PROGRESS.

A SUMMARY of Shipbuilding Returns, issued by Lloyd's Register for the quarter ended 31st March 1895, shows that the tonnage of vessels, excluding warships, under construction in the United Kingdom on the 31st March 1895 was 656,318 tons, as compared with 725,208 tons at the corresponding date in 1894, a decrease of 9.5 per cent.; and with 658,286 tons on 31st December 1894, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. The total tonnage of warships under construction at the end of March was 263,625, as compared with 95,475 tons at the 31st March 1894, and 260,985 tons at 31st December of that year.

Of the 356 vessels, other than warships, under construction, 310 having a gross tonnage of 628,605 were steam vessels, while 46 only with a gross tonnage of 27,713 were sailing vessels. The corresponding figures for the end of March 1894 were 346 steam vessels of 663,396 tons, and 68 sailing vessels of 61,812 tons, showing a much larger decrease in the sailing than in steam vessels.

The following statement gives the gross tonnage of vessels (exclusive of warships) under construction at the principal shipbuilding centres at the end of March 1895 and 1894 respectively.

District.	At Mar. 31st 1895.	At Mar. 31st 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
Clyde ...	205,444	252,478	—	47,034
Tyne ...	115,524	141,071	—	25,547
Wear ...	91,086	107,951	—	16,865
Middlesbro' and Stockton ...	60,497	57,005	3,492	—
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	49,766	52,860	—	3,094
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	14,349	19,996	—	5,647
Belfast ...	85,088	55,520	29,568	—

The returns of vessels "preparing" (*i.e.*, ordered but not commenced), give a total of 127,904 (excluding warships), as compared with 146,086 at the end of December 1894, a decrease of 12 per cent., and 271,308 at the end of March 1894 (when the total was exceptionally high), a decrease of nearly 53 per cent.

(e) EMPLOYMENT IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

In continuation of the returns received by the Department dealing with employment in special industries, application has been made for returns as to the numbers employed in March 1895 and 1894 to all steel manufacturers in Great Britain who were known to employ more than 10 workpeople in steel manufacture. For this purpose persons engaged in smelting or converting, rolling, casting and forging, or pressing steel, were included, but not those employed at the works in machining, or in other engineering or constructive processes. Ninety-eight returns have been received, and the information thus obtained is sufficiently wide to be regarded as fairly representative of the state of employment throughout the industry. From these returns it appears that the total number of workpeople directly employed in the manufacture of steel on the last pay day in March at the works included in the returns was 28,937 compared with 28,102 on the corresponding pay day in March 1894, showing a 3 per cent. increase. From the table below it will be seen that the only district in which the number of workpeople was appreciably less last month than in March 1894 was South Wales and Monmouth,

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

the other districts either showing an increase or being almost stationary.

Table showing the number of workpeople employed at certain steel works in the under-mentioned districts in March 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

District.	No. of Returns received.	No. of workpeople employed in Steel manufacture on last pay day in March.		In-crease in 1895.	De-crease in 1895.
		1895.	1894.		
England and Wales.					
Northumberland and Durham	8	3,790	3,604	186	...
Yorkshire:—					
Sheffield and Rotherham (Large Works)	30	8,197	7,953	244	...
Ditto (Small Works)	13	152	154	...	2
Other Yorkshire Towns (Large Works) ...	11	3,988	3,796	192	...
Lancashire and Cumberland ...	5	3,181	3,053	128	...
Midlands ...	9	934	646	288	...
South Wales and Monmouth ...	12	3,486	3,653	...	167
Scotland.					
Lanarkshire ...	10	5,209	5,238	...	29
Total ...	98	28,937	28,102	835	...

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MARCH.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 90 returns and two reports from agricultural labourers' unions, reports that employment in March, after the frost was out of the ground, was generally plentiful, as farm work was very backward owing to the long spell of severe weather. During the last week in March very few men in any district were out of work or in irregular work. A seasonal rise of wages took place in certain districts in Lancashire, Rutland, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, Berkshire and Herefordshire.

ENGLAND.

Northern Counties.—At Penrith, in Cumberland, where a number of men were out of work during the frost, all were fully employed during the last week in March. In the Garstang Union of Lancashire it is stated that employment has been satisfactory since the middle of March. All the labourers were fully employed during the last week in March, and a similar report is given of seven parishes in the Fylde Union. Weekly cash wages in the former districts are 18s. to 20s., and in the latter 16s. to 20s. In the Tarvin Union of Cheshire it is reported that work is plentiful, and that in some places there is a demand for labour. In Yorkshire, in the Croft-in-Darlington Union at Barton (population 500), all men were fully employed during the last week in March, and very favourable reports of employment come from the Easingwold Union, and from Kirk Langley in Derbyshire.

Midland Counties.—Reports state that employment in the Atcham Union of Shropshire is regular. In the parishes of Kilby, Wistow, and Newton Harcourt, of Leicestershire, all the labourers are said to have been fully employed the last week in March. In the Barrow-on-Soar Union of Leicestershire at Beby, and the adjoining parishes, all are said to be employed, and for some days there was a difficulty in getting extra hands. At Waltham-on-the-Wolds all the able-bodied labourers were said to be in regular work throughout the last week in March. In the neighbourhood of Oakham, in Rutland, about 5 per cent. are said to have been in regular work in the last week in March. Weekly wages rose from 12s. to 13s. on March 1st. At Little Comberton, in the Pershore Union of Worcestershire, all the labourers are reported to have been in full work during the last week in March. Weekly cash wages rose from 10s. to 11s. a week. At Pitchill no men were reported out of work during the same time, and weekly wages rose from 11s. to 12s. In the St. Neots district of Huntingdonshire a great improvement in employment took place after the end of the first week in March, and reports state that in eight parishes no men willing to work were in want of employment during the last week in the month. A report from Bidford, in the Alcester Union of Warwickshire, states that employment is now regular. Weekly cash wages, which were 10s. to 11s. up to March 25th, were then raised by 1s.

Eastern Counties.—In Lincolnshire, at Alford, in the Spilsby Union, all the labourers were in work during the last week in March, and similar reports come from Burwell and the neighbouring parishes in the Louth Union, from Moulton and the neighbourhood in the Spalding Union, from the Sleaford Union, and

weekly wages from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. a day took place in some parishes.

Six reports from the Swaffham Union of Norfolk state that able-bodied men were well employed in the last week in March, one of these being from the town of Swaffham, which states that every man there (75 agricultural labourers) was fully employed. At Harleston, in the Depwade Union, a few casual labourers are said to have been still wanting employment at the end of the month. Weekly wages of ordinary labourers in all these districts are 10s.

In Suffolk, a report from Stowmarket, and the neighbouring parishes, states that no able-bodied men were out of work the last week in March. At Halesworth, in the Blything Union, all the labourers are said to have been fully employed the last week in March. Favourable reports also come from the Thingoe Union. Weekly wages throughout the county are from 9s. to 11s. a week. In some parishes, where 9s. was being paid, a rise of 1s. took place in March.

Reports from the Braintree and Bocking districts of Essex state that in four parishes about 10 per cent. of the labourers were in irregular work during March. Weekly wages of ordinary labourers are 10s., but 11s. to 12s. is being earned by those engaged at piecework hedging, spreading manure, and turning manure heaps. In the Colchester Union, at St. Botolph and three other parishes about 20 per cent. were said to have been in irregular work in the last week in March. On April 1st a general rise of 1s. a week took place, weekly wages then being 11s. to 12s. In the Maldon Union a few men were reported out of work at the end of the month. In Cambridgeshire, at Chatteris, about 2 or 3 per cent. were said to be in irregular work during the last week in the month, and hardly a man was said to have been out of regular work in the March district during the same period. Weekly cash wages in the former district are 11s. and in the latter 12s. At Littleport all the men are said to have been fairly employed at the end of the month. Weekly wages, which varied between 9s. and 12s. up to the end of March, were raised 1s. a week about April 1st. Again, at Upwell, all the men are said to have been employed during the same period. Favourable reports of the state of employment also come from Fulbourne, Waterbeach, Longstanton and Chesterton. At Elsworth, in the Caxton Union, where there are 54 agricultural labourers who are householders on the voters' list, about six young men were in irregular work during the last week in March.

In the Home Counties.—Two reports from the Hollingbourne Union of Kent state that all the labourers are in full work, most of them being employed at piecework in the hop and fruit grounds. Weekly cash wages are 14s. a week, and between 18s. and 20s. can be earned at piecework. In the Godstone Union of Surrey employment is said to be quite satisfactory. A number of men at the end of the month were employed digging and poling hops at piecework, at which about 20s. a week can be earned. Weekly wages are 15s. At Buntingford, in Hertfordshire, no men are reported to have been out of work during the last week in March, and very few men in the neighbourhood are said to have been in want of employment.

In Oxfordshire, in the Abingdon district, employment is said to have been satisfactory. Favourable reports also come from the Wantage Union of Berkshire, the Newport Pagnell Union of Buckinghamshire, and the Luton and Bedford Unions of Beds.

In the Western Counties.—A report from the Beaminster Union of Dorset states able-bodied men were generally all employed at the end of March. At Winterborne Herringstone, near Dorchester, all the men were in full work in the last week in March. It is stated that no men were out of work or in irregular work at Shapwick, in the Wimborne Union, during the last week in March. Reports of eight parishes in the Leominster Union of Herefordshire state that employment was regular during the last week in March. Weekly wages are 10s. to 12s. In the Bromyard Union all the men were said to be in full work in the last week in March. Weekly wages, which are generally 10s. a week from September 29th to February 2nd, have since been 12s. Employment in the district of Burcombe, in the Wilton Union of Wiltshire, is said to be quite satisfactory. At Toddington, in the Winchcombe Union of Gloucestershire, very few men are stated to have been out of work or in irregular work at the end of March.

In Somersetshire a report from Somerton states that all the labourers were employed during the last week in March. In the Wells Union reports of nine parishes state that no men were out of work the last week in March. Weekly wages are 13s. A return from the Redruth Union of Cornwall states that very few

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(g) DOCK LABOUR IN LONDON IN MARCH.

Dock labourers in London were much better employed in March than in February, and also than in March 1894. The average daily number employed in all the docks of London during the five weeks ending March 30th was 8,342, compared with 7,458 in the previous four weeks. The estimated maximum employed on any one day was 9,513 on March 22nd, and the minimum 7,163 on March 4th. Wharf labourers are not included in the above figures.

Detailed Figures.—(1) The total estimated number of dock labourers employed daily in the docks in the Port of London during each week, whether through the Dock Companies or otherwise, is as follows:—

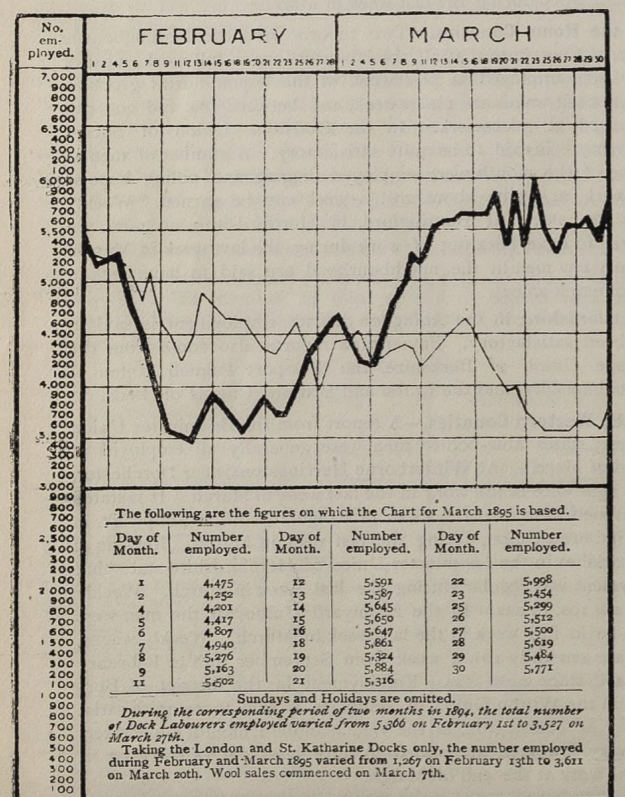
Period.	Dock Companies' and Contractors' Labourers.		In-crease.	De-crease.	Ship-owners' Labourers.		Total employed in Docks.
	1895.	1894.			1895.	1895.	
1st week in March ...	6,430	6,720	...	290	1,333	7,763	
2nd " " ...	6,479	6,373	106	...	1,415	7,894	
3rd " " ...	7,164	6,175	989	...	1,311	8,475	
4th " " ...	7,422	6,339	1,083	...	1,533	8,955	
5th " " ...	7,386	5,862	1,524	...	1,139	8,525	
Average for 5 weeks ending March 30th...	6,976	6,308	668	...	1,366	8,342	
Average for 4 weeks ending Feb. 23rd ...	6,371	7,089	...	718	1,087	7,458	

The dock labourers engaged by the shipowners and others directly in the Albert and Victoria Docks varied from 886 on March 27th, to 1,745 on March 6th, the average being 1,366, compared with 1,087 in the preceding period, besides an average number of 664 stevedores, coalies, and lightermen, compared with 535.

(2) The following chart shows the daily fluctuations of dock employment by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during February and March. The number employed during March varied from 5,998 on March 22nd to 4,201 on March 4th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of February and March 1895. The corresponding curve for February and March 1894 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.

[The thick curve applies to 1895, and the thin curve to 1894.]



Wharves.—In addition to the usual returns received relating to dock labour employed by the dock companies and shipowners in the port of London, an effort has been made this month to obtain similar figures from the principal wharves. Many returns have been received from managers of wharves, and though the total is not large enough to represent all the wharf labourers employed in the port, it is sufficient to show the fluctuations in the employment of this class of labour. It is hoped that the managers of other wharves will in future enable the Department to make the returns more complete.

Returns have been received from 76 wharves, quays, &c., employing during the five weeks ending March 30th an average daily number of 4,488 dock labourers, besides stevedores. The number of dock labourers fluctuated from 4,831 on March 25th to 4,111 on March 20th. The number included in the returns is believed to be quite 60 per cent. of the total number employed at all the wharves. The fluctuations of wharf employment within the month are therefore fairly shown in the following table, stating for each week the daily average number of dock labourers employed on the north and south sides of the river respectively:—

	North.	South.	Total.
1st week in March ...	2,167	2,471	4,638
2nd " " ...	2,205	2,259	4,464
3rd " " ...	2,216	2,221	4,437
4th " " ...	2,168	2,208	4,376
5th " " ...	2,212	2,316	4,528

It will be seen that the fluctuations in wharf employment are less marked than in the case of the docks.

The Fruit Trade in Thames-street wharves is reported as fairly busy, and the wharves at Wapping have given fair employment. Some of the South-side wharves have been busy and others slack.

(h) FISHING INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

THE total declared value of the fish landed in the United Kingdom during March was £552,089, or £1,977 less than in March 1894. On most of the coasts decreases are shown in the values of fish landed, the only increase of importance being one of £41,850 on the East Coast of England. The table below gives the values for the different coasts:—

Locality where Landed.	Estimated Value of Fish (including Shell Fish) landed in the United Kingdom in			
	Mar. 1895.	Mar. 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
ENGLAND AND WALES.				
East Coast ...	£ 375,301	£ 333,451	£ 41,850	—
South " ...	33,885	52,406	—	18,521
West " ...	41,028	42,059	—	1,031
Total ...	450,214	427,916	22,298	—
SCOTLAND.				
East Coast ...	68,613	84,790	—	16,177
Orkney and Shetland ...	3,240	4,194	—	954
West Coast ...	18,397	24,920	—	6,523
Total ...	90,250	113,904	—	23,654
IRELAND.				
North Coast ...	450	527	—	77
East " ...	6,304	5,148	1,156	—
South " ...	1,514	1,336	178	—
West " ...	3,357	5,235	—	1,878
Total ...	11,625	12,246	—	621
Grand Total for United Kingdom ...	552,089	554,066	—	1,977

The value of the *white fish* landed in the United Kingdom during March was returned as £530,849, and the quantity as 741,692 cwts., as compared with £519,628 and 657,640 cwts. in March 1894. The value of the *shell fish* landed was declared as £21,230, against £34,208 a year ago.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MARCH.

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

DURING March 2,323 fewer men shipped at the principal ports of the United Kingdom as the crews of foreign-going vessels than in March 1894, the numbers for the two

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES AND DISTRICT REPORTS.

periods being respectively 29,684 and 32,007. Nearly all the ports show a decrease, the largest being at London, Glasgow, the Tyne Ports, and Newport.

Reports from all the ports included in the table, except Dublin, state that there was a plentiful supply of seamen, the number seeking employment being at most ports much in excess of the demand. At Dublin seamen were reported to be scarce, and firemen about equal to the demand.

A downward tendency was shown in the rates of wages for able seamen and firemen and trimmers at several ports, especially at Newport, Dublin, and Belfast. At Newcastle men signed on at the lower rates in larger proportions than in February.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in March 1895.			Total in March 1894.	In-crease in 1895.	De-crease in 1895.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in March 1895.			
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	48	2,625	2,673	3,056	...	383
Sunderland ...	...	487	487	686	...	199
Middlesbrough ...	37	217	254	426	...	172
Hull ...	31	768	799	813	...	14
Grimsby ...	...	106	106	83	...	23
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	...	234	234	267	...	33
Newport, Mon. ...	2	1,013	1,015	1,248	...	233
Cardiff ...	322	4,919	5,241	5,487	...	246
Swansea ...	135	306	441	470	...	29
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	287	9,260	9,547	9,671	...	124
London ...	268	4,575	4,843	5,487	...	644
Southampton ...	...	1,684	1,684	1,655	...	29
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth ...	5	495	500	472	...	28
Glasgow ...	83	1,700	1,783	2,272	...	489
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	...	27	27	77	...	50
Belfast ...	...	31	31	723	...	692
Total March 1895 ...	1,237	28,447	29,684	...	...	2,323
Ditto, March 1894 ...	2,424	29,583	...	32,007	...	...

(j) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE AND HAT TRADES IN MARCH.

INFORMATION has been received from women correspondents with regard to the employment of women and girls in 209 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills. In the case of 137 mills the numbers employed are stated approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 72 mills as in those for the same trade for which numbers are stated, the information may be summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate estimate of Women and Girls employed.	
		Number.	Percentage.
Full time ...	...	25,282	62
Ditto, but partial employment ...	139	10,213	25
Short time ...	...	3,529	9
Closed for repairs ...	1	—	—
" through disputes ...	1	1,429	4
" through bad trade ...	5	—	—
Total ...	209	40,453	100

Cotton Trade.—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 29,921. Of these, 59 per cent. were employed in mills working full time; 30 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment; 6 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 5 per cent. of the number were closed during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trade.—The number of women and girls employed in the woollen and worsted mills

* Thirty-five mills were included in the report for last month which should have been excluded from the returns. The percentage column, however, was unaffected by this error.

reported on is estimated at 9,707. Of these 70 per cent. were employed in mills working full time, 13 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment, and 17 per cent. in mills running short time.

Silk Trade.—The number of women and girls employed in the silk mills reported on is estimated at 825. Of those 83 per cent. were in mills working full time, and 17 per cent. in mills running short time.

Felt and Silk Hat Trade.—All the hat works reported on in Denton, employing about 570 women and girls, worked full time; in four other works in which the numbers employed are not stated full time was also worked.

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.*

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—Returns have been received relating to 331 branches of 73 trade unions in the London district, with a membership of 60,406, of whom 3,228 (or 5.3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of March, compared with 7.1 per cent. for February, nearly all branches of employment having improved, owing in part to seasonal causes.

In the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding Trades*, an improvement has taken place, particularly in the latter. Reports from 96 branches of 24 unions connected with these trades, show that out of a membership of 18,821, 1,084 (or 5.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of March, compared with 7.7 in February, and 7.6 per cent. in March 1894.

The various branches of the *Building Trades* have been enabled to resume outdoor work. 173 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 11,289, return 631 (or 5.6 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 9.7 per cent. in February and 5.0 per cent. in March 1894. The carpenters and joiners, plasterers, and masons, with an aggregate membership in the London district of 14,941, describe employment as quiet; the bricklayers, painters, stone-carvers and mill-sawyers, with a membership of 9,315, as improving; the plumbers, with a membership of 1,215, as good.

Employment in all branches of the *Furnishing and Woodworking Trades* has considerably improved. Reports from 37 branches of 17 unions, with an aggregate membership of 6,875, show that 268 (or 3.9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of March, compared with 8.3 per cent. in February last and 5.6 per cent. in March 1894.

The *Printing and Bookbinding Trades*, especially the latter, are scarcely so well employed. Fifteen unions, with an aggregate membership of 18,805, return 805 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, against 4.0 per cent. last month and 5.1 per cent. in March 1894.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Wholesale Clothing Trade has continued brisk. The West End Tailoring Trade was moderately busy, and improved slightly towards the close of the month, but, owing to the late season, this branch has not been quite so brisk as usual at this period of the year. Employment in the East End Bespoke Trade is very good. The Hat Trade is still depressed. The fur skin dressers report employment as good, the furriers as improving.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The wholesale manufacturing branches are in a disturbed state, about one-half of those employed on the machine-sewn, rivet, and slipper work being idle in connection with the present dispute. The other half are well employed. In the high-class bespoke branch a steady improvement has been going on during the month.

Employment in the *Leather Trades* is fairly steady. Returns from four unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,094, show that 49 (or 4.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.6 per cent. in February.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—The Glass Trades remain depressed. In the Pottery Trades the throwers are still slack; other branches are fairly busy.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at the Docks has considerably improved as compared with February, when it was seriously interfered with by the severe weather. The average daily number of dock labourers employed in the docks during the five weeks ended 30th March is estimated at 8,342, an increase of nearly 12 per cent., when compared with 7,458 in the previous month. In addition to these labourers, an average daily number of 4,488

* When it is stated in these reports that "the carpenters," "the plumbers," &c. make certain reports, reference is usually made to the Unions connected with these trades, unless it is otherwise specified.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE, &c.

labourers (exclusive of stevedores) was employed during March at 76 wharves from which returns have been received. Further particulars as to dock employment in London are given on page 102.

The number of seamen shipped shows an increase of 9.2 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 11.7 per cent. as compared with March 1894.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the Tobacco Trades is described as bad. The bakers and confectioners report employment as quiet; but rather better towards the close of the month. The Silver Trades report nearly 5 per cent. unemployed. The farriers are slack. The scientific instrument-makers, coach-makers, brush-makers, and mat-makers are improving.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Only one fresh dispute was reported during the month—a lock-out in the East-End Ladies' Tailors and Mantle Makers' Trade, particulars of which will be found on page 114.

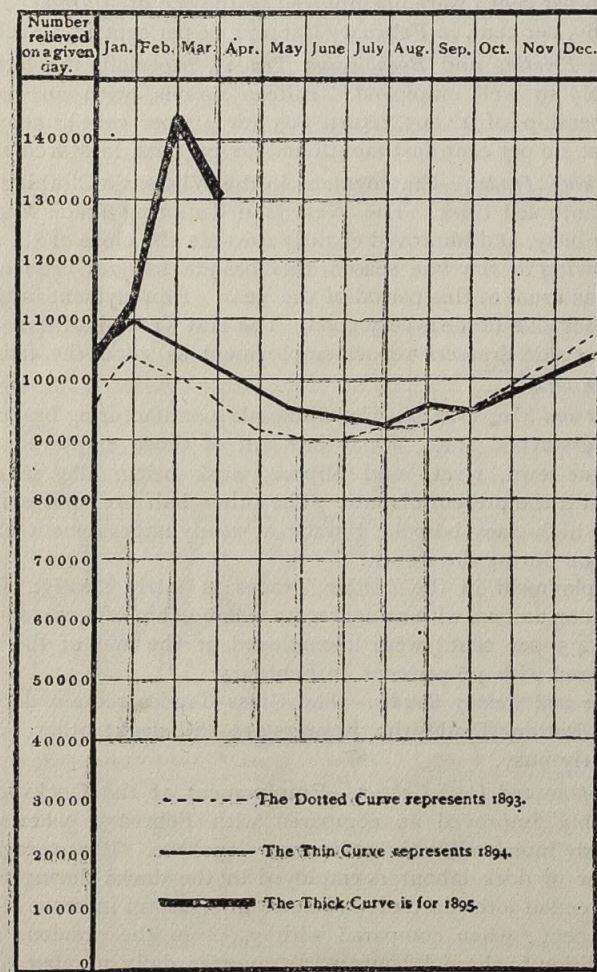
Labour Bureaux.—The four Labour Bureaux furnishing returns, for both March 1894 and 1895,* registered 1,166 fresh applications from workpeople and 362 from employers during March, as compared with 970 and 420 respectively in the corresponding month of last year. The number of persons for whom work was found through these Bureaux during last month was 760, of which number 372 were employed by the local authorities having control of the Bureaux.

Winter Distress.—The reports received from parts of 29 out of 30 Unions in London, and of West Ham, show that the volume of distress has declined to normal proportions.

Pauperism.—The figures for the second week in March show a decline in London pauperism as compared with February in all districts except the East, the decline being most marked in the South and North. In the Eastern district there is an actual increase of 39 per 10,000 of population. On the whole, the proportions per 10,000 are 310 for March, 342 for February, and 268 for January; the rate for March 1894 was 243 only. Outdoor paupers are again responsible for the high rate, the figures being 68,909 indoor paupers and 61,790 outdoor in March 1895, as against 65,077 indoor and 37,473 outdoor paupers in March 1894.

The rate for West Ham fell from 402 per 10,000 of population in February to 341 in March, which figure is, however, still much higher than that for March 1894, viz., 283.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1893, 1894 and 1895:—



The above figures and chart relate to one day in the second week

* Chelsea, St Pancras, Battersea and Islington.

of March. In the third week there was a further fall of 10 in the rate of Metropolitan pauperism per 10,000 of the population, and in the fourth week of 9, leaving the rate at 291 per 10,000.

The number of vagrants relieved in London was 1,054 on one day in the second week of March, 1,010 in the third week, and 1,070 in the fourth week.

The table below gives the proportion of paupers to population in the different districts of London, and in West Ham, on the last day of the second week in February and March 1895 respectively: Rate of Pauperism per 10,000 of population.

District.	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	Mar. 1895.	Feb. 1895.	Mar. 1895.	Feb. 1895.	Mar. 1895.	Feb. 1895.
London:						
West District...	152	158	40	59	192	217
North " ...	145	149	121	163	266	312
Central " ...	318	332	165	163	481	495
East " ...	197	204	131	85	328	289
South " ...	141	145	220	277	361	422
West Ham ...	53	54	288	348	341	402

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Durham.*—Employment at the collieries has fallen off in pits producing gas and bunker coal. At two collieries about 1,000 men and boys are idle. Two or three pits in South Durham are reported to have only worked one and two days per week. The number of unemployed pitmen in receipt of stoppage, pay is 2,203, or 3.7 per cent., as against 3.1 in February.—*Northumberland.*—Some second class collieries have not averaged more than 2½ days per week, but most of the pits producing the best class of steam coal have worked from 5 to 5½ days per week. The total number of unemployed members is 305, or 1.5 per cent., as compared with 1.2 in February.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—*On the Tyne.*—Shipbuilding on this river shows a slight improvement, four of the principal yards being fairly busy upon special work. Other yards as yet are but moderately employed. Repair work has been fairly extensive. Marine engineering upon the whole continues quiet, although two firms have re-started night shifts. Locomotive builders are slack, one firm having discharged a number of men, while another is working five days per week. The Elswick Ordnance Works are busy, and electrical engineers are well employed. The number of engineers, boiler-makers and shipbuilders still out of work is 2,050, or 20 per cent., as against 21.2 in February.—*On the Wear.*—Employment in shipyards has slightly improved. Several builders have considerable work in hand; others are preparing to start with work recently placed. Engine-builders continue dull, two establishments are discharging pattern-makers. Employment in repair shops is fairly good. Of boiler-makers, engineers and shipbuilders there are 1,135, or 27.7 per cent. unemployed, as against 30.1 in February. The percentage of unemployed joiners has fallen from 23.6 to 12.5. On both rivers the shipwrights report improvement with about 18 per cent. out of work. The pattern-makers and moulders report no change. The local steel plate and angle mills are working steadily; steel foundries and finishers are well employed.

Shipping and Dock and Riverside Labour.—The coal porters on both rivers report work as irregular, with 4 per cent. unable to obtain casual employment. The teamers and trimmers, especially in the lower reaches of the Tyne, have been better employed. Numbers of firemen and sailors are seeking employment, a few additional ships being laid up during the month. The wherry-men report a slight improvement owing to larger imports.

Building Trades.—On the Tyne the masons are busy, the bricklayers moderately so. The plasterers are fairly busy. Building operations on the Wear are not so brisk, although fairly good. The state of employment is much the same as on the Tyne.

Miscellaneous.—The Durham Coke Trade shows little change. Prospects are better at Southwick and Sunderland in the Glass Trade. Chemical, cement, lead, and copper works are quiet, but one or two factories are gradually re-starting hands. Short time still prevails amongst the coopers. The Weardale ironstone miners are fairly well employed. Most of the stone and limestone quarries are busy. The Lead Industry is reported as slack. The paper-makers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders as good; the letterpress printers as dull, with 7.5 unemployed, as against 5 per cent. in February.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—There is no improvement in the Finished Iron Trade. The wages under the sliding scale of the North of England Conciliation Board will be the same for April and May as

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE, &c.

for the previous two months. No change is reported in foundries and bridge works, or among the Cleveland miners.

Engineering.—The percentage of unemployed engineers has fallen in Stockton to 5.3; at Middlesbrough from 17 to 13.8; it has risen at Hartlepool from 10 to 12. The moulders report no improvement at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, and a few are unemployed at Stockton. The smiths and strikers report 5 per cent. unemployed at Middlesbrough and Stockton, and about 20 per cent. at the Hartlepoons.

Shipbuilding.—There is little change to note in this trade. The shipbuilders and boiler-makers report no improvement at Thornaby and Hartlepool. At Thornaby one of the yards is nearly at a standstill. At Stockton and Middlesbrough the principal yards are working steadily, and at Middlesbrough employment is better. The shipwrights have no unemployed at Middlesbrough and Stockton, and about 10 or 15 per cent. at Hartlepool. The joiners (including house joiners) report that the percentage of unemployed has fallen to 12.5, 18 and 6 per cent. at Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool respectively.

Building Trades.—These trades have improved throughout the district, and the number of unemployed has been much reduced.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen and riverside workers report employment as bad. At the docks, also, employment is moderate generally, and at the Hartlepoons bad.

Miscellaneous.—The printers report employment as fair, the tailors as slack, and most of the minor trades are quiet.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the Cotton Industry shows little change. In Oldham the mills, as a rule, are working full time, and the spinners report 190, or 3 per cent. on out-of-work benefit, exclusive of 45 out through a dispute, and a considerable number who are out of work but not in receipt of benefit. The card-room operatives have upwards of 9 per cent. of their members out of work. Weavers, reelers, twiners and ring frame tenters are fairly well employed. The spinners in Mossley report 9 per cent. on out-of-work benefit; in Ashton-under-Lyne 11.5 per cent.; in Rochdale 3.7 per cent.; in Stockport 4.4 per cent., in addition to a number who have exhausted their out-of-work allowance. In Stalybridge there are only 4 members on the funds, but in the districts generally there are large numbers out of employment.

Coal Mining.—This industry is depressed in Oldham and district.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—There is no improvement in these trades, and employment is irregular. Many establishments are on short time, and employment in machine works is becoming slack.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades is unsatisfactory. The bricklayers, plasterers, and carpenters and joiners report trade as slack; the painters and decorators as moderate; the flaggers and slaters as bad. The plumbers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The skip-makers are fully employed. The printers, tailors, and cabinet-makers are slack. Employment in many of the smaller trades is only partial.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—In the Bolton district the spinning branch has slightly improved. The spinners and card and blowing room operatives report employment as moderate; the power loom weavers as fair. In Chorley there is a marked improvement; the mills are running full time and there is less waiting for warps. In Bury full time is being worked at all mills; in the weaving branch several looms are standing.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The engineers report employment as dull, with 5.9 per cent. unemployed; one firm, however, is better employed. The machine-making firms are unusually busy in special departments, overtime being worked on several days in the week. Iron Turning and Metal Trades continue irregular. In Wigan engineering is busier, and the iron and steel rolling mills are employing a few more men. In Bury engineering has improved, and the Machine Trade is exceptionally active.

Coal Mining.—The Coal Trade in and around Bolton continues depressed. Two collieries only within a radius of five miles are working full time. A considerable number are working three days per week, a few four days. In Wigan most of the collieries are working short time.

Building Trades.—All branches report more favourably. The carpenters and joiners are better employed; the bricklayers, plasterers, slaters, stonemasons, plumbers, gasfitters, painters, and labourers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Tailoring and shoe-making continue fairly satisfactory. Printing, cabinet-making, brush-making, and coach-making, are moderately active. The wheelwrights, blacksmiths, skip-makers, paviors, and outdoor labourers are generally well employed.

R. Tootill.

Burnley, Accrington, and District.

Cotton Trade.—The weaving branch of this industry has shown a slight improvement; a number of looms which had been stopped have been re-started, but many are still standing. At the beginning of the month a large number of looms were stopped in the weaving districts, and many more were only working four days per week, but the number is now considerably reduced. The Shoddy Trade is normal, with few unemployed. The Sateen Trade is almost stationary. The Coloured Goods Trade is improving, with only a small percentage of looms stopped. The spinning mills in the district have continued to work full time.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The machine-makers have been fairly busy, overtime in some departments being worked. The millwrights, engine-fitters and turners report work as steady, with only a small percentage unemployed.

Building Trades.—These trades are now in full work, masons, wallers, and bricklayers being in fair demand. The carpenters and joiners and painters and decorators report work as more plentiful. The plumbers are brisk. The quarrymen, flaggers and slaters report work as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The Letterpress Printing, Calico Printing, and Dyeing Trades continue fairly good. Cabinet-makers, tailors, and a number of general trades are only partially employed. Miners and tinplaters are now mostly working full time. During the month the number of unemployed in the district has greatly diminished.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report a slightly increased number of unemployed among the machine-workers and drillers, chiefly owing to the discharge of a number of men from one firm. The braziers, sheet metal-workers, brass-founders and finishers report a small increase in the number unemployed. At Warrington the wire-drawers are more depressed, but the wire-weavers, file-smiths and tinplate-workers are fairly well employed. The Iron Trades at Northwich show an improvement.

Textile Trades.—The Textile Trades show little change. Cotton spinning is moderate in Manchester, and many temporary stoppages take place. The Cotton Trade generally in Macclesfield and Warrington shows no change. The silk hand loom-weavers keep fairly well employed, and the silk dyers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade, both in the bespoke and wholesale branches, is somewhat better. Mantle-makers and cap-makers are better employed. Waterproof garment-makers have not improved.

Building Trades.—These trades have much improved. The bricklayers report employment as good; the plasterers, with 3 per cent. idle, the stonemasons and the plumbers as moderate; the glass-painters, embossers and sheet-lead glaziers as bad, with an increase in the number unemployed. The Building Trades in Macclesfield, Warrington and Northwich remain much about the same, with a little improvement amongst painters.

Printing and kindred Trades.—These trades show but little change. Letterpress printing is bad; lithographic printing shows a slight improvement.

Miscellaneous.—The dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as moderate. Fustian cutters are fairly busy; the upholsterers are still bad, but improving. Coach-building is improving, and the number of unemployed reduced. Cabinet-makers, coopers, and flint-glass cutters at Warrington are fairly well employed.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Pig Iron Trade remains depressed. Owing to disputes at Barrow, Millom, and Askam, the district has been much disturbed during the month. Steel manufacture does not improve. Subject to the award of the arbitrator, which is expected in about two or three weeks, it was agreed to resume work on April 1st, after four weeks' stoppage, but employment can only be temporary unless fresh orders come to hand.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—During the month marine engineers have been fairly busy and shipbuilders well employed, but no new orders have come in. Other branches of the Engineering Trade are slack.

Iron and Coal Mining.—The iron miners have been slack owing to

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

disputes in the district. The coal miners have been fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—These trades have considerably improved, although a few joiners and painters are still out of work. The bricklayers and plumbers have been exceptionally busy.

Railways.—Employment on the railways has been bad. Owing to the stoppage of the Barrow Steel Works and disputes in the district, eight trains daily were suspended, but as these works are to be re-started a change for the better may be expected.

Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks has been inactive during the month. At Whitehaven, Workington, and other ports there has also been but little doing.

Miscellaneous.—The printers, bakers and confectioners, and tailors report employment as moderate; the paper and pulp workers as still busy, and the jute workers as improved.—*J. D. Couper.*

Liverpool and District.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment at the docks in discharging and loading cargoes has been moderate. The coal-heavers report employment as improved, owing to the preparations of the Atlantic liners and coasting steamers for the passenger traffic; the landing-stage luggage porters as quiet; ship scrapers as dull. General labourers engaged in dock construction, &c., are moderately employed. The Mersey water carriers report trade as quiet. Inland and Upper Mersey watermen are much better employed.

Metal Trades.—Metal planers report trade as quiet, the greater part of one large works of brass finishers and metal planers being closed; the moulders as fair; the whitesmiths and tinplate workers as unchanged.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—A slight improvement is noticeable in these industries, particularly in the Engineering Trade.

Building Trades.—These show a marked improvement. The plasterers, slaters, and bricklayers report employment as moderate; the painters as slack, but improving. The plumbers are fully employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—There is no change in employment in these trades in St. Helens and Widnes district. One Works, re-opened in February, is not manufacturing much glass, if any, only a small number of men being employed sorting and cutting.

Mining.—The Coal-mining Industry is much disturbed in the neighbourhood of St. Helens, and also in North Wales. Notices to cease work have been sent in by the miners at three collieries near St. Helens, on account of an impending reduction in wages by the coalowners.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is fair in the railway goods department. The carters, printers, upholsterers, and tailors report employment as unchanged; the shoe-makers as slightly improved, but still slack.—*J. Sexton.*

A report from Winsford states that the Salt Trade has improved, but many are still unemployed. The Chemical Trade in Middlewich district is still depressed, and one firm has discharged over 70 more men. The fustian cutters report employment as fairly moderate.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in these industries generally has not improved. The engineers, with 8 per cent. unemployed, the smiths and strikers, with 6 per cent. unemployed, and the boiler-makers and iron ship-builders report employment as moderate; the iron-founders, with 8 per cent. idle, the hand-drillers and hole-cutters, and the sail-makers, as bad; the iron and steel dressers as fair, with no unemployed; the shipwrights as declining, with 7½ per cent. unemployed; the ship-joiners as improved, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the labourers employed in these trades as moderate, with 21 per cent. wholly unemployed. The shipyards at Selby are brisk.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report employment as bad during part of the month, but improving towards the end; the mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists and the plumbers as moderate, but the former were less busy at the end of the month; the bricklayers as fairly good, with none wholly unemployed; the painters as good, with 200 fewer unemployed than at the end of February.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment for seamen, and for dock, quay, and other labourers is depressed, a number being unemployed. The aggregate tonnage entering and leaving the Humber shows a decrease compared with the same period last year.

In anticipation of a speedy opening-out of the Baltic and North European ports a number of vessels have been signing on their crews.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing during the greater part of March was normal, but at the end was seriously affected by the gales, together with all the trades dependent on this industry. The fishermen report employment as moderate, with 10 per cent. entirely unemployed.

Seed Crushing, Colour, Paint, and Varnish Works.—Employment in the seed crushing mills has not been so good, and is returned as moderate; some of the mills have been partially stopped for want of seed. Employment improved towards the close of the month owing to the arrival of cargoes of linseed. Employment in the paint and colour works has improved, but is still only moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The flour millers, bakers and confectioners, letter-press printers, bookbinders and machine rulers, coopers, and cabinet-makers report employment as moderate; the tailors as improved; the brush-makers as bad. At Doncaster the railway plant works are slack, the men averaging five days a week.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Metal Trades.—The Engineering Trade has somewhat improved since February, about 14 per cent. being unemployed. At Wakefield the trade continues bad. The boiler-makers report improvement, with 9½ per cent. unemployed. Iron-founding is still bad in Leeds, brisker at Stanningley, and busy at Rodley, crane-makers being fully employed. The stovegrate-workers were improving at end of month with 6 per cent. unemployed. The machine tool-makers, pattern-makers, and whitesmiths are still slack. At the railway works at Doncaster only five days per week are being worked.

Building Trades.—Most of these trades have improved, brick-laying being reported as good, and plastering as fair. Employment amongst the joiners in Leeds is not brisk, and at Morley is slack. The masons and plasterers at Morley have been fully employed. Painters in Leeds are better employed. At Harrogate these trades are brisk.

Clothing Trades.—Owing to the dispute in the Boot Trade nearly all the workshops are closed. In the few shops open the workmen are fully employed. In the ready-made Clothing Trade employment has been much better. The clothiers' operatives have no members idle, the Jewish workers in this industry are also fairly busy. Bespoke tailoring continues quiet.

Textile Trades.—The woollen spinners report employment as fair, the willeys, fettlers and dyers as improving, the dye-houses working full time. Blanket and rug-making is slack, as usual at this season.

Leather Trades.—These trades are affected by the lock-out in the Boot Trade, and the tanners and leather shavers both report a decline, short time being resorted to.

Coal Mining.—The pits in the Leeds district have only been working four days per week, and a number of miners are entirely unemployed. At Wakefield and around Normanton employment has declined. At Parkhills only two days per week have been worked.

Miscellaneous.—Brush-making shows no improvement. The glass bottle-makers and cabinet-makers report employment as bad; the coach-makers and letterpress printers as improved, the latter with 5 per cent. unemployed; the lithographers and picture framers as fair; the cardboard box-makers as busy; the flint-glass makers as unchanged.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Textile Trades.—Both the Woollen and Worsted Trades in the Huddersfield district have slightly improved. Employment in the heavy woollen district is also slightly better, a few firms are still slack, but some are busier and there are fewer unemployed. The Blanket and Rug Trade remains quiet. Employment in the Worsted Trade seems better all round in Bradford, Halifax, and Keighley. In Bradford the weaving branch of the trade is much better, and weavers are rather difficult to get. In the Worth Valley the weavers report no unemployed. In Huddersfield a number of men weavers are still unemployed, but not many women. The Carpet Trade shows a slight decline. Both the Cotton and Silk Trades have improved.

Metal Trades.—Employment in these trades is better. The engineers report employment as moderate in Halifax and Bradford, and fair in Huddersfield; the iron-founders as moderate in Huddersfield and Keighley; the Wire Trade is still busy in Brighouse, but has hardly improved in Halifax.

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

Building Trades.—The Building Trades are considerably better, and the number of unemployed is much reduced.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as moderate among cabinet-makers and brush-makers; good among dyers and pressers; fair among printers, bookbinders, and railway men.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The Coal Trade is much as usual, the men working irregularly in various parts of the county. The men at Lundhill Colliery, near Barnsley, thrown out of work through the closing of the Melton Field and Abdy seams, are still idle. There are still some 800 men out of work through collieries or portions of collieries being set down for bad trade, breakage of machinery, &c. Work is so bad in some localities that several of these collieries have been exempted for three months from paying contributions to the Association. The question in dispute at a colliery near Wakefield, which was referred to an independent umpire, has now been settled. The 240 or 250 men and boys employed in the Rockley Parkgate Seam, thrown out of work in January, have nearly all been put into the other seams or have got work at other collieries. At certain collieries near Barnsley, about 80 men and boys are unemployed on account of the closing of a seam through bad trade. A colliery at Mexbro, which usually works full time, has "played" a number of days this month.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Iron Trade is reported as bad; at several large firms furnace-men and puddlers are on short time; one large firm has been standing an entire week in the iron department. The rollers of merchant iron report trade as slack, 2½ per cent. being unemployed, and an equal number on short time. Siemens steel smelters are fairly well employed. The Bessemer Steel Trade is quiet, but improved. Workmen engaged on armour plates are fully employed. The boiler-makers report employment as slack, with 6 per cent. out of work (as against 5 per cent. in February) and 10 per cent. on short time. Tyre and axle-makers are moderately busy; but in railway springs, trade is rather quieter. The iron and steel-founders report employment as moderate, with 5 per cent. unemployed, as against 8½ in February and 13 per cent. in January. The engineers report employment as unchanged; the wire-drawers as moderate, with about 30 per cent. only partially employed; the nut and bolt-makers and makers of mining tools as improved; the stove-grate workers as slack in Sheffield and Rotherham, with 5 per cent. unemployed, and 20 per cent. on short time in Sheffield. In Rotherham the Steel Trade is quieter; the iron-founders are slack, with 10 per cent. unemployed. At Dronfield spade and shovel-makers and tool-makers are fairly busy.

Cutlery and Tools.—In best table cutlery, as well as in pen and pocket knives, there is improvement; the fork-grinders have 10 per cent. unemployed, and about 80 per cent. only partly employed. There is a fair demand for Britannia metal and plated forks. The engineers' tool makers have only 2 per cent. unemployed, as against 3 per cent. in February, and only 10 per cent. on short time. In the Edge Tool Trade there is a slight improvement. The sheep-shear grinders and benders report employment as bad. Joiners' tool-makers are fairly busy. Razor-makers are slack. Scissor-makers are rather better employed. The handle and scale cutters have 10 per cent. unemployed and a number on short time.

Building Trades.—These trades have much improved. No good stone masons or bricklayers are out of work. The carpenters and joiners have only 4 per cent. unemployed, as against 13 per cent. in February. The plasterers, painters, and decorators are busy, and the demand for plumbers is exceptional. Plasterers are in good demand.

Miscellaneous.—Railway carriage and wagon-builders are well employed. The letterpress printers report trade as slightly better, but with 10 per cent. still unemployed; the lithographers as fairly busy; the bookbinders as good. The brass-workers are fairly busy in Sheffield and in Rotherham. The Silver Trade has declined further, with 5 per cent. unemployed, and most of the smiths and finishers are only working 4 days per week. In Rotherham the potters and the glass medicine bottle-makers are busy.—*S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

Coal Mining.—In the Coal Trade a slight improvement is noticeable in Denby district, where from 5 to 6 days per week are being worked. In Clay Cross employment has declined, the pits only

averaging 3 days per week. In Codnor district hard coal seams are being worked 4 days, soft coal 3 days, and Low Main seam 2 days per week. In nearly all districts employment remains unsatisfactory, although but few workmen are totally unemployed.

Quarrying.—Owing to the milder weather an improvement is noticeable, except in Wirksworth, where the limestone quarries remain quiet.

Iron Trades.—Blast-furnace men continue slack. At Derby the iron-founders report trade as bad, with nearly 33 per cent. unemployed; at Butterley as slack, with 25 per cent. idle; at Somercoates as dull. The Malleable Iron Trade is fair.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Engineering is reported as moderate in Glossop, New Mills, and Ripley; as bad in Derby, Chesterfield, Long Eaton, and Burton-on-Trent. Out of 981 members in these districts, 3·8 per cent. are reported as unemployed. The locomotive works remain fairly active; the boiler-makers report trade as dull, with nearly 7 per cent. idle. All bridge, girder, and boiler yards continue quiet.

Other Metal Trades.—The stove grate workers in Derby report trade as dull; in Belper district as slack. In Long Eaton the lace machine builders report trade as moderate. Cycle works are busy.

Textile Trades.—The Lace Trade in Derby is quiet; in Long Eaton it continues depressed, 5 per cent. being totally unemployed, and over 50 per cent. being partially employed. The Silk Industry remains quiet. The Cotton Trade in Belper district is slack.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade, both in ready-made and bespoke departments, is improving; boot and shoe operatives are moderately busy. Dress and mantle-makers are fairly well employed. The Hosiery Trade in Belper district continues dull.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers report employment as good; the carpenters and joiners in Derby as slack; in Chesterfield and Burton-on-Trent as quiet; in Long Eaton, Ilkeston, Glossop, and Buxton as fair; in Matlock and Church Gresley as moderate. In Derby the stonemasons report employment as quiet; the gas-fitters and plumbers as busy; the painters and decorators are fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The lithographic printers report trade as bad, with 8 per cent. unemployed; the letterpress printers as improving, with about 5 per cent. idle; the bookbinders as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The elastic web-weavers, paper-stainers, colour-mixers and railway carriage and wagon builders report employment as slack; the bakers and confectioners as moderate; the basket-makers as improving; the brush-makers, sawyers, and wood-workers' machinists as fair; the paper-makers as well employed. In Burton-on-Trent the coopers report trade as declining, about 3 per cent. being unemployed.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The operative lace-makers report 4·6 per cent. as receiving out-of-work benefit, and many more as unemployed. The levers branch report employment as improved; the curtain branch as moderate, and the plain net branch as fairly good; the warpers as quiet; the auxiliary lace-workers as moderate. The dyers report employment as slack in Nottingham and moderate in Basford; the bleachers in Basford as moderate. Short time is general at Beeston, Bulwell, Stapleford, and Kimberley.

Hosiery Trades.—In Nottingham the operative frame-work knitters report employment as improved; the rib top branch as quiet; the circular hosiery branch and the elastic bandage makers as slack. Employment is reported as bad in the hand-frame branch at Carlton, Arnold, Sutton-in-Ashfield, and Kirkby; fairly good at Hucknall on Shetland shawls and woollen goods.

Coal Mining.—Miners are working from 2½ to 5 days per week. In the Worksop district employment is slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as quiet in Nottingham, and fair in Mansfield, Newark, and Beeston, 47 out of 839, or 5·6 per cent., of the members being returned as out of work. In Nottingham the iron dressers report employment as moderate; the iron-founders, with 21·5 per cent. idle, and the tool machinists as bad. Lace-machine building has improved, but hosiery-machine making is quiet. At Colwick fitters and engine repairers have gone on short time. The Cycle Trade is brisker.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report employment as improved in Nottingham, and quiet at Newark, Mansfield, Worksop, and Retford. In Nottingham the bricklayers, painters, plumbers, and slaters report employment as good; the stone-masons as improving; the mill sawyers as slack.

Railway Works.—Employment is slack at Colwick, Worksop, and Netherfield; fairly brisk at Toton Sidings and Mansfield; and good at Newark and Retford.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad; the lithographic printers and bookbinders as fairly good; the tailors and box-makers as improving; the bakers, boot and shoe-makers and wheelwrights as moderate; the farriers and gas workers as declining. Mantle-makers and ready-made clothing operatives are well employed. Cotton doublers and silk throwsters are on short time. Women cigar-makers are slack.—*W. L. Hardestaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—In the few towns and villages where the manufacturers are not members of the Employers' Federation, trade is brisk and work plentiful. But three-fourths of the shoe factories are closed both to union and non-union labour. The Leather and Shoe Mercery Trades are affected in consequence.

Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Spinning Trades.—Employment is better in the Hosiery Industry. The demand for yarns is greater, and in the wool-spinning mills employment is more regular in all branches.

Elastic Webbing Trades.—There is no improvement in the cord, braid and garter branches of this industry. Many of the operatives are still working short time. The demand for shoe web fabrics continues dull, and employment is slack.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—A larger number of engineers are unemployed. The electrical branch is the only department in which employment continues good. Business is slacker with shoe machinery makers, and only moderate with hosiery frame builders. It is slack with boiler-makers and iron-founders, and moderate with moulders. The cycle-makers are fully engaged.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal mining is still unsatisfactory. The stone quarrymen engaged in set-making are fairly well employed; the broken-stone branch is slack.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment is good among letterpress and lithographic printers. Bookbinders are also busy, overtime being worked in some instances.

Building Trades.—An improvement is noted in all branches, but business is disturbed by numerous applications for increased wages and changes in working rules. Employment is good with bricklayers, plumbers, glaziers, gasfitters and bell-hangers; improving with painters and house decorators; fairly good with carpenters and joiners; moderate with plasterers, stonemasons and builders' labourers. Brick, tile and terra-cotta workers are also getting busier.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good in the Wholesale Tailoring Trade, and improving in the bespoke branch. Work is irregular with dyers, trimmers and felt hatters, and fairly active with silk hatters; slack with railway wagon builders; improving with coach-makers, upholsterers, bakers, confectioners, mantle and dress-makers, and milliners. It is moderate with basket-makers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and gas-stokers; good with wool-sorters, out-door labourers, navvies and ironstone workers. It is slack with box-makers and railway workers, particularly in the goods and mineral departments, many draymen being on short time, or temporarily suspended, owing to the general stoppage of work in the Shoe Industry in this district.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—The improvement in the Pottery Trade has been fairly well maintained, and is noticeable both in the American and in the Colonial trade. The hollow-ware pressers report fewer unemployed, only 1 per cent. being out of work, but in several places short time is being worked. The sanitary-pressers report no change, with 1 per cent. unemployed. The flat-pressers report employment as slightly improved, the printers and transferers as unchanged. The women's union as still bad, with 2 per cent. unemployed. The ovenmen, kilnmen, saggar-makers, crate-makers, and packers report improvement.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Iron Trade in North Staffordshire shows little improvement, large numbers being still out of work and short time prevailing. The Steel Trade is better.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, boiler-makers and iron-founders in North Staffordshire report employment as unchanged, with 8 per cent. out of work at Stoke and Burslem, and 2 per cent. in the Engineering branch at Crewe, short time prevailing in both places. At Congleton there is no change. At Stafford one shoe-machinery firm employing 200 workmen is only working 30 hours per week, until the dispute in the Shoe Trade is settled. One engineering firm in this town is working overtime.

Textile Trades.—At Leek the slight improvement in the Silk Trade is maintained, 2 per cent. are still unemployed. At Congleton some firms are working overtime, others are on short time. At Cheadle trade is not quite so good.

Building Trades.—In the Potteries these trades have improved, and the plumbers are especially busy. The mill-sawyers are still on short time. The builders' labourers have a few unemployed. Employment is moderate at Stafford, better at Leek, but unchanged at Crewe.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In the Potteries the letterpress printers are still depressed, with 10 per cent. out of work; at Stafford employment is good. The lithographic artists and printers report trade as good; the bookbinders as moderate, with no unemployed in either case.

Miscellaneous.—The enginemen and stokers report no change. The railway servants at Stafford and Crewe report employment as bad, at Stoke as good. The tailors and brick and tile-makers report an improvement. The bakers have 5 per cent. out of work. At Stafford the gas-workers are fully employed; the boot and shoe-makers are exceptionally busy. At Stone the Boot and Shoe Trade is bad, and short time prevails.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—These trades remain unchanged. The puddlers are still slack, and many of the mill-rollers are only partially employed. Another furnace has been blown out at Walsall. Steel smelting is depressed, but has slightly improved. In South Shropshire, iron and steel works are generally on short time.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The improvement continues amongst the engineers and constructive machinists, and less than 2½ per cent. are unemployed. The tool-makers and machinists have also fewer unemployed. Iron door and safe makers are still slack. Bridge and girder, tank and boiler-makers are well employed. Overtime is still worked in the Cycle Trade. The Electrical Trades are busy. At the railway sheds in Wolverhampton, the men in all branches, except boiler-making, are only working five days per week. The heavy iron-founders report trade as bad.

Hardware Trades.—There is no general improvement in the Lock Trade, and in Walsall it has declined. The wrought nail-makers are slack, and there has been no improvement in the Chain, Vice and Anvil, Edge Tool, Fender and Iron Bedstead Trades. A slight improvement is reported in the Ironplate Trade in the Lye district; but there is none in the Tinplate Trade generally. Brass workers, japanners and galvanisers are slack, enamellers are steadily employed in some branches, and also iron hurdle and fencing-makers. File-smiths and file-cutters are moderately busy. The Steel Toy Trade is depressed. Makers of hinges, latches and catches are well employed. The Malleable Nail and Casting Trade is not so brisk, and the Tube Trade is generally depressed.

Coal Mining.—In the Cannock Chase district, coal mining has declined, about four days per week being worked on the average; but many are doing nothing. In the Black Country there is no improvement, and in South Shropshire employment has declined from six to five days a week.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers and labourers report employment as full; the slaters and tilers as busy; the masons as moderately so; the plasterers as improved; the painters and decorators as busier; the carpenters as slack. The plumbers are working overtime. The mill-sawyers and machinists have none out of work.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers are slack, with 5·3 per cent. out of work. Employment is fairly good amongst the oil, colour, and varnish-makers, crate-makers, rope and twine spinners, bakers and confectioners; moderate amongst the packing-case makers and coopers; improving amongst the boot and shoe-makers; declining amongst the gas stokers; slack amongst the cabinet-makers, upholsterers, coach-builders, smiths, and wheelwrights. The Glass Trade has improved at Wordsley and Stourbridge, but is quiet in Dudley and Brierley Hill. The Sanitary Pipe Trade in the Lye is steady. At Kidderminster, the Brussels weavers are reported to have about 8 per cent. unemployed, and many working short time. Several weaving sheds have been closed. The spinners are fully employed.—*W. F. Mee.*

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—The general Engineering Trade is bad, though at one place full time is being made. Smiths and strikers report employment as bad, with half the men on short time; the pattern-makers as quiet, only two firms being busy.

Brass and Copper Workers.—Employment is moderate on chandelier

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—EAST AND S.W. COUNTIES.

work and general gas-fittings; fairly good on electric fittings; slack on cabinet and general brass foundry; plumbers' brass founders are busier on water-fittings; the copper-workers are not well employed.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Ordinary jewellers are slack; large silver-workers have improved. Over the whole trade short time is general. Silversmiths are busier on table articles. The electro-platers report trade as quiet, the majority of firms working short time.

Other Metal-workers.—The bedstead-workers report improvement, but have 50 unemployed. Cycle work is getting busy. Metal-rolling and tube-drawing are slack. Tinplate work is improving. Wire-drawing is moderate. File-workers report improvement, the hand-cut branch being busiest; about two-thirds are on short time, and 3 per cent. are unemployed. Railway and ship lamp work is moderate. Ironplate work is slightly better, and steel toy work is good. Ammunition-workers are well employed.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers and stonemasons are now busy, and are mostly working an hour overtime per day. The plumbers are fully employed. The carpenters and joiners are slack, with 9 per cent. unemployed.

Furniture and Wood-working Trades.—The mill-sawyers and cabinet-makers report trade as quiet; the packing-case makers as improved, but with 10 per cent. unemployed.

Wagon and Carriage Building Trades.—These trades are reported as hopeful. Railway work is the busiest; private work slackest. Some are on short time, and 12 members are unemployed.

Other Trades in Birmingham.—The majority of the saddlers and harness-makers are on short time, and there are 10 per cent. unemployed. The letterpress printers report trade as moderate, with 30 members unemployed; the vegetable ivory button-workers as better, men making full time; the flint glass makers as still worse, with one-fourth of the members on the unemployed funds; the sheet glass workers as better, and bevellers and silverers as fairly good; the gas workers as declining.

Trades in South Staffordshire.—Iron and steel working is still at a low ebb. A large number of men are unemployed or on short time. The Sheet Trade is the busiest. Some of the Congreave's men are finding employment elsewhere, but 100 men and boys are still in receipt of charitable relief. On the award of the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board, iron-workers' wages remain as they are till June 1st. Bridge and constructive work is still fairly good, but most industries are depressed. Vice and anvil makers are working about half time. Employment is bad with locksmiths, but few are totally unemployed. The majority of the chain-workers are on short time, and about 250 are unemployed. Nail workers are also depressed. Brick, tile, and sewage pipe work is good. The Walsall trades are reported as bad; short time is the rule and many are unemployed.—*W. J. Davis.*

A report on *Coventry and North Warwickshire* states that the Building Trade is exceptionally busy, owing to the recent storm. Brick-makers, pipe-makers, and all kinds of clay-workers appear to be active. The general Engineering Trade is developing. The Cycle Trade is good, few workmen indeed being out of work, and many working overtime. The Watch Trade does not improve. The Ribbon Trade is busier. The Plush, Velvet, Woollen, Hosiery, and ready-made Clothing Trades are fairly well employed. Printers and paper workers are busy. The miners are working three to five days per week. The quarrymen are moderately busy.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers have been slack at Norwich; not quite so busy at Yarmouth; fairly busy at Thetford; busy at the Railway Works at Melton Constable. The boiler-makers at Norwich and Thetford are fairly busy, and at Beccles are working 10 hours' overtime per week. The ship carpenters in Yarmouth and district report employment as bad.

Textile Trades.—At both Norwich and Yarmouth the silk and crape factories are running full time.

Clothing Trades.—At Norwich the Boot and Shoe Trade has considerably improved, no firms are on short time; clickers and pressmen in some firms are working overtime. All the clothing factories are working full time, but are not busy. The tailors report employment as dull at Norwich and Yarmouth, bad at Cambridge, improving at Beccles.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report employment as bad at Cambridge and Lynn, dull at Norwich, Newmarket, and Dereham, fair at Lowestoft and Cromer, and good at Yarmouth.

The bricklayers report employment as bad at Cambridge, fair at Norwich and Cromer, good at Yarmouth; the plumbers as fairly good throughout the district; the painters, stonemasons, plasterers, and labourers generally as dull. Towards the end of the month many branches were busier on account of the damage caused by the gales.

Fishing.—The trawl fishing at both Yarmouth and Lowestoft has been steady.

Miscellaneous.—The printers at Norwich, Yarmouth, Fakenham, and Beccles are slack, with several unemployed. The cabinet-makers at Norwich report employment as dull, but improved; the coach-builders at Norwich, Beccles, and Halesworth as fairly busy; the brush-makers at Norwich and Diss as quiet, with several out of work in Norwich; the sail-makers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft are fairly busy.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report trade as moderate at Ipswich, Leiston, Wickham Market, and Colchester, with only 3 out of 298 members unemployed; as improved at Chelmsford, some men working overtime. At Bury St. Edmunds overtime also prevails. The moulders at one firm at Chelmsford are working overtime, and the boiler-makers at Ipswich report employment as moderate, with only one member idle.

Clothing Trades.—At Ipswich the Boot and Shoe Trades are reported as improving. In the Wholesale Clothing Trade a decided improvement is noted. The Tailoring Trade is reported as moderate at Colchester. Stay and corset makers at Sudbury and Ipswich are well employed, overtime being worked at one firm.

Mat and Silk Trades.—The mat weavers report employment as still bad at Sudbury; as moderate at Hadleigh; as good a Lavenham and Long Melford; as depressed at Glemsford. The Silk Industry continues good at Sudbury.

Building Trades.—At Ipswich the carpenters and joiners, with 5 per cent. idle, the bricklayers with 3 per cent., report trade as dull; the stonemasons, painters, and bricklayers' labourers as improved. Favourable reports come from Colchester, Bury St. Edmunds, and Chelmsford. Employment in these trades is bad at Hadleigh, moderate at Sudbury.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as improved at Ipswich, with 4 per cent. unemployed; as bad at Colchester; the general labourers as improved at both Ipswich and Colchester. Dock labour continues dull at Ipswich. Short time prevails with the cigar-makers. Employment is good at the sack and rick cloth manufactory at Ipswich.—*R. W. Mather.*

ENGLAND: SOUTH WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The pattern-makers and iron turners report employment as busy; the fitters, brass and iron-founders as moderate; the smiths and wagon-builders as improving. The engineers at Bath report employment as moderate; at Cheltenham as fairly good. At Swindon the moulders, boiler-makers, and general fitters are in full employment, but the engine-fitters, patternmakers, smiths, and brass finishers are only working five days per week.

Shipbuilding.—The shipwrights report trade as a little better, with 15·8 per cent. of their members unemployed.

Textile Trades.—At Wellington the sorters and those engaged in the dyeing department are reported as fully employed; the weavers and finishers as on three-quarter time. The Westford Mills continue busy. At Trowbridge the heavy woollen branch is reported as good; the trousering, both woollen and worsted, as improving slightly; the covert coating branch as fair. At Bradford employment is improving a little; at Westbury it is good. In the cloth factories at Stroud employment is reported as good. The cotton operatives at Bristol report employment as slack.

Clothing Trades.—Of the 321 members of three branches of unions rendering returns, six are stated to be totally unemployed. The bespoke tailors report trade as improving; the silk hatters as dull for the season; the ready-made clothing operatives as declining. Most of the boot and shoe makers are idle, owing to the dispute.

Building Trades.—Employment is now more active in most branches. The stonemasons, decorators, and painters report employment as brisk; the carpenters and joiners as fair, with 2 per cent. unemployed; the lath-renders as quiet. At Swindon the bricklayers and carpenters report employment as good; the painters as moderate. At Gloucester employment is reported as

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

fair with bricklayers and plasterers, and improving with carpenters and painters. At Bath these trades are reported as improving; at Cheltenham as brisk; at Stroud as quiet.

Coal Mining.—There is no change to report in the state of employment in the Bristol coal-field.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—At the docks corn porters have been slack, general cargo and fruit hands fairly busy.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The brush-makers and basket-makers are well employed; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers are becoming more slack; the coopers are dull except in the brewery branch. Box and packing-case making has improved. The Stick and general Wood-turning Trade at Stroud continues fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The returns received from four branches of societies in these trades, with an aggregate membership of 529, report 16, or 3 per cent., of their number as totally unemployed. The letterpress printers report trade as dull at the beginning, but good towards the end of the month; the lithographic printers as improving; the bookbinders as moderate. Employment in these trades at Bath is reported as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The glass bottle-makers report employment as dull; the curriers as steady; the bakers and confectioners as improving. Employment at the various quarries and brickfields in the district is opening out slowly. Gasworks are discharging hands.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and Clay Industry.—The depression in the Metal Mining Industry of Cornwall continues. The number of unemployed has been further increased by the closing of a mine; several have been employed by the local authorities at Redruth in making and repairing roads. In the Quarrying and Clay Industry employment is fair.

Engineering Trades.—The Engineering and kindred Trades continue to improve, and those engaged in the various branches are reported as fairly well employed throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made Clothing Trade has continued fairly busy; many thrown out of employment through the recent fire are now employed in temporary premises. The bespoke department has improved. The boot and shoe operatives at Plymouth, though not busy, are reported as fairly employed, but one firm has closed. The hand-sewn branch of the Boot Trade is not so well employed.

Building Trades.—There has been a great improvement, and the number of unemployed has been reduced. The masons, stone-cutters, bricklayers, and painters in Plymouth and district are fully employed and still in demand. The carpenters and joiners, plasterers and plumbers have fewer unemployed. In Exeter and district the Building Trades, with the exception of the bricklayers, have not shown much improvement. In Torquay and district employment in all branches is reported as bad.

Dock Labour and Shipping.—The imports for the month show an improvement. The coal porters have been busy, and the grain porters and general dock labourers have been better employed. The supply of seamen is greater than the demand.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers and kindred trades are still slack. The wheelwrights, coach-builders, smiths and saddlers report employment as fairly good; the cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers, and general furnishing trades as improved. The bakers have a number of unemployed. The Fishing Industry continues depressed. Builders' labourers are better employed, but a number of general labourers are unemployed.—*J. Welland.*

WALES.

Cardiff, Swansea, and South Wales District.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—At Newport some crews have accepted reductions in wages. The coal shipments have not been good, and the shipment of patent fuel, tin, rails, &c., has been dull. At Cardiff the imports of iron ore have been fairly large, of timber dull, and of corn almost nil. Unshipment at Barry has been fair, and the Timber Trade has been good. At Newport the dock hoppers and the regular men of the various wharves have been slack.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—These trades have been moderate, but declined during the last week of the month. The engineers report employment as bad amongst the fitters and turners. At the close of the month the engineers had 22 per cent. unemployed at Swansea; 7 per cent. at Newport; 5 per cent. at Cardiff and Barry; 20 per cent. at Llanelly. The boiler-makers regard trade as moderate, with 12 per cent. unemployed throughout the district from Milford to Chepstow, with a membership of 1,500. The fitters' helpers,

boiler-makers' helpers, and general labourers in the ship-repairing firms in Cardiff were exceptionally busy the first three weeks of March, and a great number worked four or five nights' overtime in a week. The shipwrights have been slack, but became busy towards the close of the month, and the demand for shipwrights in Cardiff was so great that workmen had to be obtained from elsewhere. Foundries and general engineering firms in the outlying and colliery districts are not so busy, owing to the unsettled state of the Tinplate and Coal Trades.

Iron and Steel Trades.—These trades are dull. Blaenavon Works, employing about 1,700 men, is only working about five days a week. One steel works has only one out of three large steel smelting furnaces working, but the men are sharing the work equally. At Ebbw Vale Works nearly every department is working short time. A light-rail mill and fish mill, employing about 300 men, are only working half-time. The engineering department is working five days a week only. The Dowlais and Cyfarthfa Works at Dowlais are extremely slack, but the New Dowlais Works at Cardiff seem to be busy.

Tinplate Trade.—This trade is still dull and unsettled, mills are constantly being stopped, and, in some cases, the periods for which reductions were to last have been extended. Movements have been going on both among employers and employed for some restriction of production.

Building Trades.—These trades have improved, but nearly every branch reports employment as bad. The carpenters and joiners average about 7 per cent. unemployed. The plumbers and lath-renders report employment as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—There is a slight improvement in the Patent Fuel Trade, and the Chemical Trade is more active. Copper smelting is moderate.—*T. Davies.*

A further report from *South Wales* states that since the settlement arrived at, continuing the present sliding scale agreement for the next eighteen months, the Coal Trade has displayed more activity, with an increased demand for steam coal for foreign shipment. In the Tinplate Trade half the works have been idle and others only partially employed. The Rail Trade is still depressed. There is no improvement in the finished Iron and Steel Trades, and the prospect of a revival seems to be remote.

South Wales Mining District.

Coal Mining.—The ballot of miners taken in accordance with the decision reported in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* for March (page 82) resulted in a majority of 17,246, out of 65,464 actual voters, in favour of withdrawing the six months' notice and negotiating for the continuance of the sliding scale. The employers have, therefore, withdrawn their notice to terminate contracts. The Steam Coal Trade has been brisk, and the collieries have been worked full time. The demand for house coal has diminished. In accordance with the report of the joint accountants for the two months ending February, a reduction in wages of 1¼ per cent. comes into force on the 1st of April, placing wages 18½ per cent. above the standard rates of 1879.

Tinplate Trade.—This trade continues unsettled. The Penclawdd Works have been closed. Eight hundred men are unemployed at the Dyffryn Works, Morriston, which are idle, and 600 at the Worcester and Upper Forest Works. Both the Foxhole and Birchgrove Works are giving no employment.—*W. Evans.*

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining.—In the Coal Trade in Mid and East Lothian the improvement noted is maintained, and the miners are generally working five days per week. In West Lothian from 9 to 10 days per fortnight have been the rule except in the Fauldhouse district, where some 500 men have only been working about half-time.

Mineral Oil Trades.—The Mineral Oil Industry continues brisk, and all sections are fully employed. At 19 shale mines in Mid and East Lothian the number of men employed was 2,476, or nearly 5 per cent. more than in March 1894.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The iron-moulders in both the Falkirk and Edinburgh districts report employment as bad in the heavy branches; in Edinburgh as improved; but in Falkirk as bad in the light branches. The engineers report trade as improved, most of the branches reporting employment as fair; the tin-smiths, gas-meter makers and pattern-makers report employment as fair; the blacksmiths as much improved in Edinburgh, and as dull in Leith; the brass-founders as dull; the copper-smiths as improving; the range-stove and ornamental fitters as fair in Falkirk. Returns from fifteen branches of unions show 12.1 per cent. idle.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

Shipbuilding.—Most of the shipyards on the Forth have been fairly busy, and the ship-joiners have been fairly well employed. In Leith and Kirkcaldy the boiler-makers report trade as good, with none unemployed. In Grangemouth work is reported at a standstill. The shipwrights in Leith have 12.7 per cent. idle.

Textile Trades.—The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as fair; the rope-workers in Leith as dull, only 36 hours' work per week being obtained. The Linen Industry in Dunfermline has slightly improved. In Hawick the hand-made Hosiery Branch continues dull, but machine work is busier. The Woollen Industry has hardly improved. Dyers have been slack.

Building Trades.—The plumbers, plasterers, and masons report employment as good; the joiners, painters, and bricklayers as fair; the glaziers and lath-splitters as bad.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as quiet generally, though some shops are fairly busy; the upholsterers as bad; the French polishers and brush-makers as improving. Returns from seven branches of unions show 4.6 per cent. out of work.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The Shipping Industry is somewhat better; the sailors and firemen report a reduction in the number out of work; dock labour is more plentiful; the coal porters report trade as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—The bookbinders report employment as depressed, with an increased number idle; the compositors and lithographic printers as good; the stereotypers, press and machine men, and lithographic artists as fair; the engravers as quiet. The typefounders continue to work only five days per week. Returns from seven branches of unions show 1.8 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors and shoe-makers, the coopers, with 8.7 per cent. idle, the coach-builders, with all on full time, the curriers, with less than 1 per cent. idle, report employment as improved; the saw-mill operatives as good; the indiarubber-workers, basket-makers and gilders as fair; the sett-makers, bakers, glass-cutters, and skimmers as quiet; the saddlers as dull but improving; the hatters as slack. Work with general labourers is more plentiful.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Coal Trade has improved, the steam coal collieries in particular having been busier than for several months past. In the gas coal branch of the trade, the state of employment is just the same as last month. The demand for house coal has diminished.

Shipbuilding.—In the Goyan district the yards are busier, but a dispute has again arisen between the shipwrights and the ship-joiners. In Greenock ship-building is fair, but several are unemployed. In Dumbarton ship-builders are busy.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The blast furnacemen are fully employed. The finished Iron and Steel Trades are fairly busy, but with a number unemployed. The steel-workers whose weekly wages are over 30s. have submitted to a reduction of 5 per cent., in accordance with the decision of the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation. In Airdrie trade is fair, with 5 per cent. idle.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, blacksmiths, iron-moulders, range, stove, and ornamental fitters, hammermen, iron-dressers, and pattern-makers all report employment as improved; the brass-moulders, enginemen, cranemen, firemen and cycle-makers as good; the file-cutters as fair the weighing machine and scale-beam-makers as dull; the horse-shoers as unchanged.

Building Trades.—All branches throughout the district report employment as good.

Wood-working Trades.—The joiners are now fairly busy. The cabinet-makers, coach-builders, saw-millers, coopers, wood-turners and wood-carvers all report improvement.

Textile Trades.—Cotton weaving generally is still slack, but fairly good in Paisley. The dyers report no improvement. The carpet-weavers generally are quiet, but busy in Paisley.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and tailoresses report a decided improvement. The clothiers' operatives are well employed. The Boot and Shoe Trade is still quiet.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report no improvement. Dock labourers are fairly employed.

Miscellaneous.—The spindle and flyer-makers have been fully employed. The wire-weavers are slack. The calico-engravers are still dull. The railway men and carters report employment as good; the gilders, brush-makers, glass-cutters, bookbinders, electrotypers, and stereotypers as improving; the lithographic

printers as moderate; the bottle-makers, curriers, and hair-dressers as dull; the letterpress printers and bakers report no improvement.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in these trades has been more satisfactory. The jute Trade shows marked improvement. The Floorcloth and Linoleum Trade of Kirkcaldy has been fairly busy. A small spinning mill in Rattray, which employed about 100 hands, has just been closed.

Coal Mining.—Employment has undergone very little change during the month, and remains in much the same languid condition as for some time back. At many of the collieries half time is still being wrought. With the opening of the Baltic ports an improvement is expected. The wages question has again come to the front, and notices have been posted at the collieries to the effect that after 23rd April the wages of miners will be reduced 12½ per cent.; of other underground workers in proportion; and of surface-workers by 2d. per day.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The improvement in the Engineering Trade has been maintained. Employment with turners and machine-workers continues good, and with fitters fairly good. The engineers return 4.8 per cent. unemployed. The blacksmiths report trade as good, with about 4 per cent. idle; the iron-moulders as bad, with a considerable number unemployed. The shipbuilding yards have been busy. The boiler-makers return 11 per cent. unemployed and the shipwrights 50 per cent.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade has improved, and the operatives are well employed. Operatives in the Boot and Shoe Trade are also well employed.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades as a whole continue brisk. The masons, joiners, plasterers, plumbers, and slaters all make favourable reports. The Painting Trade has improved, but several of the men have left the city for work elsewhere, as the dispute with the employers remains unsettled. The saw-millers and wood-cutting machinemens report employment as good; the builders' labourers as busy.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as satisfactory; the bookbinders as fair; the cabinet-makers as still slack; the bakers as steady; the paviors as good; the dock and general labourers as dull.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—Quarrymen are now working full time, and are busy. The sett-makers report employment as good. Monumental work is gradually improving, but retarded for want of material. Granite polishers have resumed full time.

Building Trades.—These trades are busy. All branches report favourably, except the plasterers, who have stopped work for an advance in wages.

Fishing.—In March the trawl boats landed 27,146 cwts., realizing £16,276, and line boats 13,571 cwts., realizing £6,804, a decrease in quantity landed, but an increase in value realized as compared with February.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—No improvement has taken place in shipbuilding. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, with 52.7 per cent. idle, the shipwrights, with 18.1 per cent., the blacksmiths, with 6.9 per cent., the iron moulders, with 16.5 per cent., the pattern-makers, with 10 per cent., all report employment as bad; engineers are dull. Tinplate-workers are moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as still improving, with 5 per cent. idle; the lithographic printers as moderate, with 9.5 per cent. idle; the cork cutters as bad; the bakers as dull; the hand-sewn boot and shoe-makers, bookbinders, carpet weavers, turners, comb-makers, and flax and jute workers as moderate; the upholsterers, boot and shoe riveters and finishers, cabinet-makers, tailors, dock and general labourers as improved; the cotton and paper-workers as fair; the rope and twine spinners, hemp dressers, coach-builders, and wood-carvers as good. *W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

General.—Employment in Dublin for the month has been dull. Out of 55 societies, with a total of 16,275 members, 1,217, or 7.5 per cent., were unemployed during the month. Eight societies return trade as good, 27 as fair, 1 as moderate, 15 as bad, and 4 as dull.

Building Trades.—Employment is still dull among nearly all sections of these trades, but is becoming more general. Of the 2,879 members connected with these trades making returns, 737, or 25.6 per cent., were unemployed during the month. The plasterers, bricklayers, slaters, and plumbers report trade as fair. In Drogheda and the Curragh districts building operations are still dull.

Wood-working and Furnishing Trades.—Employment among the upholsterers is bad; with the coopers, coach-builders, and cabinet-makers fair; amongst the saddlers slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, boiler-makers, and whitesmiths report employment as bad; the brass-finishers as dull. Out of 681 members of these societies making returns, 121, or 17·8 per cent., are unemployed.

Provision Trades.—Out of 1,378 members of four societies making returns, 175, or 12·7 per cent., are unemployed, and all branches report trade as fairly good.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and boot-makers report no change, with a large number idle in both trades. Dressmakers were slack in the early part of the month, but an improvement has set in.

Printing and allied Trades.—Dullness characterised the letterpress printers; 220 signed the unemployed roll for the month, and 86, or 9·9 per cent., drew the out-of-work allowance. Employment was dull with the lithographers, bookbinders, and machine-rulers; fair with the stereotypers, paper-cutters, machine-minders and book-folders.

Miscellaneous.—Employment has been fair with the bottle-makers, organ-builders, corn millers, textile and tobacco-workers, laundresses, and stationary engine drivers; good with the tram men, railway servants, fishermen, dock labourers, and coal labourers; dull with the basket-makers, brush-makers, and cork cutters.—*J. P. Nanmetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—The number of unemployed has been considerably reduced. The returns received from 56 societies, with a membership of 18,626, show 956, or 5·1 per cent., to be unemployed, as against 1,348, or 7·4 per cent. of the membership in February.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 8,057 members employed in these trades from whom returns have been received, 376, or 4·7 per cent., are said to be signing the out-of-work book, as against 553, or 6·8 per cent. of the membership in February. The Iron-founders, Engineers, and Furnishing Trades report employment as bad; the brass-founders, shipwrights, carpenters and joiners as dull; the blacksmiths' strikers and helpers as moderate; the pattern-makers as steady; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, general labourers and platers' helpers as improving; the blacksmiths, enginemens, cranemen, and firemen as fair; the machine-workers as good.

Linen Trades.—Of the 4,128 members in these industries, 276, or 6·7 per cent., are reported to be unemployed, as against 288, or 7·0 per cent. of the membership at the end of February. The flax roughers report employment as bad; the power-loom tenters, power-loom yarn dressers, and spindle and flyer-makers as dull; the women-workers as quiet; the hackle and gill-makers as improving; and the beetling enginemens, flax dressers, and linen lappers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Of the 709 members of societies employed in these trades 4 are unemployed. The tailors report trade as quiet.

Building Trades.—Out of the 2,465 employed in the Building Trades, 159, or 6·5 per cent., are out of work, as against 324, or 13·1 per cent. of the membership in February. The carpenters and joiners and plasterers report employment as dull; the bricklayers' and plasterers' assistants, mill-sawyers and machinists, plumbers, painters, and bricklayers as fair.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—In this group of 7 trades, with 490 members, 37, or 7·6 per cent., are stated to be unemployed, as against 50, or 10·4 per cent. of the membership, in February. The French polishers report employment as bad; the coach-builders as dull; the brush-makers and cabinet-makers as quiet; the packing-case makers as fair; and the coopers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The four societies forming this group, with a membership of 786, report 49, or 6·2 per cent., as unemployed, as against 53, or 6·8 per cent. of the membership in February. The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the bookbinders and machine rulers as fair; and the lithographic printers and artists as good.

Miscellaneous.—In this group of 9 societies, with a membership of 1,991, 55, or 2·8 per cent., are unemployed, as against 75, or 4·9 per cent. of the membership in February. The butchers report employment as bad; the tinplate-workers as dull; the carters, the railway servants, and the hotel and club assistants as fair; the locomotive engine drivers and paviors as good; and the bakers as exceptionally good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron-ship builders in Cork and Passage West report trade as good, and in Limerick as fair. The engineers, smiths, and iron-moulders in Cork, Limerick and Waterford report trade as bad in all branches.

Building and Wood-working Trades.—The masons, plasterers, stone-cutters, stucco-workers, bricklayers and labourers, report employment as fair; the painters as improving; the carpenters, mill-sawyers, wood-cutting machinists and coopers as steady; the cabinet-makers, plumbers, and gasfitters as dull.

Food and Clothing.—The beef and pork butchers, bacon curers, and creamery operatives report employment as good; the bakers and tailors as bad. Flax and tweed operatives in Millfield, Blarney, and Douglas are exceptionally busy. Down and feather operatives are well employed. Boot and shoe operatives are fairly busy. The drapers' establishments are busier.

Fishing.—The salmon fishery has been backward; preparations are being made for mackerel fishing which will begin shortly.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers, bookbinders, railway employees (including drivers, firemen, and porters), brewery-men and gas-workers report employment as good; the cork-cutters, tin-smiths, Corporation employees and quay labourers as fair. The Cycle Trade is improving.—*P. O'Shea.*

DISPUTE IN THE BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

THE last number of the LABOUR GAZETTE gave an account of the events leading to the stoppage in the Boot and Shoe Trade up to March 13th. At that time the whole of the operatives employed by the members of the Federated Associations of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers were under notice to cease work at the end of the week, and a considerable number of piece-workers, estimated at about 10,000, had already been withdrawn from employment by the National Union. In spite of all efforts to prevent the stoppage, the notice of a general lock-out took effect on March 16th, and since that time a great proportion of boot and shoe operatives in the chief English centres of the industry have been idle.

Reports received about April 10th from the chief districts affected show that at that time a total number of about 46,000 operatives were directly affected by the dispute in those districts. About 21,000 were in the Leicester district, 8,000 in Northampton and district, 3,000 in Kettering and neighbourhood, 3,000 in the remaining districts of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, 4,000 in London, 3,000 in Bristol and Kingswood, 2,500 in Leeds and Bramley, 650 in Birmingham, and the remainder in other centres. The total number includes about 17,000 women, girls and boys. Stafford, Stone, Wellingborough, and Hinckley, and with a slight exception, Norwich, have continued at work.

Soon after the beginning of the dispute several attempts at mediation were made, that which attracted the greatest amount of attention being a proposal made by Mr. Labouchere, M.P., on March 10th, that the questions in dispute should be referred to an arbitration board consisting of five gentlemen unconnected with the trade, whose names he suggested. The proposal, however, was not accepted by the Employers' Federation.

On March 27th a letter was addressed to the secretaries of both organisations by Sir Courtenay Boyle, Permanent Secretary of the Board of Trade, inviting them to send four representatives on each side to a preliminary and informal conference to be held at the Board of Trade, with the view of discussing the possibility of discovering a method for the settlement of the dispute. This invitation being accepted by both sides, the conference met on Thursday, April 4th, the representatives of the employers present being:—Mr. J. G. Ward, Chairman of the Federation, Mr. Hickson, of Northampton, Mr. Lilley, of London, and Mr. Lennard, of Leicester.

The National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives was represented by Mr. Inskip (the General Secretary), Mr. Hornidge (the President of the Union), and Mr. Stanton (Northampton), and Mr. Votier (London). Sir Courtenay Boyle took the chair.

The Conference occupied from 12.30 till 5 p.m. on Thursday, and from 11 till 4.30 on Friday, and agreement was arrived at on several important points. The Conference was then adjourned until Thursday, April 11th, to afford the representatives of the manufacturers an opportunity of consulting in the meantime with their colleagues.

The text of the resolutions agreed to on the first two days of the Conference is given below:—

"(1) That for the convenience of this Conference all proposals of either side, including the seven proposals of the Employers, be suspended during the Conference, each side being open to introduce any subject affecting the interests of either employers or workmen.

"(2) That it is desirable and necessary to provide financial guarantees for duly carrying out the awards of arbitration, and that Sir Courtenay Boyle be requested to ascertain the feasibility of the plan of depositing certain sums in the hands of trustees, or otherwise for that purpose.

"(3) This Conference is of opinion that a piece-work statement, or statements for lasting and finishing machine workers, and those working in connection therewith, is desirable. Such statements to be based on the actual capacity of an average workman. Any manufacturer to have the option of adopting piece-work or to continue day-work: it being understood that the whole of the operatives working in any one department shall be put on one or the other system. Heeling and sewing to be regarded as separate departments."

The following is the full text of the proposals submitted to the Conference on behalf of the Union:—

"1st. With a view to making it possible for negotiations to be opened up, it is necessary that the seven commandments should be withdrawn.

"2nd. That in all future disputes full powers be given both by the Federation and the Union to local Boards of Arbitration to deal with the various disputes as they arise, in accordance with the rules and arrangements governing such local centres.

"3rd. That the clickers' minimum wage of 28s. per week and the pressmen's minimum wage of 26s. per week should come into operation forthwith in all centres where the minimum wage is less than 28s. and 26s. respectively.

"4th. The Executive are prepared to withdraw the piece-work statement submitted, on consideration that a committee, composed of an equal number of employers and workmen, shall be appointed at once and proceed *de die in diem* to draft a piece-work statement in conjunction with machinery, the said committee to have power to appoint an umpire to whom all questions in dispute shall be submitted, and whose decision shall be final and binding upon both sides.

"5th. The Executive are prepared to withdraw the weltd statement as submitted to the employers at Northampton on condition that a committee with similar powers be appointed as in claim 4.

"6th. Country labour. That the conference of representatives of employers and workmen, or a special committee appointed for the purpose, lays down a system to control country labour on the lines as suggested by Mr. Inskip in his speech at the Rutland Hall Rink, Leicester, on March 12th.

"7th. That before a settlement is arrived at or an armistice arranged, all clickers, pressmen, lasters, and finishers now working for any firm affected by the lock-out shall be discharged prior to the men resuming work."

Meetings of the Executive of the Union and of the Leicester and Kettering Manufacturers were held on Monday, April 8th, at which resolutions were passed approving of what had taken place at the Conference.

The Executive of the Employers' Federation met on April 9th and 10th, followed by a meeting of delegates from the federated associations. The proposals of the Union were considered, and the following counter proposals were drawn up for submission to the adjourned Conference:—

"That where a minimum wage has been fixed and is in operation the question of advancing or reducing the same shall not be referred to Arbitration for two years from December 1894, unless an umpire shall have first decided that the same may be re-opened and referred to Arbitration.

"That the statement for weltd work submitted at Northampton be withdrawn, and that a joint committee of employers and employed be formed to draft a statement on the principle laid down in Rule III, viz., 'The statement shall be based on the actual capacity of an average workman.' This committee to be appointed upon the completion of the piece-work statement for machinery, employers to have the option of paying by day-wages or piece-work.

"That all manufacturers in a centre shall be treated with equality in regard to the wages and conditions which may be established or amended from time to time by the Board of Arbitration for such centre.

"That, subject to the foregoing resolutions, all questions concerning wages, hours of labour, and conditions of employment which it is found impossible to settle mutually between employers and employed shall be referred to arbitration in the districts where such disputes arise. That with this object, local Boards of Arbitration shall be immediately formed in each centre represented in the Employers' Federation.

"That questions relating to the engagement and discharge of workpeople, the internal management of factories and workshops and the arrangement of operations therein, the adoption of either piece or day-work wages where both are sanctioned, the introduction of machinery, the manufacture of goods in whole or in part in any town or place, provided the recognised wages in such town or place are paid, are within the sole province of the employer and shall not be made subjects of dispute, and no question arising thereunder shall be dealt with by the Arbitration Boards."

The adjourned Conference met at the Board of Trade on Thursday, April 11th. After discussion lasting from 11 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., it was not found possible to arrive at a final settlement, and it was agreed to adjourn again until Thursday, April 13th. At the end of the Conference the Chairman handed to both sides the following draft resolution for consideration:—

"That the various local Boards of Arbitration and Conciliation be reconstituted, and that the rules be at once revised by a joint committee with a view to greater uniformity. Pending the completion of this revision the former rules to remain in force, but only questions of classification and other minor local questions not involving matters of principle to be entertained in the meantime."

"That it be an instruction so to draw up the rules, as to allow of the least interference in the management of a factory, consistent with the right of the workmen to safeguard the conditions under which they work."

A resolution dealing with the provision of materials by employers was also submitted.

CO-OPERATION IN THE VILLAGE INDUSTRIES OF RUSSIA.*

A STRONG tendency to combine for purposes connected with the industries which they carry on has long prevailed among Russian workmen, and has manifested itself in the formation of co-operative groups, known as "artels." The details which follow relate to the "artels" organised by peasants, who supplement the income which they derive from their land by engaging in some branch of small manufacturing industry.

(1) "*Artels*" for procuring Raw Materials.—It is chiefly in the Wood-working Trades that these associations prevail, their existence being attributable to the difficulty experienced in procuring materials, owing to the poverty of the peasantry, and the absence of any organised system of credit. In the government of Nijnii-Novgorod, where 40,000 persons are engaged in Wood-working and accessory Trades, the wood is purchased from the State or private landowners by "artels" of from 10 to 20 men, or in some cases by the whole village community; each person receives a share of the timber proportionate to his contribution, and works it up by himself, the functions of the "artel" ceasing with the distribution of the timber.

(2) "*Artels*" for the joint use of Workshops or Appliances.—Generally speaking, it is only the poorest amongst the peasantry who form "artels" of this type, which are most common in trades in which the cost of raw material is small, e.g., in the manufacture of nails, pottery, sleighs, and carts. Members of an "artel" of this kind either use the joint property of the association simultaneously (e.g., nail forges), or in turn (e.g., ovens for baking pottery ware), the current expenses being borne by the whole "artel." Thus, in the Nail Trade in the government of Nijnii-Novgorod (where the forges belonging to private owners are fewer in number and less prosperous than those owned by "artels") 15 men, each working independently, make common use of the same forge, the coal consumed being paid for in common, and one member acting as bellows-blower, for which he receives a small sum from each of the others for the season.

(3) "*Artels*" for Disposal of Goods.—These are of two kinds: (a) for the joint sale of the finished products, and (b) for the joint acceptance of orders, or for fixing the conditions subject to which orders, to be carried out by members working separately, shall be accepted. "Artels" exist, for example, for the hiring of booths at fairs, and of wagons for conveying goods to market. Again, in one district a whole village receives orders for baskets for use in glass-works in the vicinity, the price paid for the baskets being divided in proportion to the work done by each person. But the spread of any organised methods for ensuring profitable sale is greatly hampered by the poverty of the peasantry, and their indebtedness to middlemen, or "foggers," to whom they are bound to sell. For this reason the efforts of the local administrations to benefit them by establishing depots and advancing money on goods deposited there

* Based on a series of articles recently published by the Russian Ministry of Finance in its organ the *Vjstnik Financoff*; see also the *GAZETTE* of November 1893, p. 172.

have failed, such advances being always less than what could be realised by immediate sale.

(4.) *Labour "Artels."*—In most of the trades in which the Russian peasants are engaged, the work is such as can be performed by the unassisted labour of a single family; but in some trades it is necessary to call in the assistance of a number of men of the same craft. For the purpose of obtaining this labour the heads of the different families form themselves into a "pomotch" (an informal association), which renders assistance, generally by working a number of hours a week at the house of each of its members in turn. Associations of this type are most prevalent in the Sleigh and Cart-making Industries, in which they assist in the processes of bending sleigh runners, wheel tyres, and shaft bows. It is probable that, in more than half of the village industries, the usual producing unit is the family group, with or without the temporary assistance of the "pomotch."

Where the work can only be done by the continuous exertions of a number of adult workers, recourse must be had either to hired labour or to "artels." Such is the case in the Quarrying and Mining Industries, in which the peasantry engage to a large extent. In the Quarrying Industry a greater amount of work is done under the "artel" system than by hired labour. Some "artels" limit their operations to the quarrying of the stone; others also work it up (e.g., into mill-stones), before selling it. The quarries are leased by "artels" from private owners, or from village communes. The funds required for the purchase of plant have sometimes to be borrowed. The profits are shared among the members at the end of the season. Peasants who engage in coal-mining generally form "artels" for the purpose. In one district, which included 11 villages, there were, in 1885, 83 coal-pits worked by "artels," and 7 by peasant families. Out of 729 persons engaged in these workings, only 27 were hired workers. In another district, embracing 22 villages, there were 107 coal-working "artels," with 540 members. "Artels" usually work coal on the land of the community, either free, or in consideration of a certain quantity of coal being furnished for use in the communal buildings; but in some cases they hire land from private owners, paying for the right to mine the coal either in money or in coal. The funds required are sometimes raised by peasants selling the product of their labour in advance at a reduced price to a middleman; in other cases, one member pays the part of the expenses due from a fellow-member, and is repaid as the coal is sold, receiving a certain measure of coal as interest (generally at about 8 per cent. per annum).

In the State gold mines of the Ural, "artels" of "starateli," consisting of from 5 to 10 miners, engage in mining and prospecting, and are paid by the State authorities in proportion to their find. "Artels" of this type sometimes find it necessary to hire outside labour.

Labour "artels" are also general in the itinerant trades, one reason for this being that, as a rule, only one member of each family engages in migratory labour.

THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE AND THE SLIDING SCALE.

On March 28th and 29th, a meeting of the Sliding Scale Joint Committee was held in London, and the representatives of the miners announced the result of the voting to be as follows:—

For continuing the Scale ...	41,355
For Conciliation Board ...	24,109

It was accordingly agreed to recommend that the sliding scale should continue in force until September 30th 1896, being terminable by a six months' notice to be given by either side not earlier than April 1st 1896, and henceforth until either party gives six months' notice, in accordance with the agreement of February 17th 1893. On April 8th a general conference of South Wales and Monmouthshire Miners' representatives was held in Cardiff to consider the report of the negotiations with the employers. The report was approved by 55 votes to 14.

There seems, however, to be some dissatisfaction among the hauliers at the present position of affairs.

The hauliers and wagemen are not represented on the Sliding Scale Committee, and they claim the right to send a representative to the Committee as a condition of their acceptance of the sliding scale. In a few cases stoppages have been caused by this class of men.

THE SITUATION IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

THE Conference between representatives of the Central Association of Master Builders of London and delegates from the various trades, which was adjourned from the 11th March, took place at the offices of the Association on March 19th, when the proposed amended working rules for the London district were further considered (see GAZETTE for November 1894, page 336, and March 1895, page 82).

The employers proposed to make it a condition that the following should be inserted as a preamble to the working rules:—

"That no workman shall be placed under any disability by reason of being or not being a member of a trade society.

"That no objection shall be raised to sub-letting work provided these rules are observed."

To these proposals the delegates from the Trade Unions declined to agree, and as neither side would give way the Conference dissolved without arriving at any arrangement.

At the present time the federated societies are taking a vote upon the following points:—

"Are you in favour of accepting the above rules as additions to the present working rules?"

"Are you determined to stand by the working rules as agreed to in 1892?"

"It must be clearly understood that in the event of the Rules as set forth above not being accepted, there will be no agreement arrived at between the trades and employers."

Should no agreement be arrived at, the whole of the working rules will lapse after the end of April.

DISPUTE IN THE MANTLE TRADE IN EAST LONDON.

IN the Ready-made Ladies' Tailoring and Mantle-making Trade in East London, about 1,000 persons are employed in workshops managed by Jewish employers, who work for City houses. The United Ladies' Tailors and Mantle-makers' Union includes about 620 paying members. Considerable friction has for some time existed between individual members of the workmen's union and of the employers' association, with the result that the former issued a circular calling the attention of the City manufacturers to the advantages to be obtained by directly employing mantle-makers in the ready-made branch on their own premises, instead of giving out work to middlemen to be done in East London workshops. This action of the Union was followed by a resolution of the Employers' Association on March 9th to lock out union workmen. The lock-out began on March 24th.

On April 7th the two societies agreed, through their officials, to send delegates to a meeting to be held under the auspices of the London Conciliation Board on April 11th. This meeting was duly held, but neither side being authorised to come to terms, it was adjourned, after a lengthy discussion, until April 22nd.

AGRICULTURAL ANNUAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

GENERALLY speaking, the wages of men remained about the same as in 1894. There was usually a good demand for men with women workers, but those without had sometimes to take a slightly lower rate of wage. Those who remained on in their places were taken on at the old rates, and there were fewer changes than usual.

There was usually a considerable demand for women, and at several markets they obtained a rise in wages.

Haddingtonshire.—*Haddingtonshire and Dunbar.*—Rates of wages for men were generally similar to those paid in 1894, though there was sometimes a slight downward tendency in the case of those who changed places, but changes were less numerous than usual.

There was a keen demand for women workers, and their wages generally rose 1s. a week.

Cash Wages per Week.	s. d.	Annual Value of Perquisites.	
		£	s. d.
Cattleman	17 0	House and Garden ...	4 0 0
Orramen	16 0	Cartage of Coals ...	1 6 0
Hinds ... 15s. to	16 0	Potatoes	4 0 0
		Harvest	1 4 0
		Manure for Garden frequently given ...	0 6 0

Women ... 8s. to 10 0
During corn harvest 12 0
" potato " 14 0

Berwickshire.—The supply of men was rather greater than the demand, but the wages remained about the same as in 1894. Men with two or more women workers received the higher rates of pay, and had also extra potatoes.

Cash Weekly Wages.	s. d.	Annual Value of Perquisites.	
		£	s. d.
Hinds (Berwick) 16s. to 18s.	18 0	House and Garden ...	£4.
" (Duns) ... 15s. to 17s.	17 0	Cartage of Coal ...	£1 to £1 4s.
		Potatoes	£4 to £5.

Boys (to drive odd horses) 9s. to 11s.
If a cow's keep was given, wages were 3s. a week less.
Women got from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. a day all the year round, with extras at harvest; or 1s. 6d. in winter, and 1s. 8d. in summer, with £1 extra in harvest; or 1s. 8d. for nine months, and 1s. 6d. for three months, with 30s. in harvest. Payment was occasionally made on the "boll" system. (See LABOUR GAZETTE, April 1894.)

Roxburghshire.—*Kelso, Jedburgh, Hawick, and St. Boswells.*—Men's wages were generally similar to those obtained in 1894. Women workers at Kelso were in great request.

Cash Weekly Wages.	s. d.	Perquisites.	
		£	s. d.
Hinds	15s. to 16s.*	House and garden ...	£4 to £5
		Potatoes	£3 to £4
		Coals carted	£1 6s.

Women (10s. in summer) 20s. to 30s.
" (9s. in winter... ..) in harvest.
(a few 10s. throughout the year)

Boys... .. 9s.
At Kelso hiring market the following wages on the "boll" system were obtained:—

Case 1.—Cash £10, 4 bolls of barley, 5 loads of oatmeal, 22 bags of potatoes and a cow's keep; the woman worker 10s. a week in summer and 9s. in winter, with £1 for harvest; the boy 9s. a week.

Case 2.—Cash £18, 55 stone of barley meal, 60 stone of oatmeal, a cow's keep and potatoes; the woman worker 10s. in summer and 9s. in winter with extra in harvest.

Edinburgh.—*Dalkeith.*—Men's wages were generally about the same as in 1894. Women were in demand, and their wages were slightly increased.

Cash Weekly Wages.	s. d.	Perquisites.	
		£	s. d.
Hinds	16s. to 17s.	House and garden ...	£5
		Potatoes	36s. to 46s.
		Harvest	£1 5s.
		Coals carted, about	£1
Women	8s. to 10s., and extra in harvest.		

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN MARCH.

The Recent Sanitary Pressers' Dispute.

SINCE the last issue of the GAZETTE, the dispute which had existed for some months at the Cliffe Vale Potteries has been arranged. It will be remembered that it arose from a disagreement as to the price to be paid for a new kind of basin which was not provided for in the firm's price list. As reported in p. 83 of last month's GAZETTE, the question was referred to the arbitration of the Rt. Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., before whom the parties met at the works on March 18th.

After hearing the statements and evidence brought forward by both sides the arbitrator made certain recommendations with a view to obtaining a mutual agreement between the disputants. In this, however, he was not immediately successful and undertook to give his decision in the course of a few days. But, shortly after, Mr. Mundella received a joint letter from the firm and the representatives of the men announcing that, acting on the suggestion made by him, the parties had entered further into negotiations, with the result that terms of settlement had been finally agreed to.

The Durham Coal Trade Conciliation Board.

With reference to the announcement on page 83 of the March LABOUR GAZETTE, the President of the Board of Trade on 19th March appointed the Right Hon. Lord Davey to act as umpire of the Durham Coal Trade Conciliation Board.

* In addition to the above wages, dinner in harvest is usually given. In the case of those who had the keep of a cow, cash wages were 12s. to 13s.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA CONCILIATION ACT 1894.

THIS Act, which has recently come into operation in South Australia, permits the registration of organisations of employers or employed [(a) Unions, and (b) Associations, i.e., federations of Unions], the effect of such registration being to render the organisation and its members subject to the jurisdiction of the "Boards of Conciliation," and bound by the industrial agreements and awards referred to in the Act; enables industrial agreements to be made between such organisations, or between such organisations and any other persons, or between any persons whomsoever, such agreements to be binding on the parties thereto, and all members of any such organisation party thereto and on every person concurring therein, and enforceable by fine; and provides for the formation of private and public "Boards of Conciliation." Private Boards, constituted by industrial agreement, have such jurisdiction as may be confided to them by such agreement, and except so far as modified thereby, have similar powers to Public Boards. Local Boards (for particular localities and industries) may be constituted under licences granted by the Governor on petition, proof being given that their formation is desired by at least one-half respectively of the employers and employed concerned. The members of a Local Board (whose number is to be fixed by its licence) other than the chairman, are to be elected annually (no person being liable to have his name entered on the electoral roll except on his written application), one-half by the employers, one-half by the employees concerned, and shall elect some other person as chairman. The State Board is to consist of seven members appointed by the Governor, of whom three may be recommended by registered organisations of employers and three by similar organisations of employees, while the remaining member is to be President of the Board, amongst whose duties is that "of reconciling the parties to industrial disputes in all cases in which it shall appear to him that his mediation is desirable in the public interest;" in special cases the Governor, on the application of the President, may appoint persons having special qualifications in addition to, or in substitution for, the ordinary members. Every Public Board is to endeavour to secure a settlement of "any industrial dispute of which it shall have cognizance" (for which purpose it may appoint a committee of conciliation consisting of representatives on the Board of employers and employees in equal numbers), failing which it shall decide the question by an award. All Boards (public or private) "shall have full powers for requiring and compelling the attendance and examination of witnesses." Any industrial dispute between (registered) organisations may be referred by the Governor, on the recommendation of the President, to the State Board for settlement by "compulsory conciliation." The President has power to refer from a Local to the State Board any dispute which he thinks will "be more satisfactorily disposed of by" that body.

The award of every Local Board and of the State Board in matters referred to it from a Local Board by the President shall, unless otherwise expressed therein, "be binding during the period thereof on all employers and employees in the particular locality and industry for which the Local Board is constituted, and whose names are entered on the electoral roll of the Local Board at the time of the making of the award." Every award of any Board may be enforced by full legal process against all (registered) organisations and all persons affected or concerned, and all members of such organisations, the property of any such organisation being liable to be seized in execution under such process. "Any person wilfully making default in compliance with any award, unless such award shall otherwise direct, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, punishable" by fine up to £20, or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, up to three months.

The provisions for enforcement of awards are applicable also to the enforcement of industrial agreements (unless therein negative or limited). It is an offence, punishable by fine (in the case of an organisation up to £500, or in the case of an individual up to £20), for any (registered) organisation or any of its members to "counsel, take part in, support, or assist directly or indirectly" any lock-out or strike on account of any dispute for the settlement of which any Board has jurisdiction. In cases in which this course is advised by the President, the Governor may order a dispute, instead of being otherwise dealt with, to be reported upon by the State Board, the report not being enforceable as an award; and, generally, all Boards have power to publish reports instead of making awards. The Act also provides for the appointment of a Minister of Industry, an Industrial Registrar, and "such other officers as shall be required to carry out the purposes of this Act."

STATISTICS OF MINES IN 1894.

THE Home Office has published some statistics of the working of mines in 1894.* The information contained therein is summarised below.

The total number of deaths resulting from accidents in and about coal mines was 1,127, or 67 more than in 1893. This corresponds to a death rate of 1.60 per 1,000 employed, as against 1.55 in the previous year. The highest death rates were 6.33 in the Lincolnshire ironstone mines, and 4.78 in South Wales. The accidents and the deaths arising therefrom are grouped as follows:—

	No. of separate accidents.	No. of Deaths.
Explosions of fire-damp or coal dust ...	22	317
Falls in mine ...	434	444
Accidents in shafts ...	69	77
Miscellaneous underground ...	176	177
On surface... ..	112	112
Total	813	1,127

The unusually large number of deaths from explosions is almost entirely due to the explosion in the Albion Collieries, Cilfynydd, on June 23rd, in which 278 men were killed. With this exception, the accidents (as the above table shows) were all small, although in the aggregate causing a considerable number of deaths.

The following table shows the number of accidents occurring underground in each hour after the beginning of each shift. It should be noted, however, that comparatively few men are employed in the later hours of the shift.

1st hour	75	9th hour	44
2nd "	93	10th "	22
3rd "	90	11th "	10
4th "	65	12th "	2
5th "	99	More than 12 ...	3
6th "	76	Unknown	1
7th "	64		
8th "	57		

Similar information with regard to metalliferous mines shows that there were 39 separate accidents, causing 46 deaths, as compared with 39 accidents, causing 65 deaths, in the previous year. Of these, 13 were from falls of ground, 16 from accidents in the shafts, 6 from accidents on the surface, and 11 from miscellaneous causes. The corresponding death rate is 1.36 per 1,000 employed, as against 1.78 in the previous year.

(2) **Persons employed and Output.**—The total number of persons employed in mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act is returned at 705,240, the number in 1893 being 683,008. Of these 569,678 are employed below ground, 59,440, or 8.4 per cent. of the total number employed, are below the age of 16, 47,172 of these being employed below ground. In all, 4,583 females are employed. The total number employed in metalliferous mines is returned as 33,857, as against 35,739 in the previous year.

Summary table showing the number of persons employed in, and the output of coal in 1893 and 1894 from mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act:—

DISTRICTS.	Number of Persons employed.†		Output of Coal (in tons).	
	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.
England and Wales:—				
Northumberland... ..	33,698	32,219	9,541,199	9,112,788
Durham	102,697	99,487	32,556,924	30,819,070
South Wales and Monmouthshire	124,655	117,989	33,415,344	30,154,739
Other districts in England and Wales	349,514	347,641	91,166,900	68,650,602
Total	610,474	591,336	166,683,367	138,737,199
Scotland	93,818	90,825	21,481,554	25,482,918
Ireland	948	847	112,604	105,678
United Kingdom	705,240	683,008	188,277,525	164,345,795

In spite of the Scotch coal strike, the output of coal was the greatest recorded, the highest previous output having been in 1891, amounting to 185,479,000 tons.

* "Summary of Statistics relating to Mines and Minerals." (C. 7666)
 † These workpeople were not exclusively engaged in producing coal. In 1894 the output of other minerals than coal was 11,173,493 tons.
 ‡ The output at a great number of collieries in this district was considerably affected by the prolonged wages dispute in 1893.

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON IN 1894.

A REPORT has been published by the British Iron Trade Association which states that the total production of pig iron in Great Britain during 1894 amounted to 7,364,745 tons, or 534,904 tons more than in 1893, when the total produced was 6,829,841 tons. In Cleveland, the most important district, the production increased by 239,235 tons, or 8.8 per cent., large increases being also shown in the Midlands and Cumberland. A considerable decrease, however, is seen in the total for Scotland, where the production fell from 783,867 tons in 1893 to 655,614 tons in 1894, principally owing, no doubt, to the stoppage of furnaces during the dispute in the Scottish Coal Mining Industry.

Comparison of the production of Pig Iron in each of the principal districts of Great Britain in 1894 and 1893.

District.	1894.	1893.	Increases in 1894.	Decreases in 1894.
England and Wales.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Cleveland	2,063,419	2,724,184	239,235	...
Cumberland	674,840	580,884	93,956	...
Lancashire	593,023	593,488	...	465
S. and W. Yorks.	202,255	155,598	46,657	...
Midlands (including Lincs. and Salop)	1,468,335	1,254,165	214,170	...
South Wales	708,856	679,595	29,261	...
Other Districts	98,493	58,000	40,493	...
Scotland	655,614	783,867	...	128,253
Total	7,364,745	6,829,841	534,904	...

NOTICE OF ACCIDENTS ACT.

THE following tables contain a summary of the accidents reported during March to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.* The total number of accidents reported was 318, which resulted in the death of 6 persons and injuries to 315.

The actual number of accidents occurring in the month was probably in excess of the number reported, as the Act is a new one and its requirements are not yet generally known.

Table showing the number of separate accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act during the month of March 1895, and the number of persons killed and injured in such accidents.

A.—Distinguishing Nature of Employment.

Group.	Nature of Works, &c.	Construction or Repair.			Use or Working.*		
		No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons injured.	No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons injured.
I.	Bridge... ..	2	...	2	...	...
	Canal ... ..	...	...	...	10	10
	Dock	30	...	33	90	90	
	Harbour, Pier & Quay	8	1	7	7	7	
	Railway	38	4	34	...	...
	Tramway ... ..	...	...	...	11	11
	Tunnel	3	1	2	22	22	
	Gaswork	14	...	14	...	...
	Other Works†	8	...	8	3	3	
II.	Buildings	1	...	71‡	...	71‡	
III.	Traction Engine¶ ...	Act does not apply.	...	1	...	1	
	Total	103	6	100	215	215	

B.—Distinguishing Nature of Injury.

(The Groups are the same as in Table A.)

Nature of Injury.	Group I.		Group II.		Group III.
	Construction or repair.	Use or working.	Construction or repair.	Use or working.	Use or working.
Fractures	10	16	...	1	...
Dislocations ... ..	...	3	...	1	...
Ruptures and other severe injuries to body	16	13	...	8	...
Injuries to eye	4	4	...	3	...
Other injuries to head or face	14	18	...	5	...
Other injuries to arms or hands	17	33	...	39	...
Other injuries to legs or feet	35	46	...	13	1
Miscellaneous injuries ...	4	10	...	1	...
Total	100	143	...	71	1

* Section 6 of the Act states that "Nothing in this Act shall apply to any employment which is for the time being regulated by any Act of Parliament administered by the Secretary of State or by inspectors appointed by him, or shall require notice to be given of any accident of which notice is required by any other Act to be given to the Board of Trade."

† Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.
 ‡ On buildings more than 30 feet high by means of scaffolding.
 § In buildings more than 30 feet high in which more than 20 persons, not being domestic servants, are employed for wages.
 ¶ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

FOREIGN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED.

Germany.—(1) *Statistics of Accident, Infirmity and Old Age Insurance, 1893.*—The statistical data relative to the working of these branches of the German Social Insurance Laws for 1893 have been published in the *Ämtliche Nachrichten des Reichs-Versicherungsamts* of January 1st 1895, of which the Labour Department has received a copy. (See page 54 of February, and page 85 of March GAZETTE.)

(2) *Report on the Operations of the State Insurance Department in 1894, and during the 10 years of its existence.*—The appendix to the Report contains comparative statements showing the organisation and financial position of the Trade Associations (*Berufsgenossenschaften*), and of the Infirmity and Old Age Insurance Institutes, and a statement of the number, nature and consequences of all industrial accidents recorded in Germany between 1885 and the end of 1894.

(3) *Baden Journal of Industry (Badische Gewerbezeitung).*—This weekly official journal is published by the State institution in Baden, known as the "Landes-Gewerbehalle." The volume now completed is the 27th, and contains the weekly issues of the journal for 1894. Much of the matter is technical, but a considerable amount of information on all branches of the labour question is also given. The *Landes-Gewerbehalle* is under the control of the Home Office of the Grand Duchy. It was established in 1865, and maintains a permanent manufacturing and industrial exhibition, and a library having at present about 14,000 volumes.

(4) *Annual Report of the Factory Inspectorate of the Grand-Duchy of Baden 1894.*—The report shows that the number of establishments subject to the jurisdiction of the factory inspectors in 1894 was 5,608, with 136,083 workpeople. The number of inspections made during 1894 was 1,227. The proportion borne by children, young persons, and married women respectively, employed in industry, to the total number of workers, is shown to be decreasing from year to year. Interesting accounts are given on pages 45 to 57 showing the effect of the fixing of an 11-hours working day on the wages and efficiency of women in the Textile and Tobacco Trades.

(5) *Journal of the Royal Saxon Statistical Bureau, Nos. I. and II., 1894.*

(6) *Decrease in the Death Rate of Munich. Supplement to Vol. XIV. of the Publications of the Munich Statistical Office.*—Dr. Karl Singer, Secretary of the Municipal Statistical Office of Munich, is the author of this publication. It aims at showing the connection between recent sanitary improvements combined with the Social Laws of Germany and the great reduction of the death rate. Since 1871 the mortality of Munich has fallen from 41.6 per 1,000 out of a population of 167,200, to 23.6 in 1894 out of a population of 393,000. Comparative tables are given relating to other large cities of Germany.

Luxemburg.—*The Organization and Work of the Labour Exchange in the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg, 1892-94.*—In an article published in the GAZETTE of August last, pages 242-3, statistics were given of the operations of this institution up to the end of June 1894. The above report carries the statistics of the labour exchange up to the end of 1894. Some particulars based on the report were given under "Labour Abroad" in last month's GAZETTE.

Austria-Hungary.—(1) *Strike Statistics, 1893.*—A return of strikes has been issued for 1893 as a supplement to the monthly statistical journal, *Statistische Monatschrift*, issued by the Statistical Department of the Ministry of Commerce. The scope of the report is confined to Austria proper and to trades not controlled by the mining authorities. A reference to some of the results appeared under Austria-Hungary in the February GAZETTE.

(2) *Report of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Brünn, 1894.*—The economic condition of the district is described as having been on the whole unsatisfactory in 1894, owing to the great fall in sugar, one of its chief industrial products, and the consequent reflex action on agriculture. The state of the smaller industries is said to be particularly bad, and it is contended that no benefit has resulted from the law of 1883, compelling artisans employed by small manufacturers to obtain the training and qualification (certificates of competency) prescribed by their guilds.

Italy.—*Statistics of Strikes and Lock-outs in Industry and Agriculture, 1892-93.*—A summary was given on page 95 of the LABOUR GAZETTE of August 1893, of the statistics of strikes and lock-outs in Italy between 1878 and 1891. In the present volume the information is carried up to the end of 1893. Reference to some of the main results was made in last month's GAZETTE.

Norway.—(1) *Census of Norway, January 1st 1891.*—The Central Bureau of Statistics recently published the results of the Norwegian Census of January 1st 1891, showing the total population, according to data collected in the different parishes of domicile, to be 2,000,917, as compared with 1,818,853 at the last census in 1875. Including persons domiciled in Norway, but temporarily abroad, and

deducting persons domiciled abroad but temporarily in Norway, the population on January 1st 1891, was 2,004,102—namely, 966,566 males and 1,037,536 females.

(2) *The Statistical Year-book 1894.*—The 14th Year-book of Norwegian Statistics published by the Central Statistical Bureau contains data, extending in some cases up to the end of 1894, and relating to area, population, public health, poor administration, education, agriculture, industrial establishments and wages, mining and smelting, trade and navigation, banking, including savings banks, insurance, State and local finance, posts, railways, telegraphs, and fisheries. Amongst data given for the first time in the present volume are statistics of inhabited dwellings and of separate households, based on the results of the census of January 1st 1891.

(3) *Social Legislation in Norway. Report by M. Hvoar Olsen, Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior, Christiania.*—This report was prepared for the Antwerp Congress of July 1894, on "Customs Laws, and the Regulation of Labour." It gives a brief record of the progress of labour legislation in Norway, between 1892 and June 1894, and includes an account of a law passed last year by the *Storting* for the reduction of working hours in bakeries, which still awaits the sanction of the King.

Sweden.—(1) *Census Statistics, 1890, Third Report.*—This volume, prepared by the Central Bureau of Statistics of Sweden, distinguishes the population according to sex, age, condition as to marriage, households, place of birth, nationality, occupation, and infirmities. Tables are also given showing for the whole Kingdom, and, separately for urban and rural dwellers, the annual death rate per 1,000, according to age, sex, and marital condition for the period 1881-1890, and the proportion of persons (per 100,000 live-born) surviving at different ages, according to sex.

(2) *Movement of Population, 1892.*—These returns are published annually by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The report for 1892 shows the births, deaths, immigration, emigration, naturalisation, marriages, and rate of mortality (distinguishing causes) for the year. The population at the end of 1892 was 4,806,865, as compared with 4,784,981 at the end of the census year 1890.

(3) *Agricultural Statistics 1893 and 1894.*—These statistics for 1893 show that the total number of cultivators was 329,593, of whom 271,491 were proprietors, 47,519 farmers, the position of the remaining 10,583 being unknown. There were 167,073 holdings of the kind known as "torp." These are farms on which the owner has erected a house and farm buildings, which are let to labourers who have, in return, to work two or three days a week on the owner's estate without further wages. The proprietor has to keep the torp in good repair, to furnish the holder with fuel and pasturage, and allow him, if necessary, the use of draught cattle.* The returns for 1893 also contain statistics of farm servants' wages in that year. The returns for 1894 give the estimated results of the 1894 harvest. It is calculated that with the exception of rye, peas, beans and potatoes the crops of 1894 exceeded the average of the preceding 10 years.

Russia.—*Report of the Minister of Finance to H.M. the Emperor on the Budget of the Empire for 1895.*

FISHING APPRENTICES.*

THE Board of Trade has issued instructions to superintendents of mercantile marine offices, at which apprentices to the Fishery Trade are registered. In future no boy is to be apprenticed who is not within a few months of 14 years of age; apprenticeship must not be for a longer period than six years, except in exceptional cases, and with the special leave of the Board of Trade; besides requiring certificates of age, health and fitness, the superintendent must himself inquire into the fitness and willingness of the boy to be apprenticed; he must also satisfy himself that the board and lodging provided for the apprentice are satisfactory, and must require the apprentice to be brought before him at least once in every half-year. Under the revised form of indenture now in force it is provided that all remuneration payable to an apprentice, not intended to form part of his daily or weekly allowance, should be secured by the superintendent, and should be paid into the Seamen's Savings Bank. The superintendent has power to draw out of the fund for the benefit of the boy, and also for the payment of a fine imposed by a court. Arrangements have been made in Grimsby to enable the superintendent to deal with many cases of disobedience hitherto brought before the magistrates; and superintendents are requested, unless the offences are of a very aggravated character, to use their good offices with the magistrates to induce them to impose pecuniary penalties when the money for payment of such penalties is available.

* Fishing Apprentices. (C.—7,634) Price 1d.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—From recently published official returns taken at the Census of 1891, it appears that the number of industrial establishments in Canada increased from 49,722 in 1881 to 75,968 in 1891; the number of employees from 254,894 to 370,256; and the wages paid from \$59,401,702 to \$100,663,650. All the provinces have participated in these increases, and the small industrial establishments have not been affected injuriously by the development of the large establishments. This is the best time of year for emigrants to go to Canada, but the only real demand is for experienced farm hands, for female servants, and for persons able to take up land.

A report from the Chemainus district, which lies between Nanaimo and Victoria, on Vancouver Island, in British Columbia, states that trade there is very bad, that the prices of farm stock and produce are low, and that there is no demand for labour.

New South Wales.—In January last 1,988 persons registered themselves at the Government Labour Bureau in Sydney, and 1,706 were assisted and sent to work, the others also finding employment; 1,536 families were relieved with rations during the month. The Sydney Arbitration and Conciliation Board has ceased to exist, owing to the money necessary to its support having been refused by Parliament.

South Australia.—The salaries of officers employed by the Adelaide Corporation have been reduced by 10 per cent.; the wages of labourers have been reduced from 7s. to 6s. 3d. a day; those of gangers from 9s. to 8s., and those of carters from 11s. to 9s. The supply of all kinds of labour is greater than the demand, and the prospects for the coming winter are stated to be bad. The Select Committee of the Legislative Council, in their report on the unemployed, recommend the amendment of the pastoral laws, the establishment of freezing works, and promotion of native industries, the prospecting for minerals, the encouragement of land settlement by the extension of working men's blocks and village settlements, the moderate prosecution of reproductive public works, and the prevention of labour troubles by suitable legislation.

Queensland.—During 1894 some 4,000 persons registered themselves at the Government Labour Bureau. The largest numbers in any one trade were station hands, 136; miners, 176; carpenters, 195; young men with no special trade, 225; farm labourers, 261; and blacksmiths, bricklayers, painters and clerks, about 50 in each case. The total population on the Co-operative Land Settlements is now over 1,300.

Western Australia.—It is estimated that there are now nearly 20,000 men on the Coolgardie goldfields, and mining prospects are said to be good. There has been a great deal of fever, however, among the miners.

Tasmania.—The village settlement which was recently started at Southport is said to be progressing very satisfactorily. Thirty-five acres have already been partially cleared.

New Zealand.—During last January the Building Trade was dull in all large towns except Napier, but was busy in Wanganui, Woodville, and some other smaller places. Wanganui was the only place where the Engineering Trade was fully employed. Other trades were dull everywhere, the only marked exceptions being the Boot and Clothing Trades at Auckland and Napier, which were brisk, and retail trade, which was busy nearly everywhere during the holiday season. With some few exceptions, unskilled labourers were well employed. Shearing was nearly finished, but harvesting was coming on.

Natal.—A report from Pietermaritzburg states that there is no demand for blacksmiths, farriers, tinsmiths, cabinet-makers, or french-polishers, and that the demand in the Building Trades is irregular. The net revenue of the railways in 1894 was substantially larger than in 1893.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in March.—A considerable revival of business is said to have set in with the disappearance of the cold weather. The improvement has been most marked in the Building, Textile, and certain branches of the Clothing Trades.

Labour Disputes in March.—Thirty-one fresh disputes were recorded in France during March, compared with 10 in February, and 19 in January. Eight disputes begun in previous months remained unsettled at the beginning of March. The total number of persons involved in 30 of the fresh disputes for which particulars are known, was 2,669. There were 12 disputes in the Textile Trades, 5 in the Building Trades, 3 each in the Quarrying and Leather-working Trades, 2 each in the Glass and Wood-working Trades, the rest being among gardeners, bakers, paper-makers, and match-workers. The last was the most serious strike of the month. It began on the 11th of March in the State match factories of Pantin and Aubervilliers, owing to the refusal of the Administration to grant an increase of wages. The workers alleged that, owing to the substitution of native for foreign wood in match-making, their daily earnings had fallen below the 5 fr. 10 c. (4s. 1d.) promised them in 1893. At the suggestion of the Minister of Finance, a joint committee consisting of three workers' delegates, and three representatives of the Administration was appointed to look into the matter, pending which work was resumed. The report of the Committee showed that the earnings, instead of falling, had risen; whereupon the workers stated that such rise must be due to increased intensity of work, for which they ought to be compensated. The strike was resumed on the 27th of March, the workers of the four other State match factories of France joining in the movement. Of 24 strikes ended in March, 9 were successful, 8 were compromised, and 7 failed.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—The proceedings taken for the settlement of the match-workers' strike are described above. There were in addition 5 cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law. In 3 of these the employer, the workers, and the *juge de paix* respectively took the initiative; in the remaining two the proceedings were inaugurated jointly. In four out of the 5 cases settlements were effected.

GERMANY.

The following is based on information supplied by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, under date of April 3rd:—

Labour Disputes.—The fresh disputes reported in March numbered 28, while 7 which had begun in previous months were stated to be still in progress. Of the fresh disputes, 6 were in the Building Trades, 5 each in the Metal and Clothing Trades, 3 each in the Leather and Wood-working Trades, 2 among miners, and 4 in various miscellaneous trades. Three of the strikes in the Building Trades and one among metal workers were general. The latter took place among the pen-knife finishers of Solingen, who have followed the example of the putters-together (see last month's GAZETTE), and demanded a new price list. The number of workers concerned is given at 500. As the employers had large orders from an American firm, they were put to some inconvenience by the strike. It appears that, for the better class cutlery, preference is given to English steel; the use of German steel is confined to inferior goods, but American and Swedish steel is also imported.

A revival of the button-makers' strike in Schmöln took place in connection with the application of the new uniform price list granted by the employers (see last month's GAZETTE). About 800 workpeople were out in the middle of March, but towards the end of the month work was being slowly resumed.

* From information supplied by the Office du Travail.
† Supplemented by information published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.

Of 6 strikes reported during March as ended, 2 were said to have been successful, 2 partially so, and 2 unsuccessful.

Agitation among Brewery Workers.—The boycott of a brewery in Munich has been withdrawn, upon the rooms being again opened for meetings of the Social Democratic party. At a meeting in Berlin it has been decided to demand a holiday on the 1st of May, a working day of 9 hours, and a minimum wage of 6d. a day. Under 8 per cent. of the brewery workers of Berlin are said to belong to the union organisation.

Wages, Hours, &c., in Wood-working Trades in 1893.—The Federation of Wood-workers formed in April 1893, and having a membership of 22,745 persons, has published statistics showing the condition of workers in the various trades which it represents. The statistics are said to be based on particulars obtained by the Federation from 348 different localities; the weekly hours ranged from 55 to 70, the average being 60. The average weekly rate of wages obtained from the returns is 19s. 4d.

SWITZERLAND.

The following particulars are based on information supplied by Herr Greulich, the Swiss workmen's secretary, and transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, under date of March 28th:—

Agitation in Zürich Building Trades.—A general strike of workmen in the Building Trades of Zürich is said to be impending, the men having decided to make the same demands as last year, viz., a nine-hours day and increased wages.

Cantonal Factory Bill.—The Government of the Canton of Vaud has drawn up a Bill for the protection of workmen who are not under the Federal Factory Act. The Bill, which is not of a very stringent character, fixes a maximum working day of 12 hours.

Factory Inspection in 1894.—The number of establishments placed under the Federal Factory Act at the end of 1894 was 4,793, or 40 more than in the previous year; the number of workpeople coming under the Act was, however, slightly less than in 1893. There were 5,464 inspections made by the three inspectors and four sub-inspectors in 1894, compared with 5,223 in 1893.

Wages Statistics.—A volume of wages statistics relating to North-Eastern Switzerland has been compiled unofficially by Dr. Schuler, Inspector of Factories for the district. The figures cover the period from 1888 to 1891, and are based on particulars which have to be furnished on the forms prescribed for the declaration of accidents under the Factory Act, supplemented by the wage lists of factories, which were, almost without exception, placed at the compiler's disposal. The statistics furnish particulars as to the wages of 65,500 persons, or 83 per cent. of the total number of workpeople in the district.

General Strike of Watch-makers in the Jura.—This strike began on March 20th at an establishment in Bettlach. Its original object, according to *Der Grüllianer*, was to compel the employer to induce two women operatives to pay a fine imposed on them by the Watch-makers' Federation for returning to work during a previous strike after receiving strike pay. The "United Manufacturers of Unfinished Movements of Grenchen and Neighbourhood" thereupon gave a fortnight's notice to all members of the Federation, with the result that the operatives ceased work at once. A large number are said to be out.

BELGIUM.

"Municipal Bureau of Industry, Commerce and Labour" in Ghent.—A Municipal Bureau of Industry, Commerce and Labour has been in operation in Ghent since the end of last year. Besides the promotion of local industry and commerce, the functions of the bureau include the collection of labour statistics, and the study of the conditions of the local labour market. It also assists the Municipal Authorities in carrying out the labour laws. The Chief of the Bureau states that this is the first

attempt made by a city in Belgium to establish a labour bureau apart from the *Bourses du Travail* which already act as labour agencies.

Labour Disputes.—Serious strikes have taken place during March in the Coal and Textile Trades. The agitation in the Coal Trade was chiefly concentrated in the Liège district, the earliest indication coming from Herstal on March 4th, when 120 workers at one mine struck for increased wages. Other strikes for the same object followed at intervals in different parts of the district. The Council of the Liège Workmen's Federation issued a manifesto on the 22nd of March urging the miners to return to work pending the adoption of concerted measures for a general strike. The miners however, decided to continue the strike. The number of persons involved at this time is said to have been over 3,000, but about 1,500 resumed work on the 28th of March.

The weavers' strikes took place in Verviers, Ensival and Renaix. The operatives at two establishments in Verviers, and one in Ensival struck against the introduction of the two-loom system of weaving. The strike at Renaix originated in a demand made by the operatives at one establishment on the 19th of March for increased wages. On the 28th of March it had extended to 10 other weaving mills, and on the 29th to the dyeing and finishing works. The number of persons affected is said to have been 5,000.

Two strikes each in the Metal Working and Cigar-making Trades and one among joiners were also reported, but their character was local.

A strike of metal-workers belonging to an establishment in Nivelles, begun in February, is said to have ended in favour of the men.

UNITED STATES.

Electrical Workers' Strike.—From information supplied by Mr. Percy Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, under dates March 8th and 22nd, it appears that this strike, to which reference was made in the LABOUR GAZETTE for March, page 87, is now at an end. On February 27th an unsuccessful attempt was made by the State Board of Arbitration to bring about a settlement. The president of the Electrical Contractors' Association submitted the following ultimatum:—

"That the strikers must return to work before the contractors will discuss arbitration or mediation. The state of things previous to February 15th, when the strike began, must be restored; and then the contractors will only treat on the basis of granting the 8-hours' day after May 15th."

On March 19th a meeting of delegates of all branches of the Building Trade on strike and their employers, was held at the house of the Bishop of New York, which resulted in the men agreeing to resume work on March 25th. It was decided that the 8-hours' day should begin on May 1st, instead of May 15th, the date fixed by the employers in their ultimatum.

The men, numbering about 2,000, who had struck in sympathy, had already resumed work at the beginning of the week in which these proceedings took place. It appears that the electrical contractors were able to suspend part of the work on which they were engaged, owing to the friendly attitude of architects and builders. Over 200 non-union men from other cities were employed by the contractors during the strike.

Railways Conciliation and Arbitration Bill.—Sir J. Pauncefoot, H.M. Ambassador to the United States, has forwarded, under date of March 8th 1895, a copy of a Bill (which recently passed the House of Representatives, but owing to lack of time, did not proceed beyond a first reading in the Senate) providing that whenever an industrial dispute, involving serious interruption of business, arises between a railway company, engaged in interstate transportation, and its employees engaged in train operation or car service, the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Commissioner of Labour shall endeavour to effect a friendly settlement, and, if unsuccessful, shall endeavour to bring about the reference of the dispute to a board of arbitration composed of three persons, one to be named by the employers, another by the labour organisations concerned, while the third is to be named by the first two, or, in default, by the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Commissioner of Labour.

* Based on information published in *Le Peuple*.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MARCH.

Imports.—The total declared value of the imports has risen from £35,327,037 in March 1894 to £35,980,590 during last month, an increase of £653,553, or 1·8 per cent. The principal increase was in sheep and lamb's wool (amounting to £1,925,176) in which articles there was a noticeable decrease last month. The principal increase was that of £1,063,911 in the importation of raw cotton. There was an increase in the imports of raw materials for sundry industries (principally of caoutchouc and tallow and stearine), of horses, and of dutiable articles of food and drink, notably coffee and tea. The values of non-dutiable articles of food and drink, metals and miscellaneous articles, all show a decline when compared with March of last year.

British and Irish Exports.—The exports for March show a considerable improvement, being now in excess of the figures for last year. The total value was £18,523,030, as compared with £18,098,903 in March 1894, an increase of £424,127, or 2·3 per cent. The principal increase occurs in the exports of woollen and worsted tissues, while cotton and linen yarn and cotton piece goods show a decrease of £747,637, an improvement on the figures for February. Under the head of machinery and mill-work an increase of £82,356 is recorded, the increase being most marked in the export of textile machinery and locomotives. There is also a large increase under the head of miscellaneous articles, among which combed or carded wool and arms and ammunition may be specially noted. The exports of coal were £124,451 less in value, though 81,024 tons more in weight than in March 1894. Among the smaller fluctuations of current interest may be mentioned the increased value of tinplate exported (from £314,312 in March 1894 to £360,128 last month), and a decrease of £11,843 in the value of leather and boots and shoes exported during March.

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—The value of these amounted to £4,846,599, which is again less than the value for the corresponding month of 1894, when it was £5,342,886, the amount of decrease being £496,287.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom during March from Foreign Countries and British Possessions was 2,333,280 tons, or 52,497 tons less than in March 1894, when the total was 2,385,777 tons. With two exceptions the entries from European countries show decreased tonnage, while those from America and from the various British possessions show increases. The tonnage of vessels cleared was 2,771,909 tons, as against 2,882,082 tons in March 1894, a decrease of 110,173 tons. The vessels entered Coastwise amounted to 2,658,465 tons, as compared with 2,611,008 in March 1894, and the vessels cleared to 2,541,015 tons, the tonnage in March of last year being 2,524,079 tons.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—During March 339,339 bales of raw cotton were imported, as compared with 398,462 bales in March 1894, a decrease of 59,123 bales. Increases are, however, shown in the quantities exported and forwarded from ports to inland towns. The following are the figures for the month of March 1895 and 1894, respectively:—

Table with 3 columns: Imports Bales, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns Bales, Exports Bales. Rows for 1895 and 1894.

British Corn.—The average prices of British corn per quarter for the week ended 30th March are again much less than in the corresponding week of 1894. The following are the figures for the periods mentioned:—

Table with 3 columns: Average price per Quarter at March 1895 (s. d.), March 1894 (s. d.), Decrease (s. d.). Rows for Wheat, Barley, Oats.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom for the five weeks ended 30th March amounted to £6,286,817, or £373,990 less than in the corresponding period of 1894. The receipts from passenger traffic reached the sum of £2,391,854, being a decrease of £418,058, while an increase of £44,068 is shown in the receipts from goods and mineral traffic, the total under this head being £3,894,963.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during March was 458, being a slight decrease as compared with March 1894, when the number was 463. Of the 458 bankrupts, 37 were grocers, 35 farmers, 33 publicans, hotel-keepers, &c., 16 butchers, 15 builders, and 13 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The British and foreign passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during March, numbered 19,571, or 3,939 more than in March 1894.

British and Irish.—The increase shown above is mostly accounted for by the passengers of British and Irish origin, of whom 3,238 more left this country during last month than in March of last year. The largest increase is in the number of British and Irish passengers to the United States, the increase of Irish passengers accounting for 76 per cent. of the total increase of British and Irish passengers to all countries. The emigration to South Africa also shows a noticeable increase, while a decline is seen in the number proceeding to British North America. The figures are as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Destination, March 1895, March 1894. Rows for United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, Total.

The emigration to the United States in the three months ended 31st March was 17,092, as compared with 11,624 for the corresponding period of 1894, the totals of British and Irish passengers to all countries during the same periods being 27,096 and 21,466 respectively.

Foreign.—In addition to the passengers of British origin, there were 6,217 foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, as against 5,516 in March 1894, the totals for the three months ended 31st March in each year being 12,164 for 1895, and 10,598 for 1894.

Alien Immigration.—The total number of aliens who arrived at various ports of the United Kingdom from the Continent, during March, was 7,054, or 15 less than in March 1894. The total stated to be en route to America is again larger than that for the corresponding month of last year, the figures being for last month 4,095, and for March 1894, 3,377. The total not stated to be en route to America was 2,959 (including 746 sailors), as compared with 3,692 (including 1,193 sailors) in March 1894.

LABOUR CASES IN MARCH.

The following are among the legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Regulation Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, are summarised in another column.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Court of Appeal, March 5th.—Workman employed at steel works received fatal injuries while engaged in uncoupling wagons on railway line. Widow of deceased appealed from order of Divisional Court, affirming decision of County Court Judge, who had refused to let the case go to the jury on the ground that there was no evidence of negligence by defendants. Deceased was uncoupling a wagon, with his back to three other wagons about to be unloaded, and also an engine belonging to defendants in charge of an engine driver and fireman. The three wagons had been uncoupled and scotched by the fireman with slag on a decline, instead of with wood provided for the purpose. The slag crumbled and the wagons broke away and caused fatal injuries to the deceased. The Court, in dismissing the appeal, held that the persons alleged to be guilty of negligence were not in control.

Whitechapel County Court, March 6th.—Wharf labourer sued shipowner for £100 for injuries received while loading ship with sugar. The winch, of which the captain of the vessel was in charge, was lowered into the hold without warning, and crushed plaintiff against the combings of the hatch. No hatchway man was employed to check the swinging at the boom, and evidence was called to show that this was necessary. Verdict for plaintiff for £50.

Bow County Court, March 8th.—Labourer claimed £250 for injuries sustained in building a gas purifier. Plaintiff and a fellow workman were directed by the foreman to take the chains off a large plate after it had been lowered by a crane. Owing to a defect in the foundation on which the plate was to rest it tilted over, crushing plaintiff, and producing injuries which necessitated an operation, and at the same time killing the other man. The employers took the objections that the notice was sent to a manager, who had engaged the plaintiff, instead of to the defendant company, and also that, owing to a mistake in the address, the notice had not reached

that person in time, but these objections were disallowed. Judgment for plaintiff for £100 and costs.

Leeds County Court, March 14th.—Father of a boy, employed by a currier, sued on his behalf for £31 4s., the amount of three years' wages, through injuries sustained in falling through an unfenced trap-door. Plaintiff alleged negligence on part of defendant for not providing proper fencing or lights. Defence that plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence. Judgment for plaintiff for £15, and costs on the higher scale.

Bow County Court, March 15th.—Working stevedore claimed damages against a master stevedore for injuries received while loading ship. Plaintiff was in the hold at 11 p.m. with a gang of men loading the ship with pig iron, which was being lowered by a winch. Some bags of pitch were also being lowered into the same hold to another gang of men. The hatchway man, owing to the darkness, gave an order for some pig lead to be lowered before the men below were ready, and some of it fell on and injured the plaintiff. Plaintiff alleged negligence in that the lighting was insufficient, and that two gangs of men should not have been simultaneously employed in the same hold at different kinds of work. Defendants pleaded contributory negligence and denied insufficient lighting. Verdict for plaintiff and damages £125.

Blackburn County Court, March 12th.—Workman sued brewery company for £180, three years' wages, for injury caused by defective machinery. Plaintiff was tightening a nut in a cogwheel of the grinding-mill while the machinery was in motion, when a piece of string fell on his hand, and, being caught by the wheel, his hand was drawn in and crushed. Defendants pleaded that machinery was not defective, and urged that it was the duty of the plaintiff to stop the machine and screw the loose nut with a screw-key. Verdict for plaintiff. Damages £150.

Leeds. Before Under Sheriff and a Jury. Assessment of Damages. March 18th.—Action brought by father of lad employed by brick-makers as a brick-presser, and killed in their service. The duty of deceased was to look after a machine fixed over a well used for condensing steam. The supports of the machine gave way, and he was precipitated into four feet of scalding water. Damages £50.

Salford County Court, March 25th.—A night-watchman employed by an indiarubber company sued the company for £124 16s., for injuries received owing to defective condition of defendants' premises. Plaintiff caught his foot in a hole in boarding of floor which caused him to fall. Defence urged that plaintiff was not a workman within the meaning of the Act. Evidence was given to show that on several nights a week plaintiff was asked by a servant of defendants to keep up the fires, and also that from Saturday to Monday the stoking was entirely performed by plaintiff. Held on these facts that plaintiff was a workman. Verdict for plaintiff. Damages £75.

(3) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Bow County Court, March 11th.—Labourer claimed a week's wages in lieu of notice from a firm of coopers. Defence was that since October 1st 1894, it had been a rule with the firm that notice need not be given on either side, and printed notices to that effect were posted on the premises. Judge held that there was no proof that plaintiff was aware of the rule. Judgment for plaintiff with costs.

Montrose Small Debt Court, March 15th.—Farmer claimed £5 damages from defender, a farm servant for deserting his service after a few hours' work. Defender's case was that one of the conditions of engagement was that he was to have a good house, but that he found the one provided unfit for use. Evidence was given by a sanitary surveyor that the house though dirty was not in an excessive state of bad repair. It appeared that the farmer had expressed his intention of putting it in order next day. No damages given. Defender assuaged and allowed his expenses.

Blackburn County Court, March 18th.—Manufacturers sued weaver in their employ for 10s., the value of a piece of cloth damaged by him. The defendant worked on four looms, one of these looms being for fancy work. The overlooker delivered a warp to the defendant for umbrella goods, and saw that the loom was properly started, and a sample was approved by the cloth-looker. Subsequently the pattern was woven wrong. Defence was that the responsibility for the correctness of the pattern lay with the overlooker who set the loom, and left no pattern to guide the weaver. Judgment for plaintiffs for amount claimed.

Sheffield Police Court, March 26th.—Farmer claimed £1 18s. as damages from hired farm servant who left without notice. Defendant was hired verbally on the last Friday in October 1894 to commence work on November 23rd for a year from the latter date. Defence was that there was no contract, as the hiring was for more than a year, and was not in writing. Case dismissed on these grounds.

(4) FACTORY ACTS.

Accrington Borough Court, March 13th.—A firm of manufacturers was summoned under the "particulars clause" for supplying incorrect particulars of work to two weavers in their employ. The pieces selected were found to be 4 to 6 per cent. longer than they were described by the tallies, which meant about 1/8 or 1/16 per week to each four-loom weaver. Defence was that the pieces measured were the last off the warps, and were lighter picked than some of the other cloths. Defendant ordered to pay £1 9s. for costs.

(5) MISCELLANEOUS.

Rotherham County Court, March 17th.—A collier sued a railway company for not running a workman's train, and so causing him to lose a day's work. Judgment for defendant company.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MARCH.

The total number of prosecutions during March under the Acts specified below was 290, or 56 more than in February. The total for March 1894 was 244. Of this total (290) 214 were under the Factory and Workshop Acts, and resulted in the conviction of owners or managers in 200 cases, of workmen in 5, and of parents in one, the penalties and costs averaging £1 3s. 6d., 19s. 10d., and 19s. respectively. Under the Mines Acts there were 64 convictions out of 66 prosecutions, 9 being convictions of owners or managers and 55 of workmen, the average penalties and costs imposed on the former amounting to £1 17s. 5d. and on the latter, 16s. 5d. Under the Merchant Shipping Acts there were 10 prosecutions, all resulting in convictions. Of these, 7 were against owners or masters of ships, the average penalties and costs being £19 5s. 6d., and 3 against boarding-house keepers, with an average of £4 6s. 1d.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Rows include categories like Neglecting to Limewash, Employing Young Persons, etc.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.*

Table with 6 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants. Rows include categories like By Owners, Managers, &c., By Workmen, etc.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Penalties, Total Costs. Rows include categories like By Owners or Masters of Ships, By Boarding-House Keepers, etc.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † In one case the defendant was admonished.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

THE number of applicants for work registered during March by the 9 bureaux furnishing returns was 4,632.

Of these bureaux 8 also made returns for the corresponding month of last year, and a comparison of the figures shows an increase of 740 in the number of fresh applicants for work as compared with March 1894, the figures being 2,589 and 1,849 respectively.

During last month work was found by the 9 bureaux for 2,312 persons. Of this number 1,201 were employed by local authorities and 1,111 by private employers.

(1) Work Done in March.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Work-people on Register, No. of Fresh Applicants during Mar., No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authority), At end of Mar. 1895, At end of Mar. 1894, Work-people, Em-ployers.

(2) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of March.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen Stablemen and Horsemen, Clerks and Warehousemen, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Ser-vants, Others, Total Women and Girls, Mar. 1895, Mar. 1894, Grand Total.

* Chelsea Bureau closed March 25th by vote of the Vestry. † Of the 603 persons who were engaged by private employers through the Salvation Army Bureau, 375 were employed on temporary jobs only and 228 permanently.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

THE returns of pauperism show that 386,401 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of March in the 35 selected urban districts, or 264 for every 10,000 of the population of those districts.

As compared with February, the returns show a marked decrease, especially in outdoor pauperism, the most striking falling off being in the South Metropolitan district and West Ham, where the rate per 10,000 has decreased by 61 in each case.

Compared with the returns for the corresponding date in 1894, the figures for this year continue to show an increase, though not such a large increase as in February. The general increase of March 1895 over March 1894 in the 35 districts is 36 per 10,000 of population.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of March 1895 (In-door, Out-door, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Population, Paupers on corresponding date in 1894 (Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of Population).

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolitan (West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District), Total Metropolitan, West Ham.

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

Table with columns: SCOTLAND (Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock Dist., Edinburgh & Leith Dist., Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie), Total for the above Scottish Districts.

Table with columns: IRELAND (Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford, &c., Limerick Districts, Galway District), Total for the above Irish Districts, Total for above 35 districts in March 1895, Total in February 1895.

* Based on the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas. † 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.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.*

THE number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in March was 348, which compares with 325 in March 1894, distributed as follows:—

Table with columns: March 1895, March 1894, Railway Servants, Miners, Factory and Workshop Operatives, Seamen, Total.

On the total of the four classes there was an increase of 23 as compared with March 1894, almost entirely due to the increase in the number of fatal accidents to miners.

Of the 1,464 non-fatal accidents reported, 242 were to railway servants by movement of trains, 376 in mines, and 846 in factories and workshops, as compared with 268, 312, and 802 respectively in March 1894.

NOTE.—The exact percentage which the number killed in each of these classes of employment bears to the total number employed cannot be stated, the figures, where given, being either for the number employed at a previous date, or for a portion only of those liable to be injured or killed.

Railways.—A Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) gives the number of persons employed on 31st December 1889 by railway companies in the United Kingdom as 381,626.

Mines.—The number employed in and about mines can be given more closely, being 739,097 in 1894, including persons employed on private branch railways and in washing and coking coal.

Factories and Workshops.—From a Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) it appears that the number of persons actually at work in factories in workshops, although the number is very large.

Seamen.—The returns of the number of seamen employed in British registered vessels in 1893 give 240,974 persons of all grades.

Railway Servants.†

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.) A.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of March 1895.

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident (Causing Amputations, Fractures and Dislocations, Contusions, &c., Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries).

B.—Distinguishing England, Scotland and Ireland; and accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents.

Table with columns: England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Killed, Injured.

Miners.

(Supplied by the Home Office.) Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines, during the month of March 1895.

Table with columns: Cause of Accident, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Killed, Injured.

* For Accidents reported under the Notice of Accidents Act of 1894, see page 116. † In addition to the accidents included in the tables, 2 railway servants were killed and 476 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of railway vehicles was not concerned, making a total for the month of 36 railway servants killed and 718 injured from all causes.

Factory and Workshop Operatives.‡

(Supplied by the Home Office.) Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of March 1895.

Table with columns: Killed, Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident (Causing Amputations, Fractures, Injuries to Head or Face, Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes, Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries, Total Persons Injured).

Seamen.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.) Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of March 1895 as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

Table with columns: Class of Vessels, Number of Deaths, exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide, and unknown causes (By Wreck and Casualty, By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty, Total), Sailing, Steam, Sailing, Steam, Sailing, Steam, Total.

§ The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July 1893, page 66.

TRADE DISPUTES.

Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Trade Union periodical returns, and newspaper reports. Application for particulars is made to the Employers and Trade Unions affected in each dispute, and the information so obtained up to the time of going to press is used.)

Forty-nine new disputes occurred in March 1895, as compared with 55 in February and 100 in March 1894. Particulars obtained with regard to 43 of these disputes show that 56,437 workpeople were involved. Eleven disputes took place in the Building Trades, of which 9 were due to wages questions, 1 to a question of unionism, and 1 was caused by an objection to piecework. Of the 5 disputes in the Clothing Trades, 2 were due to wages questions and 2 to questions of unionism, the remaining 1 being the dispute in the Boot and Shoe Industry (see page 112). Three of the 5 disputes in the Metal Trades were due to wages questions, 1 to a question of unionism, and 1 was caused by dissatisfaction with the conduct of an official. Thirteen disputes took place in the Mining Industry, 8 of which were due to questions of wages, 4 to working arrangements, and 1 to an objection to the exaction of fines inflicted in respect of a dispute reported in the previous month. One of the disputes in connection with Dock Labour was about a question of wages, the other was one about working arrangements. Five disputes took place in the Shipbuilding Industry, 2 of which were on questions of wages and 3 as to working arrangements. Four of the 5 disputes in the Textile Trades were more or less due to wages questions, the remaining one being as to working arrangements. Of the 3 disputes in Miscellaneous Trades, 1 was on a question of wages and 2 as to working arrangements.

The geographical distribution of 48 of the disputes was as follows:—Northern Counties 15, Midland Counties 8, Western Counties and Wales 6, London 1, Scotland 14, Ireland 3. The dispute in the Boot and Shoe Industry, which affects a number of districts, is not included in this classification.

Eighteen old disputes, 17 of which affected 1,491 persons, were settled during the month, and at the end of March it was known that 16 new and 18 old disputes, 29 of which involved 48,207 workpeople, were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH 1895.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
House Joiners ...	Dundee ...	For an advance in wages of 4d. per hour, and new arrangements as regards overtime and travelling	27	300	Mar. 1	Mar. 5	Applications as to wages and overtime granted; a compromise effected on the question of payment or travelling.
Slaters ...	Falkirk ...	For an advance in wages of 4d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	7	40	4	28	Advance granted.
Bricklayers' Labourers	Sidbury, Worcester	Refusal to work at less than the recognised rate of wages, a demand being also made for walking time	1	9	4	...	Men obtained work elsewhere.
Joiners ...	Oldham ...	Objection to piece-work ...	1	10	8	20	Employer agreed to dispense with piece-work. Still unsettled.
Builders' Labourers ...	Limerick ...	For an advance in wages of 2s. per week (from 14s. to 16s.)	1	...	8	...	Still unsettled.
Plasterers ...	Aberdeen ...	For an advance in wages ...	14	140	24	...	Ditto.
Bricklayers ...	Cromer ...	For an advance in wages of 4d. per hour (6d. to 7d.)	1	30	25	25	Advance granted.
Ditto ...	Taunton ...	For an advance in wages of 4d. per hour...	1	60	29	...	Some of the men resumed work on 1st April (terms not yet known), and the remainder are stated to have left the town. Still unsettled.
Carpenters and Joiners	Harrogate ...	For an advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	...	141	30	...	Still unsettled.
Painters ...	Dublin ...	Against the employment of men belonging to another society	1	15	...	...	Ditto.
Masons (railway permanent way)	Inverness ...	For an advance in wages of 4d. per hour, and against a reduction in overtime rates	1	...	30	...	Ditto.
Clothing Trades.							
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Armley, Leeds	Alleged refusal of employer to pay list prices on certain work	1	77	4	9	Employer agreed to pay up to list prices. Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Most seats of the trade in England	General lock-out. (For full particulars see page 112, and LABOUR GAZETTE for March, page 80.)	...	46,000	9	...	Still unsettled.
Glove Workers...	Sheepshead, Leics.	Against reduction in prices of 1d. per dozen ...	...	100	22	...	No details of settlement.
Ladies' Tailors and Mantle Makers	London, E.	Friction between employers and members of men's union, resulting in a lock-out of union members	12	75	23	...	Work has been resumed in three establishments, and negotiations are in progress for general settlement. The man in question was discharged.
Tailors ...	Batley ...	Objection to a fellow workman ...	1	8	25	25	The man in question was discharged.
Metal Trades.							
Steel Workers and Blast Furnacemen	Barrow-in-Furness	Against proposed reduction in wages ...	1	2,500	2	Mar. 7 and Apr. 1	The steel workers' and blast furnace-men's dispute referred to separate arbitrators. The blast furnace-men were subjected to a 10 per cent. reduction, but the award as to the steel workers has not yet been published. Employer agreed to pay Falkirk prices.
Iron Moulders ...	Leith ...	For payment of Falkirk prices on a new class of work	1	56	4	Mar. 22	Employer agreed to pay Falkirk prices.
Cable Chain Makers ...	Old Hill ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 27½ per cent.	1	13	9	...	Still unsettled.
Grinders and Polishers (edge tool)	Aston, Birmingham	Refusal to work with non-union men ...	1	25	19	...	Ditto.
Tube Workers ...	Old Hill ...	Objection to nature of treatment by an official...	1	7	26	...	Ditto.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Banksmen	Near Pontefract	Against a reduction in the number employed on work at the pit bank	1	600 dir. and indir.	1	...	No details of settlement.
Coal Miners ...	Unstone, Sheffield	Refusal to accept a reduction in wages of 4d. per ton	1	190	5	6	Work resumed at a reduction of 2d. per ton, or 6½ per cent. Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Little Hulton, Lanc.	Refusal of men to accept proposed price for getting coal, and dissatisfaction with suggested working arrangements	1	100	8	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Blantyre ...	Refusal of the men to work 11 days per fortnight instead of 10 days as formerly	3	2,000	14	15 & 16	Men signed an agreement to work 11 days per fortnight.
Ditto ...	Bathville ...	Against a reduction in wages ...	1	200	15	...	A modified reduction accepted.
Ditto ...	Armadale ...	Against a proposal of the employer to increase the "tare of the hutch"	1	150	21	24	Employer withdrew his proposal.
Ditto ...	Motherwell ...	Against the employer retaining a week's wages as "lying time," instead of three days as formerly	1	250	21	...	Work resumed on old system.
Ditto (Cutters) ...	Nr. Coleford...	Against a reduction of 7½ per cent. ...	1	300	23	27	Work resumed at a reduction of 2½ per cent.
Quarry Labourers ...	Mountsorrel, Leics.	Objection to issue of notice forbidding men to start work until "quarter time" when day had been broken through rain and other reasons	1	150	27	Apr. 1	Amicable settlement arrived at on the basis of a modification of the original notice.
Hauliers ...	Merthyr ...	Men ceased work as a protest against employers pressing for fines imposed by magistrate in a dispute on 25th Feb. (see L. G., March)	1	1,500 dir. and indir.	28	1	Work resumed, a deputation being formed to interview the employers.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH 1895—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Coal Miners ...	Wakefield ...	Against new system of payment for coal getting, alleged to have the effect of reducing wages	1	17	March. Lasted 3 days	March. 3 days	Workmen fined for absenting themselves from work. No details of settlement. Ditto.
Ditto ...	Rutherglen ...	Against partial reductions ...	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Blakeney, Glos.	Against a reduction in wages ...	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Seafaring, Dock Labour, &c.							
Shipmen and Quay Porters	Liverpool ...	Against refusal of payment at the union rate of wages	1	60	8	16	Employer agreed to pay union rate of wages. Still unsettled.
Dock Labourers ...	Limerick ...	Against working cargo with aid of steam ...	1	130	29	...	Still unsettled.
Shipbuilding.							
Platers' Helpers ...	Wallsend ...	Refusal of employer to adhere to alleged agreement to pay increased wages on account of greater length of frame and beam	1	9 dir. 400 indir.	9	14	Work resumed pending negotiations between employers and helpers.
Engineers (Ship-repairing works)	Newport, Mon.	Demand for a new set of port rules ...	8	80 dir. 84 indir.	11	14	Work resumed, the question of the rules being amicably settled on 18th March. Work resumed, the question in dispute to be settled by conference.
Engineers ...	Clydebank ...	For an advance in wages ...	1	...	16	16	Work resumed without the demand being granted.
Shipwrights ...	Govan ...	Against employment of engineers and joiners upon work alleged to belong to shipwrights	1	75	16	30	Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Leith ...	Alleged refusal to do larger quantity of work than that recognised by union scale	1	50	30	...	Still unsettled.
Textile Trades.							
Waste Pullers ...	Batley ...	Against proposed reduction in wages ...	1	9	9	...	Ditto.
Pattern Weavers (Woolen)	Huddersfield	Against proposed change from day to piece-work, alleged to have the effect of reducing wages	1	78	25	...	Satisfactory piece-work scale of prices arranged.
Jute Spinners (Females)	Dundee ...	Objection to substitution of bags in place of boxes previously provided for operatives' boots and wearing apparel	1	100 dir. 320 indir.	25	29	Satisfactory arrangement arrived at.
Woolsorters ...	Bradford ...	Against proposed reduction in wages ...	1	16	25	...	Still unsettled.
Loomers and Drawers	Preston ...	Alleged refusal to adhere to Blackburn list of prices, and dissatisfaction with the apprentice indentures of the firm	1	10	...	...	Mill stated to be closed through bad trade, and 270 workpeople thrown out of employment.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Bakers ...	St. Helens ...	Objection to system of night working ...	1	4	2	3	Hands replaced by non-union men.
Cigar Makers (females)	Nottingham ...	Against reduction in price of 3d. per 100 on a particular class of cigars	1	11	16	26	Work resumed, a different make of cigars being substituted for that in dispute. Replaced by other men.
Platelayers and Ballastmen	Barry, Cardiff	Men were absent from work on 24th March owing to inclemency of weather, and were required to see the manager before being allowed to resume. They then refused to commence work, unless paid for time taken up by the interview.	1	28	25	...	Replaced by other men.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Cotton Weavers ...	Barrowford ...	Alleged unfair distribution of work, favour being stated to be shown to non-unionists	1	150	1894 21 June	March 12	Employer agreed to pay list prices and to distribute the work fairly. Hands replaced by non-unionists.
Tailors ...	Airdrie ...	For dismissal of a man who had worked for a firm whose men were on strike	1	15	5 Nov.	...	Price list agreed upon.
Coal Miners ...	Treorkey ...	Failure to agree upon tonnage rates ...	1	30	Dec. 1895	12	Work resumed at an advance of 2d. per ton.
Ditto ...	Bredbury, Stockport	For an advance in wages on account of hardness of seam	1	101	9 Jan.	5	Men found work elsewhere, and the shop closed to unionists.
Tailors ...	Nottingham ...	Refusal of one man to alter a garment without payment, objection being also made to refusal of employer to pay "log prices" to other men	1	13	25 Jan.	25	Work resumed at piece rates.
Cardigan Jacket Hands	Leicester ...	Against substitution of day-work for piece-work	1	50	28 Jan.	16	A minimum wage of 31s. per week granted, with amended code of rules.
Plumbers ...	Halifax ...	For advance in wages, and an amended code of working rules	About 18 firms	...	...	...	Work done by other employees, and by new machinery.
Safe Makers ...	Liverpool ...	Alleged tyranny of a foreman ...	1	20	29 Jan.	30	Reduction accepted.
Coal Miners ...	West Lothian	Against reduction in wages of 2d. per ton ...	...	50	30 Jan.	2	Work resumed at the reduction.
Blast Furnacemen ...	Millom ...	Against reduction in wages of 5 to 10 per cent. ...	1	300	2 Feb.	23	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Askam ...	Ditto ...	1	200	9 Feb.	...	Ditto.
Platers' Helpers ...	Middlesbro' ...	Dispute as to prices to be paid on a change from piece to time work	1	300	6 Feb.	...	All except about 12 have resumed work, some re-starting on piece-work, others receiving 31s. 6d. (time-work) per week. Hands replaced.
Carpenters ...	Cardiff ...	Against alteration in system of working, from day to piece-work	1	24	15 Feb.	1	Shop blocked to union men.
Brass Workers...	Birmingham...	Dissatisfaction with prices ...	1	28	17 Feb.	...	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Coal Miners ...	Motherwell ...	Refusal to accept reduced wages ...	1	...	22 Feb.	11	Employer agreed to men's demands.
Chair Makers ...	Birmingham...	Men refused to remove material and tools to new premises without payment	1	9	25 Feb.	3	Shop blocked to union men.
Iron Moulders ...	Cork ...	Against introduction of non-unionists ...	1	17	28 Feb.	...	Work resumed at a reduction of 1d.
Coal Miners ...	Armadale ...	Against a reduction in wages of 2d. per ton ...	1	180	28 Feb.	15	Work resumed at a reduction of 1d.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in February were still unsettled:—saw smiths, Sheffield; bobbin turners, Barnsley; painters, Douglas (since finished, April).

The following, which commenced before February were also still unsettled:—cotton operatives, Heywood; cotton weavers, Cliviger; fustian weavers, Bury; dyers, Wyke and Greetland; wool sorters, Saltaire; power-loom overlookers, Heaton Norris; beetling and finishing hands, White Abbey, Belfast; painters, Dundee; stonemasons, Crown Hill, Plymouth; plasterers, Sheffield; wire drawers, Halifax; miners, Dronfield; carriers, Cleckheaton.

The following dispute, commencing in December last, of which information has only recently been received, was also still unsettled:—

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Workpeople.	Com-mence-ment.
Glass-bottle Blowers ...	Brierley Hill ...	Refusal to submit to a reduction in wages, and to work with non-unionists	1	34 dir. 100 indir.	22 Dec. 1894.

Information for Emigrants.—A new edition of the free Quarterly Circular of the Emigrants' Information Office was issued on April 1st. It contains for each of the British Colonies full information upon the points useful for intending emigrants. The series of penny handbooks—one for each colony—issued annually by the office are also now ready for 1895. They contain very full and detailed infor-

mation as to the constitution and government, the climate, products demand for and conditions of labour, and the cost of living in the Colonies, together with much other information of value to intending settlers. The Handbooks can be obtained at 1d. each, and the Quarterly Circulars free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers* and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trade Unions, and in some cases by the Employers concerned.)

THE changes in wages reported during March include a reduction of 1 1/2 per cent. in the wages of about 100,000 miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, representing a decrease in earnings of 2 1/2d. in the £. At Radstock there was a reduction of 7 1/2 per cent. in the wages of about 2,000 miners, and in the Forest of Dean a reduction of 2 1/2 per cent. in the wages of 600 steam coal miners. In other industries about 7,000 persons had their wages reduced during the month. These included about 1,300 blast furnacemen in Cumberland, 3,500 steel workers in the West of Scotland, who had a reduction of 5 per cent., and about 2,250 glass-bottle workers in Yorkshire, who had a reduction of 10 per cent. off the rates paid for overwork. Seamen were shipped at reduced rates at Newport, Belfast and Dublin, and there was a downward tendency at Newcastle. The total number of reductions reported affected about 110,000 persons.

Out of the 3,600 persons whose wages were increased, about 3,000 were engaged in the Building Trades, and, of the remainder, 310 were labourers employed in the Royal parks and gardens.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Number of work-people directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Sections include BUILDING TRADES, COAL MINING, PIG IRON MANUFACTURE, STEEL MANUFACTURE, OTHER METAL WORKERS.

* In all cases the accuracy of Newspaper reports is inquired into before the information is used here. The 100 carpenters and joiners at Leicester who have received the 3d. advance are those in the employ of non-federated firms; others, to the number of 400 are on strike for a similar advance and alterations in the working rules.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Number of work-people directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Sections include TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, GLASS BOTTLE TRADE, DOCK LABOUR, GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, MISCELLANEOUS, SEAMEN.

Table with columns: Port, Voyage, No. shipped at new rate during March, Monthly Rates (Feb, Mar, Increase, Decrease). Sections include Sailors (A. B.'s) (Steamships), Ships' Firemen and Trimmers.

* 62 females and 3 boys. † Seamen's Wages at Newcastle.—A weakening in the wages rate for seamen at Newcastle was apparent during March. During February the predominant rate was 80s., but throughout March many men signed on at 75s. and 70s. The predominant wage only at Newport is quoted. A few men signed on in each month at wages above and below the predominant wage.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR. THE four cases of reductions in hours of labour reported during the month affect 482 persons. They include particulars of the adoption of a 48 hours' week for 23 tobacco operatives at Devizes.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Number of work-people directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime) (Before change, After change, Decrease per week).

CO-OPERATION IN MARCH. THREE associations of consumers for distribution, and two associations of producers have been registered during March in England and Wales. Of the former, one society is based upon the principle of no interest to shareholders or dividend to purchasers, applicants for membership being required to sign a declaration that they will do nothing inconsistent with these principles.

Associations of consumers at Stevenage and at Tylorstown, and the Little Bolton Boot and Shoe Making Society have commenced liquidation. Two associations of consumers have opened branches in England, and three have opened new premises in Scotland. The English Co-operative Wholesale Society has decided to purchase and carry on an existing co-operative dairy in Ireland, and has commenced in Manchester the printing department sanctioned at a delegate meeting some months since. The first of the stores to be established by the People's Co-operative Society was opened in March. This society is the outcome of a series of conferences of the Co-operative Union and the Co-operative Wholesale Society, held during the past two years to consider the best method of promoting distributive co-operation in London, and its establishment has been undertaken by a joint committee of the two organisations, a large proportion of the capital required being advanced on loan by the Wholesale Society, which will retain the power of nominating a portion of the committee of management until the whole of the loan

is repaid. The share capital of the society is to be raised in £1 shares, withdrawable at short notice, and the profits, after payment of interest on capital and other expenses and charges, will be allotted as dividend to customers in proportion to the amount of their purchases as in other working-class distributive societies.

A conference of 200 delegates from co-operative societies in Lancashire and Yorkshire was held at Leeds during the month to consider the best method of promoting co-operative production.

On March 30th the annual meeting of representatives from Scotch co-operative associations was held in Glasgow, over 150 delegates being present.

None of the co-operative boot and shoe-making societies are affected by the existing dispute in the Boot and Shoe Trade.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MARCH.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in March, it will be seen that 13 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations of Consumers, 9 Associations of Producers, 1 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Society, 50 new Friendly Societies, 57 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 4 new Building Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Thirty-six Building Societies, 3 Industrial and Provident Societies, and 1 Trade Union are reported as having ceased to exist, or to have commenced "winding up."

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

I.—Trade Unions.

England and Wales.—London Slaters and Tilers, Three Kings, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.; Amal. Glass Moulders, Makers and Smiths, 154 Sheffield Rd., Barnsley; Builders' Labourers, Talbot Hotel, Woolshops, Halifax; National Glass Painters, Embossers, Fret-lead Glaziers and Cutters, 161 and 163 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds; East London Helpers, Branch No. 1, Builders' Arms, Grundy St., St. Leonard's Rd., Poplar, E.; Fur and Skin Dressers, Hospital Tavern, Whitechapel Rd., E.; Military Musical Instrument Makers, Exmouth Arms, Exmouth St., Hampstead Rd., N.W.; Builders' Labourers, 10 Salter Gate, Chesterfield; Sheet Glass Makers, George Hotel, Water St., St. Helens; Marine and General Engineers, 125 Barking Rd., Canning Town, E.; General Workers, 22 Cleethorpes Rd., Great Grimsby.

Scotland.—Ploughmen's and Labourers' Federal Union, 34 St. Andrews' Sq., Edinburgh.

Ireland.—Car-owners and Drivers, Labourers' Hall, Clanbrassil St., Dundalk.

II.—Industrial and Provident Societies.

(A) Associations of Consumers.

England and Wales.—Bradford Mutual Coal Supply Association, 95 Peel's Buildings, New Kirkgate, Bradford; Workers' Socialist Co-op. Federation, 189 Shoreditch, E.; East Dereham Co-op. Soc., The Stores, East Dereham.

Scotland.—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) Associations of Producers.

England and Wales.—Little Paradise Productive Soc., The Folk House, Little Paradise, Bedminster, Bristol; Mytholmroyd Manufacturing Society, Square Shed, Mytholmroyd, Manchester.

Scotland.—None.

Ireland.—(1) Co-operative Agricultural Societies at Ballingore, co. Westmeath, and Killaser, co. Mayo; (2) Co-operative Dairy Societies at Newtown Sandes, co. Kerry; Inch, co. Wexford; Ballinlough, Carrigen, co. Kilkenny; Ballinamult, co. Waterford; and Upper Kilmacow, co. Kilkenny.

(C) Miscellaneous.

England and Wales.—Post Office Employees' Burglary Insurance Soc., 20 King Edward Street, London, E.C.

Scotland.—None. *Ireland.*—None.

III.—Friendly Societies.

(A) New Friendly Societies.

England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 7; Specially authorised, 9; Juvenile, 7; Dividing, 5; Working Men's Clubs, 19.

Scotland.—None. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 2; Specially authorised, 1.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.

England and Wales.—A.O. Foresters, 10; I.O. Rechabites, 17; Loco. Steam Enginemen, &c., 8; I.O. Odd Fellows, M.U. 4; O.G.O. Sons of Phoenix, 3; Hearts of Oak Yly. Dividing, 3; Various others, 9.

Scotland.—Various societies, 3. *Ireland.*—None.

IV.—Building Societies.

England and Wales.—Four new societies registered.

Scotland.—None. *Ireland.*—None.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

I.—Trade Unions.

England and Wales.—Sunderland Chain-makers and Chain-strikers' Association, Monkwearmouth.

Scotland.—None. *Ireland.*—None.

II.—Industrial and Provident Societies.

England and Wales.—Stevenage Dist. Co-op. Society; Tylorstown Ind. Co-op. Society; and The Little Bolton Boot and Shoe-making and Repairing Society.

Scotland.—None. *Ireland.*—None.

III.—Building Societies.

England and Wales.—Dissolved by Instrument, 9. Have sent notice of commencement of dissolution, 3. Have sent notice of termination of dissolution, 24.

Scotland.—None. *Ireland.*—None.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING March 19 mines were opened or re-opened and 11 abandoned, as against 13 and 24 respectively in February. Of the 19 new mines 18 were collieries, and of these Durham, Yorkshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Glamorganshire, and Fifeshire contained two each. Nine of the 11 mines abandoned were also collieries, four of them being in Durham.

COAL:—

New Mines.

Durham.—Greenhead (a small Landsale Colliery); Copy Crooks (an old shaft cleared out to prove old workings) (2). *Yorkshire.*—Oak (Brown Metal Seam), Nethertown, Drighlington; Beeley Wood (Clay Coal Seam), Oughtibridge, Sheffield (2). *Lancashire.*—Bunkers Hill (Sandrock Coal Seam), Stacksteads. *Salop.*—Wombridge (Nab Side Pit—to drive a water level); Ketley Bank (cleansing old pit shaft to search for coal) (2). *Staffordshire.*—Coppice (Yard Seam), Brownhills; Bournchills (Heathen Seam), near Dudley (2). *Gloucestershire.*—Chaff House Pit. *Monmouthshire.*—Vedw Wood. *Breconshire.*—The Old Coal. *Glamorganshire.*—Llest Llantwit (Llantwit House Coal), Llantwit Vardre; Mountain Level, Merthyr Tydfil (2). *Stirlingshire.*—Redding No. 20 Pit (splint seam), Polmont. *Fifeshire.*—Middle Grange, Culross; Glencraig (Lochgelly Splint Seam), Lochgelly. (2) *Lanarkshire.*—Greengairs, Airdrie.

CLAY:—

Devon.—Heathfield.

COAL:—

Mines Abandoned.

Northumberland.—North Walbottle (Landsale Pit), Whorlton. *Durham.*—West Auckland (Brockwell and Busty Seams); Ivesley; Tursdale (Harvey Seam); Evenwood (4). *Lancashire.*—Botany Bay (Rams, Four Feet and Shuttle Seams), (Clifton and Kersley's), Manchester. *Staffordshire.*—Longton Hall (Great Row Seam), Longton. *Lanarkshire.*—Roughrigg No. 10 Pit (Lady Grange Seam), Longriggend. *Stirlingshire.*—East Roughrigg No. 2 Pit (Gas Coal Seam), Blackbraes.

ALUM CLAY OR BAUXITE:—

Antrim.—Irish Hill, Straid (temporary discontinuance).

TIN, COPPER AND ARSENIC:—

Cornwall.—Botallack.

NOTE.—The owners of the "Buckshaft, Cinderford; Perseverance, Newnham, St. Annals, Cinderford; Park Hill, Bream and Dun Pit" iron mines, which were stated in the last number of the LABOUR GAZETTE to have been abandoned, inform the Department that these mines are still at work.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE AGED POOR.†

The Royal Commission on the Aged Poor has presented its final report. It includes a summary of the evidence taken with regard to the provision for destitution in old age through the Poor Law, under the following heads:—Statistics and cost of pauperism, conditions of Poor Law relief to the aged, special questions connected with the Poor Law; and with regard to the provision for old age, independently of the Poor Law under the heads of charity, provision made by the working classes themselves, and schemes for the provision of assistance from public funds other than Poor Law relief.

† Report of the Royal Commission on the Aged Poor, Vol. I., 1895 (C.—7,684) Price 1s.

NOTICE.

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