

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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PRICE ONE PENNY.

## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

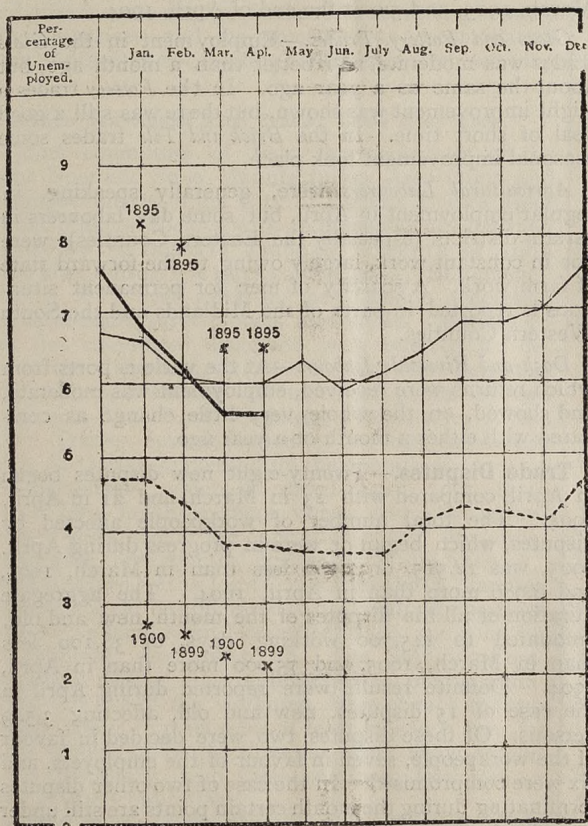


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN APRIL.

[Based on 4,649 returns, viz.: 3,328 from Employers or their Associations; 1,240 from Trade Unions, and 81 from other sources.]

On the whole employment showed little change in April, as compared with the preceding month. There was some improvement in the pig iron and boot and shoe industries. On the other hand there was some decline in the printing and shipbuilding trades. The cotton and tinsplate trades continued very brisk.

As compared with a year ago there was a general improvement in the iron and steel trades, and in the cotton, woollen, boot and shoe, and furnishing and wood working trades.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 575,968, making returns, 32,348, or 5.6 per cent., were reported as unemployed at the end of April, 1905. This is the same percentage as in March and 0.4 per cent. less than in April, 1904.

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

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in the coal mining industry in April was about the same as in March, but was rather worse than a year ago. At collieries employing 550,964 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 4.95 days per week during the four weeks ended April 22nd,\* as compared with 5.09 days in March, 1905, and 4.86 days in April,\* 1904.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago. At the 122 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended April 22nd\* was 5.71, as compared with 5.84 in the previous month, and 5.67 in April,\* 1904.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry continued to improve during April, and was considerably better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that 318 furnaces, employing about 22,670 workpeople, were in blast at the end of April, 1905—an increase of 2 as compared with the previous month, and of 15 as compared with April, 1904. The number of furnaces in blast was greater than in any month since September, 1903.

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Employment at iron and steel works was good and showed little change as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Returns from 205 iron and steel works, employing 91,252 workpeople, showed that the volume of employment in the week ended April 15th, 1905, was 0.4 per cent. less than in the week ended March 25th, 1905, but 3.9 per cent. greater than in the last week of April, 1904.

**Tinsplate Industry.**—Employment in this industry continued to improve, and was considerably better than a year ago. At the end of April 408 mills were at work, an increase of 3 as compared with the previous month, and of 41 as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The number of mills in operation was greater than at any time since 1900.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment generally continued to show a slight improvement, and was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 6.0, as compared with 6.1 at the end of March and 6.2 in April, 1904. The present percentage is lower than in any month in 1904.

\* The April figures are reduced by Easter holidays in both 1904 and 1905.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment fell off somewhat during the month. It was, however, slightly better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 12.2, as compared with 11.2 at the end of March, 1905, and with 12.7 per cent. a year ago.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment continued very brisk, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 129,571 workpeople on April 15th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of weekly wages paid compared with the end of March, and of 14.5 per cent. compared with the end of April, 1904.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment continued good during the month, and showed an improvement compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 14,269 workpeople in the last full week of the month showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid in that week, as compared with the last week in March, and of 3.6 per cent. as compared with the last week in April, 1904.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment showed a slight improvement, and was a little better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 35,896 workpeople in the last full week of the month showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid in that week, as compared with the last week in March, and of 2.1 per cent. as compared with the last week in April, 1904.

**Flax Trade.**—Employment generally showed little change as compared with March, but was worse in Scotland than a year ago, much short time being reported. Returns from firms employing about 50,000 workpeople in the week ended 15th April showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. on the number employed at the end of March, and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with the end of April, 1904.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment in this industry continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing nearly 26,000 workpeople in the week ended 15th April showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with the end of March, and a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with the end of April, 1904.

**Silk Trade.**—Returns from firms employing 11,672 workpeople showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number of throwing and spinning spindles working compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number of power looms working compared with a month ago, but an increase of 6.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment was dull in England, and good in Scotland. In both cases it was better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms in Leicestershire employing 8,530 workpeople in the week ended April 15th showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in March, and of 5.6 per cent. compared with the last week in April, 1904.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke branch* showed the usual seasonal improvement and was fair in the provinces but only moderate in London; it was about the same as a year ago. In the *ready-made branch* employment was fair, and better than a month and a year ago.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment generally continued to improve and was better than a year ago. Returns from 468 firms, employing 62,976 workpeople, and paying £60,918 in wages during the week ended April 15th showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the end of March, and of 5.9 per cent. compared with the end of April, 1904.

**Hat Trade.**—Employment showed some slight improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the *Silk hat* trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of April was 12.0 per cent., compared with 12.1 per cent. in March, and 8.2 per cent. a year ago. In the *Felt hat* trade in the corres-

ponding periods the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed were 2.3, 2.9, and 3.3.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment continued bad in April. It showed little change as compared with a month ago, but was slightly better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of April was 9.3, as compared with 9.1 at the end of March, and with 9.8 a year ago.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment in April was slack, and worse than a month and year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of the month was 5.8, as compared with 4.5 a month ago and year ago.

**Papermaking Trade.**—Employment remained fair. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 3.8, against 2.9 in March and 3.1 in April, 1904.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment at the end of April was, on the whole, fair and better than a month and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed (exclusive of coopers) at the end of April was 4.2, as compared with 5.1 at the end of March, 1905, and 5.0 at the end of April, 1904.

**Glass and Pottery Trades.**—Employment in the *Glass* trades was moderate, and better than a month ago, but about the same as a year ago. In the *Pottery* trades a slight improvement was shown, but there was still a good deal of short time. In the *Brick and Tile* trades some seasonal improvement took place.

**Agricultural Labourers** were, generally speaking, in regular employment in April, but some day labourers in certain districts (especially the Eastern Counties), were not in constant work, largely owing to the forward state of farm work. A scarcity of men for permanent situations is reported in parts of the Midlands and the South Western Counties.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—At the various ports from which returns were received, employment was moderate, and showed, on the whole, very little change as compared with either a month or a year ago.

**Trade Disputes.**—Twenty-eight new disputes began in April, compared with 23 in March, and 21 in April, 1904. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes, which began or were in progress during April, 1905, was 12,515, or 2,682 less than in March, 1905, and 6,986 more than in April, 1904. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 145,700 working days, or 38,100 less than in March, 1905, and 75,000 more than in April, 1904. Definite results were reported during April in the case of 15 disputes, new and old, affecting 3,549 persons. Of these disputes, two were decided in favour of the workpeople, seven in favour of the employers, and six were compromised. In the case of two other disputes terminating during the month certain points are still under consideration.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported in April was an increase in wages of over £250 per week. The changes affected 11,250 workpeople, of whom nearly 8,850 received advances, while over 2,400 sustained decreases. The changes of the previous month affected over 47,600 workpeople, the net result being an increase of nearly £750 per week. During April, 1904, the number of workpeople affected was about 40,800, and the net result a decrease of £1,000 per week.

The principal changes reported were increases affecting 3,500 blastfurnacemen and labourers in Scotland, and nearly 1,400 puddlers, millmen, &c., in South Wales and Monmouth, and a decrease affecting 1,800 slate quarrymen and labourers in North Wales.

One change affecting nearly 1,400 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and twelve changes affecting over 7,200 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting over 2,650 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without a stoppage of work.

## RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

### Painters at Wigan.

Notice and counter notice for alteration of working rules having been given by the employers and workpeople in the painting trade at Wigan, and the Board of Arbitrators appointed from each side having failed to agree, the Wigan and District Master Builders' Association on April 8th applied for the appointment of an Umpire by the Board of Trade, in accordance with the working rules. The Wigan branch of the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators having notified their acquiescence in the application, the Board of Trade appointed His Honour Judge Austin to act as Umpire.

His Honour issued his award on April 29th, deciding that the working rules should be those annexed to his award and should take effect from 1st May, 1905. The award effects some changes in the rules regarding country work, apprentices, and the procedure as to conciliation in case of disputes not relating to alterations of working rules.

### London Sew-Round Shoe Trade; Louis Heel Work.

A joint committee of four representatives of the London Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association and four representatives of the City of London Ladies' Boot and Shoe Makers' Society, with an independent Chairman appointed by the Board of Trade (see GAZETTE for April, p. 100), after sitting five days completed a "Statement" for Louis XV. heel work in the London wholesale trade hand-made turned boots and shoes. Matters on which the committee disagreed were referred for decision to the Chairman, Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, who was assisted on technical points by two experts, viz., Mr. F. Y. Golding, Headmaster of the Leather Trades School, appointed by the employers, and Mr. A. Gatter, appointed by the operatives.

The Statement, which is dated April 20th, is to remain in force for three years, unless otherwise agreed to by both sides, and at the expiration of this time either side may give three months' notice of any alterations.

It was resolved by the Joint Committee that a Standing Committee should be appointed to deal with all questions relating to the hand-sewn Louis heel trade, and rules for this committee were drawn up. The Standing Committee is to consist of five representatives of the manufacturers and five of the workmen, three of each to form a quorum, and is to meet once at least in every year, or upon the requisition of any three members being lodged with the Secretary, who shall summon forthwith a meeting of the Committee.

Provision is made for cases in which the Committee may fail to agree, as follows:—

That the Committee at its first meeting elect an Umpire, or, failing to agree upon an Umpire, request the President of the Board of Trade to nominate an Umpire. Any question referred to the Committee under these rules, which it is unable to settle or determine, shall be remitted to the Umpire, whose decision in each case shall be final and binding on all parties. Each party shall be entitled to appoint an Expert as adviser to the Umpire.

The rules also provide that in the event of any dispute as to wages or otherwise, the same rate of wages that obtained prior to the dispute shall continue until a decision is given by the Committee; that all cases in dispute shall be settled within one month of notice convening a meeting unless otherwise agreed; that there must be no suspension of work; and that decisions may be made retrospective.

### Quarrymen in Leicestershire.

Early in February the Enderby and Stoney Stanton Granite Company, Limited, gave notice of certain rules regarding the hours of labour of pieceworkers in their employ. The men having declined to accept the rules, work ceased on February 24th, 400 quarrymen being affected. Work was resumed on April 17th, and on May 10th joint application was made to the Board of Trade on behalf of the Company, the Leicestershire

branches of the National Union of Quarrymen, and the Stoney Stanton branch of the Sett Makers' Union of Great Britain and Ireland, for the appointment of a Conciliator to consider and endeavour to bring about a settlement of all matters in dispute concerning the hours of labour for pieceworkers employed by the Company.

The Board of Trade appointed Alderman T. Smith of Leicester, to act as Conciliator.

### Steelworkers at Morriston.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, the Arbitrator appointed in connection with certain matters in dispute between the employers and their bar millmen at the Dyffryn Steel and Tinplate Works, Morriston (see GAZETTE for April, p. 100), issued his award on May 12th.

The Arbitrator in his award refused the claim of the employers that the works should be rated as a mill of 50 tons output, and that this mill (the only remaining mill of its character with sand bottom furnaces in S. Wales) should be treated on the basis of 50 ton mills, and he also refused the employers' claim that in view of recent and prospective output the wages of the bar millmen should be reduced. The Arbitrator further awarded that the wages of all the bar millmen, excepting shearers (whose case was withdrawn), should be raised, but not to the extent suggested by the workpeople. The award sets out in detail the special tonnage rates, applicable to the Dyffryn works only, to be paid in the various occupations in the bar mill. By agreement between the two parties the award is to be retrospective, and to date from the 1st January, 1905.

## LABOUR STATISTICS OF UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Tenth Abstract of Labour Statistics\* of the United Kingdom, issued to-day by the Board of Trade, contains statistical information relating to labour in the chief industries of the country for a period of years extending in the main as far back as 1888. The Tables include, as far as possible, the figures for 1904, and in the majority of cases comparative figures are given for the series of years preceding.

A general summary of some of the more important of the figures appears at the beginning of the Abstract, and references are there given to the sections and pages where detailed information may be found.

In the first section—mainly relating to employment and production—Tables are given showing the fluctuations in employment in some of the principal trades. Information is given as to the production during the last seventeen years of the chief minerals, and of the principal crops, the output of pig iron, steel ingots, and puddled iron bars, and the tonnage of shipping launched. Other Tables show in comparative form for a number of years the exports of coal, textiles, and clothing.

The second section relates to Wages and Hours, and shows the standard rates of wages and hours of labour recognised in the principal towns at the beginning of 1905 in many branches of the building, engineering, shipbuilding, printing, and cabinetmaking trades, together with the minimum weekly rates of wages of boot and shoe operatives, the minimum and maximum weekly rates of pay of police-constables, and the predominant monthly rates of wages of seamen. The average wages and earnings of agricultural labourers are also dealt with. Tables are given showing changes in wages and hours for a series of years, and details of profit-sharing schemes.

In the third section—relating to Prices—changes in the prices of 45 principal commodities are shown by the method of index numbers for each year from 1871 to 1904. Prices of coal, iron, and British corn are also given for a series of years, with the average price of bread at co-operative stores.

The fourth section deals with trade disputes, conciliation and arbitration in the settlement thereof, and the work of Conciliation and Arbitration Boards. Tables are given showing the number of disputes, of workpeople affected, and of days lost, grouped by trades, for each

\* Cd. 2491. Price 1s. 2d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.

year since 1893, together with statistics of causes, results, and methods of settlement.

In the next section appear statistics of industrial diseases and accidents, the information being classified by occupations, sex, and nature and cause of injury.

The sixth section relates to associations of employers and of workmen, and gives detailed particulars of the principal industrial associations. The number, membership, income, and expenditure on chief benefits of 100 principal Trade Unions are shown, grouped according to industries, for each year since 1892. Under the heading of Workmen's Co-operative Societies are given summary and detailed Tables showing the progress of co-operation in the United Kingdom since 1888. Both production and distribution are dealt with in detail for each class of society. Statistics are also given respecting workmen's clubs, friendly, building, and loan societies.

The seventh section, compiled largely from the reports of the Census of 1901, deals with population. Statistics are given relating to the growth of population, emigration and immigration, and the housing, ages, and occupations of the people. Employment in factories and workshops is also dealt with.

In the eighth section appears information as to workmen's compensation schemes and industrial actions and prosecutions. Tables are also given in this section relating to savings banks and to pauperism for a series of years.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1904.

THE Annual Return\* for 1904 relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom, recently issued, states that the year 1904, as compared with recent years, was distinguished by an increase in the total passenger movement both inward and outward. The high figures shown by the returns for 1903 were slightly surpassed in 1904 in the outward movement to European and also to non-European countries, but the inward movement showed an increase in the number of persons arriving from non-European countries only, the number arriving from European countries having fallen off by about 11,000 as compared with the previous year, although it was still largely in excess of that of 1902. In 1904 there was a net balance outward of 127,592 persons, a rather smaller figure than that for 1903, but considerably above that for any other recent year.

Movement to and from Places out of Europe.

The following Table shows for the years 1902-4 the number of inward and outward passengers, distinguishing British and Irish from foreigners:—

Year.	Passengers Outward.			Passengers Inward.		
	British and Irish.	Foreigners.	Nationality not Distinguished.	British and Irish.	Foreigners.	Nationality not Distinguished.
1902	205,662	174,291	6,826	104,115	62,159	4,600
1903	259,950	181,539	7,517	112,914	82,390	4,381
1904	271,435	174,354	8,088	144,581	92,172	5,143

In 1904 the movement in both directions was the largest ever recorded, but the net outward movement, though still large, was smaller than in the two previous years.

English passengers formed 65 per cent. of the native emigrants, Scotch 14 per cent., and Irish 21 per cent. The relatively low proportion of children and high proportion of females among Irish emigrants continued to be a noticeable feature.

Of the passengers outward of British nationality 44 per cent. went to places within the British Empire, 26 per cent. going to British North America, 10 per cent. to British South Africa, 5 per cent. to Australia and New Zealand, and 2 per cent. to British India and Ceylon. Of those going to Foreign Countries nearly the whole number went to the United States. The number of British passengers to South Africa was only 26,818, as compared with 50,206 in 1903 and 43,206 in 1902. The number who proceeded to British North America, on

\* H.C. 137. Price 8d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

the other hand, reached 69,681, as compared with 59,652 in 1903, a number itself in excess of any previous figures. There was also a considerable increase in the numbers who proceeded to the United States.

The net result of the movement between this country and places out of Europe was an excess outward of 211,981 persons, the movement of British and Irish persons showing an excess outward of 126,854. This native emigration is the balance of a net movement inward of 833 persons from British South Africa, and a net movement outward of 60,372 to other places within the British Empire (including 51,284 to British North America) and of 67,315 to Foreign Countries (including 66,790 to the United States). Last year was the first in which there has been a net movement inward from South Africa since 1899, the year in which the war commenced.

Movement to and from European Countries.

The movement outward was greater than in either of the two previous years, but the inward movement was smaller than in 1903. The net balance inward of 84,389 persons was some 30,000 below the 1903 figures.

The total number of alien passengers entered on the Alien Lists as arriving in the United Kingdom from European countries in 1904 was 194,986, of whom 99,278 were stated on the lists to be en route to other countries, and 12,863 were seamen. If these be deducted, we have a remainder of 82,845, as compared with a similar remainder of 69,168 in 1903, and 66,471 in 1902. If we further deduct 7,697 aliens who were ascertained to be in fact en route to other countries, although not so entered on the lists, we obtain a remainder of 75,148, as compared with 59,429, in 1903 and 58,488 in 1902. The distinction, however, between aliens stated to be en route to places beyond the United Kingdom and aliens not so stated is based on imperfect material, and can only be regarded as giving the minimum number of transmigrants or alien passengers through the United Kingdom to places beyond. Additional information on this matter is embodied in the report.

Of the 82,845 alien immigrants (other than seamen) not described in the Alien List as being en route to other countries, about 46,000 (compared with 30,000 in 1903) were Russians and Poles, 7,000 were Germans, 6,500 French and 6,300 Italians. The Russians and Poles consist principally of Jews, and 35,651, or 77 per cent. of them arrived in London.

RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN APRIL.

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

THE decrease in the amount of exceptional distress due to unemployment, noted in previous issues of the GAZETTE, was more than maintained in April, the returns received showing a great falling off in the number of districts reporting distress. Nearly all the returns show an improvement on the previous month.

The workpeople most generally affected by want of employment were those belonging to the building trades, especially labourers. Painters who have during the winter been very slack are now fairly well employed. In certain centres other classes of workpeople were also affected, e.g., shipbuilders at various ports; metal workers, especially at Leeds and Sheffield; boot and shoe operatives at Leicester and Northampton; hosiery workers at Leicester; wool combers and sorters at Bradford; and pottery workers at Hnnley.

In January the number of Provincial towns in which exceptional distress was reported stood at 79, in February it fell to 65, and in March to 50, while in April it showed a further decline to 29. In London and neighbourhood two-fifths of the districts reported exceptional distress in

April, as compared with one-half in March; in January nearly all had reported exceptional distress.

The work provided for the unemployed was continued in April in certain localities in London and neighbourhood, and in 29 Provincial towns. In 11 London districts and in 27 Provincial towns, where work had been provided in March, it was not continued in April. Of the localities where work was in progress at the beginning of April, operations have since ceased in 5 districts of London and neighbourhood and in 7 provincial towns.

The total number of persons given employment-relief in April, according to the returns received, was 9,119, including 4,265 in the London district. These numbers are a little over one-third of the corresponding figures for March. In the case of those works for which the information is available, the average number of days' work that each man received in April was 11.

London and Neighbourhood.—Exceptional distress was reported in two-fifths of the districts as to which information on this point has been received. Local work for the unemployed was provided by the Local Authorities in about half the Boroughs and Urban Districts in the metropolis and surrounding district, 2,986 men, or only about 29 per cent. of the number in the previous month, receiving employment-relief at some time in April, according to the returns received. In five districts the Local Authorities have now discontinued employment-relief.

In addition the Central Committee of the London Unemployed Fund found continuous employment for 1,001 men by arrangement with the Office of Works, the London County Council, the Corporation of the City of London, and the Garden City Company, and for 180 men at the Hollesley Bay Farm Colony. The work provided in the London County Council Parks, and at Epsom ceased during the month. The Middlesex Unemployed Fund also found work for 98 men at the Alexandra Palace. The work provided by this Fund has now ceased.

Northern Counties.—There was some improvement in this district and exceptional distress was reported in only one town. Work for the unemployed was provided by the Municipal Authority at Newcastle, but has now ceased.

Yorkshire.—Exceptional distress was reported in 7 towns, compared with 9 in March. Generally there was an improvement, but in one important city the distress was said to be worse. The employment-relief was continued by the Local Authorities at Bradford, Doncaster, Halifax, Harrogate, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, York and Scarborough, but has now been discontinued at the last-named town.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—There was less distress due to unemployment than in the previous month: it was reported exceptional in 6 towns, compared with 9 in March. Employment-relief was continued by the Municipal Authorities at Bolton, Warrington, Manchester, Birkenhead, and Salford, but ceased at the two towns last named at the end of the month.

Midlands.—Nearly all the reports state that there was less distress than in the previous month; it was reported to be exceptional in only 5 towns, as compared with 15 in March. Work for the unemployed was provided by the Local Authorities at Bilston, Coventry, Northampton, and Smethwick. It was, however, discontinued towards the end of April at Northampton.

Eastern Counties.—Exceptional distress was reported in 3 towns, as compared with 4 in March. The employment-relief was continued for a few days at the beginning of the month at Norwich.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—A general improvement was reported. According to the returns received there was exceptional distress in 4 towns, as compared with 7 in the previous month. The work provided for the unemployed by the Municipal Authorities

at Plymouth and Devonport was continued, as also was that given by a voluntary committee at Northfleet.

Wales and Monmouth.—The employment-relief was continued in April by the Municipal Authorities at Cardiff and Newport, but ceased at the latter place about the middle of the month.

Scotland.—A further general improvement was noted in the reports. Exceptional distress was still reported in 2 towns, compared with 3 in March. The Local Authorities continued employment-relief at Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen and Hamilton.

Ireland.—Exceptional distress was reported in one town and was stated to be worse there than in March.

The following Table gives certain particulars of the work for the unemployed provided (by Local Authorities, except where otherwise stated) in April:—

Employment-Relief in April, 1905.

Locality.	No. of days in April during which works were open.	No. of Men Employed.		No. of days worked in month.	
		Total.	Average per day during period works were open.	Aggregate.	Average per Man.
<b>London and Neighbourhood.</b>					
<i>London Unemployed Fund Central Committee—</i>					
City Markets	23	71	57	1,321	18.6
Garden City, Hitchen	23	300	271	6,225	20.8
Hollesley Bay Farm	23	180	180	4,140	23.0
L.C.C. Asylun, Epsom	10	300	200	2,000	6.7
L.C.C. Parks	17	30	21	3	11.9
Royal Parks	23	300	202	4,650	15.5
<i>Middlesex Unemployed Fund—</i>					
Alexandra Palace and Park	15	98	98	1,470	15.0
<i>East—</i>					
Leyton	6	21	21	123	5.9
Poplar	23	245	200	4,600	18.3
Walthamstow	...	309	...	...	...
West Ham	23	705	61	1,410	2.0
<i>South—</i>					
Bermondsey	23	526	154	3,533	6.7
Deptford	22	72	24	537	7.5
Greenwich	23	30	18	459	14.0
Woolwich	24	200	200	4,800	24.0
<i>North—</i>					
Islington	27	10	226	8.4	...
St. Pancras	...	13	...	...	...
Tottenham	21	135	38	804	6.0
<i>West—</i>					
Chelsea	23	106	106	2,438	23.0
Paddington	22	504	173	3,795	7.5
<i>Central—</i>					
City of London	24	33	...	499	15.1
Finsbury	...	60	37	885	14.7
<b>Provincial Towns.</b>					
<i>Northern Counties—</i>					
Newcastle	23	428	54	1,238	2.9
<i>Yorkshire—</i>					
Bradford	25	567	225	5,627	9.9
Doncaster	23	200	200	4,600	23.0
Halifax	25	236	94	2,362	10.0
Harrogate	24	243	243	5,832	24.0
Hull	22	119	81	1,781	15.0
Leeds	25	465	227	5,681	12.5
Scarborough	...	51	9	183	3.0
Sheffield	23	518*	...	...	...
York	25	24	10	260	10.8
<i>Lancs. and Cheshire—</i>					
Birkenhead	25	86	...	2,737	...
Bolton	21	30	15	315	10.5
Manchester	25	420	93	2,322	5.5
Salford	24	5	5	120	24.0
Warrington	24	57	33	789	13.8
<i>Midland Counties—</i>					
Bilston	25	36	12	312	8.7
Coventry	24	63	63	1,500	23.1
Northampton	20	131	60	1,197	9.1
Smethwick	23	9	4	94	10.4
<i>Eastern Counties—</i>					
Norwich	4	44	31	124	2.8
<i>S. &amp; S.W. Counties—</i>					
Devonport	22	47	47	1,034	22.0
Northfleet	24	75	71	1,704	22.7
Plymouth	23	33	16	379	11.5
<i>Wales and Mon.—</i>					
Cardiff	23	58	47	1,084	18.7
Newport	11	69	27	298	4.3
<i>Scotland—</i>					
Aberdeen	22½	127	107	2,412	19.0
Dundee	24	151	101	2,424	16.1
Edinburgh	24	130	90	2,160	16.6
Hamilton	25	79	41	1,026	13.0

NOTE.—In addition to the numbers employed as given in the above table, for whom the number of days worked is stated, 350 men were employed on piece work for whom the number of days worked cannot be stated, viz., at Birkenhead, 140, some of whom were employed partly on time work; at Hull, 160; and York, 50.

\* Number at work at end of April.  
† Return received from Factory Club and Employers' Relief Committee.

**EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.**

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

**Canada.**

Large numbers have already arrived in Canada during the Spring, and there is still a good demand for competent farm labourers in Ontario and other Provinces. Emigrants of that class should start at once, so as to be there during the busy season. The principal demand is for single men and boys, but married couples can be placed also. Those in the building trades are very busy in Ontario during the open season of Spring and Summer, and the manufacturing industries generally are well employed; but the local supply of mechanics is fairly sufficient, and a British mechanic who emigrates should be specially skilled, or have money to live on for a little. Miners are busy in Nova Scotia and parts of British Columbia, and female servants are in demand everywhere.

**Commonwealth of Australia.**

There is little demand for more labour in any part of the Commonwealth. Employment has been good at the large Broken Hill Silver Mines in New South Wales, and skilled miners have always a fair chance of being taken on without much trouble. During 1904, there was an increase in the number of persons employed in New South Wales manufactories, the increase of female labour being especially noticeable. The only States which offer any money assistance to emigrants are Queensland and Western Australia. Emigrants who are specially skilled, or have means of their own, or have friends on the spot, are likely to do well, but to the ordinary emigrant in search of work Australia does not offer much inducement at the present time. An emigrant, moreover, must bear in mind that he cannot enter into a contract of work before arrival, as, if he does, he will be prohibited from landing.

**New Zealand.**

In Auckland labour and trade are rather dull, and there is a decreasing demand for labour. Many new arrivals find it difficult to get employment in the engineering trades. In Wellington the building trade is very active, and is likely to continue so for some time; the engineering trade is very slack in all its branches; the largest of the boot factories is very busy; clothing trade factories are slack. In Nelson jam and confectionery factories, sawmills and brickyards are very busy. In Christchurch trades, in which skilled labour is required, are depressed. In Dunedin there is a fairly good demand in the building trades. In country districts there has been plenty of employment at harvesting, fruit canning, dairying, &c.

**South Africa.**

*Cape Colony.*—No persons are allowed to land in Cape Colony unless they have secured work beforehand, or possess £20 on arrival, and otherwise conform to the requirements of the Immigration Act. There is no demand for anyone on the railways, and the general manager estimates that there are already 150 clerks and 100 to 125 other superfluous men now on the establishment. In all trades there is an ample supply of labour, and emigrants are recommended to avoid Cape Colony at the present time.

There is a demand for female servants, but they should not go by themselves. Other women, unless they have secured definite situations, should not emigrate on the chance of employment.

*Natal.*—Labour is plentiful both at Durban and at Maritzburg, and no one is recommended to go to Natal at the present time on the chance of work, unless he has considerable means of his own, or is nominated by friends in the Colony.

*Transvaal.*—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. Though the building trades at Johannesburg have been fairly good of late, there is now a slackening off. There is no demand in other trades, which are overcrowded. Women teachers, especially uncertificated teachers without friends in South Africa, are warned, in

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

view particularly of the expense of living and the difficulty of getting suitable lodgings, against going to the Transvaal or other parts of South Africa in search of employment. Those who contemplate going are advised to communicate with this office. There is a demand for house-parlourmaids, cooks, and cook-generals, who may obtain assisted passages from the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

*Orange River Colony.*—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. The local supply of labour is quite sufficient. Female servants may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society mentioned above.

**LABOUR ABROAD.**

**FRANCE.**

*Employment in March.*—In the building trades the slight resumption reported in February became more marked. The metal trades showed continued improvement, and in many of the most important districts no metal workers were unemployed. Paris was an exception, the metal trades there being only moderately busy. In the textile trades the reports were satisfactory from the Vosges and Western districts, and from Rheims, but for cotton operatives in Normandy, the Ardennes and the Roanne district employment was reported to be only moderate. Short time was still being worked in the north as in February. A marked falling-off in employment was reported for silk weavers in the Saint-Etienne and Lyons districts. The garment-making and glove-making trades were recovering from seasonal slackness. The printing and bookbinding trades were very busy, and the coopering trade showed further improvement.

Out of a total of 174,415 members of 938 Trade Unions (not including the Unions of Miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made returns as to the state of employment during March, 19,092, or 10.9 per cent., were out of work on the 15th of the month, as compared with 11.0 per cent. in the previous month and 10.9 per cent. in March, 1904.

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

Trade Union.	Percentage reported Unemployed at the end of		
	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1905.	Mar., 1904.
<b>Building Trades:—</b>	<b>Per cent.</b>	<b>Per cent.</b>	<b>Per cent.</b>
Carpenters and Joiners ...	18.7	15.5	12.0
Other Branches ...	23.7	20.0	17.3
<b>Metal and Engineering Trades ...</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Textile Trades ...	8.3	8.1	10.0
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking)	5.7	24.0	7.5
<b>Printing Trades:—</b>			
Paris ...	2.4	0	0
Provinces ...	3.1	2.4	2.4
<b>Leather and Fur Trades:—</b>			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	14.1	22.5	24.0
Boot and Shoemaking ...	26.5	7.2	10.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades	9.0	15.0	8.0
Food Preparation Trades (including Confectionery)	17.9	20.7	16.0

*Coal Mining in March.*—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground during March was 5.84, as compared with 5.95 in the previous month, and with 5.88 in March, 1904. Taking surface and underground workers together, 60.37 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week) and 38.49 per cent. from 5 to 6 days per week; the corresponding percentages in the preceding month were 91.46 and 8.43, and in March, 1904, 24.50 and 74.45. The above figures were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 160,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

*Labour Disputes in March.*—Eighty-six disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in March, as compared with 75 in the previous month and 97 in March, 1904. The number of workpeople who took part in 82 of the disputes of March last was 14,821, as compared with 17,781 in 71 disputes in the

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

**REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES**

IN APRIL.

**BUILDING TRADES.**

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

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

Employment with carpenters continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 7.5 at the end of April, as compared with 7.9 in March and 6.1 in April, 1904. With plumbers employment was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 11.2 at the end of April, compared with 11.8 at the end of March and 9.9 in April, 1904.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1905.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Percentage for April, 1905, as compared with a	
		April, 1905.	Mar., 1905.	April, 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.</b>						
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
London ...	6,846	8.3	8.1	7.2	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
Northern Counties†	6,072	9.2	9.9	10.8	– 0.7	– 1.6
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,407	7.8	8.1	6.4	– 0.3	+ 1.4
Yorkshire ...	5,187	7.3	6.4	6.7	– 2.1	+ 0.6
East Midlands ...	2,954	6.6	6.7	5.2	– 0.1	+ 1.4
West Midlands ...	4,594	8.7	7.8	7.1	+ 0.9	+ 1.6
Eastern Counties ...	1,135	6.9	5.5	6.0	+ 1.4	+ 0.9
S. and S.W. Counties ...	5,924	6.0	6.0	3.5	...	+ 2.5
Wales and Monmouth ...	1,868	8.2	4.6	4.3	+ 3.6	+ 3.9
Other Districts ...	542	5.3	3.8	4.8	+ 1.5	+ 0.5
SCOTLAND ...	3,650	4.4	5.6	2.7	– 1.2	+ 1.7
IRELAND ...	4,550	7.4	11.2	4.5	– 3.8	+ 2.9
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> ...	<b>53,829</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>– 0.4</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>
<b>PLUMBERS:†</b>						
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
London ...	1,099	11.3	14.6	8.0	– 3.3	+ 3.3
Northern Counties†	1,458	10.8	10.9	10.0	– 0.1	+ 0.8
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,514	12.7	13.0	10.6	– 0.3	+ 2.1
Yorkshire ...	1,112	11.3	12.3	9.7	– 1.0	+ 1.6
East Midlands ...	647	7.6	7.5	13.8	+ 0.1	– 5.2
West Midlands ...	272	7.0	10.6	10.2	– 3.6	– 3.2
Eastern Counties ...	110	10.0	11.3	6.4	– 1.3	+ 3.6
S. and S.W. Counties ...	495	9.3	9.9	7.2	– 0.6	+ 2.1
Wales and Monmouth ...	279	12.5	7.7	6.0	+ 4.8	+ 6.5
Other Districts ...	35	8.6	8.6	6.7	...	+ 2.1
SCOTLAND ...	283	10.5	11.0	9.8	– 0.5	+ 0.7
IRELAND ...	621	13.7	13.9	10.8	– 0.2	+ 2.9
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> ...	<b>9,655</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>– 0.6</b>	<b>+ 1.3</b>

With bricklayers employment generally was dull, but in certain districts it was slightly better than a month ago. With masons it was bad, and much the same as a month ago. With plasterers employment was bad in England, quiet in Scotland, and worse than a month ago. With slaters and tilers employment was bad in England, and fair generally in Scotland. With painters employment was fairly good and better than a month ago. With builders' labourers it was dull.

The returns received from 69 Employers' Associations show that employment was dull generally. In the provinces it was slightly better on the whole than a month ago; in London worse. Employment generally continued worse than a year ago.

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

*London.*—Employment continued slack, and was rather worse than a month ago. Outside work was

\* Exclusive of superannuated members. † Including Middlesbrough. ‡ Revised figures for April, 1904.

previous month, and with 45,267 in 87 disputes of March, 1904. Out of 82 new and old disputes which came to an end in March, 20 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 21 in favour of the employers, and 41 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in March.*—Twenty cases of recourse to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having taken place during March. In 17 cases the initiative was taken by the Justice of the Peace and in 2 by the workpeople, information on this point not being given in the remaining case. In one case the dispute was settled before a committee of conciliation could be formed, in 4 cases the proffered mediation was declined by the employers, and in 1 case by both parties. In the 14 remaining cases, conciliation committees were formed and resulted in the settlement of 9 strikes.

**GERMANY.**

*Employment in March.*—The usual spring revival of employment took place in March, and was apparently more marked than that of a year ago. The rise in the level of employment was, as usual, largely due, on the one hand, to the building trades, where the weather permitted the full resumption of work in the open, and on the other to agriculture, which absorbed a large amount of labour for spring operations. Employment in coal mining showed a backward tendency, partly owing to the market becoming overstocked by continued imports of foreign coal following upon the Ruhr strike. Employment continued to improve in the iron and engineering trades, and remained good in the chemical, textile, and electrical trades. The beginning of the season for the ready-made clothing trades brought with it an abundance of employment for these trades. There were a few trades, however, in which the state of employment left something to be desired.

Returns relating to the state of employment during the first quarter of 1905 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 782,029, as compared with a membership of 641,653 in the Unions which reported at the end of December, and 446,712 in the Unions which reported at the end of March, 1904. Of the total membership in March last, 12,131, or 1.6 per cent., were unemployed on the last day of the month, as compared with 2.6 per cent. at the end of December, and 1.9 per cent. a year ago. The number and percentage of members unemployed in the four principal Federations of Unions in these trades at each of the three periods compared were as follows:—

	Metal Workers (Head-quarters, Stuttgart.)	Engineers and Metal Workers (Head-quarters, Berlin.)	Printers (Head-quarters, Berlin.)	Commercial & Transport Employees (Head-quarters, Berlin.)	Total of four Federations
March, 1905 ...	205,507	46,223	39,074	42,654	333,458
December, 1904 ...	181,328	43,595	38,219	40,314	303,456
March, 1904 ...	160,141	43,381	35,374	31,662	270,558
March, 1905 ...	2,827	300	674	422	3,223
December, 1904 ...	3,221	374	1,707	603	5,905
March, 1904 ...	2,297	347	1,405	374	4,423
March, 1905 ...	1.4	0.7	1.7	1.0	1.0
December, 1904 ...	1.8	1.0	4.5	1.5	1.9
March, 1904 ...	1.4	1.0	4.0	1.2	1.6

*Labour Disputes in April.*—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* 52 disputes began in Germany during April, as compared with 49 in March. Twenty-two of these were in the building trades, 9 in the metal and engineering trades, 1 in the textile trades, 3 in the clothing trades, 5 in the woodworking trades, 2 in the pottery trades, 3 in the food trades, 5 in the leather trades, and 2 in other trades.

\* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department). † Reichs-Arbeitsblatt. (Journal of the German Labour Department).

much interrupted by wet weather. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 63 employers show that in the last week of April they paid wages to 10,647 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 10,839 in March, and 12,696 a year ago.

**Northern Counties.**—Employment remained dull. With painters, however, it continued good, and it improved slightly with joiners and plumbers.

**Lancashire.**—Compared with a month ago little change is shown in this district. At Bolton, Blackburn and Burnley, however, a slight improvement was reported, and at certain towns in South East Lancashire employment with bricklayers was fair and rather better than a month ago.

**Yorkshire.**—During April employment with carpenters and joiners and plumbers was rather better than a month ago, but, generally speaking, employment was slack.

**Midlands.**—Employment generally continued dull, but was rather better than a month ago at several towns. With painters it continued fairly good on the whole.

**Eastern Counties.**—With most branches of the trade employment continued dull, but a slight improvement took place in certain branches at Norwich and Ipswich.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Employment on the whole was moderate, and rather better than a month ago. In Plymouth, however, it was slack in most branches.

**Wales and Monmouthshire.**—In South Wales employment continued dull except with painters, who were well employed. In North Wales a slight improvement took place except at Llandudno, where employment continued slack.

**Scotland.**—In Edinburgh employment improved in most branches, but was still quiet. In Glasgow it continued dull on the whole. At both cities employment with joiners was affected by disputes. At Dundee employment continued slack, but at Aberdeen there was a slight improvement. In each district painters were fairly well employed.

**Ireland.**—In Dublin employment was bad; in Belfast it was quiet; at Cork it was moderate; at Limerick good.

**COAL MINING.**

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

MAKING due allowance for the time lost through holidays, employment in the coal-mining industry in April was about the same as in March, but was rather worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,277 pits, employing 550,744 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries during the four weeks ended April 22nd, 1905, was 4.95, compared with 5.09 days in March, 1905, and 4.86 in April, 1904. It is estimated, however, that on an average a quarter of a day per week was lost through holidays in April, 1905, and rather more than half a day in April, 1904. The average weekly number of days worked in April during the 10 years 1896-1905 was 4.94.

Of the 550,744 workpeople covered by the returns, 337,711 (or 61.3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended April 22nd, 1905, and of these, 165,346 worked 22 days or more.

As compared with a month ago, a considerable improvement took place in Northumberland and South Wales. The other districts showed a decline which, however, in most cases was partly accounted for by the holidays.

As compared with a year ago the apparent improvement in some districts is accounted for by the greater number of holidays falling within the four weeks ended 23rd April, 1904.

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

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in April, 1905, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1905, as compared with	
		April* 22nd, 1905.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	April* 23rd, 1904.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	39,095	5.12	4.96	5.11	+ .16	+ .01
Durham ...	97,770	5.22	5.39	5.08	-.17	+ .14
Cumberland ...	6,865	5.10	5.16	5.19	-.06	-.09
South Yorkshire ...	59,362	5.09	5.24	4.81	-.15	+ .28
West Yorkshire ...	18,494	4.27	4.52	4.29	-.25	-.02
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	53,661	4.76	5.11	4.66	-.35	+ .10
Derbyshire ...	39,438	4.31	4.77	4.38	-.46	-.07
Nottingham and Leicester	25,112	3.90	4.43	4.01	-.53	-.11
Staffordshire ...	24,877	4.27	4.85	4.66	-.58	-.59
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	9,186	4.63	5.24	4.63	-.61	...
Gloucester and Somerset	8,668	4.53	4.75	5.04	-.22	-.51
North Wales ...	9,810	4.58	5.09	4.94	-.51	-.36
South Wales and Mon. ...	115,390	5.40	5.21	5.15	-.19	+ .25
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES...</b>	<b>808,728</b>	<b>4.94</b>	<b>5.08</b>	<b>4.82</b>	<b>-.14</b>	<b>+ .12</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ...	20,459	5.11	5.11	5.12	...	- .01
The Lothians ...	5,074	5.50	5.66	5.51	-.16	- .01
Fife ...	14,848	4.90	5.12	5.13	-.22	-.23
<b>SCOTLAND ...</b>	<b>40,381</b>	<b>5.08</b>	<b>5.18</b>	<b>5.17</b>	<b>-.10</b>	<b>-.09</b>
<b>IRELAND.</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>5.17</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.29</b>	<b>+ .16</b>	<b>-.12</b>
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>850,744</b>	<b>4.98</b>	<b>5.09</b>	<b>4.86</b>	<b>-.14</b>	<b>+ .10</b>

In **Northumberland** employment was good generally, and better than a month ago; but in steam coal pits there was a decline in the last week of the period. In **Durham** it was fairly good, and, allowing for the holidays, better than in March, but below the level of a year ago. Employment with cokemen continued fair.

Employment in **Cumberland** was fair, and better than a month ago.

In **Yorkshire** employment was fairly good, but the number of days worked showed some decline as many pits were closed for the last two days of the period. The demand for steam coal was generally good. Surfacermen were reported to be not quite so well employed as in March, and with coke-oven men employment was slack.

In **Lancashire and Cheshire** employment declined somewhat, and was moderate on the whole, but it was reported as steadier at some of the larger collieries in the Bolton and Wigan district.

Employment in **Derbyshire** was fairly good in the steam coal seams but moderate in others. On the whole it was but little worse than a month ago when allowance has been made for the holidays.

In **Nottingham and Leicestershire** employment was dull and worse than a month ago and a year ago, and on the average less than four days per week were worked.

In **Staffordshire** employment continued to decline and was considerably worse than a year ago. In the Cannock Chase district under 3 days per week were worked.

**Warwick, Worcester and Salop.**—In this district employment declined somewhat. In Shropshire it was fair. There was a slight improvement in Warwickshire.

In the **Somerset and Gloucestershire** district employment was dull on the whole, and in the Forest of Dean less than four days per week were worked.

In **North Wales** employment was moderate generally.

In **South Wales** employment was good generally, and better than a month ago. It was about the same as a year ago when allowance has been made for the holidays. At the anthracite collieries about four and-a-half days per week were worked.

In the **West of Scotland** district employment remained fair on the whole, but in Ayrshire some slight decline was reported. In Lanarkshire 340 men are out of employment through the shutting down of a colliery.

In the **Lothians** employment declined somewhat as compared with March, and was about the same as a year ago.

\* The average number of days worked was affected by holidays.

In **Fifeshire and Clackmannanshire** employment showed a decline as compared with a month and a year ago.

The **Exports** of coal, coke, and patent fuel in April amounted to 3,817,056 tons, as compared with 3,927,228 tons in March, and 3,931,880 tons in April, 1904.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT in April continued good in iron mines, and was about the same as a year ago. Employment was also good in shale mines, though a further decline was reported. In tin and lead mining it continued fair, some improvement being shown in tin mining. With quarrymen employment on the whole continued moderate, but it was better with granite quarrymen and settmakers.

**Mining.**

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continued good. During the four weeks ended April 22nd, the average weekly number of days worked by the 120 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers was 5.71, as compared with 5.84 in March, and 5.67\* in April, 1904. Easter holidays, however, reduced the two April figures to the extent of .17 of a day in 1905, and of .24 of a day in 1904.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in April, 1905, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1905, as compared with	
		April 22nd, 1905.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	April 23rd, 1904.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland... ..	7,269	5.74	5.89	5.74	- .15	...
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,600	5.69	5.94	5.69	- .25	...
Scotland... ..	1,111	5.58	5.42	5.59	+ .016	- .001
Other Districts ...	2,268	5.69	5.68	5.45	+ .001	+ .024
<b>Total and Averages</b>	<b>15,248</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>5.84</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>- .13</b>	<b>+ .004</b>

Of the 15,248 workpeople covered by the returns 14,010, or 91.9 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended April 22nd, as compared with 90.6 per cent. in the previous month, and 81.4 per cent. in April, 1904.

**Shale Mining.**—Employment with shale miners was good. Returns received relating to 26 mines show that in April 3,176 men were employed, as compared with 3,153 a month ago, and 2,920 in April, 1904. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended April 22nd was 5.66, as compared with 5.81 in the previous month, and 5.54 a year ago.

**Tin, Copper, and Lead Mining.**—A slight improvement was reported in tin mining, but employment was said still to be dull in the Calstock and Liskeard districts. Employment with lead miners in North Wales continued fair, but was not quite so good as a month ago. In Weardale it was fairly good.

**Quarrying.**

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

**Granite.**—Employment in April showed some improvement, and was fair on the whole, though in Devon and Cornwall it was slack, and some short time was reported.

**Limestone.**—Employment at Stanhope and in Wear-dale generally was fair, but only four days a week were worked at Westgate. Employment was steady in Cumberland, Derbyshire, and North Wales. It was dull, however, in the Plymouth district.

**Other Stone.**—Employment continued good in the Clew Hill quarries (road material), fairly good in the Gateshead district, and fair at Blyth. In the chert quarries in Derbyshire and in the Bath stone quarries in the Bristol district employment was fair. Full time was worked in the Normanton district, but slackness was reported in the Barnsley district. Employment continued bad in the Rowsley quarries and in Forfarshire.

\* Revised figures.

**Settmaking.**—Employment was good in the Airdrie district, and fair in the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts. Improvement was shown in North Wales, where employment was fair. It was good in the Clew Hill district; fair in Leicestershire, and at Rowley Regis (Staffs); moderate in the Sheffield district.

**China Clay.**—Employment was moderate, but steady in the St. Austell district and regular at Lee Moor.

**PIG IRON INDUSTRY.**

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued to improve during April, being better than in March, and considerably better than a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of April was greater than in any month since September, 1903.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters show that four furnaces were re-lit during the month—one each in Cleveland, Cumberland, and Monmouthshire, and one in Scotland. Two furnaces were blown out—one in Staffordshire and one in Scotland. At the end of April, 318 furnaces were in blast, as compared with 316 in March, and 303 in April, 1904. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the returns is estimated at 22,670.

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

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1905, as compared with	
	April, 1905.	Mar., 1905.	April, 1904.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>					
Cleveland ... ..	83	82	77	+ 1	+ 6
Cumberland & Lanes.	35	34	31	+	+ 4
S. and S.W. Yorks.	14	14	13	...	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham	36	36	37*	...	- 1
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	27	27	24	...	+ 3
Stafford & Worcester	30	31	31	- 1	- 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	15	14	13	+ 1	+ 2
Other districts ...	7	7	6	...	+ 1
<b>Returned from England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>232*</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>+ 15</b>
<b>Returned from Scotland</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>303*</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>+ 15</b>

**IRON AND STEEL WORKS.**

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was good, about the same as a month ago, and better than a year ago. Returns from 205 iron and steel works showed that the total volume of employment (taking into account both the numbers employed and the number of shifts worked) during the week ended April 15th, 1905, was 0.4 per cent. less than in the week ended March 25th, but 3.9 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the returns was approximately 501,200, as compared with 503,100 last month, and 482,300 in the last week of April, 1904.

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

Number of Shifts worked.	Number of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended			Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended		
	Apr. 15th, 1905.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Apr. 30th, 1904.	Apr. 15th, 1905.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Apr. 30th, 1904.
Under 5 per week	8,047	8,941	12,410	8.8	9.8	13.9
5 per week ...	28,503	28,702	25,666	31.2	31.3	28.8
5½ per week ...	1,653	912	2,501	1.8	1.0	2.8
6 per week ...	52,323	52,785	47,964	57.4	57.5	53.9
Over 6 per week	720	339	493	0.8	0.4	0.6
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>91,252</b>	<b>91,679</b>	<b>89,034</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Revised figures.

Analysis by Departments.

From the following Table, it will be seen that, compared with last month, the greatest increases in the numbers employed are shown against the headings Forging and Pressing (7.3 per cent.), and Mechanics and General Labourers. The greatest decreases are shown against Puddling Forges (4.2 per cent.), and Open Hearth Melting Furnaces (3.8 per cent.). These two are also the only branches which show a decrease on the number employed last year.

As compared with last month no great differences are shown in the average number of shifts worked per man, but in crucible furnaces an increase of over 12 per cent. on last year is indicated.

Department.	Numbers employed in week ended			Average Number of Shifts worked per man in week ended		
	Apr. 15th, 1905.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Apr. 30th., 1904.	Apr. 15th, 1905.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	Apr. 30th., 1904.
Open-Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,638	7,943	7,662	5.90	5.90	5.87
Crucible Furnaces	567	563	507	5.72	5.70	5.10
Bessemer Converters	2,091	2,125	2,022	5.23	5.16	5.16
Puddling Forges	9,512	9,934	9,797	4.88	4.92	4.79
Rolling Mills	29,880	30,408	29,350	5.22	5.24	5.14
Forging and Pressing	3,854	3,590	3,680	5.49	5.53	5.37
Founding	10,622	10,463	10,567	5.88	5.80	5.79
Other Departments	8,779	8,961	8,333	5.72	5.79	5.68
Mechanics and General Labourers	18,309	17,692	17,116	5.77	5.73	5.73
Total	91,252	91,679	89,034	5.49	5.49	5.42

Analysis by Districts.

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

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Average Number of Shifts worked per man in week ended		
	April 15th, 1905.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	April 30th., 1904.	April 15th, 1905.	Mar. 25th, 1905.	April 30th., 1904.
Northumberland and Durham	11,360	11,212	10,950	5.54	5.58	5.48
Cleveland	8,121	8,183	8,813	5.62	5.60	5.70
Sheffield and Rotherham	18,063	18,088	16,923	5.69	5.66	5.56
Leeds, Hull and other Yorkshire Towns	3,984	3,834	3,803	5.37	5.32	5.28
Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire	11,426	11,625	11,415	5.29	5.26	5.07
Staffordshire	9,441	9,923	9,346	5.16	5.30	5.20
Other Midland Counties	4,004	4,233	4,224	5.13	5.03	4.98
Wales and Monmouth	8,999	8,882	8,557	5.56	5.65	5.63
England and Wales	75,398	75,980	74,031	5.47	5.48	5.40
Scotland	15,854	15,699	15,003	5.59	5.53	5.48
Total	91,252	91,679	89,034	5.49	5.49	5.42

As compared with March, the most noticeable increases in the number of workpeople employed took place in Leeds, Hull, and other Yorkshire towns (nearly 4 per cent.). The largest decreases occurred in the Midland Counties, viz., 4.9 per cent. in Staffordshire, and 5.4 per cent. in other counties.

The only districts showing decreases compared with a year ago are the Cleveland district (7.9 per cent.), and the Midland Counties other than Staffordshire (5.4 per cent.). The largest increases on last year's figures were in the Sheffield and Rotherham district (6.7 per cent.), and in Scotland, Wales, and in Leeds and other Yorkshire towns.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week throughout Great Britain was 5.49, the same as last month, and slightly larger than in April, 1904. Compared with March, the greatest variation was a decrease of 0.14 shifts, or 2.6 per cent. in Staffordshire. Compared with a year ago, decreases are shown in the Cleveland district (1.4 per cent.), in Wales and Monmouth, and in Staffordshire, all other districts showing an increase, especially Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, (4.3 per cent.), and the Midland Counties other than Staffordshire.

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

**Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland.**—Steel smelters reported employment generally as fair and rather better than a month ago. Workers in plate and angle mills at Consett, and in plate mills at Newburn were practically in full employment. Bar and cogging mills at Jarrow worked 11 shifts per week, but sheet mills worked only half-time. Employment with forge and hammermen on the Tyne and Wear was fairly good. Employment with finished iron and steel workers was reported as good at Hartlepool and at Stockton. Steel workers at Wolsingham were moderately well employed. Metal expanders were well employed. In pipe foundries in the Tees and Hartlepool district it was brisk, and in chair foundries moderate.

**South Yorkshire.**—Employment in the iron and steel trade in the Sheffield and Rotherham district was moderate generally, but iron workers at Rotherham and Masboro' were fairly well employed. Makers of railway springs, tyres and axles were fairly busy at Rotherham and Iccles. Employment with steel workers at Leeds was slightly improved.

**Lancashire.**—A slight improvement was reported in the state of employment in the Bolton district.

**Midlands.**—In Staffordshire, employment continued good, especially with steel smelters. In Shropshire steel workers were fully employed, but with iron workers employment was only moderate. In Derbyshire some improvement took place. In Smethwick and West Bromwich employment with both iron and steelworkers showed considerable improvement. Ironworkers at Scunthorpe and Frodingham report employment as fair, and steel smelters as good.

**Wales and Monmouthshire.**—With steel smelters, employment was, on the whole, good, and with other workers in iron and steel, fair, and better than a month ago. At Brymbo employment continued steady.

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**—Employment was good, on the whole. Steel smelters at Parkhead report employment as irregular, though better than last month.

TINPLATE WORKS.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry during April continued to improve, and was considerably better than a year ago. The number of mills in operation at the end of the month was greater than at any other time since 1900. The demand for and supply of labour remained fairly equal.

At the end of April 408 mills were at work, an increase of 3 as compared with the previous month, and of 41 as compared with the corresponding month of last year. At the 78 works open, 67 had all their mills (365) in operation, while the remaining 11 had 43 mills working out of a total of 71. The number of workpeople employed at the 408 mills is estimated at about 20,400.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	67	365	—	365
Works giving partial employment	11	43	28	71
Total at end of April, 1905*	78	408	28	436
Corresponding Total for Mar., 1905*	77†	405†	25	430
Corresponding Total for April, 1904*	75	367	42	409

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

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

	Month ended April.			Four Months ended April.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
To United States ...	Tons. 4,116	Tons. 5,496	Tons. 5,267	Tons. 18,857	Tons. 20,956	Tons. 24,457
„ Other Countries	23,045	28,374	28,809	96,723	109,571	118,762
Total ...	27,161	33,870	34,076	115,580	130,527	143,219

ENGINEERING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT generally showed some slight improvement and was also slightly better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 141,974 members of Trade Unions show that 8,483 (or 6.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 6.1 per cent. at the end of March and 6.2 per cent. in April, 1904. The present percentage is lower than in any month in 1904.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1905, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for April, 1905, as compared with a	
		April, 1905.	Mar., 1905.	April, 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	12,656	6.2	5.8	4.5	+ 0.4	+ 1.7
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,721	7.2	8.3	7.0	- 1.1	+ 0.2
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,330	7.0	8.8	11.0	- 1.8	- 4.0
West Riding Towns ...	11,754	8.9	9.2	8.0	- 0.3	+ 0.9
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,514	3.7	5.3	7.4	- 1.6	+ 3.7
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,125	5.2	4.5	4.1	+ 0.7	+ 1.1
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	3,667	8.7	9.8	5.9	- 1.1	+ 2.8
London and Neighbouring District	12,456	4.4	4.0	4.1	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
South Coast ...	4,037	3.5	2.6	1.8	+ 0.9	+ 1.7
South Wales and Bristol District	6,528	4.6	3.7	3.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.0
Glasgow and District	12,766	7.2	6.7	8.6	+ 0.9	- 1.4
East of Scotland ...	3,654	8.5	8.7	10.7	- 0.2	- 2.2
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,453	7.8	8.0	6.8	- 0.2	+ 1.0
Other Districts ...	5,492	5.3	4.9	5.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	141,974	6.0	6.1	6.2	- 0.1	- 0.2

The percentage of unemployed was greatest in the West Riding, Notts, Derby and Leicester, and East of Scotland districts, and was least in the South Coast, Hull and Lincolnshire, London, and South Wales and Bristol districts.

As compared with a month ago, there was an improvement in the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn, and Hull and Lincolnshire districts; elsewhere not much change was shown.

Compared with a year ago there was a great improvement in the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn, and Hull and Lincolnshire districts, and a less improvement in Scotland. All other districts showed some decline, which was greatest in the North East Coast, and Notts, Derby, and Leicester districts.

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

**North-East Coast.**—Employment as a whole showed some decline, and was considerably worse than a year ago. Generally it was moderate, but was bad at North and South Shields and at Jarrow, where short time continued. In the Gateshead district employment remained good, and improved in the railway shops. In the Wallsend and Howdon districts it was not so steady in the engine shops. On repair work in the lower reaches of the Tyne employment was worse than a month ago, but at Blyth it was much better. With ironfounders employment

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

was bad at Sunderland, good at Gateshead, Jarrow, Hartlepool, and Middlesbrough, moderate elsewhere. Pattern makers were fairly employed on both rivers. Brassfinishers on the Tyne and Wear were not so well employed. In the Tees district generally some improvement was shown, but wagon makers continued slack. Enginemakers reported an improvement.

**Manchester and Liverpool District.**—Employment, though still slack, was better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. At Liverpool it continued bad. At Crewe it was moderate with boilermakers, bad with other sections, some short time being reported. At Manchester employment was fair with some sections and improving, but boilermakers, ironfounders and brassfounders and finishers were slack.

**Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District.**—There was a considerable improvement in this district, and employment, though slack, was much better than a year ago. At Oldham employment was fair generally, moderate with pattern makers, but slack with brass founders. At Bolton it was bad, but improving with pattern makers. It was good generally at Blackburn, moderate at Bury and Burnley. Boiler makers were slack, except at Blackburn. With ironfounders employment was very bad at Bolton, but in most of the other towns it was good.

**West Riding Towns.**—Employment generally showed a slight improvement, but was still bad, and worse than a year ago. At Leeds and Sheffield pattern makers were fairly well employed. With ironfounders employment was bad, except at Rotherham. In the textile machinery trade employment was fairly good at Leeds. At Sheffield most branches were slack and a good deal of short time was worked, but some were moderately employed; with boilermakers employment was declining. In the textile districts employment generally was slack.

**Hull and Lincolnshire District.**—Employment showed considerable improvement, especially at Hull, and was much better than a year ago. Generally it was fair, but at Doncaster it was bad with some short time. At Hull some overtime was worked on repairs. Boilermakers were moderately employed at Lincoln and Grantham, slack elsewhere.

**West Midlands.**—Employment was moderate on the whole, but not as good as a month or year ago. At Coventry, West Bromwich and Redditch it was fair. Toolmakers reported employment as improving at Birmingham, as also ironfounders at Wolverhampton. With electrical engineers employment was bad at Wolverhampton, fairly good at Birmingham. In the cycle and motor industries employment was good and overtime was worked.

**East Midlands.**—In this district there was some improvement, but employment generally was still bad and considerably worse than a year ago. Some short time was worked at Nottingham. At Leicester employment was good, especially on hosiery and shoe machinery. The motor car and cycle industries were busy at Nottingham. Employment at Nottingham was only moderate with hosiery machine builders, and not so good with lace machine builders; the latter section was slack at Long Eaton. At Derby employment was irregular on railway work, but boilermakers reported employment as improving, brass moulders and finishers as good. Railway carriage builders were well employed at Derby, but wagon builders were slack at Derby and Long Eaton.

**London and Neighbouring District.**—Employment generally continued moderate, but the percentage of unemployed was rather higher than a month or a year ago. With ironfounders employment was bad, except at Dartford and Erith. With hammermen and smiths it was fair, with brassfounders and finishers it was dull.

**South Coast.**—Employment was not up to the level of a month or a year ago. Generally it was bad at Portsmouth, Devonport, and Plymouth; fair at Southampton, Brighton, and Weymouth. With ironfounders it was good at Portsmouth, moderate at Devonport, bad at

Southampton and Brighton. Boilermakers were slack in the latter town.

**South Wales and Bristol District.**—Employment was not as good as a month or a year ago. It was fair at Swindon and at Cardiff, dull elsewhere. With ironfounders it was good in Wales, bad at Bristol.

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**—There was some decline on the previous month, but some branches reported improvement; employment was better than a year ago. With most sections it was reported as fair; with brassmoulders it was dull, with coppersmiths good. At Paisley employment was bad.

**East of Scotland.**—Employment on the whole continued dull, but was better than a year ago. Some improvement was reported at Dundee. The number of moulders on short time at Falkirk showed a decrease, but was still large.

**Belfast and Dublin.**—At Belfast employment was quiet generally, but overtime was worked on repairs, and pattern makers were fairly employed. At Dublin it was bad.

**Other Districts.**—At Barrow employment was moderate on the whole. In the Eastern Counties and at Carlisle it was fair. It was moderate at Stoke and Worcester, bad at Stafford, Hanley, York, and Lancaster.

**SHIPBUILDING TRADES.**

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

EMPLOYMENT in the shipbuilding industry fell off somewhat during the month. It was, however, slightly better than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 57,341 members had 7,022 (or 12·2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, 1905, as compared with 11·2 per cent. at the end of March, 1905, and with 12·7 per cent. at the end of April, 1904.

As compared with March the figures in the following Table showed an improvement in three districts, viz., the Humber, the Clyde, and Belfast, and a decline in nine. The most marked decline was shown in the Bristol Channel Ports and the Thames and Medway district. As compared with April, 1904, four districts showed an improvement, the most important of them being the Clyde, while eight districts showed a falling off, the most considerable decline being in the Thames and Medway and Mersey districts.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of April, 1905 included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for April, 1905, as compared with a	
		April, 1905.	Mar., 1905.	April, 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ... ..	9,270	13·8	11·8	12·8	+ 2·0	+ 1·0
Wear ... ..	4,976	11·3	11·0	12·4	+ 0·3	- 1·1
Tees and Hartlepool ... ..	5,969	13·4	11·1	11·7	+ 2·3	+ 1·7
Humber ... ..	2,454	13·3	14·2	16·6	- 0·9	- 3·3
Thames and Medway ... ..	4,306	13·3	8·8	8·8	+ 4·5	+ 4·5
Portsouth, Devonport, and Southampton ... ..	3,982	6·0	4·8	4·1	+ 1·2	+ 1·9
Bristol Channel Ports ... ..	2,450	20·5	15·4	18·8	+ 5·1	+ 1·7
Mersey ... ..	3,879	14·8	11·8	11·8	+ 3·0	+ 3·0
Clyde ... ..	11,903	11·3	13·0	17·0	- 1·7	- 5·7
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ... ..	2,243	11·1	11·0	17·7	+ 0·1	- 6·6
Belfast ... ..	2,857	10·3	12·9	9·3	- 2·6	+ 1·0
Other Districts ... ..	3,094	8·3	6·6	5·0	+ 1·7	+ 3·3
<b>United Kingdom</b> (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	<b>87,301</b>	<b>12·2</b>	<b>11·2</b>	<b>12·7</b>	<b>+ 1·0</b>	<b>- 0·5</b>

In the Tyne district the improvement noted in previous months was not maintained. Employment in repair work was, however, good on the whole, and it was also good with rivetters and caulkers on the north side of the river, and with shipsmiths.

Employment on the Wear continued to be affected by the shipsmiths' dispute. Frame benders were busy. Rivetters, caulkers, and platers reported employment as good, drillers and hole cutters as bad, ship joiners as slightly improving. Shipwrights also reported improvements.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was not quite so good as a month ago. It showed some improvement, however, with smiths and strikers. There

was also an improvement in the repairing branch at Middlesbrough. Angle smiths were fairly employed, so were shipwrights at Stockton and Middlesbrough.

In the Humber district employment was, on the whole, moderate and better than a month ago. It was also better than a year ago. Employment generally was good at Beverley, New Holland, and Selby.

Employment on the Thames and Medway was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Drillers and barge builders on the Thames, however, report a slight improvement.

On the South Coast employment declined somewhat, and was not so good as a year ago. At Southampton it was bad with yacht builders, fair in other shipbuilding. Shipwrights were fairly employed at Devonport and Gosport.

Employment in the Bristol Channel Ports continued slack on the whole and was worse than a year ago. Shipwrights at Pembroke Dock, however, report employment as good.

On the Mersey employment was dull and showed a decline as compared with a month ago.

On the Clyde employment generally improved during the month and was better than a year ago.

Leith, Dundee, and Aberdeen.—Employment continued fair at Leith, but not so good as a month ago. It was better than a year ago. At Dundee employment was fair. Shipwrights were busy on repair work. At Aberdeen it was fair and better than a month ago.

At Belfast employment improved, and with shipwrights it was fair. With boilermakers and iron shipbuilders, however, it was slack.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continued moderate. At Ipswich it was fair, and better than in March; slack at Yarmouth. At Dublin it was fair with shipwrights, bad with boilermakers and iron shipbuilders. It was fair at Cork.

**MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.**

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

EMPLOYMENT generally in these trades was bad, and showed little change.

**Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.**—Employment with brassworkers generally was dull, but continued to show a slight improvement, and was better than a month and a year ago. Bedstead and fire-brass makers at Birmingham reported employment as bad, with most of the former on short time.

**Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.**—With nut, bolt, and cut nail makers at Birmingham and Smethwick employment was reported as moderate; with nut and bolt makers at Dudley it continued to improve, and in South Wales it was fair. With rivet and wrought nail makers at Blackheath it was bad and worse than a month ago.

**Tubes.**—Employment in the South Staffordshire tube trade was reported as better than a month and a year ago, but at Landore it continued slack. In Birmingham employment on brass and copper tubes has improved.

**Chains, Anchors, etc.**—At Cradley employment was fair generally with dollied, side welded and cable chain makers; with block chain makers it was also fair, but not so good as a month ago; in South Wales it continued good and was better than a month ago; at Gateshead it was also good. Anchor smiths were moderately employed at Gateshead, but were still slack at Cradley. Anvil and vice makers reported employment as about the same at Dudley. Employment on furniture for harness and cart gear at Walsall continued slack. The spring and axle trades were fairly well employed at Birmingham, West Bromwich, and Wednesbury.

**Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.**—In the lock and latch trade employment remained bad with much short time. Employment with hollow-ware makers was moderate at Birmingham and West Bromwich, fair at Wolverhampton, bad at Sheffield. It was still good with spade and fork finishers at Stourbridge, fair at Wolverhampton on iron fences and hurdles, and on

builders' ironmongery, quiet with enamellers, slack with vermin trap makers.

**Cutlery, Tools, etc.**—In the Sheffield cutlery and edge tool trade employment was bad. Edge tool makers at Wednesbury reported employment as better than a month ago; at Birmingham as moderate. In the file trade employment generally was slack. At Redditch the needle and fish-hook trades were reported as well employed. Machine needle makers at Nottingham were still badly employed; at Leicester employment declined.

**Stoves, Grates, etc.**—At Newcastle, Falkirk, and Bolton employment was fair, at Nottingham moderate, at Mansfield bad, at Leeds and Glasgow worse than last month, with some short time.

**Sheet Metal, etc.**—Employment generally was dull, but at Manchester and at the Lye bad, Sheffield and Hull good; fair at Exeter, and improving at Oldham; fair with London zinc workers.

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

**Wire.**—In the wire trade employment on the whole continued fairly good. It was bad, however, in London and in Birmingham with wire-weavers.

**Farriers.**—Employment generally continued quiet.

**COTTON TRADE.**

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

EMPLOYMENT in April continued very brisk, and notwithstanding a decrease in the total hours worked, showed a slight increase in wages earned. Compared with a year ago, when much short time was still being worked, employment and wages showed a great increase. For the first time, the Returns include districts outside Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire.

The average price of raw cotton, "middling American," during April was 4·22d. per lb., as compared with 4·24d. in March and 8·03d. in April, 1904. The prices of "good fair" Egyptian for the same three periods averaged 6·59d., 6·69d. and 8·89d. per lb. respectively.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the pay day in the week ended 15th April was 156,356, an increase of 0·2 per cent. in the number employed compared with the end of March, and of 3·7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 129,571 operatives have stated the amount of weekly wages paid in the week ended 15th April, and at the end of March, and of April, 1904. From these returns it appears that, compared with the last week in March, the number employed showed an increase of 0·1 per cent., and the amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0·3 per cent. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed an increase of 3·8 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 14·5 per cent.

**Analysis by Departments.**

In the Preparing department there was an increase of 0·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week of March, and of 16·7 per cent. compared with the last week of April, 1904.

In the Spinning department there was an increase of 0·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with March, and of 14·7 per cent. compared with April, 1904.

In the Weaving department there was an increase of 0·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the end of March, and of 16·6 per cent. compared with the end of April, 1904.

Departments.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed in week ended 15th Apr., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ended 25th March, 1904.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ended 25th March, 1904.	Per cent.
Preparing ... ..	13,558	+ 3·1	+ 3·1	11,870	+ 0·9	+ 16·7
Spinning ... ..	23,691	+ 0·1	+ 3·5	22,594	+ 0·7	+ 14·7
Weaving ... ..	64,280	+ 0·1	+ 4·2	55,003	+ 0·3	+ 16·6
Other ... ..	10,155	+ 0·9	+ 4·8	12,042	- 0·5	+ 8·9
Departments not specified	17,887	+ 0·2	+ 2·9	18,557	+ 0·3	+ 4·4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>129,571</b>	<b>+ 0·1</b>	<b>+ 3·8</b>	<b>120,666</b>	<b>+ 0·3</b>	<b>+ 14·5</b>

In the Preparing and Spinning branch the percentage employed in mills working short time was 5·6, compared with 1·9 per cent. at the end of March, and 36·4 per cent. at the end of April, 1904.

The percentage of the total number employed in mills working short time in the Weaving department was 2·2, compared with 0·8 per cent. at the end of March, and 22·1 per cent. at the end of April, 1904.

**Analysis by Districts.**

From the following Table it is seen that, compared with the end of March, there was a slight decrease in the amount of wages paid in five district groups, the greatest decrease being apparent in Oldham (1·1 per cent.); in Ashton district there was no change; in six districts there was a slight increase, which was highest in the Stockport and Hyde district (4·7 per cent.).

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed in week ended 15th Apr., 1905.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with week ended 25th March, 1904.	Per cent.	Aggregate amount of wages paid in week ended 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with week ended 25th March, 1904.	Per cent.
Ashton District ... ..	7,822	+ 0·1	+ 4·0	7,520	...	+ 14·2
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde ... ..	5,953	...	+ 3·5	5,602	+ 4·7	+ 20·3
Oldham District ... ..	14,568	+ 0·2	+ 1·5	14,306	- 1·1	+ 21·5
Bolton and Leigh ... ..	15,806	- 0·2	+ 1·4	13,511	- 0·5	+ 7·0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	13,620	+ 0·2	+ 6·4	12,147	+ 0·9	+ 19·1
Manchester District ... ..	9,580	+ 0·1	+ 4·7	7,304	- 0·8	+ 19·9
Preston and Chorley ... ..	9,605	...	+ 2·2	8,033	+ 0·8	+ 9·4
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen ... ..	22,401	+ 0·2	+ 3·8	21,582	+ 0·1	+ 15·5
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson ... ..	20,118	+ 0·3	+ 4·8	22,101	+ 0·9	+ 11·6
Other Lancs. Towns ... ..	943	+ 0·5	+ 11·9	771	- 0·9	+ 36·9
Yorkshire Towns ... ..	5,662	+ 0·2	+ 3·0	5,452	+ 1·0	+ 8·1
Yorkshire Districts ... ..	3,492	+ 0·9	+ 10·0	4,337	- 0·2	+ 12·6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>129,571</b>	<b>+ 0·1</b>	<b>+ 3·8</b>	<b>120,666</b>	<b>+ 0·3</b>	<b>+ 14·5</b>

Compared with the last week in April, 1904, there was a great increase in wages paid in every district, the increase being least in the Bolton and Leigh district (7·0 per cent.), the Yorkshire district (8·1 per cent.), and Preston and Chorley (9·4 per cent.). The increase was greatest in the miscellaneous Lancashire group (36·9 per cent.), Oldham (21·5 per cent.), and Stockport and Hyde (20·3 per cent.).

**Short Time.**

From the following Table it is seen that in the Preparing and Spinning branch, compared with the end of March, there was a considerable increase of short time in the Ashton and the miscellaneous Lancashire districts, and a slighter one in Oldham; short time also showed a slight increase in the Manchester, Yorkshire, and Bolton districts. Less short time was worked in the Stockport and Hyde, Bury, etc., and Blackburn and Darwen districts. Compared with the end of April, 1904, the diminution of short time was universal, and was especially marked in the Oldham and Stockport districts.

In the Weaving branch some short time was reported in nine districts compared with four districts at the end of March, the miscellaneous group of towns outside Lancashire and Yorkshire alone showing an improvement in this respect; three districts reported no short time in either period. Compared with the end of April,

1904, there was a universal improvement, especially in the Manchester, Oldham, and Stockport and Hyde districts.

Districts.	Preparing and Spinning Departments.				Weaving Departments.			
	Total number employed in week ended 15th April, 1905.	Percentage of total number employed who were in Mills working short time in week ended			Total number employed in week ended 15th April, 1904.	Percentage of total number employed who were in Mills working short time in week ended		
		15th April, 1905.	25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.		15th April, 1904.	25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.
Ashton District ...	5,830	19.2	0.6	32.5	2,301	8.3	...	24.5
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	4,320	0.4	6.5	51.9	4,533	...	...	37.4
Oldham District ...	13,601	6.5	1.9	61.4	2,911	22.3	1.8	66.9
Bolton and Leigh ...	8,794	0.9	0.4	8.3	6,356	2.9	...	29.5
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, and Todmorden	6,363	3.3	4.3	28.3	9,748	1.5	...	22.7
Manchester District ...	3,390	3.0	1.1	37.4	6,231	6.1	4.9	54.9
Preston & Chorley ...	1,625	...	...	10.1	7,978	...	...	7.5
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen	3,439	...	0.8	55.1	22,505	...	...	18.6
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	1,187	...	...	38.4	19,623	0.4	0.4	9.5
Other Lancs. Towns...	1,672	34.0	...	37.8	1,650	7.0	...	32.6
Yorkshire Towns ...	2,893	0.7	...	0.5	2,395	0.7	...	0.8
Other Districts ...	2,039	5.0	4.0	16.5	595	20.0	26.2	23.9
Total ...	55,057	5.6	1.9	36.4	87,126	2.2	0.8	22.1

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of April the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 4.22d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 4.32d., and the lowest 4.07d. The price for March was 4.24d., and for April, 1904, 8.03d. For the period from 1st to 10th May the average price of "middling American" was 4.29d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" in April averaged 6.59d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.8d., and the lowest 6.3d. The price for March was 6.66d., and for April, 1904, 8.89d. For the period from 1st to 10th May, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 6.47d. per lb.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month of April.			Four Months ended April.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American ...	229,581	157,792	233,068	1,065,875	742,461	1,044,137
Brazilian ...	15,164	11,718	3,821	49,227	35,968	19,467
East Indian ...	5,510	17,807	2,267	16,345	35,008	11,261
Egyptian ...	19,387	21,597	27,543	121,850	124,927	122,934
Miscellaneous ...	5,191	5,653	3,487	21,223	17,578	12,487
Total	274,833	214,567	269,606	1,274,620	955,943	1,205,286

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on May 5th was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 909,690 bales, compared with 584,540 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Description.	Month ended 30th April.			Four months ended 30th April.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—						
Grey ...	10,291	10,149	13,141	42,885	43,539	52,363
Bleached and Dyed	3,340	2,399	2,694	13,151	10,007	12,406
Total	13,631	12,548	15,835	56,036	53,546	64,769
Cotton Piece Goods:						
Grey or Unbleached	169,630	134,083	179,907	736,648	623,594	740,707
Bleached	108,151	118,610	139,060	474,496	507,526	584,516
Printed	73,960	78,029	73,371	333,519	334,942	325,401
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	66,379	74,659	77,760	298,345	316,758	350,214
Total	418,120	405,381	470,098	1,843,008	1,782,820	2,000,838

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

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

In most of the principal districts concerned in the Woollen and Worsted trades there was a general improvement in employment in April compared with the previous month and with a year ago. Overtime and night work were reported from the Huddersfield district.

The total number of workpeople employed by firms who made returns as to wages paid and numbers employed in the three periods specified was 50,165 in the last full week of April, as compared with 49,878, in the last week of March, 1905, and 49,929 in the last week of April, 1904. The amounts of wages paid by these firms for the same periods were £37,920 in April, 1905, £37,439 in March, 1905, and £36,975 in April, 1904.

Woollen Trade.

Employment in the Woollen trade during April continued good; there was a slight decline in England as compared with the previous month and an improvement in Scotland. Compared with a year ago there was a marked improvement in both England and Scotland.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the week ended April 15th was 22,643, an increase of 0.2 per cent. upon the number employed at the end of March, 1905, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with the end of April, 1904.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 14,269 workpeople have made returns of wages. From these returns it appears that there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the end of March. Compared with the end of April, 1904, the number employed by the same firms showed an increase of 0.9 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 13.6 per cent.

In the *Sorting* branch there was an increase in the number employed and in the wages paid compared with the end of March. Compared with the end of April, 1904, there was a decrease in the number employed, and an increase in the amount of wages paid.

In the *Spinning* branch there was very little change in employment as compared with the end of March, 1905, or April, 1904.

In the *Weaving* branch there was a slight increase in employment compared with the previous month, and a more marked one compared with the end of April, 1904.

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

Branch.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Number employed at 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ended		Aggregate amount of wages paid on pay day in week ending 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ended	
		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.
Wool Sorting ...	480	+ 2.1	- 2.2	459	+ 1.1	+ 2.0
Spinning ...	2,584	+ 0.7	- 0.7	2,042	+ 0.8	+ 0.8
Weaving ...	5,465	+ 0.7	+ 2.3	4,457	+ 1.7	+ 4.2
Other Departments ...	4,023	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	3,863	+ 0.2	+ 6.0
Unspecified ...	1,717	- 0.3	+ 1.3	1,404	+ 1.2	+ 0.5
Total ...	14,269	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	12,225	+ 1.0	+ 3.6

The proportion of workpeople affected by short time was a little less than a month and a year ago. Of the 22,643 operatives employed by the firms making returns, 11.0 per cent. were working in departments of mills in which short time was reported during the week to which

the returns relate. The proportion was 14.2 per cent. in March, and 13.7 per cent. in April, 1904.

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

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed at 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with week ended		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ending 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with week ended	
		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.
Huddersfield ...	1,226	+ 0.7	+ 8.2	1,163	- 2.5	+ 8.5
Leeds ...	1,453	- 1.4	+ 0.6	1,134	- 4.1	+ 0.7
Dewsbury and Batley	2,039	+ 2.1	+ 3.7	1,971	+ 2.9	+ 5.2
Other Parts of West Riding...	938	- 2.0	+ 1.0	759	- 3.4	+ 1.2
Total West Riding ...	5,666	+ 0.2	+ 3.4	5,027	- 0.1	+ 4.3
Scotland ...	6,198	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	5,882	+ 3.2	+ 6.4
Other Districts ...	2,415	+ 0.4	- 2.9	1,916	+ 0.3	- 4.8
Total Woollen... ..	14,269	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	12,225	+ 1.0	+ 3.6

It will be seen from this Table that, compared with the end of March, there was an increase in employment in Scotland, and in the Dewsbury and Batley District: in the Leeds and Huddersfield districts there was a decline. Compared with the end of April, 1904, there was a marked improvement in employment in the Huddersfield district, in Scotland, and in the Dewsbury and Batley district. In the remainder of the West Riding there was a slight improvement.

Worsted Trade.

Employment in the Worsted Trade in April showed an improvement as compared with the previous month, and was a little better than a year ago. It was bad with woolsorters and worsted spinners at Bradford, but rather better with woolcombers; at Huddersfield it was fairly good with all classes, but it continued bad in the remainder of the West Riding.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the week ended 15th April was 48,260, an increase of 0.4 per cent. upon the number employed at the end of March, 1905, and of 0.8 per cent. compared with the end of April, 1904.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 35,896 workpeople have made returns of wages. From these returns it appears that there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with the end of March. Compared with the end of April, 1904, the number employed by the same firms showed very little change: the amount of wages paid showed an increase of 2.1 per cent.

In the *Sorting* and *Combing* branch, employment showed an improvement as compared with the end of March, 1905, and of April, 1904.

In the *Spinning* branch the number of workpeople employed and amount of wages paid showed a slight increase as compared with the end of March. Compared with the end of April, 1904, employment showed a decline.

In the *Weaving* branch there was an improvement in employment. It was a little better than at the end of March, 1905, and considerably better than at the end of April, 1904.

In the other departments there was little change as compared with the end of March, but an improvement as compared with the end of April, 1904.

The following Table (relating only to those firms who furnished information as to wages paid as well as numbers employed in the three periods mentioned) enables a comparison to be made of the numbers employed and wages paid in the various processes of

manufacture in April, 1905, March, 1905, and April, 1904.

Branch.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed at 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ended		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ending 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ended	
		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.
Wool Combing and Sorting	3,477	+ 1.0	+ 1.1	3,335	+ 4.1	+ 3.8
Spinning ...	17,189	+ 1.1	- 1.6	8,874	+ 0.7	- 5.4
Weaving ...	8,544	- 0.2	+ 5.5	7,471	+ 2.4	+ 10.5
Other Departments ...	4,805	- 0.1	- 2.0	4,710	- 0.3	+ 3.1
Unspecified ...	1,881	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	1,395	+ 0.5	+ 3.7
Total	35,896	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	25,695	+ 1.4	+ 2.1

The proportion of workpeople affected by short time was considerably less than a month ago, but considerably more than a year ago. Of the 46,852 operatives employed by firms making returns, 15.3 per cent. were working in departments of mills in which short time was reported during the week to which the returns relate. The proportion was 21.0 per cent. in March, 1905, and 8.6 per cent. in April, 1904.

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

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed at 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with week ended		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ending 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with week ended	
		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.
Bradford District ...	19,329	+ 1.0	+ 1.4	13,338	+ 1.4	+ 1.8
Keighley District ...	5,434	- 0.2	+ 0.5	3,847	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Halifax District ...	2,742	- 0.4	...	1,640	+ 3.7	+ 1.6
Huddersfield District	4,200	+ 0.1	- 1.4	4,229	+ 2.7	+ 9.1
Other Parts of West Riding	4,370	+ 1.2	- 3.4	1,487	- 4.0	- 5.9
Total West Riding ...	34,075	+ 0.6	+ 0.5	24,541	+ 1.3	+ 2.2
Other Districts ...	1,821	+ 0.4	- 2.8	1,154	+ 4.8	- 1.5
Total Worsted ...	35,896	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	25,695	+ 1.4	+ 2.1

It will be seen from this Table that, compared with the end of March, there was a slight improvement in employment in the Bradford and Huddersfield districts, and a more pronounced one at Halifax. In the Keighley district there was very little change, and the remainder of the West Riding showed a decline. Compared with the end of April, 1904, there was a slight improvement in the Bradford, Keighley and Halifax districts, and a considerable one in the Huddersfield district. The remaining districts showed a decline.

Price of Raw Material.

The course of prices at Bradford for the three periods, April, 1905, March, 1905, and April, 1904, is shown in the Table given below. Compared with a month ago there was a slight rise in Lincoln Hogs, which were considerably above the level of April, 1904. A continuance of the fall in Crossbred tops brought them to about the level of a year ago. Botany tops were firm, showing no change as compared with the previous month, and remaining higher than at the corresponding period of last year.

	April, 1905.	Mar., 1905.	April, 1904.
Lincoln Hogs ...	d. 10 1/2 to 11 1/2	d. 11 1/2 to 12 1/2	d. 9 to 9 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ...	d. 13 1/2 to 14 1/2	d. 14 1/2 to 15 1/2	d. 12 1/2 to 13 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	d. 24 1/2	d. 23 1/2 to 24 1/2	d. 23 1/2 to 24 1/2

Imports and Exports.

The next Table shows the quantities of imported and exported raw wool, and of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and of woollen and worsted piece goods for the periods stated:—



	Month ended 30th April.			Four Months ended 30th April.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
<b>Raw Wool.</b>						
Imported ...	77,437,311	82,931,225	71,669,807	307,897,863	286,709,326	345,216,305
Exported ...	1,924,700	2,687,400	1,695,700	12,436,200	11,160,300	8,594,100
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported.</b>						
Woolen ...	155,800	162,600	125,500	668,900	568,700	761,700
Worsted ...	4,194,500	4,746,900	3,630,300	17,186,400	18,050,000	14,738,600
Alpaca and Mohair ...	990,700	1,109,500	1,122,000	4,954,400	4,062,700	4,450,800
Total ...	5,341,000	6,019,000	4,877,800	21,909,700	22,681,400	19,951,100
<b>Piece Goods.</b>						
Woolen ...	2,341,000	3,262,400	3,904,800	14,791,600	19,335,900	24,154,200
Worsted ...	6,352,600	6,587,100	6,986,000	38,186,900	34,613,100	36,842,400
Total ...	8,693,600	9,849,500	10,890,800	52,978,500	53,949,000	60,996,600

**FLAX AND JUTE TRADES.**

(Based on Returns from Employers (see \* note below), Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

**Flax Trade.**

EMPLOYMENT generally showed little change as compared with a month ago, but was worse in Scotland than a year ago.

The total number of workpeople employed on pay day in the week ended 15th April by the firms making returns\* was 49,937, an increase of 0.1 per cent. on the number employed at the end of March, and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. on the number employed at the end of April, 1904. The percentage of workpeople employed in departments working short time was about the same as in March, but showed in Scotland a considerable increase compared with a year ago.

According to the returns received the numbers employed in the different departments of the industry, and the percentage proportion of workpeople who were in departments working less than 54† hours per week were as follows:—

Department.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on pay-day in week ended 15th April, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in numbers employed as compared with week ended		Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Departments working Short Time in the week ended		
		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.	15th Apr., 1905.	25th Mar., 1905.	30th Apr., 1904.
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
<b>Belfast—</b>						
Preparing ...	2,661	+ 2.1	- 2.9	...	...	...
Spinning ...	5,916	- 0.4	- 0.8	...	...	...
Weaving ...	5,927	- 1.3	- 0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1
Other ...	2,402	- 0.1	+ 1.3	14.9	14.9	15.9
Total ...	16,906	- 0.3	- 0.9	2.5	2.5	2.6
<b>Other Places—</b>						
Preparing ...	2,954	- 1.2	- 1.9	...	...	...
Spinning ...	4,970	+ 0.9	+ 4.2	...	...	...
Weaving ...	7,280	+ 0.5	+ 0.7	3.4	5.6	3.2
Other ...	2,980	+ 0.8	+ 1.7	26.2	26.7	22.5
Total ...	18,154	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	6.5	6.6	5.0
Total Ireland ...	35,060	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	4.5	4.6	3.8
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
<b>Fifehire—</b>						
Preparing ...	540	- 1.3	- 1.6	2.8	2.7	...
Spinning ...	820	+ 1.2	+ 3.1	...	...	...
Weaving ...	3,962	+ 0.1	- 4.9	31.5	31.7	5.7
Other ...	1,274	- 0.2	+ 0.4	15.6	15.3	2.8
Total ...	6,596	+ 0.1	- 2.7	22.2	22.2	4.0
<b>Other Places—</b>						
Preparing ...	1,097	- 0.4	- 4.5	35.3	31.8	22.6
Spinning ...	1,582	+ 0.3	- 1.1	31.6	28.0	12.1
Weaving ...	3,276	- 0.6	+ 0.5	29.7	29.6	8.4
Other ...	1,500	+ 1.5	- 2.8	5.5	5.8	...
Total ...	7,355	+ 0.1	- 1.2	26.0	24.8	9.4
Total Scotland ...	13,951	+ 0.1	- 1.9	24.2	23.6	6.9
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
Total ...	916	+ 0.5	+ 4.7	48.6	47.6	48.0
Total United Kingdom ...	49,937	+ 0.1	- 0.3	10.8	10.7	5.5

\* The figures given in this article for the three periods are strictly comparable, as the returns for April, 1905, also give the figures for March, 1905, and April, 1904. They cannot, however, be compared with those given in previous issues of the Gazette, as the numbers of returns received for each issue are not necessarily the same. The returns do not cover the whole trade in any month, but a sufficiently large sample to indicate the state of the industry.  
† In the case of one firm in Belfast, 50 hours is stated to be full time. In all other cases full time has been taken as at least 54 hours per week. At Dundee the 10th April appears to have been a general holiday.

It will be seen from the Table that in Ireland no important change occurred either in the numbers employed or in the percentage of workpeople in departments working short time. The Employers' Association of Flax Spinners for Belfast and Ulster reported employment as remaining fair. Trade Unions in Belfast reported employment as dull with flax dressers, yarn dressers, tenters, and beetlers, and as moderate with flax roughers; and it was stated that about one-sixth of the Trade Union flax roughers, beetlers, and power loom tenters were working only three-quarter time.

The employers' returns showed an excess of labour in Belfast and a deficiency in other parts of Ulster.

In Scotland, the Table shows that compared with a year ago there was a decline of 1.9 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed, and an increase from 6.9 to 24.2 in the percentage employed in departments working short time. Employment in Dunfermline showed no improvement, and was much worse than a year ago. Employment was reported as fair at Brechin, moderate at Arbroath; in Forfar short time was prevalent.

**Jute Trade.**

Employment in this industry remained moderate, and was worse than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed on pay day in the week ended 15th April by firms making returns\* was 25,760, an increase of 1.2 per cent. on the number employed at the end of March, and a decrease of 1.7 per cent. on the number employed at the end of April, 1904. The percentage of workpeople who were employed in departments working short time was 7.6, against 5.2 at the end of March, the increase being largely due to a general holiday in Dundee on the 10th April. At the end of April, 1904, no short time was reported.

According to the returns received the numbers employed in the different departments of the industry and the proportion employed in departments working short time were as follows:—

Department.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on pay-day in week ended 15th April, 1905.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in numbers employed as compared with week ended		Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Departments working Short Time in the week ended		
		25th March, 1905.	30th April, 1904.	15th April, 1905.	25th Mar., 1905.	30th Apr., 1904.
Preparing ...	6,065	+ 0.3	+ 0.2	5.1	0.8	...
Spinning ...	7,847	+ 2.6	- 2.2	4.6	...	...
Weaving ...	8,746	+ 0.8	- 3.6	9.5	6.2	...
Other ...	3,102	+ 0.4	+ 1.1	14.2	7.6	...
Total ...	25,760	+ 1.2	- 1.7	7.6	3.2	...

Of the total number, 22,127 were employed in Dundee, an increase of 1.2 per cent. as compared with the number employed by the same firms at the end of March, and a decrease of 1.8 per cent. as compared with the end of April, 1904.

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax and jute, and of British and Irish exports of linen and jute yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated:—

Description.	Month ended 30th April.			Four months ended 30th April.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
<b>Imports:</b>						
Flax (Dressed and Undressed) Tons or Cordilla	10,415	7,927	11,166	45,177	37,873	44,110
Jute ...	10,585	13,640	23,952	71,262	143,497	122,867
<b>Exports:</b>						
Linen Yarn Lbs.	1,088,900	1,273,500	1,092,900	4,580,900	4,872,000	4,584,800
Linen Manufactures ... Yds.	10,697,800	13,014,700	13,546,600	52,921,500	56,781,100	62,892,800
Jute Yarn ... Lbs.	3,753,700	2,844,300	3,880,700	14,542,400	12,564,500	15,562,100
Jute Manufactures ... Yds.	13,601,500	18,650,100	9,683,400	62,794,800	67,185,500	50,002,900

\* See footnote to Flax Trade.

† For this month the week ended 15th April was selected. Monday, 10th April, being, however, a holiday in Dundee, 45 hours has been regarded as full time in Dundee for this week. For March, 1905, and April, 1904, full time has been taken as 54 hours.

**SILK TRADE.**

(Based on Returns from Employers and Local Correspondents.)  
EMPLOYMENT showed an improvement in the Throwing and Spinning departments compared with a month ago; in the Weaving department it showed a decline. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in the Throwing department, a decline in the Spinning department, and an improvement in the Weaving department. In the other departments there was a slight decline compared with a month ago and a considerable decline compared with a year ago.

The following Table gives the number of spindles and looms working and the numbers employed at the end of April, as compared with a month and a year ago:—

Spindles and Looms.	No. Working in last week of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	Apr., 1905.	Mar., 1905.	Apr., 1904.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Throwing Spindles ...	193,876	190,990	190,460	+ 1.5	+ 1.8
Spinning Spindles ...	102,602	99,686	107,268	+ 2.9	- 4.3
Looms ...	4,806	4,902	4,509	- 2.0	+ 6.6
<b>Departments.</b>					
Departments.	No. of Workpeople paid Wages on last pay day in			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	Apr. 1905.	Mar. 1905.	Apr. 1904.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Throwing ...	2,718	2,685	2,753	+ 1.2	- 1.3
Spinning ...	2,537	2,500	2,481	+ 1.5	+ 2.3
Weaving ...	4,505	4,638	4,332	- 2.9	+ 4.0
Other ...	1,912	1,928	2,016	- 0.8	- 5.2
Total ...	11,672	11,751	11,582	- 0.7	+ 0.8

Returns from firms employing 11,672 workpeople at the end of April showed a decline of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The number of throwing spindles working at the end of April showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago, while spinning spindles were 2.9 per cent. more than at the end of March, but 4.3 per cent. less than a year ago. The number of power and hand looms working showed a decline of 2.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The returns are analysed by districts in the following Table:—

Districts.	Apr., 1905.	Mar., 1905.	Apr., 1904.
<b>No. of Workpeople employed—</b>			
Lancashire and W. Riding of York ...	2,449	2,446	2,343
Macclesfield, Congleton and District ...	3,213	3,335	3,322
Leek ...	1,706	1,690	1,744
Eastern Counties ...	2,305	2,280	2,418
Other Districts, including Scotland ...	1,994	2,000	1,755
Total ...	11,672	11,751	11,582
<b>No. of Spindles (Throwing and Spinning) Working—</b>			
Lancashire and W. Riding of York ...	41,950	41,950	42,180
Macclesfield, Congleton and District ...	92,865	92,875	98,618
Leek ...	17,281	17,281	17,649
Eastern Counties ...	118,414	114,158	118,699
Other Districts, including Scotland ...	25,968	24,412	20,382
Total ...	296,478	290,676	297,728
<b>No. of Looms (Power and Hand) Working—</b>			
Lancashire and W. Riding of York ...	999	1,013	928
Macclesfield, Congleton and District ...	768	875	764
Leek ...	363	361	365
Eastern Counties ...	1,426	1,391	1,411
Other Districts, including Scotland ...	1,250	1,262	1,041
Total ...	4,806	4,902	4,509

**Imports and Exports.**—The imports of raw silk in April, 1905, amounted to 72,191 lbs. compared with 175,240 lbs. in the corresponding month of 1904, and 80,590 lbs. in April, 1903. The imports of thrown silk and spun silk yarn were 48,719 lbs. and 32,896 lbs. respectively in April, 1905. The exports of thrown silk twist and yarn and silk broadstuffs amounted to 72,460 lbs. and 424,539 yards respectively in April, compared with 51,054 lbs. and 324,482 yards in the corresponding month of 1904.

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

**Hosiery Trade.**

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

Employment in England, although still dull, showed an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Leicester District.**—Employment, although slightly improved, continued dull; returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 11,717 workpeople in their factories in the week ended 15th April showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. In addition to particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 8,530 workpeople in their factories have given returns as to wages, showing that compared with the last pay-day in March, there was an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with the last pay-day in April, 1904, there was an increase of 3.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. At Leicester employment continued bad. At Loughborough employment showed an improvement. At Hinckley it was fairly good.

**Nottingham and Derby District.**—Employment at Nottingham showed a further improvement and was better than a year ago, but much short time was again reported. With framework knitters it was reported as improved at Nottingham and as fair at Sutton and Mansfield; it was moderate with circular hosiery workers and rib top makers. With hand frame workers employment showed an improvement at Arnold, Calverton, and Keyworth, but was slack generally. At Belper employment was quiet, with many working short time.

**Scotland.**—Employment at Hawick and Selkirk was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**

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

Employment in England was bad, and worse than a year ago; in Scotland it was fairly good. In Nottingham employment was reported as bad in the levers and curtain branches, and worse than a year ago; in the plain net branch as good and about the same as a year ago. It was reported as bad at Kimberley and Bulwell, moderate at Stapleford and Sandiacre, as having slightly improved in the levers section at Beeston, but as having further declined in the curtain section. Employment continued bad at Ilkeston. With lace makers at Glasgow it was reported as fair, at Newmilns as good and better than a month ago.

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

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

**Woolen and Worsted Dyers.**—Employment in the West Riding was quiet, and showed little change compared with a year ago. About three-fifths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-tenth worked overtime.

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

**Calico Printers, etc.**—Employment was reported as fair at New Mills and Manchester. With printers' engravers at Dinting it was good, some overtime being reported. At Glasgow it was fair with calico printers, good with calico printers' engravers and bad with block printers.

**Hosiery Dyers, Trimmers, &c.**—At Leicester employment showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough employment was fairly good. Employment was moderate with dyers at Nottingham; fairly good with bleachers at Basford and Nottingham, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Calenderers, etc.**—In Glasgow employment remained dull. In Dundee dyers were reported as busy, bleachers and calender workers as dull.

**TAILORING TRADE.**

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

Employment in the *bespoke* branch was moderate in London, fair in the provinces; it was better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment generally was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

London.—Employment showed the usual seasonal improvement, but was only moderate for the time of year, showing no improvement compared with a year ago. Firms paying £15,323 in wages to their workpeople during the four weeks ended April 29th showed an increase of 21.6 per cent. on the amount paid during the four weeks ended March 25th; compared with the amount paid in the corresponding four weeks a year ago there was practically no change.

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

**Ready-made Branch.**

London.—Employment, although only fair, was on the whole better than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. According to returns received from firms employing about 9,900 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during April was good with firms employing 56 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 31 per cent., and bad with firms employing 13 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 55 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 20 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 25 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 47 per cent. reported it as improved, firms employing 31 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 22 per cent. as worse.

Other Centres.—In Manchester employment was fair and better than a month ago, and a year ago. In Bristol employment was on the whole fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Leicester it was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Norwich employment was fair and better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. In Glasgow employment was fairly good, showing an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago.

**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

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

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

Of the total number of operatives covered by the returns 78 per cent. were employed by firms working full time during the week ending April 15th; this compares with a percentage of 69 for March.

The number employed by the 574 firms making returns for the week ending April 15th was 74,095, an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with the end of March, and a decrease of 1.6 per cent. compared with April, 1904.

In addition to supplying returns of numbers employed, 468 firms, employing 62,976 workpeople, have given returns of the amount of wages paid on April 15th, and on the last pay day in March, and in April, 1904.

Compared with the end of March, five districts showed a slight decrease in the amount of wages paid, and eleven showed an increase. The increase was greatest in the Norwich district (5.1 per cent.), the Miscellaneous group (4.8 per cent.), and the Stafford district (4.2 per cent.).

Compared with the end of April, 1904, four districts showed a decrease in the amount of wages earned, and twelve showed an increase. The decrease was greatest in the Leeds district (15.2 per cent.). The increase was highest in the Stafford district (18.4 per cent.), the Norwich district (13.7 per cent.), and Leicester (12.5 per cent.), the Manchester district (10.7 per cent.), and Northampton (9.2 per cent.).

According to the returns there was an increase in earnings of 2.0 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 5.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago. These returns are analysed by districts below:—

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during week ending April 15th, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ending		Aggregate amount of wages paid on April 15th, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with week ending	
		Mar. 25th, 1905.	April 30th, 1904.		Mar. 25th, 1905.	April 30th, 1904.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London ... ..	3,076	+ 3.1	- 3.0	3,849	+ 3.4	- 2.7
Leicester ... ..	13,535	+ 2.1	- 0.0	15,023	+ 3.5	+ 12.3
Leicester Country District ... ..	3,176	- 1.2	- 4.5	2,903	- 1.4	+ 1.9
Northampton ... ..	8,538	+ 2.7	+ 3.4	8,369	+ 3.2	+ 9.2
Northampton Country District ... ..	8,564	- 0.9	- 0.8	7,719	+ 0.5	+ 4.1
Kettering ... ..	2,865	- 0.1	...	2,978	+ 0.7	+ 6.8
Stafford and District ... ..	2,700	+ 0.3	+ 6.0	2,457	+ 4.2	+ 18.4
Norwich & District ... ..	3,792	+ 1.9	+ 2.3	3,218	+ 5.1	+ 13.7
Bristol & District ... ..	2,932	- 0.5	- 6.0	1,846	+ 5.3	+ 4.5
Kingswood ... ..	2,442	+ 0.9	- 0.6	2,022	+ 0.5	- 1.2
Leeds and District ... ..	2,407	- 1.7	- 16.4	1,881	- 0.7	- 19.2
Manchester & District ... ..	1,800	+ 0.8	+ 1.6	1,662	- 0.1	+ 10.7
Birmingham & District ... ..	931	+ 0.9	- 1.4	803	- 1.5	+ 8.4
Other parts of England and Wales ... ..	2,602	...	- 2.0	2,022	+ 4.8	+ 1.8
England and Wales ... ..	58,460	+ 0.9	- 0.8	56,772	+ 2.3	+ 6.6
SCOTLAND ... ..	4,017	...	- 7.4	3,775	- 1.6	- 2.8
IRELAND ... ..	499	- 0.6	- 2.0	371	+ 2.2	+ 3.9
UNITED KINGDOM ... ..	62,976	+ 0.9	- 1.2	60,918	+ 2.0	+ 5.9

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

London.—Employment was reported as quiet, but better than a month ago; it was slightly worse than a year ago. With hand-sewn bootmakers it was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Leicester and District.—Employment continued to improve in Leicester, and was much better than a year ago. In the country district there was a slight decline, but at the end of the month improvement was reported.

Northampton, Kettering, and District.—Employment has improved at Northampton, Kettering, Daventry, and Desborough. At Higham and Rushden a decline was reported. In consequence of the continued dispute very little work was done by army bootmakers.

Stafford and District.—Employment at Stafford was good with a considerable amount of overtime; at Stone employment was fairly good.

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

Bristol and Kingswood.—Employment continued bad and was worse than a year ago at Kingswood.

Leeds and District.—Employment was bad throughout the district, and considerably worse than a year ago.

Other Districts in England.—The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as good at Kendal, slightly improved at Chesterfield and Wolverhampton, and very quiet at Nottingham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Birmingham.

Scotland.—Employment showed a slight decline, and was worse than a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers at the end of the month reported it as good at Kilmarnock, improved at Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh, fair at Dundee, and slack at Maybole. With hand-sewn shoemakers employment was good at Glasgow and Edinburgh.

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

	Month ended 30th April.			Four months ended 30th April.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Imports { Dozen pairs... ..	23,195	20,041	19,438	86,010	80,123	78,656
{ Value £ ... ..	97,756	79,469	81,680	343,519	294,119	313,455
Re-Exports { Dozen pairs... ..	1,397	1,418	625	8,248	8,042	4,837
{ Value £ ... ..	3,491	3,843	2,054	21,234	19,478	12,695
Exports { Dozen pairs... ..	58,281	42,835	53,444	282,615	203,452	246,448
{ Value £ ... ..	139,431	99,547	133,178	677,844	467,626	577,963
(British and Irish)						

**OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.**

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

EMPLOYMENT, owing to the late Easter holidays, cannot be accurately compared with a month ago or a year ago. With dressmakers it was fair; with wholesale mantle, costume and blouse makers, and with milliners it was moderate. In the shirt and collar and corset trades employment during the month was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London returns received from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,213 dressmakers in the last week in April showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was moderate. Court dressmakers, employing 1,979 workpeople, showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.2 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair and it was better than a year ago, although worse at the end of the month through the late Easter holidays. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms employing 2,569 workpeople on their premises during the last week in April, showed a decline of 4.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment generally was moderate. Firms employing 1,293 milliners in the last week in April showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment was moderate.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair but slightly worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was fair and better than a year ago, but slightly worse than a month ago; firms employing 1,859 workpeople in the last week in April showed a decrease of 3.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 6.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,750 workpeople in their factories (in addition to 3,569 outworkers) at the end of April, showed no change in the number employed compared with a month ago; employment during the month was fairly good and better than in March; in Belfast it was good, in Londonderry fair, in Glasgow moderate, in London and Manchester fairly good. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed at the end of the month; but during this month firms employing 78 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 13 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 9 per cent. as worse. With the outworkers (of whom 3,325 were in Ireland) employment was good.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,895 workpeople in their factories at the end of April showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good and better than a month ago. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 68 per cent. of the total number employed reported employment as improved, firms employing 20 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 12 per cent. as worse.

**HAT TRADE.**

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

EMPLOYMENT in the hat trade showed some slight improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with 5,395 members had 197 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.2 per cent. in March and 4.0 per cent. a year ago.

With silk hatters employment in London was dull, but rather better than a month ago and a year ago. In Denton employment was moderate and about the same as a year ago. The Trade Union silk hatters had 12.0 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 12.1 per cent. in March and 8.2 per cent. a year ago.

With felt hatters in Denton employment was moderate and slightly better than a month ago. At Stockport it was good, and better than a year ago. At Hyde, Hurst, and Failsworth it was moderate; at Bredbury, fairly good; at Bury, bad. In Warwickshire employment was only moderate, a little better than a month ago but not so good as a year ago. The Trade Union felt hatters had 2.3 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 2.9 per cent. a month ago, and 3.3 per cent. a year ago.

**OTHER LEATHER TRADES.**

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

THE state of employment in April remained bad. It showed little change as compared with a month ago, but was slightly better than a year ago. Of Trade Unions with a membership in April, 1905, of 4,829, the percentage returned as unemployed at the end of the month was 9.3, against 9.1 in March, and 9.8 in April, 1904.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment continued bad generally, with short time in several districts, but it remained good with curriers in London. The improvement with curriers and light leather dressers at Northampton and Wellingborough, noted last month, was barely maintained.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—Employment remained slack generally, but with a slight improvement in some districts.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Employment with fancy leather workers and portmanteau and trunk workers was fair, and rather better than a month ago. With other branches it was dull.

**PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.**

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

THE returns show that employment at the end of April was slack, and worse in all branches than a month and year ago.

**PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.**

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Apr., 1905, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Apr., 1905.	Mar., 1905.	Apr., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	22,425	6.0	4.0	4.1	+ 2.0	+ 1.9
Northern Counties ... ..	1,466	5.8	3.9	4.5	+ 1.9	+ 1.3
Lanes, and Cheshire... ..	6,931	7.7	6.8	7.1	+ 0.9	+ 0.6
Yorkshire ... ..	4,309	5.3	4.9	4.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.1
East Midlands ... ..	2,124	4.8	4.3	3.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.9
West Midlands ... ..	2,453	6.4	5.7	5.0	+ 0.7	+ 1.4
Eastern Counties ... ..	389	2.8	2.3	2.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.3
S. & S. W. Counties... ..	2,760	3.4	2.8	3.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
Wales and Mon. ... ..	847	4.7	3.7	2.2	+ 1.0	+ 2.5
Scotland ... ..	6,283	3.4	3.3	3.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Ireland ... ..	2,615	8.4	6.9	8.2	+ 1.5	+ 0.2
United Kingdom ... ..	52,622	5.8	4.5	4.5	+ 1.3	+ 1.3

Employment was slack, and worse than a month and year ago. In letterpress printing Trade Unions with 39,375 members had 5.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.2 per cent. a month ago, and 4.0 per cent. a year ago. In lithographic printing the decline is greatest compared with a year ago, the

percentage unemployed of 6,531 Trade Union members being 6.1, against 5.4 in March, and 4.5 in April, 1904. With bookbinders there was a decline compared with a month ago, principally in London, where short time was worked. Compared with a year ago, little change was shown. Of 6,716 Trade Union members 7.7 per cent. were unemployed at the end of April, as against 5.4 per cent. in March, and 7.4 a year ago.

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

**London.**—Employment declined during April, especially with bookbinders. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 16,980 members had 5.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.5 per cent. a month ago, and 2.8 a year ago. Compositors reported employment as quiet and worse than a month and a year ago. Machine managers, assistants, electrotypers, correctors of the press, and typefounders reported it as fair, and better than a month and a year ago. In the lithographic trade the percentage unemployed of 2,017 Trade Union members was 6.9, against 6.1 in March, and 5.6 in April, 1904. With bookbinders employment was bad, with short time; Trade Unions with 3,428 members had 8.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, against 5.3 in March, and 9.2 a year ago.

**Northern Counties and Yorkshire.**—Employment was slack generally.

**Lancashire and Cheshire.**—Employment with letterpress printers at Manchester was reported as fair; at Liverpool as "fair for the time of year," but with 8.6 per cent. of Trade Union members unemployed. At Preston and Blackburn it was bad; at Bolton, Oldham, Stockport, Newton-le-Willows, and Chester it was good. Lithographic printers reported employment as fair at Manchester, bad at Liverpool. Bookbinders reported it as bad generally.

**East Midland Counties.**—At Nottingham employment remained slack generally, short time continuing to be worked by lithographic printers. At Leicester it continued moderate with letterpress printers, and good with other branches. At Derby it was good.

**West Midland Counties.**—Employment remained slack on the whole, but was fair with lithographic printers and bookbinders at Birmingham.

**Eastern, Southern, and South-Western Counties.**—Employment was fairly good generally. At Oxford, however, it was slack.

**Wales and Monmouthshire.**—Employment was quiet on the whole.

**Scotland.**—In Edinburgh employment with letterpress printers continued fair and improving; with other branches employment was bad. At Glasgow employment was quiet generally; at Aberdeen moderate; at Dundee fair.

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

#### PAPER TRADES.

Employment in England remained good in the machine trade, and was reported as improved in the hand-made trade. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,372 members had 3.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2.9 per cent. a month ago, and 3.1 a year ago. In Scotland returns received from 30 employers showed that 5,105 workpeople were employed by them at the end of April, as compared with 5,109 at the end of March, and 5,137 at the end of April, 1904, and that employment, though still fairly good, remained worse than a year ago.

#### FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT during April was, on the whole, fair, and showed an improvement as compared with a month ago, and a year ago. The improvement was mainly in the furnishing trades. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and wood-working trades (exclusive of coopers) at the end of April was 4.2, as compared with 5.1 at the end of March, 1905, and 5.0 at the end of April, 1904.

#### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued slack and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,818 showed 26.9 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 5.7 per cent. at the end of March, 1905, and 4.7 per cent. at the end of April, 1904.

#### Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 13,680, showed 6.07 (or 4.4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 5.4 per cent. at the end of March, 1905, and 6.4 per cent. at the end of April, 1904.

#### Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued dull and was worse than a year ago. It continued, however, fair at Hull, and good at Peterhead and Fraserburgh.

#### Coachbuilding.

Employment in the coachbuilding industry varied somewhat in different departments, but showed, on the whole, an improvement compared with last month. It was about the same as a year ago. In London and the Midlands employment continued fair generally. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,882, reported 2.38 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 4.4 per cent. at the end of March, 1905, and 3.0 per cent. at the end of April, 1904.

#### Miscellaneous.

**Brushmakers.**—Employment with brushmakers was fair and was better than a month and a year ago. With ivory and bone brushmakers in London it was quiet. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,732 reported 5.1 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of April, as compared with 3.3 per cent. at the end of March, 1905, and 4.2 per cent. at the end of April, 1904.

**Other Trades.**—With packing-case makers employment generally showed an improvement on last month. With basket makers it was good at Leicester, but dull at Glasgow.

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

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

EMPLOYMENT in the Glass trades was moderate, and better than a month ago, but about the same as a year ago. In the Pottery trades and in the Brick and Tile trades a slight improvement was shown.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment with glass bottle-makers was moderate generally. It was, however, slack at Barnsley; fair at Bristol, Castleford, and Glasgow; quiet at Leeds; and good at Wakefield. With makers of medicine-bottles at Rotherham employment was quiet.

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

**Pottery Trades.**—In Staffordshire employment in the pottery trades showed a slight improvement, but short time was general. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) the potters again worked four days per week. At Newcastle-on-Tyne employment continued fair. With general hollow-ware workers at Wolverhampton it continued bad. In the South Yorkshire and River Aire districts about four days per week were worked. Employment in the Woodville district was quiet in all branches.

In Scotland employment generally was moderate, and some short time was worked. At Glasgow it continued

quiet with white hollow-ware potters, and it was fair with tobacco-pipe makers.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—A slight improvement is reported at Peterborough and Nottingham, where employment a month ago was bad, and at Birmingham, where it was quiet a month ago. At Glasgow it continued bad. Employment was bad in the Faversham district; moderate at Calstock and Gunnislake, and in the Tees and Hartlepool district; quiet in the Woodville district; fair in South Staffordshire, in the Oldham district, and in North Wales, except in the Wrexham district where it was dull; fairly good in the Market Harborough district; steady at Norwich, Wroxham and Cambridge; and good in South Wales (except in the silica brick trade), in Suffolk and Essex, and at Plymouth and Exeter.

#### AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

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

ACCORDING to the Reports received, the weather in April was, on the whole, favourable for agricultural operations, though in certain counties rain caused interruption to hoeing and other outdoor work. The forward state of farm work was also responsible for some irregularity of employment amongst day labourers, particularly in the Eastern Counties. There was a plentiful supply of this class of labour. The supply of men for permanent situations was generally about equal to the demand, but a scarcity continues to be reported in parts of the Midlands and the South-Western Counties.

**Northern Counties.**—Wet weather in April interfered with employment in Northumberland and Cumberland, and several day labourers in the latter county were said to be in irregular employment. At the annual hiring at Hexham (Northumberland) there was a good supply of men, but women workers and boys were somewhat scarce. Wages showed a slight downward tendency in the case of men changing places. Full employment is reported from Westmorland, and a plentiful supply of labour. In Lancashire farm labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment. The supply of labour was generally equal to the demand, and in the Lancaster Union the number of men for permanent situations was stated to be more than sufficient. Employment of day labourers in Yorkshire was affected by rain, and also by the backward state of the crops, which were not ready for hoeing, and the supply of labour was, on the whole, more than equal to the demand.

**Midland Counties.**—Regularity of employment is reported in Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand. It is stated that a good number of Irish migratory labourers have arrived in Cheshire, and have obtained work. Agricultural labourers in Leicestershire were for the most part in regular employment. Day labourers were slightly in excess of the demand, but some scarcity of men for permanent situations is reported. Similar reports come from Staffordshire and Shropshire. Wet weather caused interruption of hoeing and potato planting in Worcestershire, and some day labourers were not fully employed. Some difficulty is reported in getting permanent men for situations involving Sunday work. Wet weather interfered with hoeing corn in Warwickshire. The supply of labour was about equal to the demand in this county and also in Northamptonshire. Regularity of employment is reported in Oxfordshire. The small demand for extra men in this county was fully satisfied. Employment in the fields was affected by showery weather in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. The supply of day labourers in these counties was about equal to the demand, but there was some scarcity of men for permanent situations. In Bedfordshire wet weather interfered with work on the land in certain districts. Extra men for hoeing and other work were rather in excess of the demand. Some scarcity of men and boys for permanent situations is reported.

**Eastern Counties.**—Farm labourers in Huntingdonshire were for the most part in regular employment, but some men on piecework lost time through rain. In Cambridgeshire, employment generally was regular, but, owing to the

forward state of farm work, some day labourers were not in constant employment. Farm labourers in Lincolnshire were in regular employment, and the supply of labour was sufficient. In Norfolk and Suffolk some day labourers lost time in several districts owing in part to unfavourable weather, but also to the forward condition of work in the fields. With reference to the supply of day labourers, a correspondent in the Loddon and Clavering Union (Norfolk) states that it is more plentiful than for six years past. The forward state of work in Essex kept some day labourers in irregular employment, and the supply was quite equal to the demand. There was a fair supply of men for permanent situations, though a difficulty in obtaining men for posts involving Sunday work is reported.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Agricultural employment was, generally speaking, regular in Kent. The supply of day labourers was more than sufficient in several districts. A correspondent in the Faversham Union states that men are easier to get owing to depression in the brickmaking industry. Agricultural labourers in Surrey and Sussex were, for the most part, in regular employment during April. The supply of labour in these counties was equal to the demand. Similar reports come from Hampshire. Some irregularity of employment was caused by wet weather in Berkshire, where the supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand. In Wiltshire, farm work tended to be backward through interruptions from the weather, and a few day labourers lost time. The demand for extra men was not so great as the supply. There was a scarcity of men for permanent situations. Reports from Dorsetshire show that agricultural employment was generally regular in April. In Somersetshire employment on the whole was regular, though some day labourers were not in constant work. The supply of labour was generally sufficient, but a scarcity is reported in certain districts. Regularity of employment is reported in Herefordshire, except in the case of a few men on day or piece work. Wet weather interfered with hoeing and preparing the land for roots in Gloucestershire, and some men were in irregular employment in consequence. In Devonshire and Cornwall regularity of employment is reported, and the supply of day labourers was generally quite equal to the demand. There was, however, some scarcity of men for permanent situations.

#### DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

EMPLOYMENT in April continued moderate, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

#### London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended April 29th was 12,159, a decrease of 1.5 per cent. on the average for March, and of 4.9 per cent. on that for April, 1904.

(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the five weeks ended April 29th:—

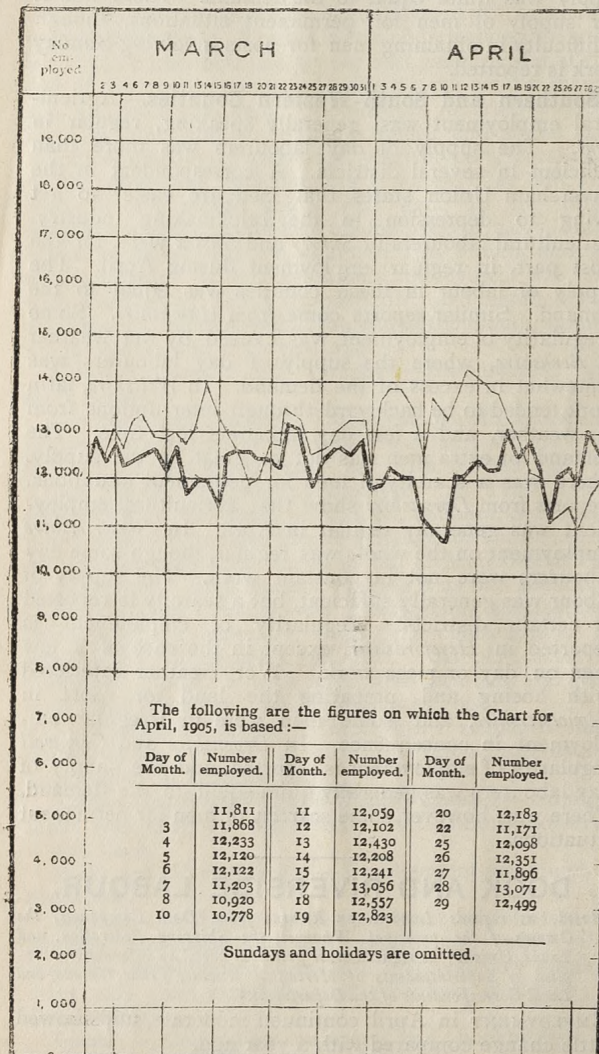
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 109 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended April 1st	4,292	2,622	6,914	5,500	12,414
" " 8th	4,039	2,145	6,184	5,560	11,744
" " 15th	4,415	2,044	6,459	5,511	11,970
" " 22nd	4,529	2,502	7,031	5,327	12,358
" " 29th	4,990	1,940	6,930	5,453	12,383
Average for 5 weeks ended Apr. 29th	4,431	2,252	6,683	5,476	12,159
Average for Mar., 1905	4,537	2,280	6,817	5,533	12,350*
Average for Apr., 1904	4,642	2,412	7,054	5,737*	12,791*

\* Revised figures.

(2) *Daily Fluctuations.*—The daily fluctuations in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers are shown in the following Chart. The numbers in April ranged from 10,778 on the 10th to 13,071 on the 28th. During April, 1904, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 11,070 on the 27th to 14,256 on the 14th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 100 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of March and April, 1905. The corresponding curve for March and April, 1904, is also given for comparison.

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



Employment generally was moderate, but showed some improvement towards the end of the month. It was moderate with workers in mid-stream, corn porters, coal porters, winchmen, and deal porters. With stevedores and lightermen it was fair. It was fair also with fruit porters in Thames Street, the average daily number employed being 276, as compared with 271 in the previous month, and 289 in April, 1904.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during April, 52 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 55 per cent. in the previous month, and 76 per cent. in April, 1904.

**Other Ports.**

*North-East Coast.*—On the Tyne and Wear employment with dock and quayside labourers was fair, some improvement being reported. It was fair also with coal porters and shippers. With trimmers and teamers employment continued moderate. On the Tees, employment with dock labourers was fair at Middlesbrough, and improved somewhat at Hartlepool, where last month it was reported as slack. Riverside labourers

at both Middlesbrough and Hartlepool were well employed on import work, but were slack on export work.

*Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.*—Employment at Hull and Grimsby was reported as slack with coal workers and bad generally with other classes of dock workers. At Goole employment was fair, but coal workers were on short time.

*Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.*—Employment was good at Ipswich, Parkeston, and Yarmouth; quiet at Lowestoft, Lynn, and Harwich.

*Southampton and Plymouth.*—Employment at Southampton was reported as fair and rather better than a month ago. At Plymouth it was moderate on the whole.

*Bristol Channel Ports.*—At Bristol employment was reported as fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. In South Wales employment with dockers was slack generally, and worse than a month ago, though in the patent fuel and iron ore trades it was reported as fair.

*Liverpool and Manchester.*—Employment continued slack at Liverpool with all classes of dock labourers, a large number of men being unemployed. Mersey flatmen, however, reported an improvement. At Manchester employment was reported as good.

*Glasgow.*—Employment at Glasgow was fair.

*East of Scotland Ports.*—Employment at Leith continued good. At Dundee it was moderate and at Aberdeen dull.

*Irish Ports.*—Employment continued fair at Belfast and Dublin; at Cork it was good.

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

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

FROM the Tyne and Wear it is reported that good catches were landed during April by trawl and line boats.

At Hull employment among fishermen was fair, about the same as a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. It was good with fish dock labourers and fair with fish curers. In both classes it was better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. Employment at Grimsby was good among all classes, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Yarmouth it was fair with fishermen, and better than a month ago, but the same as a year ago. With fish dock labourers and fish curers it was moderate, and the same as a month ago and a year ago. At Lowestoft employment was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and moderate with fish curers. With fishermen it was better than a year ago; otherwise it was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Harwich continued poor.

Off the South-western coast fishing showed an improvement as compared with the previous month, but continued below the average for the season. The best catches were obtained by steam trawlers from distant grounds; the smaller vessels on the home grounds were poorly employed. Employment with fish-packers, carters, and curers was fair at Newlyn and Brixham. The catches during the month were good at Milford and Cardiff, and very good at Swansea.

Employment at Aberdeen was good in all branches, the same as in March, and much better than a year ago. At Peterhead it was good with fishermen and fish curers, and fair with fish dock labourers. In all branches it was better than a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an improvement with fishermen; in the other branches there was no change. At Macduff employment was moderate generally, worse than a month ago and similar to a year ago. At Arbroath and Montrose fishing was slack in the early part of the month, but improved with the more

favourable weather of the last two weeks. Employment at Fraserburgh was good with fish curers and barrel makers, the same as in March and a year ago. With fishermen it was moderate, and not so good as a month or a year ago. Among fish dock labourers it was bad, the same as a month and a year ago.

Off the South and South-west coasts of Ireland deep sea fishing continued bad owing to the continuance of severe weather.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN APRIL.**

(Based on Returns from the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) DURING April the supply of seamen at the ports included in the returns, was either equal to or in excess of the demand.

Returns received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during April 35,506\* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 1,681 as compared with the number shipped in April, 1904. The greatest increase occurred at Liverpool, and the other principal increases were at Newport, Glasgow, and London. The most marked decrease was at Southampton.

During the four completed months of 1905, 136,652 seamen were shipped, of whom 20,913 (or 15.3 per cent.) were foreigners. As compared with the four completed months of 1904, the greatest increases were at Liverpool, Newport, Swansea, and the Forth ports; while the decreases were most marked at London, Southampton, and the Tyne ports.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	April.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.	Four months ended April.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.
	1904.	1905.		1904.	1905.	
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ... ..	2,651	2,608	- 43	10,824	10,046	- 778
Sunderland ... ..	311	324	+ 13	1,807	1,599	- 208
Middlesbrough ... ..	206	249	+ 43	818	850	+ 42
Hull ... ..	890	750	- 140	4,098	3,847	- 251
Grimsby ... ..	36	80	+ 44	140	191	+ 51
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol† ... ..	430	365	- 65	2,358	2,174	- 184
Newport, Mon. ... ..	763	1,085	+ 322	2,944	3,598	+ 654
Cardiff† ... ..	4,312	4,243	- 69	18,308	18,325	+ 17
Swansea ... ..	358	317	- 41	1,366	1,936	+ 570
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ... ..	12,467	13,948	+ 1,481	47,507	50,249	+ 2,742
London ... ..	5,258	5,550	+ 292	23,078	21,860	- 1,218
Southampton ... ..	2,220	1,662	- 558	8,712	7,481	- 1,231
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth ... ..	586	694	+ 108	2,091	2,457	+ 366
Glasgow ... ..	3,005	3,322	+ 317	10,017	10,784	+ 767
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ... ..	44	73	+ 29	388	305	- 82
Belfast ... ..	288	236	- 52	1,150	939	- 211
Total ... ..	33,825	35,506	+ 1,681	136,206	136,652	+ 446

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

**I.—BREAD.†**

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

As compared with a month ago, the price has remained the same at all the towns given in the Table, except at Edinburgh, where a reduction of ½d. per 4 lbs. has taken place, and in London where the number of shops selling at 5½d. has continued to fall, and the predominant price is now 5d.

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.  
† Including Avonmouth and Portishead.  
‡ Including Barry and Penarth.  
§ Revised figures.  
¶ Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the present prices for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various aces by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

As compared with a year ago, five towns show an increase of ½d. per 4 lbs., viz., Bristol, Dundee, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin. Two towns, Birmingham and Norwich, show a decrease of ½d., and London a decrease of ¼d. per 4 lbs.

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

**II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.**

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

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt. s. d.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
			Average Declared Value.	Average Declared Value.	
April 1904.	6 5½	8 11	6 11½	9 11	10 1½
April 1905.	7 2	7 3½	7 3½	10 0½	10 7½
March ... ..	7 2	7 2	7 2	10 1	10 4½

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1904, to April 30th, 1905, amounted to 68,293,800 cwts., or 9,520,200 cwts. less than in the corresponding eight months of 1903-4. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the eight months September to April of 1904-5 amounted to 7,936,998 cwts., or very little more than half the quantity in the corresponding period in 1903-4, when the figure was 15,326,764 cwts.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

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

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

**WHAT IS AN ACCIDENT? : ANTHRAX.**

Compensation is payable to an injured workman under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, only where the injury is caused by "accident" arising out of or in the course of his employment.

A man employed in the factory of a wool-combing company had in the course of his employment to handle and sort wool. Whilst so engaged he became infected with anthrax from the wool, which in the first place affected one of his eyes. The disease ended fatally, and the man's widow claimed compensation under the Act on behalf of herself and three children. An award was made in her favour by the County Court Judge, and the award was confirmed by the Court of Appeal.

The employers then appealed to the House of Lords. The House of Lords held that the disease from which the man had died was set up by an accidental injury; that the fatal injury

was therefore caused by "accident" within the meaning of the Act; and that the award was therefore right.—*Turvey v. Brintons (Ltd.)*, House of Lords, December 13th and 15th, 1904, and April 14th, 1905.

WHAT IS A "FACTORY"? : SHIP IN DOCK : COMPENSATION TO SEAMAN.

The Act applies to employment by the undertakers, as defined, on or in or about a factory. "Factory" is defined to include any dock to which any provision of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, applies; and by the last-mentioned Act, its provisions with respect to accidents have effect as if every dock were included in the word "factory." "Undertakers" in the case of a factory means the occupier thereof.

A seaman signed articles to serve on board a ship as able seaman for a voyage from Liverpool to the River Plate and back. The ship left Liverpool on November 22nd, 1902, and on November 24th entered the Alexandria Dock, Newport, to take in bunker coal for the voyage. On November 28th, having finished coaling, she was moved out to buoys in the middle of the dock preparatory to proceeding to sea next morning. On the 29th, whilst the ship was still lying at the buoys, the seaman was employed clearing up one of the holds, which was part of his ordinary work as a sailor. While he was so engaged, a heavy piece of wood accidentally fell upon him and injured him so severely, that he died in consequence some months afterwards. His widow claimed compensation under the Act, but the judge of the City of London Court disallowed her claim on the ground that the employment of the deceased was not within the Act. The Court of Appeal, however, held that the widow was entitled to compensation as the Act applies to a seaman employed upon a ship as long as it lies in a dock and therefore occupies part of a factory. The owners of the ship appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords held that the employment of the deceased man was not an employment to which the Act applied; that "dock" means the solid structure and body of the dock, not the water space within its limits; and that the shipowner was not the occupier of the dock or of any part of it. The decision of the Court of Appeal was therefore reversed and that of the judge of the City of London Court was restored.

*Griffin v. The Houlder Line (Ltd.)*, House of Lords, February 20th, and April 14th, 1905.

(3) Trade Union Acts.

PAYING STRIKE PAY CONTRARY TO RULES OF UNION: ACTION FOR INJUNCTION BY MEMBER.

It is provided by the Trade Union Act, 1871, that nothing in the Act shall enable any Court to entertain any legal proceedings instituted with the object of directly enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any agreement for the application of the funds of a trade union to provide benefits to members.

Early in 1902 a dispute arose between the miners employed by the Denaby and Cadeby Collieries' Company and their employers. The result of the dispute was a strike, or, as the miners regarded the circumstances, a lock-out. While the men were out of employment strike pay was given to them by the trade union to which they belonged. A member of the union then brought an action against the union and certain of its officers, claiming an injunction to restrain the defendants from misapplying the funds of the union, or dealing with them in a manner contrary to the rules of the union. At the trial it was alleged that in the circumstances the giving strike pay by the union to the men out of employment was done in contravention of the rules of the union. In defence this was denied, and it was also maintained that the Court could not entertain the action by reason of the provisions of the Trade Union Act, 1871, cited above. After certain facts were found by the jury, judgment was given for the plaintiff, granting the injunction claimed.

The defendants appealed, and the Court of Appeal held that, upon the proper construction of the rules of the union, the funds of the union could not be applied in giving strike pay to the members in question, in the circumstances which had occurred; also, that the plaintiff was not precluded by the Trade Union Act, 1871, from bringing the action. The appeal was therefore dismissed. On the last-mentioned point the defendants appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords held that, although under the provisions of the Act the Courts would not interfere with the distribution of the funds of a trade union, if such distribution were made in accordance with the rules of the union, still the Courts would interfere to forbid the distribution of the funds contrary to such rules; that there was nothing in the Act which prevented the operation of the ordinary law which protects trust property from being diverted from its proper objects; and that the action did not seek "directly" to enforce any agreement for the application of the funds of the union. The decision of the Court of Appeal was therefore confirmed, and the appeal dismissed.—*Howden v. Yorkshire Miners' Association*, House of Lords, July 25th, 1904, February 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and April 14th, 1905.

ACTION BY MEMBER OF UNION TO RECOVER MONEY.

In another case a member of a trade union brought an action against the union to recover the sum of £100, which sum he alleged to be payable to him under the rules of the society, he having become incapacitated from work by reason of an accident.

At the trial the defendants contended that, being a trade union registered under the Act, and the main objects of the society being in restraint of trade, the Court could not entertain the action, which was brought in order directly to enforce an agreement for the application of the funds of the union to provide benefits to members.

The Judge decided that this contention was sound and entered judgment for the defendants. The plaintiff appealed. The Court of Appeal held that the question was whether the defendant society was a trade union and whether, as such, its main object was in restraint of trade. In the rules of the society there were perfectly legal rules for the benefit of the members, but they were inextricably mixed up with other rules which were in restraint of trade and in that sense illegal. The different kinds of rules could not be severed, and their main object was in restraint of trade. Therefore the society was a trade union to which the provisions of the Act applied, and the Judge's decision was correct. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Aspden v. The Steam-engine Makers' Society*, Court of Appeal, April 5th, 1905.

PROCURING WORKMEN TO BREAK CONTRACTS OF SERVICE: STOP DAYS: LIABILITY OF TRADE UNION.

The miners employed in the collieries of South Wales abstained from working on certain days which were called "stop days." This was done in breach of their contracts with their employers and without due notice to them. The object of these stop days was to reduce the output of coal, and so to keep prices at a high level; thereby keeping up the wages of the miners, which depended on the prices according to a sliding scale. In taking this course the miners were acting under the directions of the South Wales Miners' Federation. The facts were fully reported in the LABOUR GAZETTE for August, 1902, at page 220.

Seventy-four owners of collieries thereupon united in bringing an action against the Federation and its officers and trustees, claiming damages for wrongfully and maliciously procuring and inducing workmen employed in the collieries of the plaintiffs to break their contracts of service with the plaintiffs. In the alternative the plaintiffs stated that the defendants had wrongfully, unlawfully, and maliciously conspired to procure the workmen to do the acts complained of. An injunction was claimed as well as damages.

The Judge who tried the action found that the defendants had acted honestly without any malice, and in ordering the stop days had acted as they thought best in the interests of the miners whom they represented; that they had lawful justification and excuse for what they did, and that it was their duty to advise and guide the miners, and to take the necessary steps to secure that such advice should be followed. He accordingly gave judgment for the defendants.

On appeal this judgment was reversed by the Court of Appeal, who decided that the defendants had committed an actionable wrong, and ordered judgment to be entered for the plaintiffs, and an inquiry to be made as to damages.

The defendants then appealed to the House of Lords, and the House of Lords affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal. It was held that to conspire to procure persons to break contracts is manifestly unlawful; that there was no legal justification in the fact that the defendants had no malice against the plaintiffs, and honestly believed that keeping up the prices of coal would benefit employers as well as workmen; and that the defendants were liable in damages for their unlawful act.—*Glamorgan Coal Company, Limited, & Others v. The South Wales Miners' Federation & Others*, House of Lords, February, 23rd, 24th, 27th and 28th March, 2nd and 3rd and 14th April, 1905.

COAL EXPORTS, 1900-1904.

A RETURN\* has recently been issued by the Board of Trade showing the export of coal from each port in the United Kingdom to each country abroad in each quarterly period of 1903 and 1904 respectively.

In 1904 the total quantity of coal exported was 5,255,547 tons, as compared with 44,950,057 tons in 1903, an increase of 1,305,490 tons, or nearly 3 per cent. These figures do not include the 17,190,900 tons of coal shipped in 1904 at ports of the United Kingdom for ships' use on foreign voyages. Of the total export of coal in 1904, nearly 45 per cent. was from Bristol Channel ports and 31 per cent. from ports on the North-East Coast.

The following Table shows the quantity of coal exported from each of the principal districts in the five years of the period 1900-1904, the figures for the first three of these years being taken from Parliamentary Papers previously published:—

Ports.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
1,000's of tons.					
Bristol Channel Ports ... ..	18,459	18,621	19,451	19,887	20,200
North Eastern Ports ... ..	13,135	13,294	12,860	13,982	14,437
Humber Ports ... ..	4,127	2,992	3,031	3,144	3,197
Other Ports on East Coast ... ..	264	220	189	181	223
North Western Ports ... ..	722	516	523	581	371
East Scotland ... ..	5,779	4,764	5,452	5,365	5,658
West Scotland ... ..	1,598	1,470	1,953	1,810	1,569
Other Ports ... ..	5	—	—	—	1
Total United Kingdom ... ..	44,089	41,877	43,159	44,950	46,256

\* H. C. 112. Price 4d. Wyman & Sons Ltd

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES.

PART I. of the Mining Statistics issued annually by the Home Office shows, *inter alia*, for each Inspection District the number of deaths from various classes of accidents in and about mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act. A special return\* recently issued shows certain of these figures in greater detail, viz., those relating to fatal accidents to persons employed underground which appear under the headings Haulage, Machinery, and Sundries. The return gives the figures for each district for each of the ten years 1895-1904 and distinguishes the age groups 12 to 14, 14 to 16, 16 to 18, 18 to 20, and above 20.

In the ten years there were 2,255 deaths from accident under the causes named above, haulage being responsible for 1,816 deaths and machinery for 80, the remainder being due to sundry causes. Of the total persons killed 100 were between 12 and 14 years of age, 314 between 14 and 16, and 1,362 were over 20.

In 1904 there were 264 deaths from the causes named, 5 being those of persons between 12 and 14, and 36 of persons between 14 and 16.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

DURING April 41 cases of lead poisoning, 1 case of mercurial, 1 case of phosphorus poisoning, and 3 of anthrax were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No cases of arsenic poisoning were reported. Five deaths, 4 due to lead poisoning and 1 to anthrax, were reported.

During the four months ended April the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 205 as compared with 213 in 1904. The number of deaths was 13, being 5 more than in 1904, an increase mainly due to anthrax.

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Four Months ended April.		Four Months ended April.	
	April, 1905.	1905. 1904.	April, 1905.	1905. 1904.
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>				
Smelting of Metals ... ..	2	9	4	—
Brass Works ... ..	—	4	3	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ... ..	—	3	2	—
Plumbing and Soldering ... ..	1	7	9	—
Printing ... ..	3	6	7	2
File Cutting ... ..	3	4	11	—
Timing and Enamelling of Iron ... ..	1	5	7	1
Hollow-ware ... ..	—	7	3	1
White Lead Works ... ..	7	3	27	1
Red and Yellow Lead Works ... ..	1	2	6	—
China and Earthenware ... ..	6	3	44	1
Litho-transfer Works ... ..	1	3	2	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ... ..	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ... ..	—	1	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ... ..	1	8	4	—
Paint and Colour Works ... ..	3	20	6	—
Coach Making ... ..	2	17	14	1
Shipbuilding ... ..	1	10	19	—
Paint used in other Industries ... ..	4	9	9	—
Other Industries ... ..	5	79	14	1
<b>Total Lead Poisoning†</b> ... ..	<b>41</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>				
Barometer and Thermometer making ... ..	—	—	1	—
Furriers' processes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ... ..	1	2	1	—
<b>Total Mercurial Poisoning</b> ... ..	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning</b> ... ..	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ... ..	—	—	2	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	—	1	—
<b>Total Arsenic Poisoning</b> ... ..	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Anthrax—</b>				
Wool Sorting ... ..	—	2	2	—
Wool Combing ... ..	2	7	3	—
Handling of Horsehair ... ..	—	3	5	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ... ..	1	2	5	1
Other Industries ... ..	—	1	5	—
<b>Total Anthrax</b> ... ..	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b> ... ..	<b>46</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>5</b>

\* H.C. 140. Price 1½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.  
† Of the six persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in April, 1905, three were females.  
‡ House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 14 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during April, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the 4 months ended April, 1905, was 45 (including 9 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1904, 54 (including 13 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

THE number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment during April was considerably below the minimum number in April of the preceding five years. The number was 180, being 96 less than in March, 1905, and 34 less than in April, 1904. The mean number for April in the years 1900-1904, was 226, the maximum year in this period being 1902, with 248 deaths, and the minimum year 1904, with 214 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in April, 1905, was 100. The number reported in April of the years 1900-1904 varied from 52 to 210, the mean for the five years being 126.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 253, as compared with 238 in the corresponding period of 1904. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

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

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April, 1905, as compared with a	
	April, 1905.	Mar., 1905.	April, 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakemen and Goods Guards ... ..	4	1	1	+ 3	+ 3
Engine Drivers ... ..	4	2	1	+ 2	+ 3
Firemen ... ..	2	4	3	- 2	- 1
Guards (Passenger) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ... ..	5	8	12	- 3	- 7
Porters ... ..	4	4	3	—	+ 1
Shunters ... ..	2	3	3	- 1	- 1
Miscellaneous ... ..	11	13	10	- 2	+ 1
Contractors' Servants ... ..	3	—	—	+ 3	+ 3
<b>Total Railway Service</b> ... ..	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
<b>Mines—</b>					
Underground ... ..	57	122	60	- 65	- 12
Surface ... ..	5	6	14	- 1	- 9
<b>Total Mines</b> ... ..	<b>62</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>- 66</b>	<b>- 21</b>
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep</b> ... ..	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>- 4</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Factories—</b>					
<b>Textile</b> ... ..					
Cotton ... ..	3	8	1	- 5	+ 2
Wool and Worsted ... ..	2	5	3	- 3	- 1
Other Textiles ... ..	1	—	3	+ 1	- 2
<b>Non-Textile</b> ... ..					
Extraction of Metals ... ..	2	3	7	- 6	- 5
Founding and Conversion of Metals ... ..	11	13	17	- 2	- 0
Marine and Locomotive Engineering ... ..	1	6	6	- 5	- 5
Ship and Boat Building ... ..	7	5	3	+ 2	+ 4
Wood ... ..	1	—	1	+ 1	—
Chemicals, &c. ... ..	2	2	1	—	+ 1
Other Non-Textile Industries ... ..	25	50	22	- 5	+ 3
<b>Total Factories</b> ... ..	<b>55</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>- 22</b>	<b>- 9</b>
<b>Workshops</b> ... ..	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, 8s. 103-5—</b>					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays ... ..	12	8	9	+ 4	+ 3
Warehouses ... ..	—	—	1	- 3	- 1
Buildings to which Act applies ... ..	8	12	11	- 4	- 3
Laundries ... ..	—	1	—	- 1	—
<b>Total under Factory Act, 8s. 103-5</b> ... ..	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b> ... ..	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>- 3</b>
<b>Total, exclusive of Seamen</b> ... ..	<b>180</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>- 96</b>	<b>- 34</b>
<b>Seamen—</b>					
<b>On Trading Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ... ..	14	73	17	- 59	- 3
Steam ... ..	8	91	32	- 83	+ 51
<b>On Fishing Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ... ..	—	6	2	- 6	- 2
Steam ... ..	3	31	1	- 28	+ 2
<b>Total Seamen</b> ... ..	<b>100</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>- 101</b>	<b>+ 48</b>
<b>Total, including Seamen</b> ... ..	<b>280</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>- 197</b>	<b>+ 14</b>

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Twenty-eight new disputes began in April, 1905, compared with 23 in March, and 21 in April, 1904. By the 28 disputes, 5,515 workpeople were directly and 2,378 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before April, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 12,515 workpeople involved in trade disputes during April, 1905, compared with 15,197 in March, 1905, and 5,529 in April, 1904.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ... ..	3	2,402	—	2,402
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	10	862	981	1,843
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	7	1,361	249	1,610
Textile ... ..	3	313	1,148	1,461
Clothing ... ..	3	469	—	469
Transport ... ..	2	108	—	108
<b>Total, April, 1905 ... ..</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5,515</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>7,893</b>
<b>Total, March, 1905 ... ..</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7,647</b>	<b>3,829</b>	<b>10,886</b>
<b>Total, April, 1904 ... ..</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3,052</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>3,972</b>

**Causes.**—Of the twenty-eight disputes, ten arose on demands for increased wages, seven on objections to reduction, three on other wages questions, one against proposed increase in hours of labour, two on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and five on details of working arrangements.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in April in the case of twelve new disputes, affecting 3,271 workpeople, and three old disputes, affecting 278 workpeople. Of these fifteen new and old disputes, two, involving 457 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; seven, involving 2,387 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and six, involving 705 persons, were

compromised. In the case of two other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 501 workpeople, certain points are still under consideration.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in April of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 75,500 working days. In addition, 70,200 working days were lost in April, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in April of all disputes, new and old, was 145,700 working days, which compares with 183,800 in the previous month, and 70,700 in the corresponding month of 1904.

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

Groups of Trades.	January to April.					
	1904.			1905.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ... ..	16	1,102	8,000	9	3,742	70,700
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	23	9,193	162,400	29	10,101	175,400
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding ... ..	20	3,040	59,100	26	3,944	120,800
Textile ... ..	12	1,984	44,400	20	8,118	79,700
Clothing ... ..	5	112	1,100	14	2,203	44,300
Transport ... ..	2	780	20,300	3	208	4,500
Other Trades ... ..	15	1,408	28,700	9	1,711	22,800
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>17,619</b>	<b>324,000</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>30,027</b>	<b>518,200</b>

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations †	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1905.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object. ‡	Result. ‡
		Directly.	Indirectly. †				
<b>Building Trades—</b> Bricklayers, Stonemasons, and Plasterers	South Shields	202	...	1 April	...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. per hour, and other alterations in working rules	No settlement reported.
Joiners	Glasgow	1,600	...	22 April	...	Against proposed reduction in wages, and other alterations in working rules	No settlement reported.
Joiners	Edinburgh	600	...	15 April	...	Against proposed reduction in wages from 9d. to 8½d. per hour, and other alterations in working rules	No settlement reported.
<b>Quarrying—</b> Settmakers, Getters, and Blockers	Leicester (near)	399	...	24 Feb.	44	Dissatisfaction with proposed rule that piece workers should conform to the hours of time workers	Work resumed pending reference to conciliation.
<b>Engineering and Shipbuilding—</b> Moulders, Fitters, Dressers, Warehousemen, &c.	Falkirk	218	102	3 April	...	Against proposed reduction in prices for castings heavier than recognised standard weight	No settlement reported.
Patternmakers	The Clyde	811	...	17 April	...	For advance in wages of ½d. per hour	No settlement reported.
<b>Textile Trades—</b> Jute Spinners, Preparers, Winders and Weavers	Dundee	47	377	25 April	5	Alleged bad material	Work resumed unconditionally.
Reelers, Flax Spinners, Roughers, &c.	Newry	140	736	5 April	7	Against proposed alteration in method of clipping threads	Alteration in method accepted.
<b>Boot and Shoe Trade—</b> Boot and Shoe Operatives	Northampton	232	...	3 April	1	Against proposed increase in hours of labour from 54 to 55 per week	Hours maintained at 54 per week.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Northampton	225	...	10 April	3	Against discharge of a fellow workman and manager's treatment of workpeople	Man reinstated; manager resigned his position.

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

**Wages.**  
*Changes reported in April.*—The net effect of all the changes reported in April was an increase of £261 per week, as compared with an increase of £745 per week in March, and a decrease of £1,003 per week in April, 1904. The number of workpeople affected was 11,250, of whom 8,830 received advances amounting to £400 per week, and 2,420 sustained decreases amounting to £139 per week. The total number affected in March was 47,619, and in April, 1904, 40,755.

The principal changes reported were increases affecting 3,500 blastfurnacemen and labourers in Scotland, and 1,371 puddlers, millmen, etc., in South Wales and Monmouth, and a decrease affecting 1,800 slate quarrymen and labourers in North Wales.

One change, affecting 1,371 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and twelve changes, affecting 7,222 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 2,657 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

**Summary for the first four Months of 1905.†**—For the four months, January-April, 1905, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) respecting whom wages changes have been reported was 134,872, as compared with 271,488 in the corresponding period of 1904. The changes arranged give 19,613 workpeople a net increase amounting to £1,080 per week, and 89,148 a net decrease amounting to £4,115 per week, whilst the remaining 26,111 have had upward and downward changes which have left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes

reported was a decrease of £3,035 per week, as compared with a decrease of £10,018 in the corresponding period of 1904.

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

Groups of Trades.	January—April.			
	1904.		1905.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building ... ..	2,830	- 173	224	- 19
Coal Mining ... ..	152,690	- 3,183	48,190	- 1,303
Iron Mining ... ..	10,612	- 527	292	+ 7
Quarrying ... ..	1,954	- 51	2,531	- 151
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	11,169	- 598	14,121	+ 514
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	50,602	- 2,395	33,801	- 65
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	29,305	- 2,495	29,903	- 2,349
Textile Trades ... ..	2,200	- 68	487	+ 4
Glass, Chemical, &c., Trades ... ..	4,793	- 682	627	- 27
Other Trades ... ..	2,243	- 36	1,059	+ 44
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	3,080	+ 190	3,627	+ 310
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>271,488</b>	<b>-10,018</b>	<b>134,872</b>	<b>- 3,035</b>

Hours.

Only one change in hours of labour was reported in April. It affected 1,500 bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers at Leicester, whose working time during the summer period was reduced by 2½ hours per week, as compared with the previous summer period. During the four months January-April, 1905, the total number of workpeople affected by changes in hours was 1,713, the reduction in their working time being 2,588 hours per week.

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

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL, 1905.

3 Increases—401 Workpeople.		MINING AND QUARRYING.		1 Decrease—1,800 Workpeople.	
Dalton-in-Furness	Iron Ore Miners ... ..	3 April	292	...	Advance of 1d. per day (5s. to 5s. 1d.) under sliding scale.
Stainton-in-Furness	Limestone Quarrymen ... ..	1 April	49	...	Advance of 0'13d. per ton under sliding scale.
North Wales	Slate Quarrymen and Labourers ... ..	14 Mar.	...	1,800	Withdrawal of 5 per cent. bonus given in June, 1901.
Ballachulish	Slatemakers (boys) ... ..	10 Mar.	60	...	Advance of 6d. per 1,000 undersize slates.
13 Increases—7,712 Workpeople.		IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE.		1 Decrease—620 Workpeople	
Stockton-on-Tees...	Steel Millmen ... ..	3 April	64	...	Advance of 2½ per cent., making wages 2½ per cent. above the standard.
Millom ... ..	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	2 April	180	...	Advance of 4½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages of furnacemen 19½ per cent., and of other workpeople 16½ per cent., above the standard.
Ulverston ... ..	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	2 April	132	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 16½ per cent. above the standard.
Workington ... ..	Steel Workers (except Enginemen, Crane-men and Firemen)	1st week in April	500	...	Advance of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 4½ per cent. above the standard.
Middlesbrough ... ..	Steel Workers ... ..	3 April	740	...	Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 7 per cent. above the standard.
Barrow-in-Furness	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	1 April	320	...	Advance of 4½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 16½ per cent. above the standard.
South Lancashire (two firms)	Rail, Wire, and Hoop Millmen ... ..	1 April	...	620	Decrease of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 8 per cent. above the standard.
North Staffordshire	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	1st week in April	220	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 16½ per cent. above the standard.
North Wales	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	1st week in April	600	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 13½ per cent. above the standard.
Morrison ... ..	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	6 April	69	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 16½ per cent. above the standard.
South Wales and Monmouth	Tinplate Workers:— Feeders and Firemen ... ..	2 April	16	...	Advance of 3d. per day, equal to 5'08 per cent. to feeders, and of 5'66 per cent. to firemen.
Scotland ... ..	Iron Puddlers, Iron and Steel Millmen, Enginemen, Cranemen, Labourers, &c. } Blastfurnacemen and Labourers ... ..	3 April	371	...	Advance of 2½ per cent.
		1 May	3,500	...	Advance of 5 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 20 per cent. above the standard of 1st January, 1899.

1 Increase—162 Workpeople.		TEXTILE TRADES.		Decreases—Nil.	
Macclesfield ... ..	Silk Dyers ... ..	1 May	162	...	Advance of 1s. per week (21s. to 22s.).

\* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. It should be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.  
† Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen, and railway servants. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

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

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1905.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)		
			Increase.	Decrease.			
<b>4 Increases—555 Workpeople.</b>							
Sheffield	Street Sweepers...	26 Mar.	120	...	Advance of 1s. per week (22s. to 23s.).		
Salford	Lighting and Cleansing Department:—Sweepers, Lamplighters, Pall, Barrel and Destructor Men, Yardmen, Labourers, &c.	1 April	281	...	Advances to a rate of 25s. per week.		
	Highway Committee:—Labourers					10	...
Wolverhampton	Excavators	13 Mar.	8	...	Advance of 2s. per week (20s. to 22s.).		
	Convenience Attendants (Male)					2	...
Belfast	Night Getters-out, Carters, &c.	Mar.	7	...	Advance of 1s. per week to 5 men; and of 3s. and 4s. respectively to 2 men.		
	Park Labourers					65	...
	Cemetery Labourers					30	...
Belfast	Surveyors' Rammermen	Mar.	20	...	Advance of 6d. per week (22s. 6d. to 23s.).		
	Surveyors' Yardmen					12	...

II.—CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL, 1905.

Locality	Occupation	Date	Number of Workpeople	Particulars of Change
Leicester	Bricklayers and Bricklayers' Labourers	3 April	1,500	Decrease of 2½ hours per week during the summer period (55½ to 53); Winter hours remain 44½ and 47 per week.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for April.  
IMPORTS.\*

	Month ended 30th April.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco	£16,964,226	£18,378,515	£17,630,014	- 748,501	+ 665,788
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	£15,051,032	£14,890,689	£14,240,761	- 649,928	- 810,271
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	£11,599,627	£11,229,571	£11,191,233	- 538,338	- 408,394
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	£187,442	£182,988	£220,818	+ 37,830	+ 33,376
Total value of Imports	£43,802,327	£45,181,763	£43,282,826	- 1,898,937	- 819,801

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.‡

	Month ended 30th April.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£1,064,133	£1,134,067	£1,199,056	+ 64,989	+ 134,923
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured§	£2,750,487	£2,945,788	£2,691,616	- 254,172	- 58,871
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured¶	£19,015,570	£19,156,444	£19,893,396	+ 736,952	+ 877,826
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	£306,183	£248,535	£354,400	+ 105,865	+ 48,217
Total value of Exports of British produce	£23,136,373	£23,484,834	£24,138,468	+ 653,634	+ 1,002,098

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £6,589,064 in April, 1903; £6,754,370 in April, 1904; and £6,303,877 in April, 1905.

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended April 30th, 1905, amounted to 3,014,380 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,876,996 tons, as against 2,996,802 tons entered, and 3,920,464 tons cleared in the month of April, 1904. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during April, 1905, amounted to 2,530,237 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,467,687 tons, as against 2,513,627 tons entered, and 2,475,130 tons cleared in April, 1904.

\* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight; or when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.  
† Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.  
‡ Yarns and Textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.  
§ The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.  
¶ Coal, wool, oilseeds, hides and skins, &c.  
‡ Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, machinery, chemicals, &c.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.  
Returns received from the four Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the fourth quarter of 1904 show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £7,521,983, an increase of 6.3 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1903, while compared with five years ago (i.e., with the corresponding quarter of the year 1899) the sales show an increase of 34.4 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,422,872, an increase of 8.6 per cent. on the fourth quarter of 1903, while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1899 an increase of 55.7 per cent. is shown.

The following Table shows separately the particulars returned by each Federation for the fourth quarter of 1904, together with the figures for the corresponding quarters of 1903 and 1899:—

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales.				
	In 4th quarter of			Percentage increase of 1904 as compared with	
	1904.	1903.	1899.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
<b>ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—</b>					
Distributive Departments ...	£5,541,082	£5,297,579	£4,174,303	4.6	32.7
Manufacturing " ...	817,277*	812,705*	524,836*	0.6	53.7
<b>SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—</b>					
Distributive Departments ...	£1,938,175	£1,734,775	£1,384,954	11.7	39.9
Manufacturing " ...	605,595*	497,160*	389,266*	21.8	55.6
<b>IRISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES:—</b>					
IRISH AGENCY—Distributive Departments†	£38,637	£38,016	£34,310	1.6	12.6
<b>AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY</b>					
Distributive Departments ...	£4,089	£8,187	£3,320	50.1†	23.2
Totals—Distributive Depts. ...	£7,521,983	£7,078,557	£5,596,887	6.3	34.4
Manufacturing " ...	£1,422,872	£1,309,868	£914,102	8.6	53.7
Grand Total ...	£8,944,855	£8,388,425	£6,510,989	6.6	37.4

NOTE.—The English and Scottish Wholesale Societies are federations of co-operative societies engaged mainly in retail distribution, the English Society consisting of 1,150 societies, with an aggregate membership of 1,994,145, and the Scottish of 279 societies, with an aggregate membership of 321,312. The Irish Society of 279 societies, with an aggregate membership of 4,035. The Agricultural Wholesale Society is a federation of 37 agricultural distributive societies with a membership of 4,035. The Irish Agency Society, which is a federation of dairymaking societies for marketing their produce, has not supplied particulars as to its membership.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during April numbered 358, a decrease of 17 as compared with April, 1904. For the four months ended 30th April, 1905, the number was 1,669, as compared with 1,554 in the corresponding period of 1904. The 1,669 bankruptcies in 1905 included 110 publicans, 108 grocers, 96 builders, and 93 farmers, as compared with 89, 98, 109, 60 respectively in the four months ended April, 1904.

\* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.  
† Figures for butter-making not available.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left for places out of Europe during April was 53,030 as compared with 44,026 in April, 1904. During the four months ended April, 1905, the number of passengers was 146,274, being 33,814 (or 30.1 per cent) more than in the corresponding period of 1904.

British and Irish.—Of the 53,030 passengers in April, 1905, 33,681 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 4,096 as compared with a year ago. For the four months ended April, 1905, the number was 82,614 as compared with 68,939 in 1904, an increase of 13,675. The number of passengers to British South Africa showed a decrease of 629, while the numbers travelling to the United States and British North America increased by 8,205 and 6,297 respectively, during the four months.

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

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	April, 1905.	April, 1904.	Four months ended	
			April, 1905.	April, 1904.
<b>British Colonies and Possessions:</b>				
British North America ...	13,785	10,468	28,887	22,590
Australia and New Zealand...	624	738	3,109	3,226
British South Africa ...	2,214	1,977	7,471	8,100
India (including Ceylon) ...	180	188	995	1,192
Other British Colonies and Possessions	248	225	1,440	1,394
Total, British Empire ...	17,051	13,596	41,888	36,502
<b>Foreign Countries:</b>				
United States ...	16,189	15,649	38,667	30,462
Other Foreign Countries ...	441	340	2,059	1,975
Total, Foreign Countries ...	16,630	15,989	40,726	32,437
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>33,681</b>	<b>29,585</b>	<b>82,614</b>	<b>68,939</b>

Foreign.—The remainder of the 53,030 passengers in April, viz., 19,349, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 4,908 more than in April, 1904. For the four months ended April, 1905, the number of such passengers was 63,660, of whom 51,796 were bound for the United States, 6,573 for British North America, and 1,269 for British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1904, the number was 43,521, of whom 31,664 were bound for the United States, 7,606 for British North America, and 1,734 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During April, 18,791 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 11,939 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 2,327 as compared with April, 1904. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 5,451 (exclusive of seamen), or 730 more than a year ago. For the four months ended April, 1905, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 38,541, and the number not so stated, 23,849 (exclusive of seamen) compared with 28,276 and 17,503 respectively in 1904.

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

	Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.	Total for four months ended	
			Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	1,401	1,212	4,688	4,203
Seamen	5,451	4,721	23,849	17,503
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	11,939	9,612	38,541	28,276
Total ...	18,791	15,545	67,078	49,982

LABOUR CO-PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATION.

The half-yearly meeting and conference of the Labour Co-partnership Association, was held at Derby on April 14th and 15th, when an opening address upon "Industrial Co-partnership" was delivered by Mr. H. T. Eve, K.C., M.P. Papers on the subject of "Co-operative Housing," and of the past twenty-one years' progress of the principle of Labour Co-partnership, were read and discussed, and resolutions of approval passed.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The total receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended April 29th, 1905, amounted to £7,211,815, an increase of £118,507 (or 1.7 per cent.) on the total for the corresponding period of 1904. The passenger receipts showed an increase of £194,979 (or 6.1 per cent.) and the goods and mineral receipts a decrease of £76,472 (or 2.0 per cent.).

During the seventeen weeks ended April 29th, 1905, the total receipts amounted to £28,686,272. Of this total £11,912,836 were derived from passenger traffic, and £16,773,436 from goods and minerals. In the passenger receipts decreases occurred on the lines serving the Midland, North-Western, and Eastern parts of England. The increases were most marked on the Western and South-Western lines. The Scottish and Irish Railways also show increases. Goods and mineral receipts show a decrease on all the English and Irish groups, except on those lines serving the North-Eastern parts of England. The decrease was most marked on the railways serving the East Midland and Eastern counties of England. The Scottish lines show a very slight increase.

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

	4 weeks ended April 29th, 1905.		17 weeks ended April 29th, 1905.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.
<b>Passenger Traffic.</b>				
<b>English Lines:—</b>				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	£891,654	+ 59,119	£3,114,535	- 19,005
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury.	442,793	+ 20,081	1,610,819	- 8,712
Lancs. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	419,240	+ 33,958	1,492,300	+ 5,323
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western.	732,400	+ 54,200	2,498,700	+ 37,200
L. B. & S. C. and S. E. & C.	476,532	+ 21,281	1,674,070	+ 2,480
<b>Scottish Lines:—</b>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	318,449	+ 7,149	1,132,540	+ 9,543
<b>Irish Lines:—</b>				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland, G.W., & Gt. Northern.	109,270	- 809	389,872	+ 2,763
Total ...	3,390,338	+ 194,979	11,912,836	+ 29,592
<b>Goods and Mineral Traffic.</b>				
<b>English Lines:—</b>				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	£1,323,201	- 48,841	£6,017,030	- 7,511
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury.	407,231	- 29,121	1,846,831	- 86,104
Lancs. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	757,318	+ 27,592	3,231,944	+ 11,404
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western.	567,800	- 17,400	2,487,500	- 17,300
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	138,062	- 5,386	618,459	- 11,025
<b>Scottish Lines:—</b>				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	514,723	+ 2,619	2,118,555	+ 409
<b>Irish Lines:—</b>				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland, G.W., & Gt. Northern.	113,142	- 5,935	452,817	- 20,692
Total ...	3,821,477	- 76,472	16,773,436	- 130,819
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>7,211,815</b>	<b>+ 118,507</b>	<b>28,686,272</b>	<b>- 101,227</b>

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: STATISTICS OF FACTORIES, &c.

The Report\* has been received of the Public Works Department of South Australia for the year ending June 30th, 1904, containing among other information the Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories.

On June 30th, 1904, the number of workpeople employed in the 1,516 registered factories was 18,274, of which 13,810 were males, and 4,464 were females: 1,270 of the males and 448 of the females were under 16 years of age. The registered outworkers numbered 1,198 (546 males and 652 females). The works with the largest numbers of workpeople were those connected with smelting, iron-founding, mechanical engineering, &c., industries which employed 4,378 workpeople; boot and shoe factories, 1,648; the tailoring trade employed 2,129; printing, book-binding, &c., 1,295; and dress-making and millinery establishments, 1,140. Of the outworkers, 421 females were engaged in dressmaking and millinery, and 232 males and 13 females in boot and shoe making.

The number of factory accidents reported during the year was 197, two of which were fatal.

\* Adelaide: C. S. Bristow, Government Printer, 1904.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.)  
THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in April corresponded to a rate of 228 per 10,000 of the estimated population. This rate is higher than that for April in any of the last ten years, the average rate for which period is 209.

Compared with March, 1905, the number of persons relieved decreased by 21,963 (5.3 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 13. Decreases occurred in 31 districts, the most marked being that of 127 per 10,000 in the West Ham district. There was a decrease of 4,987 (2.9 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers and of 16,976 (6.9 per cent.) in the total number of outdoor paupers.

Compared with April, 1904, the number of persons relieved increased by 21,128 (5.7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 10. Twenty-nine districts showed increases, the greatest of which were in East London (49 per 10,000), Leicester (43), and Liverpool (35). Of the remaining six districts five showed decreases and one showed no change. An increase of 4,167 (2.5 per cent.) is shown in the total number of indoor paupers and of 16,961 (8.1 per cent.) in the total number of outdoor paupers.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of April, 1905.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.*</b>						
<b>Metropolises.</b>						
West District	11,700	3,504	15,204	183	- 14	+ 2
North District	16,086	9,403	25,489	238	- 14	+ 9
Central District	7,133	2,979	10,112	517	- 18	+ 7
East District	15,439	9,046	24,485	340	- 13	+ 49
South District	25,015	19,954	44,969	244	- 15	+ 7
<b>Total Metropolises</b>	<b>75,373</b>	<b>44,886</b>	<b>120,259</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>- 14</b>	<b>+ 13</b>
West Ham	4,154	11,021	15,175	228	- 127	+ 3
<b>Other Districts.</b>						
Newcastle District	2,111	5,215	7,326	170	- 3	+ 6
Stockton & Tees District	1,319	4,298	5,617	261	- 2	+ 16
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,169	8,545	12,714	167	- 7	+ 14
Wigan District	2,013	6,279	8,292	208	- 6	- 8
Manchester District	9,981	10,849	20,830	221	- 17	+ 18
Liverpool District	11,947	12,492	24,439	239	- 4	+ 35
Bradford District	1,768	3,059	4,827	132	- 4	+ 7
Hull & Huddersfield	1,302	4,043	5,345	147	- 3	+ 5
Leeds District	2,467	6,698	9,165	192	- 5	+ 9
Barnsley District	753	2,976	3,729	154	- 3	...
Sheffield District	3,370	3,888	7,258	167	- 3	+ 8
Hull District	1,586	5,524	7,110	261	+ 1	+ 8
North Staffordshire	2,340	7,948	10,288	278	- 13	+ 3
Nottingham District	2,148	5,832	7,980	198	- 6	+ 9
Leicester District	1,494	4,834	6,328	280	- 19	+ 43
Wolverhampton District	3,761	14,367	18,128	281	- 8	+ 22
Birmingham District	5,231	3,719	8,950	185	- 3	+ 2
Bristol District	2,895	7,116	10,011	263	- 4	+ 8
Cardiff & Swansea	1,988	7,500	9,488	255	- 3	- 11
<b>Total "Other Districts"</b>	<b>62,643</b>	<b>125,182</b>	<b>187,825</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>- 6</b>	<b>+ 10</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>						
Glasgow District	5,560	18,078	23,638	244	- 2	+ 5
Paisley & Greenock District	739	2,542	3,281	187	- 3	- 5
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,836	5,820	7,656	190	- 2	+ 5
Dundee & Dunfermline	1,131	3,015	4,146	208	- 1	+ 10
Aberdeen	750	3,277	4,027	243	...	+ 21
Coatbridge & Airdrie	372	1,510	1,882	199	...	+ 19
<b>Total for the above Scottish Districts</b>	<b>10,388</b>	<b>34,242</b>	<b>44,630</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>- 2</b>	<b>+ 6</b>
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District	7,394	5,603	12,997	330	- 7	+ 23
Belfast District	3,562	309	3,871	97	- 4	+ 1
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District	4,382	4,986	9,368	382	- 8	+ 3
Galway District	378	356	734	206	+ 5	- 4
<b>Total for the above Irish Districts</b>	<b>15,626</b>	<b>11,254</b>	<b>26,880</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>- 6</b>	<b>+ 8</b>
<b>Total for above 35 Districts in April, 1905.</b>	<b>168,184</b>	<b>226,588</b>	<b>394,769</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>- 13</b>	<b>+ 10</b>

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

TWELVE Bureaux furnished returns which can be compared with similar returns for a year ago. Eight other bureaux also furnished returns for April, 1905, for which no figures for a year ago are available.

(I.) Work done in April.

Name of Labour Bureau.	Applications by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Workpeople found Work during	
	Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.	Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.	Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.
	<b>London.</b>					
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	107	133	1	27	1	27
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd, E.)	1,260	929	425	339	572	557
St. Pancras (Crowndale Rd., N.W.)	169	253	62	59	63	65
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.)	25	60	...	1	...	1
Hammersmith (Brook Green Rd., W.)	52	34	39	15	39	13
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	244	255	159	153	111	63
Westminster (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.)	130	249	161	248	101	127
Kensington (Lancaster Road, W.)	181	129	34	19	60	64
<b>Provincial.</b>						
Ipswich (Fore Street)	36	58	16	32	10	21
Plymouth (Basket Street)	108	228	74	148	70	140
Liverpool (Dale Street)	191	145	3	1	...	1
Glasgow (158, George Street)	483	459	536	592	161	173
<b>Total of 12 Bureaux</b>	<b>2,986</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,252</b>
<b>London.</b>						
Hampstead (Finchley Road, N.W.)	66	...	41	...	22	...
Islington (93, St. Paul's Road, High-bury, N.)	312	...	110	...	215	...
<b>Provincial.</b>						
Wigan (Library Street)	11	...	13	...	13	...
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Pilgrim St.)	323	...	97	...	68	...
Leith (Junction Street)	38	...	...	...	14	...
Coventry (3, Market Hall Arcade)	93	...	70	...	...	...
Eastbourne (Public Library)	2	...	...	...	...	...
Dudley	60	...	10	...	18	...
<b>Total of 20 Bureaux</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>...</b>

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

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
<b>Engaged by Private Employers.</b>			
<b>Men.</b>			
Building Trades	51	125	176
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c.	17	12	29
Porters and Messengers	30	65	95
Bill Distributors	...	345	345
General Labourers	...	176	273
Other Occupations	97	10	77
<b>Lads and Boys</b> ... 67			
<b>Women and Girls.</b>			
Domestic Servants	68	15	83
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	14	104	118
Other Occupations	37	2	39
<b>Total engaged by Private Employers</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>1,235</b>
<b>Engaged by Local Authorities:—</b>			
Men, Lads and Boys	26	188	214
Women and Girls	...	1	1
<b>Engaged by Salvation Army</b> ... 153			
<b>Total of 20 Bureaux</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>1,603</b>

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

Name of Bureau.	Men.					Lads and Boys.	Women and Girls.
	Build-ing Trades.	Engin-eering Trades.	General Labour-ers.	Porters, Messen-gers, Carmen &c.	Other Occu-pations.		
<b>London.</b>							
Battersea	...	...	31	11	34	2	19
Salvation Army	69	39	121	105	214	—	—
St. Pancras	32	15	140	149	79	95	32
Southwark	3	5	7	14	1	2	—
Hammersmith	6	2	18	10	3	—	1
Finsbury	23	7	69	42	35	13	31
Westminster	3	13	65	162	152	107	208
Kensington	88	24	53	57	37	22	23
Hampstead	62	2	14	34	24	10	16
Islington	251	23	1,000	505	63	25	50
<b>Provincial.</b>							
Ipswich	2	2	16	4	3	4	5
Plymouth	34	2	34	40	33	7	—
Liverpool	5	6	69	12	48	11	15
Glasgow	74	44	85	78	57	33	136
Wigan	54	6	122	13	48	21	—
Newcastle-on-Tyne	18	30	220	32	29	4	145
Leith	13	—	16	3	1	—	—
Coventry	27	291	81	33	98	15	—
Eastbourne	72	10	80	10	42	—	—
Dudley	24	57	39	8	17	3	—
<b>Total of 20 Bureaux</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>2,280</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>681</b>

† In addition, 10 men were found work by Unemployed Committee.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April 634 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 623 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 184 persons, of whom 101 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 184 situations found for applicants, 140 were of a more or less permanent character, while 44 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 545 to 413, and the number of servants applying fell from 467 to 341; the number permanently engaged fell from 105 to 81. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc. fell from 118 to 112 and the number requiring such situations fell from 80 to 38; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 39, compared with 66 in March.

Compared with a year ago the work done by the Bureaux during April is shown by the following Table, in which the Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Dublin Bureaux are for the present grouped together.

WORK DONE IN APRIL.

	Applications by Work-people during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
	Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.	Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.	Perma-nently.		Tem-porarily.	
					Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.	Apr., 1905.	Apr., 1904.
<b>Summary by Bureaux.</b>								
Central Bureau	79	94	47	60	22	18	9	3
9, Southampton St., W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25, George Street (1)	373	435	360	399	65	63	20	19
Hanover Sq., W. (2)	74	111	133	166	34	32	11	15
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Dublin)	110	110	83	89	19	19	4	5
<b>Total of 7 Bureaux</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Summary by Occupations.</b>								
Superintendents,	70	56	20	18	3	6	1	—
Forewomen, etc.	11	13	4	1	—	—	—	—
Shop Assistants	38	59	112	141	26	28	13	17
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	52	79	18	18	11	5	4	4
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	5	6	17	28	3	4	—	—
Apprentices and Learners	341	382	413	441	81	69	20	19
Domestic Servants	117	155	39	67	15	20	5	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>
Watford Bureau*	13	—	23	—	3	—	2	—

H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.

Transfers.—Mr. C. C. W. Hoare has been transferred from the East London to the West London District, in place of Mr. G. J. L. Blenkinsopp, retired. His official address is 39, Victoria Street, S.W.

New Appointments.—Miss Mildred Olive Power and Miss Emily Julia Slocock have been appointed to be Inspectors of Factories and Workshops. Their official address is 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Mr. W. S. Smith has been appointed Inspector for Derby District (in succession to Mr. Rogers, transferred). His official address is Babington Buildings, Derby.

On May 1st, 1905, Mr. W. Williams, 72, Bridge Street, Manchester, became Inspector for all cotton cloth weaving factories (humidified and other) in the following area:—Parts of Lancashire and Cheshire, viz., the Unions of Manchester Township, Salford, Chorlton, Prestwich, Barton-upon-Irwell, Warrington, Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bury, Rochdale, Haslingden, Bolton, Chorley, Leigh, Wigan, Nantwich, Northwich, Congleton, Macclesfield, Bucklow, Stockport, and the Cheshire portion of the Union of Hayfield.

On May 1st, 1905, Mr. J. H. Rogers, 13, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn, became Inspector for all cotton cloth weaving

\* Opened July 1st, 1904.

factories (humidified and other) in the following area:—Part of Lancashire, viz., the Unions of Blackburn, Burnley, Clitheroe (Lancashire portion), Preston, Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, Lunes-dale, Ulverston, and Barrow-in-Furness, Cumberland and West-morland.

They will inspect all such factories for all purposes under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, except textile "particulars" for piece-work wages.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Liverpool and North Wales District.—An Examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under Manager of a mine will be held at Wigan on June 20th 1905. Candidates must, on or before June 17th, 1905, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King Street, Wigan, from whom all particulars can be obtained.



