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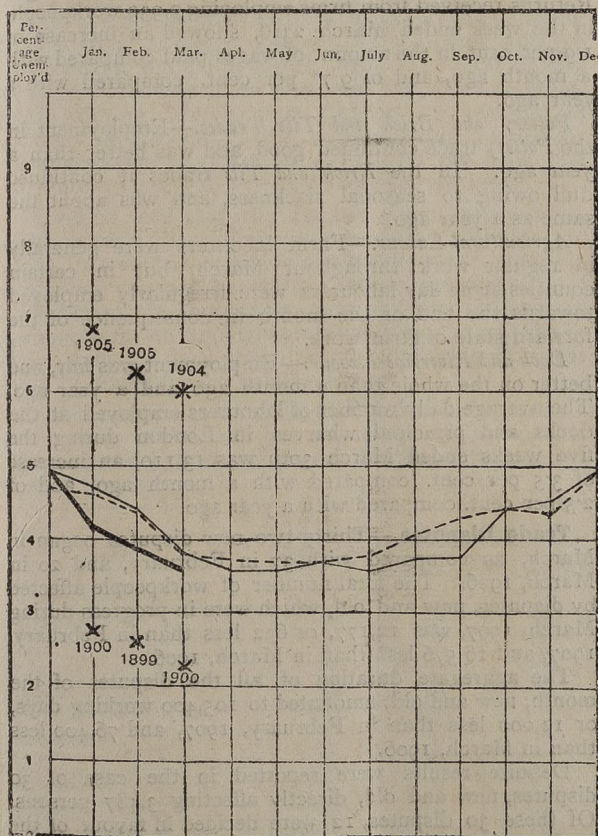
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike, or locked-out, sick or superannuated are excluded from the figures. For March, 1907, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 618,230 members in the following trades:—

Building...	64,784	Printing & Bookbinding	54,000
Coal Mining	119,162	Woodworking and Furnishing	34,638
Engineering	159,202	Miscellaneous	21,372
Shipbuilding	59,281		
Other Metal Trades	29,498	Total	618,230
Textiles	76,293		

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[In addition to the 2,687 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,759 were received from employers relating to 1,073,909 workpeople, employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,446 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good in March, and in many trades as compared with February showed an improvement, in addition to the ordinary seasonal movements in the outdoor and also the clothing trades.

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

The increases in rates of wages reported in March affected over 500,000 workpeople, and the aggregate weekly rise amounted to more than £25,000.

In the 273 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 618,230, making Returns, 22,058 (or 3.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, 1907, as compared with 3.9 per cent. at the end of February, 1907, and 3.9 per cent. at the end of March, 1906.

Building Trades.—Employment in nearly all branches of these trades showed an improvement, and is now better than at the same time in any year since 1903. Returns from 818 firms, employing 51,719 workpeople at the end of March, showed an increase in the number employed of 7.5 per cent., as compared with a month ago.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry in March was very good. The average number of days worked per week at the pits in March was 5.67, as compared with 5.69 in February, and 5.50 a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.82, as compared with 5.88 in February, and 5.85 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry in March continued very good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing over 25,000 workpeople, showed 348 furnaces in blast at the end of the month, as compared with 343 in February, and 338 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works continued very brisk, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. The volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended March 23rd 1907, at the 207 works from which Returns were received, was 0.7 per cent. greater than a month ago, and 3.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Template and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment continued good during March, and was better than a year ago. There was a decline as compared with February,

due principally to breakages. At the works covered by the Returns 443 tinplate and steel sheet mills were working at the end of March, as compared with 449 in the previous month and 419 in March, 1906.

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

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment on the whole showed an improvement compared with February, but was not so good as in March, 1906. Trade Unions with 59,281 members had 7·1 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 7·5 per cent. in February and 5·7 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very good and was better than a year ago. There was still a scarcity of labour in all departments. Returns from firms employing 119,452 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 0·6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 22,372 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 3·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,554 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 2·8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment, on the whole, continued good in Ireland and in England; it was fairly good in Scotland. Returns from firms employing 47,082 workpeople on the pay-day in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 4·7* per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9·1* per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued good. Returns from firms employing 18,777 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 7·0* per cent. in the total amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago, and of 4·6* per cent. as compared with March, 1906.

Silk Trade.—Employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,428 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 1·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with February, and an increase of 1·5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was good generally. In England it was better than a year ago. In Scotland it showed a decline. Returns received from firms employing 8,137 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 1·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the previous month, and of 7·6 per cent. as compared with March, 1906.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment on the whole was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 15,457 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd, showed an increase of 4·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Hat Trades.—Employment during March in the *Silk Hat* branch was quiet; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was fairly good; in both branches it was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of March in the *Silk Hat*

trade was 6·0, compared with 7·1 in February, and 13·5 a year ago. The corresponding percentages in the *Felt Hat* trade were 2·0, 3·4, and 4·5.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago; it was slightly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,724 workpeople showed an increase of 2·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment was quiet, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,703 had 6·0 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6·2 per cent. in February, and 6·1 per cent. a year ago.

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

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was fair on the whole, and rather better than a month ago and a year ago. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 3·4, as compared with 3·6 in February, 1907, and 3·9 in March, 1906. In the bookbinding trade the percentages were 4·4 for March, 4·1 for February, 1907, and 4·4 for March, 1906.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in these trades was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,629 reported 3·6 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 5·3 per cent. a month ago, and 4·3 per cent. in March, 1906.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued fairly good, and was on the whole better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 9,939 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd, showed an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9·7* per cent. compared with a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued dull owing to seasonal slackness, and was about the same as a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Farm labourers were generally in regular work throughout March, but in certain counties some day labourers were irregularly employed towards the end of the month in consequence of the forward state of farm work.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment was fair, and better on the whole than a month ago and a year ago. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended March 30th was 13,110, an increase of 3·5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-two new disputes began in March, as compared with 37 in February, and 20 in March, 1906. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes, new and old, which were in progress during March, 1907, was 12,177, or 632 less than in February, 1907, and 16,576 less than in March, 1906.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 105,400 working days, or 12,000 less than in February, 1907, and 76,400 less than in March, 1906.

Definite results were reported in the case of 30 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 3,487 persons. Of these 30 disputes, 12 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 11 in favour of the employers, and 7 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported in March affected 506,800 workpeople, of whom nearly 501,300 received advances, and about 5,500 sustained reductions. The number whose wages were increased included 461,000 coal miners in England and Wales and Scotland and 20,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was an advance of over £25,600 per week.

* The comparison with a month ago and a year ago is affected by a recent advance in the rates of wages.

* The comparison with a year ago is affected by a recent advance in rates of wages in the glass bottle trade.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES AND THE UNEMPLOYED IN MARCH.

FROM all the information received it would appear that there was less distress due to want of employment in March than either in February, 1907, or in March, 1906; the improvement as compared with a year ago being very marked.

Of the total number of applicants for relief whose usual occupations have been returned by the Distress Committee, 13 per cent. were building trades artisans and 11 per cent. building trades labourers; 12 per cent. were artisans in other trades; 7 per cent. were carters, stablemen, &c.; 3 per cent. were clerks, shop assistants, waiters, &c.; and the remaining 51 per cent. (not including women and girls, of all occupations, who numbered 3 per cent.) were general labourers, porters, &c. There has been a decrease of 2 per cent. in the proportion of building trades artisans on theregisters, as compared with February.

The total number of persons who received employment-relief in March, is shown in the following Table, with comparative figures for February, 1907, and for March, 1906:—

	March, 1907.	February, 1907.	March, 1906.
London (County of London) ...	2,154	2,131	5,009
"Outer London" ...	5,494	4,963	5,668
Provincial Towns in England ...	6,455	6,236	16,047
Scotland and Ireland ...	1,385	1,297	1,897
Total ...	15,598	14,627	28,621

The average number of days' work provided during March, so far as stated, was 11·3, as compared with 9·8 in February, and 9·2 in March, 1906. The total amount of wages earned by those who were employed on relief-work during March was £22,699, an average of £1 14s. 1d. per head; the corresponding figures for February being £25,854, or £1 15s. 6d. per head, and for March, 1906, £48,251, or £1 13s. 9d. per head.

It will be seen that the number given employment-relief shows a great diminution compared with March, 1906. It would be unsafe to assume, however, that this diminution was exclusively due to the improved state of employment; in some cases want of funds is given as the reason for no employment-relief being provided; in other cases it is understood that no suitable employment could be found for the applicants.

It is impossible to state the total number of applicants still *actually unemployed*; but the following Committees have returned figures which purport to show the number of such persons:—

Towns.	Number remaining on Register on Mar. 31st, 1907.		Number known to be out of work on Mar. 31st, 1907.		Number known to be out of work on Mar. 31st, 1906.	
	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1906.
Birkenhead ...	503	241	298			
Bradford ...	790	115	416			
Burton ...	183	107	357			
Dudley ...	181	172	204			
Grimsby ...	221	154	134			
Hanley ...	168	168	88			
Hull ...	1,059	1,059	1,134			
Leicester ...	1,424	1,424	1,118			
Middlesbrough ...	12	12	72			
Newcastle ...	490	490	624			
Newport ...	220	50	300			
Nottingham ...	237	182	617			
Oldham ...	7	7	165			
Plymouth ...	727	530	560			
Rochdale ...	14	14	118			
Scarborough ...	364	335	264			
Smethwick ...	34	34	34			
South Shields ...	158	104	391			
Sunderland ...	417	417	493			
Warrington ...	170	135	216			
Wigan ...	147	127	376			
Wolverhampton ...	171	171	210			
Aberdeen ...	328	328	455			
Dundee ...	305	305	345			
Edinburgh ...	1,464	1,464	993			
Govan ...	9	9	54			
Leith ...	8	8	414			
Partick ...	35	17	32			

Too much reliance must not be placed on these figures, both because of their rather uncertain basis, and because a decline or an increase may be due to other causes than

the greater or less amount of distress as compared with 1906, e.g., it may be due to the greater or less prospect of obtaining work through the Distress Committee in one year than in the other.

Employment-relief was provided by the Central (Unemployed) Body for London for 428 men at Holesley Bay, and for 217 men at Fambridge, for an average of 24 days per man at each place; and for 117 women, for an average of 20 days each, at the women's workrooms. Employment was also found for 1,179 men by arrangement with the London County Council, and for 142 men by arrangement with the Office of Works, for an average in each case of 20 days per man. The total number relieved was thus 2,083, for an average of 21 days each; and the total amount of wages paid was £6,334, representing an average of £3 os. 10d. per head, or 2s. 10½d. a day in the case of men, and 2s. 2½d. a day in the case of women.

Employment-relief was also provided during March in the Borough of Southwark for 71 men, for an average of 22 days each, at an average wage of £3 16s. 4d. per head.

The employment-relief given in the various districts of Outer London during February and March is shown in the following table:—

District.	Total Number of Men given Employment-Relief.		Average Number of Days Worked per Man.		Average Amount of Wages earned per Head.	
	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Croydon ...	134	297	21	18·8	8	2
East Ham ...	733	749	7·6	8·1	30	2
Edmonton ...	311	265	11·3	11·0	48	0
Hornsey ...	33	10	10·0	2·2	42	4
Leyton ...	290	345	6·0	26·0	15	10
Tottenham ...	1,532	1,500	4·0	3·7	13	11
Walthamstow ...	368	365	7·5	8·0	34	11
West Ham ...	1,092	1,315	10·0	12·0	33	1
Willesden ...	470	558	11·2	10·6	45	8

Combining the figures for these 9 districts it appears that 5,404 persons received employment-relief in Outer London during March, as compared with 4,963 in February.

The employment-relief given in the various provincial towns of England and Wales, and in Scotland and Ireland, during February and March, is shown below:—

District.	Total Number of Men given Employment-Relief.		Average Number of Days Worked per Man.		Average Amount of Wages Earned per Head.	
	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.
England and Wales:						
Birmingham ...	160	184	12·3	15·3	£ 9	2
Bolton ...	147	122	8·7	4·9	1	4
Bournemouth ...	158	119	16·3	16·4	2	18
Brighton ...	767	761	6·8	6·7	1	1
Bristol ...	500	492	11·0	10·2	2	4
Cheltenham ...	140	101	7·9	11·7	0	15
Devonport ...	118	149	5·7	7·1	0	16
Dudley ...	47	119	2·9	3·4	0	7
Hastings ...	256	311	6·0	6·3	0	12
Leeds ...	238	272	9·9	13·8	1	2
Leicester ...	306	424	21·0	19·7	4	3
Liverpool ...	169	220	9·6	14·5	1	7
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	211	258	11·8	7·9	1	17
Northampton ...	244	233	18·3	17·8	2	6
Norwich ...	501	521	17·0	16·3	1	14
Plymouth ...	291	270	6·6	6·8	1	4
Portsmouth ...	178	165	9·9	8·3	1	7
Scarborough ...	248	246	6·0	6·4	0	14
Southampton ...	81	142	10·1	13·3	1	8
Stockport ...	169	113	4·1	2·6	0	13
Wolverhampton ...	163	149	4·1	4·6	0	14
Yarmouth ...	319	311	14·0	24·0	1	19
Other towns ...	710	773	9·0	10·9	1	8
Scotland:						
Aberdeen ...	360	369	11·9	13·5	1	13
Dundee ...	77	51	14·9	21·5	1	18
Edinburgh ...	348	257	18·6	20·1	2	2
Glasgow ...	471	490	21·1	21·8	2	2
Leith, Govan, and Partick	58	59	12·7	6·9	1	12
Ireland:						
Dublin ...	159	...	6·3	...	0	12

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Carpenters and Joiners, Coventry.

On March 15th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the Coventry and District Builders' Association and the Coventry United Trades Committee of Carpenters and Joiners for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle certain matters upon which the parties had been unable to agree.

The Board of Trade, on March 21st, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity. The employers had given notice for an alteration in the rule relating to walking-time, while the workpeople had given a counter notice for (i.) an advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour; (ii.) an alteration in the overtime rule; and (iii.) an alteration in the rule respecting the settlement of disputes by a Conciliation Board.

Mr. Hudson issued his award on March 28th, in which he decided that the walking-time radius should be extended to 1 1/2 miles from the centre of the town; but he excluded from its operation all men who were set on at the job. He further decided against the workpeople in respect of the claims raised by them.

Plumbers and Painters, Coventry.

On March 21st a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the Coventry and District Master Builders' Association and the Coventry Operative Plumbers' and Painters' Societies for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle certain matters upon which the parties had been unable to agree.

The Board of Trade on March 22nd appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity. The employers had given notice of an alteration in the rule relating to walking-time; the workpeople had given a counter notice for an alteration in all the working rules, and had put in a claim for an advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour (8d. to 8 1/2d. for painters, and 9d. to 9 1/2d. for plumbers).

The arbitrator issued his award on March 28th, and drew up a new set of working rules, which were to come into operation on April 1st, 1907. The principal features of the award are an alteration in the rules for overtime; the fixing of the same radius (1 1/2 miles) for walking-time as he had previously fixed for the carpenters (see above); and the insertion of a new rule fixing the hours of labour. On the question of wages the arbitrator decided that no change should be made.

Builders' Labourers, Coventry.

On March 28th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the Coventry and District Master Builders' Association and the Coventry Branch of the Federated Builders' Labourers of Great Britain and Ireland for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle certain matters in dispute between the parties.

On April 2nd the Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity. The workpeople had given notice for an advance in wages from 6d. to 6 1/2d. per hour, and for an exact definition of the walking time boundaries. With regard to the walking-time question, the employers had given a counter notice.

Mr. Hudson issued his award on April 10th, in which he decided that the walking time rule fixed by him for carpenters, plumbers, and painters (see above) should also apply to labourers. No change in the rate of wages was awarded, except that a halfpenny per hour extra is to be paid for repairs to bakers' ovens, brick sewers, and boiler flues.

Painters, Wakefield.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see GAZETTE for March, p. 71), issued his award on March 21st.

The main question in dispute was a claim of the workpeople for an advance in wages from 7 1/2d. to 8d. per hour; but there was also a difference as to the renewal of the working rules, which had come to an end in February. The arbitrator decided that no change should be made in the rate of wages, and that the

working rules should be renewed and remain in force without alteration until February 1st, 1909.

Painters, Manchester.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see GAZETTE for March, p. 71), issued his award on March 28th.

The questions in dispute covered several working rules; but the main dispute arose out of the rule relating to walking time, and out of a claim by the workpeople for an advance in wages of 1d. per hour. The arbitrator modified the rule as to walking time somewhat in favour of the employers, and awarded an advance of 1/4d. per hour (8 1/2d. to 9d.) to the workpeople. He also drew up a new code of working rules, which are to come into operation from May 1st, 1907.

PROFIT-SHARING IN 1905-6.

In continuation of the Report on Profit-sharing published by the Department in 1894 (C. 7458 of 1894) and of the statements on this subject contained in previous numbers of the LABOUR GAZETTE, the following details, obtained by correspondence with the firms concerned, are submitted, bringing the information previously published up to the end of June, 1906.

Returns have been received from 60 out of the 65 firms with which profit-sharing was, according to the information available at the date of the statements made in the GAZETTE of September, 1905, in force. Of these 55 are in the United Kingdom, and 5 in British Colonies. It has been ascertained that profit-sharing has ceased to be in operation in one case—a firm of builders in the United Kingdom with 8 employees, which adopted profit-sharing in 1897, and abandoned it in 1905, owing to bad trade and insufficient profits.

Particulars have been received as to one firm in the United Kingdom not previously known to practise profit-sharing, viz., Messrs. John Knight & Sons, Ltd., soap manufacturers, with about 400 employees, who adopted profit-sharing in June, 1904. The profit-sharing in this case takes the form of a cash bonus.

The total number of persons employed by the 65 firms known to practise profit-sharing at June 30th, 1906 (varying according to seasons, &c.), is minimum 47,580, maximum 49,830 (46,244—48,389 employed by 60 firms in the United Kingdom, 1336—1441 by 5 firms in British Colonies). According to the latest available information the number of profit-sharing firms at the corresponding period of 1905 was 66, with 49,729-52,122 employees (48,538—50,831 employed by 61 firms in the United Kingdom, 1,191—1,291 by 5 firms in British Colonies).†

With respect to the addition made to the wages of the participating employees by the bonus allotted in 1905, details in regard to 56† cases (52 with 41,561 employees in the United Kingdom, 4 with 1,216 employees in British Colonies) are available, and are as shown below:—

Ratio of Bonus to Wages in 1905.

Table with 4 columns: Ratio of Bonus allotted in 1905 to Wages, No. of cases in which the Bonus in Col. I. was paid, No. of Employees (mean between minimum and maximum) in 1905, and Number of participants in 1905. Rows range from Nil to 50+.

The figures show a mean bonus of 5.5 per cent. on

* See July, 1895, p. 207; July, 1896, p. 208; September, 1896, p. 275; July, 1897, p. 195; August, 1898, p. 228; August, 1899, p. 227; August, 1900, p. 227; August, 1901, p. 231; March, 1902, p. 70; July, 1902, p. 183; October, 1903, p. 272; October, 1904, p. 293; and September, 1905, p. 263. † In addition to the firms referred to above there are 17 firms (the same number as in 1905) which are known to have adopted profit-sharing, but as to which it has not been found possible to obtain information. ‡ In 1 case (in the United Kingdom) in which the bonus is stated separately for distinct branches of a business, the ratios are stated separately for each branch. The 56 cases include 3 fall in the United Kingdom in which profit-sharing ceased to be in force after the date in 1905 for the distribution of bonus.

wages paid in 1905 in the above cases (compared with 4.9 per cent. paid in 1904 in the 56 cases as to which information was available). Excluding 11 cases in which no bonus was earned, the bonus allotted in 1905 in the remaining 45 cases was (taking into account the number of participants in each case) at the mean rate of 7.1 per cent. (compared with 7.6 per cent. in 1904).

Correction.—In the GAZETTE for September, 1905, p. 263, a slight error was made in the statement of the number of firms known to practise profit-sharing at June 30th, 1905, and the number of their employees. The figures should have been 65 firms with 48,820—51,114 employees (including to firms in the United Kingdom with 47,740—49,884 employees).

COAL EXPORTS, 1905 AND 1906.

A RETURN* has recently been issued by the Board of Trade showing the exports of coal from each port in the United Kingdom to each foreign country and British possession during the four quarters of the years 1905 and 1906 respectively.

The total quantity of coal exported in 1906, exclusive of bunker coal, was 55,600,000 tons, as against 47,477,000 tons in 1905, an increase of 8,123,000 tons, or about 17 per cent. The largest exporting district was the Bristol Channel district, which exported 23,400,000 tons in 1906, as against 20,050,000 tons in 1905. The port of Cardiff alone exported nearly 16 million tons, an increase of 2 million tons as compared with 1905. About 70 per cent. of the exports from this district go to France, Italy, and other parts of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. France took about 5 1/4 and Italy about 4 3/4 million tons in 1906. This is the only district with a large non-European trade, the exports to South America amounting to 2 3/4 million tons in 1905, and to 3 1/2 million tons in 1906. The second district in importance for exports of coal was the North-Eastern district (Tyne, Tees, and Wear), which exported 17,100,000 tons in 1906, as against 15,350,000 tons in 1905. About 60 per cent. of the exports from this district go to Northern Russia, Germany, Scandinavia, Belgium, and other parts of Northern Europe; but France, Italy, and the rest of Southern Europe each took about between 2 and 2 1/2 million tons from North-Eastern ports.

The following Table shows the exports, by districts and groups of countries, for each of the years 1905 and 1906:—

[The figures represent thousands of tons.]

Table with 7 columns: Districts, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, &c., Other Countries, 1905, 1906. Rows include Bristol Channel, N.E. Coast, Humber, E. Scotland, W. Scotland, Other Ports, and Total.

The quantity of bunker coal shipped during the year 1906 was 18,590,000 tons, as against 17,396,000 in 1905, an increase of 1,194,000 tons, or 7 per cent. These quantities, added to the quantity of exports properly so called, give gross totals of 64,873,000 tons in 1905, and of 74,190,000 tons in 1906, an increase of 9,317,000 tons, or 14 per cent.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN BELGIUM IN 1906.

AN article appears in a recent number of the Journal of the Belgian Labour Department,† containing a statistical summary of the strikes and lock-outs which occurred during 1906. The total number of disputes reported as having taken place (including 10 which began in 1905, but were in progress during the first part of 1906) was 225, of which 5 were lock-outs. In these disputes, 50,479 workpeople were directly affected, while in addition 11,468 were thrown out of work without being the actual participants, the total number directly and indirectly affected being 61,947.

Of the 225 disputes, 212, affecting altogether 59,938

workpeople, came to an end during the year, and it is to these that the following figures relate.

The largest number of disputes occurred in the textile trades, viz., 77 (including the 5 lock-outs), by which 29,561 persons were directly affected. In the mining industry 12,189 workpeople were directly involved in 27 strikes. In the metal trades there were 21 strikes, in which 1,648 workpeople participated. With these three exceptions there was no group of trades in which the number of workpeople on strike reached 1,000.

The 5 lock-outs lasted respectively 9, 12, 16, 22 and 54 days. As regards the 207 strikes, 93 did not exceed 5 days in duration, 36 lasted from 6 to 10 days, 37 from 11 to 30 days, and 41 lasted more than 30 days.

Questions of wages (and in particular demands for advances) were the most frequent causes of disputes in 1906, 111 out of 212 coming under this head. Forty-nine disputes were questions as to the employment of particular classes or persons or by questions of Trade Union principle, 44 on questions concerning hours of labour or the organisation of work, the remaining 8 being caused by workshop regulations or fines.

Fifty disputes (directly involving 3,881 workpeople) terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 121 (involving 21,162 workpeople) in favour of the employers, while 40 (involving 23,270 workpeople) were compromised. In the case of the remaining dispute, in which 200 workpeople were involved, no definite result was attained.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR OF MASONS AND BRICKLAYERS IN GERMANY.

THE Central Federation of Trade Unions of Masons and Bricklayers of Germany has published a Report* summarising the results of an investigation of the rates of wages and hours of labour of skilled workmen in this trade in 1905, in continuation of similar reports referring to earlier years. The total number of adult workpeople to whom the statistics of rates of wages relate is 218,660, out of a total of 223,803 covered by the returns received. Of these, 1,532, or 0.7 per cent., were paid at a rate less than 3d. per hour, while at the other extremity of the scale there were 27,254, or 12.5 per cent. of the total, whose rate of pay was over 7 1/2d. per hour. The rates of pay of the remaining 189,874—the large majority—fell between these limits, viz., 3d. and 7 1/2d. inclusive. The largest number of workpeople paid at one rate was 17,144, who received 6d. per hour, but nearly as many (16,370) were paid 4 1/2d. For the whole Empire, the average rate in 1905 was 5 1/2d., as compared with 5d. in 1900. This increase is a continuation of the upward movement shown by similar averages since 1885, when the rate was 4d.

The average rate varied for the different provinces of the Empire. Excluding certain special classes of men, such as the Putzer in Berlin, who combine the operations of bricklaying and plastering and are paid 1s. per hour, it is stated that the highest wages in 1905 were paid in Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, and Lübeck, where the average was 7 1/2d. per hour, and the lowest in the province of Silesia, where it was only 4 1/2d.

In the following Table the 223,803 workpeople covered by the inquiry are classified according to the number of hours which constituted their normal working day in summer, 1905.

Table with 3 columns: Hours Worked per day (exclusive of intervals for meals), Number, and Per cent. Rows range from 9 hours to Over 11 hours, plus a Total row.

* Zentral-Verband der Maurer Deutschlands. Lohn und Arbeitsbedingungen im Mauerergerber. Statistik 1905, und Tarifverträge von 1891-1905. Hamburg: Verlag des Vorstandes des Zentral-Verbandes der Maurer Deutschlands, 1906. Price 10s. † Revue du Travail, February 28th, 1907.

It thus appears that 72.30 per cent., or close on three-fourths of these workpeople had a normal working day of 10 hours or less.

The report contains a complete collection of all the wages and hours agreements affecting bricklayers and masons which have been concluded since 1891. The number of such agreements in force at the end of 1905 was 367.

CO-OPERATIVE CATTLE INSURANCE SOCIETIES, 1902-5.

The Table below is compiled from Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by the societies concerned, supplemented in a few cases by particulars kindly supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

The membership of these societies consists of small holders in agricultural districts who have combined together to raise, by small periodical contributions, a common fund for the mutual insurance against loss by death of their cattle, sheep, pigs, &c. One third of the societies are in Lincolnshire, the remainder being spread over fourteen other counties in England and Wales.

The societies are all registered under the Friendly Societies Acts, but are distinguished from nearly all other societies registered under this Act in that the contributions of their members are legally recoverable; that the liability of members is not limited; and that the amount of the insurances is not limited by the Act—although in practice it is found that the insurances are for small amounts only.

The following Table shows the membership, receipts, expenditure, and total funds of Co-operative Cattle Insurance Societies for the years 1902-1905.

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Number of Societies making returns	52	54	53	53
Total Membership	3,253	3,362	3,505	3,457
Receipts during year—				
Members' Contributions	£ 1,287	£ 1,284	£ 1,369	£ 1,457
Other Receipts	311	398	377	331
Total Receipts	1,598	1,682	1,746	1,788
Expenditure during year—				
Benefits to Members	1,306	1,267	1,375	1,242
Working Expenses	194	237	204	250
Total Expenditure	1,500	1,504	1,579	1,492
Total Funds at end of year	6,865	7,043	7,210	7,491

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES.

Share of Employees and others in the Membership, Capital and Management.

In the February, 1907, LABOUR GAZETTE (p. 39) particulars were given as to the number of employees and value of goods produced in 1905 by 409 co-operative societies, established primarily for production. Of these 409 Societies, 389, with 96.2 per cent. of the total sales of all the societies, have furnished Returns showing the extent to which the workpeople employed by them share in the membership, capital and control of the societies by which they are employed.

From these Returns it appears that of the membership of the 389 societies, 5.4 per cent. were employees, who held between them 6.2 per cent. of the total share and loan capital of the societies, while 6.8 per cent. of the members of the management committees were also employees.

Of the total number of the employees of the societies 39.7 per cent. were also members of the societies employing them.

Compared with the previous year, the proportion of employees who were also members of the societies shows a falling off of about 1 per cent., and the proportion of members of the management committee who were also employees, a falling off of 1.4 per cent.;

but the proportion of capital held by employees shows a slight increase, although the percentage of members who were also employees remained stationary.

As regards the proportion of the production which is under the direct control of the employees, in 308 societies, with 77.4 per cent. of the sales (£ 3,182,199) of the 409 societies, the employees were not represented on the managing committees; in 63 societies, with 8.5 per cent. of the sales, some of the committeemen, but less than a majority, were employees; while in 28 societies, with 12.0 per cent. of the total sales, employees formed the majority of the managing committee; the remaining 10 societies, with 2.1 per cent. of the sales, did not furnish the required particulars.

The Returns for 1905 giving full particulars as to membership, capital, and control are summarised in the following Table, which gives also the comparative figures for 1904:—

	1904.		1905.	
I.—Number of Societies to which particulars relate	391*		389*	
II.—Membership: The total membership consisted of:—	No.	Per-centage.	No.	Per-centage.
1. Employees	3,871	8.2	3,727	8.4
2. Other Individuals	63,410	88.7	61,517	88.3
3. Societies	4,188	5.9	4,274	6.1
Total Membership	71,469	100.0	69,518	100.0
III.—Employees: The persons employed consisted of:—				
1. Members	3,871	40.6	3,727	39.7
2. Non-members	5,673	59.4	5,654	60.3
Total Employees... ..	9,544	100.0	9,381	100.0
IV.—Share and Loan Capital: The Share and Loan Capital was held by:—	£		£	
1. Employees	76,856	5.9	80,659	6.2
2. Other Individual Members	435,816	33.3	435,004	33.2
3. Societies	549,842	42.0	548,930	41.8
4. Non-Members (Loans)†	246,022	18.8	247,128	18.8
Total Share & Loan Capital	1,308,536	100.0	1,311,721	100.0
V.—Management: The Management Committees consisted of:—	No.		No.	
1. Employees	404	8.2	335	6.8
2. Other Individual Members	4,204	85.8	4,338	87.8
3. Representatives of Societies... ..	295	6.0	269	5.4
Total Number of Committeemen	4,903	100.0	4,943	100.0

In addition to the societies dealt with above, there were eight corn-milling societies at work in 1905, with a total membership of 5,176, of whom 20 were employees. These 20 employees held £750 out of a total share and loan capital of £392,261, and none of them were members of committees.

IRISH EMIGRATION STATISTICS.†

The number of emigrants who left Ireland in the year 1906 with the intention of permanently settling in other countries was 35,918: this number is 4,746 in excess of the number of emigrants in 1905, the lowest year ever recorded; but with the exception of that year and the years 1897 and 1898, the emigrants in 1906 were fewer than in any year since the Returns began to be made. Excluding 574 persons, who were not natives of Ireland, the emigrants were distributed as follows:—

To Great Britain	4,065
„ the United States	27,079
„ Canada	3,404
„ Other Countries	796

There has been a noticeable increase in the emigration to Canada in recent years, the number having risen from 730 in 1902 to 3,404 in 1906. The emigrants to Canada, and also to England and Scotland, are for the most part natives of Ulster; from the remaining provinces all the emigrants, except about 2,400, went to the United States.

* Excluding Corn Mill Societies.
† Including Bank Overdrafts.
‡ Emigration Statistics of Ireland Cd. 3376. Price 2d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

Of the 35,918 emigrants, 19,643 were males and 16,275 females. The great majority of the emigrants (83 per cent.) were 15 years of age, and under 35; 10 per cent. were under 15, and only 7 per cent. 35 years of age or over. No less than 14,532 of the emigrants, or 40 per cent. of the total, were between the ages of 20 and 25.

As regards occupations, 10,444 or 58.6 per cent. of the male emigrants of the age of 15 and upwards were returned as "labourers," and 68.2 per cent. of the female emigrants of the same age as "servants." The only definite occupation largely represented in the returns was that of "farmers," of whom there were 2,950, mostly from Ulster.

9,530 of the emigrants had had their passages paid for in America.

The total number of emigrants since May 1st, 1851, when the records began to be kept, has been 4,064,000, or 76 per cent. of the average population (taking the mean of the last six decennial censuses). The maximum number recorded in any one year was 190,322 in 1852, and the number exceeded 100,000 in 1851-4, 1863-5, and 1883; but there has been a decided decline in more recent years, and since 1892 the number has never reached 50,000.

MINERS' WORM DISEASE IN BELGIUM.

A REPORT* by Consul-General Sir Cecil Hertslet has been published by the Foreign Office, giving particulars of the precautions taken in Belgium to combat Ankylostomiasis, or Miners' Worm Disease; with some account of the results of the adoption of these precautions. Though from the nature of this disease it appears impossible to entirely stamp it out in mines, the methods adopted in Belgium seem to be highly efficacious, and it is probable that before long the number of workmen affected will be reduced to a minimum.

The disease was first recognized as having made its appearance in Belgium in 1896, and spread rapidly, making considerable ravages amongst miners. A commission of inquiry was appointed, whose report was published in 1904, in which it was shown that the percentage of miners affected by the disease was considerably higher in the Liège district than in any other district, being 25 per cent. of the total number of workers. As a result of this inquiry, the Government passed a law, applicable to the province of Liège only, imposing upon the workmen in infected mines the obligation, under penalty of a fine, of undergoing clinical and microscopical examination; the law also insists upon the provision of suitable sanitary accommodation, and upon cleanliness in the mines. The provincial authorities of Liège granted a subsidy towards the medical and other necessary expenses. A difficulty arose with regard to those men who were infected by the disease, but could not afford to give up their work and undergo a cure on account of the loss of wages entailed; this difficulty was at length met by the mine owners, and from the subsidy of the provincial council, each man receiving about 17s. a week, and free treatment in hospital during the time of his absence, the cure lasting as a rule from a week upwards. This system has worked so satisfactorily that the proportion of workmen affected in the Liège district has been very greatly reduced.

In September, 1906, the decrees already in force in Liège were extended to the province of Hainault, where, in spite of precautions, the disease had been making rapid progress; but it is too early to form an opinion of the results attending the change in this Province.

INDUSTRIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

ACCORDING to the Life Assurance Companies' return just published,† the total number of industrial life assurance companies in the United Kingdom in the year 1905 was eighteen; all but a very small fraction of the

* Diplomatic and Consular Reports. Precautions taken in Belgium to combat Ankylostomiasis. Cd., 3284. Price 1½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.
† H.C. 38 of Session 1907. Price 4s. 7d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

business done, however, was in the hands of nine companies. The following Table shows the progress of industrial assurance companies since 1880:—

	1880.	1885.	1895.	1905.
No. of Policies	No. 5,440,000	9,130,000	15,300,000	25,540,000
Total sum assured	£ 49,000,000	83,000,000	147,000,000	252,000,000
Total Premiums	£ 1,940,000	3,550,000	6,620,000	11,620,000
Total Claims	£ 700,000	1,370,000	2,770,000	4,410,000

It will be seen that the total number of policies is equal to about 60 per cent. of the total population of the United Kingdom. The average sum assured has risen from almost exactly £9 per policy in 1880 and 1885 to nearly £10 in 1905. The average premium paid has risen from 7s. 1½d. in 1880 to 9s. 1d. in 1905, the latter being equal to rather more than 2d. per week.

Of the total sum assured, £220,710,000 was assured on whole-life policies, the remainder being in the form of endowments, endowment assurances, or assurances on joint lives. Endowments have increased from £1,400,000 in 1895 to £18,000,000 in 1905; and endowment assurances from £1,800,000 to £6,100,000 in the same period.

The expenses of management of the industrial companies, including commissions to agents, &c., exceeded £5,000,000 in 1905, a sum considerably in excess of the amount paid in claims during the same year, and representing 43 per cent. of the amount received as premiums. During the period 1880-1905 the proportion of expenses to premiums has varied between 40 and 50 per cent.; but in 1905 it was slightly less than in 1895. During the same period, the proportion of claims to premiums has varied between 36 and 42 per cent.; in 1905 it was 38 per cent.

SMALL HOLDINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries have issued a Return* showing, for each of the years 1890, 1895, 1903, and 1906, the number of agricultural holdings of various sizes. The particulars for 1890 are partly estimated; but the particulars for 1895 and for 1906 may be compared as follows:—

Size of Holding.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Great Britain.	
	1895.	1906.	1895.	1906.	1895.	1906.
Above 1 and not above 5 acres	98,000	91,000	20,000	19,000	118,000	110,000
" 5 " " 50 "	201,000	198,000	34,000	33,000	235,000	231,000
Total, above 1 and not above 50 acres	299,000	289,000	54,000	52,000	353,000	341,000
Above 50 and not above 300 acres	125,000	128,000	23,000	23,000	148,000	151,000
Above 300 acres	16,000	15,000	3,000	3,000	19,000	18,000
Total, above 300 acres...	141,000	143,000	26,000	26,000	167,000	169,000
Total, of all sizes	440,000	432,000	80,000	79,000	520,000	511,000

It will thus be seen that there was a net decrease of 9,000 in the number of holdings, resulting from an increase in the number of holdings between 50 and 300 acres, and a decrease in the number of all other holdings, particularly in those of from 1 to 5 acres.

Taking the first two groups together, it appears that the proportion of "small holdings" as usually defined, i.e., holdings of from 1 to 50 acres, has sunk from 68 per cent. of the total number of holdings in 1895 to 67 per cent. in 1906. The decrease has been greatest (7 per cent.) in the 1 to 5 acre class. As regards the 5 to 50 acre class, while there has been a decline of nearly 3 per cent. in England, there has been an actual increase in Wales (where more than half the total number of holdings are in this class), and in Scotland, particularly in the "crofting" counties. Thus in Inverness-shire, the number of 5 to 50 acre holdings has risen from 3,590 in 1895 to 3,792 in 1906, and is now over 52 per cent. of the total number of holdings in that shire.

It should be mentioned that the area of the holdings does not include the area of mountain or heath grazing land attached to the holdings.

* Cd. 3408. Price 1½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

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.

THERE is plenty of work to be had in Canada at the present time. The most notable demand is that for railway labourers; thousands of men such as permanent way men, trackmen, platelayers, pick and shovel men, navvies, carters, stablemen, and teamsters are wanted for railway construction.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—There is an excellent demand up country for farm labourers, for general labourers, for men on sheep and cattle stations, and especially for dairymen.

Victoria.—There is a fair demand in the Goulburn Valley and other country districts for competent farm and general labourers, for men accustomed to work in vineyards and orchards, and for men on sheep and cattle stations.

South Australia.—The supply of labour is sufficient, except as regards first rate men, who are scarce. Stone cutters are plentiful, but skilled carpenters and bricklayers are difficult to get.

Queensland.—The Queensland Government has a system of free passages to bona fide farm labourers and their families, who are approved by their Agent-General in London, and guarantees them employment in the State at full wages.

The work of harvesting and crushing the cane is still more trying, and is paid for at a higher rate: the free passage emigrant need not engage in it unless he wishes, and indeed the work is not suitable for persons from this country who have not resided for some time in the tropics.

Assisted passages are also offered at £5 per statute adult to all families whom the Agent-General thinks would make suitable settlers.

In West Australia the principal demand is for agriculturists who will take up land after they have acquired

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

some experience of the country. To such persons assisted passages may be granted by the Agent-General in London. There is no demand for miners or mechanics, except carpenters. Free grants of 160 acres are made to settlers.

New Zealand.

There has been plenty of work in most trades, and skilled mechanics and competent labourers have had little difficulty in finding employment; but there is likely to be some falling off during the next three or four months. The demand for women in the boot and clothing trades continues in many places.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—The supply of labour still exceeds the demand, so that no one should now go to Cape Colony in search of work. No one is allowed to land, unless he possesses £20, or has secured employment beforehand.

Natal.—The supply of labour is ample.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—No one is allowed to enter either of these Colonies unless he possesses £20, or has secured employment. There is some demand for female servants, who may obtain cheap passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 49 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries.]

FRANCE.*

Employment in February.—Owing to frost and snow there was an increase in the number of persons unemployed in the building and allied trades. Employment continued plentiful in the metal and engineering trades. In the textile trades weavers were again slack in many of the northern centres owing to the high price of raw materials; employment continued satisfactory, however, in the Vosges, the Roanne district, and the smaller centres of the West, while it showed an improvement in the woollen industry at Rheims.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in February were received by the French Labour Department from 1,201 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 223,036. Excluding returns from the Miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments, 9.3 per cent. of the members were described as out of work, as compared with 7.8 per cent. in the previous month and 11.5 per cent. in February, 1906. (As regards these figures see note above.)

Coal Mining in January.—The average number of days per week worked by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during February was 5.94, as compared with 6.03 in the previous month and 5.93 in February, 1906. Taking surface and underground workers together, 70.44 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 29.56 per cent. from 5 to 6 days; the corresponding percentages for the preceding month being 95.85 and 4.14, and for February, 1906, 68.50 and 31.50 respectively. The above particulars

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

were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to about 145,000 workpeople.

Labour Disputes in February.—Fifty-nine disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in February, compared with 80 in the previous month, and 68 in February, 1906. In 55 of the new disputes 6,331 workpeople took part, as compared with 9,736 who took part in 77 of the January disputes, and 12,950 who took part in 62 of the disputes of February, 1906. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes took place were the building (11 disputes), metal (10), transport (9), and textile (6). Out of 55 new and old disputes which came to an end in February, 11 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 16 in favour of the employers, while 28 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in February.—Thirteen cases of recourse to the law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having taken place during February. Two cases were applications to a Justice of the Peace to draw up a formal record of agreements which had already been arrived at. The initiative was taken by the Justice of the Peace in 9, and by the workpeople in 2 of the remaining 11 cases. In 3 cases the proffered mediation was refused by the employers and in 1 case by the workpeople, but in the other 7, committees of conciliation were formed. These committees were successful in terminating 5 of the disputes, but in the remaining 2 no agreement was reached.

GERMANY.*

Employment in February.—Employment in February was affected by frost and snow, and there was much unemployment in the building trades, although, towards the end of the month, the situation improved somewhat. The coal mining industry continued fully employed, though there was still a shortage of railway trucks. In the metal and engineering trades employment was exceptionally good, and there was a very brisk demand for labour. The chemical, textile, and (except in certain branches) the electrical trades remained busy, and in the clothing and printing trades also employment was very plentiful.

Current Disputes in Germany.—The dock dispute at Hamburg, referred to in last month's GAZETTE, p. 73, was still in progress at the time of going to press, the employers having rejected the men's proposals, which were submitted on April 11th.

A lock-out in the tailoring trades, which commenced on March 3rd, and which, towards the end, affected 14,000 workpeople throughout Germany, terminated on April 10th. The dispute arose from the decision of the employers to defer revision of the wages scale until midsummer, and to make no changes in wages until then. The men returned to work on the employers' terms.

In the woodworking trades, 18,000 workpeople are locked-out in Berlin and elsewhere. In September last the workpeople demanded that their hours of labour should be reduced from 52 to 50 per week, and that the weekly advances in respect of uncompleted piece-work should be increased. The employers declined to accept these demands, and failure to come to any settlement resulted in the present stoppage of work.

HOLLAND.†

Employment in February.—In the building trades employment remained dull. In some places it was below the level of January, but towards the end of the month there was a slight improvement in several districts, especially for painters. In the greater engineering establishments employment was plentiful. The satisfactory conditions in the textile trades continued, and employment began to improve in most branches of the garment-making trades. In the printing and allied trades it continued satisfactory except at Amsterdam.

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department). † Based on despatches from H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg and on newspaper reports. ‡ Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Bureau).

Owing to frost and snow, employment in the bulb-growing industry continued slack. In the cocoa, chocolate and confectionery trades employment was dull, but with margarine makers there was a marked improvement.

Labour Disputes in February.—Seven strikes, directly involving 178 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in February. Two of these strikes were among cigar makers, and 2 in the diamond trades. Four of the new strikes came to an end in February, and, in addition, 1 which commenced in November, and another which commenced in December, 1906, also terminated. One of the strikes terminated in favour of the workpeople and the remaining 5 were compromised. No lock-outs commenced in February, but one which began in December, 1906, terminated during the month, a compromise having been arrived at.

BELGIUM.*

Employment in February.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 2.2 per cent. of the 38,733 members of 145 Trade Unions reporting were out of work towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 2.5 per cent. both in the preceding month and in February, 1906. (As regards these figures, which do not include particulars relating to miners, homeworkers, or agricultural labourers, see note under "Labour Abroad.")

Labour Disputes in February.—Twelve strikes, involving 974 workpeople (879 directly and 95 indirectly), and one lock-out affecting 15 workpeople, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in February. In addition to these, 2 strikes, which commenced in previous months and which involved 1,090 workpeople (580 directly, and 510 indirectly), were in progress during February. Of the 1,474 workpeople on strike or locked out in February, 774 were employed at collieries, 273 in textile trades, and 194 in metal and engineering trades.

Sixteen disputes terminated during the month. Of these, 9, directly affecting 1,092 workpeople, terminated in favour of the employers, and 3, directly affecting 172 workpeople, in favour of the workpeople; while 4, directly affecting 1,045 workpeople, were compromised.

AUSTRIA.

Recent Disputes in Vienna.—On March 15th, 7,000 bakers struck for an increase in wages and a nine-hour day. The dispute terminated on April 7th, the masters having agreed to a new scale of pay.

On March 18th, 12,000 dressmakers and ladies' tailors (of whom 9,000 were women and girls) struck for an increase in wages. This dispute terminated on March 27th, a compromise having been arrived at.

NORWAY.‡

Employment in February.—Of 17,376 members of Trade Unions forwarding returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 377, or 5.0 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of February, 1907. For purpose of comparison, the figures are given for February, 1907, January, 1907, and February, 1906, for certain unions which made returns for each of these months. (As regards these figures, see note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 104.)

Table with 7 columns: Group of Trades, Membership (Feb. 1907, Jan. 1907, Feb. 1906), Percentage Unemployed at end of month (Feb. 1907, Jan. 1907, Feb. 1906). Rows include Metal Workers and Moulders, Carpenters, Cabinet Makers, Sawyers and Planers, Painters and Masons, Bakers, Printers, Boot and Shoe Makers, Wood Pulp & Paper Makers, Tinned Goods, and Total.

* Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department). † Based on newspaper reports. ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN MARCH.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 520 Returns—450 from Employers, 48 from Trade Unions, and 22 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry was very good during March, and better than a year ago. There was, however, a decline in the case of pits producing house coal, as compared with February.

Returns relating to 1,396 pits employing 602,729 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended March 23rd, 1907, was 5.67, as compared with 5.69 in February, and 5.50 a year ago. No time was reported as having been lost in any of the above three periods on account of holidays.

Of the 602,729 workpeople covered by the Returns, 567,607 (or 94.2 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended March 23rd; while 494,496 (or 82.0 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

Compared with a month ago, little change occurred in any district, except in Derbyshire and in Gloucester and Somerset, where there was some decline in employment.

Compared with a year ago, there was an increase in the average number of days worked in every district of the United Kingdom. In the Midlands and in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, the increase was considerable; in Northumberland, Durham, Wales and Scotland the improvement was comparatively small.

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

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Mar., 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
		Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Feb. 23rd, 1907.	Mar. 24th, 1906.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	40,224	5.48	5.48	5.42	...	+ '06
Durham ...	115,727	5.38	5.54	5.52	+ '04	+ '06
Cumberland ...	7,972	5.71	5.73	5.55	- '02	+ '16
South Yorkshire ...	62,599	5.90	5.92	5.05	- '02	+ '25
West Yorkshire ...	21,200	5.67	5.73	5.20	- '06	+ '47
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	56,650	5.66	5.66	5.30	...	+ '36
Derbyshire ...	40,732	5.47	5.68	5.45	- '21	+ '22
Nottingham and Leicester ...	29,630	5.30	5.29	4.80	+ '01	+ '50
Staffordshire ...	27,742	5.77	5.81	5.30	- '04	+ '47
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	9,837	5.74	5.69	5.47	+ '05	+ '27
Gloucester and Somerset ...	7,913	5.49	5.87	5.40	- '38	+ '09
North Wales ...	11,094	5.84	5.84	5.75	...	+ '09
South Wales and Mon. ...	118,335	5.92	5.94	5.89	- '02	+ '03
ENGLAND & WALES...	649,266	5.69	5.71	5.51	- '02	+ '18
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland ...	25,856	5.47	5.43	5.34	+ '04	+ '13
The Lothians ...	5,874	5.71	5.70	5.61	+ '01	+ '10
Fife ...	21,083	5.43	5.55	5.42	- '12	+ '01
SCOTLAND ...	52,813	5.48	5.51	5.41	- '03	+ '07
IRELAND. ...	650	5.14	5.34	4.45	- '20	+ '69
United Kingdom ...	602,729	5.67	5.69	5.50	- '02	+ '17

In the Northern Counties employment remained very good. In Yorkshire it was considerably better than a year ago.

In the Midlands employment continued good and was much better than a year ago, especially in the Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire districts. In the Forest of Dean (Gloucestershire), however, a decline in employment took place in house-coal pits.

In Wales employment remained good, there being little change in the number of days worked per week compared with a month ago and a year ago.

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

In Scotland employment continued good.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 202,709 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." It will be seen that compared with a month ago there was a decline in employment at pits producing house coal, and an increase at anthracite and gas-coal pits. Compared with a year ago the improvement was general.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Mar., 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
		Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Feb. 23rd, 1907.	Mar. 24th, 1906.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	7,770	5.85	5.46	5.66	+ '39	+ '19
Coking ...	32,073	5.75	5.74	5.67	+ '01	+ '08
Gas ...	40,908	5.53	5.38	5.39	+ '15	+ '14
House ...	79,504	5.44	5.69	5.27	- '25	+ '17
Manufacturing and Steam ...	239,765	5.76	5.76	5.63	...	+ '13
Mixed ...	202,709	5.67	5.67	5.45	...	+ '22
All Descriptions ...	602,729	5.67	5.69	5.50	- '02	+ '17

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in March, 1907, amounted to 4,911,353 tons, or 343,084 tons more than in February, 1907, and 99,097 tons more than in March, 1906.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 84 returns—65 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron and shale mines. As compared with a year ago, little change was shown in iron mines, but in shale mines there was an improvement.

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

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended March 23rd the average number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.82, as compared with 5.88 a month ago, and 5.85 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Mar., 1907, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
		Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Feb. 23rd, 1907.	Mar. 24th, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland... ..	7,525	5.96	5.94	5.89	+ '02	+ '07
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	5,153	5.77	5.94	5.90	- '17	- '13
Scotland... ..	958	5.63	5.19	5.61	+ '04	+ '02
Other Districts... ..	2,967	5.61	5.84	5.73	- '23	- '12
All Districts ...	16,603	5.82	5.88	5.85	- '06	- '03

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 95.2 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended March 23rd, as compared with 92.6 per cent. a month ago, and 95.1 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,244 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended March 23rd, as compared with 3,179 a month ago, and 3,165 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 23rd was 5.75, as compared with 5.77 a month ago, and 5.52 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall showed a further improvement and was good, particularly in the Western district; there was still a demand for skilled miners.

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

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago in the Festiniog district in North Wales. There was a further slight improvement in Argyllshire, where employment was reported as fair.

Granite.—Employment was fair and better than a month ago in Aberdeenshire. In Leicestershire it was generally slack, though slightly improved. Employment was dull on Dartmoor and bad in the Penryn district.

Limestone.—Employment was good in Weardale. It continued fair in Cumberland, Cleveland, Derbyshire, the Plymouth district and North Wales. In the Somerset blue lias quarries employment continued bad.

Other Stone.—In the Cleve Hill road-material quarries and the chert quarries in Derbyshire employment was good. Employment continued fair with sandstone quarrymen in North Wales, and was moderate and better on the whole than a month ago in the Sheffield district. Employment was better than a month ago in the Gateshead district. It was moderate in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district, and showed an improvement on a month ago. In the Bath stone quarries employment was slack and worse than a month ago. It was dull in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries, and bad and worse than a month ago at Portland. Employment continued bad in Forfarshire.

Settmakers.—Employment was good at Glasgow and fair at Airdrie, being better than a month ago at both centres. Employment continued fair in Aberdeenshire. It was fair on the whole in North Wales. At Stoney Stanton (Leicestershire) and in the Cleve Hill district employment was still dull.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 112 Returns—108 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing over 25,000 workpeople, showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March was 348, as compared with 343 in February, 1907, and 338 in March, 1906. During March 7 furnaces were re-lit (2 in Lincolnshire, and one each in Lancashire, Derbyshire, Monmouthshire, Flintshire, and Ayrshire); while 2 were blown out (one each in the Cleveland district and Flintshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
	March, 1907.	February, 1907.	March, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland	89	90	86	- 1	+ 3
Cumberland & Lancs.	38	37	35	+ 1	+ 3
S. and S.W. Yorks.	17	17	16	...	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham	43	42	41	+ 1	+ 2
Leicester, Lincoln, } and Northampton }	27	25	29	+ 2	- 2
Stafford & Worcester	56	56	35	...	+ 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	17	16	14	+ 1	+ 3
Other districts ...	6	6	7	...	- 1
England & Wales ...	273	269	263	+ 4	+ 10
Scotland	75	74	75	+ 1	...
Total	348	343	338	+ 5	+ 10

The Imports of iron ore in March, 1907, amounted to 610,409 tons, or 32,072 tons more than in February, 1907, but 106,441 tons less than in March, 1906.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during March, 1907, amounted to 167,414 tons, or 27,579 tons more than in February, 1907, and 53,255 tons more than in March, 1906.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 223 Returns—207 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 4 from Trade Unions; and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

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

The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended March 23rd, 1907, at the 207 works from which Returns were received, was 0.7 per cent. greater than in the week ended February 23rd, 1907, and 3.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 563,900, as compared with 559,900 a month ago, and 546,800 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man	
	In week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	In week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.
IRON:				
Puddling Forges	10,471	- 106	5.23	+ '09
Rolling Mills	4,760	+ 78	5.13	+ '29
Forging	511	+ 37	5.43	+ '04
Founding	2,146	+ 77	5.06	- '01
Other Departments	691	+ 18	5.89	- '05
Mechanics, Labourers	1,648	+ 11	5.64	+ '06
Total Iron	20,227	+ 115	5.35	+ '07
STEEL:				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	9,179	+ 27	5.89	...
Crucible Furnaces	587	- 8	5.55	- '20
Bessemer Converters	1,893	- 235	5.43	- '03
Rolling Mills	16,391	+ 172	5.52	+ '04
Forging and Pressing	3,134	+ 9	5.68	+ '09
Founding	8,656	+ 139	5.88	+ '01
Other Departments	6,669	+ 198	5.96	- '02
Mechanics, Labourers	10,205	+ 36	5.83	- '01
Total Steel	56,718	+ 266	5.75	- '02
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):				
Rolling Mills	11,855	+ 151	5.35	+ '02
Forging and Pressing	725	+ 10	5.60	- '02
Founding	737	- 31	5.94	+ '01
Other Departments	3,369	+ 6	5.87	+ '03
Mechanics, Labourers	6,529	+ 15	5.79	+ '02
Total Iron or Steel (not distinguished) ...	23,216	+ 151	5.58	+ '03
Grand Total	100,158	+ 532	5.63	+ '01
Districts.				
Northumberland & Durham	12,464	+ 219	5.65	...
Cleveland	8,020	+ 87	5.67	+ '02
Sheffield and Rotherham	19,427	+ 179	5.74	- '02
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,525	- 8	5.59	+ '06
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	11,928	+ 407	5.51	- '03
Staffordshire	10,382	- 317	5.50	+ '04
Other Midland Counties	5,178	+ 51	5.66	+ '08
Wales and Monmouth	9,952	- 161	5.69	- '02
Total, England and Wales ...	81,876	+ 457	5.64	+ '01
Scotland	18,282	+ 75	5.58	+ '02
Total	100,158	+ 532	5.63	+ '01

The total number of workpeople employed during the week ended March 23rd, 1907, at all the works included in the Returns, was 0.5 per cent. greater than a month ago, and 2.0 per cent. greater than a year ago. The number of workpeople employed was, however, less than both a month ago and a year ago at puddling forges and in Bessemer converting departments. Compared with both periods there was a decrease in the numbers employed in Staffordshire, and

compared with a month ago there was a decrease in Wales and Monmouth, while in "Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire towns," there was practically no change. With these exceptions there were more work-people employed in every district than either a month ago or a year ago.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was generally about the same as in February and as in March, 1906, but at iron forges it was 0.47 of a shift greater than a year ago, and at iron rolling mills the increase amounted to 0.29 of a shift. The greatest improvement in the average number of shifts worked took place in the Midland Counties (other than Staffordshire), where an increase of 0.08 of a shift compared with a month ago, and of 0.14 of a shift compared with a year ago, was recorded.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during March, 1907, amounted to 64,117 tons, as compared with 61,670 tons in February, 1907, and 116,818 tons in March, 1906.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) amounted to 235,029 tons in March, 1907, as compared with 196,908 tons in February, 1907, and 191,693 tons in March, 1906.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

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

EMPLOYMENT continued good during March, and was better than a year ago. There was a decline as compared with February, due principally to breakages. It is reported that the supply of, and demand for, labour in the tinplate trade continued fairly equal, and that there is very little unemployment in this trade. All the steel works connected with the trade are also fully employed.

At the works covered by the Returns, 386 tinplate mills, and 57 sheet mills were working at the end of March. The corresponding figures for the previous month were 392 and 57 respectively; and those for March, 1906, were 375 and 44.

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

	March, 1907.		February, 1907.		March, 1906.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	75	376	75	392	73	375
Sheet Mills ...	9	57	9	57	9	44
Total ...	84	443	84	449	82	419

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

	March, 1907.	Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States ...	Tons. 4,727	Tons. 5,392	Tons. 3,613	Tons. - 665	Tons. + 1,114
Other Countries ...	28,213	26,128	25,614	+ 2,085	+ 1,599
Total ...	32,940	31,520	30,227	+ 1,420	+ 2,713
Black Plates for Tinning.					
To all Countries ...	5,586	5,076	4,856	+ 510	+ 728

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 359 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 335 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 18 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair on the whole, showing an improvement compared with the preceding month, but was not so good as in March, 1906.

Branches of Trade Unions with 59,281 members had 4,220 (or 7.1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 7.5 per cent. at the end of February, and 5.7 per cent. at the end of March, 1906.

Compared with a month ago decreases in the percentage of unemployed members took place in the Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool, Humber, Thames and Medway, Bristol Channel, Clyde, and "other" districts, the most marked decreases being in the Tees and Hartlepool district and in the Bristol Channel district.

Compared with a year ago the percentage of unemployed members in March showed an increase on the Tyne, Wear, Tees, Mersey and Clyde, and at Belfast and in "other districts," the greatest increase being on the Mersey; in the remaining districts there were decreases compared with a year ago, the greatest being in the Bristol Channel district.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Mar., 1907, as compared with	
		Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	10,152	5.1	6.1	3.9	- 1.0	+ 1.2
Wear ...	5,193	5.6	4.2	2.0	+ 1.4	+ 3.6
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,289	9.4	14.4	3.6	- 5.0	+ 5.8
Humber ...	2,749	4.7	5.9	10.2	- 0.3	- 5.5
Thames and Medway ...	4,344	9.5	9.6	9.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
South Coast ...	3,947	3.4	2.1	5.3	+ 1.3	- 1.9
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,388	10.0	16.3	16.7	- 6.3	- 6.7
Mersey ...	3,875	12.0	3.4	4.8	+ 8.6	+ 7.2
Clyde ...	13,210	7.3	8.7	4.3	- 1.4	+ 3.0
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	4,344	7.3	6.5	8.4	+ 0.8	- 1.1
Belfast ...	2,709	4.4	4.4	3.3	...	+ 1.1
Other Districts ...	2,980	9.1	9.3	7.8	- 0.2	+ 1.3
United Kingdom ...	59,281	7.1	7.5	5.7	- 0.4	+ 1.4

Employment was fair on the Tyne, but not so good as a year ago. On the Wear it was good generally, but shipwrights reported a slight decline. On the Tees employment was fair, and better than in February, but not so good as a year ago. On the Humber employment was fairly good.

In the Thames and Medway district employment was fairly good with shipwrights, but slack with iron shipbuilders. At Southampton it was fair, and better than a year ago. At Devonport it was good with shipwrights; not so good with iron shipbuilders. At Bristol employment was bad, and most of the shipwrights were idle for three weeks during the month. At Cardiff it was quiet. On the Mersey a falling off in repair work was reported. On the Clyde employment was fairly good generally but bad at Greenock; it was better than a month ago. At Dundee it was fair on the whole. At Leith it was fair but showed a decline compared with February; at Aberdeen it was fairly good.

At Belfast employment was fair on the whole. At Dublin and Cork it was bad with shipwrights; at Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was good. At Barrow employment was worse than a year ago.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's Returns for the quarter ended March, 1907, the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction increased by 139,078 tons gross, or nearly 12.0 per cent. as compared with the previous quarter; but showed a decrease of 95,795 tons gross or nearly 7.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago. With regard to war vessels, the figures show an increase of 42,662 tons displacement as compared with December, 1906, but a decrease of 49,375 tons compared with a year ago.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	March, 31st, 1907.	Dec. 31st, 1906.	March, 31st, 1906.	March, 31st, 1907.	Dec. 31st, 1906.	March, 31st, 1906.
	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Gross.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.	Tons Displacement.
Clyde ...	455,278	410,240	528,836	51,000	51,000	64,050
Belfast ...	220,135	174,770	171,130	...	...	...
Tyne ...	248,170	245,026	265,547	88,018	49,042	47,554
Wear ...	190,158	178,475	187,756	...	...	...
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	57,280	36,470	84,620	...	...	...
Middlesbrough and Stockton ...	80,375	57,314	95,245	...	...	...
Barrow, Maryport and Workington ...	3,950	3,700	3,000	18,940	36,343	56,110
Other Districts ...	56,801	60,994	65,738	8,952	7,693	5,781
Royal Dockyards ...	...	...	...	81,630	61,800	124,400
Total ...	1,306,087	1,166,989	1,401,882	248,520	205,858	297,895

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with December, 1906, increases were shown in all the principal districts, except in the Tyne district where there was a slight decrease.

As compared with March, 1906, there were decreases in all the districts except in the Belfast, Wear, and Barrow districts.

War Vessels.—Compared with the December, 1906, quarter, there were increases in the Tyne district and at the Royal Dockyards. The Clyde figures show no change. Compared with a year ago there was an increase in the Tyne. In the Clyde and Barrow districts and at the Royal Dockyards there were decreases.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 976 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 929 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 39 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good, and showed little change compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In several districts it was reported that overtime was being worked.

The following Table gives a summary of Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 159,202, and shows that at the end of March the percentage unemployed was 2.9, as compared with 2.8 a month ago and a year ago. Compared with a month ago the figures indicate a decline in employment in eight districts, the most noticeable being in the London and South Coast districts, while in five districts a slight improvement is shown. Compared with a year ago an improvement is shown in six districts, and a decline in seven districts.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Mar., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Mar., 1907, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,690	4.5	5.1	3.2	- 0.6	+ 1.3
Manchester and Liverpool District ...	19,150	3.0	2.5	2.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.5
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District ...	13,126	2.5	1.8	2.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.3
West Riding Towns ...	12,829	2.9	3.1	3.6	- 0.2	- 0.7
Hull and Lincolnshire District ...	2,497	1.5	2.2	3.8	- 0.7	- 2.3
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District ...	7,595	1.6	1.5	1.6	+ 0.1	...
Notts, Derby and Leicester District ...	4,216	3.2	2.9	5.6	+ 0.3	- 2.4
London and Neighbouring District ...	12,341	4.8	3.6	3.1	+ 1.2	+ 1.7
South Coast ...	3,858	2.2	1.3	2.1	+ 0.9	+ 0.1
South Wales and Bristol District ...	6,860	1.8	2.0	2.9	- 0.2	- 1.1
Glasgow and District ...	15,932	3.8	4.0	3.0	- 0.2	+ 0.8
East of Scotland ...	3,919	4.0	4.0	4.2	...	- 0.2
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,575	3.2	3.0	5.4	+ 0.2	- 2.2
Other Districts ...	5,767	2.4	2.2	2.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available) ...	159,202	2.9	2.8	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1

On the North-east coast generally there was an improvement as compared with the previous month, but employment was not so good as a year ago.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

Employment on the Tyne continued fairly good generally, and overtime was worked in some shops. On the Wear employment continued good, with night shifts and much overtime. With iron and steel moulders in the above-mentioned districts it was good; with pattern makers it was fair. It was also fair with brassfinishers and moulders, but showed a decline on the previous month.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment generally was better than a month ago. With boiler makers and ironfounders it was good; with pattern makers it was fair. With engineers it was good at Darlington; fair at Middlesbrough; and moderate at Stockton.

Employment continued good in Lancashire, but showed some decline compared with both a month and a year ago. Considerable overtime was again reported, especially in textile machinery shops at Oldham, Burnley and Blackburn. With boiler-makers, however, employment was slack at Blackburn; moderate at Oldham and Manchester. At Liverpool employment was still affected by a strike of ironmoulders.

In the West Riding district employment generally continued good, and was better than a year ago. At Sheffield, however, there was a slight falling off with engineers. In the Hull and Lincolnshire district employment on the whole continued fairly good, but with pattern-makers and brassfounders it was dull.

At Birmingham employment with engineers was good; overtime continued to be worked, especially in cycle and motor shops. With ironfounders it was also good, and overtime was general. At Coventry and West Bromwich it was fairly good. At Wolverhampton employment was good in all branches.

In the Nottingham district employment continued fairly good in general engineering shops; with lace and hosiery machine builders it was very good, with some overtime. Overtime was also reported with tool-makers. At Derby employment continued fair in general engineering shops and good in railway shops, with overtime and night shifts. In the Leicester and Northampton district employment was fair with general engineers. With shoe machinery builders at Leicester it continued good; with ironfounders and toolmakers an improvement was reported. In the Potteries it continued moderate and was affected by a dispute; with ironfounders it continued good.

Employment in the Norwich district continued good, overtime still being worked. It also continued good with agricultural implement makers at Ipswich.

In London employment continued dull, and showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. With iron and brassfounders, however, it was good; with toolmakers and coppersmiths fair.

At Southampton employment continued fairly good both in marine engine and in boiler works, and overtime was reported. In Devon and Cornwall employment was fair generally, but with ironfounders it was dull. It was good generally at Swindon and Gloucester, and at Bristol, except with marine engineers and ironfounders, who were slack. In South Wales employment was fair generally, and better than a month ago.

In the Glasgow district employment generally continued good, with overtime and night shifts in some shops. At Edinburgh it was good with engineers, pattern makers and ironmoulders; it was fair with smiths and bad with brassmoulders. At Falkirk it was bad with pattern makers and ironmoulders, and short time continued to be worked. At Aberdeen and Dundee it continued good.

Employment continued generally good at Belfast and dull at Cork. At Dublin it was fair and continued to improve.

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

Table with 6 columns: Description, Mar., 1907, Feb., 1907, Mar., 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with Feb., 1907, Mar., 1906. Rows include Steam Engines, Other Machinery, Exports, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 52 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 21 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March continued fair. It was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,657 had 50.5 or 3.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 3.1 per cent. in February and 2.7 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brass-workers was fair on the whole at Birmingham; it was good at Bolton, fair at Manchester and Nottingham, and moderate at Wolverhampton. At Birmingham it was bad with bedstead makers.

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

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was fair, and at Gateshead good with chain makers. At Dudley it was good with anvil and vice makers. With spring makers it was good at Sheffield; fair at Birmingham; fairly good at West Bromwich. With axle makers it was fair at Birmingham; quiet at West Bromwich. With anchor makers it was good on the Wear.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers continued good at Manchester; at Newcastle it was better than a month ago. With sheet metal workers it was fair in London and rather better than a month ago; it was good at Oldham. With iron plate workers it was quiet in the Lye district; fair at Birmingham. With sheet metal workers it was quiet at Glasgow; bad at Edinburgh; fair at Aberdeen; moderate at Birmingham.

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

Wire.—Employment continued good generally.

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

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was good at Newcastle; quiet at Rotherham and Glasgow; quiet at Falkirk with short time.

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

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

Farriers.—With farriers employment was fair.

Imports and Exports.

Table with 7 columns: Description, Mar., 1907, Feb., 1907, Mar., 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with Feb., 1907, Mar., 1906. Rows include Imports: Cutlery, Hardware, Exports: Cutlery, Hardware, Implements and Tools.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 447 Returns—365 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 73 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

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

A shortage of weavers, piecers, and juvenile workers generally was again reported.

The average price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool during March was .05d. more than in February, and .15d. more than in March 1906. The average price of "good fair Egyptian" was .60d. more than in February, and .215d. more than in March, 1906.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended March 23rd was 119,452, being 0.1 per cent. more than a month ago, and 1.3 per cent. more than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Analysis by Departments and Districts.

Large table with multiple columns: Workpeople (No. paid wages, Increase/Decrease), Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease), Departments, Districts, Total. Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

In every department the amount of wages paid showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and a greater improvement compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, employment showed an improvement in eight out of the twelve districts. In the Manchester district there was a slight decline in every branch. Compared with a year ago, every district showed an improvement, which was greatest in the Bolton and Manchester districts.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of March the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at

Liverpool was 6.07d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.24d., and the lowest 5.90d. per lb. The price for February was 6.02d., and for March, 1906, 5.92d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of April, 1907, the average price of "middling American" was 6d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during March averaged 11.10d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 11.5d., and the lowest 10.1d. The price for February was 10.1d. per lb., and for March, 1906, 8.95d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of April, 1907, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 10.52d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on April 12th, 1907, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,327,390 bales, as compared with 1,112,780 bales on April 13th, 1906.

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

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

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Table with 7 columns: Description, March, 1907, Feb., 1907, March, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1907, as compared with Feb., 1907, March, 1906. Rows include Cotton Yarn and Twist, Cotton Piece Goods, Dyed Yarn, Total.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 320 Returns—311 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good on the whole and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

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

Firms employing 22,372 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 3.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the Huddersfield district employment continued good; a few firms worked night and day and others worked overtime. Most firms in the Leeds district reported employment as good or fair, and the Trade Union warp dressers and wileyers reported it as good. In the Dewsbury and Batley district it was fairly good. In Scotland it was fairly good, but not quite so good as a year ago.

Table with 7 columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by returns (No. employed, Increase/Decrease), Earnings (Aggregate amount, Increase/Decrease). Rows include Wool Sorting, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

Worsted Trade.

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

Firms employing 45,554 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 2.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Table with 7 columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by returns, Earnings. Rows include Wool Sorting & Combing, Spinning, Weaving, etc.

Employment showed an improvement in every department and in every district. In Bradford, Keighley, and Halifax districts a deficiency of spinners and weavers was reported and employment was good. In the Huddersfield district it was fairly good.

Prices of Raw Material.

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

Table with 4 columns: Average Prices, Pence per lb. Rows include Lincoln Hogs, 40's Crossbred tops, 60's Super Botany tops, Course of Prices.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	March, 1907.	Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')					
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	75,907	57,444	63,588	+ 18,463	+ 12,319
British Exports "	2,792	2,710	3,316	- 82	- 524
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.					
Yarn:					
Woolen ... "	229	181	186	+ 48	+ 43
Worsted ... "	4,506	4,051	4,070	+ 455	- 164
Alpaca & Mohair ... "	1,449	1,333	1,452	+ 116	- 3
Total ... "	6,184	5,565	6,308	+ 619	- 124
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	5,727	7,222	5,814	- 1,495	- 87
Worsted ... "	8,192	8,858	9,270	- 666	- 1,078
Total ... "	13,919	16,080	15,084	- 2,161	- 1,165

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 108 Returns—103 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good in Ireland and England; it was fairly good in Scotland.

Returns received from firms employing 47,082 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd showed, as compared with a month ago, an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number of persons employed, and of 4.7* per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago the Returns showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.1* per cent. in the amount paid in wages.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Departments specified		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	6,200	+ 3.8	+ 2.1	3,473	+ 8.4	+ 12.7
Spinning ...	11,170	+ 3.1	+ 3.8	5,570	+ 9.4	+ 12.4
Weaving ...	16,463	+ 0.7	- 0.2	10,011	+ 3.9	+ 3.2
Other ...	6,221	+ 0.2	+ 1.7	5,053	+ 0.3	+ 4.7
Departments not specified	7,028	+ 2.0	+ 3.3	4,245	+ 2.9	+ 12.4
Total ...	47,082	+ 2.0	+ 1.8	28,362	+ 4.7	+ 9.1
Districts.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Belfast ...	17,404	+ 4.9	+ 4.4	11,034	+ 8.1	+ 16.9
Other Places in Ireland	15,636	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	8,203	+ 1.5	+ 6.4
Ireland ...	33,049	+ 2.7	+ 2.4	19,237	+ 5.2	+ 12.2
Fifeshire ...	6,424	+ 0.3	- 1.4	4,172	+ 3.7	- 0.7
Other Places in Scotland	5,835	+ 0.4	+ 1.2	3,813	+ 4.4	+ 5.1
Scotland ...	12,259	+ 0.4	- 0.2	7,985	+ 4.0	+ 2.0
England ...	1,783	+ 1.0	+ 5.4	1,140	+ 0.7	+ 10.9
United Kingdom	47,082	+ 2.0	+ 1.8	28,362	+ 4.7	+ 9.1

From the above Table it will be seen that, as compared with a month ago, increases both in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid took place in every district.

Compared with a year ago, there was a very slight falling-off in the number employed in the weaving department; all departments, however, showed an increase in the amount of wages paid. As regard the districts Fifeshire showed a decline both in the number of workpeople and the total amount of wages paid as compared with March, 1906; increases in both workpeople and wages took place in all the other districts.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

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

Description.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	10,549	9,521	13,690	+ 1,028	- 3,141
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	14,059	13,163	12,193	+ 896	+ 1,866
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	186,753	152,833	192,944	+ 33,920	- 6,191

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 38 Returns—35 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in this industry. Returns from firms employing 18,777 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd, and paying £13,408 in wages, show an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 7.0* per cent. in the total amount of wages paid, when compared with the preceding month. Compared with a year ago the number of workpeople shows a decrease of 0.5 per cent., but the total wages paid an increase of 4.6* per cent. Of the 18,777 workpeople reported on, 16,569 (or 88 per cent.) were employed in Dundee and district.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended 23rd Mar., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended 23rd Mar., 1907.	Increase as compared with	
		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Departments specified		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	4,763	+ 4.5	+ 4.6	3,103	+ 8.3	+ 9.0
Spinning ...	5,772	+ 1.7	+ 1.2	3,550	+ 5.6	+ 7.9
Weaving ...	5,537	+ 0.3	- 4.3	4,183	+ 6.9	+ 0.3
Other ...	1,811	+ 0.5	- 7.6	1,895	+ 6.6	+ 1.2
Unspecified ...	894	+ 3.8	+ 1.8	677	+ 10.4	+ 7.0
Total ...	18,777	+ 2.0	- 0.5	13,408	+ 7.0	+ 4.6

From this Table it will be seen that, compared with a month ago, there was an increase in every department both in the number of workpeople employed and in the aggregate wages paid. Compared with a year ago the figures for March show an increase in the number of workpeople in the preparing and spinning departments, but a decrease in the weaving department; the total amount of wages paid was greater in every department than in March, 1906.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Description.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	40,796	46,292	39,822	- 5,496	+ 9,974
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	60,733	57,481	38,051	+ 3,252	+ 22,682
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	131,641	119,772	136,214	+ 11,869	- 4,573

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 53 Returns—51 from Employers and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this trade showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,428 workpeople and paying £5,655 in wages on the pay-day in the week

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

ended March 23rd, 1907, show that, compared with a month ago, there was no change in the number of workpeople employed, but an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Branches.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing ...	1,061	- 1.4	- 0.9	459	+ 2.5	- 1.1
Spinning ...	2,498	+ 0.5	+ 4.4	1,796	- 0.3	+ 3.9
Weaving ...	3,042	- 0.8	- 0.8	2,425	+ 3.4	+ 1.7
Other ...	1,756	- 0.8	+ 1.1	362	- 1.9	- 1.7
Not Specified ...	171	+ 3.0	- 0.6	113	+ 3.7	+ 8.7
Total ...	8,428	...	+ 1.1	5,655	+ 1.3	+ 1.5
Districts.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,352	+ 0.6	+ 2.3	2,486	+ 1.1	+ 3.4
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	915	- 1.0	+ 1.9	646	- 3.0	+ 0.3
Leek ...	271	- 1.5	- 9.1	186	+ 5.1	- 6.5
Eastern Counties ...	2,368	- 0.6	+ 0.1	1,411	+ 2.7	- 0.8
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,522	+ 0.6	+ 1.6	1,262	+ 2.2	+ 2.7
Total ...	8,428	...	+ 1.1	5,655	+ 1.3	+ 1.5

At Macclesfield employment continued good. At Congleton it was good with dressers and moderate with trimming weavers. At Leek it was good with throwsters; moderate with twisters. At Brighthouse it was moderate; at Manningham good. It continued fair generally in the Eastern Counties.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	March, 1907.	Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... Lbs.	68,171	114,721	77,174	- 46,550	- 9,003
Thrown Silk ...	54,870	56,378	58,817	- 1,508	- 3,947
Sonn Silk Yarn ...	35,604	31,050	24,436	+ 1,554	+ 11,168
Silk Broad stuffs ... yards	7,692,929	6,630,768	7,517,266	+ 1,062,161	+ 145,663
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ...	1,486	372	556	+ 1,114	+ 930
Spun Silk Yarn ...	117,944	94,370	76,278	+ 23,574	+ 41,666
Silk Broad-stuffs ... yards	759,847	1,027,188	887,239	- 267,341	- 127,392

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 83 Returns—79 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March continued good generally. The numbers employed, so far as shown in the Returns received, show an increase both in England and Scotland as compared with the preceding month, and an increase in England and decrease in Scotland as compared with a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,137 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd, and paying £8,674 in wages, show an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number of persons employed, and of 1.0 per cent. in the total amount of wages paid when compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago the Returns show an increase of 6.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople and of 7.6 per cent. in wages paid.

As compared with February there was an improvement in all branches, especially in the plain net branch. As compared with a year ago, there was a general improvement in the numbers employed and the amount of wages paid. There was, however, a decline in the numbers employed in the curtain branch in Scotland.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Branches.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Levers ...	2,811	+ 1.0	+ 9.1	3,949	+ 0.4	+ 8.3
Curtain ...	2,753	- 0.8	- 0.8	2,661	+ 1.1	+ 0.9
Plain Net ...	1,559	+ 2.4	+ 12.7	1,306	+ 2.6	+ 17.2
Others ...	1,014	+ 4.2	+ 11.9	758	+ 1.3	+ 13.6
Total ...	8,137	+ 1.3	+ 6.5	8,674	+ 1.0	+ 7.6
Districts.						
Nottingham City ...	1,748	+ 2.2	+ 11.3	1,847	+ 2.8	+ 15.4
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,774	+ 0.1	+ 5.8	2,514	- 0.8	+ 11.9
Other English districts	2,529	+ 2.4	+ 11.6	2,386	+ 2.1	+ 9.3
Scotland ...	2,085	+ 0.4	- 1.9	1,927	+ 0.4	- 1.0
Total ...	8,137	+ 1.3	+ 6.5	8,674	+ 1.0	+ 7.6
Imports and Exports.—						
Imports:—						
Silk Lace ...	20,533	21,694	42,201	- 1,161	- 21,668	
Exports:—						
Cotton Lace ...	444,904	414,432	418,327	+ 30,472	+ 26,677	
Silk Lace ...	8,250	7,592	5,839	+ 658	+ 2,421	

HOSIERY TRADE

(Based on 95 Returns—89 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Firms employing 15,457 workpeople, and paying £12,163 in wages in the week ended March 23rd, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was good, and much better than a year ago; and at Hinckley and Loughborough it was good on the whole. At Nottingham employment with power framers was somewhat irregular and not so good as in the previous month; no systematic short time, however, was reported. Employment with hand framers in the Notts country districts showed an improvement. In Derbyshire employment showed an improvement. At Selkirk and Hawick it was good in all branches.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
District.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester ...	6,468	+ 1.9	+ 3.6	5,372	+ 3.9	+ 7.4
Leicester Country District ...	2,614	+ 0.7	+ 1.3	2,128	+ 3.3	+ 1.7
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	3,735	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	2,814	+ 3.8	+ 0.8
Scotland ...	1,830	+ 1.9	+ 7.5	1,506	+ 5.6	+ 9.4
Other Districts ...	610	+ 1.8	- 4.5	513	+ 6.0	- 1.3
Total, United Kingdom	15,457	+ 1.4	+ 2.4	12,163	+ 4.0	+ 4.6

The Imports of Woollen and Cotton Hosiery in March, 1907, amounted to £38,063 and £115,069

respectively, compared with £34,488 and £85,931 in February, 1907 and £34,672 and £101,726 in March, 1906.

The **Exports** of Woollen and Cotton Hosiery in March, 1907, amounted to £121,280 and £41,852 respectively, as compared with £128,416 and £45,735 in February, 1907, and £115,409 and £47,833 in March, 1906.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 16 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment generally was fair in the West Riding, and better than a year ago. About one-third of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-quarter worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

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

Calico Printers, etc.—Employment at New Mills and Dinting continued good, and, on the whole, was better than a year ago. At Glasgow it was good with calico printers and engravers; fair with block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester, Hinckley, and Loughborough employment showed a general slight improvement compared with a month ago. With dyers at Nottingham and bleachers at Basford employment was good; with hosiery trimmers at Nottingham and Basford it was reported as fair; employment generally was better than a year ago.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment continued good, a considerable amount of overtime being reported. In Dundee it was good with bleachfield workers; fair with calender workers.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 112 Returns—84 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Bespoke Branch.

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

Firms paying £10,328 in wages during the four weeks ended March 23rd showed an increase of 20·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Ready-made Branch.

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

Leeds.—Employment during the month was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 7,869 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 4·0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1·5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment in the Jewish workshops was reported as good.

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

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in March, 1907, were valued at £321,120, as compared with £252,860 in February, 1907, and £347,125 in March, 1906, and the **Exports** for the same periods £431,842, £451,950, and £486,297.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 502 Returns—487 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 4 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fairly good, and better than a month ago; it was slightly better than a year ago.

Firms employing 62,724 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 0·5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and was practically the same as a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 2·0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment at Leicester was reported good generally and better than a month ago and a year ago, but the number employed showed little change; the Trade Union lasters and finishers, however, reported nearly 9 per cent. of their membership as still unemployed, as compared with 10 per cent. a month ago. At Bristol employment was fairly good; at Kingswood employment was bad and worse than a year ago. The number employed at Leeds showed a decline, but the wages earned by those in work showed a considerable increase. Employment in the factories at Northampton was good. In Scotland employment showed an improvement as compared with the previous month, but it was much worse than a year ago; a firm at Maybole closed down, and about forty people, thrown out of work, are leaving for Canada.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	2,588	+ 1·4	+ 3·1	3,150	+ 3·7	+ 0·1
Leicester	12,999	+ 0·5	+ 0·1	14,748	+ 3·2	+ 5·0
Leicester Country District	3,087	+ 2·4	+ 2·2	3,088	+ 3·7	+ 1·4
Northampton	9,042	+ 0·8	+ 1·3	8,659	+ 2·1	+ 2·8
Northampton Country District	8,626	+ 0·5	+ 4·1	8,062	+ 4·0	+ 3·0
Stafford & District	3,599	+ 1·0	+ 1·0	3,565	+ 2·0	+ 1·8
Stafford & District	2,511	+ 0·5	- 3·0	2,189	- 0·9	- 5·7
Norwich & District	3,842	+ 1·3	+ 1·7	3,234	+ 2·1	+ 0·4
Bristol & District	1,847	+ 0·3	- 3·4	1,575	+ 3·3	- 5·9
Kingswood	1,733	- 0·9	- 2·4	1,473	- 0·2	- 7·6
Leeds & District	2,619	- 2·2	- 3·6	2,223	+ 3·2	- 1·6
Manchester & District	2,576	+ 0·6	+ 1·0	2,461	+ 4·1	+ 0·0
Birmingham & District	1,945	+ 0·4	- 4·8	1,837	+ 1·2	- 7·3
Other parts of England and Wales	2,697	- 0·7	- 3·4	2,264	- 1·3	- 2·7
ENGLAND & WALES ...	58,631	+ 0·6	+ 0·5	57,528	+ 2·0	+ 1·4
SCOTLAND	5,823	+ 0·3	- 5·9	3,558	+ 2·7	- 10·6
IRELAND	270	- 1·5	+ 5·5	177	- 2·7	+ 9·3
UNITED KINGDOM ...	62,724	+ 0·5	+ 0·1	61,263	+ 2·0	+ 0·6

Imports and Exports.

	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Imports					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	20,230	14,451	21,679	+ 5,888	- 1,440
Value £	86,486	63,471	86,090	+ 23,015	+ 396
Re-Exports					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	1,974	1,647	1,823	+ 327	+ 151
Value £	4,290	2,673	5,416	+ 1,617	- 1,126
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	65,522	60,545	71,157	+ 4,977	- 5,635
Value £	168,629	151,132	178,707	+ 17,497	- 10,078

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 12 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 9 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during March in the *Silk* hat branch was quiet, but better than a year ago; in the *Felt* hat branch it was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March, was 6·0, compared with 7·1 at the end of February, and 13·5 a year ago. Employment on the whole was quiet.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 2·0, compared with 3·4 at the end of February, and 4·5 a year ago. Employment was reported as good at Denton and Stockport, as fair in Warwickshire; it was better than a year ago.

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

Description.	March, 1907.	Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Felt	53,329	63,172	47,089	- 9,843	+ 6,240
Straw	46,312	51,362	47,124	- 5,050	- 812
Other Sorts	4,050	4,419	3,778	- 369	+ 272
Total	103,691	118,953	97,991	- 15,262	+ 5,700

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 178 Returns—174 from Employers, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end, employing 1,420 dressmakers in the week ended March 23rd, showed an increase of 10·2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3·7 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good. Court dressmakers employing 1,012 workpeople showed an increase of 13·5 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1·6 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good. Employment with milliners in the West-end was good, and better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,979 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers), showed an increase of 4·5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1·1 per cent. compared with a year ago: employment during the month was fairly good.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed a marked decrease in the demand for, and a slight increase in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was a decrease in both demand and supply.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was good, and better than a year ago; firms employing 2,261 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd showed an increase of 1·2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2·9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers employing 6,752 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,794

in wages in the week ended March 23rd, showed an increase of 2·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2·1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was good in Glasgow and Londonderry; fair in London, Manchester, and Taunton.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,155 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended March 23rd, showed an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0·2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 40 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 22 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was quiet, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,703 had 6·0 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6·2 per cent. in February, and 6·1 per cent. a year ago.

Skippers, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment with skippers was quiet. With curriers it was fair generally; at Leeds, Bristol, and Glasgow it was good. With leather workers generally it was good at Bolton, Bury, Wigan and Manchester; quiet at Leeds.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment at Walsall continued quiet, but was rather better than a month ago. At Dublin it was good; at Glasgow and Edinburgh it was fair. At Birmingham and London it was bad.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment continued fair on the whole, but was bad in London. With portmanteau makers it was fair generally.

Imports and Exports.

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

Description.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	40,410	47,103	46,503	- 693	- 6,093
Doitto, wet	39,199	46,682	54,904	- 7,283	- 15,705
Total hides, dry and wet	79,609	88,085	101,407	- 8,476	- 21,798
Goat skins, undressed (No. value) £	1,558,973	988,607	1,803,747	+ 570,366	- 244,774
Sheep skins	255,316	214,660	190,733	+ 40,656	+ 64,583
Leather*	84,725	81,029	108,085	+ 3,697	- 23,359
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	46,762	36,429	54,139	+ 10,333	- 7,377

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 395 Returns—136 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 240 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was fair on the whole, and rather better than a month ago and a year ago.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good, and in Scotland it was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 20,269 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was a decrease of 0·1 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with February, and an increase of 0·7 per cent. compared with March, 1906.

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

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week in March, 1907, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	5,558	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	2,011	- 1.5	...
Southern Counties	6,721	+ 0.0	+ 0.0
Scotland	5,112	- 0.3	+ 2.2
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	19,402	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Hand-made Paper			
...	867	- 0.3	+ 0.8
Total	20,269	- 0.1	+ 0.7

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 1,810 members had 2.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, compared with 1.8 per cent. in February, and 2.4 per cent. in March, 1906. In the hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 611 members had 3.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.5 a month ago and 5.6 a year ago.

The imports of paper in March, 1907, amounted to £499,771, as compared with £401,205 in February, 1907, and £523,468 in March, 1906, and the exports to £185,074, as compared with £190,034 in February, 1907, and £181,848 in March, 1906.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was fairly good with letterpress printers and moderate with lithographic printers. It was rather better than a month ago and a year ago in both branches. Trade Unions with a membership of 47,059 had 3.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 3.6 in February, and 3.9 a year ago.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	19,028	3.1	2.7	3.3	+ 0.4	- 0.2
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,234	3.3	4.5	4.0	- 1.2	- 0.7
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,448	5.0	5.1	5.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
East Midlands and Eastern Counties	2,244	2.7	2.7	3.6	...	- 0.9
West Midlands	2,399	3.5	4.5	4.4	- 1.0	- 0.9
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,795	2.1	2.6	2.5	- 0.5	- 0.4
Scotland	5,457	2.8	3.3	3.4	- 0.5	- 0.6
Ireland	2,454	5.2	5.9	7.2	- 0.7	- 2.0
United Kingdom	47,059	3.4	3.6	3.9	- 0.2	- 0.5

London.—Trade Unions with a membership of 19,028 had 3.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 2.7 in February and 3.3 a year ago. With letterpress printers employment was fairly good, and better than in February, 1907, and March, 1906. Employment continued fair with lithographic artists; with lithographic printers it was quiet, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers improved, and was fairly good generally, overtime being worked at several towns. In Edinburgh employment improved with compositors, and some overtime was worked, principally on magazines; with machine-men, however, employment continued dull, with some short time, and was worse than a year ago. With lithographic printers employment was quiet generally, but good at Manchester and Bristol; with lithographic artists it was fair.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

In London employment continued quiet, with short time, and was not so good as a year ago. In the provinces it remained fairly good generally, and was better than a year ago at Glasgow it was very good, but at Dublin it was slack.

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

	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,610	9	5.6	4.9	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Other Districts	3,331	8	2.6	3.9	+ 0.2	- 1.1
United Kingdom	6,941	4.4	4.1	4.4	+ 0.3	...

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,820 Returns—844 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 920 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 56 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from 818 firms, employing 51,719 workpeople at the end of March, showed an increase in the number employed of 7.5 per cent., as compared with a month ago, the improvement affecting all districts and both skilled workmen and labourers.

The following Table summarises the Returns:—

District.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on the last pay-day of the month.							
	Skilled Workmen.		Labourers.		Lads and Boys.		Total.	
	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.
London	9,765	9,049	7,132	6,595	642	624	17,539	15,268
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	3,239	2,989	2,752	2,728	719	707	6,750	6,424
Lancashire and Cheshire	4,050	3,701	3,069	2,813	1,048	1,013	8,197	7,527
Midland and Eastern Counties	2,884	2,616	2,327	1,980	397	378	5,608	4,974
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,169	2,992	2,123	2,035	564	561	5,856	5,588
England & Wales	23,137	21,347	17,443	16,151	3,370	3,283	43,950	40,781
Scotland	3,597	3,219	1,916	1,765	933	923	6,376	5,907
Ireland	599	588	795	756	89	82	1,393	1,426
United Kingdom	27,243	25,154	20,084	18,672	4,392	4,288	51,719	48,114

Employment was dull with bricklayers, masons and carpenters, and also with plasterers, except in Scotland, where plasterers were fairly busy owing to the pressure of term work. With plumbers, painters, and slaters employment was moderate, and in Scotland slaters were reported as busy. Employment was generally better than a month ago and a year ago, but with plumbers it showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, while masons in Scotland reported it as worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

The percentage unemployed of Trade Union carpenters and joiners in the United Kingdom at the end of March was 5.6, as compared with 7.9 a month ago, and 7.4 a year ago, the improvement being general throughout all districts. The percentages unemployed of Trade Union plumbers for the same periods were 7.8, 7.3, and 11.1 respectively, the improvement compared with a year ago being general.

London.—Employment continued dull generally, but was better than a month ago and a year ago. From Trade Union Returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district it appeared that 5.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 8.2 a month ago, and 7.8 a year ago. For plumbers the percentages were 12.8, 13.0, and 16.3 respectively. Bricklayers reported employment as unchanged compared with February, 1907, and March, 1906.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—Employment was dull generally, but better than a month ago. It was good with painters at Hull and Newcastle and with plumbers at Jarrow and Wallsend, and fair with masons at Sheffield.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment was better than a month ago. At Manchester it was fair with painters and moderate with bricklayers, but bad with plumbers. At Oldham, Blackburn, and Burnley it was moderate. At Bolton it was slack.

Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment was dull on the whole, but better than in February. At Coventry it was fairly good. Employment was moderate with bricklayers in the Potteries, and with plumbers at Birmingham. With painters at Birmingham and Leicester it was fair.

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

Scotland.—Employment was dull with bricklayers and masons. With painters it was good; with plasterers fair. With carpenters and joiners it was fair at Glasgow and Edinburgh, and slack at Dundee. With masons employment was worse than a month ago, with other branches it was better.

Ireland.—Employment was dull on the whole, but fair with plumbers and good with painters at Dublin; fair with masons and plasterers at Belfast, and with masons at Cork.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 132 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 97 from Trade Unions, and 31 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades was fairly good, and better than a month and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,638 reported 3.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 5.3 per cent. a month ago, and 4.3 per cent. in March, 1906.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was fair on the whole and showed an improvement in all branches as compared with a month ago. Trade Unions reported 3.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.9 per cent. in the previous month, and 4.5 per cent. a year ago. Employment in London was good. It was bad at Liverpool and Sheffield.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in March, 1907, were valued at £42,985, as compared with £35,416 in February, 1907, and £49,086 in March, 1906.

The Exports of furniture and cabinet ware in March, 1907, were valued at £67,130, as compared with £56,102 in February, 1907, and £56,235 in March, 1906.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

With millsawyers and woodcutting machinists employment continued fair, and was somewhat better than a month ago. An improvement was reported at Glasgow, Birmingham, and Bristol. Trade Unions reported 4.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of March as compared with 4.5 per cent. a month ago and a year ago.

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

Description.	March, 1907.	Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	March, 1906.
Timber, hewn	27,667	31,959	38,860	- 4,292	- 11,193
" sawn	136,749	152,073	184,246	- 15,324	- 47,497
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£19,847	£14,990	£28,214	+ £4,857	- £8,367

Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued dull, although better than a year ago. An improvement was reported

at Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, and a decline at Bristol and Burton-on-Trent. Employment was good at Peterhead and Fraserburgh and at Dublin, and bad at Edinburgh and Cork.

Coachbuilding.

With coachmakers employment continued to improve, and was good. It was about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., reported 2.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 3.7 per cent. a month ago, and 2.8 per cent. in March, 1906.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was good, better than last month, and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 3.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 4.3 per cent. a month ago, and 3.0 per cent. in March, 1906.

Other Trades.—Employment with packing-case makers continued dull, and a little worse than a year ago. With basket-makers it was bad at Derby and Leicester, and good at Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in March, 1907, were valued at £30,826, as compared with £24,675 in February, 1907, and £36,020 in March, 1906.

The Exports of brushes and brooms in March, 1907, were valued at £15,156, as compared with £14,214 in February, 1907, and £12,996 in March, 1906.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 83 Returns—59 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 12 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 9,939 workpeople in the week ended March 23rd, and paying £11,860 in wages, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in numbers employed, and an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with the previous month. The increase in numbers employed was entirely in Yorkshire, all other districts showing a decrease.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 6.3 per cent. in numbers employed, and an increase of 9.7* per cent. in the amount of wages paid. In both cases the increases were shared by all districts and by the principal departments.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Mar. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.		Per cent.	Per cent.
Glass Bottle	5,787	+ 0.3	+ 10.8	7,222	+ 2.2	+ 16.1
Plate Glass	825	...	+ 0.4	922	+ 2.1	+ 0.5
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	2,011	+ 0.1	+ 1.8	2,237	+ 2.2	+ 2.5
Other Branches	1,313	+ 0.2	- 1.2	1,479	- 0.3	- 1.1
Total	9,939	+ 0.2	+ 6.3	11,860	+ 1.9	+ 9.7
Districts.						
North of England	1,419	- 3.4	+ 7.1	1,575	- 6.3	+ 6.4
Yorkshire	4,078	+ 2.8	+ 8.5	5,163	+ 6.0	+ 14.8
Lancashire	832	- 2.2	+ 11.7	899	- 0.3	+ 17.4
Worcester and Warwick	2,358	- 0.1	+ 1.9	2,745	+ 1.9	+ 0.7
Scotland	888	- 2.1	+ 3.8	1,014	- 4.8	+ 9.4
Other parts of United Kingdom	424	- 0.7	+ 2.7	464	+ 6.9	+ 10.2
Total	9,939	+ 0.2	+ 6.3	11,860	+ 1.9	+ 9.7

With glass bottle makers, employment was generally good, but at Leeds it was moderate, and at Dublin fair. At Mexborough and Castleford an improvement was shown on the previous month. With medical glass bottle makers it was good at Leeds, and slack at Rotherham. With flint glass makers it was generally fair. At Birmingham and Barnsley it continued good.

* The comparison with March, 1906, is affected by a recent advance in rates of wages in the glass-bottle making trade.

It was very good with flint glass cutters at Stourbridge and Wordsley. Employment was fair with plate glass bevellers at Birmingham, and was better than a month ago. It continued good with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens. It was good with glass blowers in London. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was moderate, and showed a decline on the previous month, much short time being worked.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Mar., 1907.	Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with	
				Feb., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	105,174	103,305	107,286	+ 1,869	- 2,112
Plate	39,567	32,063	27,045	+ 7,504	+ 12,522
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented, &c.	62,838	57,177	70,197	+ 5,661	- 7,359
Manufactures, other sorts...	975	642	4,801	+ 333	- 3,826
Bottles gross	148,143	100,496	128,574	+ 47,647	+ 19,569
Exports:					
Plate	9,841	10,181	12,412	- 353	- 2,581
Flint	6,421	5,600	4,415	+ 881	+ 2,066
Manufactures, other sorts ...	31,652	50,059	42,293	- 18,417	- 10,641
Bottles gross	60,184	70,140	60,761	- 9,956	- 577

POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 22 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire and at Newcastle and Bristol continued good. In South Yorkshire and the River Aire district, in Devonshire, and at Glasgow it was fair. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was good at Manchester, moderate at Gateshead and Waterford. At Glasgow it was dull but better than a month ago.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued slack at Peterborough and at Nottingham, where short time was general. It was also dull at Exeter, Ipswich, and Chelmsford. At Oldham and in the Tees and Hartlepool district a decline was shown. At Birmingham it was moderate. Employment in South Staffordshire and Shropshire was fair, and was better than a month ago. It continued good in the Stourbridge district. In North Wales it was fair at Mold, and slack at Ruabon and Wrexham.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in March, 1907, were valued at £85,111, as compared with £63,369 in February, 1907, and £81,292 in March, 1906. The Exports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in March, 1907, were valued at £218,140, as compared with £183,219 in February, 1907, and £207,088 in March, 1906.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 153 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

FARM labourers were generally in regular employment throughout March. Except in the northern counties at the beginning of the month, little or no interruption to outdoor work was caused by unfavourable weather. In a number of districts, however, there was some falling off in the demand for day labourers towards the end of the month, owing to the forward condition of work, and some men of this class consequently lost time.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire, attending to stock, and preparing the land for oats and potatoes, generally provided regular employment, though in certain districts stormy weather caused some interruption at the

beginning of the month. Similar reports as to employment came from Yorkshire. The supply of and demand for labour were generally about equal in these counties.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire and Derbyshire the weather was favourable for the spring-sowing and other outdoor work, and there was a fair demand for extra labour, though not in excess of the supply. Employment was regular in Nottinghamshire, and in the Basford and Southwell Unions the supply of day labourers was barely sufficient for the demand. Stormy weather caused some day labourers in Leicestershire to lose time; the supply of this class of labour was rather in excess of the demand. Regularity of employment was reported from Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire. Several correspondents refer to some difficulty in obtaining men for permanent situations. Similar reports come from Warwickshire. Good progress was made with all outdoor work in Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, and Buckinghamshire, owing to the favourable weather, and most day labourers were in regular employment. Day labourers were in some demand in Hertfordshire for potato planting and other work, but the supply was generally sufficient. Employment was regular in Bedfordshire, but there was no great demand for extra labour.

Eastern Counties.—Correspondents in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire state that employment was generally regular, and the supply of extra labour was about equal to the demand. Similar reports come from Lincolnshire. In Norfolk and Suffolk sowing corn, attending to stock, preparing the land for roots, and hoeing provided regular employment for most agricultural labourers; a few day labourers, however, were not able to get employment throughout the month, farm work being generally in a forward condition. Employment was fairly regular in Essex, where the supply of, and demand for, labour were about equal. A report from the Ongar Union states that men for permanent situations are more readily obtainable than for some years.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Fine weather enabled good progress to be made with farm work in Kent, and towards the end of the month several day labourers were in irregular employment in consequence of the forward state of the work. Employment was regular in Surrey, and the supply of labour about equal to the demand. Employment was generally regular in Sussex and Hampshire, though a few day labourers were not able to get regular work. Sowing proceeded without interruption in Berkshire and Wiltshire, and farm labourers were well employed; a scarcity of men for work involving Sunday duty is reported from the Wantage Union (Berkshire). In Dorset employment on the whole was regular, but in several districts the demand for extra labour was lessened by the forward state of the work, and some day labourers in consequence lost time. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal throughout the month in Somerset. Regularity of employment was reported in Herefordshire, in which county there was some scarcity of men for permanent situations. Work was well forward in Gloucestershire, and the supply of extra labour was somewhat in excess of the demand in several districts; in this county also some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported. Employment was regular in Devonshire, where spring corn-sowing, potato planting and other work caused a good demand for labour. Employment was generally regular in Cornwall.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 139 Returns—116 from Employers, 9 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March was fair, and better on the whole than a month ago and a year ago.

London.*—Employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended March 30th was 13,110, an increase of 3.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.5 per cent. compared with a year

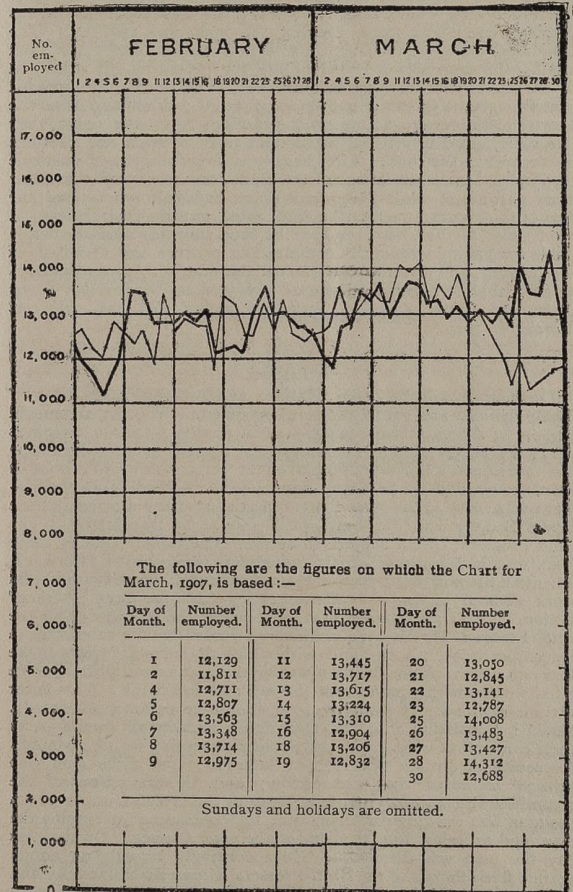
* Exclusive of Tilbury.

ago. The daily numbers in March ranged from 11,811 on the 2nd to 14,312 on the 28th. During the corresponding period of 1906 the numbers ranged from 11,281 on the 27th to 14,137 on the 14th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	In Docks*				
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Shippers, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Mar. 2nd	3,601	2,693	6,294	6,218	12,512
" " " 9th	3,719	3,126	6,845	6,342	13,187
" " " 16th	4,595	2,411	7,006	6,363	13,369
" " " 23rd	4,288	2,676	6,964	6,013	12,977
" " " 30th	4,465	2,858	7,323	6,261	13,584
Average for 5 weeks ended Mar. 30th, 1907	4,122	2,749	6,871	6,239	13,110
Average for Feb., 1907	3,895	2,587	6,482	6,183	12,665
Average for Mar., 1906	3,887	2,789	6,676	6,119	12,795

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

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



The following are the figures on which the Chart for March, 1907, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	12,129	11	13,445	20	13,050
2	11,811	12	13,717	21	12,845
3	12,711	13	13,615	22	13,141
4	12,807	14	13,224	23	12,787
5	13,563	15	13,310	24	14,008
6	13,318	16	12,904	25	13,483
7	13,714	17	13,206	26	13,427
8	12,975	18	12,832	27	14,312
9		19		28	14,312
				29	12,688
				30	

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,222 in March, as compared with 1,098 in February, and 1,122 a year ago.

At Liverpool employment with dock labourers was good on the whole, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked at the North Docks. Quay and railway carters were fairly well employed.

Other Ports.—On the Tyne and Wear employment with dock and quayside labourers was fairly good and better than a month ago; with trimmers and teemers employment was, on the whole, moderate. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment was good with riverside labourers; with dock labourers it remained fair at Middlesbrough and slack at Hartlepool. Employment was fair at Manchester. At Hull, Grimsby,

and Goole employment was moderate, but better than a month ago. In the Norfolk and Suffolk ports employment was fairly good and better than a month ago; at Southampton it was fair. Employment for quayside labourers at Bristol was bad, and worse than a month ago; at Avonmouth it was fair. At the South Wales ports employment was good, and better than a month ago. Dock labourers were fairly well employed at Glasgow, Leith and Aberdeen, but at Dundee employment was dull and showed a further decline. At Dublin employment was fair, and at Belfast dull.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MARCH.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during March, 39,265* seamen, of whom 4,899 (or 12.5 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. In ten cases there were increases, and in seven cases there were decreases, as compared with March, 1906, the net result being an increase of 2,710.

For the three months ended March, 1907, the total number of seamen shipped was 112,941,* or 6,690 more than in the corresponding period of 1906, due chiefly to increases at Cardiff, Liverpool, and Glasgow.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	March,			Three months ended March,		
	1906.	1907.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1907.	1906.	1907.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1907.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,779	2,388	- 391	7,460	7,103	- 357
Sunderland	394	478	+ 84	1,189	1,154	- 35
Middlesbrough	285	316	+ 31	693	1,099	+ 416
Hull	1,037	1,249	+ 212	3,671	3,824	+ 153
Grimsby	44	23	- 21	207	136	- 71
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	478	651	+ 173	1,896	1,896	...
Newport, Mon.	786	794	+ 8	2,793	2,558	- 235
Cardiff	4,841	5,083	+ 242	14,759	16,210	+ 1,451
Swansea	439	375	- 64	1,134	1,365	+ 231
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	13,372	15,124	+ 1,752	37,136	40,697	+ 3,561
London	5,636	6,028	+ 392	17,215	17,204	- 11
Southampton	2,018	2,397	+ 379	6,319	7,210	+ 891
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	603	325	- 278	1,800	1,276	- 524
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth	198	221	+ 23	543	616	+ 73
Glasgow	3,323	3,751	+ 428	8,345	9,632	+ 1,287
IRELAND.						
Dublin	80	60	- 20	275	220	- 55
Belfast	242	202	- 40	826	741	- 85
Total	36,555	39,265	+ 2,710	106,251	112,941	+ 6,690

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

THE fish landed in March, 1907, showed an increase in both quantity and value as compared with a year ago.

Employment among fishermen at the principal ports was fair and rather better than a month ago. It was about the same on the whole as a year ago. At Yarmouth it was fair with fishermen, but bad with fish curers; with fishermen it was not so good as a year ago, though improved on a month ago. At Lowestoft it was fair, and about the same as a month and a year ago. At Grimsby it was good. At Aberdeen it was fairly good, at Fraserburgh fair and improved; at Macduff, worse than a month ago and a year ago. At the South

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

Wales Ports it was good, but at Plymouth it was bad generally for the time of year, and around the south and south-west coasts of Ireland it was dull.

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Mar., 1907.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1907.	Mar., 1906.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales ...	771,861	691,819	654,737	595,595
Scotland ...	535,476	274,530	141,407	11,988
Ireland ...	16,353	16,817	12,490	—
Total ...	1,323,690	983,166	821,296	747,990
Shell Fish ...	—	—	32,354	29,040
Total Value ...	—	—	853,650	776,130

The exports of herrings in March, 1907, were valued at £61,920, as compared with £71,410 in February, 1907, and £53,368 in March 1906.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Employers' Liability Act.

WHO IS A "WORKMAN": DRIVER OF MOTOR OMNIBUS.

By the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, a "workman" is given a right of action for damages against his employer when he is injured by reason of a defect in the machinery used in the business of the employer or by other causes. "Workman" is defined to include any person "being a labourer, servant in husbandry, journeyman, artificer, handicraftsman, miner, or otherwise engaged in manual labour." The driver of a motor omnibus suffered a broken wrist by the starting handle flying back when he attempted to start the engine. He brought an action against his employers under the Act, but the County Court judge refused to allow the case to go to the jury on the ground that the plaintiff was not a workman within the meaning of the Act. The plaintiff appealed. It was contended for the plaintiff that his work brought him within the words "artificer, handicraftsman, or otherwise engaged in manual labour," as he was a skilled man who was supplied with tools, such as spanners and wrenches, to use in connection with the engine he was employed to drive.

On the other hand, it was argued that he did not come within any of the words of the Act, and that his position was similar to that of the driver of a horse tramcar, who had been held not to be a person engaged in manual labour within the meaning of the Act.

The High Court allowed the appeal, deciding that the plaintiff's work was of the same kind as that of an artificer or handicraftsman, and that he was a workman entitled to sue under the Act.—*Smith v. Associated Omnibus Company (Ltd.)*, King's Bench Division, March 15th, 1907.

(2) Friendly Societies' Acts.

DISPUTE BETWEEN MEMBER AND SOCIETY: JURISDICTION OF ARBITRATION COMMITTEE.

By the rules of a duly registered Friendly Society, it was provided that a member failing to pay his monthly contributions and arrears by the quarterly night meeting should be fined and summoned to pay on the next court night, and then in case of non-payment be suspended from all benefits until re-instated. A suspended member was entitled to be re-instated before his arrears exceeded twelve months on paying all arrears, and producing a medical certificate if his contributions then exceeded six months.

By the general laws of the society it was provided that a member who had been suspended should be re-instated by complying with the rules and paying up all arrears and fines, and that if such arrears exceeded six months he should also produce a medical certificate that he was then in sound health.

Every court was obliged to appoint an arbitration committee to hear and decide every dispute between a member and the court, and every charge made against a member for such violation of the rules as involved suspension or expulsion. This committee was empowered to fine any member who neglected to appear on being summoned.

A member of many years' standing was treasurer of a court from 1900 to 1902. In February, 1902, he was summoned to appear before the arbitration committee for wrongfully refusing to give up his treasurer's book, and at an adjourned meeting on March 3rd, 1902, was fined 10s. and 7s. the costs of the meeting. Before this he had delivered up the book. These sums not being paid, he was suspended from all benefits on June 3rd, 1902. He paid his contributions to September, 1902. He omitted to pay his contributions for the quarters ending December, 1902, and March, 1903, but on April 4th, 1903, tendered two quarters' contributions and two fines for non-payment, amounting to 15s. 9d. This sum was refused, the court requiring a certificate of health before accepting them. On

June 2nd, 1903, he tendered 17s., the amount of the fine and costs, but the Chief Ranger refused to accept the money without a medical certificate. On June 4th, 1903, he was expelled for non-compliance with the decision of the arbitration committee. He then brought an action in the Chancery Division of the High Court for an injunction restraining the society from refusing to accept his contributions, and from excluding him from the society. The Judge decided that the arbitration committee had no jurisdiction to impose the fine and costs upon the plaintiff, there being no rule authorising such a fine; that on April 4th, 1903, not being more than six months in arrear, he was not bound to produce a medical certificate; and that, on payment of his contributions, he was entitled to be reinstated a member of the society.—*Loach v. Coley*, Chancery Division, March 6th and 7th, 1907.

(3) Trades Union Acts.

CONSPIRACY: OBTAINING DISMISSAL OF WORKMAN: ACTING WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM UNION.

A man who had been a member of a trade union was expelled from the union for failing to pay his weekly contributions. In October, 1905, he obtained employment in the cabinet makers' department of a shipbuilding company. Some three weeks previously he had become a member of a new trade union, which had not been registered under the Trades Union Acts. He was asked by some of his fellow workmen to show his society card, but they were not satisfied with the card of the new society which he produced. The shop stewards then demanded that the man should pay up his arrears due to the society of which he had ceased to be a member, but he refused to comply with the demand. The shop stewards accordingly had an interview with the foreman of the department, whom they told that the man was in arrears, and that the other men would cease to work if he was continued in his employment. The same evening the man was paid off. The dismissed man then brought an action against the union, and against the shop stewards personally, for procuring his dismissal by threats of withdrawing the other men from work. It appeared that though the foreman had been given to understand that the shop stewards were acting on instructions from the union, they had really acted merely on instructions received from two meetings of the men in the shop. After hearing a large amount of evidence the Judge decided in favour of the union, on the ground that they knew nothing of what had taken place, and had not ratified the acts of the shop stewards, who had acted outside their authority. He decided further, however, that the shop stewards were personally liable for having wrongfully combined to procure the dismissal of the pursuer, and awarded the pursuer the sum of £40 as damages against them.—*Dunn v. National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Union and Others*, Court of Session, February 26th and 27th and March 7th, 1907.

PROCURING BREACH OF CONTRACT: CONSPIRACY: INTENTION TO INJURE.

The members of the Leeds, Halifax, and Bradford Stuff Pressers' Trade Union are stuff pressers by hand. The Amalgamated Society of Dyers include amongst their numbers certain members who are stuff pressers by machinery. A number of members of the last-mentioned union were employed at certain mills, and some of them were found to be doing hand work. Accordingly an agreement was come to between the two unions that the members of the Dyers' Society who did hand work should be transferred to the Stuff Pressers' Union subject to certain conditions. One of those men, who had assented to the agreement, very shortly afterwards left the mills and went to work at other mills, where he did hand work without joining or communicating with the Stuff Pressers' Union. This circumstance having come to the knowledge of the Stuff Pressers' Union, a resolution was passed by the committee in December, 1905, in accordance with which the secretary wrote to the foreman under whom the man was working, informing him that he must withdraw the man from the work he was doing. This letter was disregarded. In January, 1906, the same committee passed a resolution insisting that the men doing hand work should sever their connection with the Dyers' Society, excepting for sick benefits. A second resolution was passed later to expel those men who refused to sever that connection; and by the orders of the committee the secretary wrote a letter to the foreman under whom the man was working censuring him for continuing to employ the man, and ordering him to dismiss the man at once. On the next day the man was dismissed. He accordingly brought an action against five officials of the Stuff Pressers' Union for unlawfully and maliciously, and with intent to injure the plaintiff, conspiring to procure and procuring his employers to break their contract with him; and also for conspiring to induce and inducing certain persons not to employ the plaintiff.

It was proved at the trial that according to the terms of the plaintiff's employment he could be dismissed without notice. The jury decided that the defendants had no intention of injuring the plaintiff, but had induced his employers to break their contract with him and to cease to employ him without justifiable reason. They accordingly found a verdict for the plaintiff for £40 damages, for which judgment was given. The defendants appealed, asking for judgment or a new trial. The Court of Appeal said that the plaintiff had assented to an agreement, and then had accepted employment contrary to the provisions of that agreement. By the terms of that employment he was not entitled to notice of dismissal, and therefore his dismissal was not a breach of contract. The defendants had no intention of injuring the plaintiff, but were acting in a lawful manner in protecting the interests of their own union. Therefore the judgment was set aside and judgment entered for the defendants.—*Buckley v. Morrell and others*, Court of Appeal, March 6th, 1907.

(4) Miscellaneous.

CONTRACT OF HIRING: DISMISSAL FOR REFUSAL TO WORK: WAGES PAYABLE.

A man was employed by a colliery company as a "putter," his work being to draw coal in tubs underground. His wages depended on the number of tubs drawn over a particular distance, and were payable fortnightly, though the amount due was ascertained each day. The service was terminable by fourteen days' notice. The practice was that on the Thursday following the termination of a fortnight a statement of the sums earned (called a pay note) was handed to each putter to be checked, and the amount due was paid on the Friday. On Thursday, July 12th, 1906, pay notes showing the wages due for the fortnight from June 23rd to July 7th were handed to the putters. One of the putters disputed the accuracy of his pay note, and in consequence all the putters refused to work on the Friday. The man in question abstained from work along with the others, although he had no personal grievance whatever. The company informed the men that they had broken their contracts of service and forfeited all wages due since July 7th. Accordingly on Monday, July 16th, the men presented themselves as prepared to work. They were told that they would not be allowed to go down unless they signed fresh contracts of service. On the Tuesday, however, they were allowed to go down without prejudice. On Thursday, July 26th, pay notes were given for the fortnight from July 7th to 21st, but not including any wages for July 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th. The putter in question then brought an action in the County Court against the company for wages due to him in respect of those four days (on which he had admittedly worked) and also for damages for not being allowed to work on Monday, July 16th. At the trial it was admitted that in the course of the last eight years, the mine had been laid idle in a similar manner no less than six times, but that the company had never required the men to sign fresh contracts in consequence. The County Court judge gave judgment for the plaintiff on both heads of claim, and the company appealed.

The High Court held that the plaintiff was entitled to recover the wages claimed in respect of the four days upon which he had worked; but that the refusal of the plaintiff to work on the Friday was inconsistent with his contract of service, that it justified his summary dismissal, and that he was therefore not entitled to damages for the refusal of the defendants to allow him to work on the Monday.—*Parvin v. South Hetton Coal Co., Ltd.*, King's Bench Division, March 22nd and 23rd.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom, for the fourth quarter of 1906, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £8,317,318, an increase of 6·5 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1905, and of 20·9 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1901 (i.e. five years ago).

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,940,854, an increase of 21·7 per cent. on the fourth quarter of 1905, and of 66·7 per cent. on that of 1901.

The following Table gives details for the three Societies:—

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales.				
	In 4th quarter of			Percentage increase in 1906 as compared with	
	1906.	1905.	1901.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	6,413,779	5,925,945	4,839,609	8·2	32·5
Manufacturing " ...	1,264,773*	972,434*	674,493*	30·1	87·5
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	1,899,350	1,877,139	1,557,892	1·2	21·9
Manufacturing " ...	632,162*	589,515*	489,851*	7·2	29·1
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE:—					
Manufacturing Departments	43,919*	32,445*	†	35·4	—
IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	4,189	4,883	4,039	14·2	3·7
Totals—Distributive Depts. ...	8,317,318	7,807,967	6,401,540	6·5	29·9
" Manufacturing " ...	1,940,854*	1,594,394*	1,164,344*	21·7	66·7
Grand Total ...	10,258,172	9,402,361	7,565,884	9·1	38·6

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.

† In 1901 this department was carried on exclusively by the English Wholesale Society.

‡ Decrease.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources, and the figures are summarised in the following Tables:—

	2nd Apr., 1907.			1st Mar., 1907.			1st Apr., 1906.		
	Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.		
	High est.	Low est.	Mean	High est.	Low est.	Mean	High est.	Low est.	Mean
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	5	4	4·7	5	4	4·7	5½	4	4·8
E. & N.E. ...	5	4	4·6	5	4	4·6	5	4	4·9
S.E. ...	5	4	4·6	5	4	4·6	5½	4	4·9
S.W. ...	5	4½	4·9	5	4½	4·9	5½	4½	5·1
W. & W.C. ...	5	5	5·0	5	5	5·0	5½	4½	5·3
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4	5·0	6	4	5·0	6	4½	5·0
Midlands ...	5½	4	4·8	5½	4	4·8	5	4	4·9
Eastern Counties ...	5½	4½	4·8	5½	4½	4·8	5½	4½	5·0
Southern Counties ...	6	5	5·4	6	5	5·4	6	5	5·6
S. Western Counties and Wales	5½	4	4·9	5½	4	4·9	5½	4	4·9
Scotland ...	6	4½	5·3	6	4½	5·3	6½	5	5·6
Great Britain ...	6	4	4·9	6	4	4·9	6½	4	5·1

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

From the following Table, it will be seen that compared with a month ago, no change in the price of bread has occurred in any of the towns tabulated. As compared with a year ago, the price per 4lbs. is ¾d. less in eight towns—4 in Scotland, 3 in England, and 1 in Ireland, while in the Potteries the price is ½d. higher.

PRICE OF BREAD IN 28 LARGE TOWNS.

Place.	Predominant Price at April 2nd, 1907	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4lbs.
		d.	d.		
Birmingham ...	5	...	...	...	...
Bolton ...	5	...	...	...	...
Bristol ...	5	...	...	Oct. '05	— ½
Cardiff ...	5	...	...	...	...
Derby ...	4½	...	...	...	...
Gateshead ...	5	...	...	...	...
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	5	...	...	Feb. '04	+ ½
Ipswich ...	5	...	...	...	...
Leeds ...	5	...	— ½	Sept. '06	—
Liverpool ...	5	...	...	...	...
Manchester ...	4½	...	...	...	...
Middlesbro' ...	5	...	— ½	Feb. '07	— ½
Newcastle ...	5	...	...	Jan. '06	— 1
Norwich ...	4½	...	...	...	...
Nottingham ...	5	...	...	...	...
Oldham ...	4½	...	...	July '04	— ½
Plymouth ...	5	...	...	Sept. '03	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	5	...	...	Feb. '05	— ½
Potteries ...	5½	...	...	...	...
Wolverhampton ...	4½	...	+ ½	April '07	+ ½
Aberdeen ...	4	...	— ½	Feb. '07	— ½
Dundee ...	4½	...	— ½	Dec. '06	— ½
Edinburgh ...	5	...	— ½	Aug. '06	— ½
Glasgow ...	5	...	— ½	July '06	— ½
Belfast ...	5	...	— ½	Sept. '06	— ½
Dublin ...	5	...	...	Dec. '05	— ½

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

The imports of wheat from September 1st, 1906, to March 31st, 1907, amounted to 46,904,400 cwts., or 1,179,778 cwts. more than in the corresponding period of 1905-6. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during the period September 1st, 1906, to March 31st, 1907, amounted to 8,075,070 cwts., or 1,313,830 cwts. less than in September-March, 1905-6.

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Average Declared Value.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1906.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	
March ...	6 7	7 2½	9 8½	9 8½	
February ...	6 2	6 11¼	9 5½	8 10	
March ...	6 4	6 10½	9 3½	8 9½	

PRICES AND WAGES IN COAL AND IRON TRADES.

THE results of the last ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron, being the prices upon which wages are regulated, are given in the Table below.

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with			
		Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.	Northumberland:— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Dec., 1906—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
		Feb., 1907	7 7½	+ 0 8½	+ 1 4½
Pig Iron.	Cleveland ...	1907.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
		Jan.-Mar.	55 2½	+ 1 9½	+ 4 9½
Manufactured Iron.	North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	1907.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
		Jan.-Feb.	74 1¼	+ 1 3½	+ 7 6½
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets, plates, strips, etc.)	West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)	1907.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
		Jan.-Feb.	142 8½	+ 3 1½	+ 18 1½

Coal.—The average price of Northumberland coal for the three months, December, 1906—February, 1907, was 7s. 7½d. per ton, which showed an advance of 8d. as compared with the previous audit, and of 1s. 4½d. on that of a year ago.

Pig Iron.—The net average invoice price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron for the three months January-March, 1907, was 55s. 2½d. per ton. This shows an advance of 1s. 9½d. on the previous three months, and of 4s. 9½d. on the price of the three months January-March, 1906.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the ascertained average selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in January and February, 1907, was 139s. 0½d. per ton, which was 4s. 1¼d. higher than for the previous audit, and about 12s. 5½d. higher than a year ago.

* No ascertainment for the regulation of wages was published for the months of January and February, 1906.

18s. 1¼d. higher than a year ago. As a result of these ascertainment the wages of puddlers and millmen in each of these districts have been advanced by 3d. per ton and 2½ per cent. respectively.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Month ended 31st Mar.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907, as compared with	
	1905.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	19,940,931	19,556,523
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	15,592,929	19,348,067
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	13,211,980	14,149,596
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	212,842	207,444
Total value of Imports	48,958,682	53,261,630

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Month ended 31st Mar.,	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907, as compared with	
	1905.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	1,350,200	1,471,372
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	2,966,941	3,637,904
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	23,370,216	26,087,588
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	383,466	454,298
Total value of Exports of British produce	28,070,823	31,651,162

The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce amounted to £6,812,209 in March, 1905; £7,276,397 in March, 1906; and £8,110,260 in March, 1907.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended March 30th, 1907, amounted to £4,442,468, an increase of £52,670 (or 1·2 per cent.) as compared with March, 1906.

For the thirteen weeks ended March 30th, 1907, the receipts were £13,986,228, an increase of £357,244 (or 2·6 per cent.) as compared with the first three months of 1906.

English Lines:—	4 weeks ended Mar. 30th, 1907.		13 weeks ended Mar. 30th, 1907.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1906.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1906.
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London and N. Staffs.	1,651,512	+ 8,187	5,373,485	+ 165,251
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury	472,027	- 3,982	1,531,847	+ 35,606
LANCS. and Yorks., and N. Eastern	838,907	+ 39,821	2,562,906	+ 111,542
L. & S.W., and Gt. Western	642,500	- 2,600	2,000,700	+ 22,700
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	153,914	- 843	480,763	- 3,271
Scottish Lines:— Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	563,595	+ 7,037	1,680,959	+ 9,142
Irish Lines:— Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	120,013	+ 5,050	355,568	+ 16,274
Total ...	4,442,468	+ 52,670	13,986,228	+ 357,244

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

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-two new disputes began in March, 1907, compared with 37 in February, 1907, and 20 in March, 1906. By the 32 disputes, 5,311 workpeople were directly and 4,045 indirectly affected, and these figures when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before March, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 12,177 workpeople involved in trade disputes during March, 1907, compared with 12,809 in February, 1907, and 28,753 in March, 1906.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying ...	4	1,500	...	1,500
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	6	772	1,280	2,052
Cotton Weaving ...	8	1,070	914	1,984
Flax and Jute Manufacture ...	8	1,202	1,851	3,053
Other Trades ...	6	767	...	767
Total, March, 1907 ...	32	5,311	4,045	9,356
Total, February, 1907 ...	37	5,234	2,485	7,719
Total, March, 1906 ...	20	4,343	252	4,595

Causes.—Of the 32 new disputes, 13 arose on demands for increased wages, 1 on an objection to reduction in wages, and 8 on other wages questions, 6 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 2 on details of working arrangements, and 2 on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 24 new disputes, directly affecting 3,250 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, directly affecting 237 persons. Of these 30 new and old disputes, 12, directly involving 1,182 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 11, directly involving 1,376 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 7, directly involving 929

persons, were compromised. In the case of 2 other disputes, directly involving 402 persons, work has been resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in March of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 45,800 working days. In addition, 59,600 working days were lost during March owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 105,400 working days, as compared with 117,400 in the previous month, and 181,800 in the corresponding month of 1906.

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

Groups of Trades.	1906.			1907.		
	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 ...	5	518	24,400	5	117	3,600
Mining and Quarrying...	13	2,374	313,000	23	9,447	129,800
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	17	4,337	41,300	19	4,295	104,400
Textile ...	22	23,067	212,300	66	19,446	155,900
Clothing ...	10	504	11,500	10	1,189	11,600
Transport ...	2	99	400	4	1,592	4,300
Other Trades ...	8	260	5,300	10	1,302	16,900
Total ...	77	31,159	608,200	137	37,388	426,500

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1907.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object ‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Shipbuilding— Platers' Helpers and Labourers, Other Shipyard Workers	Middlesbrough	250	1,120	25 Mar.	6	For reinstatement of one labourer ...	Work resumed unconditionally.
Cotton Weaving— Beamers, Weavers, Winders, Spinners and Cardroom Operatives	Burnley ...	9	840	2 Mar.	2½	Alleged "bad material" ...	Majority of strikers replaced.
Jute Manufacture— Spinners, Preparers, Reelers, Winders, Batchers and Mechanics	Dundee ...	415	20	6 Mar.	3	For advance in wages in excess of the recent general advance	Work resumed on employer's terms.
Spinners, Preparers, Winders, Weavers, Mechanics, &c.	Dundee ...	358	890	5 Mar.	3		
Spinners, Shifters, and Other Workpeople	Dundee ...	100	640	5 Mar.	6		
Pottery Trade— Sanitary Pressers	N. Staffs. ...	650	...	25 Mar.	...	For advance in making price for one article	No settlement reported.

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

REPORT OF JEWISH BOARD OF GUARDIANS (LONDON).

THE Report of the (London) Jewish Board of Guardians for the year 1906 states that 618 "cases," comprising 1,986 individuals, were assisted to emigrate during the year; and that 590 "cases," comprising 993 individuals, were assisted to return to the Continent. The emigrants, who nearly all went to Canada or the United States, were mostly the wives and children of men who had been emigrated in previous years. In addition, 839 persons were emigrated, and 577 repatriated, under the auspices of the Joint

Committee of the Russo-Jewish Fund and the Jewish Board of Guardians.

The Industrial Committee apprenticed 350 children (242 boys and 108 girls) during the year; the total number now apprenticed is 952 (782 boys and 170 girls). The boys are mostly engaged in the furniture and upholstery trades (233), printing (61), and in watch-making and jewellery, tailoring, engineering, and other metal trades, &c.; and the girls in millinery and dress-making. The Committee report increasing difficulty in finding suitable places for apprentices.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages. Changes reported in March.—The net effect of all the changes reported in March was an increase of £25,622 per week, as compared with an increase of £21,023 in February, 1907, and one of £1,700 per week in March, 1906.

Hours. The changes in hours of labour reported during March 1907, affected 530 workpeople, of whom 30 had their working time increased by 120 hours per week, and 500 had their working time decreased by 4,500 hours per week.

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

affected by these reported changes, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, No., £, 1906, 1907. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron, etc., Mining and Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, etc.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during March 1907, affected 530 workpeople, of whom 30 had their working time increased by 120 hours per week, and 500 had their working time decreased by 4,500 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Rates of Wages in March.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1907, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Rows include Coal Mining, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Glass Bottle.

IMPORTANT CHANGES REPORTED AFTER MARCH 31st. (Full particulars will appear in the GAZETTE for May.)

Coal Mining.—It has been arranged that the wages of miners in Northumberland should be advanced 5 per cent. on April 8th or 15th, making their wages 20 per cent. above the standard of 1879.

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

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1907, was 255, an increase of 18 as compared with the previous month, and an increase of 3 as compared with March, 1906.

The mean number for March in the years 1902-1906 was 244, the maximum year being 1905 with 276 deaths, and the minimum 1902, with 204 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during March, 1907, was 94, as compared with 225 a month ago, and 144 in March, 1906. The mean for the five years 1902-1906, was 172, the highest number being 201 in 1905, and the lowest 141 in March, 1904.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Mar., 1907, Feb., 1907, Mar., 1906, Month ago, Year ago), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1907, as compared with a. Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, Accidents reported under Factory Act, etc.

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Board of Trade is issued by the Registrar-General of Seamen each month, and copies may be seen at all Free Libraries, Mercantile Marine Offices, and Sailors' Homes throughout the country.

The Return shows the name of every seaman whose death has been reported during the month, together with his age, nationality, and last place of abode; the cause, date, and place of death; and the name, official number, and port of registry of the ship on which he was serving.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during March was 38, there being 26 cases of lead poisoning, 2 of arsenic poisoning, and 10 of anthrax.

During the three months ended March, 1907, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 116, as compared with 173 in 1906. The number of deaths during the same period was 11, as against 20 in 1906.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of Mar., 1907, Three Months ended March, 1907, 1906), Deaths (Month of Mar., 1907, Three Months ended March, 1907, 1906). Rows include Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, Anthrax.

Wool ... Handling of Horsehair ... Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c) ... Total Anthrax ...

*The two persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in March, 1907, were females. †Included in this total are two cases affecting dock labourers.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

(I.) LABOUR BUREAUX IN LONDON AFFILIATED TO THE CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

Table with columns: Name of Exchange, No. of individuals who registered during 5 weeks ended 29 Mar., 1907, No. of Situations offered during 5 weeks ended 29 Mar., 1907, No. of Situations filled during 5 weeks ended 29 Mar., 1907, No. of individuals on Register on 29 Mar., 1907.

Table with columns: Name of Exchange, Building Trades, Metal Work, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Situations Registered, No. on Register.

(II.) OTHER LABOUR BUREAUX.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during Mar., 1907, Situations offered by Employers during Mar., 1907, Workpeople found Work during Mar., 1907.

† Including Boys, Women, and Girls.

Employment found for Workpeople in March by 22 Bureaux.

Table with columns: Capacity in which employed, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total. Includes categories like Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army.

Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 22 Bureaux at the end of March, 1907.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, Men (Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Porters, Messengers, Other Occupations), Lads and Boys, Women and Girls.

(III.) WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

DURING March 662 fresh applications for work (280 from domestic servants, &c.) were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 827 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 232 persons, of whom 123 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 232 situations found for applicants 185 were of a more or less permanent character, while 47 were temporary only.

The work done by the Bureaux during March is shown in the following Table :-

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during Mar., Situations offered by Employers during Mar., Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily).

Summary by Bureaux.

Summary by Occupations.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

The number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected urban districts named below, on one day in March, 1907, corresponded to a rate of 224 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with February, 1907, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 6,202 (1.5 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 3. Decreases took place in 29 districts, and only 1 district (Aberdeen) showed an increase. The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 2,797 (1.6 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers a decrease of 3,405 (1.5 per cent.).

Compared with March, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 11,902 (2.9 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 9. Decreases took place in 25 districts, the most marked being in West Ham (72 per 10,000), Leicester (43 per 10,000), and in the Dundee and Dunfermline district (31 per 10,000). There were slight increases in 7 districts. The number of indoor paupers increased by 1,585 (0.9 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 13,487 (5.8 per cent.).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000 of Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

Table for ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolitan districts: West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District.

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

Table for SCOTLAND: Paisley District, Paisley & Greenock District, Edinburgh & Leith District, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie.

Table for IRELAND: Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District, Galway District.

* 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.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Wingate Grange Colliery Explosion. Reports to Home Department on the circumstances of, on October 14th, 1906. By A. H. Ruegg, K.C., R. D. Bain, and J. B. Atkinson. [Cd. 3379: pp. 35, with plates: price 1s. 2d.]

Inundation of Water at Caradog Vale Colliery. Reports to Home Department on circumstances of, on 26th June, 1906. By Sir D. Brynmor Jones, M.P., and F. A. Gray. [Cd. 3371: pp. 20: price 7d.]

Wages and Effects of Deceased Seamen. Account of the sums received and paid by the Board of Trade from 1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906. [H.C. 51: pp. 2: price 1d.]

Life Assurance Companies. Return. Statement of Accounts and of Life Assurance and Annuity Business during the year ended 31st December, 1906. Shows the transactions of 18 Industrial Life Companies. [H.C. 58: pp. iv. + 539: price 4s. 7d.]

Agricultural Statistics, 1906. Vol. XLI. Part II. Returns of Produce of Crops in Great Britain, with Summaries for the United Kingdom. [Cd. 3372: pp. 76: price 5d.]

Returns of the Number of Agricultural Holdings in each County of Great Britain in 1890, 1895, 1903 and 1906. [Cd. 3408: pp. : price 1s. 6d.]

Irish Land Commission. Return of Proceedings under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883-1891, and other Acts during the month of December, 1906. [Cd. 3357: pp. 15: price 2d.]

Pauperism (England and Wales). Statement for February, 1907. Number of Paupers in receipt of relief at end of February, from 1867-1907; comparative statement of the number of Paupers in February, 1907 and 1906. [H.C. 231: pp. 7: price 1d.]

Statistical Abstract for the British Empire in each year from 1891 to 1905. Third Number. Area and population, trade, shipping, production, and consumption of staple articles, &c. [Cd. 3328: pp. x. + 220: price 1s.]

Fifty-fourth Report of the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales. [Cd. 3389: pp. 66: price 3s. 6d.]

Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended 31st December, 1906. [Cd. 3342: pp. 11: price 1s. 6d.]

Annual Accounts of the Royal Army Clothing Factory for the year 1905-6. Number of garments of various classes made, rate of making, total cost, &c. [H.C. 37: pp. 31: price 3d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Transvaal.—Annual Report of the Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, 1905-6. [Cd. 3338: pp. 47: price 5d.]

Commonwealth of Australia. Report of the Royal Commission on Old-Age Pensions. [Cd. 3341: pp. 9: price 1s. 6d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

Queensland.—Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the year ended 31st March, 1906. Factory and boiler inspection; number of factories, persons employed and average weekly wages at groups of ages. [Brisbane: G. A. Vaughan, Government Printer: pp. 48: price 1s. 3d.]

Western Australia.—Report of Proceedings by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, under the Friendly Societies, Benefit Building Societies, Co-operative and Provident Societies, Workers' Compensation and Truck Acts during the year 1905. [Perth, W.A.: F. W. Simpson, Government Printer: pp. 43.]

Canada.—House of Commons Debates, February 14, 19, 26, 27, March 1, 11, 15 and 19. Upon a Bill "to aid in the prevention and settlement of strikes and lock-outs in coal mines and industries connected with public utilities."

The Labour Gazette, February 1907. Articles; Labour Organizations formed and dissolved in Canada during 1906; Co-operative Bank at Levis, Quebec, &c.

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United States. New Jersey. Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour and Industries of New Jersey for the year ended 31st October, 1906. Statistics of manufactures, number of wage earners, earnings, hours worked, power used, &c.; disputes, changes in wages, trade union statistics, apprenticeship rules of trade unions, &c. [Camden: Sinnickson, Chew & Sons, Printers: pp. 576.]

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Journal of the French Labour Department, February, 1907. Contains article on French National Savings Bank in 1904.

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Journal of the German Labour Department, March, 1907. Contains articles on Labour Departments in various Countries, and on wages in Prussian Mines during last twenty years.

Methods of Industrial Conciliation. Society for Social Reform, 1907. [Jena, Verlag von Gustav Fischer: pp. 239: price 1s. 6d.]

Report for the Financial Year 1905 on Prussian State Mines. Contains statistics of wages of Prussian Miners for 1885-1904. Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 1907. [Berlin: pp. 76.]

Statistics of Wages, &c., of Bricklayers and Masons in Germany in 1905, and Wages and Hours Agreements in 1891-1905. Central Union of Bricklayers and Masons of Germany, 1906. [Hamburg: Verlag: Vorstand des Zentral Verbandes der Maurer Deutschlands (Th. Bömelburg): pp. xxxix + 372.]

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Hours of Labour in October, 1905, in Ironing Works, and in Laundries other than factories or workshops employing Motor-driven Machinery. Labour Department, 1907. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: pp. 344.]

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Journal of the Austrian Labour Department. January, 1907. Contains articles on disputes in 1906, and wages and hours in mines in 1905.

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Journal of the Italian Labour Department. February, 1907. Contains first report (for last six weeks of 1906) by newly organised Factory Inspectorate.

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Reports of Chambers of Labour in 1905. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante, N.V.: pp. 577.]

Wages and Hours of Labour in State Works in Holland in 1905. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: pp. 94: price 1s. 3d.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department. February, 1907. Contains Statistics of Industrial Accidents in 1905.

Russia.

Journal of the Finnish Labour Department. January, 1907. First quarterly issue of this journal. Contains articles on labour disputes in Finland, 1890-1906, and workmen's benefit societies, 1899-1904.

Switzerland.

Swiss Census of December 1st, 1900. Vol. III. Population classified according to Occupations. Federal Statistical Bureau, 1907. [Berne: Imprimerie Gustave Grunau, en commission chez A. Francke, libraire à Berne: pp. xlix. + 460, with maps.]

Movement of Population in Zürich, 1899-1903. Statistical Office of Zürich. [Kommissionsverlag Rascher & Cie: pp. 144, with two diagrams: price 1s. 7d.]

Argentine Republic.

Labour Questions. Industrial Union of Argentine. [Buenos Aires: Imprenta y Litografía "La Buenos Aires," 260, Calle Bolívar: pp. 64.]

General.

Journal of the International Labour Office, January-June, 1906. Contains account of Industrial Legislation in various countries.

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3745. *Trade and Agriculture of Poland and Lithuania for the year 1906.* Notes on industries, strikes, &c. [Cd. 3283-6: pp. 47: price 2½d.]

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

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING MARCH.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in March was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 7; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 18; under the Friendly Societies Act, 22; under the Building Societies Acts, 1; in all 48.

Among the new Societies registered in March were the following:—

Trade Unions.—*England.*—4, viz., Manchester and Salford District Building Industries Federation, 86, Fenney Street, Higher Broughton, Manchester; Liverpool Independent Operative French Polishers' Society, 23, Ranelagh Street, Liverpool; Midland Assoc. of Blastfurnacemen, 59, Leonard Street, Burslem; Variety Artistes' Federation, 28, Wellington Street, Strand, W.C. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Hawick Hosiery Union, St. Mary's Hall, Millfrath, Hawick. *Ireland.*—2, viz., United Stationary Engine Drivers', Cranemen's, and Firemen's Trade Union, Trades Hall, Capel Street, Dublin; Londonderry Shirt, Collar and Underclothing Cutters' Trade Union, Church Wall, Londonderry.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England.*—11, viz., *Co-operative Productive Society* (1): Anglo-Saxon Bakery and Provident Soc., Ltd., 64, Milton Road, Gravesend. *Co-operative Distributive Society* (1): Toddington Co-operative Soc., Ltd., Bradford House, High Street, Toddington, Dunstable. *Co-operative Agricultural Societies* (3): Whitby and Dist. Farmers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Roxby, Staithes, Yorks; East Bassetlaw Farmers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Mr. J. J. Fletcher's, Rampton, Lincoln; Loftus Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Liverton Lodge, Loftus, Yorks. *Working Men's Clubs* (2). *Miscellaneous* (4). *Scotland.*—2, viz., *Co-operative Agricultural Society* (1): Harray Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Mill of Harray, Orkney. *Miscellaneous* (1). *Ireland.*—5, viz., *Co-operative Agricultural Societies* 4: Shanaglisick Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Shanaglisick, Coleraine; Glenlough Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Lissanure Mills, Edgeworthstown; Ballinahinch Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Ballinahinch. *Miscellaneous* (1).

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—19, viz., Mission Hall New Road Loan Soc., London, S.W.; Nottingham Orchestral Society's Social Club, Nottingham; Dobcross Brass Band Working Men's Club and Inst., Dobcross, Yorks; Barnsley and Dist., Trades Council Club and Inst., Barnsley; Dewsbury Trades and Friendly Club and Inst., Dewsbury; Hopetown Working Men's Club and Inst., Normanton; Hemsworth West End Working Men's Club and Inst., Hemsworth; North Leeds Tariff Reform Working Men's Club, Leeds; Llantrisant and Dist. Social and Athletic Working Men's Club and Inst., Llantrisant, Glam.; Pantdu (Aberavon) and Dist. Working Men's Social Club, Aberavon, Port Talbot; Cuddington New Provident Benefit Soc., Cuddington, Aylesbury, West Kirby Working Men's Club and Inst. Permanent Tontine and Benefit Soc., Birkenhead; Ealing and Dist. Juvenile Foresters' Friendly Soc., Ealing, W.; James Neylon Friendly Soc., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Caledonian Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Leeds Pride of Israel Indus. Friendly Soc., Leeds; Marchwiell Guild Tontine Benefit Soc., Marchwiell, Wrexham; British Mutual Collecting Soc., Cardiff; Borough of Shoreditch Sick Benefit Soc., Hoxton, N. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—3, viz., Harolds Cross Social Club, Dublin; New Ireland Friendly Soc., Dublin; Cornamona Credit Soc., Cornamona, Co. Galway.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in March of		
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Registry Cancelled.
Trade Unions	1	...	...
Industrial and Provident Societies	1	4	1
Friendly Societies... ..	...	18	11
" Branches ... ..	...	31	...
Building "	2	1	...

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

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