

LABOUR GAZETTE

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

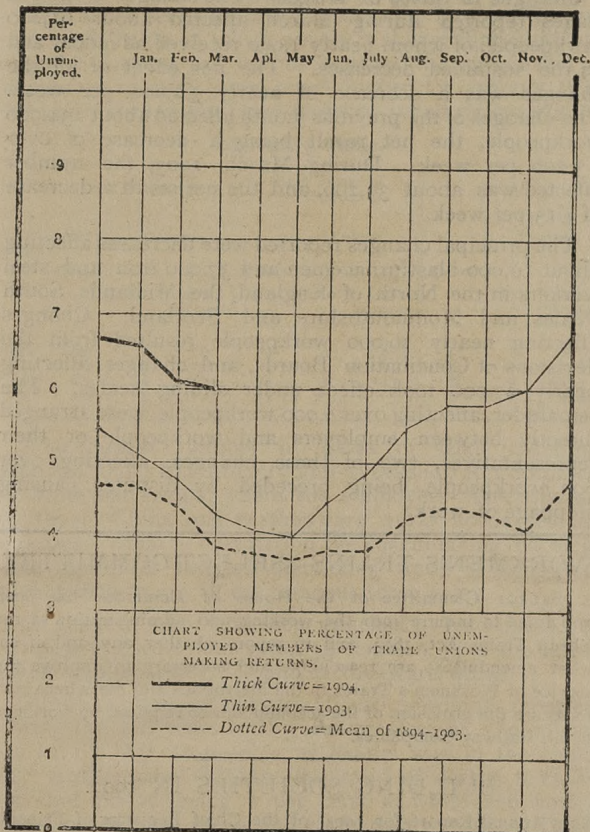
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PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[Based on 4,009 returns, viz.: 2,677 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,246 from Trade Unions, and 86 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT generally showed a slight improvement in March as compared with the preceding month, due in some measure to seasonal causes. The upward tendency noted last month in the metal and shipbuilding industries was maintained, and there was some improvement in employment for coal miners. On the other hand, it continued bad in the cotton trade, with much short time.

As compared with a year ago employment still shows a general decline, and the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is higher than the mean percentage for March in the past ten years.

In the 221 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 567,232 making returns, 33,950 (or 6.0 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.1 per cent. in February, and with 4.3 per cent. in March, 1903. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of March during the ten years 1894-1903 was 3.9.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in March showed a general improvement

as compared with both a month ago and with a year ago. At collieries employing 505,667 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended March 19th was 5.28 per week, as compared with 5.19 days in February, and 5.10 days in March, 1903. The number of workpeople employed at pits for which returns were received for both periods was 1.7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. At the 135 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended March 19th was 5.83, as compared with 5.80 in February, and 5.79 in March, 1903. The number of workpeople employed was, however, 3.8 per cent. less than a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry improved slightly during March, but it is still below the level of a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 304 furnaces, employing about 21,440 workpeople, were in blast at the end of March, as compared with 301 at the end of February and 328 at the end of March, 1903.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment shows an improvement as compared with a month ago, and is about the same as a year ago. At the 195 works covered by the returns received from employers, 74,170 workpeople were employed during the week ended March 26th. The total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 3.1 per cent. as compared with February, but a decline of 0.6 per cent. compared with the last week of March, 1903.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in the tinplate industry shows little change compared with February, but is not so good as a year ago. At the end of March, 364 mills were working, as compared with 361 at the end of February, and 378 in March, 1903. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 364 mills was 18,200.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally continues dull, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 6.4 at the end of March, as compared with 6.5 in February and 4.6 in March, 1903.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment continued to improve slightly during the month. It is, however, still bad and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March was 11.8, as compared with 12.6 in February and 9.8 in March, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues dull. Compared with a month ago a slight improvement is indicated, but employment is worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 6.7 at the end of March, compared with 6.9 at the end of February and 3.4 in March, 1903. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 9.2 at the end of March, compared with 9.3 at the end of February and 7.5 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally in these trades was dull, being worse than a

year ago, but better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March was 5.9, as compared with 7.7 in February and 3.9 per cent. a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment during March remained fair on the whole. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 3.4, as compared with 4.1 in February and 4.2 per cent in March, 1903.

Employment in the *Papermaking* trade remained fairly good, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 2.9, the same percentage as at the end of February. At the end of March, 1903, the percentage unemployed was 2.6.

Employment in the *Glass* trade remained bad in the bottle-making branch, and was slack on the whole in the flint-glass branch. In the *Pottery* trades it was fair. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it was quiet.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in March continued bad in both the *spinning* and *weaving* branches, and was much worse than a year ago. Owing to the continued high prices of American raw cotton, short time continued to be worked in the majority of spinning mills using it, but employment in mills using Egyptian cotton was good.

Employment in the *Woollen and Worsted* trades again shows a slight improvement compared with a month ago, but is worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 80,867 workpeople show an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade is still bad, but is better than a month ago; it is worse than a year ago. In the *Jute and Flax* trades it is moderate.

Leather Trades.—The returns show that there is no improvement in the general state of employment, which continues bad both in the preparatory and making-up branches of the trade, with much short time. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of March was 11.3, as compared with 11.2 at the end of February, and 6.3 at the end of March, 1903.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment shows little change compared with a month or a year ago. Returns from 492 firms employing 63,800 workpeople at the end of the month, and paying £246,160 in wages during the month, show an increase of 0.1 per cent. in numbers employed and of 0.4 per cent. in wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the returns show a decline of 0.3 per cent. in numbers employed, but practically no change in the amount of wages paid.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade has improved, but is worse than a year ago. In the ready-made branch it has improved, but is still unsatisfactory and worse than a year ago.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade has slightly improved but is still dull. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March was 4.3, as compared with 4.8 per cent. at the end of February, and 2.9 per cent. a year ago.

Agricultural Labourers were for the most part in regular employment, the weather being favourable for outdoor work during the greater part of the month.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during March remained moderate on the whole, but was slightly better than a month and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended March 26th was 12,938, an increase of 0.7 per cent. on the average for February, and of 1.8 per cent. on the average for March, 1903. The average daily number employed in March during the seven years 1897-1903 was 14,432.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during March, 1904, was 4,512, compared with 5,965 in February, 1904, and 19,665 in March, 1903.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 74,500 working days, compared with 67,000 in the previous month, and 233,700 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Fourteen disputes began in March, involving 1,305 workpeople, compared with 21 in February, 1904, and 31 in March, 1903.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 16 disputes, new and old, affecting 1,497 workpeople. Of these disputes, three, involving 66 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople: seven, involving 914 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and six, involving 517 persons, were compromised. In the case of one other dispute, terminating during the month, and involving 21 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during March affected about 61,000 workpeople, of whom nearly 1,900 received advances and 59,100 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of nearly £2,000 per week. The changes of the previous month affected about 134,900 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of over £3,200 per week. During March, 1903, the number affected was about 39,200, and the net result a decrease of £15 per week.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting about 10,000 blastfurnacemen and 37,000 iron and steel workers in the North of England, the Midlands, South Wales and Monmouthshire and Scotland. Changes affecting nearly 26,000 workpeople resulted from the decisions of Conciliation Boards, and changes affecting nearly 27,000 took effect under sliding scales. The remainder, affecting over 8,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, two of these changes, affecting over 600 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

WORKMEN'S TRAINS—SELECT COMMITTEE.

A SELECT Committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to inquire into the working and administration of the Cheap Trains Act, 1883, and to report whether any, and, if so, what amendments are reasonable and necessary to improve the service of Workmen's Trains in the Metropolis and elsewhere, and to secure the provision of the accommodation required by workmen by all Railway Companies.

BUILDING SOCIETIES IN 1902.

THE Annual Report for 1903* of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies upon Building Societies in the United Kingdom has been issued, and contains a summary of the Annual Returns received for the year 1902. From this it appears that there were in existence 2,241 societies (of which 2,174 were incorporated and 67 unincorporated).

Of these 2,190 made returns, showing an aggregate membership of 595,451 and receipts during the financial year amounting to £38,321,442. Of these societies 1,688 had made advances on mortgage during the year amounting to £9,059,822.

The total liabilities of the societies amounted to £64,039,910, of which £37,244,532 was due to shareholders and £23,045,875 to depositors and other creditors, the remaining £3,749,503 consisting of balances of undivided profit.

The assets consisted of £49,244,581 due upon mortgages, £14,662,506 of other assets, and £132,823 of deficit balances. As compared with 1901, the returns show an increase in liabilities to shareholders of £1,016,481, an increase in amount due to depositors of £674,619, and in balances of undivided profits of £126,990, while a decrease of £11,155 is shown in the aggregate deficit balances.

The above totals include the returns of 65 unincorporated societies (all in England) with a total membership of 55,779, and total receipts for the year amounting to £19,871,684, of which £18,509,369 were returned by one society in London. The total amount advanced on mortgage by these societies during the year was £569,252.

During 1903, 38 new societies were incorporated (27 in England, 9 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland).

* Ninth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Building Societies Acts for the year 1903. Part I. (H.C. 31 of 1904. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 5d.)

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN 1903*

DURING the period 1900-3 the annual number of cases of lead poisoning fell from 1,058 to 614, a decline of 42 per cent. The number of deaths resulting from these cases showed a fall of 50 per cent., viz., from 38 in 1900 to 19 in 1903. The proportion of deaths to cases was, however, higher in 1903 than in 1902.

The number of cases of other forms of industrial poisoning (mercurial, phosphorus and arsenic) fell from 34 in 1900 to 13 in 1903, and during 1903 no deaths resulted from cases of this description.

On the other hand, cases of anthrax have risen from 37 in 1900 to 47 in 1903, and the deaths in the same period from 7 to 12.

The above facts are brought together in the following summary Table, in which also it is shown that, although cases of anthrax are few in number, the proportion of deaths to cases is very much higher for anthrax than for lead poisoning or other forms of industrial poisoning.

Summary Table.

Year	Lead Poisoning †			Other Forms of Poisoning.			Anthrax.		
	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.	
		No.	Per cent. of cases		No.	Per cent. of cases		No.	Per cent. of cases.
1900	1,058	38	3.6	34	3	8.8	37	7	18.9
1901	863	34	3.9	31	1	2.9	39	10	25.6
1902	629	14	2.2	14	2	14.3	38	9	23.7
1903	614	19	3.1	13	—	—	47	12	25.5

The largest number of cases of lead poisoning reported under the Factory and Workshop Act occurred in white lead works, where 109 employees were affected in 1903. China and earthenware works accounted for 97 cases, † while 74 occurred in the coachmaking industry. The figure for the last-mentioned trade is somewhat higher than in any of the previous three years.

Of the total of 614 persons attacked by lead poisoning in 1903, 515 were males and 99 females, 54 of the latter being employed at china and earthenware works.

While the number of cases of lead poisoning reported during the four years 1900-3 was greatest at white lead works, the highest number of deaths was in the china and earthenware industry, the ratio of deaths to cases for that period being 2 per cent. at white lead works, and 4 per cent. at china and earthenware works. There were, however, a number of occupations affected by lead poisoning in which the ratio was higher, the proportion reaching 17 per cent. in glass cutting and polishing, in which 30 cases in all were reported in the four years. In file cutting the ratio of deaths to cases was 9 per cent.

The following Table shows the number of cases of lead, mercurial, phosphorus and arsenic poisoning, and of anthrax, reported in each of the four years 1900-3, classified according to the industries affected. With the exception of the figures for 1903, which have been compiled from the monthly Tables published in the LABOUR GAZETTE, the statistics are extracted from the Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Factories. The number of cases shown for any one year is the same as the number of persons attacked, second notifications of persons already included in a return within the preceding twelve months not being regarded as fresh cases. Such notifications numbered 28 in 1903.

* Section 73 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (previously section 29 of the Act of 1895), requires "every medical practitioner attending on or called in to visit a patient whom he believes to be suffering from lead, phosphorus, arsenical or mercurial poisoning or anthrax contracted in a factory or workshop," to notify the case to the Chief Inspector of Factories. By the same section the duty is imposed on the occupier of sending written notice of every such case to the inspector and certifying surgeon of the district. Lead poisoning in industries, therefore, outside the Factory Act, as in house painting, or if contracted from contaminated drinking-water, is not notifiable. As, however, lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers is common and industrial in origin, many such cases are notified, notwithstanding the limitation of the section.

† Cases reported under the Factory and Workshop Act.

‡ Details of the cases of lead poisoning in china and earthenware works during the years 1899 to 1903 are given in a return recently issued by the Home Office. (H.C., 103 of 1904. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1d.)

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	Cases.				Deaths.			
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
I.—Lead Poison'ng.								
1. Smelting of Metals ...	34	54	28	37	1	3	...	2
2. Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	17	17	12	11	1	...	...	...
3. Printing ...	18	23	19	13	2	1	...	2
4. File Cutting ...	40	46	27	24	3	7	1	2
5. Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware ...	5	10	11	14	...	...	...	...
6. White Lead Works ...	358	189	143	109	6	7	1	2
7. Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	19	14	13	6	...	...	...	...
8. China and Earthenware ...	200	106	87	97	8	5	4	3
8a. Litho Transfer Works ...	10	7	2	3	...	...	...	...
9. Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	7	11	8	4	...	3	2	...
10. Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	11	9	3	4	...	...	1	...
11. Electrical Accumulator Works ...	33	49	16	28	...	1	1	...
12. Paints and Colours ...	56	56	46	39	1	...	...	1
13. Coach Making ...	70	65	63	74	5	4	1	5
14. Shipbuilding ...	32	28	15	24	2	1	1	1
15. Paint used in other Industries ...	50	61	44	46	5	...	1	1
16. Other Industries ...	98	118	92	81	4	2	1	...
Total, Lead Poisoning	1,058	863	629	614	38	34	14	19
II.—Other Forms of Poisoning.								
Mercurial Poisoning—								
Barometer and Thermometer Making ...	1	6	1	3	...	...	...	...
Furriers' Processes ...	2	4	2	1	...	...	...	...
Other Industries ...	6	8	5	4	...	...	...	...
Total ...	9	18	8	8	...	...	...	...
Phosphorus Poisoning—								
Litho Match Works ...	3	4	1	...	...	...	2	...
Other Industries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	3	4	1	...	...	...	2	...
Arsenic Poisoning—								
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ...	7	3	5	3	...	...	...	...
Other Industries ...	15	9	...	2	3	1	...	...
Total ...	22	12	5	5	3	1	...	...
Total, Other Forms of Poisoning	34	34	14	13	3	1	2	...
III.—Anthrax.								
Wool Sorting ...	9	3	3	5	2	2	1	1
Wool Combing ...	...	3	9	15	...	2	1	4
Handling of Horsehair ...	12	9	10	7	3	1	2	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	9	20	11	12	1	5	5	1
Other Industries ...	7	4	5	8	1	...	...	5
Total, Anthrax	37	39	38	47	7	10	9	12

In addition to the cases included in the Table, 199 cases of lead poisoning (including 38 deaths) were reported among house painters and plumbers in the year 1900, 169 cases (including 41 deaths) in 1901, 179 cases (including 32 deaths) in 1902, and 201 cases (including 39 deaths) in 1903.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS IN BELGIUM.—NEW LAW.

UNDER a law passed on December 24, 1903, and coming into operation 6 months after the promulgation of Royal Decrees regulating its execution, conditions are fixed for compensating workpeople engaged in certain trades and occupations for the loss of working capacity resulting from accidents sustained in the course of and caused by their employment, and for compensating the families of workpeople killed by such accidents. The term "workpeople" includes apprentices, whether receiving wages or not, as well as other employees, subject to the same risks as the "workpeople" and receiving salaries not exceeding £96 per annum.

The law applies (I) to certain specified trades, including building, mining, quarrying, metal smelting and manufacture, the glass, pottery and chemical trades, leather tanning and dressing, brewing and distilling, sugar manufacture, transport (by land or internal waterways) and warehousing, and in general, to all undertakings in which power-driven machinery is regularly used; (II) to those industrial establishments which are not enumerated under (I), and in which at

least 5 workpeople are usually employed, as also to agricultural undertakings and commercial establishments where at least 3 workpeople are usually employed, and (III) to such other undertakings, not included under (I) or (II), as shall, upon the recommendation of the Commission on Labour Accidents (see below), be declared, by Royal Decree, to be dangerous.

The law does not apply to seamen and other persons employed in sea-going vessels.

The compensation payable under the law is as follows: When the accident causes temporary total incapacity lasting more than a week, the injured person becomes entitled, from the day following the accident, to a daily allowance equal to one-half of his (or her) average daily wage. If the temporary incapacity is or becomes partial, the compensation is at the rate of one-half the difference between the wages earned before the accident and those earned during such incapacity. If the incapacity is or becomes permanent, the injured person receives an annual allowance at the rate of one-half his (or her) annual earnings, commencing from the day when the incapacity is adjudged to have become permanent. After a period of 3 years, the annual allowance is replaced by a life annuity. The employer must defray the cost of medical attendance and medicines during the first 6 months after the accident.

When an accident proves fatal, a sum of £3 is to be paid for funeral expenses, and, in addition, a sum representing the capital value of an annuity at the rate of 30 per cent. of the annual earnings of the deceased, by way of compensation to the surviving dependents.

In fixing the amount of compensation, earnings in excess of £96 are left out of account, and in the case of apprentices and workpeople under 16 years of age, the annual earnings used as a basis for computing indemnities must not be taken as less than 365 francs (£14 12s.). The liability for the indemnities payable in respect of permanent incapacity or death falls entirely on the employer, unless he shall have contracted for their payment with an Insurance Society approved under the law, or with the National Savings and Pension Fund. Employers, who have not so contracted, are required (unless specially exempted under conditions to be determined hereafter) to contribute to a Special Insurance Fund to be instituted under the present law for the purpose of paying indemnities accruing under its provisions in cases where employers prove unable to do so.

Subject to certain conditions, employers, or the offices with which they are insured, may contract with recognised Friendly Societies for the payment of any indemnities under the law which accrue to the members of such societies during the first 6 months following an accident.

Every accident sustained by a workmen in the course of his employment, which causes, or may cause, death or incapacity, must be reported within 3 days to the factory inspector in writing by the employer or his representatives, and also to the Justice of the Peace or the Committee of Arbitration (see below).

The Justice of the Peace of the district, in which the accident occurred, is alone competent to hear actions with regard to the amount of compensation due to injured workpeople or their representatives, and also with regard to the revision of indemnities. But in the case of undertakings affiliated to recognised Mutual Associations of employers for purposes of accident insurance, claims may be referred to a Committee of Arbitration composed of a magistrate as president, and equal numbers of employers and workpeople.

A Technical Committee is to be instituted by Royal Decree at the Ministry of Industry and Labour, to be known as the "Commission on Labour Accidents." It will be composed of 11 members, including not less than two actuaries, a doctor, a representative of the employers and a representative of the workpeople, both elected by the Higher Council of Labour. Besides performing the duties which devolve upon it under the present law, the Commission will discuss all questions submitted to it by the Ministry on the subject of compensation for labour accidents.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

BREAD.

The returns as to the price of bread, furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of April, and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table below. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

Place.	1903.						1904.		Present Price, 1st April, 1904.
	1st April.	1st July.*	1st Aug.	1st Sept.	1st Oct.	1st Dec.*	1st March.*		
London ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	
Birmingham	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	
Bolton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Bristol ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Derby ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	
Gateshead	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Hudders-	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
field									
Hull ...	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4½ & 5½	
Ipswich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Leicester ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	
Liverpool...	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Manchester	4	4	4	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	
Middlesbro'	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Newcastle-	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
on-Tyne									
Norwich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Nottingham	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Oldham ...	4	4	4	4	4½	4½	4½	4½	
Plymouth...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Potteries ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	
Wolver'pton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Aberdeen ...	5	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Dundee ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Edinburgh	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Glasgow ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Belfast ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Dublin ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	

As compared with a month ago, the price remains the same at all the towns given in the Table, except at Dublin, where the prevailing price has been reduced from 6d. to 5½d. In London an increased number of shops are selling at 5½d.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months January, 1903, to March, 1904:—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.	
	Mean London Gazette Price.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
			Average Declared Value.	Average Declared Value.
	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1903.				
January ...	5 10	6 8½	9 3	9 2½
February ...	5 11	6 11	9 2	9 2
March ...	5 10½	6 11½	9 2½	9 2½
April ...	6 0½	6 8½	9 2½	9 2½
May ...	6 5	6 9½	9 3½	9 3½
June ...	6 5	6 9½	9 1½	9 1½
July ...	6 7½	6 9½	9 4½	9 4½
August ...	6 11	6 8½	9 4½	9 4½
September ...	6 6	6 9½	9 6½	9 6½
October ...	6 0½	6 9½	9 7	9 7
November ...	6 2½	6 9½	9 9½	9 9½
December ...	6 2½	6 8½	9 8½	9 8½
1904.				
January ...	6 3½	6 9½	9 9½	9 9½
February ...	6 3½	6 10½	9 9½	9 9½
March ...	6 7½	7 1	10 1½	10 1½

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 1st May, 1st June, 2nd November, 1903, or at 1st January, and 1st February, 1904, except at Wolverhampton, where the price per 4 lbs. was reduced ½d (5½d. to 5d.) at 2nd November, 1903.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September, 1903, to 31st March, 1904, amounted to 51,764,200 cwts. (12,078,313 quarters), compared with 47,583,650 cwts. (11,102,852 quarters) in the corresponding seven months of 1902-3. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the seven months September-March of 1903-4 amounted to 13,951,734 cwts., compared with 11,330,956 cwts. from 1st September to 31st March, 1902-3.

EMPLOYMENT AND OUTPUT AT COAL MINES.

The following Tables are based on an "advance proof" issued to the Press by the Home Office. They show the number of workpeople employed in and about mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and the production of coal in the United Kingdom in 1903, with comparative figures for the previous year.

Numbers employed.
Taking the United Kingdom as a whole, the number of persons employed in and about mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act was 842,066 in 1903, an increase of 2.09 per cent. on the figure for the previous year. Every district included in the Table below, except Staffordshire, showed an increase, the additional numbers employed being greatest in South Wales and Monmouth, Durham and Yorkshire, while the greatest proportionate increases occurred in Fife, and Notts. and Leicester.

District.	No. of Workpeople employed in Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act.*		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1903, as compared with 1902.	
	1902.	1903.	Number.	Per cent.
Northumberland ...	41,867	42,739	+ 872	+ 2.08
Durham ...	117,017	120,716	+ 3,699	+ 3.16
Yorkshire ...	114,639	117,003	+ 2,364	+ 2.06
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	93,387	95,366	+ 1,979	+ 2.13
Derbyshire ...	59,772	51,696	- 8,076	- 13.51
Notts. and Leicester ...	37,423	38,704	+ 1,281	+ 3.43
Staffs. ...	54,438	50,739	- 3,699	- 6.80
S. Wales and Monmouth ...	154,571	159,161	+ 4,590	+ 2.97
W. Scotland ...	75,442	76,054	+ 612	+ 0.81
Fife ...	16,933	17,834	+ 901	+ 5.32
Other Districts ...	71,303	72,114	+ 811	+ 1.14
United Kingdom ...	824,791	842,066	+ 17,275	+ 2.09

Output of Coal.

The total output in 1903 showed an increase of 3,238,520 tons, or 1.43 per cent. on that of the previous year. In Derby and Staffordshire decreases of 2.41 and 2.60 per cent. respectively took place. In all other districts the output increased, the proportionate rise being greatest in Fife (3.96 per cent.), Northumberland (3.46 per cent.), and Durham (3.06 per cent.). In the Lancashire and Cheshire and Notts. and Leicester districts little change is shown.

District.	Total Output of Coal in		Increase (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903, as compared with 1902.	
	1902.	1903.	Quantity.	Per cent.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Northumberland ...	11,619,027	12,021,315	+ 402,288	+ 3.46
Durham ...	34,808,460	35,873,268	+ 1,064,808	+ 3.06
Yorkshire ...	27,963,391	28,530,603	+ 567,212	+ 2.03
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	24,879,391	24,953,554	+ 74,163	+ 0.30
Derby ...	15,519,964	15,145,710	- 374,254	- 2.41
Notts. and Leicester ...	10,730,788	10,778,906	+ 48,118	+ 0.45
Staffs. ...	13,382,792	13,034,430	- 348,362	- 2.60
S. Wales and Monmouth ...	41,305,583	42,153,287	+ 847,704	+ 2.05
W. Scotland ...	24,102,656	24,551,335	+ 448,679	+ 1.86
Fife ...	6,134,171	6,376,085	+ 241,914	+ 3.96
Other Districts ...	16,638,758	17,103,998	+ 465,240	+ 2.80
United Kingdom ...	227,084,871	230,323,391	+ 3,238,520	+ 1.43

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

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

Compared with the previous ascertainment it will be seen that prices are lower in each district. Compared with a year ago the price of Northumberland coal has fallen about 12 per cent.; pig iron in Cumberland and Cleveland about 10 per cent.; and manufactured iron

* Including persons employed in ironstone, oil shale, fireclay, &c., mines. In 1902 the number employed in such mines was 14,004, or about 1.7 per cent. only of the total given in the Table. The details for 1903 are not yet available.

3 per cent. in the North of England, nearly 6 per cent. in the Midlands, and nearly 7 per cent. in West Scotland.

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.			Decrease of last Audit as compared with	
		Last Audit.*	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Dec.-Feb.	6 4½	6 9½	7 3½	0 5½	0 10½
Pig Iron.						
Cumberland ...	Jan.-Mar.	53 17½	53 5½	59 4½	0 3½	6 3½
Cleveland ...	Mar.	42 3½	44 1½	47 2½	1 9½	4 10½
Manufact'd Iron.						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)		120 6½	123 10½	124 3½	3 4½	3 9½
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips, &c.)	Jan.-Feb.	130 2½	134 3½	137 1½	4 0½	7 8½
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and rods)		117 1½	121 6½	123 5½	4 4½	8 3½

Changes in wages resulting from the recent ascertainment have taken place in Northumberland, where coal hewers' wages have been reduced by 2½ per cent. on "standard"; in Cumberland and Cleveland, where the wages of blastfurnacemen have been reduced by ½ per cent. and 2½ per cent., respectively, on "standard"; in the North of England, the Midlands, and West Scotland, where the rates of wages of puddlers have been reduced by 3d. per ton, and of millmen by 2½ per cent. For further particulars see pages 124-5. In the case of the North of England this is the first change which has taken place in the wages of puddlers and millmen since the end of March, 1902.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES.

(a) CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Plumbers at Wigan.
On October 26th, 1903, the Wigan branch of the United Operative Plumbers' Association gave notice to the Wigan Master Builders' Association for an advance of wages from 9d. to 10d. per hour, and on the same date the employers gave notice to the operatives for a reduction in the winter working hours and an alteration of the rule with regard to apprentices. In the following month the operatives gave a counter notice for alterations in the working hours and overtime rates.

The working rules at present in force provide that proposed alterations in rules, failing arrangement by a deputation from each side, shall be referred to an Arbitration Board of three employers and three operatives, and in the event of non-agreement to an umpire mutually agreed upon or appointed by the Board of Trade.

On March 14th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by the secretaries of the employers and operatives for the appointment of an umpire to deal with all matters in dispute. The Board of Trade on March 18th appointed Mr. T. Blashill, F.R.I.B.A., to act in that capacity. The arbitration was arranged to take place at the Municipal Buildings, Wigan, on April 15th.

(b) OTHER CASE.

Boot and Shoe Operatives at Leicester.
On 7th November, 1903, 64 lasters and finishers in the employ of a Leicester firm ceased work because of the dismissal of two female operatives, 92 clickers and pressmen and female machinists being indirectly affected. Work was resumed unconditionally on 16th and 17th November.

* Under the various sliding scale agreements, changes in wages, if any, resulting from these audits take place in the pig iron industry immediately after the period to which the audit relates, while in the manufactured iron trades they follow one month later. In Northumberland there is no sliding scale, but the ascertainment is taken into consideration by the Coal Trade Conciliation Board when determining the rate of wages of the miners.

The Employers' Federation complained of the action of the Operatives' Union in the matter, contending that there had been a breach of the Terms of Settlement; and Lord James, as Umpire, was asked to adjudicate the question.

Resolution 8 of the Terms of Settlement provides that no strike or lock-out shall be entered into on the part of any body of workmen, members of the National Union, or any manufacturer, represented on any Local Board of Arbitration.

On 26th March Lord James issued his award, the operative clauses of which were as follows:—

After hearing the representatives of the Federation and the National Union, I determine that a breach of the Terms of Settlement of April 19th, 1895, has been committed by the Leicester No. 1 Branch of the Union, and that a sum of £5, portion of the Guarantee Fund controlled by the deed of March 8th, 1898, be forfeited and paid to the Federated Associations in respect of such breach.

And I further determine that no sum be forfeited or paid in respect of the cos's of the reference or award.

CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTION AND PRODUCTION IN 1902.

The following Table showing the position at the end of 1902 of Workmen's Distributive and Productive Co-operative Societies, and of Agricultural and Dairy Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom, is based upon returns sent direct to the Labour Department, supplemented by particulars furnished by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and the Co-operative Union.

Details are given of 1,964 societies, with a total membership of 1,984,339 (including 5,844 societies) and sales and transfers during 1902 amounting to a total of £94,606,480, of which £80,183,736 represent the sales of distributive societies, and £14,422,744 the sales of productive societies and transfers of the productive departments of distributive societies. Of the total distributive and productive sales and transfers £71,491,427, or 75.6 per cent., was by societies in England and Wales, £21,635,349, or 22.9 per cent., by societies in Scotland, and £1,479,704, or 1.5 per cent., by societies in Ireland.

Of the £80,183,736 total distributive sales, the sales of 1,454 retail societies amounted to £55,319,262, and those of the four wholesale federations to £24,694,457, the remaining £170,017 being the sales of 22 English and 144 Irish societies formed for the purchase and sale of seeds, manures, eggs, poultry and honey, and for the sale of the products of various home industries, etc.

Of the £14,422,744 of productive sales and transfers, goods amounting to £4,061,096, or 28.1 per cent., were produced by the 340 societies established primarily for production, £5,262,083, or 36.5 per cent., by the productive departments of 774 retail distributive societies, and £5,099,565, or 35.4 per cent., by the productive departments of the English and Scottish wholesale societies. The details of these figures were dealt with more fully in the January issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE (page 4).

The total number of persons employed by the societies was 93,881, of whom 41,411 were engaged in production, and 52,470 in distribution.

The total share, loan and reserve capital of the societies amounted to £35,177,133, of which £15,567,255 was reinvested otherwise than in the trade of the individual societies. Of this, £5,855,859 was invested in house property let or sold to members, and £9,711,396 in other securities, the greater part being invested in other co-operative societies.

TABLE showing certain Particulars relating to Workmen's Co-operative Societies for Distribution and Production, and to Agricultural and Dairy Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom, for the year ending December 31st, 1902:—

Class of Society.	Number of Societies making Returns.	Number of Members.		Capital.		Sales.	Profit, including interest on Share Capital.	Number of persons directly employed by the Societies.†
		Individuals.	Societies.*	Share and Loan	Insurance and Reserve.			
Distribution:—								
England and Wales	1,154	1,571,484	—	£22,048,095	£810,195	£43,495,094	£6,694,335	36,646
Scotland	1	—	1,106	1,510,728	793,824	18,397,559	300,244	3,597
Ireland	1	—	—	5,098	270	51,591	96	21
	4	1,270	—	105	—	359	71	7
	286	317,694	284	4,635,179	254,745	11,711,028	1,079,585	10,493
	1	353	—	1,261,915	301,543	6,059,119	192,130	1,402
	14	3,809	—	25,559	110,140	8,814	99	99
	1	54	28	8,691	161	53,086	721	13
	1	—	49	8,243	2,470	184,693	664	17
	1	126	9	785	—	611	67	1
	91	11,356	—	22,682	2,660	75,500	1,063	125
	19	5,961	—	3,483	82	31,835	492	42
	33	2,126	3	1,009	418	10,121	31	7
Total Distribution	1,624	1,914,406	1,470	29,531,628	2,167,704	80,183,736	9,176,096	52,470
Production:—								
England	8	5,115	419	£306,411	£10,242	£1,303,682	£73,257	406
Scotland	115	14,098	3,199	40,420	3,194	63,757	4,346	177
Ireland	15	7,069	147	562,607	52,238	1,054,811	47,359	6,290
	6	2,269	444	321,902	25,243	515,856	66,956	1,257
	177	31,676	23	97,512	7,959	111,538	7,903	541
	9	713	—	172,003	26,491	1,001,210	6,240	1,008
	—	—	—	6,281	743	8,242	2,159	340
Total	340	64,089	4,365	1,597,136	126,100	4,061,096	204,442	10,019
By Distributive Societies:—								
England and Wales	592	—	—	—	—	£3,679,216	—	12,122
Scotland	18	—	—	1,198,098	—	3,442,558	85,100	8,918
Ireland	179	—	—	—	—	1,580,601	—	5,332
	18	—	—	556,467	—	1,657,207	60,795	5,001
	38	—	—	—	—	2,266	—	19
Total	776	—	—	1,754,565	—	10,361,648	145,895	31,392
Total Production	1,116	1,978,496	5,844	3,351,701	2,293,804	14,422,744	350,337	41,411
Total Distribution and Production in the United Kingdom	1,964	1,978,496	5,844	32,883,329	2,293,804	94,606,480	9,526,435	93,881

* The same society may hold shares in several others, and may therefore be counted several times in this column.
 † In some cases the number of employees was not stated, and an estimate has been made.
 ‡ Loss.
 § Included under head of distribution.
 ¶ These societies are also shown in the totals for distribution, but are counted only once in the grand totals.
 ** The goods produced by the distributive societies are not usually sold direct by the productive departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

COAL EXPORTS, 1899-1903.

A RETURN* has recently been issued by the Board of Trade, showing the export of coal from each port in the United Kingdom to each country abroad in each quarterly period of 1902 and 1903 respectively.

The total quantity exported in 1903 is stated as 44,950,957 tons compared with 43,159,046 tons in 1902, an increase of rather more than 4 per cent. The principal ports of shipment are those of the Bristol Channel and the North East Coast of England.

In the following Table the tonnage of coal exported from the different districts is given for each of the five years, 1899-1903, the figures for the first three years of the period being taken from Parliamentary Papers† previously published. The figures in the Table represent thousands of tons, and are exclusive of "bunker coal":—

Ports.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
1,000's of tons.					
Bristol Channel Ports ...	18,666	18,459	18,621	19,451	19,887
North Eastern Ports ...	12,308	13,135	13,294	12,860	13,982
Humber Ports ...	3,638	4,127	2,997	3,031	3,144
Other Ports on East Coast ...	266	264	220	189	181
North Western Ports ...	579	721	516	583	581
East Scotland ...	4,563	5,779	4,764	5,452	5,395
West Scotland ...	1,214	1,598	1,470	1,653	1,810
Other Ports ...	6	5	—	—	—
Total United Kingdom ...	41,180	44,089	41,877	43,159	44,950

It will be seen that the quantity exported last year was greater than in any year included in the Table, and it may also be stated that it was greater than in any previous year for which records exist. Increased shipments took place both at the Bristol Channel ports and at those on the North East Coast. From the East Scotland ports, however, the shipments in 1903 were somewhat less than in the previous year.

Of the total export of coal in 1903, over 44 per cent. was from the Bristol Channel ports and 31 per cent. from ports on the North East Coast.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, provides that if it is proved that an injury to a workman is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of that workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall be disallowed.

A boy was employed in the rolling mill of a steel company. He was expressly forbidden to go upon the railway line belonging to the company. On May 21st, 1903, during the dinner hour, he lay down in a wagon standing on the railway line. The wagon was set in motion, and the boy jumped out and tried to sprag the wheels. In doing so he fell in front of the wheels and was so seriously injured that he died the next day. His father claimed compensation under the Act, and was awarded £60 by the Sheriff-Substitute. The Company appealed to the Court of Session, and that Court overruled the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute, holding that the deceased had been guilty of wilful misconduct in going on the line contrary to the express orders of his employers, and that compensation therefore should be disallowed.—*Powell v. Lanarkshire Steel Company, Court of Session, March 8th, 1904.*

FATAL ACCIDENT: SCHEME OF INSURANCE: ACCEPTANCE BY WIDOW OF PAYMENTS UNDER SCHEME; ACTION UNDER EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

A workman employed by a colliery company was killed by accident in the course of his employment. A scheme of insurance and benefit had been certified for the workmen of the company by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, and the company had contracted with their workmen, including the deceased man, that the provisions of the scheme should be substituted for the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897. The widow of the deceased having received payments under the scheme, brought an action under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, against the company in the Birmingham County Court, claiming damages for the death of her husband. The County Court judge decided that she was not entitled in the circumstances to bring an action, but the High Court overruled this decision. The case is reported in the LABOUR GAZETTE for February last on page 40. The company by leave appealed to the Court of Appeal. That Court held that if the workman had taken his remedy under the Act he could not have brought an action under the Employers' Liability Act. The scheme was substituted for the Act. The position of the workman

* H.C. 96 of 1904. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 35d.
 † H.C. 119 of 1901, 138 of 1902 and 111 of 1903.

therefore, who had taken what was substituted for the Act, was the same as that of a workman claiming his rights under the Act. The assent to a scheme and the receipt of compensation under the scheme are equivalent to claiming compensation under the Act and obtaining it; the widow can be in no better position than the workman, therefore the agreement of the workman in this case to accept the scheme, and the receipt of compensation by his widow under the scheme, excluded her right to bring an action under the Employers' Liability Act. The decision, therefore, of the County Court Judge was upheld, and that of the High Court overruled.—*Taylor v. Hamstead Colliery Company, Ltd., Court of Appeal, March 9th, 1904.*

COMPLETE RECOVERY: DIMINISHED EARNING CAPACITY: COMPENSATION.

The Act provides that, where a workman has been injured so as to entitle him to compensation under the Act, in fixing the amount of the weekly payment regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of his average weekly earnings before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident. Weekly payments may be reviewed from time to time, and on such review may be ended, diminished, or increased. A workman, employed as a joiner by a firm of coal masters, met with an accident in the course of his employment, by which the forefinger of his left hand was injured. The result was that part of the finger had to be amputated. For about six months from the accident, which happened in September, 1902, he was paid 12s. a week. He then submitted himself to medical examination, but received compensation at the same rate till August, 1903. From August to November he received 9s. a week. In November he was again medically examined, and a certificate given that he had completely recovered. The Sheriff-Substitute found that he was fit to do his ordinary work, but that he would not be so expert as formerly, and that his earning capacity was diminished. Evidence was given as to his loss of earning capacity, and the compensation was fixed at 5s. a week. The Sheriff-Substitute, however, stated a case for the Superior Court on the question whether the medical certificate to the effect that the man had completely recovered disentitled him to any further compensation. The Court of Session upheld the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute.—*M'Laren v. Wallace Brothers, Court of Session, March 17th, 1904.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

CONSPIRACY TO BRING ABOUT DISMISSAL: LIABILITY OF LOCAL BRANCH OF UNION.

A man named McGuire, who was a member of a trade union, called the City of London Society of House Decorators and Painters, was employed as a painter by a firm of ship painters, and had been in their employment for three years. The majority of the painters employed by the firm were members of another union, the Amalgamated Society of House Decorators and Painters. McGuire had had no difficulty in working with the men of the other union until January 30th, 1904. On that day Andrews, the chairman of the Plaistow Branch of the Amalgamated Society, who described himself as the "ticket steward," demanded to see McGuire's ticket, as he was about to commence his day's work. He produced his ticket, which showed him to be a member of the City of London Society. Andrews thereupon told him that that ticket was no good, as it was not the ticket of the Amalgamated Society, and that he would be stopped from working. Subsequently Andrews threatened two of the men working for the firm that the union would fine them if they worked with McGuire, and persuaded the men not to go to work with McGuire, promising that the union would pay for their lost day. There was then a meeting of the Plaistow Branch of the Amalgamated Society, at which were present Andrews the chairman, the secretary, the treasurer, and other members. A resolution, which was not entered in the minute book, was said to have been passed at the meeting, to the effect that the men were not to work with McGuire. The members of the Amalgamated Society afterwards refused to work with McGuire, and rather than have their work brought to a standstill, the firm dismissed him.

McGuire then brought an action against Andrews, the secretary and the treasurer of the Plaistow Branch, and also against the Plaistow Branch itself, claiming damages against the defendants for having conspired together and with other members of the union to procure the firm to dismiss the plaintiff from their employment. The defendants denied that there was any such conspiracy; asserted that the employment of the plaintiff by the firm was a breach of an agreement made with the Amalgamated Society by the firm that the firm should only employ members of that union; and contended that whatever the individual defendants had done as officers of the branch, they had acted strictly within the law, and that neither they nor the branch could be held liable. Evidence was given that the firm had never entered into the alleged agreement. It was also submitted on behalf of the Plaistow Branch, that although the union might have been sued, a branch could not be sued as it had not got a registered name, and was not a corporate body. The Judge rejected this contention, and left the case to the jury as against all the defendants. The following questions were put to the jury:—1. Did the defendants conspire to obtain the dismissal of the plaintiff because he was not a member of their union? 2. Was the plaintiff dismissed from his employment because of the action of the defendants? 3. Did the plaintiff lose work, and what were the damages? The jury found in favour of the plaintiff on each question, and assessed the damages at £25.—*McGuire v. Andrews, Reynolds, Boatman and the Amalgamated Society of House Decorators and Painters (Plaistow Branch), King's Bench Division, March 7th, 1904.*

(3) Merchant Shipping Acts.

WHAT IS A "DISTRESSED SEAMAN"?

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, that the Board of Trade may make regulations with respect to the relief, maintenance, and sending home of seamen and apprentices found in distress abroad. Governors of British Possessions, British Consular officers and other officers of His Majesty in foreign countries are the authorities with power to provide for the maintenance of such persons, subject to the regulations. The words "distressed seamen" are to include seamen and apprentices to the sea-service, whether subjects of His Majesty or not, who by reason of having been discharged or left behind abroad, or shipwrecked from any British ship, are in distress in any place abroad, and also seamen and apprentices to the sea-service being subjects of His Majesty, who are in distress in any place abroad, after service in a foreign ship. The authorities are to be paid such sums as the Board of Trade may allow in respect of the expenses of the maintenance and conveyance of distressed seamen; and such expenses, together with the wages, if any, due to any such seaman or apprentice, are a charge upon the ship and a debt due to the Crown from the master or owner of the ship, and may be recovered by action at the suit of the Board of Trade. The production of the account of such expenses, furnished in accordance with the Act and the regulations, and proof of payment by, or on behalf of, the Board of Trade, shall be sufficient evidence that the expenses were incurred under the Act.

The sailing-ship "Glenpark" was wrecked on the coast of South Australia in February, 1901. The crew were saved, and were maintained by the authorities, first at Port Victoria and afterwards at Adelaide. At Adelaide the crew were paid the wages due to them by the agents of the owners of the ship. Fourteen of the crew shipped on other vessels, and eleven were sent home to the United Kingdom. The owners of the ship paid part of the expenses incurred by the authorities, but disputed their liability to pay the balance, on the grounds that certain of the crew, after receiving their wages, were not distressed seamen, within the meaning of the Act, as they had sufficient money to purchase necessaries and take them home. The Board of Trade accordingly brought an action against the owners of the ship to recover £99 18s. 11d., the balance of the expenses, contending that the owners were liable to pay the wages of the seamen in addition to the money expended in "relieving" their distress caused by the loss of the ship. The Judge decided in favour of the Board of Trade, holding that there was nothing in the Act or elsewhere which excluded from the category of distressed seamen those who, being shipwrecked abroad, happened at the date of the disaster to be entitled to arrears of wages.

The owners of the ship appealed to the Court of Appeal. That Court, however, decided that it was a question of fact whether the men were or were not distressed seamen, notwithstanding that they had received their wages; and that there was sufficient evidence to justify the Judge in finding that the men were distressed. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*The Board of Trade v. Glenpark Ship Co., Court of Appeal, March 4th, 1904.*

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

Very severe weather and excessive snow falls were experienced during the last two or three months, and employment fell off in most trades, with some exceptions, such as plumbing and gas and steam fitting. With the arrival of spring work has again become brisker, and competent mechanics in the building, metal, woodworking and most other trades have no difficulty in getting employment. Coal mining has been rather depressed in Nova Scotia, and one of the mines closed down temporarily, throwing 500 hands out of employment; but in British Columbia coal mining has been active at the Crow's Nest Pass fields, and metalliferous mining at Rossland. There is now a large demand for farm labourers; they should start at once, as this is the best time of year in which to arrive in Canada. The demand is so general that even inexperienced hands will find work if they are strong, and willing to take low wages at first. Single women are not advised to go out to work in factories: they have much better openings in domestic service.

The Commonwealth of Australia.

The recent harvest has been good, and prospects have accordingly improved, but there is not much demand for more labour at present. The best openings are in Queensland and Western Australia, where competent farm labourers, and a limited number of mechanics, such as blacksmiths, wheelwrights and men in the building trades would find employment. In no State is there any special demand for miners, and in New South Wales and Victoria disputes between coal miners

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

and their employers have hindered work. There is a good demand for female domestic servants in all the States of the Commonwealth.

New Zealand.

The building, engineering, boot and clothing trades have all been busy with some few exceptions, as well as special industries, such as sawmilling, flaxmilling, dairying, dressmaking, brickmaking, &c. Farm hands, especially good milkers, have been in good demand.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Aided passages at £3 a head are given to male and female domestic servants going to Cape Colony, but otherwise there is no demand for more labour of any kind at the present time. No one is allowed to land in Cape Colony unless he possesses £20 on arrival, has secured definite employment, and otherwise conforms to the requirements of the Cape Immigration Act, 1902. Any person arriving in Cape Colony, who is a *bona fide* traveller on the way to the Transvaal or Orange River Colony, is allowed to proceed to his destination irrespective of whether he is able to conform or no to the provisions of the Cape Immigration Act. As, however, no person may enter the Transvaal or Orange River Colony without a permit from the authorities of those colonies, the Cape Government inquires from such authorities as to whether he will be admitted into them, before he is allowed to land in Cape Colony.

Natal.—There is no demand for more labour, and the Government Railways are reducing the number of the men employed. No one should go to Natal at the present time in search of work, unless he or she is nominated by friends in the Colony. The plasterers' strike is now settled, the men having accepted the reduced wage of 16s. a day.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit (*see also Cape Colony above*). There is no demand whatever for mechanics or labourers of any kind, and large numbers of persons are out of employment. Local associations are affording charitable relief as far as possible, but the greatest difficulty is being experienced in obtaining work of any description for the increasing number of applicants. There is some opening for female servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The cost of living is two or three times as high in the Transvaal as it is in this country.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit (*see also Cape Colony*). There is no demand for more labour, and many persons are out of work. The cost of living is very high. The carpenters' strike still continues. Female servants may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in February.—The resumption of activity in the building trades was retarded by the rains during February. In the metal trades there was, on the whole, a slight increase in the number of persons out of work as compared with January; work was also rather less plentiful in the woodworking trades (furniture-making, coachbuilding, &c.). In the textile trades, while the districts in the North continued to show some activity, the cotton centres of Normandy and the Loire only worked 5 days per week. In the silk industry no change in the state of employment was reported. The slack season was still prevailing in the garment-making trades. There was a slight improvement in the printing and bookbinding trades. In spite of the wet weather which prevailed during the month, agricultural operations were actively carried on, preparations for the March sowings being made in the North, while, in the South, efforts were made to overtake arrears of work in the vineyards. Winter operations in forestry had not been concluded. Fishing boats were unable to leave the harbours owing to frequent storms, and the catches were not large.

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

Of the membership of the Trade Unions which made reports as to the state of employment in February (not including the miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments), 12.5 per cent. were reported as unemployed, as compared with 12.3 per cent. in the previous month and 11.0 per cent. in February, 1903.

The following statement shows the percentages reported by certain Trade Unions as unemployed in February, compared with the corresponding figures for the previous month and for February, 1903.

Trade Union.	Percentage reported Unemployed at end of		
	Feb., 1904	Jan., 1904.	Feb., 1903.
Building Trades:—			
Carpenters and Joiners ...	18.0	19.0	11.0
Other Branches ...	29.0	35.0	27.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	10.0	10.0	10.0
Textile Trades ...	9.6*	9.5	7.0
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking) ...	1.0	1.0	Not stated.
Printing Trades:—			
(a) Paris ...	5.0	5.1	8.0
(b) Provinces ...	2.1	3.4	3.0
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	48.0	38.0	11.0
Boot and Shoemaking ...	4.0	14.0	6.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades ...	12.0	5.0	10.0
Food Preparation Trades ...	8.0	15.0	12.0

Coal Mining in February.—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in February was 5.69, as compared with 5.87 both in the previous month and in February, 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 43.5 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 49.4 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 68 and 31 respectively. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 151,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all engaged in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in February.—Ninety-five disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in February, the number of participants in 73 of these being 13,645. The number of disputes reported in the previous month was 73, in 63 of which 14,856 workpeople took part, while in February, 1903, there were 32 disputes, in 31 of which 3,489 workpeople took part. Of the disputes in February last, 3 occurred in the building trades, 7 in mining and quarrying, 3 in the metal trades, 12 in the textile trades, 1 in the garment-making trades, 9 in transport and warehousing, 48 in agriculture (47 being amongst workpeople employed in vineyards), 3 in the pottery trades, and 3 in the leather trades, the remaining 6 disputes occurring in trades not included within any of these groups. Eighty-seven new and old disputes came to an end in February, 22 being decided in favour of the workpeople, 21 in favour of the employers, and 44 being compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in February.—Twenty-two cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department, 11 being in connection with disputes of vine-dressers in the South of France. The initiative was taken in 9 cases by the workpeople, in 7 cases by the Justice of the Peace, and in 1 case by employers and workpeople jointly; no information on this point being furnished for the remaining disputes. In 18 cases committees of conciliation were formed, and in one other case the dispute was settled before the committee could meet; in the 3 remaining cases the employers either did not respond, or else declined to accept the proffered mediation. Agreements were arrived at in 12 out of the 18 disputes in which committees were formed. As to the other 6 disputes, 2 were afterwards settled by arbitration, in 3 the workpeople abandoned their demands, while one dispute was still in progress at the time of reporting.

Strike of Dock Labourers at Marseilles.—In a despatch dated March 23rd, Mr. M. C. Gurney, H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles, reported that the steamers of Messrs. Axel Busck & Co. were boycotted at Marseilles on the ground that that firm refused to conform to the

* This does not give an adequate idea of the actual dislocation of the textile industry, as in a large number of cotton centres in Normandy and the Loire only 5 days per week were being worked.

terms of an agreement arrived at in 1901, as regards the men employed by them in various small ports on the French Mediterranean coast. On March 18th a large proportion of the dock labourers at that port left work for a part of the afternoon as a demonstration in favour of the demands of the men employed by the firm. Owing to the refusal of a certain firm to pay the hour's work done by their men before ceasing work, about 1,000 dockers went out on strike on March 21st, but resumed the next day, on the firm in question complying with the demands of their men. In a telegram dated March 26th, H.M. Consul-General reported that an understanding had been arrived at between Messrs. Busck & Co. and the Dockers' Federation.

Strikes of Textile Operatives in the North of France.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 7th, Mr. C. A. Payton, H.M. Consul at Calais, transmits notes concerning strikes of textile operatives in the North of France. From these it appears that in the Lille district there were, on April 6th, 2,330 operatives on strike out of 4,800 engaged in the 12 weaving establishments, while out of 6,297 operatives employed in the 11 spinning mills, 2,188 had left work. In Roubaix the number of strikers on April 6th was 11,500, and in Turcoing 7,500. Thus, in the districts referred to, a total of nearly 26,000 textile operatives were on strike.

From a report from the same source dated April 12th, it appears that the strike in Lille came to an end on April 8th, the operatives accepting an advance of 3 per cent. in wages. On that date a strike in Amiens, begun by the dyers on April 1st, had become almost general, builders' workmen being specially affected. Masons and carpenters claimed minimum wages varying from 4d. to 7d. an hour, according to the branch of work.

(According to newspaper reports, the strikes in the textile industry have arisen in connection with the application of one of the provisions of the Law of March 30th, 1900, limiting the hours of employment of women and children in factories, workshops and mines. Under Article 2 of the Law in question, it was provided in respect to establishments subject to the Factory Act of 1892 that, where adult males were employed simultaneously and in the same workroom with women, young persons and children, the hours of employment of all such people (including adult males) should be limited to 11 per day, and that this limit should be reduced to 10½ from April 1st, 1902, and to 10 hours from April 1st, 1904 (*see GAZETTE*, April, 1900, p. 101). The reduction to 10 hours came into force on April 1st, and the workpeople have demanded an increase in the rates of pay, so that those engaged on piece-work may suffer no diminution of earnings, but the employers and workpeople cannot agree as to the rate of increase.)

GERMANY.

*Employment in February.**—Both in industry and agriculture more activity was shown in February than in January. The decline already reported in coal-mining and iron-smelting continued throughout February, but without becoming more accentuated. Employment was satisfactory for most of the metal trades, but showed a decline so far as the pig iron industry was concerned. The electrical trades continued to be well employed, while in certain branches of the chemical trades—those engaged in manufacturing explosives, medicines and disinfectants—employment was increased considerably in consequence of the Russo-Japanese War. Though hampered by the rise in the prices of raw materials, the textile trades, with the exception of the silk industry, were on the whole fairly busy in executing orders which will last them for some time. The mild weather made it possible to resume building operations in many places, while the busy season for the ready-made clothing trades began much earlier than usual this year owing to the early Easter.

Disputes in March.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, 62 disputes occurred in Germany during March, as compared with 31 in the preceding month. Of these, so far as information is given, 15 took place in the building trades, 9 in the metal and engineering trades, 6 in the clothing trades, 3 in the paper and printing trades, 12 in the woodworking trades, 5 in the pottery and chemical trades, 4 in the food preparation trades, 4 in the leather trades, 1 in mining, 1 in the textile trades, and 1 amongst commercial employes.

* *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department).

BELGIUM.*

Employment: November-January.—The proportion of their total membership reported as unemployed to the Belgian Labour Department by the Trade Unions making returns on this subject for January was 5.4 per cent., as compared with 3.9 per cent. in December and 2.8 per cent. in November. The Unions reporting for January numbered 127, with 29,387 members, as against 130 Unions, with 29,734 members, reporting for December, and 120 Unions, with 28,163 members, reporting for November. The returns do not include any figures as to miners, agricultural labourers or home workers.

Labour Disputes: November-January.—Twenty disputes, affecting 1,659 workpeople (1,477 directly and 182 indirectly) were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in the period November-January. Of these, 4 occurred in coal-mining, 2 in the metal trades, 7 in the textile trades, and 1 in each of the following trades: clothing, printing, woodworking, glass, tobacco, leather and papermaking. Sixteen of these disputes were reported as having terminated in the same period, 14, with 1,380 workpeople, being decided in favour of the employers, 1, with 35 workpeople, in favour of the workpeople, while 1, with 99 workpeople, ended in a compromise.

HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM CONSULAR DISTRICT.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 1st, Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, transmits the report from H.M. Consul at Amsterdam on labour in that district during the quarter ended March 31st.

H.M. Consul reports that a dispute has arisen between the Diamond Workers' Union and the Jewellers' Association in Amsterdam, which has resulted in a general strike on the part of the former, and in a lock-out on the part of the latter. The cause of the dispute is the decision of the Diamond Workers' Union not to accept at present any apprentices to the trade, which they assert to be overcrowded, whilst the Jewellers' Association insists on the admission of at least 750 new apprentices. The Workers' Union are in possession of considerable strike funds, and are acting in concert with the Antwerp Workers' Union, who are also involved in this struggle. There was, at the time of reporting, no immediate prospect of a compromise. Dr. Kuyper, the Netherlands Prime Minister, offered his services as an intermediary to both parties, on the condition that, if no agreement were arrived at before April 4th, his position should become that of an arbitrator. This offer was accepted by the Workers' Union, but the Jewellers' Association rejected the proposal for a settlement by compulsory arbitration after April 4th.

AUSTRIA.†

Employment in February.—The number of applications for employment, reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having been received at the public and private labour registries, for every 100 situations offered was as follows:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
February, 1904	292	107	177
January, 1904	326	92	174
February, 1903	330	102	206

Disputes in February.—Fifteen disputes (including one lock-out) were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in February, exclusive of any disputes which may have occurred in the mining and smelting industries (for which the returns are quarterly). The number of workpeople who took part in 10 of these 15 disputes was 397. Two disputes were in the metal trades, 2 in the textile trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 2 in the pottery trades, 5 in the woodworking trades, 1 at a leather works, and 1 at a bakery. The results were reported in 8 cases, 3 disputes being decided in favour of the workpeople, 3 in favour of the employers, and 2 being compromised.

* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
† *Soziale Rundschau* (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department).

SPAIN.

Observance of Sunday Rest: New Law.—A translation has been received from Sir E. Egerton (H. M. Ambassador at Madrid), through the Foreign Office, of a Spanish law dated March 3rd, 1904, providing for the strict observance of Sunday rest in all trades and industrial establishments, with certain exceptions which have been admitted on the grounds of public interests or owing to special circumstances inherent in particular trades or industries.

The regulations for carrying out this Law are to be drawn up and put into force not later than six months from the date of promulgation of the Law.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated March 3rd, Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, states that a good many yearly contracts as to wages, hours of labour and other conditions of employment, came to an end on March 1st, and that new agreements have been signed affecting 20,000 employees. The National Wholesale Tailors' Association renewed their agreements, which provide for exclusive employment of Trade Unionists. The woodworkers signed an agreement for one year, which affected 2,000 men; the wages show no alteration, viz., 1s. 2d. per hour for machinemen, and 1s. 3d. per hour for carvers. Exclusive employment of Trade Unionists was also agreed to.

Labour Disputes.—The carriage and wagon builders' lock-out, referred to in the LABOUR GAZETTE for February (p. 43), was brought to an end on February 29th, the men being granted an increase of 5 per cent. in wages and a decrease of 2 hours a week in time, the working hours to be 54 per week. The other clauses of the agreement show no change from last year.

One thousand men employed in preparing the grounds of the St. Louis Exhibition struck when informed that after March 7th their wages would be reduced to 10d. per hour. They had been receiving 1s. since October on account of the cold weather and the short days.

At Kansas City the truck drivers struck on March 1st. They asked for an increase of pay, a 10½-hour day, a 6-day week, and exclusive employment of Union men.

The messenger boys employed by the Western Union Telegraph Company, numbering 700, were on strike because a non-Union man employed as a clerk in one of the offices gave up his place on being refused an advance of £1 per month, and the boys insisted that he should be reinstated at the wages he desired before they would return to work.

Some of the departments in one of the branches of the Pullman Car Building Company were on strike. The chandelier workers, mentioned in the February GAZETTE (p. 43) as being on strike, were still out at the date of reporting.

The Coal-mining Industry.—H.M. Consul describes the position in the coal-mining industry as very strained. The coal owners of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Western Pennsylvania have unanimously voted for a 15 per cent. reduction of wages, while the miners' delegates insist on the old scale.

(According to newspaper reports, the bituminous coal miners in Illinois, Ohio and Indiana have voted to accept the reduction in wages, but work has been suspended in every mine in the State of Iowa, the number of men on strike being 13,500.)

ARGENTINA.

Strike on the Rosario and Central Argentine Railways.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated February 26th, Mr. W. Haggard, H.M. Minister at Buenos Ayres, reports that a strike of the men employed on the British Combined Rosario and Central Argentine Lines was declared on February 25th, at a time when the transport of grain was in full progress.

(According to a newspaper report, the strike has now ended.)

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 82 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 94,000 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 195,000, employment generally continues dull. Compared with a month ago it has slightly improved, but is worse than a year ago.

The returns from Employers' Associations indicate on the whole that there was not much improvement in March as compared with February, and that as compared with a year ago employment is worse.

With bricklayers employment is reported as dull; it is rather better than in February, but about the same as in the corresponding month of last year. With masons employment was fair in England, but dull in Scotland and Ireland.

With carpenters and joiners employment was dull; it was rather better than in February, but worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of March last was 6.7, compared with 6.9 at the end of February, and 3.4 in March, 1903. With plumbers employment was dull in England and fair in Scotland. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers at the end of March was 9.2, compared with 9.3 at the end of February, and 7.5 a year ago.

Employment with plasterers was bad in England, fair in Scotland and dull in Ireland; with slaters and tilers it was dull; with painters it was generally dull in England and fair in Scotland, but on the whole was rather better than a month ago.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1904.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Percentage for Mar., 1904, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	7,272	7.1	8.1	4.3	−1.0	+2.8
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	5,882	9.3	7.8	1.5	+1.5	+8.0
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,186	7.9	7.9	3.8	—	+4.1
Yorkshire	3,157	9.5	8.0	4.7	+1.5	+4.8
East Midlands	3,108	6.8	8.0	1.6	−1.2	+3.2
West Midlands	4,567	8.5	8.4	4.2	+0.1	+4.3
Eastern Counties	1,133	8.1	8.1	2.8	—	+5.3
S. and S.W. Counties	5,844	3.2	3.8	3.0	−0.6	+0.2
Wales and Monmouth	1,790	4.1	7.0	7.3	−2.9	−3.2
Other Districts	627	6.2	8.6	2.4	−2.4	+3.8
SCOTLAND	5,482	2.4	4.0	1.2	+1.6	+1.2
IRELAND	5,068	5.1	5.0	4.3	+0.1	+0.8
UNITED KINGDOM	56,116	6.7	6.9	3.4	−0.2	+3.3
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	1,159	9.1	9.7	12.8	−0.6	−3.7
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,617	8.5	7.5	9.2	+1.0	−0.7
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,664	9.5	9.7	6.0	−0.2	+3.5
Yorkshire	1,251	10.6	9.3	5.0	+1.3	+5.6
East Midlands	696	11.1	13.2	6.8	−2.1	+4.3
West Midlands	523	10.3	9.2	8.5	+1.1	+1.8
Eastern Counties	115	8.7	15.0	3.8	−4.3	+4.9
S. and S.W. Counties	462	5.6	5.8	7.5	−0.2	−1.9
Wales and Monmouth	279	9.0	9.6	9.2	−0.6	−0.2
Other Districts	32	6.3	6.3	4.2	—	+2.1
SCOTLAND	1,917	8.3	8.7	5.7	−0.4	+2.6
IRELAND	628	9.9	11.7	9.8	−1.8	+0.1
UNITED KINGDOM	11,343	9.2	9.3	7.5	−0.1	+1.7

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

London.—Employment in London continues slack. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 75

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

employers show that in the last week of March they paid wages to 14,919 workpeople, as compared with 14,426 workpeople in February, and 14,288 in March, 1903.

Northern Counties, Lancashire and Cheshire.—In the Tyne and Wear districts employment generally was dull, but with painters an improvement is reported. In the Tees and Hartlepoons districts employment shows some improvement in certain branches, and with painters it was fairly good. In Lancashire and Cheshire employment was slack generally, but with painters at Manchester and Liverpool it was fair.

Yorkshire.—In Yorkshire employment generally was quiet; with painters, however, it was better than a month ago in certain districts.

East Midland Counties.—Employment generally in this district continues dull; with painters, however, there has been some improvement, as also with carpenters and joiners at Leicester and Northampton.

West Midland Counties.—In this district employment shows no improvement compared with a month ago, and is dull or bad generally.

Eastern Counties.—In Norfolk and Cambridge employment continues bad generally, and among labourers some distress still exists. Painters, however, although slack, are rather better employed than a month ago. At Yarmouth a slight improvement is reported, and in Suffolk and Essex employment generally is somewhat better than a month ago.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Devon and Cornwall employment with carpenters and joiners is moderate or fair generally; with painters it is improving; in other branches it is dull or bad. In Somerset and Gloucestershire employment is dull generally.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—In North Wales employment has been moderate with bricklayers and painters, bad with carpenters, and slack with plasterers. At Cardiff employment generally has improved; in other districts it is quiet or dull.

Scotland.—Employment generally is dull or quiet, except with painters, with whom it has improved.

Ireland.—In Dublin employment with bricklayers and carpenters has been bad; other branches report an improvement; in Belfast it has been dull with bricklayers, but improving; fair with painters, and moderate or quiet with carpenters and plumbers; in Cork, it has been dull generally.

COAL MINING

[NOTE.—The following figures 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.]

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed a general improvement in March compared with both a month and with a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received for each period was about the same as in February, 1904, and was 1.7 per cent. greater than in March, 1903.

At 1,283 pits employing 505,667 workpeople from which returns have been received, the average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended March 19th was 5.28 per week, as compared with 5.19 days per week in February, and 5.10 days in the corresponding period of March, 1903. The mean number of days worked in March during the ten years 1895-1904 was 5.25 per week.

In the Table below a comparison of the average time worked by the pits in various districts is made, from which it will be seen that in March, as compared with February, there were increases in eleven districts, decreases in four districts, and no change in one district. In most of the principal districts the changes in the average time worked were unimportant. In Derbyshire and Staffordshire, however, the increases amounted to 0.33 days and 0.23 days per week respectively.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—COAL AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

As compared with a year ago, there were increases in the average time worked in thirteen districts and decreases in the remaining three districts. The increases (taking the principal districts only) amounted to nearly half a day per week in Nottingham and Leicester, and in Staffordshire; to about one-third of a day in South Wales and Monmouth and in Derbyshire; and to about one-quarter of a day in Yorkshire, and in Lancashire and Cheshire. In Fifeshire the time worked fell off to the extent of one-fifth of a day per week.

In four districts the average time worked by the pits during March amounted to 5½ days or more per week, the highest average being worked in South Wales and Monmouth, viz., 5.79 days. In two districts the time worked averaged less than 5 days per week, the lowest average being worked in Nottingham and Leicester, viz., 4.84 days. In the remaining ten districts the average time worked by the pits was between 5 and 5½ days per week.

District.	No. of workpeople employed in Mar., 1904, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1904, as compared with	
		19th Mar., 1904.	20th Feb., 1904.	21st Mar., 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	40,950	5.06	4.94	4.94	+ .12	+ .12
Durham ...	101,774	5.26	5.26	5.40	...	- .14
Cumberland ...	6,769	5.68	5.42	5.07	+ .26	+ .61
Yorkshire ...	79,998	5.21	5.08	4.93	+ .13	+ .28
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,378	5.24	5.16	5.01	+ .08	+ .23
Derbyshire ...	41,456	5.75	4.82	4.84	+ .33	+ .31
Nottingham and Leicester	26,682	4.84	4.68	4.37	+ .16	+ .47
Staffordshire ...	28,442	5.34	5.11	4.90	+ .23	+ .44
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	9,284	5.50	5.20	5.00	+ .30	+ .50
Gloucester and Somerset...	8,718	5.49	5.28	5.02	+ .21	+ .47
North Wales...	12,402	5.44	5.54	5.34	- .10	+ .10
South Wales and Mon. ...	58,688	5.79	5.82	5.44	- .03	+ .35
ENGLAND & WALES ...	465,541	5.29	5.19	5.08	+ .10	+ .21
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	19,643	5.23	5.24	5.40	+ .04	- .12
The Lothians ...	4,719	5.64	5.70	5.63	- .06	+ .01
Fife ...	15,139	4.99	4.93	5.19	+ .06	- .20
SCOTLAND ...	39,501	5.21	5.16	5.24	+ .05	- .13
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	625	5.39	5.65	4.76	- .26	+ .63
United Kingdom ...	505,667	5.28	5.19	5.10	+ .09	+ .18

Of the 505,667 workpeople included in the returns, 372,896, or 73.8 per cent., were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended 19th March, 1904, as compared with 70.1 per cent. in February, and 67.3 per cent. in March, 1903.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland, steam and house coal pits worked on an average 4.67 and 5.36 days per week respectively, as compared with 4.59 and 5.31 days in February, and 4.70 and 5.29 days a year ago. In Durham gas coal pits worked on an average 5.3 days per week, house and manufacturing coal pits 5.2 days, and coking coal pits 4.9 days per week. Gas and manufacturing coal pits show no change as compared with February, but the time worked at house and coking coal pits has declined. Pits in the Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham district averaged about 5½ days' work per week. In the other mining centres of the West Riding of Yorkshire employment improved at Leeds, was fair at Castleford and South Kirkby, where 4 and 5 days per week were worked; it was bad, however, at Bradford and Huddersfield. In Lancashire it was fairly good with miners at Burnley; fair at Accrington, Scowcroft, Hulton, and Little Lever; moderate at Pemberton and Wigan; and slack at Oldham. At St. Helens 5 days were worked per week on an average.

In Nottinghamshire pits worked on an average 4½ days per week, and in Leicestershire employment was below the average for the time of year. At Tamworth

it is reported as quiet. In the Cannock Chase district an average of 3½ days per week was worked, and 4½ days in the South Staffordshire and East Worcester-shire district. Employment in Shropshire continued fair. In the Forest of Dean steam coal pits worked on an average 5 days per week; house coal pits 4½ days; pits in the Kadstock district 5½ days; while in the Bristol district full time continued to be worked.

In North Wales employment was fair. In Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire it was fairly good, and in Ayrshire moderate, some short time being reported in each of these counties. In Stirlingshire miners averaged four days work per week. In the Lothians it has improved, three-fifths of the miners in West Lothian having obtained from 10 to 11 days work per fortnight, while in Mid and East Lothian fully 90 per cent. have been fully employed.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during March amounted to 4,222,654 tons, as compared with 3,359,135 tons in February, and 3,678,416 tons in March, 1903.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing over 18,000 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations, from a Trade Union and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in March was good in iron, shale, and lead mines, and fair in tin and copper mines. At open works and quarries the improvement in the weather affected employment favourably and it is reported as fairly good in slate and limestone quarries, and fair on the whole in granite quarries. Employment with settmakers was fairly good, and with china clay workers it was moderate.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good. The average time worked showed a slight improvement as compared with both a month and with a year ago, while the number of workpeople employed was 3.8 per cent. less than in March, 1903. During the four weeks ended March 19th, the average number of days worked per week by the 135 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.83, as compared with 5.80 in February, and 5.79 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts	No. employed in Mar., 1904, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1904, as compared with	
		19th Mar., 1904.	20th Feb., 1904.	21st Mar., 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,539	5.79	5.77	5.92	+ .02	- .13
Cleveland ...	7,021	5.94	5.90	5.85	+ .04	+ .09
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	923	5.90	5.81	5.76	+ .09	+ .14
Northamptonshire	601	5.80	5.41	5.73	+ .09	+ .07
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,165	5.13	5.28	4.84	- .015	+ .29
Other places in England...	110	5.58	5.61	5.76	- .03	- .18
Total, England	14,389	5.82	5.78	5.78	+ .04	+ .04
SCOTLAND ...	791	6.00	6.00	5.95	...	+ .05
IRELAND ...	125	5.95	6.00	5.93	- .05	+ .02
Total and Averages	15,275	5.83	5.81	5.79	+ .03	+ .04

Of the 15,275 workpeople covered by the returns, 14,266, or 93.4 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended March 19th, 1904, as compared with 87.3 per cent. in February, and 91.2 per cent. in March, 1903.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners in the Lothians was good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in March 2,709 men were employed, as compared with 2,676 in February, and 2,632 in March, 1903. The average weekly number of days

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

worked by the mines in the four weeks ended March 19th was 5.56, as compared with 5.69 days in February, and 5.63 days in March, 1903.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—In the Weardale district lead ore miners worked 5 days per week; in North Wales employment was good. In Devon and Cornwall employment in tin and copper mines was fair in the St. Erth and Marazion districts, and dull in the Calstock district. In the Camborne district it was moderate, and less interrupted by water in the mines.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Slate quarrymen in North Wales have been fully employed. Employment in Devon and Cornwall was moderate; in Argyllshire it was fairly good.

Limestone.—In Upper Weardale and Westgate employment was good, and fairly good at Stanhope (Durham) and in Cumberland; it was much better in the latter district than in February. In the Buxton district it is reported as normal, dull at the Somerset blue lias quarries, and in Devon and Cornwall it was quiet. Employment in North Wales continued good.

Granite.—With granite quarrymen employment shows no change as compared with February. It was fairly good in Leicestershire; dull in Devon and Cornwall; good in North Wales; and bad in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire, where some short time was worked.

Other Stone.—Employment with stone quarrymen in the Gateshead district improved owing mainly to the improvement in the weather. In the Blackburn and Burnley districts stone quarrymen were fairly well employed. In the Sheffield district quarrymen were fairly well employed on street work; other work was slack; at Barnsley they were slack; at Normanton full time was worked. Chert quarrymen at Bakewell were well employed; at the building and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was moderate. In the Clee Hill and Forest of Dean quarries it was good; in Gloucestershire, Pennant Stone quarries were generally fully employed; at "Bath" stone quarries employment improved, and is now reported as good; and at sandstone quarries in North Wales it was also good. Employment with quarrymen in Forfarshire continued bad, and much short time was worked.

Settmaking.—Settmakers in Leicester were fairly well employed and kerbstone dressers fully. Employment with settmakers in the Clee Hill and North Wales districts was good. In Scotland it was fair at Airdrie and in the Edinburgh district, and good at Aberdeen. It was fair in the Belfast district.

China Clay.—China clay workers at Lee Moor and in the St. Austell district were regularly employed.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Employers and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in this industry improved slightly during March, but it is still considerably below the level of a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that in March three furnaces were re-lit in Cumberland and Lancashire, one in Derby and Notts, one in South Wales and Mon., and one in Scotland, while two furnaces in England and one in Scotland were damped down or blown out. At these works 304 furnaces were in blast at the end of March, an increase of 3 as compared with February, but a decrease of 24 compared with a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 304 furnaces is estimated to be about 21,440.

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

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1904, as compared with	
	March, 1904.	February, 1904.	March, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	76	77	83	- 1	- 7
Cumberland & Lancs.	32	29	43	+ 3	- 11
S. and S.W. Yorks....	13	13	15	...	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	38	37	37	+ 1	+ 1
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton	25	25	25	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	31	32	33	- 1	- 2
S. Wales & Monmouth	13	12	15	+ 1	- 2
Other districts ...	6	6	6	...	...
Returned from England & Wales	234	231	257	+ 3	- 23
RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND ...	70	70	71	...	- 1
Total furnaces included in returns ...	304	301	328	+ 3	- 24

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows an improvement as compared with a month ago, and is about the same as a year ago. Returns furnished by employers respecting 195 works show that they employed 74,170 workpeople during the week ended 26th March, being 600 more than a month ago, and 328 more than a year ago. The total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 3.1 per cent. as compared with February, but a decline of 0.6 per cent. when compared with a year ago.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1904, as compared with	
	Mar. 26th, 1904.	Feb. 27th, 1904.	Mar. 28th, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales ...	62,281	61,674	61,999	+ 607	+ 282
Scotland ...	11,889	11,896	11,843	- 7	+ 46
Total ...	74,170	73,570	73,842	+ 600	+ 328

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked at iron and steel works at which 90 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table were employed. The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended 26th March was 5.38, as compared with 5.26 a month ago and 5.43 in March, 1903.

Number of Shifts worked.	Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended		
	26th Mar., 1904.	27th Feb., 1904.	28th Mar., 1903.
Under 5 per week ...	14.3	19.2	9.1
5 per week ...	29.2	28.9	35.9
6 per week ...	1.2	0.8	3.1
6 per week ...	53.7	50.4	53.2
Over 6 per week ...	1.6	0.7	0.7
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the basis of the above Table the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople covered by the returns may be estimated to have been about 399,000, as compared with 387,000 a month ago, and 401,000 in the last week of March, 1903.

The following reports relating to the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment with steel

* Including iron puddling and rolling and steel making and rolling.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING.

smelters was fairly good, and in steel plate mills full time was worked. In cogging and finishing mills and in finished iron and steel works employment was moderate. With forge and hammermen on the Wear it has improved.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, and in plate and angle mills it continued to improve. Employment in rail mills, however, declined, and some short time was worked. In metal expansion works employment was good.

South Yorkshire.—Employment with steel workers in Leeds continued quiet. In Sheffield employment was slack generally although improved somewhat with steel smelters and makers of armour and ship plates. At Rotherham employment in the steel trades was quiet. With ironworkers it was moderate at Rotherham and fair at Masbro'.

Midlands.—Employment in most of the branches of trade improved, and was fair generally except in the steel works at West Bromwich and Smethwick where it continued slack. In Shropshire steel workers were fully employed.

North Wales.—Employment with steel workers was good.

Scotland.—Employment with steel smelters was good on the whole; with iron and steel workers it was fair; with malleable iron workers it continued slack.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry shows little change compared with February, but is not so good as a year ago.

At the end of March, 364 mills were working, as compared with 361 at the end of February, and 378 a year ago. At the 72 works open, 53 had all their mills (262) in operation, while the remaining 19 works had 102 mills going out of a total of 138. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 364 mills was 18,200.

It is reported that most of the mills are running to their full capacity, and that the supply of and demand for labour continue about equal.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire district 353 mills were in operation at the end of March, as compared with 349 a month ago, and 366 in March, 1903.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	53	262	—	262
Works giving partial employment ...	19	102	36	138
Total at end of Mar., 1904*...	72	364	36	400
<i>Corresponding Total for Feb., 1904†</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>361</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>400</i>
<i>Corresponding Total for Mar., 1903†</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>578</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>610</i>

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	March, 1904.	Feb., 1904.	March, 1903.	March, 1904.	Feb., 1904.	March, 1903.
To United States ...	6,802	2,998	5,896	—	—	—
Other Countries ...	22,918	21,359	22,834	5,383	3,981	6,012
Total ...	29,720	24,357	28,730	5,383	3,981	6,012

* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.
† Revised figures.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 6 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment continued to improve slightly during the month. It is, however, still bad and worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,751 members had 6,807 (or 11·8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 12·6 per cent. in February, and 9·8 per cent. in March, 1903.

The districts in which the percentage unemployed was greatest were the Humber, Tees and Hartlepool, East Coast of Scotland, and the Clyde, while it was lowest on the South Coast, the Mersey, and the Thames and Medway.

As compared with a month ago considerable improvement is shown in the Tees and Hartlepool and Wear districts, and some on the Mersey and at the Bristol Channel ports. As compared with a year ago a great decline is shown on the Humber, the East Coast of Scotland, and at Belfast, while there is a marked improvement on the Wear, and some on the Tees.

The percentages of unemployed Trade Union members in the various districts are shown in the following Table, with comparative figures for a month and a year ago:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1904 included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Mar., 1904, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	8,988	14·0	12·5	11·8	+ 1·5	+ 2·2
Wear ...	4,710	9·4	12·6	19·2	- 3·2	- 9·8
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,971	16·1	20·8	20·1	- 4·7	- 4·0
Humber ...	2,401	21·0	23·3	8·1	+ 0·7	+ 15·9
Thames and Medway ...	4,271	8·4	9·1	7·8	- 0·7	+ 0·6
South Coast ...	3,983	2·1	2·0	3·2	+ 0·1	- 1·1
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,686	10·2	12·1	6·7	- 1·9	+ 3·5
Mersey ...	4,039	3·7	6·1	2·2	- 2·4	+ 1·5
Clyde ...	12,759	15·7	15·2	10·1	+ 5·6	+ 5·6
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,969	17·1	18·0	6·5	- 0·9	+ 10·6
Belfast ...	3,286	9·8	9·4	1·7	+ 0·4	+ 8·1
Other Districts ...	2,875	5·c	6·9	2·3	- 1·9	+ 2·7
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	57,751	11·8	12·6	9·8	- 0·8	+ 2·0

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

On the *Tyne* employment is worse than a year ago. With iron shipbuilders it is slack. It has much improved with frame-benders and riveters during the month. With shipwrights and joiners it is fair, but there have been a few discharges in the higher and middle reaches of the river owing to the completion of certain work. With shipsmiths it is improving slowly.

On the *Wear* employment generally is better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. It is slack with ship joiners on repair work, and improving with drillers and hole cutters.

In the *Tees and Hartlepool* district employment continues to be bad, but is better than a month ago and a year ago. It is fair with shipwrights at Stockton and Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool.

On the *Humber* employment continues very bad, and is much worse than a year ago. Short time is reported. At Beverley shipwrights and drillers report employment as fair.

On the *Thames* employment is quiet, and continues about the same as a month and a year ago. It is good at Chatham with shipwrights, and fair at Sheerness with shipwrights and iron shipbuilders.

On the *South Coast* employment continues good generally, but is dull with iron shipbuilders, except at Devonport. Shipwrights at Plymouth report it as dull.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment generally is slack, slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. With shipwrights it is good at Pembroke Dock, moderate at Cardiff.

On the *Mersey* employment is fair and better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. Repair work is rather better than a month ago, but some short time is still being worked.

On the *Clyde* there has been no improvement, and employment is still slack and much worse than a year ago. It is, however, good with shipwrights at Dumbarton and fair at Port Glasgow and Clydebank.

Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen.—Employment in this district remains bad, and is much worse than a year ago. A slight improvement is, however, reported at Aberdeen. Shipwrights report employment as fair at Leith.

At *Belfast* employment continues quiet, and is much worse than a year ago. With shipwrights it is reported as fair.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continues moderate. At Lowestoft and Ipswich it is fair, at Great Yarmouth it is slack.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 26 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally shows little change as compared with the previous month. It continues dull and worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 142,381 members show that 9,077 (or 6·4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6·5 per cent. in February, and 4·6 per cent. in March, 1903.

The percentage of unemployed is greatest in the Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn district, the next in order being Scotland, Yorkshire, and Ireland. The district showing the least percentage is the South Coast, and the proportion of unemployed is also below the average for the United Kingdom on the North-East Coast, in the Midlands and London, and in the South Wales and Bristol district.

As compared with a month ago most districts show some improvement, but the changes either way are in no case great. Compared with a year ago an improvement is shown on the North-East Coast, while in every other district a decline is indicated, the falling-off being greatest in Lancashire, Hull, and Ireland.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1904, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Mar., 1904, as compared with a	
		Mar., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	14,125	4·9	5·1	6·1	- 0·2	- 1·2
Manchester and Liverpool District ...	17,886	0·9	0·9	3·6	...	+ 3·3
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District ...	11,035	11·5	11·1	6·3	+ 0·4	+ 5·2
West Riding Towns ...	11,813	8·3	8·2	6·4	+ 0·1	+ 1·9
Hull and Lincolnshire District ...	3,355	8·4	8·4	4·3	...	+ 4·1
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District ...	6,268	4·8	4·3	2·4	+ 0·5	+ 2·4
Nottingham and Leicester District ...	4,123	5·5	5·6	3·4	- 0·1	+ 2·1
London and Neighbouring District ...	12,503	4·4	4·6	3·9	- 0·2	+ 0·5
South Coast ...	3,909	2·1	2·1	1·9	...	+ 0·2
South Wales and Bristol District ...	6,254	3·2	3·6	2·8	- 0·4	+ 0·4
Glasgow and District ...	13,120	9·2	9·3	7·1	- 0·1	+ 2·1
East of Scotland ...	2,991	9·2	10·1	7·7	- 0·9	+ 1·5
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,166	7·4	8·1	3·2	- 0·7	+ 4·2
Other Districts ...	5,550	4·9	5·0	2·7	- 0·1	+ 2·2
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	142,381	6·4	6·5	4·6	- 0·1	+ 1·8

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

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

North-East Coast.—Employment is slightly better than a month ago, and better than a year ago, the improvement being mainly in marine engineering. With pattern makers employment is fair on the whole, but dull at Gateshead, South Shields, Middlesbrough and Jarro. With ironfounders it is good generally, but bad at Darlington, Durham and Carlisle. Boilermakers report employment at Darlington as moderate; with bridge builders in the Tees district it continues good. Engineers generally report employment as fairly good, but bad at Darlington and Durham. Brass finishers report a slight improvement. Enginemen report employment as fairly good.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—The general state of employment shows no change as compared with February. It continues bad and considerably worse than a year ago. Short time is reported at Liverpool. At Manchester employment is moderate with pattern makers, core makers and coach makers. At Chester ironfounders report it as good. With coppermiths at Liverpool it is fair. At Crewe all branches are slack and short time is reported.

Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn Districts.—Employment generally shows a further slight decline, and is considerably worse than a year ago, being affected by the depression in the cotton trade. Short time is reported. With pattern-makers employment is fair at Bury and Blackburn, good at Preston, dull elsewhere. It is moderate with engineers at Preston, Rochdale, and Heywood, and with ironfounders at Oldham, Preston, and Bury. At Bolton roller makers and flyer makers report employment as fair, spindle makers as moderate.

West Riding.—Employment generally continues bad and worse than a year ago. At Leeds, however, there has been some improvement in both engine work and textile machinery, and employment is reported as moderate, except with pattern makers and boiler makers, who are slack. Pattern makers also report employment as quiet at Bradford; elsewhere as fair. At Sheffield and Rotherham nearly all branches are very slack. With ironfounders employment is bad throughout the district. With engineers generally it is moderate at Huddersfield and Wakefield, bad at Bradford, Halifax and Stanningley. Boiler makers report it as moderate at Barnsley, bad at Stanningley and Wakefield.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment continues bad and considerably worse than a year ago, and short time continues at Hull. At Lincoln, Grantham, Peterborough and Gainsborough, however, it is fairly good.

East Midlands.—The general state of employment is about the same as a month ago and worse than a year ago. On the whole it is quiet. With pattern makers it is dull at Nottingham, fair at Derby and Leicester. Most branches at Nottingham are slack, but smiths report employment as moderate. At Derby and Leicester it is moderate generally. Ironfounders report employment as good at Chesterfield, engineers as bad at Burton, Chesterfield, Loughborough and Long Eaton, moderate at Beeston. At Nottingham employment is fairly good with lace machine builders and in the motor industry, only moderate with cycle workers and hosiery machine makers. With shoe machinery makers at Leicester it is good.

West Midlands.—Employment shows a slight decline, and is worse than a year ago. Generally it is moderate. With pattern makers it is quiet. With ironfounders it is good at Birmingham, Coventry and Rugby, moderate at Wednesbury and Wolverhampton. With engineers it is moderate generally, quiet at Coventry. Tool makers at Birmingham report employment as bad. With electrical engineers it is good at Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Employment is fair in the motor and moderate in the cycle industry. It is fair with sporting gun makers, and continues to improve in the military gun trade.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—ENGINEERING; MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

London and Neighbouring District.—On the whole employment shows little change as compared with the previous month, but is rather worse than a year ago, though the general percentage of unemployed is not high. Ironfounders at Dartford and Woolwich report it as good. With brass finishers it is quiet, with hammermen bad, with coppersmiths improving. Electrical workers and instrument makers report it as dull.

South Coast.—The general state of employment is much the same as a month and a year ago. Most reports describe it as moderate. Ironfounders, however, report employment as bad at Devonport and Southampton, good at Portsmouth.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment shows a slight improvement, but is rather worse than a year ago. Generally it is moderate. With pattern makers and ironfounders it is bad at Swansea. Boiler makers are slack at Swindon. Ironfounders report employment as improving at Cardiff and Newport, good at Bristol.

Glasgow and District.—Employment is about the same as a month ago but worse than a year ago. With pattern makers it is reported as moderate or fair in most branches, quiet at Paisley. With engineers it is bad at Glasgow, moderate elsewhere. Employment is fair with brass moulders and brass finishers and ironmoulders, moderate with iron, steel and brass dressers, quiet with copper-smiths and electrical workers, dull with iron grinders, good with boiler and pipe coverers. Short time is reported by iron moulders and irondressers.

East of Scotland.—Employment shows a further improvement, but is still dull on the whole, and worse than a year ago. Pattern makers report it as dull at Dundee, improving at Edinburgh and Aberdeen. At Dundee most sections report employment as moderate, blacksmiths as dull. Engineers report employment as bad at Edinburgh, moderate at Leith, blacksmiths as fair at both places, brassfounders as bad, moulders as fair. At Falkirk employment is moderate with moulders, dull with pattern makers, and short time is reported. At Aberdeen it is fair with brassfinishers, bad with other sections.

Belfast and Dublin District.—Employment has improved slightly but is considerably worse than a year ago. With pattern makers it is very dull, with ironfounders bad. At Belfast brassfounders and machine workers report it as fair, other sections as bad. At Dublin all branches are slack.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continues moderate on the whole and worse than a year ago. At Lancaster it is moderate with engineers, good with ironfounders. Boiler makers at Stoke report employment as bad, engineers as moderate. At Worcester it is moderate with engineers, good with ironfounders. Employment with engineers is fairly good in Norfolk, bad at Colchester, moderate at Ipswich and York, bad at Cork.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 22 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns indicate that employment generally continues dull. Compared with a month ago it shows little change, but it is worse than a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—Employment generally with brassworkers is still moderate, and much the same as a month ago. In Birmingham bedstead makers are improving somewhat, but makers of fire brasses are only quiet. In Manchester employment with brassworkers is reported as good, and in Exeter as fair.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers employment is reported as quiet at Birmingham, and moderate at Smethwick and Wolverhampton; it is quiet with makers of machine-made rivets at Birmingham, and moderate with wire and cut nail makers. Makers of rivets, wrought nails and spikes at Blackheath and Halesowen are slack.

Tubes.—In the South Staffordshire tube trade some improvement is reported. In Birmingham employment is fairly good on cased and bedstead tubes.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—At Cradley makers of cable, side-welded and dollied chains report employment as moderate, block chain makers as slack. In the Tyne and Wear districts employment with chain makers and strikers is reported as good. Anchor smiths at Cradley report some improvement. Anvil and vice makers report employment as fair, but there is some short time worked. At West Bromwich employment is fairly good with spring makers, fair with axle makers, but slack with both branches at Wednesbury, where all branches of iron and steel forging are reported as bad. At Walsall employment is slack on bits, stirrups and ironwork for harness and cart gear.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At both Willenhall and Wolverhampton employment in the lock and key trade is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago, with a large amount of short time. Employment is moderate in Wolverhampton with hollow-ware tinnors and turners, with makers of light and stamped hollow-ware, and with makers of iron fences and hurdles, stampers and piercers and makers of vermin traps; it is good with makers of plantation and brazil hoes.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—File makers in Birmingham report employment as improving; at Sheffield as fair with hardeners and moderate with other branches; at Manchester as fair; at Warrington as slack. Edge-tool makers report employment as moderate at Birmingham, slack at Wednesbury.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment is reported as fair at Birmingham, Leicester, Newcastle, and at Falkirk, where it shows an improvement as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Elsewhere it is slack or quiet; at Glasgow short time is worked.

Sheet Metal.—In London most branches of sheet metal workers report employment as bad; zinc workers, however, are fairly employed. At Birmingham and Sheffield employment is moderate; at Nottingham, Leeds, Manchester, Edinburgh, Dundee and Dublin it is fair, but it is slack at Hull, Wolverhampton, Bilston, the Lye, Oldham and Glasgow; at Exeter it is good.

Cutlery, etc.—In Sheffield, pen and pocket-knife blade forgers and jobbing grinders report employment as moderate, but most of the other branches are slack. At Redditch there has been some improvement with needle makers during the month especially for the United States market; fish hook makers are still well employed and overtime continues. At Nottingham needle makers are slack.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London all branches report employment as slack, except electroplaters, who report a slight improvement, and diamond workers, who are fairly well employed. In Birmingham employment in these trades is generally slack, especially in the jewellery trade. In Sheffield silver gilding and plating is the only section in which employment is fair.

Wirework.—Wire workers are fairly employed at Glasgow, slack elsewhere. At London wire weavers report employment as fairly good, wire drawers generally as moderate, but bad at Warrington.

Farriers.—With farriers generally employment is very quiet, but it is reported as moderate at Newcastle, steady at Dundee, and fair at Dublin.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being 211,000. Reports have also been furnished by Local Correspondents.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to spinning and

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—COTTON TRADE.

weaving factories, usually employing about 105,000 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources shows that employment in March continued bad; the percentage of women and girls employed in mills giving full employment shows an increase, but greater slackness in the remaining mills is frequently reported.

The average price of "middling" American cotton at Liverpool in March was 8.28d. per lb., or nearly 9 per cent. more than in February, and about 55 per cent. more than in March, 1903. The quantity of all kinds of American cotton forwarded from English ports to inland towns in the first quarter of 1904, was 585,000 bales, or 251,000 bales less than in the corresponding period of 1903. The price of "good fair" Egyptian cotton in March was 9.29d. per lb., or about 1 per cent. more than in February, and 12 per cent. more than March, 1903.

In the *Spinning* branch short time (40 hours a week instead of 55½), was again the rule in mills using American cotton, part of the spindles standing in many cases when the mill was running full time. Of the 30,400 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents, 54 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 49 per cent. in February, and 94 per cent. in March, 1903. The Bolton and Leigh district is one in which Egyptian cotton is largely used, and consequently it has not been much affected by the shortage in American cotton. If the figures for this district are excluded the percentage in mills giving full employment is 38, compared with 29 per cent. in February and 93 per cent. a year ago.

In the *Weaving* branch employment continued bad. Of the 74,600 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents 44 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 37 per cent. in February, and 82 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women and girls:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working Full Time throughout the Month.		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
March, 1904	54	13	27	6
February, 1904	49	11	35	5
March, 1903	94	5	—	1
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
March, 1904	44	20	31	5
February, 1904	37	30	30	3
March, 1903	82	15	1	2

COTTON SPINNING.

Ashton District.—In Ashton, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley, and Droylsden employment continues bad, most mills using American cotton running short time; some mills are running full time but have part of the mule and ring spindles idle.

Stockport and Manchester District.—All the mills in the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Compstall district are reported as running short time except those using Egyptian and Sea Island cotton. In the Manchester, Pendlebury and Patricroft district full time is general; on coarse counts work is irregular.

Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde District.—Employment is reported as bad throughout the district, and most of the mills have worked short time.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).—Employment has continued bad, the mills using American cotton either running short time or stopping part of their spindles.

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).—In the Bolton and Leigh district employment has continued fairly good, full time being general in Bolton; but slackness is reported in several mills in Leigh. In Wigan short time continues general.

Bury, Heywood and Rochdale District.—In Bury employment is reported as bad, slackness being general in the mills running full time, and many mills running short time. In Heywood the mills using American cotton are only working 40 hours a week or less. In Rochdale mills using Egyptian cotton are working full time, those using American cotton are working short time.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad with spinners generally, but as fairly good with ring spinners and card room workers.

COTTON WEAVING.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad, and worse than last month, some short time and much slackness being reported.

Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington District.—In Blackburn employment continues bad, many looms standing, and work being most irregular. In Darwen much slackness is reported, and in Accrington a slight improvement.

Burnley, Nelson and Colne District.—In Burnley many looms are standing, but employment generally has slightly improved. In Nelson employment is reported as fair. In Colne a slight improvement is reported.

Other Districts.—In Bury employment is bad, with much short time, but less slackness is reported. In Bolton employment is bad. In Chorley employment continues slack.

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of March the average price of raw cotton (middling American) at Liverpool was 8.28d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8.78d. and the lowest 7.64d. For the period from 1st to 11th April the average price of middling American was 8.32d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during March averaged 9.29d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.4d. and the lowest 9.0d. For the period from 1st to 11th March the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.22d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported:—

	Month of March.			Three months ended March.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imported	Bales 362,103	Bales 429,625	Bales 238,851	Bales 1,422,612	Bales 1,303,015	Bales 998,485
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	270,750	319,928	237,783	895,933	999,787	741,375
Exported	36,409	34,699	43,227	106,288	120,389	167,681

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

Description of Cotton.	Month of March.			Three Months ended March.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
American	Bales 229,392	Bales 270,274	Bales 159,540	Bales 745,716	Bales 836,294	Bales 384,669
Brazilian	11,218	12,811	10,118	28,761	34,163	21,250
East Indian	1,698	3,502	5,667	3,283	10,835	17,202
Egyptian	22,647	27,877	29,940	96,141	102,463	103,330
Miscellaneous	5,595	5,464	2,418	22,032	16,032	11,925
Total	270,750	319,928	237,783	895,933	999,787	741,375

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 8th April was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 569,080 bales, compared with 823,950 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—COTTON AND WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

goods in March, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903. The declared value of the cotton yarn and twist exported during March averaged 13'21d. per lb., as compared with 11'07d. per lb. in March, 1903, an increase of 19 per cent. The corresponding value for February, 1904, was 12'90d. per lb. The increase per yard in the value of exported cotton piece goods amounted to nearly 10 per cent., the value being 2'71d. per yard in March, 1904, as compared with 2'47d. in March, 1903. The declared value in February, 1904, was 2'69d. per yard:—

	Quantities exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	March, 1902.	March, 1903.	March, 1904.	Mar., 1902.	Mar., 1903.	Mar., 1904.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Cotton Yarn & Twist—						
Grey ...	10,595,300	11,117,600	9,931,400	10'35	10'98	13'16
Bleached and Dyed.	3,651,100	3,161,400	2,194,400	11'12	11'36	13'45
Total ...	14,246,400	14,279,000	12,125,800	10'55	11'07	13'21
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached	181,008,100	196,764,000	149,854,100	1'98	1'97	2'19
Bleached ...	123,612,500	125,541,100	130,115,600	2'40	2'53	2'88
Printed ...	74,455,400	86,036,300	79,768,800	2'70	2'73	2'87
Dyed or Manufactured Yarn	71,192,000	78,135,600	78,079,700	3'37	3'38	3'77
Total ...	450,068,300	486,476,400	437,818,200	2'44	2'47	2'71

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 269 firms employing 80,867 workpeople; from women correspondents with regard to factories in Yorkshire usually employing about 30,000 women and girls, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The returns show a slight improvement in March, compared with the previous month. As compared with a year ago there was a decline. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of March was 80,867, compared with 80,501 at the end of February, and 82,764 at the end of March, 1903, an increase of 0'5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2'3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

From the following Table it will be seen that in the worsted trade the returns show little change compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2'9 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the woollen trade an increase of 0'7 per cent. is shown compared with a month ago and a decrease of 2'0 per cent. compared with a year ago:—

Trade and District.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on	
	Mar., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.
Worsted—					
Bradford ...	24,830	24,766	25,778	+ 0'3	- 3'7
Other Yorkshire Districts ...	21,119	21,072	21,568	+ 0'2	- 2'1
Other Districts ...	2,451	2,466	2,476	- 0'6	- 1'0
Total ...	48,400	48,304	49,822	+ 0'2	- 2'9
Woollen—					
Yorkshire ...	10,388	10,275	10,340	+ 1'1	+ 0'5
Scotland ...	8,712	8,651	9,224	+ 0'7	- 5'6
Other Districts ...	3,783	3,795	3,777	- 0'3	+ 0'2
Total ...	22,883	22,722	23,341	+ 0'7	- 2'0
Woollen and Worsted (not separated)					
Total Woollen and Worsted	76,150	75,780	78,064	+ 0'5	- 2'5
Carpet Manufacture ...	4,717	4,721	4,700	- 0'1	+ 0'4

From the next Table it appears that in the *Sorting and Combing* branches there was an increase of 0'8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5'1 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the *Spinning* branch there was an increase of 0'2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of

1'5 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch there was an increase of 0'5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4'2 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the other departments there was an increase of 1'3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0'6 per cent. compared with a year ago:—

District and Branch of Trade.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at end of		
	Mar., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.
Sorting and Combing—			
Yorkshire ...	6,764	6,696	7,153
Scotland ...	385	386	401
Other Districts ...	395	401	394
Total ...	7,544	7,483	7,948
Spinning—			
Yorkshire ...	26,493	26,453	26,817
Scotland ...	2,159	2,153	2,315
Other Districts ...	1,960	1,898	1,880
Total ...	30,612	30,504	31,012
Weaving—			
Yorkshire ...	14,577	14,496	15,210
Scotland ...	3,469	3,438	3,704
Other Districts ...	1,742	1,758	1,742
Total ...	19,788	19,692	20,656
Other Departments—			
Yorkshire ...	8,576	8,389	8,531
Scotland ...	3,639	3,653	3,768
Other Districts ...	1,845	1,840	1,841
Total ...	14,060	13,882	14,140
Unspecified—			
Yorkshire ...	3,836	3,878	3,922
Scotland ...	370	361	386
Other Districts ...	—	—	—
Total ...	4,206	4,239	4,308
TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—			
Yorkshire ...	60,246	59,912	61,633
Scotland ...	10,022	9,971	10,574
Other Districts ...	5,882	5,897	5,857
Total, Woollen and Worsted ...	76,150	75,780	78,064

Of the 30,000 women and girls in the Yorkshire factories reported on by women correspondents, 62 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 65 per cent. in February; 29 per cent. were employed in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 9 per cent. in factories running short time.

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

Bradford District.—Employment in the wool sorting branch continues bad; in the wool combing branch it has improved, and is reported as fair with women and moderate with men, the latter working much short time. In the spinning branches a slight decrease in numbers is reported, but in the weaving branch a slight increase. Of the 12,500 women and girls usually employed in the factories reported on by women correspondents, 57 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month (compared with 52 per cent. in February), 32 per cent. being in factories running full time but giving only partial employment, and 11 per cent. in factories running short time.

Keighley District.—Employment is reported as better than a month ago.

Halifax District.—Employment has been unsatisfactory, short time and slackness prevailing in factories, two-thirds of the women and girls reported on by women correspondents being employed in factories working short time or giving only partial employment.

Huddersfield District.—Employment in the worsted trade is reported as improved but as still quiet generally. In the woollen trade it has improved and some overtime is being worked; but a few firms are not fully employed.

Leeds and Wakefield District.—Employment in Leeds is reported as moderate, and better than a month ago. At Wakefield it is reported as quiet; at Yeadon and Guiseley as fairly good.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING TRADE.

The Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, Ossett, etc.).—Employment continues fair; a few firms are running their machinery overtime, and one or two are working night and day in the preparing departments.

Scotland.—Employment shows little change compared with a month ago, and is much worse than a year ago. In Hawick employment is bad, most mills being on short time. In Galashiels and Selkirk employment is fairly good. Carpet weavers in Midlothian report it as good.

Other Districts.—Employment at Tiverton is reported as bad, only 4½ days per week being worked. At Trowbridge it is fair on heavy woollens and good in other branches. In the woollen trade in Rochdale and Milnrow employment has improved, although some short time is still being worked. At Stockport it continues slack. Carpet workers report employment as improved at Kidderminster, some firms running overtime; at Bridgnorth it continues good.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades in Scotland and Ireland is moderate.

In Dundee employment is only moderate and is worse than a month or a year ago. Information has been received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys and 21,500 women and girls. From this it appears that out of 41 spinning mills, 5 worked some short time during the month and 4 gave only partial employment. All the weaving factories ran full time during the month, but 4 out of 33 are reported as giving only partial employment. In Arbroath, Forfar and Brechin employment is moderate.

In Ulster employment continues moderate. In Belfast the Trade Unions report employment as bad with beetling engines; as moderate with flax dressers and flax roughers; as dull with power loom tenters and women workers; as good with power loom yarn dressers and linen lappers; as fair with hackle and gill makers.

At Barnsley employment in the linen trade is fair.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from the Correspondents of the Department and one Trade Union, employment in the hosiery trade is still bad, but shows a slight improvement on last month.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 11,638 workpeople in their factories at the end of March, show an increase of 1'4 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, but a decrease of 3'7 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 70 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 80 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for February. In Leicester there are indications of improvement, but employment continues slack, and many firms are still working short time. In Loughborough employment is slightly better in some departments. In Hinckley it is slack with most firms.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment is reported as bad, and worse than a year ago.

Scotland.—In Hawick employment continues bad, most of the factories being on short time. In Selkirk it is fair, but shows a decline compared with a month and a year ago.

Lace Trade.

According to information received from the Employers' Association, the Trade Union, and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham lace trade is still bad, but again shows a slight improvement. It is reported as bad in the levers branch, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; as moderate in the curtain

branch; as fairly good in the plain net branch, and better than a year ago. Employment is reported as better at Beeston; as moderate at Stapleford; as quiet at Kimberley and Bulwell. In Ilkeston employment is reported as very bad.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from three Employers' Associations, from three Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment with dyers in the West Riding is still very slack, and much short time is being worked. With cotton dyers generally it is bad. It is reported as slack with calico printers at Manchester; as moderate with woollen block printers at Rossendale. Employment with hosiery dyers and trimmers in Leicester and Hinckley is reported as bad, with much short time. In Loughborough the improvement noted last month has been maintained. In Nottingham and Bulwell employment has improved with hosiery trimmers, but is not so good as a year ago. It is slack with dyers and bleachers at Basford and Nottingham. With calico printers in New Mills it is reported as fair; with calico printers' engravers as good. In the Glasgow district employment is reported as fair with calendermen, dull with calico printers, and bad with block printers. In Dundee it is reported as slack with calender workers and fair with dyers.

TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents and Trade Unions.

Employment in the *bespoke* branch is improving but is worse than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch an improvement is generally reported, but it is still unsatisfactory and worse than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 1,004 workpeople on their premises and 1,449 outworkers.* According to these returns employment with inworkers was good during the month with firms employing 5 per cent. of the total number, moderate in firms employing 55 per cent., and bad in firms employing 40 per cent. With outworkers* it was good with firms employing 13 per cent., moderate with firms employing 67 per cent., and bad with firms employing 20 per cent. Of 72 firms, 56 report employment as better than a month ago, 7 as unchanged, 9 as worse. Compared with a year ago, 12 firms report employment as improved, 8 as unchanged, 52 as worse. In Liverpool employment is reported as improving; in Manchester, Glasgow and Dublin as fair; in Belfast as quiet.

Ready-made Branch.—In London employment was moderate during the month with factory workers, bad with outworkers, but at the end of the month a general improvement was apparent. Employment was decidedly worse than a year ago.

In Leeds employment, although only moderate, is better than a month ago, but is still much worse than a year ago. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 10,300 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during March was good or fair in firms employing 16 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate in firms employing 71 per cent., and bad in firms employing 13 per cent. Compared with February, firms employing 36 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 37 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 27 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 12 per cent. report it as better, firms employing 22 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 66 per cent. as worse. In Manchester employment although only moderate was better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. In

*The numbers may include the same outworkers more than once, and do not include persons employed by outworkers.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

Bristol employment has continued bad, although slightly better than a month ago; it was much worse than a year ago. In the Eastern Counties employment has been moderate, being better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In Glasgow employment is reported as fair; by the Jewish workers as slack.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Leather Trades see p. 119.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 648 firms employing 80,640 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows little change compared with a month ago or with a year ago.

The number (80,640) employed by all firms making returns at the end of March showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. on the number (80,526) employed by these firms at the end of February, and a decline of 1.3 per cent. on the number (81,670) employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 69 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments throughout March, to be compared with 72 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for February.

The numbers employed alone, however, do not always show the full fluctuation in the volume of employment, many manufacturers keeping together a fairly full staff by sharing out the work over as many operatives as possible. Accordingly 492 firms employing 63,777 workpeople have been good enough to supply returns of the aggregate amount of wages paid on the four pay days in March, in addition to particulars of the numbers employed.

From these returns it appears that the number employed at the end of March was 0.1 per cent. greater than at the end of February, and the amount of wages paid on the four pay days in March was 0.4 per cent. greater than during the preceding four weeks, in February. Compared with a year ago the number employed at the end of the month showed a decline of 0.3 per cent. but the amount of wages paid during the month showed practically no change.

The following Table shows the number employed and wages paid in the principal districts, together with the increase or decrease in each compared with a month and a year ago:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both No. employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
		No. employed at end of March, 1904.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last four pay days in March, 1904.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.									
London	44	3,866	+ 17	+ 51	18,000	+ 32	+ 30		
Leicester	76	13,640	+ 02	- 07	57,799	- 12	+ 02		
Leicester Country District	26	3,056	+ 14	+ 13	11,287	+ 39	+ 13.7		
Northampton	60	9,033	+ 25	+ 17	34,400	- 07	- 26		
Kettering	25	2,754	+ 01	- 47	11,378	- 06	- 69		
Northampton Country District	86	8,532	- 30	- 66	39,729	- 25	- 47		
Stafford and District	14	2,291	+ 20	+ 18	8,352	+ 56	+ 37		
Norwich and District	29	4,098	+ 07	+ 02	13,183	+ 31	+ 10		
Bristol	18	2,289	- 07	- 31	8,184	- 07	- 17		
Kingswood	24	2,498	- 02	+ 73	9,897	+ 06	+ 14.3		
Leeds and District ...	32	2,725	- 06	- 82	9,152	+ 33	- 11.9		
Manchester and District	11	1,798	+ 22	+ 63	7,580	+ 52	+ 9.7		
Birmingham and District	7	941	+ 08	- 04	3,242	+ 88	- 29		
Other parts of England and Wales	21	1,750	+ 01	+ 37	5,297	+ 05	+ 9.4		
Total, England and Wales	467	59,251	+ 03	- 02	228,778	+ 05	- 0.1		
SCOTLAND AND IRELAND*	25	4,526	- 2.1	- 1.4	17,378	- 0.7	+ 2.1		
Total UNITED KINGDOM	492	63,777	+ 0.1	- 0.3	246,156	+ 0.4	...		

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

London.—Employment shows an improvement; the

* One Irish firm only made return.

number employed by the firms making returns was better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago; the increase in wages paid was about the same compared with a month and a year ago. Employment among the Trade Union boot and shoe operatives is reported as quiet, but better than in February; with the clickers and pressmen as moderate. With one branch of hand sewn bootmakers it is reported as bad, with another as quiet.

Leicester and District.—In Leicester the returns show a slight increase in the number employed at the end of the month, but a decrease in the amount of wages paid during the month; compared with a year ago there is a decrease in numbers employed, but a slight increase in the amount of wages paid. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as fairly good, although with a considerable number still out of work; the clickers and pressmen as very quiet.

In the Leicester country districts an increase is shown in the number employed, and a greater increase in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there is an increase of 13.1 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 13.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid by firms making returns.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—The returns for Northampton show an increase in the number employed at the end of the month compared with a month ago, but a slight decline in the amount of wages paid during the month. Compared with a year ago the numbers employed have increased by 1.7 per cent., but the amount of wages paid has decreased by 3.6 per cent. In Kettering there is a slight decline in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a considerable decline both in numbers employed and amount of wages paid compared with a year ago.

In the Northampton country districts employment has declined compared with a month ago, and shows a still greater decline compared with a year ago.

Stafford, Stone and Nantwich.—Employment has considerably improved as compared with a month ago, and is better than a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report it as good at Stafford, about two-thirds of their members working overtime; the clickers and pressmen are fully employed. At Stone employment is reported as good.

Eastern Counties.—Employment is better than a month or a year ago. The lasters and finishers report it as fairly good at Norwich, as slack at Ipswich.

Bristol and Kingswood.—In Bristol the returns show a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as slacker than usual; the clickers and pressmen as very quiet. In Kingswood a slight improvement compared with a month ago is shown in the amount of wages paid; compared with a year ago there is an increase of 7.3 per cent. in the number employed at the end of the month, and of 14.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month.

Leeds and District.—A slight decline in numbers employed is shown, but an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there is a decline of 8.2 per cent. in the numbers employed, and of 11.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Employment is reported as good on heavy men's and boys' goods in Heckmondwike; but as bad at Leeds, Bramley, Barnsley and Halifax; as fair on men's light goods and on ladies' boots and shoes at Leeds.

Other Districts in England.—In Manchester there is a considerable improvement compared with a month ago, and a greater one compared with a year ago. In Birmingham the amount of wages paid shows an increase of 8.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease compared with a year ago. Employment is reported as quiet at Newcastle-on-Tyne and Wolverhampton, good at Kendal, bad at Nottingham.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—HAT TRADE; OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Scotland.—The amount of wages paid by firms making returns shows a slight decline compared with a month ago but an increase compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as better but still slack at Glasgow; as worse at Maybole, and as bad at Kilmarnock; as good at Edinburgh; the clickers and pressmen at Glasgow as bad. Hand-sewn workers report employment as fair in Edinburgh, bad in Glasgow.

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

		Month of March.			Three months ended March		
		1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imports	Dozen pairs...	20,905	23,582	26,824	74,915	62,845	60,082
	Value £ ...	80,474	96,725	100,237	237,490	245,703	212,650
Re-Exports	Dozen pairs...	1,012	1,680	1,666	4,266	6,851	6,624
	Value £ ...	2,722	5,010	4,126	12,336	17,743	15,635
Exports (British and Irish)	Dozen pairs...	59,943	70,477	52,213	175,965	234,334	160,617
	Value £ ...	146,829	173,097	121,356	434,616	518,413	368,079

HAT TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from two Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment shows a slight improvement but is still dull. Trade Unions with 5,315 members have 228 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.8 per cent. at the end of February, and 2.9 per cent. a year ago.

With silk hatters, employment in London is reported as very slack for the season, two or three hours a day short time being worked. In Denton employment continues quiet, short time being general. It is good in Edinburgh, quiet in Glasgow.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton although still dull shows a slight improvement. At Bury it is bad on soft hats, moderate on stiff hats; at Bredbury it continues bad. At Stockport it is reported as moderate; at Hyde, Hurst and Failsworth as bad. In Warwickshire it continues bad.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

Employment in the dressmaking trades has improved compared with a month and a year ago, but is still only fair; in the mantle trade employment is moderate; in the shirt and collar trade it continues quiet; in the corset trade it is fair, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,662 dressmakers at the end of March, show an increase of 19.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment generally is reported as fairly good. Court dressmakers employing 1,594 workpeople at the end of March show an increase of 22.8 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, and of 3.0 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment is still only fair. Employment in the wholesale mantle and costume trades has improved, but is still only moderate with indoor workers, and is slack with outworkers; on the whole it is worse than a year ago. With mantle makers in retail firms employment is fairly good. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons and underclothing report employment as fair. In the wholesale millinery trade it is fair; in retail firms the number employed has increased compared with a month and a year ago, and employment is reported as fair on the whole.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show a greatly increased demand during the month for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago, but a slight decrease compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade has improved and is generally fair. In the costume and skirt trade it continues fair; firms employing 2,023 workpeople at the end of March show a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade is slack and worse than a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 8,826 workpeople in their factories at the end of March show a decrease of 0.2 per cent. on the number employed at the end of February, and of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 45 per cent. of the total number included in the returns report employment as quiet or bad, and firms employing 55 per cent. as good or fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,952 workpeople in their factories at the end of March, show an increase of 2.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of February, but a decrease of 6.2 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 17 per cent. were employed in firms reporting short time. Firms employing 95 per cent. of the total number included in the returns report employment as good or fair, 5 per cent. as quiet or bad.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been furnished by 17 Employers' Associations, by 36 Employers, by Trade Unions with nearly 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment is fair on the whole. In letterpress printing it has improved and is better than a year ago, Trade Unions with 38,965 members having 3.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 3.9 per cent. in February, and 4.0 per cent. in March, 1903. In lithographic printing a similar improvement has occurred, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month being 4.0, against 4.7 a month ago and a year ago. With bookbinders employment has declined, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March being 5.0, against 4.3 a month ago and 4.7 a year ago.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar. 1904 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	22,864	3.5	4.1	4.2	- 0.6	- 0.7
Northern Counties ...	1,445	3.0	3.0	5.3	...	- 2.3
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,745	3.6	5.1	6.9	- 1.5	- 3.3
Yorkshire	4,151	3.5	3.8	3.0	- 0.3	+ 0.5
East Midlands	2,088	3.2	3.8	3.1	- 0.6	+ 0.1
West Midlands	2,542	4.3	4.5	4.3	- 0.2	...
Eastern Counties ...	360	2.5	2.1	3.2	- 0.4	+ 1.5
S. & S.W. Counties...	2,612	1.7	2.0	2.2	- 0.5	+ 0.3
Wales and Mon.	813	1.6	0.9	4.0	+ 0.7	- 2.4
Scotland	6,168	2.1	2.2	1.6	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Ireland	2,616	7.0	8.4	7.5	- 1.4	- 0.5
United Kingdom ...	52,404	3.4	4.1	4.2	- 0.7	- 0.8

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

London.—Employment with letterpress printers remains fairly good on the whole. Branches of Trade Unions with 17,049 members had 2.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.7 per cent. a month and year ago. With lithographic printers employment remains dull on the whole, though good with lithographic artists; the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 5.0 at the end of March, against 6.2 in February and 7.1 a year ago. With bookbinders

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES; GLASS, &C., TRADES.

employment has again declined. Of 3,794 Trade Union members in this section, 6.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.7 in February, and 5.4 in March, 1903.

Northern Counties.—Employment is fairly good generally.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Letterpress printers are fairly well employed as a rule, but are slack at Blackburn and Bury. Employment with lithographic printers is slack at Manchester, moderate elsewhere. With bookbinders employment is fair generally.

Yorkshire.—Employment with letterpress printers is fair at Leeds, moderate at Sheffield and Halifax, quiet at Bradford and Hull. At York, Scarborough, Barnsley and Wakefield it is good; at Huddersfield improving. With lithographic printers and bookbinders employment is fair on the whole.

East Midland Counties.—Employment is slack at Nottingham; fairly good elsewhere.

West Midland Counties.—Employment is moderate at Birmingham; improved in the Potteries and at Burton; fair at Wolverhampton; good at Coventry, Warwick, West Bromwich, Stafford, and Shrewsbury.

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

Scotland.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair on the whole. Lithographic printers and bookbinders report it as quiet at Edinburgh and Glasgow; fairly good at Dundee and Aberdeen.

Ireland.—Employment continues dull generally.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment remains fairly good on the whole. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,386 members had 2.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, the same percentage as at the end of February. At the end of March, 1903, the percentage unemployed was 2.6.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES

INFORMATION has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, from 36 Trade Unions with 33,365 members, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally was dull during March, and worse than a year ago, but better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of March was 5.9, as compared with 7.7 in February, and 3.9 per cent. in March, 1903.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment generally with millsawyers was quiet. Reports show that it continued bad at Hull and Dublin, but had slightly improved in the Tyne and Wear district; it was dull at Dundee; slack at Birmingham and Manchester; quiet at Glasgow, Bristol, Liverpool, Gloucester and Plymouth; fair at Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Norwich, and in Suffolk and Essex; and moderate at Glasgow, Belfast, Nottingham, Leicester, in the Sheffield and Tees and Hartlepool districts, and at Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was quiet, and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions with a membership of 13,153, show 8.9 (or 6.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 10.1 per cent. at the end of February, and 2.3 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that employment with cabinet makers was bad at Birmingham and Leicester; dull at Edinburgh and Dundee; slack at Manchester and Hull, and in the Sheffield and Tees and Hartlepool districts; quiet in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, and at Nottingham and Burnley; fair at Dublin, Belfast, Aberdeen, Liverpool, Warrington, Plymouth, and in Suffolk and Essex; and moderate at Leeds and in the Tyne and Wear district. With upholsterers employment was bad at Edinburgh; dull at Glasgow; slack in Sheffield and

district; quiet at Bristol, Nottingham, Belfast and Plymouth; fair at Aberdeen; improving at Dublin; and good in the Tyne and Wear district. With French polishers it was bad at Edinburgh; slack at Liverpool; quiet at Plymouth; improving at Belfast; moderate at Glasgow; and good at Manchester. With carvers at Birmingham employment was quiet.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,178, report 35.1 (or 6.8 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.6 per cent. at the end of February, and 6.4 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that employment continued bad at Burton-on-Trent, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Birmingham; it was dull at Bristol and Belfast; slack at Manchester; fair at Dublin, Hull, Cork and Greenock; good in the Tyne and Wear district, in Peterhead and district, and Frasersburgh and district.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment is improving, and is better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, etc., with a membership of 7,771, report 31.2 (or 4.0 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 6.1 per cent. at the end of February, and 5.1 per cent. a year ago. Employment was bad at Dublin, Cork and Edinburgh; dull, but improving, at Glasgow; quiet at Dundee; slack at Manchester and Hull, and in Sheffield and district; fair at Plymouth and Selby; improving at Liverpool and Belfast; moderate at Birmingham, Swindon, Leicester, and Exeter; and good at Nottingham, Northampton, and Gloucester.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was dull at Glasgow; fair at Leeds, Bristol and Plymouth; and good at Dublin and Hull.

Other Trades.—Employment in London was bad with stick makers and mounters, lath-renders and packing-case makers, and dull with basket makers. Stick makers and mounters report much short time. Lath-renders report employment as dull at Glasgow and Dundee, and fair at Hull; basket makers as bad at Leicester, and in Glasgow and the West of Scotland; and packing-case makers as dull at Glasgow, moderate at Belfast, and bad at Nottingham. Employment with wood-turners at Glasgow was fair; with bobbin and shuttle makers at Dundee fair; and with gilders at Glasgow quiet.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 13 Employers' Associations, 13 Trade Unions (in the Glass Trade) with 5,042 members, Local Correspondents, and one firm of employers.

Employment in the Glass trade remained bad in the bottle-making branch, and was slack on the whole in the flint-glass branch. In the Pottery trades it was fair. In the Brick and Tile trades it was quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass-bottle makers is reported as bad at St. Helens, Leeds, Mexboro', and Bristol; moderate at Liverpool, Wakefield, and Barnsley; dull at Newport; slack in the Wear district and at Seaham Harbour; fair at Glasgow; fairly good at Castleford; and good with makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham. Flint glass makers report employment as bad in the Tyne district; slack at Edinburgh and Glasgow; fair at Birmingham; moderate at Manchester; and fairly good in the Stourbridge district. Flint glass cutters report it as bad at Glasgow and Edinburgh, and quiet at Birmingham and in the Stourbridge district. Employment with sheet glass flatteners at Liverpool was good; with pressed glass makers in the Tyne district it was bad; with glass bevellers at Birmingham it was slack; and with glass blowers in London it remained bad.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—GLASS, &C., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Pottery Trades.—In the Staffordshire Potteries district employment was fair with general earthenware workers, printers and transferers, crate makers, and encaustic and other decorated tile workers; bad with china and earthenware decorators; quiet with packers; good with female decorators; and slack with engravers. Employment with china potters at Longton was bad. At Newcastle-on-Tyne it was fair with hollow-ware and sanitary pressers. In the South Yorkshire district and at Barnstaple and Kingskerswell it was moderate.

In Scotland employment is reported as moderate, short time being worked. With tobacco-pipe makers and finishers in Glasgow it continued dull.

Brickmaking.—Reports show that employment was bad at Oldham and Birmingham, short time being worked; slack at Nottingham and Wrexham; fair at Plymouth, Calstock and Exeter, and in Suffolk and Essex; moderate at Glasgow and in South Staffordshire; and good at Mold and in the Tees and Hartlepool district. At Normanton full time was worked.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 116.)

RETURNS have been received from 4 Employers' Associations, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns show that there is no improvement in the general state of employment, which remains bad both in the preparatory and making up branches of the trade in all the principal centres, short time being still prevalent. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of March was 11.3, as compared with 11.2 at the end of February and 6.3 at the end of March, 1903.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dyers, etc.—In these branches slackness is still reported as general, with much short time. This applies to the principal centres, the only exceptions being the Bolton, Bury and Wigan districts, Bristol, Suffolk and Essex and Dundee, where employment is reported as fair.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—In the saddle and harness trades there is little change in the conditions existing during the winter, and employment generally is slack, with a good deal of short time. The only towns which report employment as fair are Aberdeen and Dublin. In Walsall employment is reported as being especially depressed, with 70 to 80 per cent. of the gig saddlers on short time. With horse collar makers there is no improvement except at Manchester, where there is a slight change for the better.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—In London the pocket-book and leather case makers, the fancy leather workers and portmanteau makers report employment as bad. At Manchester the portmanteau makers report it as fair.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in Agriculture in March was received from 215 correspondents in various parts of England. According to the reports furnished, the weather was favourable for farm work, with the exception of a few days at the beginning and end of the month, and good progress was made in overtaking the arrears of work in the fields caused by the continuous rains of previous months. Ploughing, harrowing, sowing and potato planting were pushed forward during the dry days, and all classes of farm labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment. The supply of day labourers was sufficient in most districts. Men suitable for permanent situations, although scarce on the whole, are said in some districts to be rather less difficult to obtain.

Northern Counties.—According to the reports from Durham and Cumberland, employment for day labourers was slightly interrupted by rain. Some amount of additional work was, however, furnished by draining and ditching. A correspondent in the Chester-le-Street Union

(Durham) states that day labourers have lately been more plentiful, owing to the completion of some railway contracts. In Lancashire a good deal of fencing and manure carting was done, but sowing was much in arrear. Stockmen were busy, the lambing season being at its height. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand. Day labourers in Yorkshire were not in much demand, except for potato planting and corn drilling. The supply of men for permanent situations was generally sufficient.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents in Cheshire and Derbyshire state that day or casual labourers were, for the most part, fully employed during March, the supply being just about sufficient for the demand. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire casual labourers were not in much demand, and the supply was generally sufficient. Men for permanent situations are in request: a correspondent in the Basford Union, however, states that such men have latterly been rather easier to obtain. Reports from Staffordshire and Shropshire show that day labourers were, for the most part, fully employed on threshing and other work; good men for permanent situations are reported to be scarce. In Worcestershire and Warwickshire the drier weather enabled good progress to be made in overtaking the arrears of field work, and most of the day labourers were then fully employed. A report from the Alcester Union (Warwick) states that there was "no corn fit for hoeing but the weather being dry there was plenty of digging to be done in fruit plantations."

Regularity of employment is reported in Northamptonshire; sowing was, however, in arrear at the end of the month. The supply of good men for permanent situations is insufficient, particularly men for milking, and for tending horses and sheep. In Oxfordshire progress was made with spring seeding. There was not much demand for day labourers, except for threshing, and the supply is stated to be rather better than a year ago. Men and boys for permanent situations are scarce. Agricultural employment was plentiful in Buckinghamshire, and a good deal of sowing was done. Owing to public works in progress, and to wood-cutting and thinning in plantations, there was a fairly good demand for day labourers. Day labourers were more regularly employed in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire than during February, and fewer men were out of work.

Eastern Counties.—In Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire agricultural employment is reported to have been regular, but at the end of the month much of the spring sowing remained to be done. The supply of day labourers is said to be about equal to the demand. A scarcity of young men for working with horses is reported in the Wisbech Union. The demand for day or casual labourers in Lincolnshire is said to be in excess of the supply in some districts, especially for threshing and potato planting. On the other hand, the supply of men for permanent situations has been rather in excess of the demand in one or two districts. Employment for farm labourers in Norfolk during March was, generally speaking, plentiful. Good progress was made with the sowing of wheat, barley, beans and peas. The supply of day labourers has been just sufficient as a rule, but a surplus is reported in one or two districts. In Suffolk sowing was carried on fairly regularly. Day labourers were for the most part well employed during the month. Farm labourers were regularly employed in Essex. The supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand in certain districts, men who had been following threshing machines having become available for work on the land. Men for tending horses are said to be scarce.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Reports from Kent show that agricultural labourers were, generally speaking, well employed during March in threshing and hedging, preparing the land for sowing, and in the hop gardens. The supply of extra men is said to have been about equal to the demand in most

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—AGRICULTURAL AND DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

districts. Some scarcity of carters and shepherds is reported. In *Surrey* and *Sussex* good progress was made with farm work; the supply of extra labour was generally sufficient. A report from the *Battle Union* (*Sussex*) states that "there being a great many men out of employment in the seaside towns, casual labourers have been easy to get if wanted." Correspondents in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire* state that employment was generally regular with farm labourers during March. The demand for day labourers, though not great, showed an improvement, and the supply has been sufficient. A scarcity of men for tending stock is mentioned in the *Petersfield* and *Wantage Unions*. In *Wiltshire* agricultural labourers were, for the most part, fully employed. The supply of day labourers was sufficient. A correspondent in the *Devizes Union* states: "Men for permanent situations are perhaps rather more plentiful than of late years, but good men are still scarce." Agricultural employment was plentiful in *Dorsetshire* during March, and there has been some demand for extra men. In *Somersetshire* full time was worked by most of the day labourers, and good progress was made with the spring cropping. A scarcity of carters and shepherds is mentioned in the *Taunton Union*. Regularity of employment is reported in *Herefordshire*. There was a fairly good demand for day labourers, especially in connection with work in the hop gardens. A scarcity of cowmen and carters is reported from the *Bromyard Union*, and wages are said to have been slightly advanced. In *Gloucestershire* farm labourers were, generally speaking, in regular work during March. There was a fair demand for casual labour for threshing, hedging and other work, and the supply is said to have been moderate. Men for permanent situations are scarce; a correspondent in the *Cirencester Union* states that it is difficult to get good labourers, even if a house is offered rent free. Farm labourers in *Devon* and *Cornwall* were fully employed in ploughing and sowing. All classes of agricultural labourers appear to be in demand in these counties.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions. Information regarding other principal ports has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, by Trade Unions, and by Local Correspondents of the Department. Employment during March was slightly better on the whole than a month and a year ago.

London.

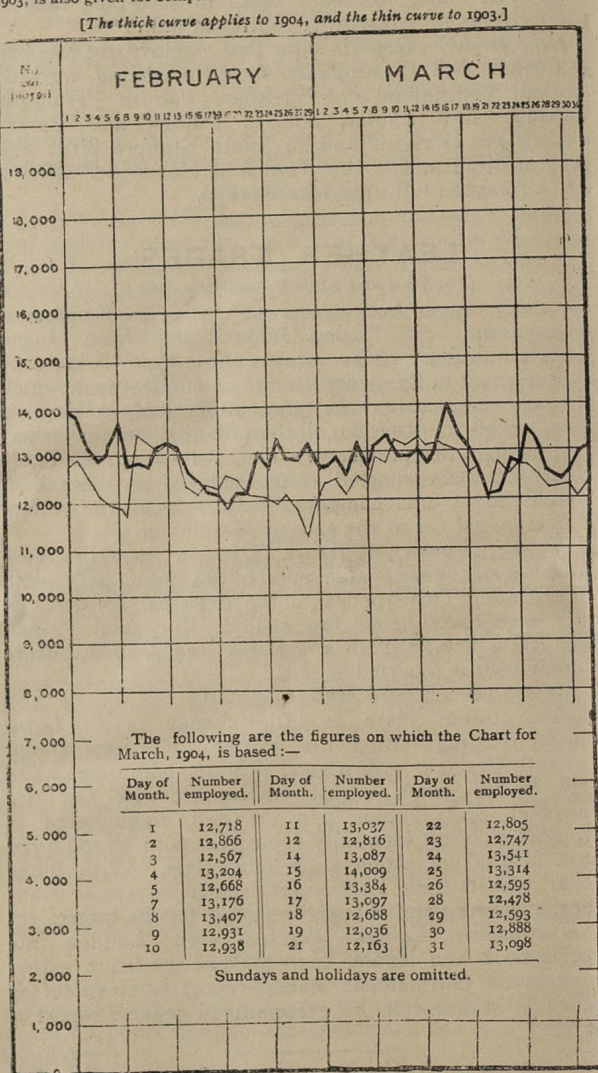
The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended March 26th was 12,938, an increase of 0.7 per cent. on the average for February, and of 1.8 per cent. on the average for March, 1903. The average daily number employed in March during the seven years, 1897-1903, was 14,432.

(1) *Weekly Averages*.—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the four weeks ended March 26th:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Total Dock and Wharf Labour included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.	
Week ending Mar. 5th	4,652	2,258	6,910	12,790
" " " 12th	5,491	1,989	7,480	13,052
" " " 19th	5,174	2,158	7,332	13,050
" " " 26th	4,729	2,411	7,140	12,860
Average for 4 weeks ended Mar. 26th, 1904	5,011	2,204	7,215	12,938
Average for Feb., 1904	4,794	2,365	7,159	12,847
Average for Mar., 1903	5,154	2,085	7,239	12,703

(2) *Daily Fluctuations*.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the Chart below. The numbers in March ranged from 14,009 on the 15th to 12,036 on the 19th. During March, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 13,332 on the 13th to 11,946 on the 21st.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of February and March, 1904. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1903, is also given for comparison.



Employment was moderate with workers in mid-stream, stevedores, lumpers, and deal porters. With coal porters, winchmen, lightermen, and corn porters it was fair. With fruit porters in Thames-street it remained moderate, the average daily number employed being 271, as compared with 274 in February and 289 a year ago.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during March, 1904, 72 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 64 per cent. in the previous month, and 54 per cent. in March, 1903.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—On the Tyne and Wear employment with dock and quayside labourers has been fairly good. With trimmers and teemers it has been only moderate. With Tyne watermen employment is slack and irregular. On the Tees, riverside labourers report employment as slack, and worse than a year ago; with dock labourers employment remains slack at Hartlepool, and moderate at Middlesbrough.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; SEAMEN; FISHING.

Hull, Goole and Grimsby.—Employment is fair on the whole.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Employment is reported as good at Ipswich; fair at Parkeston, Lowestoft, and Lynn; moderate at Harwich; slack at Yarmouth.

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment is reported as moderate on the whole.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Liverpool.—Employment is reported as dull generally.

The Clyde.—Employment at Glasgow is reported as quiet.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment is fair at Leith; dull at Aberdeen and Dundee.

Irish Ports.—Employment is dull at Dublin, Belfast and Cork.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MARCH.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.) RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during March, 36,789 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 4,204 on the number shipped during March 1903.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been either in excess of or equal to the demand at the ports included in the returns.

During the three completed months of 1904, 102,481* seamen were shipped, of whom 16,868 (or 16.5 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of 1903, 96,161* seamen were shipped, of whom 15,548 (or 16.2 per cent.) were foreigners.

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

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March, 1904 and 1903 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the three months ended March in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Persons shipped in Mar., 1904.*			Total in Mar., 1903.*	Total number* shipped in three months ended March,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Mar., 1904.*		1904.	1903.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
<i>East Coast.</i>						
Tyne Ports	57	3,024	3,081	2,749	8,173	7,139
Sunderland ... ..	...	558	558	888	1,496	1,067
Middlesbrough	27	175	202	236	612	616
Hull ... ..	...	992	992	934	3,208	3,166
Grimsby	7	39	46	98	104	252
<i>Bristol Channel.</i>						
Bristol	27	520	547	644	1,928	2,006
Newport, Mon. ... ..	...	741	741	655	2,181	2,087
Cardiff † ... ..	...	4,519	4,519	3,871	13,996	12,785
Swansea	63	310	373	343	1,008	1,286
<i>Other Ports.</i>						
Liverpool	132	12,899	13,031	11,885	35,040	32,263
London	81	6,357	6,438	5,734	18,520	17,933
Southampton	9	2,486	2,495	2,538	6,492	6,408
SCOTLAND.						
<i>Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth.</i>						
Glasgow	51	624	675	472	1,505	1,303
Glasgow	27	2,620	2,647	2,387	7,012	6,765
IRELAND.						
Dublin ... ..	...	142	142	158	344	361
Belfast ... ..	...	232	232	94	862	726
Total, March, 1904	551	36,238	36,789	...	102,481	...
Ditto, March, 1903	472	32,113	...	39,585	...	96,161

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and from Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland; and from Local Correspondents.

The fish landed during March shows an increase both

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

in quantity and value, as compared with a year ago. The following Table gives the quantity and value of fish landed in March, 1904, and March, 1903, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	771,353	571,344	562,810	507,677
Scotland	315,651	222,476	140,262	137,378
Ireland	18,273	10,683	12,452	9,776
Total	1,105,477	804,503	715,524	655,031
Shell Fish ... ..	...	...	29,785	22,919
Total Value ... ..	...	...	745,309	677,950

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that good supplies of fish were landed during the month by the trawl boats. Line boat fishing was, however, interrupted by stormy weather.

At Hull and Grimsby trawl fishermen report employment as moderate, and curing house and general fishing trade labourers as slack. Employment at Yarmouth was fair with fishermen and among fish dock labourers, and bad with persons employed in fish curing. At Lowestoft it was bad in all branches.

Off the South-western coast fishing improved during the month.

Employment at Aberdeen was good in all branches, and slightly better than a month ago. At Fraserburgh it was moderate with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and bad among persons employed in fish curing. Employment at Macduff was moderate with fishermen and persons employed in fish curing, and at Peterhead it was fair in all branches. At Arbroath and Montrose, after the first week of the month, fishing was fairly regular.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during March was 35,163 as compared with 38,077 in March, 1903. During the three months ended March, 1904, the number of passengers was 68,448, being 10,133 (or 12.9 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 35,163 passengers in March, 19,881 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 279 compared with a year ago. For the three months ended March, 1904, the total number was 39,696, as compared with 43,503 in the corresponding period of 1903, a decrease of 3,807, which is more than accounted for by a decline of 5,486 in the number of passengers to British South Africa.

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

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Three months ended			
	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.
British Empire:				
British North America	8,922	8,890	12,133	11,837
Australia and New Zealand... ..	659	655	2,492	2,537
British South Africa	1,873	3,499	6,113	11,599
India (including Ceylon)	290	191	1,052	979
Other British Colonies and Possessions	306	227	1,168	1,120
Total, British Empire	12,050	13,372	22,958	28,072
Foreign Countries:				
United States	7,333	6,396	15,102	14,036
Other Foreign Countries	498	392	1,636	1,395
Total, Foreign Countries	7,831	6,788	16,738	15,431
Grand Total	19,881	20,160	39,696	43,503

Foreign.—The remainder of the 35,163 passengers in March, viz., 15,282, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 2,635 less than in March, 1903. For the three months ended March, 1904, the number of such passengers was 28,752, of whom 20,040 were bound for the United States, 5,346 for British North America, and 1,395 for British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1903, the number was 35,078, of whom 22,144 were bound for the United States, 8,052 for British North America, and 2,947 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During March 16,881 aliens arrived in

the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 10,988 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 5,521 as compared with March, 1903. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,859 (exclusive of seamen), or 904 less than a year ago. For the three months ended March, 1904, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 18,661, and the number not so stated 12,783 (exclusive of seamen), compared with 26,390 and 14,194 respectively in 1903. The figures for March 1904 and 1903, and also for the three completed months of 1904 and 1903, are as follows:—

	Mar., 1904.		Mar., 1903.	
	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	1,034	1,326	2,983	3,257
Seamen	4,859	5,763	12,783	14,194
Others	10,988	16,509	18,661	26,390
Gross Total	16,881	23,598	34,427	43,841

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN MARCH.

THE following Table shows the number of cases of lead, mercurial, phosphorus, and arsenic poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act, during the undermentioned periods:—

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.				DEATHS.			
	3 months ended March		3 months ended March		3 months ended March		3 months ended March	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
Lead Poisoning—								
Smelting of Metals	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—
Brass Works	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	3	7	4	—	—	—	—	—
Printing	—	5	3	—	—	—	—	—
File Cutting	1	9	8	—	—	—	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	1	5	2	—	—	—	—	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works	9	22	33	—	—	—	—	2
Red and Yellow Lead Works	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
China and Earthenware*	12	33	21	1	1	1	—	—
Litho-transfer Works	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	3	3	8	—	—	—	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	2	3	4	—	—	—	—	—
Coach Making	9	15	1	—	—	—	—	—
Shipbuilding	3	5	13	1	1	1	—	—
Paint used in other Industries	2	12	10	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	2	12	10	—	—	—	—	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	51	139	138	2	3	5		
Mercurial Poisoning—								
Barometer and Thermometer making	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Furriers' processes	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	1	1	3					
Phosphorus Poisoning								
Arsenic Poisoning—								
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	1	3	1					
Anthrax—								
Wool Sorting	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Wool Combing	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—
Handling of Horsehair	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	1	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
Total Anthrax	4	14	15					

* Of the 12 cases in the china and earthenware industry in March, 1904, 6 affected females.
† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 14 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during March, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the three months ended March, 1904, was 36 (including 6 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1903, 31 (including 2 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1904, was 374, as compared with 434 in the corresponding month of 1903, 394 in 1902, 618 in 1901, and 657 in 1900. The mean number of fatal accidents in the month of March in these five years was thus 496, so that the total for the past month was well below the average. Excluding seamen the number of accidents in March, 1904, was 233, or about the same as the mean for the years 1900 to 1904, viz., 239.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 334, compared with 394 in March 1903. During the three months ended March, 1904, the number of persons in this group of industries reported as killed was 958, as compared with 1,021 in the corresponding period of 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between March, 1904, and a month ago and a year ago:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Mar., 1904, as compared with a	
	Mar., 1904.	Feb., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	1904.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	4	1	- 2	+ 1
Engine Drivers	—	—	1	—	- 1
Firemen	3	3	1	—	+ 2
Guards (Passenger)	—	—	1	—	- 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	8	6	8	+ 2	—
Porters	3	1	8	+ 2	- 5
Shunters	2	1	4	+ 1	- 2
Miscellaneous	14	16	21	- 2	- 7
Contractors' Servants	3	1	4	+ 2	- 1
Total Railway Service	35	34	49	+ 1	- 14
Mines—					
Underground	82	85	85	- 1	- 4
Surface	17	14	16	+ 3	+ 1
Total Mines	99	97	102	+ 2	- 3
Quarries over 20 feet deep	6	9	13	- 3	- 7
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	3	—	3	+ 3	—
Wool and Worsted	1	2	2	- 1	- 1
Other Textiles	—	3	2	- 3	- 2
Non Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	6	2	5	+ 4	+ 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	10	9	9	+ 1	+ 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	2	3	5	- 1	- 3
Ship and Boat Building	6	6	7	—	- 1
Wood	1	2	2	- 1	- 1
Chemicals, &c.	6	2	4	+ 4	+ 2
Other Non-Textile Industries	20	26	16	- 6	+ 4
Total Factories	55	55	55		
Workshops	1	1	2		- 1
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	93	46	69	+ 47	+ 24
Steam	42	52	99	- 10	- 57
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	2	—	3	+ 2	- 1
Steam	4	4	7	—	- 3
Total Seamen	141	102	178	+ 39	- 37
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	14	8	15	+ 6	- 1
Warehouses	6	6	3	—	+ 3
Buildings to which Act applies	9	14	9	- 5	—
Laundries	—	—	1	—	- 1
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6	29	28	28	+ 1	+ 1
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	8	1	7	+ 7	+ 1
Grand Total	374	327	434	+ 47	- 60

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number and Magnitude.—Fourteen new disputes began in March, 1904, compared with 21 in February and 31 in March, 1903. By the 14 disputes 1,305 workpeople were directly 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 4,512 workpeople involved in trade disputes during March, 1904, compared with 5,965 in February, 1904, and 19,665 in March, 1903.

New Disputes in March, 1904.—In the following Table the new disputes in March are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	4	163	—	163
Coal Mining	3	855	—	855
Textile	2	130	—	130
Clothing	3	72	—	72
Other	2	85	—	85
Total, March, 1904	14	1,305		1,305
Total, February, 1904	21	2,552	945	3,497
Total, March, 1903	31	7,200	2,684	9,784

Causes.—Of the fourteen new disputes, three arose on demands for increased wages, five on objections to reductions, two on other wages questions, two on details of working arrangements, and two from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in March in the case of eight new disputes, affecting 234 workpeople, and eight old disputes, affecting 1,263 workpeople.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation †	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object. ‡	Result §
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Fitters, Turners and Machinemen	Dundee	229	—	1903. 27 Nov.	83	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. per week	Reduction to be enforced on those earning 31s. a week and over.
Weavers, Winders, Tenters & Yarn Dressers	Belfast	220	170	1904. 24 Feb.	28	Against proposed reduction in wages	Work resumed on employer's terms.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day are, as usual, omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeds 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.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended April 9th amounted to £8,695,052, a decrease of £4,144 (or 0.05 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,780,816, an increase of £91,170, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,914,236, a decrease of £95,314.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during March numbered 425, being 10 more than in March, 1903, 67 more than in March, 1902, and 5 less than in March, 1901.

H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.

New Appointments.—Mr. T. Porteus has been appointed an Inspector of Factories and Workshops. He has been attached to the Leeds district, and his official address is 41, Park Square, Leeds. Miss Mildred O. Power has been temporarily appointed an Inspector of Factories and Workshops. Miss Power's official address is 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Changes of Office Addresses.—The office of H.M. Inspector of Factories in charge of the South Wales District, comprising the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, Carmarthen, Pembroke, Cardigan, Radnor and Brecon (Mr. J. E. Ashworth), has been removed to Bank Chambers, Heathfield Street, Swansea.

The office of H.M. Inspectors of Factories in Glasgow has been removed to 74, York Street, Glasgow, which will in future be the

official address for H.M. Superintending Inspector for the Scotland and Ireland Division (Mr. J. S. Maitland); for H.M. Inspector in charge of the West Scotland District, comprising the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, Argyle, Dumbarton and Stirling (Mr. H. M. Robinson); and for H.M. Lady Inspector stationed in Glasgow (Miss M. M. Paterson).

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in March of disputes that commenced or were settled in that month was 38,400 working days. In addition, 36,100 working days were lost in March, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 74,500 working days, which compares with 67,000 in the previous month, and 233,700 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Summary for the First Three Months of 1904.—For the three completed months of 1904 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 68 disputes which commenced in these months was 13,106, as compared with 18,957 in the 79 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1903.

The aggregate duration in working days of all disputes was about 252,000, as compared with 724,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

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

East Scotland District.—An Examination for first and second class certificates of competency as manager and under-manager of a mine for this District will be held at Edinburgh on May 13th. Candidates must, on or before May 6th, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. R. Calder, Fintry Place, Broughty Ferry, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Persons residing outside the District are eligible for examination.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on April 1st, and contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages, and cost of living.

Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the various colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to emigrants. Copies of the circulars can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

WAGES.

Changes Reported in March.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in March was a decrease of £1,969 per week, as compared with a decrease of £3,234 in February, and a decrease of £15 in March, 1903. The number of workpeople affected was 61,038, of whom 1,892 received advances amounting to £89 per week, and 59,146 sustained decreases amounting to £2,058 per week. The total number affected in February was 134,910, and in March, 1903, 39,223.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 5,500 blast furnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, 1,350 in Cumberland, 1,600 in Staffordshire, and 1,250 in South Wales and Monmouthshire; 5,450 iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England, 20,000 in the Midlands, 3,500 in Scotland, and 5,000 iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Changes affecting 25,790 workpeople resulted from the decisions of Conciliation Boards, and changes affecting 26,674 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remainder, affecting 8,574 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, two of these changes, affecting 621 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the first Three Months of 1904.—For the three months, January—March, 1904, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have had their wages changed was 266,110 as compared with

205,963 in the corresponding period of 1903. Of these, 3,288 obtained a net increase amounting to £268 per week, and 256,232 sustained a net decrease of £9,249 per week, whilst the remaining 6,590 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £8,981 per week, compared with a decrease of £822 per week in the corresponding period of 1903.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected and the net results of the changes in the principal groups for the three months were as follows:—

	No.	£
Coal Mining	152,690	— 2,316
Iron Mining	10,589	— 521
Quarrying	1,964	— 49
Pig Iron Manufacture ...	11,169	— 590
Iron and Steel Manufacture...	49,415	— 2,330
Engineering and Shipbuilding	28,901	— 2,545
Linen Trade	2,200	— 68
Glass Bottle Trade	4,328	— 654
Other Trades	2,655	— 56
Employees of Local Authorities	2,199	+ 148

HOURS.

Three changes in hours of labour were reported during March, affecting 2,379 workpeople, whose average working hours in a full week were reduced by nearly one hour per week. During the three months January—March the total number of workpeople affected by changes in hours was 3,955, the average amount of change per head being a decrease of about 2 hours per week.

DETAILS OF CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1904.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	
BUILDING TRADES. <i>Decreases—Nil.</i>					
<i>2 Increases—113 Workpeople.</i>					
Penrith	Carpenters and Joiners	2 April	38	...	Advance of 3d. per hour (7½d. to 7½d.).
Dumfries	Painters	1 Mar.	75	...	Standard rate of 7½d. per hour agreed to.
MINING. <i>4 Decreases—6,637 Workpeople.</i>					
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>					
Bristol District ...	Hewers and other Underground and Surface Workers	April	2,500	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages of Hewers 35 per cent. above the standard of 1888. §
Somerset (Radstock District)	Hewers and other Underground Workers, Banksmen and Screenmen, Enginemens and Stokers	April	4,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Northamptonshire (one firm)	Ironstone Miners	Feb.	90	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE. <i>9 Decreases—10,108 Workpeople.</i>					
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>					
Cleveland and Durham	Blastfurnacemen	2 April	5,500	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
West Cumberland	Blastfurnacemen	April	1,350	...	Decrease of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 13½ per cent. above the standard of 1889.
Millom	Blastfurnacemen	April	125	...	Decrease of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages of Furnacemen 13½ per cent. and of other workpeople 11½ per cent. above the standard.
Ulverston	Blastfurnacemen	3 April	132	...	Decrease of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 11½ per cent. above the standard.
Chesterfield ...	Blastfurnacemen	Feb.	96	...	Decrease of 5 per cent.
Derby	Blastfurnacemen	26 Mar.	49	...	Decrease of 5 per cent.
North Staffordshire	Blastfurnacemen	April	600	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 16½ per cent. above the standard.
South Staffordshire	Blastfurnacemen	April	1,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent.
South Wales and Mon.	Blastfurnacemen	1 April	1,250	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 6½ per cent. above the standard of 1895.

Note.—Seamen.—At Cardiff, Barry and Newport, the predominant rates at which able seamen and firemen and trimmers were shipped during March were generally the same as those which prevailed during August 1903, prior to the advance which occurred during September, and which was recorded in the LABOUR GAZETTE, for October, 1903 (p. 293).

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

† Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen and railway servants. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

‡ Northumberland Coal Mining.—Early in April it was arranged that the Northumberland Miners' wages should be reduced 2½ per cent., leaving wages 18½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. Full particulars will appear in the May GAZETTE.

§ At certain collieries the percentage above standard after change was 30.

DETAILS OF CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1904—(continued).

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	
IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE. <i>10 Decreases—37,374 Workpeople.</i>					
<i>1 Increase—1,043 Workpeople.</i>					
Northumberland, Durham, and Cleveland	Iron Workers:— Puddlers	28 Mar.	1,450	...	Decrease of 3d. per ton (8s. 3d. to 8s.) under sliding scale.
Stockton-on-Tees & W. Hartlepool	Millmen	28 Mar.	4,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Middlesbrough ...	Steel Millmen	28 Mar.	1,277	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Eston	Steel Workers	4 April	740	...	Decrease of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 12 per cent. above the standard of 1897.
Teams (Gateshead)	Steel Workers	6 Mar.	1,043	...	Advance of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 12½ per cent. above the standard.
Workington ...	Steel Workers	28 Mar.	82	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 12½ per cent. above the standard of 1896.
South Yorkshire (3 firms)	Iron Workers:— Puddlers	28 Mar.	200	...	Decrease of 3d. per ton under sliding scale.
	Millmen ... ..					Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Midlands (including parts of S. Yorks, S. Lancs. and Cheshire)	Iron Workers:— Puddlers	28 Mar.	85	...	Decrease of 3d. per ton under sliding scale.
	Millmen ... ..					Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
South Wales and Mon.	Iron Workers:— Puddlers	4 April	20,000	...	Decrease of 3d. per ton (8s. 9d. to 8s. 6d.)
	Millmen ... ..					Decrease of 2½ per cent.
Scotland	Iron Workers:— Puddlers	April	700	...	Decrease of 3d. per ton under sliding scale.
	Millmen ... ..					Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Scotland	Iron and Steel Workers	1 April	5,000	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 6½ per cent. above the standard of March, 1895.
	Iron Workers:— Puddlers ... ..					28 Mar.	3,500	...	Decrease of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 3d.) under sliding scale.
SHIPBUILDING. <i>14 Decreases—4,328 Workpeople.</i>					
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>					
Hull	Angle-Iron Smiths, Platers, Caulkers, and Chippers	1 April	905	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Dundee	Riveters and Holders-up	26 Mar.	157	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates.
	Angle-Iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers and Holders-up					Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Leith	Platers' Helpers	26 Mar.	9	...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (6½d. to 6½d.).
	Angle-Iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers and Holders-up					26 Feb.	368	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Grangemouth	Ship Smiths	26 Mar.	16	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Drillers and Hole Cutters	26 Feb.	36	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Angle-Iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers and Holders-up	26 Feb.	195	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Shlo Smiths	26 Feb.	4	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Belfast	Drillers and Hole Cutters	26 Feb.	16	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Platers' Helpers	26 Feb.	64	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Angle-Iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers and Holders-up	14 April	1,400	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Ship Smiths	14 April	110	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
Belfast	Drillers and Hole Cutters	14 April	244	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Platers' Helpers	14 April	809	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
GLASS TRADE. <i>3 Decreases—122 Workpeople.</i>					
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>					
Bristol	Glass Bottle Makers	8 Feb.	60	...	Decrease of 3s. per week off standard weekly wages, and of 10 per cent. off "overwork" rates. Standard weekly wages after change—Half-hole men, 34s. 6d.; Blowers, 31s.
London, E.C.	Flint Glass Makers	25 Mar.	22	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. in percentage addition to earnings.
Glasgow	Medical Glass Bottle Makers	Jan. and Feb.	40	...	Decrease of 2d. per move, stated to be equal to a decrease of about 3s. in weekly wages.
MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. <i>1 Decrease—583 Workpeople.</i>					
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>					
Derby	Navvies (Sewerage Works)	10 March	583	...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (6½d. to 6d.)
EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. <i>Decreases—Nil.</i>					
<i>2 Increases—736 Workpeople.</i>					
Leeds	Stokers and Labourers (Sewage Works)	18 Feb.	33	...	Advance of 1s. per week (27s. to 28s.) to 3 stokers, and of ½d. per hour (3d. to 6d.) to 30 labourers.
Camberwell, S.E.	Labourers (Sewer Laying, &c.)	1 April	443	...	Advance of 2s. per week (23s. to 25s.).
	Carmen, Labourers, &c. ... ..					Advance to a rate of 30s. per week, resulting in increases of 1s. 5d. per week to 12 men, of 1s. 6d. to 411, of 3s. to 19, and of 5s. 6d. to 1 man.

DETAILS OF CHANGES IN HOURS REPORTED IN MARCH, 1904.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.
Potteries District	Bricklayers, Masons, Carpenters and Joiners, and Labourers and Navvies	15 Nov.	2,000	Average decrease of about 1 hour per week in winter working hours.
Sheffield	Electric Car Conductors	17 Mar.	360	Decrease of 4 hours per week (67 to 63).
Glasgow	Saddlers and Portmanteau Makers ...	8 Feb.	19	Decrease of 1 hour per week (51 to 50).

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade :-

Summary for March.

The trade returns for March, 1904, show an increase in the value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1903, of the Imports into the United Kingdom, and of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise, but a decrease in the Exports of British produce.

The value of the Imports in March, 1904, was £48,692,275, an increase of £1,775,751, or 3·8 per cent., as compared with the value in March, 1903, whilst the total Exports amounted to £30,198,445, showing a total decrease of £368,102. The Exports of British produce alone show a decrease of £856,398, or 3·4 per cent., as compared with March, 1903, whilst there is an increase of £488,296, or nearly 9·0 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.*—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for March, 1904, as compared with the corresponding months of 1903 and 1902, according to the different categories of merchandise :-

	Month of March.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	16,415,368	18,577,593	20,519,970	+1,942,377	+4,104,602
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	13,176,507	15,665,952	15,145,659	-520,293	+1,969,152
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	11,089,471	12,530,178	12,797,335	+267,157	+1,707,864
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	216,515	142,801	229,311	+86,510	+12,796
Total value of Imports	40,897,861	46,916,824	48,692,275	+1,775,751	+7,794,414

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of March, 1904, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1903 and 1902, and the increase or decrease in each principal category :-

	Month of March.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	1,126,919	1,079,121	1,218,041	+138,920	+91,122
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	2,655,527	2,911,241	3,142,918	+231,677	+487,391
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	18,077,469	10,795,817	19,559,677	-1,237,140	+1,482,208
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	357,323	321,015	331,160	+10,145	-26,163
Total value of Exports of British produce	22,217,238	23,108,194	24,251,796	-856,393	+2,034,558

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.

—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended March, 1904, amounted to 3,245,104 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,147,836 tons, as against 3,037,800 tons entered and 3,725,269 tons cleared in the month of March, 1903. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during March, 1904, amounted to 2,720,224 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,652,125 tons, as against 2,524,977 tons entered, and 2,496,957 tons cleared in March, 1903.

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

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

The number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in March was 386,815, corresponding to a rate of 226 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1904.

Compared with February the number of persons relieved has decreased by 334, this slight decrease being insufficient to effect any change in the rate per 10,000. Increases are shown in twenty districts, the rate of increase being greatest in North Staffordshire (6 per 10,000). Decreases are shown in eight districts, the rate of decrease being most marked in West Ham (29 per 10,000), and in the remaining seven districts no change is indicated.

Compared with March, 1903, the number of persons relieved has increased by 22,674, and the rate per 10,000 by 11. Increases are shown in twenty-eight districts, the rate of increase being greatest in West Ham (71 per 10,000), Leicester (42), North Staffordshire (32), Bolton, Oldham, &c. (25), and East London (23). Decreases are shown in seven districts, the most marked falling off being in the Stockton and Tees and South London districts (9 each per 10,000).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of March, 1904.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
					1903.	1902.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolises.						
West District	11,985	3,428	15,413	187	-1	+7
North District	16,060	9,065	25,125	235	-5	+10
Central District	7,343	2,974	10,317	518	-3	+5
East District	14,961	6,114	21,075	293	...	+23
South District	24,754	20,296	45,050	248	+1	-9
Total Metropolis	75,103	41,878	116,981	253	-1	+4
West Ham	3,983	14,432	18,415	288	-29	+71
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	2,127	4,890	7,017	165	+1	+11
Stockton & Tees District	1,310	4,107	5,417	254	-2	-9
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,395	9,533	13,928	184	+3	+25
Wigan District	2,091	6,433	8,524	216	+1	+8
Manchester District	10,284	9,463	19,747	212	...	+17
Liverpool District	12,370	9,013	21,383	211	+2	+16
Bradford District	1,767	2,825	4,592	126	-1	+8
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,382	3,966	5,348	147	+1	+13
Leeds District	2,429	6,270	8,699	188	...	+4
Barnsley District	748	2,893	3,641	153	+1	+2
Sheffield District	3,224	3,814	7,038	164	...	+10
Hull District	1,662	5,274	6,936	259	+4	+5
North Staffordshire	2,366	7,897	10,263	278	+6	+32
Nottingham District	2,067	5,604	7,671	190	+2	+16
Leicester District	1,429	4,090	5,519	248	...	+42
Wolverhampton District	3,694	13,247	16,941	265	+2	+1
Birmingham District	5,255	3,646	8,901	155	+3	+9
Bristol District	2,918	7,058	9,976	261	...	+7
Cardiff & Swansea	2,041	7,894	9,935	271	+3	+3
Total "Other Districts"	63,559	117,927	181,486	206	+2	+13
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	5,218	17,814	23,032	241	+4	+13
Paisley & Greenock District	752	2,551	3,303	190	...	+9
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,803	5,575	7,378	186	-2	-1
Dundee & Dunfermline	1,125	2,900	4,025	203	-2	+3
Aberdeen	670	2,965	3,635	224	+4	+10
Coatbridge & Airdrie	373	1,344	1,717	184	+2	-2
Total for the above Scottish Districts	9,943	33,149	43,092	218	+2	+9
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	7,392	5,158	12,550	323	+1	-2
Belfast District	3,731	229	3,960	101	+2	+4
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	4,639	4,962	9,601	391	+1	-6
Galway District	405	322	727	203	+3	-6
Total for the above Irish Districts	16,170	10,671	26,841	253	+2	-2
Total for above 35 Districts in March, 1904	168,758	218,057	386,815	226	...	+11

* 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.
† Including Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

At ten Bureaux, which furnished returns for March, 1904 and 1903, 2,551 fresh applications for work were registered during March, 1904, as compared with 3,088 a year ago. During March these Bureaux found work for 913 persons, of whom 823 were engaged by private employers. During March, 1903, work was found for 793 persons, of whom 645 were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 1,945, as compared with 2,194 at the end of March, 1903.

Returns were also received from four other Bureaux, three of which were not in operation in March, 1903, while in the remaining case the figures for that month are not available. At the fourteen Bureaux included in the Table below 4,920 fresh applications for work were registered, and work was found for 1,300 persons. The work procured for 499 of these persons was stated to be of a more or less permanent character, while in the case of 801 persons temporary employment only was found. Of the 1,300 persons, 1,136 were engaged by private employers, 89 by Local Authorities, and 75 by the Salvation Army. At the end of March the total number of persons remaining on the registers was 5,979, viz., 5,369 men and boys and 610 women and girls.

Weekly returns which have been received from the Fulham Municipal Labour Bureau, show that during the four weeks ended April 2nd, 157 fresh applications for work were registered, and that 39 persons found employment through the agency of the Bureau.

(I.) Work done in March.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found by Bureau during	
	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.	Mar., 1904.	Mar., 1903.
London.						
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	125	116	25	4	25	4
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd, E.)	926	716	460	344	460	344
St. Pancras (Crowdale Rd., N.W.)	268	188	84	76	69	35
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.)	96	300	5	53	5	24
Hammersmith (St. Church Lane, W)	46	69	16	22	50	20
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	196	519	48	59	27	10
Provincial.						
Ipswich (Fore Street)	44	42	35	31	24	25
Plymouth (Basket Street)	137	218	75	134	72	120
Liverpool (Dale Street)	161	184	3	7	3	5
Glasgow (158, George Street)	552	736	656	573	178	206
Total of 10 Bureaux	2,551	3,088	1,407	1,303	913	793
London.						
Westminster* (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.)	137	...	102	...	60	...
Kensington† (Lancaster Road, W.)	135	...	20	...	50	...
Provincial.						
Manchester† (King Street)	2,055	...	381	...	271	...
Southampton† (23, High Street)	42	...	9	...	6	...
Total of 14 Bureaux	4,920	...	1,919	...	1,300	...

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during March.

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men:—			
Building Trades	43	34	79
Carmen, Stabblers, Horsemen, &c.	35	11	46
Porters and Messengers	52	28	80
Bill Distributors	...	...	...
General Labourers	...	371	371
Other Occupations	...	36	78
Lads and Boys	71	81	152
Women and Girls:—	68	21	89
Domestic Servants	...	...	...
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	90	20	110
Other Occupations	15	68	83
Total Engaged by Private Employers	422	714	1,136
Engaged by Local Authorities.			
Men, Lads and Boys	77	12	89
Engaged by Salvation Army.			
Men	...	75	75
Grand Total of 14 Bureaux	499	801	1,300

* Figures for March, 1903, not available.
† Bureau not in operation in March, 1903.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March 765 fresh applications for work were registered by six Bureaux furnishing returns, and 747 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 224 persons, of whom 115 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 224 situations found for applicants, 164 were of a more or less permanent character, while 60 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 476 to 512, and the number of servants applying fell from 425 to 398; the number permanently engaged rose from 87 to 91. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 49 to 124, and the number requiring such situations fell from 91 to 70; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 63, compared with 35 in February.

The Returns for the Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the Bureaux during March compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN MARCH.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C.	69	99	19	1
Society for Promoting Training and Employment— 22, Berners-street, W.	24	27	6	16
V.W.C.A.— 25, George-street (1)	476	461	82	19
Handover-square, W. (2)	138	120	42	21
Other Bureaux	40	58	15	3
Total of 6 Bureaux	747	765	164	60
Irish Central Bureau, Dublin	12	37	2	1
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	16	73	7	—
Shop Assistants	6	15	1	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	124	70	38	25
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	24	72	8	10
Apprentices and Learners	19	10	5	—
Domestic Servants	512	398	91	24
Miscellaneous	46	127	14	1
Total Number in Mar., 1904	747	765	164	60
Total Number in Feb., 1904	646	815	137	63
Total Number in Mar., 1903	853	648	140	58

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Friendly Societies. Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for year ending 31st December, 1902. Part D, Appendix (N). List of Friendly Societies (not including Societies with Branches), with particulars of the latest Valuation Returns received—number of members, year of valuation, liabilities, assets, &c. [H.C. 77 III., pp. 413, price 3s. 5d.]

Lead Poisoning in Earthenware and China Works. Return of the Cases of Lead Poisoning reported as occurring in China and Earthenware Works during the years 1899 to 1903. (1) Number of cases in the several classes of works; (2) the number of cases in each month of the year; (3) particulars as to the character of the attacks; (4) the number of persons suspended in certain districts by the certifying surgeons. [H.C. 103, pp. 8, price 1s. 6d.] See also p. 99.

Railway Accidents.—Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the year ended 31st December, 1903. Part I.—Accident Returns. [Cd. 1999, pp. 49, price 5s. 6d.]

* In operation since November, 1903.

Factories and Workshops. Supplement to the Annual Report for 1902 of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops. Return of Persons employed in Factories, Workshops and Laundries in the year 1901.—Textile Factories and Laundries. [Cd. 1979, pp. v. + 40, price 5d.]

Coal Exports. Return for the year 1903, giving the Export of Coal from each Port in the United Kingdom to each Country Abroad. [H.C. 96, pp. 35, price 3½d.] See notice on p. 103.

Crofter Colonization. Fourteenth Report of the Commissioners appointed to carry out a Scheme for Colonization in Canada by Crofters and Cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland. [Cd. 1967, pp. 13, price 2d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., or ordered through any bookseller.)

Report of the Mosely Educational Commission to the United States. Report of the Commission taken out by Mr. Alfred Moseley, C.M.G. October–December, 1903. [Co-operative Printing Society, Limited, Tudor Street, E.C.; pp. xxiv. + 400; price 1s.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

Transvaal Labour Question. Further correspondence relating to the Transvaal Labour Question. [Cd. 1986, pp. iv. + 17. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 2½d.]

Transvaal Labour Question. Correspondence relating to the Recruitment of Labour in the British Central Africa Protectorate for employment in the Transvaal. March, 1903, to March, 1904. [Cd. 1950, pp. iv. + 35. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 4d.]

New South Wales.

The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records of New South Wales. Vol. II., Part 5, 1903. Reports of 14 cases. [Sydney, pp. vii. + 122.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Iowa. Tenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the State of Iowa for 1901-1902. Wages statistics, trade unions, factory inspection, new industries, &c. Also text of law governing the Bureau. [Des Moines, pp. 604.]

Maryland. Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Information of Maryland, 1903. Strikes and lock-outs, report of Free Employment Agency, bread production and distribution, employment of women and children in factories and mercantile establishments, new labour laws, &c. [Baltimore, pp. 331.]

German Empire.

Report on Sickness Insurance in 1901. (Imperial Statistical Office), pp. xlviii. + 192, price 5s. Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht, 1904.

Report on Official Statistics of Labour in Leading Countries, Part I. (Imperial Statistical Office), pp. viii. + 212. Berlin: Carl Heymann, 1904. Part I. deals with the statistics of Great Britain, United States, France, Belgium, Austria, Germany.

Factory Inspection in Baden in 1903. (Baden Ministry of the Interior), pp. 154. Karlsruhe: F. Thiergarten, 1904.

Austria-Hungary.

Statistics of Accident Insurance for the Quinquennial Period 1897-1901. Part I. (Imperial Ministry of the Interior), pp. xvi. + 703. Vienna: Hof und Staatsdruckerei, 1904.

Report on Census of Factories in Hungary in 1901 (in Hungarian), pp. cxx. + 329. Budapest, 1903.

Italy.

Census of the Population of Italy on February 10th, 1901, Vol. VIII.—Classification of Population by Occupations, pp. 589. Rome, Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero, 1904.

Report on Emigration and Settlements of Emigrants, Vol. I., Part 2 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), pp. 241, price 2 lire (rs. 7½d.). Rome, Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero, 1903. This part deals with Italian emigrants in Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, Spain, Portugal, Malta.

Norway.

Report of Census of December 31st, 1900, Part IV. (Statistical Central Bureau), pp. 140, price 50 kr. (7d.). Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co., 1904. Part IV. classifies the population by nationality, place of birth and religion.

Roumania.

Movement of the Population of Roumania in 1896 and 1897. (Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce), pp. li. + 122. Bucarest: 16 Strade Domnei, 1903. (In Roumanian, but with resumé in French).

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

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MARCH.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in March was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 26; under the Friendly Societies Act, 76 (including 46 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all 109.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—4, viz., Lancashire Federationist Trades Union, Green Man Hotel, Wigan Lane, Wigan; Hackney Municipal Labour Union, 43, Lower Clapton Road, N.E., London Postal Porters' Assoc., 12, Bracewell Road, North Kensington, W.; Compositors' Protection Assoc., Pitt's Head, Old Bailey, E.C. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Co-operative Societies, mainly for Distribution.—5, viz., Tavistock and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 18, King Street, Tavistock; Warwick Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Co-op. Stores, Warwick; Crediton Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 3, Union Terrace, Crediton; Workers' Supply Assoc., Ltd., 20, Gerald Road, Canning Town, E.; South Molton and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 25, Barnstaple Street, South Molton. Co-operative Agricultural Societies.—4, viz., Studley Castle Agric. Assoc., Ltd., Studley Castle, Studley, Warwick; Llanidloes Farmers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Store, Lanidloes, Mont.; Eastern Counties Farmers' Co-op. Assoc., Ltd., The Arcade, Ipswich; Severn Valley Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Store, Aberbechan, Mont. Miscellaneous Societies.—Working Men's Clubs, 6; others, 1.

Scotland.—Co-operative Society mainly for Distribution.—1, viz., Wigtown and Dist. Co op. Soc., Ltd., 7 and 9, High Street, Wigtown. Ireland.—Co-operative Societies mainly for distribution.—

3, viz., Larne Co op. Soc., Ltd., The Open, Larne; Dublin Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Rathmines, Dublin; Lignite Fuel and General Indus. Soc., Ltd., The Cottage, Charlemont Place, Grand Canal, Dublin. Co-operative Society mainly for production.—

1, viz., Macosquin and Aghadowey Co-op. Flax Soc., Ltd., Macosquin. Co-operative Agricultural Societies.—5, viz., Drumtamon Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Drumtamon, co. Cavan; Derrylohan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Derrylohan, co. Mayo; Mountnugent Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Mountnugent, co. Cavan; Newport East Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Newport, co. Mayo; Dunamaine Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Maryborough, Queen's Co.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—23, viz., Spalding and Dist. Credit Soc., Spalding; Friskney Credit Soc., Friskney; Muskharn Credit Soc., Newark; Railway Tavern Permanent Money Soc., Hockley, Birmingham; Castle Netherton and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Dudley; City of Hull Permanent Money Soc., Hull; Gipsy Lane Working Men's Club and Institute, Leicester; Judaeon Working Men's Social Club, Whitechapel Road, E.; Southall Working Men's Club and Institute, Southall; Regent Street Working Men's Club, Walsall; Caldmore Working Men's Club, Walsall; Radcliffe and Kearsley Miners' Accident Relief Soc., Radcliffe, Manchester; Victoria Progressive Tontine Soc., Barrow; Winthorpe and Dist. Sick and Annual Dividing Club, Skegness; Loyal Victoria Sickness Benefit and Dividing Soc., Billingborough, Folkingham; Great Western Railway Pension Soc., Paddington Station, W.; Holly Bush Friendly Benefit and Dividing Soc., Enfield; Old Crystal Palace Musical, Sick and Dividend Soc., Smethwick, Birmingham; Bridge Mutual Assistance Soc., Stow Upland, Stowmarket; Camera Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Holte Arms Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Fladbury New Sick Benefit Club, Pershore; Ancient Britons Grand United Duke of Wellington's Friendly Soc., Golcar, Huddersfield.

Scotland.—None. Ireland.—7, viz., O'Connell Friendly Burial Soc., Dublin; Terenure Christian Burial Soc., Dublin; Golden Bridge Burial Soc., Dublin; Aungier Tontine Soc., Dublin; Enterprise Loan and Investment Soc., Sligo; Whealt Agric. Credit Soc., Roscoe, Belleek; Cushintown Agric. Bank, Cushintown.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or had registration cancelled in March, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 7; under the Friendly Societies Act, 48 (including 31 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 13; in all 69.

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

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