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THE Labour Gazette

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.]

APRIL 1894.

[No. 4.—Vol. II.

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LONDON.

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PRICE ONE PENNY.

GENERAL ADVANTAGES OF THE ARMY.

On first joining the Army, Soldiers are supplied with Clothing and a Free Kit, and while in performance of their duty, receive a daily Free Ration of 1 lb. of Bread and 1 lb. of Meat. Vegetables and Groceries are provided for by a daily stoppage of pay. Soldiers are also provided with Lodging, Bedding, Fuel, Light and Education without payment.

Soldiers who become good Marksmen can obtain valuable Money Prizes. When proceeding on Furlough Soldiers may be granted an advance of full pay, and of whatever good conduct pay they may be receiving, together with 6d. a day in lieu of the Ration of Bread and Meat, and special facilities for travelling by Railway at reduced fares.

The benefit of an Army School, the use of a Library and Recreation Room, the establishment of amusements at most places, and at some stations the opportunities to learn a trade, by which money is made while in the Army, and a livelihood may be secured on discharge, are among the advantages enjoyed by Soldiers.

AGE for the REGULAR ARMY, 18 to 25 Years.

TERMS OF SERVICE.

	With the Colors	In the Reserve
Household Cavalry	12 years	Nil.
Cavalry of the Line	" 7 "	5 years
Royal Artillery	" 7 "	5 "
Royal Engineers	" 7 or 3 "	9 "
Foot Guards	" 7 "	5 "
Infantry of the Line	" 7 or 3 "	9 "
Medical Staff Corps	" 7 "	5 "
Army Service Corps	" 3 "	9 "
Ordnance Store Corps	" 7 "	5 "

After 5 years' service a soldier of good character may be specially allowed, under certain conditions, to join the Reserve, if the requirements of the Service admit.

Soldiers of good character may be allowed to extend their service to 12 years with the Colors, and may also, under certain restrictions, be subsequently permitted to re-engage to complete 21 years.

In accordance with the terms of the Attestation, these periods, should they expire whilst a Soldier is serving abroad, may be prolonged for 12 months or any less period, a corresponding decrease being made in the service in the Reserve.

PAY AND DEFERRED PAY.

Warrant Officers 5/- to 6/- a day

Non-Commissioned Officers above the rank of Corporal 2/- " 3/6 "

Corporals and Bombardiers 1/8 " 2/8 "

Gunners, Privates, &c. 1/- " 1/9 "

GOOD CONDUCT PAY.—Additional pay is granted to Soldiers for good conduct, according to the length of service.

DEFERRED PAY at the rate of £3 a year for the first 12 years of service is paid to Soldiers on transfer to the Reserve, or on discharge. Men who enlist for 3 years Army Service only, and do not extend their service beyond that term, will not be entitled to Deferred Pay, nor will Soldiers who are discharged for misconduct or by purchase. Sergeants will be granted Deferred Pay up to the date of completing 21 years' service.

DISCHARGE AND PENSION.

Should a Soldier, during the first three months of his service desire to leave the Army, he may claim his discharge on a payment of £10; after that period he may be permitted to leave on payment of £18.

After 21 years' service and upwards, Soldiers become entitled to pensions on discharge, varying from 8d. to 5s. a day, according to their rank and length of service. Soldiers discharged on account of wounds or injuries received in action, or disability caused by Military duty, are entitled to a pension, varying with the extent of the disability and with the length of service.

ARMY RESERVE.—Soldiers transferred to the Reserve receive pay at 6d. a day until the expiration of their term of service. On completing 12 years' service, either with the Colors or in the Reserve, they may join the Supplemental Reserve* for 4 years, receiving pay at 4d. a day during that period.

* Enlistments in the Supplemental Reserve are suspended until further orders.

GENERAL ADVANTAGES OF THE MILITIA.

Rations and Lodgings.—During Drill, or the Annual Training, Militiamen are entitled to accommodation in barracks, lodgings, billets, or camp, at the public expense. They also receive the daily Rations or the Regulated Allowances in lieu thereof, as in the Regular Army.

Clothing and Necessaries.—Complete Clothing will be issued to Militiamen at the public expense, for wear when on duty. Great coats, capes and leggings will also be issued if the men are encamped, or during wet or inclement weather. One pair of boots or shoes, two pairs of socks, one tin of blacking, and two pieces of soap, will be supplied to each man for every training at which he attends, and these articles, with the exception of one of the flannel shirts, are taken home by the men. A Free Kit, consisting of comb, brushes, razor, braces, towels, knife, fork and spoon, will be issued to every Militiaman, and will be required to last six trainings, after which it may be retained by the man.

Travelling Expenses and Allowances.—Militiamen joining their regiments for Drill or Annual Training will receive a coupon attached to the Training notice entitling them to conveyance by railway at Government fare from a station within the county. They will also receive an allowance of 10d. for a meal on joining. If no railway be available, they will receive marching money within the county.

Hospitals and Medical Attendance.—During Drill or Training, Militiamen will be entitled to free Medical Attendance. If sick, they will be admitted to hospital and will receive the same treatment as Soldiers of the Regular Army. If at the termination of the Training they are still detained in hospital by sickness, they will continue to receive medical treatment until their recovery or discharge.

AGE for the MILITIA, 18 to 35 Years.

(also Growing Lads, 17 to 18 years).

TERMS OF SERVICE.

Original enlistment 6 years. Militiamen may re-engage during their last training, or re-enlist within 3 years of discharge, for a further period of 4 years.

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS may also re-enlist in the Militia for a period of 4 years, within three years of discharge from the Army or Army Reserve.

Militiamen may join the Militia Reserve to the extent of one-fourth of the Establishment.

DRILL AND TRAINING.

The Drills and Training required from Militiamen are as follows:—

	Drill on Enlistment or Preliminary Drill before Musketry or Gunnery Drill.	Preliminary Musketry or Gunnery Drill previous to Annual Training.	Annual Training.	Total during the Year.
During 1st year	49 days	14 days	27 days	90 days
Following Years	"	"	27 days	27 days

PAY AND BOUNTY.

The daily Rates of Pay while out for Recruits' Drill or Training are:

	Artillery	Engineers	Infantry	Medical Staff Corps
Sergeants	s. d. 2 7	s. d. 2 7	s. d. 1 9	s. d. 1 9
Sergeants	3 2	3 3	2 4	2 8
Corporals	1 5	1 5	1 3	1 3
Bombardiers	1 3	—	—	—
Gunners and Privates ...	1 2	1 1	1 0	1 0

During the first year of service the rate of Bounty varies from £1 10s. to £4, and during subsequent years it varies from £1 to £1 10s., with an extra £1 if the man belongs to the Militia Reserve.

Men who, after discharge from the Army as Warrant or Non-Commissioned Officers join the Militia and are appointed Sergeant receive an Annual Bounty of £3, with an extra £1 if they belong to the Militia Reserve.

In addition to the above, Militiamen receive a Bounty of £1 10s. on re-enlistment or re-engagement. Men discharged from the Army or Army Reserve who join the Militia within 3 years of discharge also receive a Bounty of £1 10s., of which 15s. is paid on re-enlistment and 15s. when the man joins for training.

EMPLOYMENT ON RETURN TO CIVIL LIFE.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.—With the view of affording Government Employment to deserving Soldiers, the Postmaster-General has decided that vacancies among the rural and provincial town postmen, and also among the auxiliary postmen in London, are in future to be offered, in the first instance, to Discharged Soldiers and Army Reserve men. Candidates for such employment must have at least a "Good" character on leaving the Colors, and must have not less than three years' service with the Colors. The ranks of the Metropolitan, County and Borough Police are also to a great extent filled by old soldiers, and regular employment is also provided for many old soldiers in the Royal Arsenal, the Army Clothing Department, the Ordnance Store Department and other Government Departments.

EMPLOYMENT BY RAILWAY COMPANIES.—Employment for deserving Soldiers is likewise afforded by many of the Railway Companies and in the Corps of Commissionaires. The Railway Companies will probably be able to employ about 1000 men every year.

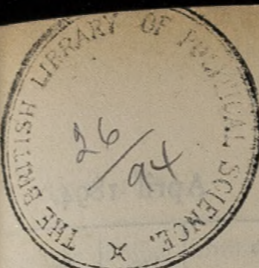
A REGISTER FOR CIVIL EMPLOYMENT is also kept at the Head-Quarters of all Regimental Districts, with the view of assisting men of good character to obtain employment in civil life when discharged from the Army, or transferred to the Army Reserve, on the expiration of their engagement.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers has also been established for the purpose of introducing Soldiers of reliable character, on their discharge, or transfer to the Reserve, to employers of labour.

Men of the following classes are registered at the undermentioned Office of the Association without fee, viz.:—Attendants, Carmen, Caretakers, Clerks, Conductors, Collectors, Grooms, Messengers, Porters, Musicians, Policemen, Night Watchmen, Timekeepers, Labourers, Servants, &c., &c.

CENTRAL OFFICE: 12 Buckingham Street, Strand, London.

Detailed information as to the conditions of Service in the Army and Militia, and the advantages of the Army and Militia, will be supplied free on application at any Post Office or Barrack, or from any Sergeant-Instructor of Volunteers, or other Recruiter.



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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,
BOARD OF TRADE,
43, PARLIAMENT STREET, S.W.,
April 1894.

ATTENTION may be called to two new features of importance in the present LABOUR GAZETTE, viz., the reports on the state of employment in Mining and Agriculture. These are industries with which it is not easy to deal completely by means of reports from local correspondents, and accordingly special measures have been taken by the Labour Department to obtain information concerning them.

In the case of Coal Mining, the Department is able to publish a statement showing the number of days worked both in February and March in various districts of the United Kingdom by a large number of collieries employing no fewer than 279,000 workmen. It is hoped to publish similar returns month by month in future.

An attempt has also been made to collect similar particulars with regard to iron mines, but this has, as yet, been only partially successful. The results for Cumberland and Lancashire are briefly given on p. 109. It is hoped that, in future, a larger number of returns will be received from all the districts, including Cleveland.

As regards Agriculture, arrangements have been made with a Special Correspondent to furnish monthly reports on the state of agricultural labour in various districts. The first report appears on p. 107.

Owing to pressure on space the completion of the account, begun in the two previous numbers of the Gazette, of the arrangements for shortening the hours of labour in the War Office establishments is postponed.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

(a) General Statistics of Employment.—The Labour Market during March has been a good deal disturbed by disputes, of which no fewer than 100 have broken out during the month, chiefly, however, of a limited and purely local character. Judging by the returns from Trade Societies, the state of employment appears to show a slight backward tendency but it is to be noted that the last week of March (to which these returns relate) included the Easter Holidays. On the whole there has been an upward tendency of wages during the month.

In the 45 trade societies with an aggregate membership of 355,625, making returns, 23,044 (or 6.5 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 6.3 per cent.* in the 43 societies making

* Owing to an error in one of the returns as incorporated in last month's statistics of employment the percentage of unemployed members of unions was wrongly stated last month as 5.6 instead of 6.3. The error considerably affects the figures for the Shipbuilding Trade, in which the percentage of unemployed should have been 12.5 instead of 5.9.

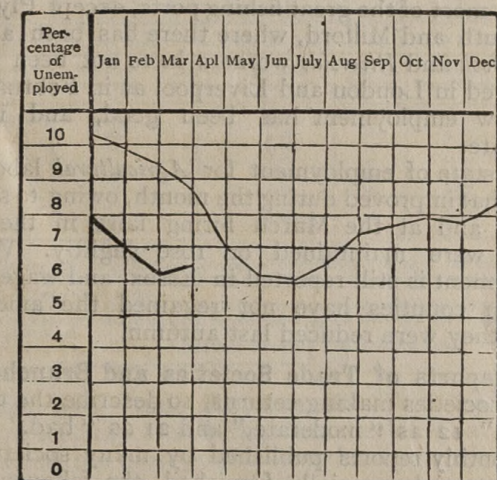
returns for February and 7.0 per cent. in the 37 societies from which returns were received for January.

In the 21 societies from which complete returns were also received in March 1893, the percentage of unemployed last month was 8.2, compared with 9.9 at the corresponding date of last year.

As in previous numbers, a chart is inserted, which enables the percentages of unemployed shown in the monthly returns to be compared with those for last year.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1893 and of each month yet completed of 1894. [Owing to the increase of the number of societies making returns, the chart for the year 1894 refers to 37 societies, while that for 1893 does not include more than 26 societies. The comparison of the two curves is slightly affected by this difference.]

The thick line applies to 1894, the thin line to 1893.



(b) Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining: Information received from collieries employing 279,000 persons shows that the average number of days worked by those collieries during March was 20½, compared with 20½ in February. This is equivalent to 5.1 days per week in February, and 4.7 days per week in March. In March, however, the average was somewhat lowered by the Easter Holidays. If Good Friday and Easter Monday were excluded, the average number of days worked in March would be 5 per week. The figures relate to the number of days worked by the collieries, and do not imply that all the miners employed worked each day.

The Shipbuilding Industry, as judged merely by the proportion of unemployed, shows a slight falling off, the percentage of unemployed members of Unions connected with this trade having risen from 12.5 to 13.3. On the whole, however, the prospects of the trade appear brighter.

In the Pig Iron Trade employment is good in the Cleveland district, but elsewhere many blast furnaces are out of work, though there are prospects of revival. The chief branches of the Steel Trade are fairly good. The Engineering and Metal Trades have not maintained the improvement reported last month, owing, to some extent, to local wages disputes. The percentage of unemployed in unions connected with these trades has risen from 8.7 to 9.1.

A marked improvement is noticeable in the *Building Trades*, due largely to seasonal causes, and the exceptionally fine weather. All branches, with the exception of the plumbers, report favourably, and the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns has fallen from 5.0 to 3.5.

An improvement has also taken place in the *Furnishing and Woodworking Trades*. The percentage of unemployed in unions connected with these trades has fallen from 5.8 to 4.2.

Little or no improvement is observable in the state of employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades*, and the outlook for employment is not good. The percentage of unemployed in the various unions has fallen from 5.8 to 5.4.

The *Bespoke Tailoring Trade* is reported as busy, but some falling-off is reported in the London ready-made trade. Full time (or even overtime) is being generally worked in the chief centres of the *Boot and Shoe Trade*.

The *Cotton mills* of Lancashire are generally working full time, but in some districts stoppages have taken place, owing to disputes. The *Wool and Worsted Trade* in the Bradford and Huddersfield district continues depressed, short time being worked.

The *Carpet, Hosiery and Silk Trades* remain quiet as a rule, but the improvement noted in the *Lace Trade* last month has been maintained.

The number of *Seamen* shipped during the month at the principal ports was greater than in March 1893 by over 6 per cent.; but the supply of men at most of the ports is still reported to be greater than the demand. The *Fishing Industry*, judged by the value of the fish landed, has been above the average for this time of year at most of the great fishing ports, except Plymouth, Yarmouth and Milford, where there has been a falling off. *Dock and Riverside* workers have not been so well employed in London and Liverpool as in February. In Glasgow employment has been good, and in Hull moderate.

The state of employment for *Agricultural labour* has somewhat improved during the month, owing to seasonal causes, and at the March hiring fairs in the North wages were maintained or rose slightly. Want of employment is still reported in Essex, and wages in the Eastern counties have not regained the amount by which they were reduced last autumn.

(c) **Reports of Trade Societies and Branches.**—Of the 43 societies making returns, 10 describe the trade as "good," 12 as "moderate," and 21 as "bad." From the monthly reports published by many societies, and from materials specially furnished, the following additional particulars of the state of employment in the industries named are collected:—

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	March.		Per-centage of Members for Mar.	Per-centage of Members for Feb.
	Branches	Members		
Engineering and Shipbuilding—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	98	9,766	6	4
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	356	38,029	26	23
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	656	102,027	68	73
Total ...	1,110	149,822	100	100
Building Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	300	17,208	17	13
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	456	27,876	27	30
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	765	56,827	56	57
Total ...	1,521	101,911	100	100
Printing and Bookbinding Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	84	8,408	25	14
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	52	8,253	25	56
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	25	16,310	50	30
Total ...	161	32,971	100	100
Furnishing & Woodworking Trades				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	52	3,535	18	9
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	174	10,905	56	28
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	58	4,992	26	63
Total ...	284	19,432	100	100

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	March.		Per-centage of Members for Mar.	Per-centage of Members for Feb.
	Branches	Members		
Boot and Shoe Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	4	609	4	8
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	12	11,289	73	84
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	8	3,470	23	16
Total ...	24	15,368	100	100

(d) **Trade Disputes.**—The disputes of the month show a remarkable increase, 100 having been noted, compared with 57 last month, and 37 in March 1893. Of these 23 arose in the Textile Trades, 17 in Mining, 16 in Shipbuilding, 14 in the Building Trades, 11 in the Metal Trades, 5 in the Clothing Trades, 3 in connection with Seafaring and Dock Labour, and the remaining 11 in miscellaneous industries.

Particulars obtained with regard to 76 of these disputes show that the number of persons engaged was 12,432. Twenty-two of these disputes, affecting 3,672 persons, together with 21 other disputes, affecting about 1,600 persons, which began before March, were known to be still in progress at the end of the month. On the other hand, 8 disputes, involving 1,106 persons, which began before March, were brought to a settlement during the month.

The most important disputes were a strike of 1,490 iron-moulders on the North-East coast for an advance of wages, which is still unsettled; and a strike for a rise of wages in the *Shipbuilding Trade* at Belfast, affecting about 1,800 persons.

(e) **Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour.**—During the month the changes in wages and hours reported have been more numerous than usual, there being 75 changes in wages and 16 reductions in hours of labour. Of 69 changes in wages in which full particulars were given, 58 were increases and 11 decreases, the approximate number of persons involved being 100,000 and 7,500 respectively. The increase affecting the largest number of men was an advance of 3 1/4 per cent. to 90,000 miners in South Wales and Monmouth, while the most important decrease was one of 10 per cent. off miners' wages in the Forest of Dean.

The approximate number of workpeople whose hours of labour are reported to have been reduced during the month was 2,400.

(f) **Pauperism.**—According to the returns received from the selected districts, the number relieved on a given day in the middle of March shows a decline as compared with the corresponding day in February, the figures for the two days being 333,096, or 227 per 10,000 of population, and 339,320, or 232 per 10,000, respectively. The March figures, however, are still in excess of those for the corresponding day in March 1893, when the number was 319,820, or 218 per 10,000.

The following table, similar to those published in previous numbers, will be found useful for purposes of comparison.

Comparative Table showing the number of Paupers per 10,000 of Population in selected industrial districts on a given day in January, February and March of 1894 and 1893 respectively.

District.	1894.			1893.		
	January.	February.	March.	January.	February.	March.
Metropolis ...	250	253	243	246	240	232
West Ham ...	287	278	283	244	234	241
Other Districts (England & Wales) ...	219	219	216	210	209	210
Scotland ...	201	202	203	190	190	190
Ireland ...	272	273	269	263	264	261
TOTAL (Selected Districts)	234	232	227	222	219	218

(g) **Emigration and Immigration.**—During the month 10,316 British passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, as compared with 6,098 in the previous month, and 19,218 in March 1893. The

number of alien immigrants into this country has also greatly declined, compared with the corresponding month of last year, the figures for the two periods being 7,100 and 13,413 respectively.

II.—EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—The improvement reported as having taken place in the *Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades* during the first two months of the year has not been maintained during March, 80 branches of 8 unions, with an aggregate membership of 13,534, returning 1,022 (or 7.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 6.4 per cent. last month and 6.8 per cent. in January. Four branches with 203 members, describe trade as "good," 18, with 2,705 members, as "moderate," and 58 branches, with 10,626 members, as "bad." All branches of the *Building Trades*, with the exception of the plumbers, have maintained the improvement referred to last month; 135 branches of 4 unions, with an aggregate membership of 10,540, returning 520 (or 5.0 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 5.5 per cent. in February and 6.0 per cent. in January. In 8 societies, 28 branches, with 2,019 members, describe trade as "good," 76 with 6,017 as "moderate," and 157 branches with 16,417 members as "bad." In the *Furnishing and Woodworking Trades* but little change has taken place, 25 branches of 5 unions, with an aggregate membership of 3,636, returning 203 (or 5.6 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 5.9 last month and 8.9 in January. In no branch, however, is trade described as "good," 21 branches, with 2,649 members, describing it as "moderate," and 4 branches, with 987 members as "bad." The *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* (especially the letterpress branch of the former), are still depressed for the time of year, with little apparent prospect of improvement. Eleven unions, with an aggregate membership of 17,626, return 894 (or 5.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 5.7 and 5.9 per cent. for January and February, respectively. The wholesale *Clothing Trade* is reported to have been unusually brisk at the commencement of the month, but to have gradually fallen off towards the close. The *Bespoke Trade* is described as busy. The *Boot and Shoe Trade* in all departments is also brisk. Employment in the *Glass and Tobacco Trades* has fallen off still further during the month, while among other trades *Sailmakers* are reported to be well employed. The number of *Seamen* shipped during the month at the Port of London was 8,487, compared with 5,149 in February and 5,060 in March 1893.

No important changes of wages have been reported in London during March.

Dock and Waterside Employment.—On the whole the volume of employment for dock labourers at the Docks in the Port of London continues to be greater in 1894 than in 1893, the total for last month being 617 more than in March 1893. This increase was most marked at the Millwall and Surrey Docks. The returns, however, show that the average number employed has declined from 7,089 in February to 6,137 in March, or rather more than 13 per cent.

The total estimated number of dock labourers employed by all the Dock Companies in the Port of London, for each week, is as follows:—

	1894.			1893.			Increase + Decrease—
	1894.	1893.	Increase + Decrease—	1894.	1893.	Increase + Decrease—	
1st week of March ...	6,720	5,757	+ 963				
2nd ..	6,373	5,721	+ 652				
3rd ..	6,175	5,123	+ 1,052				
4th ..	5,928	5,504	+ 424				
5th ..	5,490	5,496	- 6				
Average for March ...	6,137	5,520	+ 617				
Ditto for February ...	7,089	6,428	+ 661				

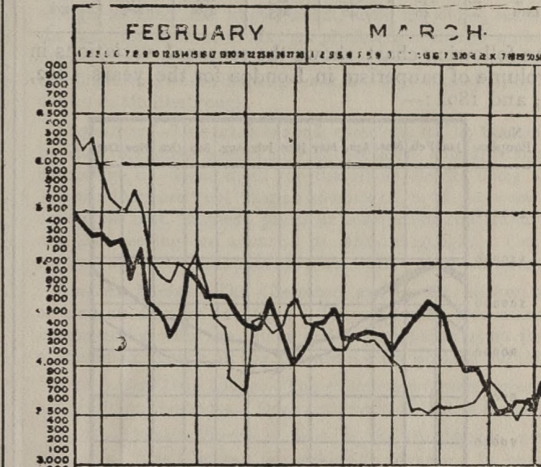
The wharves in Thames-street and along the south side of the Thames have been fairly busy, but those along the riverside from the Tower Bridge to Wapping have been very slack. Grain work is reported as steady, and as the *Timber Trade* will soon commence

the number employed at Millwall Docks is expected to increase. Employment at the Surrey Commercial and Victoria and Albert Docks is reported to be fairly good.

The daily fluctuations of employment at the London and India group of docks are shown as usual in the following chart:—

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of February and March 1894. The corresponding curve for February and March 1893 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the Chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.

[The thick curve applies to 1894, and the thin curve to 1893.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for March 1894 is based.

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	4,433	12	4,395	21	3,973
2	4,464	13	4,481	22	3,759
3	4,593	14	4,530	24	3,534
4	4,975	15	4,614	27	3,537
5	4,645	16	4,537	28	3,613
6	4,311	17	4,291	29	3,667
7	4,379	18	4,688	30	3,582
8	4,537	19	3,964	31	3,838
9	4,168				

Sundays and Holidays are omitted. During the corresponding period of two months in 1893, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 3,323 (on February 11th) to 3,472 (on March 20th). Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during February and March 1894 varied from 4,950 on February 2nd to 1,466 on March 29th. Wool sales to February 7th and from February 27th to March 18th.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Two fresh disputes have been reported during the month. That which has attracted the most public attention is a strike at an East End match factory, in which about 150 women and girls are involved. The dispute arose out of the dismissal of a girl, but other issues appear also to be involved. The dispute is still unsettled, offers of mediation by the London Board of Conciliation and the Trades Council not having hitherto been accepted by the employers. A dispute has arisen in the Western district, alleged to be due to the refusal of certain stagemen to contract themselves out of the Employers' Liability Act. Twenty-nine persons are affected. An effort has been made during the month to re-establish an Omnibus Workers' Union, midnight meetings having been held in various parts of the Metropolis, under the auspices of the Trades Council, with this object in view.

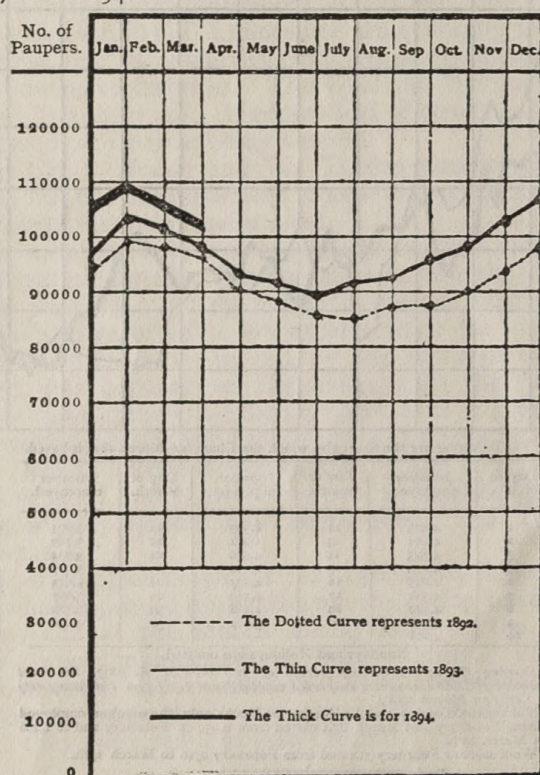
Employment and Distress.—Nearly all the reports received from various London districts show a diminution of destitution, which is largely to be ascribed to the change of season and the fine weather. On the whole, employment seems more plentiful. During the month the Chelsea, Battersea and St. Pancras Labour Bureaux have received 695 new applications from workpeople and 205 from employers, as compared with 824 from workpeople and 191 from employers in February. Work was found for 202 persons through the bureaux, as compared with 193 in February.

Pauperism.—The proportion of paupers in London per 10,000 of the population in the middle of March had fallen to 243, compared with 253 for the previous month, and 232 for March 1893. In West Ham, the proportion

was 283 in March, compared with 278 in the previous month, and 241 in March 1893. The changes in the different districts of London and in West Ham compared with the previous month are shown in the following table:—

—	Rate of Pauperism per 10,000 of population.					
	In-door.		Out-door.		Total.	
	March 1894.	Feb. 1894.	March 1894.	Feb. 1894.	March 1894.	Feb. 1894.
West District ...	143	145	27	32	170	177
North " ...	137	140	98	100	235	240
Central " ...	303	317	140	145	443	462
East " ...	187	191	68	71	255	262
South " ...	132	135	115	125	247	260
West Ham ...	48	48	235	230	283	278

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London for the years 1892, 1893, and 1894:—



III.—PROVINCIAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS. ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining—Durham.—The Durham Coal Trade has not improved. The number of idle pitmen is returned at 900, or about 1 per cent. **Northumberland.**—The Coal Trade here is fairly good. Short time prevailed to some extent during the earlier part of the month, but the pits have since been more fully employed. Employment throughout the county is good, with only 25 pitmen out of work, or less than 1 per cent.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the Tyne.—Shipbuilding is fairly good. In the lower reaches of the river "berths" are fully occupied. Two of the principal firms continue indifferently employed, one having discharged during the month over 100 men. The shipwrights are moderately employed; repair work is not so busy. The out-of-work iron shipbuilders number 781, or 14.8 per cent. Work in the engine shops still improves, except in locomotive building. Pattern-makers are busy. Ordnance work shows no improvement; several men have left the locality. The proportion of unemployed engineers is about 20 per cent. **On the Wear.**—The shipyards are fairly active. The number of iron shipbuilders and boiler-makers still out of work is 323, or 12.5 per cent. Marine engine building maintains its improvement. The repairing shops are not so busy. The percentage of unemployed engineers has slightly decreased from 9.2 to 8.2. The pattern-makers are especially busy. There is a movement for an increase of wages, the iron moulders having struck work for this object. The joiners and carpenters on both rivers maintain the average percentage of 6.4 unemployed. Local iron and steel millmen continue well employed.

Building Trades.—These have been fairly active. The masons, plumbers and painters are but moderately employed; the brick-

layers, plasterers and house joiners, are better, fewer men being out of work.

Miscellaneous.—Owing to a lessened demand for coal and other products—notably on the Wear—there has been a falling-off in the demand for riverside labour, coal porters and seafaring men generally. The chemical, cement and lead factories show little change. The glass and bottle makers are better employed. The rope and paper manufacturers, the latter especially, are quiet. The machine rulers and book printers are well employed; the former have none unemployed, the latter 4 per cent. Farm work is in active operation, and the soil is reported to be in good condition for sowing.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Oldham, Bolton and District.

Textile Trades.—Business in these trades has not been so good as in the previous month. The mills, with a few exceptions, are, however, being kept on full time, and in few instances is any attempt being made to curtail production. The operatives in the Oldham district are about to take a ballot as to whether they shall enforce a rule for time to be allowed for cleaning and oiling machinery similar to that which has been mutually agreed upon at Bolton.

Iron and Engineering Trades.—These branches of industry maintain their improvement. The number of unemployed is considerably above the average, although it is being gradually reduced.

Building Trades.—These trades are becoming busy. The prospects for the coming season are fairly good, and the trades are clear of any labour troubles.

Clothing Trades.—These industries are beginning their busy season with more prospect of activity than last year. At Bolton the tailors have just secured an advance in wages of 1d. per hour.

Miscellaneous.—In the other sections of trade the fine weather has done much to relieve the labour market, and consequently less is heard of the unemployed.—*J. T. Fielding.*

Burnley, Accrington and District.

Textile Trades.—The Cotton Trade has shown a slight falling-off. In the Clitheroe district a number of looms are stopped for want of warps, but they are of a special class. During the month disputes have been prevalent in the Weaving Trade in the Blackburn, Burnley, Haslingden and Bacup districts, those at Blackburn and Bacup being still unsettled. In the Nelson district the dispute as to prices paid for weaving stove work has been re-opened, and notices are being tendered for weavers at thirteen firms to leave work on the 11th inst., unless in the meantime the firms are prepared to adopt what is called the "Chorley" list of prices; the dispute affects several hundred workpeople. A dispute has also arisen in the Twisting and Drawing Industry in the Blackburn district; 600 notices have been sent in to leave work unless the employers are prepared to give an advance of wages; some thousands of workpeople would be indirectly affected should a strike ensue. In the Hard Waste Trade a slight improvement is being shown.

Engineering, Machine and Iron Trades.—There is very little to report in these trades; one machine firm is reported as well engaged, mostly on foreign orders, whilst the engineering firms are mostly on home work. A number of men are still unemployed.

Building Trades.—The recent fine weather has been advantageous to these trades, which are fairly brisk; this also applies to the Painting and Decorating Trades, in which very few workmen are now unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The Letterpress Printing and the Calico Printing and Dyeing Trades are stated to be moderate, the Tin-plate Workers are fully employed, and the number of the unemployed in the district appears to be less than in February.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In the Iron Trades a slight improvement is manifest. The engineers report that trade is a little better, and that the number unemployed has decreased by about 50, being about 8 per cent. The steam engine-makers have not experienced any change. The machine-workers report trade as somewhat better, with good prospects; the latter have about 2 1/2 per cent. unemployed. The boiler-makers still report trade as bad, although the number of unemployed (about 90) remains unaltered. The brass-founders describe trade as moderate, and the number of unemployed the same as last month. The braziers and sheet metal workers speak of trade as bad generally, but the tin packing-case and gas-meter makers as being fairly good.

Textile Trades.—In the Cotton Trade throughout the district work is fairly plentiful; the mills are kept running, and the prospect is reported as fairly good. It was hoped that after the holidays the silk mills in Macclesfield would have been more active, but this has not been the case, and several still remain on five days a week of 8 1/2 hours per day. A little improvement is apparent in the hand loom department.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printing is reported as very bad, and the number unemployed has increased. This may to some extent be accounted for by the collapse of one of the morning newspapers, which has thrown nearly fifty men out of work. Lithographic printing remains about the same, the number unemployed being large for the time of year. The Bookbinding Trade is bad, the number out of work remaining unchanged.

Building Trades.—In all branches trade is moderate, with little difference in the number of unemployed. The joiners report a decrease in the number unemployed, but the plasterers report an increase, whilst no alteration is shown amongst bricklayers.

Miscellaneous.—The Coachmaking Trade is good, and the number unemployed is proportionately small. The Tailoring Trade is better, but a considerable number are out of employment. The bleachers, dyers and finishers describe trade as moderate, the number of unemployed has increased, owing to some small disputes that are pending. Amongst the dressers and dyers trade is still bad, with no change in the number of unemployed. The Cotton Polishing Trade, which is carried on at Middleton, amongst other places, is in a very bad condition. Outdoor labour remains very scarce, and the number of unemployed members of one union of labourers is reported to have increased by at least 100.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipping, Dock, &c., Labour.—There has been a marked falling off in the condition of dock labour, owing largely to the decrease in the imports of cotton since February. The ships unloaded are to a great extent being sent away light, to open up the Montreal and Quebec trade. A large proportion of shipmen and quay porters have no employment at their trade. There seems to be a slight improvement in the coasting trade, a fleet of steam trawlers having been chartered to carry coal from the tips at Birkenhead. A slight improvement is noticeable in the employment of river flats, and a slight decrease in the employment of the inland canal boat men.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—There is very little improvement in these trades. The Shipbuilding Trade generally is very dull, with a slight improvement among the ship painters. The boiler-makers, riveters, metal planers, slotters, &c., are mostly employed on jobbing and getting ready the season excursion boats. Nine per cent. of engineers are unemployed.

Metal Trades.—There has been no change in the position of iron moulders. Core-makers are dull. The brass foundries are only moderately busy, but show a tendency to improve. The white-smiths are fully employed, and have given notice for an advance of wages. The Copper Industry shows no change.

Mining.—There has been a slight falling off in employment in the colliery districts. Stocks are growing rapidly, and in some places the men are not fully employed.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—There is no perceptible change among the workers in the Chemical Industry, and a considerable number of the workers are still unemployed. The Glass Bottle and the Plate and Sheet Glass Industries show little, if any, improvement.

Building Trades.—These trades show a slight slackness, partly owing to a scarcity of bricks, and towards the close of the month there was a marked falling-off. The joiners and house painters have been very quiet, with a tendency to improve towards the close of the month.

Miscellaneous.—General labourers and excavators are very quiet. Some bag factories are only working half time.—*J. Sexton.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Marine engineering continues to improve slowly. Various branches are exceptionally busy, the only drawback being the want of raw material. The pattern-makers are well employed, and the iron-moulders are busy, the existence of idle members being mainly due to want of room.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Pig Iron Trade has slightly improved, and although prices have not risen to any great extent, there has been a better demand and increased employment. The steel workers are moderately employed, though a number are only working two weeks in three, but with fresh orders lately received they will probably be kept going for some weeks to come.

Iron Mining.—Iron ore miners are fairly well employed. Owing to the burning down of the pumping station engine-house at one of the mines, about 100 men are likely to be out of employment for some time.

Shipping and Railways.—There has been very little doing at the Docks; the Shipping Trade has been bad for a long time past. Railway traffic has improved but little, and the employees are still only working 45 hours per week.

Building Trades.—Since the advent of good weather all branches of these trades have been busy.

Miscellaneous.—The Tailoring Trade is still very slack. The Printing and kindred Trades are only moderately employed. The bakers and confectioners are fairly busy, and the paper and pulp works are very busy. The wagon works are still closed. The Jute Trade shows little activity.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues brisk, and more men are working. A Middlesbrough firm is reported to have obtained an order for a 6,000-ton steamer, so that prospects may be considered as very promising, provided the wages question in the Engineering Trades can be amicably arranged.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Pig Iron and Steel Trades continue brisk; most of the steel mills are well employed. The Finished Iron Trade shows signs of improvement; prices have risen, but not enough to affect the wages, which, under the sliding scale, remain the same for April and May as previously. Bridge works are as busy as last month. The foundries, except in marine engine building firms, where disputes exist, are well employed, except one or two in Middlesbrough.

Engineering.—This trade is good, especially in the marine engine building branches, particularly at Stockton and Hartlepool, the percentage of unemployed for the whole district being about 5. The moulders are "out" for an advance of 3s. 6d. per week on time and 10 per cent. on piece prices at Hartlepool and Stockton, and are also seeking an advance at Middlesbrough. The fitters, turners, and other branches are also seeking a similar advance.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners are brisker, and are seeking an advance in wages. There are over 5,000 men working in connection with the mines, and not more than 25 on the books of the union, though all the men are not yet working full time.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report a good many still on the books. Dock and riverside labour is moderate.

Building Trades.—Trade is brisk at the Hartlepoons, with good prospects. The labourers are seeking an advance. In other parts of the district the trade is moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Printing is good at the Hartlepoons, and moderate elsewhere. The Salt Trade continues busy.—*A. Main.*

Leeds and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Reports vary as to the condition of the Engineering Trade, but on the whole there is an improvement. The number on the vacant book in the last week of the month was less than had prevailed for some months previously, and would have been still further reduced but for the closing of one or two large establishments during the whole of Easter week. The slight improvement in the Ironfounding Trade has been maintained. The steel workers have not been so well employed, the compounding departments especially being quiet. The stovegrate workers are fairly well employed, but the machine workers are exceptionally slack.

Building Trades.—These trades have improved, the bricklayers, masons, and builders' labourers being fairly brisk. During the last fortnight of the month, the joiners have found employment rapidly. Painters have been busy during the month, and a good deal of overtime has been worked; 24 of the principal employers have indicated their intention to adhere to the old rates and conditions, and not to insist upon the proposed reduction of 1/2d. per hour.

Textile Trades.—The Woollen Trade has been rather better, and the number unemployed is less than for some considerable period. Some firms which had been on short time since Christmas, have now commenced running full time.

Clothing Trades.—The Ready-made Clothing Business is fairly brisk, this being usually the busy season. As compared, however, with the corresponding period in ordinary years, the demand for workpeople is stated to be not so good. Some firms have been working overtime, but not to any great extent. Bespoke tailoring is very quiet, notwithstanding that the season is early. The Boot and Shoe Trade is dull, and only on light goods has there been fair employment. The cheap Slipper Trade is almost entirely in the hands of the Jews.

Leather Trades.—The tanners report trade as being fairly good, with only one or two men unemployed. The leather shavers are exceptionally brisk, and full time generally is being worked. The carriers are slack.

Glass Bottle Trade.—This trade is reported as fairly good, with few operatives out of work; the medical bottle branch is also good for this period.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing Trade has improved, and the abnormal number of unemployed has been somewhat reduced. Coachmaking is good. Brushmaking still remains very dull. Cabinet-making

is dull, and short time is being worked in some shops. The Dyeing Trade is still very slack, and short-time is being worked; although trade is usually good at this season.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Textile Trades.—The Woollen Trade does not show much improvement in and around Huddersfield. One firm is still working night and day, and one or two others are working overtime. These, however, are exceptions, and many are working short time. Trade in the heavy woollen district of Batley and Dewsbury is very quiet, although in one or two cases overtime is being worked. In the Carpet Trade there is some slight improvement. In worsted goods trade is still quiet in Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield. In Bradford no improvement is reported, but there appears to be a slight improvement in Halifax. Several firms in the Cotton Spinning Trade are still working overtime in the neighbourhood of Brighouse, and there are not so many cotton operatives out of work in any of the districts as in the Woollen and Worsted Trades. The Silk Trade in the Brighouse district is somewhat better.

Metal Trades.—The Iron Trade is still quiet in this district, and a moderate number of members of unions are signing the vacant books. The Wire Trade of Brighouse is improving.

Building Trade.—There does not seem to be much improvement in this industry, although, owing to the fine weather, it was more active towards the end of the month. The slaters in Huddersfield report their trade as busy.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Dyeing is reported as still very quiet. The tailors and printers report that trade is better than it has been this year.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The pits generally are working three and four days per week. There are exceptional collieries that are working five and six days per week, and on the other hand there are a few only working three days per fortnight. A dispute at some collieries near Barnsley has been settled by arbitration; the colliery company has agreed to pay 1d. per ton more on all coal got in banks which are being newly opened out for the first thirty yards. The company has also agreed to stop working shift-work in banks as soon as places can be got ready in the new district for the men now working shifts. From 20 to 30 coke burners have been thrown out of work at a colliery through the introduction of machinery. There is considerable distress at one colliery which has passed into new hands, owing to the delay in re-starting work. At another colliery the men are only working one day a week.

Metal Trades.—The Pig Iron Trade continues fairly good, and prices are maintained. The Heavy Steel Trades are improving, the Light Steel Trades are hardly doing so well. The Stove Grate Trade is very active, many shops working overtime.

Linen Trade.—At Barnsley this trade, as a whole, is quiet, very little being done in any department. The South American trade continues very dull, and little is being done for the United States.—*J. Waasworth.*

A report from Castleford states that coal mining in that district is not much improved, few of the pits working more than four days per week, and the men complain of not having sufficient corves when they are at work; as there are 25 or 26 mines within a radius of six miles from Castleford this implies a serious loss. The Glass Trade is not so good, many of the workers now only working alternate weeks. The trade is alleged to have gone to Lancashire. The flint glass workers are, however, working full time. The Pottery Trade has been brisker, and seems likely to go on improving. The Building Trades are also busier.

Sheffield and District.

Heavy Iron and Steel Industries.—The workmen engaged in the production of the patent Harvey steel armour plates are exceedingly busy on Government orders. The Siemens steel smelters are well employed, there being a heavy demand for armour plates. There is a fair amount of work on hand in large steel forgings, owing to the recent spurt in the Shipbuilding Industry. In railway springs, axles and tyres there is a moderate amount of work being executed, but on the whole these branches are quieter. The makers of foundry iron are exceedingly quiet, several furnaces being out of blast. Some firms, however, engaged in the Stove Grate Trade are fully employed. Steel castings are very quiet, and in patent shot and shell, as also in heavy ordnance, there is little doing. Most firms making crucible steel for export are slack. Boiler and girder makers are doing a fair amount of work, and the manufacturers of the patent Purves flues and Cervs tubes are exceedingly busy. The engineers are not at all busy, with little change from last month. The ironfounders report a slight improvement. In the Wire Trade there are no skilled hands out of employment.

Cutlery and Tools.—The Easter holidays have been unusually protracted, many firms being closed for a week. The Razor and Joiners' Tool Trades are very quiet. The heavier class of edge tools are rather better. In table and butchers' knives, trade generally is very slack. As a rule the workmen in these trades are not working more than three or four days per week. The scissor makers are very quiet. In files there is a fair amount of work being done. The dispute in the Sheep Shear Trade still continues. A large firm in the Cutlery Trade have given the whole of their workmen notice.

Miscellaneous.—The Silver Trade is very depressed, many workmen being either partially or wholly unemployed. The Spoon and Fork and Electro Trades are very quiet. In the Building Trades, masons are fairly well employed, but bricklayers and carpenters and joiners are slack. Several large jobs are wholly or nearly completed, and the only important new ones are not of a character which will greatly affect the general trades. Railway carriage and wagon builders are very slack. A report has been made by a firm of silver refiners in Sheffield of the result of the adoption of the eight hours' working day, which is highly satisfactory. It is reported that another firm is prepared to adopt the 48 hours' week, provided their workmen are willing to meet them as to working hours.—*S. Utley.*

Hull and Humber District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment for the men engaged in these trades has been moderate. The demand for the construction of new steam fishing vessels continues steady, each building yard having a few vessels in course of preparation and completion. Repair work has been fair. The percentage of unemployed in these trades ranges from 8 to 12.

Shipping.—Employment for seamen has been very bad, and many unemployed sailors are securing work in refitting, cleaning and painting vessels preparing for the Baltic trade.

Fishing Trade.—The men in fishing vessels have been earning a fair average wage. The decline of sailing vessels still continues, with the result that the number of unemployed fishermen is increasing.

Building Trades.—The bricklaying, stonework, plastering and slating branches are only indifferently employed, one of the principal causes being a scarcity of material, especially bricks, last season's trade having taken up this article as fast as it could be made. On account of the demand for joiners in the shipyards, all are fully employed. The Painting Trade is very good, all being in employment.

Seed Crushing, Oil, Varnish, Paint and Colour Works.—In the Seed Crushing Industry the condition of employment is much the same as in February. Many of the mills are running short time. The paint and colour mills manifest a slight improvement, men who were unemployed being re-started, and the work is more regular than it has been for some time.

Dock Labour.—The men employed at the docks have only been able to secure a moderate amount of employment during the past month. The work created by the arrival and departure of vessels engaged in the American, Mediterranean, East Indian and Continental trades has been equal to the average. The Hamburg trade has been fairly good. The small Continental trades have been very slack. The Baltic Timber Trade has not yet fairly commenced. The few employed in the timber yards are principally engaged in getting out orders from stock. It is impossible to gauge the actual number of unemployed in the docks, but the supply of labour is much larger than the demand.

Miscellaneous.—Owing to the closing of a cotton mill, from 1,200 to 1,300 operatives have been thrown out of work, of whom the great majority are women and children. Employment in the Printing Trade is moderate, about 5 per cent. being unemployed owing to the displacement of labour by the introduction of machinery. The Baking and Confectionery Trades are fairly good, only one or two men being unemployed. Employment in the gasworks is getting slack.—*W. G. Millington.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—There has been no material improvement in the Iron Trade. The Midland Iron and Steel Trade Wages Board announce a decline in the average selling price of iron for the preceding two months of 1s. 2d. per ton, but the piece rate for puddling remains as before, 7s. 6d. per ton. Puddling and mill rolling may be reported as moderate. Some of the puddlers are reported to have done only one turn a week for the past three months. Steel workers are described as busy, and engineers and constructive machinists as fairly well employed. The iron door and safe makers and the heavy ironfounders are better employed. Employment in the various branches at the railway works remains steady, and the

boiler and tank makers, bridge and girder constructors, and gasometer erectors and colliery air-tube makers are busy. The tool makers and machinists have fewer men unemployed.

Hardware Trades.—The Nut and Bolt Trade, both in Darlaston and Sneathwick, remains very depressed, and there is distress amongst these workmen and the gun lock filers. Reports received from Dudley, Bromsgrove and Halesowen describe the Nail Trade as very depressed in those districts; not one-fourth of the men are employed, and wages are very low. This also applies to the cut nail and tack makers. A slight improvement is reported in some branches of the Spring, Latch and Lock Trades, but a decline in the cabinet branch. Most of the padlock-makers are working short time. In the Chain, Case Hame and Cable Trade there is an improvement, but work is very scarce in the Iron-plate and Tin-plate Industries. There is a slight revival in the Rivet Trade. The edge tool makers are steadily employed. The galvanizers, japanners and enamellers are fairly well employed, and the agricultural implement makers have more work. The Cycle Trade is active, and a greater number of men are employed. The Tube Trade generally is reported as moderate, the iron hurdle makers as fair, and an improvement is noticed in the Wire Trade. There is no improvement in the File Trade. The anvil smiths are still on short time. The light ironfounders and hollow-ware casters are stated to be moderately employed, but the Electrical Trades show a slight decline. The Brass and Copper Trades are reported as very dull, as also the Steel Toy Trade. Hinge makers and makers of builders' and coachbuilders' ironmongery are slightly busier, and there has been an increased demand for railway fittings. Horseshoe turning and smiths' work generally are reported as good. The electroplaters are busier, principally on cycle work.

Building Trades.—Very few men are unemployed, and an improvement is reported at Dudley. In Wolverhampton the notice of the carpenters for an advance of 1d. an hour and alteration of working rules expires on April 1st. The bricklayers, painters and decorators report trade as fair, and the plasterers, plumbers, mill sawyers and machinists as busy; the bricklayers' and general labourers are well employed, and the brickmakers are busy.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Trade and the Clothing Trade, both in the ready-made and bespoke branches, have improved. The saddlers and harness makers in Walsall have maintained their improvement, except in the "brown" and "gig" saddle branches, which remain depressed. Work has declined amongst the cabinet and furniture makers, but good reports have been received from the coopers and packing case makers, the coach-builders, wheelwrights and smiths, from the oil, colour and varnish workers, and from the railway men, carriers and canal boatmen. The bakers and confectioners are quiet. There has been a slight revival in the Carpet Trade at both Kidderminster and Bridgnorth. There has been a decline in coal mining. In Wolverhampton there are still a large number unemployed, and the Corporation continue their relief works. The unemployed relief fund opened at Walsall has been closed. Work has been found by the Town Council for 150 men upon the new cemetery, sewage farm, &c. The total amount received by the committee was £543 4s., and 2,500 persons have been relieved.—*W. F. Mee.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Business in the general trade remains in the same dull and depressed condition, and there are no signs of improvement. The home trade is still quiet, although there is some slight improvement manifest. The foreign trade, especially that with America, is extremely bad. The hollow-ware pressers report trade as a little better. There are about 2 per cent. totally out of work, and four days per week is about the average period worked. The sanitary pressers report trade as good with a fair demand. The printers and transferers report trade as bad, only three days per week being worked on an average. The women's branch reports no improvement, several works being partially closed. The crate-makers report trade as bad, with fully 12 per cent. out of work, and short time prevailing all over the district. The oven men report no improvement, with great scarcity of employment. The date for settling wages, &c., (25th March) has passed without any serious disputes; and those firms which had not settled prices for particular shapes are endeavouring to do so under the Conciliation Board.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The improvement in the Iron Trade is still maintained, and orders have been booked which will keep the mill's running about four days per week. The South American markets show more animation than for some time past. A good demand exists for pig iron. Engineers and Ironfounders report trade as still bad, fully 8 per cent. being unemployed.

Coal Mining.—The Coal Trade is declining, and short time prevails. About 200 men have been partially stopped at one

colliery through a "Gob" fire, and at another 14 days' notice has been given to the miners that all contracts will terminate on 14th April.

Miscellaneous.—The Building Trades report a slight improvement all round, but 8 per cent are still unemployed. The wood sawyers report trade as bad. The letterpress printers report 6 per cent. out of work. The lithographic artists and printers report no improvement. The bakers report trade as moderate; the tailors as improved, the brilliant weather at the end of the month causing a good demand for spring goods.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Birmingham and District.

General.—The state of trade in Birmingham may be described as generally "dull," though it varies greatly in different factories and branches of trade. In foreign trade better business has been done with Australia, China, and the Cape. The American demand is still low, but a revival in the trade with Brazil is now expected.

Brassworkers, &c.—Cabinet brassfoundry has slightly improved. Chandelier and gas-fitting work remains stationary. There has been a little demand for church brass-work. Plumber's brassfoundry improves, and a few more of the unemployed are reinstated. Lamp work is not so good. Bedstead-making has somewhat improved, but most of the factories are working short time.

Engineers, Metal-rollers, &c.—Work has been on the whole fairly good. Some engineering works are very busy on special orders. Metal-rolling is better. The Cycle Trade is still getting brisker, especially in fittings and accessories. Tin-plate work is more active, particularly in japanned goods.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—There is a slight improvement in the Jewellery Trade. Silversmiths have more employment on table-ware, but not on trinkets. The Electro-plate Trade shows depression; some old firms are going out of business.

Tube and Wire Drawing.—There is more work in both these industries. A good call is being made for tubes cased with brass, for cornices, shop window-fittings, &c. In the Wire Industry there is a demand for copper electrical wire, and there is also the seasonal demand for horticultural wire work.

Miscellaneous Trades.—Building operatives are a little better employed; the carpenters report 6.6 per cent. of the Union members out of work. Boot and shoe factories are in some instances busier. Railway wagon-builders are well employed. File-cutting is slightly better, and glass working about the same as last month. Steel pen and button workers are in fair employment, and improved towards the end of the month. The Gun Trade is slow, but machine gun-workers have good prospects. Iron-plate workers are still badly off for work, and the ironfounders report trade as bad. Makers of welded steel pipes are busy.

Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.—This trade has remained stationary. Most of the men are in regular but not full work, and prospects are regarded as hopeful. The production of pig-iron is still very restricted. The steel-workers are increasing in number, and are getting busier. The Iron Trade has been seriously affected through the failure of two large concerns, one of which employed between 1,500 and 1,800 men.

Other Trades in South Staffordshire.—Heavy ironwork is still most in demand, and some men are working overtime. There is a sluggish trade in vices, anvils, &c., but galvanized sheet work is better, and workers in enamelled ware are very busy. There will be more work in requisites for the rapidly developing Steel Trade, and the demand for railway carriage fittings affords increased employment. The Walsall bridle and coach harness workers are very slack, full time is quite the exception. In the Block Chain Trade a uniform price list has been prepared, which the employers are said to have accepted. Large orders for bricks and tiles are being executed in this district.—*W. J. Davis.*

A report from Coventry states that the Ribbon Trade is improving, although the prices and rates of wages are very low. The Plush and Velvet Trades are depressed, only four days a week being worked. There is considerable activity in the Cycle Trade among the Coventry and Foleshill firms, in nearly all branches, and overtime is being worked in some cases. The Watch Trade is very depressed, and the Hatting Industry is also very dull, many of the operatives seeking work in other trades. Employment at the collieries varies from 3 to 5 days a week. The granite quarries of Griff and Mancetter are brisk, but at Hartshill there is some slackness. The Brick, Pipe and Terra Cotta Industries are working regularly.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The levers' curtain and plain net branches are all busier. The warp lace branch still has 10 per cent. unemployed, and the curtain readers have about 25 per cent. out of work. Threaders,

winders, jackers off and warpers are fairly busy. The designers and draughtsmen are very quiet. The bleachers and dyers have a few unemployed. The female workers are better employed. They report 8 per cent. out of work.

Hosiery.—This industry continues very depressed, and partial employment is the rule, very few making full time. The shirt and pant branch is dull, as also the hand frame branch. The circular hosiery branch report trade as very bad. Female labour is only moderately employed. The Griswold knitters, however, are fairly busy. The state of employment, generally, is dull.

Iron Trade.—There is a slight improvement, about 8 or 9 per cent. being unemployed. The cycle makers continue busy. The lace machine builders are fairly well employed, but the hosiery machinists are very slack. The iron moulders report trade as still bad, with 19 per cent. unemployed; the boiler-makers as improving, with 4 per cent. out of work; the tool machinists as improving, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the bobbin and carriage workers as improving, with 3 per cent. unemployed. The carriage straighteners have very few unemployed. The iron dressers report 4 per cent. unemployed and trade as bad. The sinker-makers are fairly busy. Labourers are slack.

Mining and Railways.—The Mining Trade remains about the same, four days per week being the average time worked. The railway men report trade as fairly brisk, and at two of the depots full time is the rule.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers continue fairly well employed. The plumbers report trade as very bad, with 18 per cent. unemployed; the plasterers as very slack; the carpenters and joiners as dull, with about 6 per cent. unemployed; the brickmakers as moderate; the painters and paper-hangers as brisker. The builders' labourers report trade as quiet, with a few unemployed. The cabinet-makers have no unemployed, but trade is quiet. The French polishers and upholsterers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—The lithographic artists report trade as very unfavourable; the lithographic printers as dull, with about 10 per cent. unemployed; the bookbinders as quiet, but with no unemployed. The boxmakers report trade as very good. The boot and shoe finishers as a little better; several firms still continue to set up machinery. At Hucknall the boot and shoe finishers are fairly busy. The coach-makers report trade as moderate, with 3 per cent. unemployed; the female cigar-makers as very slack, with a few unemployed. The Clothing Trade is busy both in the bespoke and the ready-made branches. The farriers continue very slack. The basket-makers and brush-makers are quiet.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Derbyshire District.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—In the Ilkeston district miners are only working about three days per week, and it is evident by the large stocks that the output is in excess of the demand. In the Staveley district the hard coal pits are working full time, while in gas coal only 3 to 3½ days a week are being worked; steam coal is increasing somewhat, and railway stocks continue to increase; house coal is somewhat diminishing owing to some pits taking nearly a week for holiday making. Employment for quarrymen in the Wirksworth, Little Eaton, Coxbench and Bakewell districts continues to improve, and prospects are generally better.

Iron Trade.—There is a slight improvement in pig iron. One or two more furnaces have been put in blast, and nearly all workmen are fully employed. The Malleable Iron Trade continues very fair.

Engineering and Machinery.—In Derby the engineering and machinery works are slightly busier. The locomotive works are brisker, and the brass-moulders and finishers report a slight improvement, with no workmen unemployed. The iron-moulders are also somewhat better employed, although nearly 12 per cent. are out of work. The Stovegrate Trade remains very slack, and the dispute in Derby is still pending. The bridge, girder and boiler yards are improving, about 3 per cent. of the boiler-makers being unemployed. The Rivet Trade is reported as moderate. In the New Mills, Chesterfield, Ripley and Ilkeston districts trade is reported as moderate, and in Glossop as declining. In Long Eaton the lace machine builders are working full time. Cycle works are very busy.

Textile Trades.—The Lace Trade in Derby and Long Eaton has considerably improved, most workpeople being on full time. The Silk Industry is dull in all departments. In the Belper district the cotton mills are fairly well employed.

Clothing Trade.—Both the bespoke and wholesale clothing departments are well employed. The Boot and Shoe Trade has greatly improved, nearly all making full time, and few being totally unemployed. In the Belper district the framework-knitters are nearly all on short time.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers report trade as steadily improving, with no unemployed. The stonemasons are very busy. The carpenters and joiners report trade as moderate, with about 5 per

cent. unemployed; the cement and plaster-workers as fairly good. Most timber yards are busy. The sawyers and woodworkers' machinists remain very quiet. The house painters and decorators report trade as very fair, with few totally unemployed. The plumbers are very busy. The Building Trade in Long Eaton and Belper districts is very fair, and in Bakewell and Matlock districts very good. The brickmakers are better employed.

Printing Trade.—The lithographic and letterpress printers continue very slack. The bookbinders show a slight improvement, but many are on short time, and nearly 7 per cent. are totally unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The paper-makers, paper stainers and colour mixers are very busy. Bakers and confectioners and Milling Trades are very quiet. The mineral water operatives and chemical workers are improving; the cabinet-makers and elastic web weavers are fairly well employed. The brush-makers and all branches of the Crown China Trade are very dull. The railway carriage and wagon builders report a decided improvement, full time being worked in all cases, and few men being totally unemployed. The coachbuilders in private shops are all well employed, and the box-makers are rather busy. The organ builders are very quiet. In Long Eaton district the wagon builders are fully employed; the wagon repairers are rather dull, most workmen being on short time. The dyers and bleachers in the Belper district report no improvement. The unskilled labour market is improving.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Throughout the Leicester district trade was remarkably good during March. Workpeople in all branches are in great demand. In Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough, Higham, Rushden and Desborough the shoe hands are fully employed, overtime being worked in many instances. Business in the shipping department of the trade continues dull. The Leather Industry is fairly brisk.

Hosiery, Yarn and Spinning Trades.—All branches of the Hosiery Trade are quiet, some firms running short time. There is, however, a fairly even distribution of such work as there is, and consequently but few workpeople are entirely out of employment. The Yarn Trade is still in an unhealthy condition, production being very restricted. The wool and spinning houses report a slightly improved turnover, and prospects are brighter.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—The general Engineering Trades continue to improve, particularly in the machine building branches, in which good workmen readily find employment. There is somewhat less activity in the production of special boot and shoe machinery, though employment continues fairly steady. The Cycle Trade is still busy, and full time is being worked. Makers of hosiery machinery are not so fully employed. In the Ironfoundry Trades business is dull, a large percentage of men being out of work.

Building Trades.—There is a slight improvement in these trades. The supply, however, of bricklayers and labourers more than equals the demand. Painters and house decorators are busy. Trade is improving with the carpenters and joiners. The plasterers have been fully employed, the plumbers and glaziers moderately so.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal production has been restricted, and the majority of the mines are only working on an average about half-time. At one of the collieries a reduction of wages was successfully resisted. The Granite Quarrying Trade is again fairly brisk, paving setts, kerb and broken stone, being in better demand.

Miscellaneous.—The Wholesale Clothing Trade is good and employment full; the retail branch is reported as moderate. In elastic web fabrics, makers of cords and braids are moderately busy. The demand for shoe webbings is, however, very unsatisfactory. In the Letterpress Printing Trade, employment is worse than it has been for several years, largely owing to the introduction of machinery and boy labour. The jobbing and lithographic printers and bookbinders are fairly busy. The box-makers, cabinet-makers and general upholsterers are pretty evenly employed, as are also the curriers, gas-workers, basket-makers and bakers. The brick and tile-makers are very busy. The wagon and coach-makers are mostly working full time. The dyers and cleaners are fairly busy. The labourers engaged in out-door work are generally in full employment.—*T. Smith.*

Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire District.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Trade at Kingswood and Street (Somerset) is improving, while at Bristol it remains steady. Bespoke tailors report trade as busy, ready-made garment makers as brisk, but not up to the season's average. Felt hat, and cap makers are in full employment. The wholesale stay and corset factories are slack.

Mining and Quarrying.—Trade continues very slack in the Bristol coalfield, except at the Kingswood and Parkfield collieries. There are still 460 miners out of employment. Trade has improved in

the stone quarries of West Gloucestershire. In the *Radstock* district most collieries are working short time, and about 180 men and boys are unemployed. The Iron Trade is reported as very dull, the Stove Trade as good. In the *Forest of Dean* the Coal Trade is now severely depressed, some pits working on day-to-day contracts. Miners' wages have been reduced under the sliding scale by 10 per cent. From 500 to 600 men are reported as out of work. The Stone Quarry Trade has improved.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The lithographic printers report trade as slightly improved; the wholesale stationers as busy; the bookbinders and letterpress printers as unchanged, with better prospects in the latter branch. The Printing Trade at Gloucester is said to be good.

Wagon, Carriage and Engineering Trades.—The Wagon and Carriage Trades are slack in all departments. The Cycle Trade is reported as good, the toolmakers and machinists as fair, the boiler-makers and riveters as very good, and the ironfounders as improving. Pattern-making is fair, but the number of unemployed fitters has slightly increased. The Engineering and kindred Trades at Gloucester are reported as fair, the wagon and carriage building as good.

Furnishing and Building Trades.—The Cabinet and Furnishing Trades continue to improve, few men being idle. The carpenters and joiners have become very slack, about 9 per cent. being unemployed. The painters and decorators are improving slowly, and the number of unemployed bricklayers and stonemasons has slightly decreased. The plasterers, plumbers and wood cutting machinists report trade as very dull; the lathrenders as good at Newport, but very dull at Cardiff, Gloucester and Bristol. The Building Trades generally, at Bath and Gloucester, are reported to be very quiet.

Shipping and Miscellaneous Trades.—Employment with sailors and firemen, and quayside labourers has been fairly good. The sail-makers and shipwrights continue very depressed. The bakers and confectioners report a decided improvement, 8 per cent. being now unemployed, as against 16 per cent. last month. The Cocoa and Chocolate Trade is reported as quiet; the Tobacco and Cigar Trade as good. The leather-board, mat and rug factories continue busy. The Basket, Brush, and Saddle and Harness Trades report no change. Agricultural labour in this district is very indifferent for the time of year. As usual about this time of year, there is said to be a movement of labourers from West Somerset and North Devon to the South Wales coalfields.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South Western District.

Building Trades.—Depression has continued in most parts of the district. A large percentage of carpenters and joiners in Plymouth are out of work. Occasional employment is being offered in other parts, but only at wages below the Plymouth rates. The masons and plasterers have slightly improved, but many of the latter are still idle. The painters also have improved, and the plumbers continue fully employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The demand for seamen has been dull, many still remaining idle. Dock labourers have been fairly well employed on coal and other imports.

Engineering, Ironfoundry and Ship-repairing continue to improve, and the men are fairly well employed.

Clothing Trades.—The Tailoring Trade, both in the bespoke and ready-made branches, has shown improvement. The Boot Trade is reported as steady.

Furnishing Trades and Local Industries.—There has been an improvement in the Furnishing Trades during the month. Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and those engaged in the trade generally report an improvement. The gasworkers in different works have been reduced, as usual at this time.

Mining and Clay Industry.—There is still great depression and distress among the tin miners of Cornwall. The advance in the price of tin, however, makes the outlook more hopeful. The Clay Trade continues brisk.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing Trade is reported as quiet. The bakers, confectioners, coachbuilders, wheelwrights and smiths are all fairly well employed. Many unskilled labourers are still out of work. Agricultural labour is reported as quiet throughout the district.—*J. Welland.*

Cardiff and District.

Shipping.—Employment has fallen off in the ports of this district, and a large number of all classes of dock workers have been out of employment; the hoblers have been most severely affected.

The Tin-plate Trade.—The hopes of an early improvement in this industry have not yet been realised, and the trade is still in a deplorably dull and unsettled state. There have been several

attempts by the employers during the month to alter some of the working conditions or rules—e.g., to change from 36 boxes to 38 boxes; to this the men are strongly opposed.

Steel and Iron Trades.—There is little change in these trades, but the general opinion is that the Steel Trade is improving.

Engineering and Ship-repairing.—This trade has become exceedingly dull, except at Newport, where it has remained the same as during February. The number of unemployed engineers, boiler-makers and shipwrights has nearly doubled during the month, and the labourers engaged in the ship-repairing yards have shared in this slackness.

Building Trades.—The out-of-work books of the various Union branches show an increased percentage of unemployed, and there are a considerable number of builders' labourers out of work.

Printing Trade.—The letterpress printers have rather a large number unemployed, chiefly compositors, and the lithographic and bookbinding branches are somewhat dull.—*T. Davies.*

A report from Ebbw Vale states that the Steel Trade is more active than for some months past, but prices and wages remain unaltered. The Wagon Building and Mechanics' Trades are active, with full employment and great pressure for overtime work. Out-door work for masons and carpenters is also active.

South Wales Mining Districts.

Coal Mining.—The condition of the South Wales Coal Trade is very satisfactory, full work being the rule at most collieries. There is a very strong movement among the miners of the districts to have the 9-hour day system strictly adhered to at the collieries, and overtime is being refused by the men. The miners of Aberdare district are about to take a ballot upon the question of an 8-hour day from bank to bank. Under the South Wales and Monmouthshire Sliding Scale award an advance of 3½ per cent. has been granted to the whole of the South Wales colliery workmen, numbering about 90,000, thus raising their wages to 30 per cent. above the standard of 1879. A dispute at one colliery, lasting 10 days and affecting about 500 men, was referred to the Sliding Scale Committee, and the men resumed work. Another colliery with over 1,500 men was thrown idle for a short time by a dispute with the hauliers and night labourers as to weekly hours of work.—*W. Evans.*

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining and Mineral Oil Trades.—The Coal Trade in the Lothians is fairly good. In Mid and East Lothian four-fifths of the miners are working full time; with the remainder three and four days' work per week is the rule. In West Lothian nine days' work per fortnight has been the average, and in one district five days' work per week has been obtained. The Mineral Oil Industry continues active.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Repair work being nearly exhausted, the shipyards are again slack. The boiler-makers return nearly 24 per cent. unemployed, and the shipwrights over 8 per cent. The ship-joiners, however, are still well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The iron moulders report a considerable reduction in the number out of work. The engineers, blacksmiths, pattern-makers and coppersmiths report no improvement, while the brassfounders are worse than in February. The gas meter makers report 9 per cent. out of work, and about 35 per cent. on short time. Returns from 12 branches in this group show 8.7 per cent. unemployed.

Printing and allied Trades.—The compositors, press and machine-men, lithographers and typefounders report trade as bad; the latter are still working only four days per week. The stereotypers report trade as dull; the bookbinders and lithographic artists as fair. Returns from seven branches in this group show 4 per cent. on the idle roll.

Building Trades.—The masons, bricklayers, slaters, plumbers, glaziers and painters report trade as good, with all members fully employed; the joiners as fair; the lath splitters and plasterers as bad; the latter report, however, that all their idle men have obtained work elsewhere. Returns from eight branches in this group show less than 1 per cent. out of work. The joiners in Edinburgh and Leith have obtained an advance of ¼d. per hour.

Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet-makers, upholsterers and French polishers report trade as improving, and the brushmakers as very good. Returns from six branches show 4.9 per cent. out of work.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The tailors, hatters and boot and shoe-makers are all fairly busy. The stoneware-throwers, sett-makers, indiarubber-workers, saddlers and sawmill operatives report trade as good, the horse-shoers, gilders and paper-makers as quiet. The tanners, curriers, skimmers, coopers and bakers report trade as bad,

the glassmakers and glasscutters as unchanged. The coachmakers show a slight improvement. The seamen and firemen and the dock and general labourers are fairly well employed. Returns from nine branches of coopers, skimmers, curriers, coachmakers, saddlers, sawmill operatives, glassmakers, and glasscutters show 9.9 per cent. unemployed.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Mining.—Work is more regular than was the case in February. At Falkirk all the miners, except those of two collieries, have been "out" for nearly three weeks resisting reductions in wages varying from 6d. to 1s. per day, fully 1,000 miners being concerned. The men at three other collieries, employing in all about 700, have been resisting partial reductions of wages. At one colliery, miners have been "out" for two weeks against a proposed condition of employment that they should work not less than 11 days per fortnight. A Scottish Miners' Federation, on lines similar to those of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, has been formed, and payment has been made for 32,000 members by the different associations. A conference of this newly-formed Federation has been convened in Glasgow for April 9th, to consider, amongst other matters, wages and restriction of output. At a conference of West of Scotland miners' delegates on March 31st it was decided to work five instead of four days a week.

Shipbuilding.—The Clyde Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Trades still maintain the improvement reported, and the work is fairly spread over the river; the proportion of unemployed engineers over the district is about 8½ per cent., but a considerable number of shipwrights are still unemployed. The ship-joiners are quiet.

Metal Trades.—The blast furnace men report that another furnace has been re-lit, but otherwise there has been no material change. The steel smelters continue to improve. The millmen report that the iron and steel workers in the West of Scotland are well employed. The blacksmiths report a considerable decrease in the number of unemployed. The ironmoulders and tinplate workers report a slight improvement. The irondressers report trade as very fair, the file-cutters as moderate, the toolmakers as fair, the machinists in the Cycle Trade as very bad, the horse-shoers as good with no men idle, the copper-smiths as unchanged, the range and stove fitters as improving.

Building Trades.—The masons, joiners, plasterers, slaters and paviors report trade as very good, the sett-makers as very brisk.

Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers report trade as fairly good; the pattern-makers as good; the coachmakers as much improved, with all fully employed; the wood turners as fair; the saw mill operatives as still improving, with all fully employed.

Textile Trades.—It is reported from the weaving factories that there is no improvement. The calender men report trade as exceptionally busy; the carpet weavers as very good, some factories working overtime. The dyers report no improvement; the warpers report no change, but they have no idle men. The power loom beamers have shown no improvement, but prospects are a little better.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report that trade in some departments is exceptionally busy, and that men cannot be supplied when wanted. The tailors report trade with them as improving as the season advances; the Shoemakers' Trade is beginning to look better.

Shipping Trades.—The sailors and firemen report that things are much the same; the dock labourers that they have been very well employed during the month, and that prospects are good, as most of the shipping companies have commenced the weekly sailings.

Miscellaneous.—The plate-glassworkers and the brushmakers report trade as improving; the tobacco pipe makers as having been very steady for twelve months; the saddlers, curriers and bakers as still depressed; the lathe-splitters and the general labourers as very good.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Jute and Linen Trades.—The improvement in these trades is maintained, several large firms being very busy. Carpet weaving continues depressed. Carpet and rug printing is, however, brisk at present. The dispute between a firm and their workers (numbering about 350) as to a proposed reduction of 10 per cent. of wages has been settled by the withdrawal of the notice of reduction. It is expected that the whole trade will soon be working full time.

Building Trades.—The masons, joiners, plasterers, plumbers, slaters, painters, &c., continue well employed, but masons are not so much in demand, several important buildings having been completed, while the amount of new work announced shows a falling-off.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—There is no decided improvement in these trades, but prospects are improving in regard to shipbuilding.

Tailoring Trade.—The fine weather has caused the demand for men to exceed the supply. A dispute between the tailors and a firm employing a large number of workmen has been settled by arbitration. The dispute arose as to whether the firm in question should be considered first or second class. The firm maintain that as they deal largely in ready-made clothing they should be classed second, and the arbiter, after an exhaustive and careful inquiry, has given his decision in favour of the firm.

Miscellaneous.—The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are reported busy. In the Printing and kindred Trades the number of unemployed is under 5 per cent.—*R. B. D. Ritchie.*

Aberdeen and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—There is no improvement in the number employed. The iron shipbuilders report 19 per cent. idle, and the shipwrights 10 per cent. The iron moulders report trade as improving, with good prospects, the idle roll being reduced to 6 per cent. The blacksmiths and engineers and the tin-plate workers report a slight improvement.

Building Trades.—The masons report trade as good; the carpenters and joiners as very busy, with none idle. The slaters, plasterers, painters and plumbers are all fully employed. The plumbers have obtained an advance in wages by mutual consent, and a few firms have conceded a reduction of working hours to saw-millers, machinemen and wood-turners, from 56 to 54 hours per week. The cabinet-makers and upholsterers are busy, and are applying for an advance in wages.

Quarrying.—The demand for granite for monumental purposes continues good. The number of unemployed stonecutters has diminished; several are leaving for America and South Africa. Orders for monumental work are still scarce, and although a few are fairly well off for work it is not general. The granite polishers are getting fair employment; the sett-makers are still dull.

Fishing.—Fishing is improving, especially with line boats. The total weight of fish landed in trawl boats was 26,505 cwt., realising £22,667, and in line boats 10,700 cwt., realising £7,500.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers are still very dull. The Tailoring Trade is improving, and the Boot and Shoe Trade shows a slight improvement. The rope and twine spinners and hemp dressers are still slack, and there is little hope of any improvement for some time to come. The Jute Trade shows no improvement; other Textile Industries are fairly busy. Comb-making shows no improvement. A large number of seamen and firemen are idle. Work at the docks is still scarce, only those labourers employed on coal and local trading boats finding regular employment. General labourers are in excess of the demand.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building, Woodwork and Metal Trades.—All branches of the Building Trade have improved. There are still, however, a number of carpenters and joiners unemployed. The bricklayers, plasterers and painters are fairly employed, but there are still a number of the latter idle. The plumbers are also, with some few exceptions, fairly employed, but trade with the stonecutters is dull. The lathe-splitters report trade as good. The dispute with the sawmill machinists is still proceeding, and their places are being filled by other hands. The carpenters thrown out by the dispute are being taken on again. The Cabinet-making and Upholstery Industry has improved, and trade is fair with the coopers. Trade was slack with the engineers, but fair with the whitesmiths and boiler-makers. The coachbuilders remain busy, but the saddlers are still depressed.

Food and Clothing Trades.—The poultryers' dispute, reported last month, still exists, but employment among the food branches during the month was generally fair. The tailors have not been busy, but the boot and shoemakers report trade as better.

Printing and allied Trades.—Business, on the whole, seems about equal to that of February. The unemployed roll was signed during the month by 112 members, 56 men receiving the out-of-work allowance for the same period. The Lithographic Industry is still depressed. The bookbinders and paper-rulers, however, report trade as fair, with only some few members unemployed. The stereotypers, press despatch assistants, paper-cutters, and machine-minders report trade as good.

Miscellaneous.—The cork-cutters, basket-makers and brush-makers show an improvement, as do the hairdressers' assistants. The bottle hands report trade as good, but there are still a number of idle men on the books of the society. Employment among the fishermen was more general during the month, and was also better among the seamen and firemen, whose union has been re-established in Dublin. Employment was also better among the builders' labourers, and among the dockers and labourers generally. Trade is still good among the tramway men and railway servants. Some uneasiness prevailed during the month, owing to the dispute

between one of the railway companies and their employees, and at one time a general strike was anticipated, but this has so far been averted. The dispute still continues, but deputations from the men are to be received by the directors during the first week of April. Work has very much improved among the female workers in all trades, and employment is more general. From the societies making returns, trade is reported as "fair" in 21 cases, in 16 as "good," in 3 as "bad," in 2 as "dull," and in 8 as "middling."—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—Returns from 86 branches of societies with a membership of 19,176, show 1,358, or 7.8 per cent., to be signing the out-of-work books, as against 1,051, or 5.7 per cent., last month, and 1,750 to be out owing to disputes.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of 8,817 members, 789, or 8.9 per cent., are unemployed, as against 427, or 4.8 per cent., in February, the blacksmiths, strikers, ironfounders, fitters and iron turners, carpenters and joiners, report trade as bad, but only 6.4 per cent. of engineers are unemployed; the machine workers as dull; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as slack; the pattern-makers as quiet, but only 3.5 per cent. out of work; the brassfounders as improving; and the shipwrights, enginemen and cranimen as fair.

Building Trades.—Out of 2,439 workers in these trades, 122, or 5 per cent., are seeking employment, as against 156, or 6.2 per cent., at the end of last month. The joiners, plasterers, plumbers and painters report trade as dull; the bricklayers as improving, and the mill-sawyers as fair.

Linen Trades.—The returns from the societies connected with this industry, show that out of 3,892 members, 269, or 6.9 per cent., are unemployed, as against 297, or 9.2 per cent., in February. The beetlers, shirt, collar and apron cutters, flax dressers, flax roughers, bobbin turners, spindle and flyer makers, weavers and spinners, report trade as fair, the hackle and gill makers as improving, the yarn dressers as quiet, the linen-lappers as middling, and the power-loom tenters as dull.

Miscellaneous Trades.—The 23 branches connected with this group report 178 out of 4,028 members, or 4.4 per cent., to be out of work, as against 171, or 4.3 per cent. in February. The railway servants report trade as good; the Furnishing Trades, Loco. Engine-drivers, Bakers, Bookbinders, Coopers, Coachbuilders, and Electrical Trades as fair; the lithographic artists and tailors as improving; the letterpress printers, tinplate workers, packing-case makers as quiet; the butchers, carters, paviors, and sailmakers as dull; the hotel and club assistants as slack; and the lithographic printers as bad.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The shipyards in Cork, Queenstown and Passage show a further decline, the shipwrights, ship-joiners, sailmakers and riggers being principally affected. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report trade as steady. The engineers in Cork, Limerick and Waterford report trade as very bad. The Cycle Trade is very brisk. The copper-smiths, brass-finishers, enginemen and cranimen show a decided improvement.

Building Trades.—The stonecutters, masons, bricklayers and plasterers are dull, but the carpenters report trade as very fair. The painters and decorators are exceptionally busy for this time of year.

Food and Clothing Trades.—Beef and pork butchers are exceedingly brisk. The market gardeners continue greatly depressed, especially in Cork. The confectioners and bakers show no change. Although the tailors' dispute, still continues in some workshops, trade in general is considered fair. The boot and shoe operatives are reported dull. The feather-workers and down quilt-makers report trade as good.

Miscellaneous.—The lithographers, bookbinders, brewery men, cabmen and carters report a decided improvement. The tinsmiths are fairly busy. The coal porters and quay labourers are well employed. The demand for agricultural labourers is very great at present.—*P. O'Shea.*

MINERAL STATISTICS.

FROM the Summary of Mineral Statistics for 1893*, just issued by the Home Office, it appears that the total output of coal in that year was 164 million tons, or about 17½ million tons less than in 1892. This falling off is, no doubt, partly due to the great coal dispute last year. A detailed analysis for each district is reserved for the next GAZETTE.

* P.P. (C.—7328 of 1894.) Price 6d.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MARCH.

THE following report on the conditions of agricultural labour in various selected districts has been prepared by Mr. Wilson Fox, the Agricultural Correspondent of the Department.

The demand for labour at the March hiring fairs in Northumberland and Scotland has been good, especially for men with women workers, and the rates have been maintained or have slightly risen. In the Eastern Counties, however, wages have not yet recovered this spring the reductions made last autumn. The chief disputes reported are four (all of them affecting small numbers of labourers) in Lincolnshire. During March 3,180 Irish labourers left Ireland to work on English and Scotch farms, compared with 514 in February. The following reports relate to certain districts throughout the United Kingdom.

(I) ENGLAND.

Northumberland.—*Annual Hiring Fairs.*—On the whole the supply of both male and female workers at the March fairs has been very similar to last year. Very few workers remained unhired. Women were very scarce, with the result that inferior men with sisters or daughters commanded better prices than better men with no women. Changes of situation have been frequent. The general level of wages has scarcely changed, with a slight upward tendency if any.

Wooler.—March 1st. Numerous engagements were made on practically the same terms as last year. The general wage for men was 16s. a week, and those with one or two women workers got 17s., and in some instances 18s. Perquisites remained the same. Women were engaged at from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per day, with 3s. a day for 20 days in harvest.

Berwick-on-Tweed.—March 3rd. Hiring rates were similar to last year. Men with women workers were the most easily hired, the rate of wage being 16s. a week, and perquisites as usual. Women got 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. a day, with 3s. a day for 20 days in harvest. Single hands, without women workers, were engaged at 16s. a week, with meat in harvest.

Anwick.—March 3rd. The attendance was much larger than for many years previously. Rates.—Men with women workers 15s. to 17s. a week, and in a few cases good men with women workers received 18s. a week; perquisites as usual. A good many refrained from engaging themselves, preferring to wait until they knew the tone of other hiring markets.

The following reports relate to selected districts in some of the other Northern counties, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire;—

Cumberland (Wigton).—A few farm servants, who did not get hired at Martinmas have been dependent on casual work this winter. But these, and the day men, not regularly attached to the staff of a farm ("darrickers") have, owing to the favourable weather, had more work than for several winters. Such men in irregular employment work about three or four days a week. Wages of darrickers are about 3s. a day, or 2s. a day and "meat."

Lancashire (Garstang).—This winter has been rather a hard one for the casual men, as a large contractor's firm where some are able to get work has employed fewer than last year. In the neighbourhood of Garstang, there have been 14 or 16 men who have not been getting more than two or three days' work a week during the winter.

Yorkshire (North of York).—This winter has been a hard one for the labourers, the fine weather last year having enabled farmers to get their work well in hand, so that there was less to be done this winter. Speaking roughly, in the adjoining villages to Escrick there are usually 5 per cent. of the weekly labourers who are not in regular work, but this winter there were quite 30 per cent. Over two-thirds, however, of the labourers in these districts are hired by the year.

Lincolnshire (Lincoln).—Owing to the light harvest last year the casual men have suffered this winter from not having much threshing. Wages have been 2s. 3d. a day during the winter, and generally rose to 2s. 6d. a day the first week in March. Some farmers near towns have paid 2s. 6d. a day during the winter. At the hirings for the "confined" men (men in charge of animals) which took place in February, the wages generally remained unaltered, with a slight rise in a few cases. Four strikes are reported

* A cottage, about 1,000 yards of potatoes, and coals carted.

in Lincolnshire during March, one in the south and three in the north. The cause in all cases was the objection to begin the longer summer hours early in March at the same time as the change from winter to summer wages (from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. a day). The strikes on two farms were unsuccessful, and in the other cases the results are not yet reported. Only 26 men were affected by the four strikes. For further particulars see p. 122.

Eastern Counties.—Wages and Employment.—In Norfolk no more labourers appear to have been out of work this winter than last, but in Suffolk, Essex and Cambridge, work is reported to have been scarcer than last year. In Essex a large number of labourers are said to have been unemployed, though the weather has not been unfavourable. Last autumn wages fell 1s. a week in Norfolk and 1s. to 2s. a week in the other three counties. No increase of wages has yet taken place this spring.

Wages in Norfolk during the winter have been 11s. a week as a rule, but 10s. in some cases. In Suffolk and Cambridge they have been 10s. since the autumn. In Essex wages have in some cases fallen to 9s. a week, while in others they have kept up to 11s. or 12s. a week.

In one union in Norfolk (Swaffham) a special attempt has been made to ascertain somewhat closely the number of agricultural labourers who have been out of work during last winter, with the following result:—

Unemployed in Swaffham Union.—There are about 300 agricultural labourers in the town of Swaffham. On the average about 10 good men, anxious to obtain regular work, have been out of work during the months November to March. Some 15 to 20 men of inferior capacity and less industrious in their habits have also been unemployed. Of these a proportion are Army Reserve men. Wages were 12s. a week up to November, and 11s. since then. The rural part of the Swaffham Union contains 31 parishes. In 21 of these, with a total male population of 2,106, it is reckoned that no agricultural labourers have been out of employment this winter except through illness; while in the remaining 10, with a total male population of 2,337, an average of 35 good, able labourers have been out of work during the past winter, and also about 30 men of less industry, or who through physical reasons are unable to obtain regular employment.

Recent Strikes.—The Eastern Counties Labour Federation report that during the last 12 months only a few strikes occurred which came under their observation, affecting in all about 100 men. The causes were reduction of wages or disputes as to harvest money. The Farmers' Federation, which has its headquarters in Norwich, reports 15 strikes affecting its own members in 1893. Two of these were from disputes as to harvest bargains, 11 were for an advance of weekly wages, and 1 to resist a reduction. In 8 cases the dispute lasted 11 weeks or over.

With regard to certain districts in the South of England, the following particulars have been received:—

Wiltshire.—Trowbridge District.—No good agricultural labourers have been out of work this winter. Labour is rather scarce, owing to the competition of trades in Trowbridge, and the ironworks at Westbury. There have been no strikes.

Somersetshire.—Dulverton District.—When the last engagements took place at Lady Day, there was rather a larger supply of men than in the previous year. Wages have remained about the same, viz., 11s. to 12s. in cash, cottage with garden free, 20 yards of potatoes planted and manured, and firewood. Hardly any men have been out of employment in the Dulverton district this winter, as was the case the previous winter, owing to frost. There is said to be a scarcity of cottages for the "liberty" men.

Williton District.—Not more men out of work this winter than last. In one village 16 men were out of work in January, who usually work as odd men, but these have all since obtained work. There has been no recent change in wages or strikes.

WALES.

Anglesea.—Very few agricultural labourers have been out of work, the state of employment for them being better this winter than last.

Cardiganshire.—Agricultural labourers have found work difficult to get this winter owing to bad trade at the Glamorganshire works, which has driven the men from there to seek work in country districts.

SCOTLAND.

The following is an account of some of the hiring fairs which have taken place in March:—

Berwickshire.—Annual hiring market, March 3rd. Men with women servants were in good request. On the North side of the Tweed the rate of wages was 15s. to 16s. a week with 1,000 yards of potatoes, free house and coal carted free.*

The system of payment in kind is gradually being abolished. Where engagements under it were effected the terms were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Cash	10	0	0
5 loads oatmeal at 32s.	8	0	0
5 bolls barley at 24s.	6	0	0
Cows' keep	8	0	0
Potatoes, 1,800 yards	5	0	0
Coal carted at station price	1	0	0
Meat in harvest	1	0	0
House rent	4	0	0

Roxburgh.—Kelso.—At the annual hiring fair on March 2nd, a large number of engagements were made. Hinds who could supply women workers were most eagerly enquired for. Wages were generally unchanged, but a few slight rises took place. On the money system hinds and women were engaged at 16s. per week, with 1,000 yards of potatoes, free house and coals carted free. On the "gains" system hinds with women workers were engaged as follows:—£10 in cash, 5 loads oatmeal, 5 bolls barley, cows' keep, 1,600 yards potatoes and coals carted free. The women workers to receive 10s. a week all the year. Single hinds without women workers were engaged at 16s. a week with "meat" in harvest. Byremen received £13 in money, with allowances. Young ploughmen and halfins were engaged respectively at £40 and £30, with harvest meat, according to qualification.

Hawick.—Annual hiring, March 1st. Ploughmen with women workers got higher wages than last year, the rates running from £38 to £41 10s., including "gains," for the year; experienced lambing men got 30s. to 40s. a week; while women workers were hired at 9s. to 10s. 6d. a week.

IRELAND.

The following information relates to the state of employment in certain selected districts of Ireland:—

Roscommon and Mayo.—Castlereagh Union.—The winter has been exceptionally cold and wet. In consequence spring work is very backward, and so the labourers have suffered from want of employment. Now that the weather has improved they are getting more.

West Meath.—Delvin Union.—Odd men have experienced a slightly better winter as regards regularity of employment than last.

Co. Cork.—Shibbeen Union.—The odd men have had a fair winter.

Irish Migratory Labourers.

A considerable number of small farmers and their sons and also labourers migrate from Ireland, and spend from six to nine months in the year working for English farmers in Warwickshire, Lancashire and Scotland. The great majority of these come from Connaught, and of these the larger proportion come from the county of Mayo. Most of the migratory labourers therefore travel over the Midland Great Western system to Dublin, though a few Mayo and Galway men go by boat from West Port, co. Mayo, to Liverpool. The following number of migratory labourers have already left Ireland to work on English and Scotch farms:—

Month.	Number of Migratory Labourers.
February, 1894	514
March, "	2,431
Total from Mayo stations	2,945
Booked from other stations on the Midland Great Western system	749
Total	3,694

After such a good agricultural season as 1893 it is somewhat surprising to find so many leaving Ireland so early in search of work, as potatoes were plentiful, and must have lasted them through March. Possibly English farms in certain districts are short of casual labour, and have sent for their Irish hands rather earlier. Again, it may be that more Irishmen have found this year to enable them to pay their fares.

*Where a cow's keep was allowed, or the quantity of potatoes was larger, the money wage was less, viz., 13s. a week.

THE STATE OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

WITH a view to obtaining accurate information as to the present state of employment in the Coal Mining Industry, circulars have been addressed to the proprietors of all collieries in the United Kingdom asking for a return of the number of days worked in February and March respectively; 1,819 circulars were sent, out of which 617* have been returned fully filled up, and in the great majority of cases a promise has been given to supply similar information month by month. These 617 returns cover collieries employing no fewer than 279,000 persons, or nearly 41 per cent. of the whole number (681,000) employed in this industry in the United Kingdom, the real percentage being even larger, because this grand total includes some workpeople who are not employed at coal mines. They may therefore be taken as fairly representative of the condition of the Coal Industry as a whole. As will be seen from the tables given below the proportion of persons employed who are included in the returns is greatest in Cumberland, where it rises to nearly 75 per cent., and least in the Lothians, where the percentage is 26. In the chief Federation districts of England (Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire and the Midlands) the returns apply to 138,690 men, or nearly 45 per cent. of those employed.

The returns show that the average number of days worked throughout the United Kingdom in February was 20½, or 5.1 days per week. In March the average was 20½ days, or 4.7 days per week. March, however, included the Easter Holidays. If Good Friday and Easter Monday be excluded from the list of working days, the number of days worked in March amounts to about 5 per week.

Turning to particular districts, we find that the district with the highest average of working days in both months was Fife, and the lowest the Midlands. Comparison district by district can readily be made from the following summary:—

Districts.	Average number of days worked by Collieries in		Districts.	Average number of days worked by Collieries in	
	March.	February.		March.	February.
Fifeshire	25½	23	Durham	22½	21½
Ireland	24	22	North Wales	20½	21
South Wales and Monmouthshire	23½	22½	Gloucestershire and Somersetshire	20½	21
The Lothians	23½	21½	Lancashire and Cheshire	20½	20½
Cumberland	22½	22	Northumberland	18½	20½
Lancashire and unenumerated parts of Scotland	22½	21	Yorkshire	18½	20
			Midlands	18	18½

On analysing the returns according to the numbers of workpeople employed, it will be seen that in February, collieries employing nearly 78,000 persons, or more than a fourth of the total, worked 22 and under 24 days, South Wales contributing nearly half of the 78,000. Only 21,000, or about 7 per cent. of the total returned, were employed in collieries working under 16 days, while collieries employing 183,396, or nearly 66 per cent., worked more than 20 days. In March the numbers employed at collieries working less than 16 days per month rose to 35,301, or nearly 13 per cent., while the numbers at collieries working more than 20 days was 176,034, or 63 per cent.

The following tables, it should be clearly understood, only profess to state the number of days worked by the collieries at which a certain number of persons are ordinarily employed. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

I.—March.

District.	Total Number of Workpeople employed in 1893, according to the Home Office Returns.	Number and Percentage of Workpeople paid on last pay day in March respecting whom particulars have been received.	Number of Workpeople employed at the Collieries, which worked the undermentioned Days in March.													Average Number of Days worked in District.
			3 and under 10.	10 and under 12.	12 and under 14.	14 and under 16.	16 and under 18.	18 and under 20.	20 and under 22.	22 and under 24.	24 and under 26.	26.	27.			
ENGLAND & WALES.																
Northumberland	32,219	9,427	29.3	...	1,902	...	969	295	14	3,838	2,255	126	...	28	18½	
Durham	99,487	38,683	38.9	...	...	...	218	1,698	2,131	6,411	22,223	5,647	355	...	22½
Cumberland	7,840	5,845	74.5	...	...	...	...	784	...	324	4,054	630	32	11	18½
Yorkshire	93,881	40,093	42.6	399	2,453	1,134	6,060	8,093	5,969	5,736	5,284	4,722	72	81	20½	
Lancashire and Cheshire	86,658	42,908	49.5	...	...	...	387	903	6,097	15,668	11,822	2,725	5,080	226	...
Midland†	128,023	55,779	43.6	4,136	2,165	4,999	7,217	4,830	10,700	8,612	9,710	2,817	84	518	18	
Gloucester and Somerset	12,433	6,211	50.0	...	...	...	...	792	1,156	1,333	389	823	647	662	20½
North Wales	12,649	4,421	35.0	...	...	...	...	298	260	638	...	1,049	1,515	651	...
South Wales and Monmouthshire	117,959	42,956	36.4	102	...	...	...	63	1,586	3,043	3,598	3,442	30,538	463	151
Total	591,188	246,263	41.7	4,647	6,520	6,809	16,482	25,177	38,888	41,979	52,041	50,888	1,894	998	20½	
SCOTLAND.																
The Lothians	12,059	3,181	26.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	2,752	...	...	368	23½
Lanark, Dumfries, Stirling, Renfrew, Ayr, Dumfriesshire and Argyll	65,451	24,114	36.8	275	...	427	141	723	2,620	6,409	6,534	3,284	2,457	1,244	22½	
Fife	11,872	4,973	41.9	...	...	...	...	...	162	78	1,420	339	245	2,720	25½
Total	89,382	32,268	36.1	275	...	427	141	723	2,782	6,548	10,715	3,623	2,702	4,332	22½	
IRELAND.																
Total	847	344	40.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	245	12	87	...	24
Grand Total for United Kingdom	681,414	278,875	40.9	4,922	6,520	7,236	16,623	25,100	41,640	48,627	63,001	54,493	4,683	5,330	20½	

* Since the compilation of the tables, 40 additional returns have been received from collieries employing 17,156 people. The information does not, however, materially affect the results given above, the general average for February and March being the same as for the 617 returns included in the tables.

† Staffs., Notts., Leicester, Worcester, Salop, Derby and Warwick.

II.—February.

Table showing the number of workpeople employed at the collieries which worked the undermentioned days in February. Columns include District, Total Number of Workpeople, and days worked (7 and under to 24).

* Staffs, Notts., Leicester, Worcester, Salop, Derby and Warwick.

Twenty-one returns have also been received relating to certain Iron Ore Mines of Cumberland and Lancashire, employing about 4,700 workpeople. From these returns it appears that the average number of days worked was 26 in March and 23 in February.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

England.—During March 419,336 cwt. of fish, other than shellfish, were landed on the English and Welsh coasts, being a decrease of about 5 per cent. on the quantity landed in March 1893.

The value of the fish landed at ten of the principal fishing ports during March was £325,899, an increase of 5.7 per cent. on the average for March in the four years 1890-3.

The ten ports show an increase in March of £26,645 on comparison with the previous month.

Table showing the value of fish landed from the fishing grounds at the principal ports in March 1894, and the average for March 1890-1893.

Table with columns: Ports, March 1894, Average for Mar. 1890-1893, and corresponding values for East Coast, South and West Coasts, and Total for above Ports.

Scotland.—The total quantity of white fish landed at Scottish ports during March was 216,030 cwts., a decrease of 8.1 per cent. in quantity, and 2.3 per cent. in value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1893.

Ireland.—The quantity of fish (exclusive of shellfish) landed in Ireland during the month was 22,273 cwts., a decrease of 4,171 cwts. compared with March 1893.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN.

(Based on information supplied by the Marine Department of Board of Trade.) The number of seamen shipped at the principal ports of the United Kingdom continues to show an increase as compared with the corresponding period in 1893, but the rate of increase has not been quite maintained.

The total number shipped in March was 32,000, or 1,900 more than in March 1893. This increase was principally at Liverpool, London and the Bristol Channel ports.

Glasgow and three other Scotch ports the number shipped was 243 less than in March, 1893, while the total for Dublin and Belfast was practically unchanged.

The demand for men, however, at the majority of the ports has not been so great as the supply, especially at Sunderland, North Shields, London, Swansea and Liverpool.

Hull, Cardiff and Glasgow ... Men plentiful. Southampton ... No scarcity of men. S. Shields ... Fair demand and fair supply.

The rates of wages remain unchanged except at Liverpool, where towards the end of the month wages showed a tendency to rise, more men being shipped at the highest current rate for A.B.'s (£2 15s.) than at the minimum rate £2 10s.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March 1894 and 1893 respectively.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March 1894 and 1893 respectively. Columns include Principal Ports, In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total, and In-c./De-c.

* Including Barry and Penarth.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH. The number of new applicants (1,607) for work in March shows a marked falling off, being nearly one-third less than in February.

The total number of old and new applicants for work on the register in March was 4,016, and of these 279 men or boys and 71 women or girls, or in all 8.7 per cent., were found employment by the eight bureaux furnishing returns.

The number of men and boys remaining on the registers at the end of March was 1,861, of whom 556 were general labourers, 233 carmen, stablemen, &c., and 172 were porters or messengers, while 134 and 133 belonged to the Building and Engineering Trades respectively.

(1) Work Done in March.

Table showing the number of workpeople on register, applicants during March, and work done by bureaux in March 1894. Columns include Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Workpeople on Register, No. of Applicants during March, and No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.

* The figures in this column do not show the number of individual persons.

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

Table showing the occupations of applicants on registers at the end of March. Columns include Occupations, Chelsea, St. Pancras, Battersea, Salford, Ipswich, Eggham, Plymouth, Liverpool, and Total.

NOTE.—The particulars given in the above tables are similar to those published in the last number of the GAZETTE, and relate to the same Labour Bureaux. * Females are not at present registered at Salford and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN JANUARY.

The number of paupers relieved in England and Wales on the last day of each week in January 1894 are shown in the last published monthly return of the Local Government Board as follows:—

Table showing the number of paupers relieved in England and Wales on the last day of each week in January 1894. Columns include 1st Week, 2nd Week, 3rd Week, 4th Week, 5th week, No., and Per 10,000.

* Calculated on the estimated population in the middle of the preceding year.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

(Based on information supplied by the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, and by the Board of Supervision in Scotland.)

(1) As compared with February the number of persons relieved on a given day in March in the selected districts shows a decrease of 6,224, or 5 per 10,000 inhabitants. This decline in pauperism, which may be regarded as partly seasonal, is greater this year than last.

(2) Compared with March 1893 pauperism in the selected districts shows an increase of 9 per 10,000. In London this excess was 11; in West Ham, no less than 42; and in Bristol, Barnsley, and Sheffield, 37, 28, and 24 respectively.

Table showing the number of paupers in certain selected districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of March 1894, and on the corresponding date in 1893.

Table showing the number of paupers in certain selected districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of March 1894, and on the corresponding date in 1893. Columns include District, Paupers on one day in second week of March 1894, Paupers on corresponding date in 1893, and Rate per 10,000 of Population in 1891.

Ireland: Dublin District ... 6,143, 2,762, 8,905, 255, 8,432, 241; Belfast District ... 3,648, 316, 3,964, 137, 3,628, 125.

Total for the above Irish Districts ... 15,051, 10,013, 25,064, 269, 24,239, 261.

Total for above 35 districts in March ... 138,064, 198,032, 333,096, 227, 319,320, 218.

Total in February ... 141,394, 197,936, 339,330, 238, 322,163, 219.

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

† Exclusive of Vagrants, of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. ‡ Vagrants in the Metropolitan Asylums Board on one day in March 1894, and 920 on the corresponding date in March 1893.

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

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

THE principal change in wages reported during March is an advance of 3 1/2 per cent. under the sliding scale to about 90,000 miners in South Wales and Monmouth, making their wages from 1st April 30 per cent. above the 1879 standard. The blast furnacemen in Cleveland and Cumberland, numbering about 5,400, also receive slight advances from the beginning of April, and in the Building Trades the usual rearrangement of wages at this season of the year has commenced. Under the Wages Board the wages of 4,500 miners in the Forest of Dean have been reduced by 10 per cent. from March 19th, and in Slamannan and Falkirk over 2,000 miners were receiving 6d. per day less at the end of the month than at the beginning.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, so far as stated, Particulars of Increase.

INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Main table listing various trades (Building Trades, Masons, Carpenters, etc.) and their corresponding wage changes and localities.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, so far as stated, Particulars of Change.

INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Main table listing various trades (Engineering, Shipbuilding, Dock Labour, etc.) and their corresponding wage changes and localities.

* Marine engine-building shops.

† In addition to advance in wages at Shaw, an extra workman has been put in blowing room, and the work of little tenters has been much reduced.

‡ This advance brings the rate for these men up to the standard in the district. NOTES.—Dockyard.—The increase in wages to dockyard employees, a full account of which was published in the September GAZETTE, came into force on April 2nd.

§ Farm Labourers.—At the March hiring fairs for farm labourers in Northumberland and Scotland, last year's rates of wages were generally maintained, with a slight increase in some cases.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS.—Continued.

Table with 4 columns: Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, so far as stated, Particulars of Decrease.

DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Table listing various trades (Mining, Metal Trades, Shipbuilding, etc.) and their corresponding wage decreases and localities.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

Table listing various trades (Building Trades, Mining and Quarrying, Metal Trades, etc.) and their corresponding hour reductions and localities.

by 0.4 per cent., but this was counterbalanced by a decrease to the same extent in wear and tear and cost of consumables. There was a marked improvement in "lost time," its proportion to the total time worked having been reduced from 2.46 to 0.46 per cent. The piece-workers at first showed a falling-off in the percentage earned over what they would have received as day wages, but as the year advanced there was a steady adaptation to the altered conditions, the difference decreasing from 1.76 to 0.78 per cent. on the standard piece-rate wages, and it is expected that even the small balance remaining will soon disappear.

(2) At Weaving Factory in Austria.

The Brünn Chamber of Commerce Report for 1893 gives an account of the satisfactory results obtained in a curtain weaving establishment in Moravia where the working day has been reduced from 11 to 8 hours, including intervals in both cases. It appears that it was found that the amount of yarn used by those weavers whose hours it was customary to reduce to 7.2 (nominally 8) during the slack half of the year, was the same as that used by them during the remaining half, when their hours were 9 1/2 (nominally 11). It was also found that their earnings during the slack season were 18.2 Kreuzer (about 3 1/2 d.) an hour, as compared with 14.7 Kreuzer (under 3 d.) per hour during the busy period, the quality of the work being in each case the same.

Thus a 24 1/2 per cent. reduction of working hours was accompanied by a 23 1/2 per cent. increase in earnings per hour.

Closer observation showed that the weavers working shorter hours displayed greater industry and efficiency, and seldom left their looms or stood about talking. The hours of all weavers in the establishment were in consequence reduced to 8, including intervals, and a considerable saving in working expenses has resulted.

RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS OF LABOUR.

THE following letter has been addressed by the Board of Trade to the Secretary of the Railway Companies' Association:—

Board of Trade, 27th February, 1894.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to address a communication to your Association with reference to the administration by this Board of the powers conferred on them by the Railway Regulation Act 1893.

The Act came into operation on the 27th day of July 1893, and since that date the Board have received a number of representations complaining of the excessive hours of labour of various classes of railway servants.

The representations have been of two classes, namely, those of a general character affording information tending to show a prima facie case of overwork by a railway company of one or more classes of servants over the whole line or system; and more particular complaints alleging that the hours worked by the men at a station named, or at certain signal cabins specially referred to, are unreasonably long.

While the Board have found it necessary to decline to furnish railway companies with copies of the complaints received either from their servants or those acting on their behalf, they have, in every case in which representations of overwork have been made, afforded the railway company affected by the complaint the necessary material to enable the directors to give the matter their early consideration. The Board are glad to acknowledge the promptitude and courtesy with which railway companies generally have dealt with the demands made upon them by the Board under the authority of the statute.

In the course of the administration of the Act the Board have received assurances that railway companies are actively engaged in remodelling their arrangements with their servants and in revising the hours of labour of their men.

The Board of Trade feel that it is highly expedient that steps voluntarily taken by the companies to put an end to excessive hours of labour should be communicated to this Board. The information afforded would be useful both to the employers and the employed, and would also materially assist the Board when dealing with allegations of overwork.

I am, therefore, to ask you to move your Association to cause the Board of Trade to be furnished at an early date, and in as detailed a form as practicable, with information relative to the provision made, and steps taken by, the companies with a view to shorten and regulate the hours of labour of their servants.

I am, &c.,

Sir H. Oakley, Secretary, The Railway Companies' Association, King's Cross Station, N.

EXPERIMENTAL EIGHT HOURS' DAY.

1) At an Engineering Works in England.

A report has just been issued by the proprietors of a large engineering firm at Salford, giving the result of a twelve months' trial of the eight hours' system. It is stated that great care was taken to have the details relating to time and cost correctly recorded, and to eliminate every element which might render the experiment doubtful as to its general application as a test for the whole Engineering and Machine Making Trade. After consulting the local representatives of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, it was arranged that the hours should be from 7.45 to 12, and 1 to 5.30, except on Saturdays, when work stopped at noon. This gave 48 hours per week, instead of 53, as previously, but the wages remained unaltered. Overtime was worked as little as possible, but the same rates remained in operation. Men working on double shifts were paid the same wages and worked the same number of hours as before. It was found that, as compared with the six previous years, the ratio of wages—cost to the turnover increased

SHIPBUILDING IN PROGRESS.

THE increase in the number and tonnage of ships being built previously noted for the December quarter is more marked in the returns for the quarter ended 31st March. From an advance copy of the shipbuilding returns prepared by Lloyd's Register it appears that, excluding warships, there were 414 vessels of 725,208 tons gross under construction in the United Kingdom at the 31st of March. At the same date in 1893 the figures were 354 vessels of 621,668 tons, so that there is an increase for the present time of 103,540 tons, or 17 per cent. The increase in steam vessels is 128,105 tons, or nearly 24 per cent., while there has been a drop in the tonnage of sailing vessels under construction of 24,565 tons, or 28 per cent.

It will be seen from the following statement of shipbuilding under construction at the principal centres that the Clyde, Tyne and Wear have in hand most of the new shipping, and that the greatest decrease has been at Belfast:—

	Total tonnage under construction at		Increase.	Decrease.
	31st Mar. 1894.	31st Mar. 1893.			Tons	Tons
Clyde	252,478	201,349	51,129	—
Tyne	141,071	95,547	45,524	—
Wear	107,951	77,610	30,341	—
Middlesbro' & Stockton	57,005	55,865	1,140	—
Hartlepool and Whitby	52,860	53,017	—	157
Mersey	3,318	6,875	—	3,557
Belfast and Londonderry	55,520	85,714	—	30,194

In addition to the vessels actually under construction no less than 271,308 tons (excluding warships) are preparing (i.e., ordered but not commenced), an increase on the figures for 31st December 1893 of 94,687 tons, or nearly 54 per cent., and of 144,334 tons, or 114 per cent., as compared with the figures for March 1893. It is stated that so large a tonnage has not been in preparation since December 1889.

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS LOST.

ACCORDING to a return issued by Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, supplemented by more recent information supplied to the Labour Department by the courtesy of Lloyd's Register, the total number of vessels reported as lost or condemned, in the quarter ended December 31st (so far as known up to April 9th 1894*), was 448, representing a registered tonnage of 262,476. Of these, 88 were steam, and 360 sailing vessels; 231, or more than half of the total, were wrecked, 66 were abandoned at sea, 49 were reported as missing, 25 foundered, 21 were lost by collision, 8 were burnt, and 48 were condemned as unfit for sea and broken up.

The following table shows the proportion of the number and tonnage of vessels lost, to the total owned by each nationality:—

Statement showing the number per 10,000 that the number and tonnage of Sailing and Steam Vessels lost bore to the number and tonnage on the register of each Nation, in the quarter ended December 31st, so far as reported to Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping up to April 9th 1894.*

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Per 10,000 Number Lost.	Per 10,000 Gross Tonnage Lost.	Per 10,000 Number Lost.	Per 10,000 Gross Tonnage Lost.	Per 10,000 Number Lost.	Per 10,000 Gross Tonnage Lost.
British United Kingdom	93	85	209	122	132	93
America United States of	35	43	143	141	107	100
Austro-Hungary	65	102	173	143	158	130
Danish	...	...	254	138	88	42
Dutch	...	...	103	178	178	70
French	...	...	39	117	196	65
German	...	...	71	183	210	92
Italian	...	...	8	347	192	99
Norwegian	...	...	86	97	96	96
Russian	...	...	55	311	269	259
Spanish	...	...	137	181	109	193
Swedish	...	...	102	136	68	109
	...	...	327	318	210	178

* The figures originally published by Lloyd's Register only included the particulars reported up to the 8th February.

REGULATION OF APPRENTICESHIP.

QUESTIONS relating to apprenticeship have long given rise to difficulty in the group of trades, of which Iron Shipbuilding and Boiler-making are the principal branches. As the result of recent conferences between the Associations of Employers and Employed, "memoranda of arrangement" have been entered into with regard to these questions, dated October 11th and December 13th 1893. The following is a summary of these agreements:—

It is provided that boys of about 14 years of age shall be entered as probationers, and work as "platers' markers" or "rivet boys." From the best of these, apprentices will generally be selected. Apprenticeships under agreement are to commence at 16, but not later than 18 years of age, and are to be for five years. Apprentices are not to be under the influence of the trade union, and must not leave an employer without his written permission. On completion of their period of service, apprentices are to receive a certificate. All time lost, except from certain causes, must be made up. The minimum rates of pay fixed, range from 6s. in the first year, to 10s. in the fifth. The ratio of apprentices to journeymen is to be as two to seven, and the number of journeymen is to be determined by the average number employed during five years, but apprentices are not to be discharged owing to a temporary reduction in the number of men. New yards or firms materially extending their operations are to be specially considered. The limitation as to numbers does not apply in the case of boiler and bridge shops. The arrangement is to remain in force for six years.

The employers recognise that the sons of men working in the different departments of the Shipbuilding Trade have a claim to be taken on as probationers, and, while not binding themselves to do so, will endeavour to give these lads the preference.

CO-OPERATION.

Recent Progress.—Two new distributive societies were registered in March; new business premises were opened by two existing societies, and three new branches by others.

The sales of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society for the quarter ended March 24, amount to £2,230,000, an increase of about £3,000 as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

The accounts issued by the same Society for the whole of the year 1893 show that in the productive departments the sales amounted to £755,176, a decrease of 3.3 per cent. upon the amount for 1892. A net loss was shown upon the year of £1,236.* In the distributive departments of the Society the sales amounted to £9,526,167 an increase of 2.4 per cent. upon 1892, and a net profit of £84,156* was made upon the whole of the business of the Society, compared with £98,532 in 1892.

The Scottish Wholesale Society's accounts for the year 1893 show that the sales of the productive departments of that Society were £295,544, an increase of 17.3 per cent. upon 1892, and the net profit amounted to £16,817,* as compared with £14,476 in 1892. The distributive sales of this Society amounted for the year to £3,135,562, an increase of 0.1 per cent. upon 1892, and the profits of the whole Society to £84,860, as compared with £96,027 in 1892.

Conditions of Employment by Co-operative Societies.—A report issued by the Falkirk District Conference Association shows the hours of work relating to 395 of the 420 persons employed by the 17 co-operative distributive societies comprising the Association. From this it appears that 195 of the employees work less than 55 hours per week, and the remaining 200 from 55 to 63 1/2 hours. The Annual Report for 1893 of the South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire Conference Association of the Co-operative Union shows that there are in the district 17 distributive societies having a total membership of 23,072 (an increase of 1,584 over 1892). They employ 557 persons; the average hours worked being 51 1/2 per week. Three of the societies employing 105 persons paid bonus upon wages amounting on the average to 6d. per week to each of their employees. The employees of three societies have during the month formed branches of the Employees Association.

Irish Co-operative Creameries.—Particulars supplied by the organising secretary in Ireland of the Co-operative Union show that the Co-operative Creameries in that country have made considerable progress during 1893. There are now 30 societies as compared with 23 in 1892, and 27 of these have made returns for 1893, showing a total membership of 1,517, an increase of 283 over 1892. The sales of butter amounted to £136,844, an increase of 38.3 per cent. over 1892. 503 of the members are small owners of from one to three cows only, 162 owning only a single cow. The net profits after allowing for depreciation of property amounted to £1,404, equal to 6.8 per cent. upon the capital of the societies.

* After allowing for interest on capital, depreciation, and all other charges. The remaining 25 employees work irregular hours, no limit being given in the report.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY IN GERMANY.*

THE following particulars, based on a report on the question of Employers' Liability in Germany, just issued by the Foreign Office, will serve to supplement the account of the Accident Insurance Law given in the February number of the GAZETTE.

Definition of Bodily Injury.—The Insurance Law appears to give a very broad definition to bodily injury for which compensation may be claimed. The term includes internal injury, loss of intellect, memory or nerve. Moreover, though an accident is usually connected in idea with some violent and sudden occurrence, it is quite possible that its results may only become apparent gradually, or after a considerable lapse of time. But for compensation to be obtained it is necessary that the injury should be traced to some specific cause, and not to the mere normal exercise of the occupation. Even though death should occur a considerable time after the date of an accident, compensation will be awarded to the relatives if it be shown that death was the result of an accident which occurred when the workman was engaged in his occupation.

Definition of Employer.—There is some complexity in the definition of an employer of labour, and in the difficult case of sub-contracts no exact rule can be laid down as to who should properly be compelled to subscribe to the trades' association.

In general it is the person who is liable to gain or lose most by the undertaking who is held to be the employer of labour.

In the case of the State, or of a landowner letting out a forest to a contractor to fell and carry timber, it is the landowner and not the contractor who is held to be the employer, and who must subscribe his share to the association.

In inland navigation the barges are for the most part let out to working managers, who take two-thirds of the profits. But in this case again it is the owner who is considered to be the person chiefly interested, and who is therefore held liable.

The cab owners in Berlin have recently attempted to transfer their liability to the drivers, on the ground that they hire the cabs and drive them at their own risk. It has, however, been decided that the owners as capitalists are the persons chiefly interested.

In the case of building contracts, it is not the capitalist who advances the necessary funds, but the master builders, carpenters, &c., who are liable for their share of subscriptions to the respective associations.

In maritime navigation the share of an employer is reckoned by the extent of his shipping and the number of hands which that shipping is calculated to employ. Thus, if the full crew of a vessel be 12 men, the employer will be assessed for that number, even should he actually employ only 10 men on board. This regulation is framed to prevent any advantage being gained through sending a ship to sea undermanned.

Sources of Compensation.—It is the trades' associations which are responsible for compensation to the injured workman, but this responsibility only begins with the fourteenth week after the accident. During the first four weeks after the accident, the injured man is supported by the sick insurance fund to which he subscribes.

This organisation still contributes to his support from the fifth week to the beginning of the fourteenth. But during this time the individual employer has to make up the difference between the sum given by the sick fund, usually half, and two-thirds of the man's wages.

It has been calculated that about 16 1/2 per cent. of the total burden is borne by the sick insurance offices, the remaining 83 1/2 per cent. by the trades' associations. Out of this 16 1/2 per cent. about 11 per cent. would be paid by the workmen.

Individual Liability of the Employer.—In certain cases the old Law of Liability of June 7th 1871, is still in force. Such callings as are not covered by the Law of Insurance against accidents fall under it.

* Foreign Office, 1894 Miscellaneous Series, No. 235.

In cases of accidents in a factory occurring to persons not actually occupied there as workmen or foremen, the employer alone is liable and cannot have recourse to the trades' associations. But the associations are allowed to insure persons, such as artisans or carriers, whose business leads them regularly into a factory.

The employer is liable to the association for any disbursements made by it on behalf of the injured man, should the injury have been proved in a criminal action to have been caused purposely or through culpable negligence, and want of taking proper precautions. Where the injury was purposely caused the employer has also to make up the difference in compensation required under the Law of Insurance and the Law of Liability.

The Law of Liability of 1871 also overlaps the Law of Insurance against accidents in another point, viz., the payment of compensation to persons wholly or partially dependent upon a deceased workman.

Prevention of Accidents.—The associations, while responsible for compensation for accidents, are enabled at the same time to adopt such measures as they think most expedient for their prevention, and have also at their disposal an adequate machinery for the detection of fraud. Several associations have now their own hospitals and their own doctors, who take charge of injured workmen, and are able to ascertain whether the injury is real or simulated.

Litigation.—The associations have pointed out in their reports to the Imperial Insurance Office that claims for compensation and consequent litigation are becoming more frequent as the working population are becoming better acquainted with the nature of the law.

[NOTE.—Since the above report was prepared an elaborate report has been received on the subject of the German Insurance Laws, prepared by Mr. Graham Brooks for the United States Department of Labour, and published as the Fourth Special Report of that Department. Some account of the contents of this Report will be published in a future number of the LABOUR GAZETTE.]

THE COLONIES OF RUSSIAN JEWS IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

THE following abstract has been prepared from a report* to the Foreign Office under date of January 1st by Mr. W. S. H. Gastrell, H.M.'s Vice-Consul at Buenos Ayres, describing the history and present position of Baron Hirsch's scheme for the establishment of agricultural colonies of Jews in the Argentine.

The original plan proposed to settle abroad on lands of their own many hundreds of thousands of Jews, 25,000 the first year, 30,000 the second, and so on progressively. £2,000,000 was given by Baron Hirsch as the capital of the company, which he registered in London in 1891 under the title of the "Jewish Colonisation Association." This capital was divided into 1,000 shares, of which Baron Hirsch retained 993 and his friends the other seven.

The object of the Association is to assist Jews to emigrate from Russia to any countries other than European, and to enable them to become agricultural colonists. Any dividends accruing in the future are not to be distributed to the shareholders, but are to be added to the original capital to increase that fund.

The aim is to place the Jew, as quickly as possible, in the position of a self-supporting producer of marketable agricultural produce. This, so to speak, artificial and rapid creation of prosperity for the Jewish colonist is effected by a large initial expenditure of capital on his behalf, by which he is enabled in a short time to have large areas of land yielding wheat, and soon to pay back part of his debt to the Association. The original idea (viz., to give the colonist land and money, and to let him do the best he could for himself), has, in practice, been found impracticable, especially at the commencement of colonisation, when the Jewish would-be agriculturist has to learn everything, and requires to be practically taught his business, besides being ignorant of the language of the country.

It is indispensable, therefore, that thoroughly practical men should be engaged in superintending this scheme.

* Foreign Office, Miscellaneous Series, No. 323.

The Argentine Republic covers an area equal to nearly one-third of Europe, or about 1,212,600 square miles, with a population of only 4,000,000. The region said to be suited to cultivation is about 375,000 square miles, of which only 20,000, or less than 5 per cent., are cultivated this year. Agriculture is comparatively a new source of wealth to this formerly essentially stock-raising Republic, and its extraordinary extension in the last few years has been remarkable.

At first the Argentine Republic was opposed to the scheme of Jewish colonisation, chiefly on social grounds. The Press and many eminent men strongly denounced the idea of allowing a Jewish people to settle in such numbers in their midst, and pointed out the possible danger in the future to social and perhaps political institutions. The Government, however, which wished to encourage immigration, eventually approved of the enterprise. Previous to the scheme immigration had fallen from over 260,000 in 1888 to 52,000 in 1891, in which year emigration actually exceeded immigration by some 29,000 persons.

The first Jewish settlers came to the Argentine Republic in 1889, having been fraudulently taken out there, robbed, and abandoned by a speculator. Baron Hirsch's agent first purchased in 1891 two tracts of land to start the Jewish colonies, namely, nine square leagues near Nueve de Julio, in the province of Buenos Ayres, for the "Mauricio" colony, and 4½ square leagues more in the province of Santa Fé for the colony of "Moisesville"; subsequently more lands were bought in the province of Entre-Rios.

None of the colonists, with the exception of a few from Bessarabia, knew anything of agriculture on arrival at Buenos Ayres. Most of them were small tradespeople, tailors, shoemakers, pedlars, seamstresses, smiths, &c.; and many were worthless loafers of the lowest class, who managed to be included in the first batches of emigrants, and who were afterwards either discharged from the colonies as unfit for colonisation or sent away at their own request. The first arrival of Jewish immigrants was in June 1891, and during the remainder of that year 2,850 persons arrived; but in October 1893 the colonists only numbered 2,683, as about 800 had been sent to North America, and the number of arrivals had been reduced on account of colonies not being ready.

Some 450 families, 3,000 persons more or less, were expected to have arrived before the end of 1893, as well as a further batch of 400 to 500, consisting of the families or relations of Jews already established. There will, therefore, be altogether nearly 6,300 Jews established on Baron Hirsch's colonies by January 1894, mostly coming from Southern Russia.

The area of lands bought by the Jewish Colonisation Association up to the present time is 560 square miles, of which 444 lie in the fertile province of Entre Rios. Of this, however, only about one-third is colonised.

So far nearly £440,000 has been spent on the scheme, of which about one-half has been expended on the purchase of land.

Table of Colonised portion of Jewish Colonies in Argentine Republic in October 1893.

	Properties of the Jewish Colonisation Association.	Under the Protection of the Association.	Total.
Number of Colonists	2,584	99	2,683
Acres Colonised	131,600	4,130	135,730
Crops:—			
Wheat	16,916	954	17,900
Maize	16,309	939	17,248
Linseed	642	...	642
Lucerne	828	94	922
Vegetables	919	17	936
Stock:—			
Horses	1,971	105	2,076
Oxen and Cows	6,260	144	6,404

The colonies alluded to in the table as "under the protection of the Association" are in the province of Cordova. They were founded independently at the end of 1892, but having partially failed, they were put under the protection of the association, and have been assisted with money subsidies, seeds, and machines.

This year the Association is giving the colonists three-fourths of the whole crop, one quarter only being retained to pay the amortisation of the expensive machines, &c. Allowances for the purchase of food are granted to them until the first crop is harvested, after which they have to support themselves, only paying to the Association after every harvest, whatever they can afford.

The Association undertakes to give each family about 190 acres of land, according to numbers, 8 to 12 oxen, 2 ploughs, 2 harrows, a house and food until the land is yielding crops. One of the greatest difficulties of colonisation is the impossibility of obtaining sufficient oxen for ploughing, and milch cows.

After a colony has been properly organised, local self-government is introduced. A council with several members is appointed, of which two or three are chosen by election from among the colonists themselves, and one is the resident controller named by the Association. This council meets every day to determine the work that each colonist has to perform. Its duty is also to regulate the distribution of machines, transport, building, public health, and other questions.

THE COAL TRADE CONCILIATION BOARD.

A meeting of the Miners' Board of Conciliation was held on 3rd April, under the presidency of Lord Shand, the Chairman nominated by the Speaker of the House of Commons, when the rules of procedure were agreed upon. The text of the rules is held over for want of space.

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON IN 1893.

From the statement issued by the British Iron Trade Association it appears that the production of pig iron in the United Kingdom during 1893 was 6,829,841 tons, an increase of 212,951 tons, or 3·2 per cent. as compared with 1892. As will be seen from the table below, Cleveland was the only district in which the production in 1893 considerably exceeded that of 1892, the excess being 786,715 tons, or 40·6 per cent. In all other districts except Cumberland and Lancashire (where there was a slight increase), there was a decrease, amounting on the whole to 581,914 tons less than in 1892.

During the first half of the year, the total production was more than 53 per cent. of the output for the year, or 56 per cent. if we exclude Cleveland, in that period. Though the output was greater in 1893 than in 1892 the average number of furnaces in blast was less, viz., 310, as compared with 351 in 1892. The average annual output per furnace is highest in Cleveland, where it reaches over 32,000 tons, and lowest in Shropshire, averaging slightly less than 7,000 tons. The stocks of pig iron on December 31st last were almost the same as at the end of 1892, the decreases in Cleveland and Scotland being balanced by the increases in Cumberland and Lancashire.

Table showing production of Pig Iron in the United Kingdom in 1894 and 1893.

District.	1893		Increase of 1893 over 1892.	Decrease of 1893 over 1892.	Average Number of Furnaces in Blast in	
	Tons.	Tons.			1893	1892
England and Wales.	5,860,884	5,743,493	117,391	120,391	310	351
Cleveland	2,724,184	1,937,469	786,715	786,715	85	67
Cumberland	580,884	574,293	6,591	6,591	19	18
Lancashire	593,488	591,970	1,518	1,518	20	22
S. & W. Yorks.	155,598	244,342	88,744	88,744	13	20
Midland	1,254,165	1,227,228	26,937	26,937	93	116
South Wales	679,595	683,508	3,913	3,913	5	6
Other Districts	53,060	82,216	29,156	29,156	5	7
Scotland	783,867	977,213	193,346	193,346	53	77
Total	6,829,841	6,616,890	212,951	212,951	310	351

White Lead Committee.—The Minutes of Evidence taken before the Departmental Committee on the various Lead Industries have now been published. The evidence is given verbatim, and the volume contains a digest of the evidence of each witness and an index to the evidence given on each subject. The recommendations of the Committee already published were summarised in the LABOUR GAZETTE for December 1893.

* Minutes of Evidence taken before the Departmental Committee on the various Lead Industries with Appendix and Index, 1894. (C. 7,239-1) Price 3s. 7d.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MARCH.

Imports.—The total value of Imports in March 1894 was £35,341,037, or £1,281,552 more than in March 1893, and only slightly below the average imports in March in the period 1889-93. The increase over 1893 is, however, more than accounted for by the increase in the imports of raw cotton, the comparison here being with a period in 1893 when the Cotton Trade of Lancashire was paralysed by a great industrial dispute in the Spinning Trade.

The imports for the first three months of the year show an increase of £10,845,490, and of this increase raw cotton accounts for £6,096,807, leaving an increase of £4,748,683 in various other imports. This is made up principally of £1,989,010 for raw materials for textiles (other than cotton) and sundry industries, £1,377,178 for food, and £1,382,495 for other articles, less certain small decreases under tobacco, metals and oils. The most significant fact in these returns is the large quantities of raw materials imported for manufacture.

British and Irish Exports.—The total British and Irish exports in March 1894 amounted to £18,098,903, or £1,334,001 less than in March 1893, and over two millions less than the average for the quinquennial period 1889-93. This decrease was spread over a great number of articles, and would have been greater if the exports of coal and of cotton goods (principally to India) had not continued to increase.

For the first three months of 1894 there has been a decrease of £622,000 on the whole. Metals and articles manufactured therefrom have decreased by £1,307,714, but yarns and textile fabrics have increased by £968,788, and coal by £1,052,091. Nearly all the other groups of articles have decreased.

The Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise in March were £5,342,386 in 1894, and £5,690,367 in 1893, a decrease of £347,981. For the first three months of the year the re-exports declined by £1,467,999.

CLEVELAND PIG IRON.

The production of pig iron in the Cleveland District during March is given in the return issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association as 247,482 tons, an increase of 12,455 tons, or 5·3 per cent., as compared with March 1893. This increase is entirely in the make of pig iron from foreign ores, the production from Cleveland ore having declined nearly 7 per cent. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month was 92, as compared with 89 at the end of the previous month, and 88 in March 1893. The average number in 1893 was 85; in 1892, 67; and in 1891, 92, so that the number in March was high.

Table showing the production of pig iron and number of furnaces in blast in the Cleveland district in March 1894 and 1893.

Kind of Pig Iron	Production in March.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March 1894.	No. of Furnaces in Blast in March.	
	1894.	1893.		1894.	1893.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		
Cleveland Pig Iron	115,015	124,182	-8,167	51	51
Other Kinds of Pig*	131,467	110,845	+20,622	41	37
Total	247,482	235,027	+12,455	92	88

* Including Hæmatite, Spiegel and Basio Pig Iron.

Stocks.—The stocks of pig iron show a decrease of 41,261 tons, or 21 per cent., when compared with those for March 1893; and a decrease of 7,489 tons, or over 4 per cent. since February.

Shipments.—The shipments from Middlesbrough last month were 79,817 tons, as compared with 69,063 tons in the previous month, and 75,849 tons in March 1893.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Cotton Statistics.—The quantity of raw cotton imported during March amounted to 398,462 bales, being more than twice as much as in March 1893.

As explained, however, in previous issues, the comparison with 1893 is misleading, owing to the fact that the great Lancashire cotton dispute was in progress up to nearly the end of March.

From the following table it will be seen that the figures for last month are below those of the average for 1889-92.

March.	Imports. Bales.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales.	Exports. Bales.
1894	398,462	288,117	26,293
1893	192,122	193,041	28,485
<i>Average for Mar. in 1889-1892</i>	<i>422,093</i>	<i>291,651</i>	<i>39,976</i>

Traffic Receipts.—The traffic receipts of 23 of the principal railway companies in the United Kingdom continue to keep up, although the figures for March are not quite so favourable as those for February. For the five weeks ended 31st March the receipts amounted to £6,765,808, an increase of £187,815, or 2·9 per cent. over the corresponding period of 1893. In the first eight weeks of the year the increase was mainly due to minerals and goods, but last month, which included the Easter Monday traffic, the increase in passenger traffic was 5·1, and in goods 1·3 per cent. In Scotland the increase was as much as 11·5 per cent. from passengers, while the goods receipts showed an increase of 1·5 per cent. only. In England the percentages of increase from passengers and goods were 4·5 and 1·2 respectively, and in Ireland 5·2 and 4·3.

Emigration.—The emigration last month from this country was not much more than half what it was in March 1893.

British.—The number of passengers of British nationality was 10,316, a decrease when compared with March, 1893, of 8,902, or 46 per cent. This fall was principally in the numbers going to the United States and Canada, the number of passengers to South Africa showing an increase of 28·5 per cent. on the number for March last year. The figures are:—

	March, 1894.	March, 1893.	Percentage Decrease.
United States	6,033	13,617	55·7
British North America	1,745	3,074	43·2
South Africa	1,194	929	28·5
Australasia	667	786	15·1
Other Places	677	812	16·6
Total	10,316	19,218	46·3

Foreign.—In addition to the above British passengers, there were 5,333 foreigners and others whose nationality was not stated, bringing up the total emigration for the month to 15,649, a decrease of 15,013, or nearly 49 per cent.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens recorded as arriving from the Continent at ports in the United Kingdom during March was 7,100, which number shows a very large decrease as compared with the corresponding period in 1893, when the number was 13,413, or nearly twice as many as last March. This decrease was mainly in the number of trans-migrants to America, no less than 6,009 or over 95 per cent. of the total drop being thus accounted for. It may be noted that the number coming from Gothenburg and other Scandinavian ports was 1,751, being 3,495, or 66 per cent. less than in March 1893. From Hamburg and other German ports the number was 1,307, or 8·9 per cent. less than in March 1893, and from Holland and Belgium 1,214, or 35·7 per cent. less. Of the total (7,100), 3,377, or nearly 48 per cent., were said to be on their way to America, and of the remaining 3,723, not so described, 1,189 were sailors. While the general total not en route to America has fallen off, the number of sailors has gone up as compared with March 1893, when the number was 1,041.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankrupts gazetted during March was 463, as compared with 458 in March 1893. Of the 463, 38 were publicans, hotel-keepers, &c., 31 builders, 29 grocers, 27 farmers, 14 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers, 13 jewellers, watch-makers, &c., and 11 butchers.

British Corn.—The average prices of British corn per quarter were at the end of March:—

	March.	February.
	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat	24 6	24 3
Barley	27 1	27 5
Oats	18 0	18 5

For the four weeks ending 31st March the average price of British wheat was 24s. 4d. per quarter, being 5½d. cheaper than in the same period of 1893.

Hay Imports.—The imports of hay last month were much in excess of those for March 1893, the quantity imported in the two periods being 41,132 and 13,524 tons respectively. Of last month's total, 24,479 tons came from the United States, as compared with 8,032 tons in March 1893.

* Increase.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MARCH.

DURING March the total number of industrial prosecutions, as shown in the three tables below, was 244, an increase of 19 when compared with the previous month. Under the Factory and Workshop Acts there were 161 prosecutions, resulting in 155 convictions, with an average penalty, including costs, of £1 13s. 1d. There were 67 prosecutions under the Mines Acts, from which 55 convictions were obtained against workmen and 11 against owners or managers, the average penalties with costs imposed on the former being 17s. 8d., and on the latter £2 5s. 8d. Convictions were obtained in each of the 16 prosecutions under the Merchant Shipping Acts, of which 12 were against owners or masters of vessels, one against seamen, and three against boarding-house keepers, the average penalties and costs being respectively £18 18s. 6d., £2 9s., and £3 7s. 2d.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Table with 5 columns: PARTICULARS OF OFFENCES, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Rows include Neglecting to Limewash, Neglecting to Fence Machinery, Employing Young Persons under Illegal Conditions, etc.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † Notice of Appeal has been given by Defendants in one of these cases.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.*

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

* Supplied by the Home Office. † A sentence of 30 days' imprisonment without the option of a fine was passed in one of these cases.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Total Penalties, Total Costs. Rows include By Owners or Masters of Ships, By Seamen, etc.

LABOUR CASES IN MARCH.

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

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Birmingham County Court, March 6th.—Labourer claimed £200 damages for injuries alleged to be due to defective machinery and negligence of defendant's foreman. Plaintiff had been engaged in filling wheelbarrows and hoisting them by the aid of a steam windlass; the windlass spindle was very close to the wall, and in passing through the narrow space he had been caught in the gearing. Defendant urged that plaintiff had worked the machine for a fortnight without making a complaint, passing through the place in question constantly. Jury awarded plaintiff £75 damages. Judgment accordingly with costs.

City of London Court, March 8th.—Dock labourer claimed £50 damages for injury received in discharging coal for the defendants owing to a tank being pulled up too soon by crane-man in defendant's employ. Defence that the crane-man did not pull the crane up without being ordered to do so. Verdict for plaintiff for £30.

Glasgow Sheriff's Court, March 9th.—Quay labourer claimed damages for injury sustained through the failure of defendant to provide a sufficient road and ways for enabling his men to convey a cargo of iron from a shed at the docks to a steamer. Decree for plaintiff for £60 with expenses.

Barrow County Court, March 10th.—Labourer employed in steel works sued for £187 4s. (three years' wages), compensation for loss of leg, which occurred whilst he was breaking steel shavings on planing machine owing to the stroke of the machine being suddenly altered. Plaintiff alleged that proper accommodation for such work was not provided. Defence, that a plate for breaking metal had been placed by the workmen themselves. Jury found for plaintiff for amount claimed.

Wandsworth County Court, March 12th.—Trace horse boy sued tramways company for injuries sustained in pursuit of his occupation. Counsel for defence objected that tram drivers, omnibus conductors and goods guards did not come within the Act. Judge considered plaintiff was engaged in manual labour and over-ruled the objection. Plaintiff had hooked horse to car at the bottom of a hill; on reaching the top he jumped off to unhook the horse; the car went on, and the chain being thus tightened caused him to fall and to be run over. Defence that the driver had no superintendence over the trace-boy. Verdict for the defendants on the ground that there had been no negligence.

Bow County Court, March 14th.—Painter claimed £100 for injuries alleged to be due to negligence of his employer. Defendant was a sub-contractor; plaintiff had been working on a platform supported by ropes from the roof, one of which had broken. The platform and ropes were not the property of the defendant, but of the original contractors, but plaintiff claimed that defendant had been negligent in not examining the tackle. Verdict for plaintiff, £50 and costs. Judge refused to stay execution pending appeal.

House of Lords, March 15th.—The relatives of a seaman who fell overboard from a steamer while placing a tarpaulin over a hatchway obtained a verdict for £175 damages at Durham. The Court of Appeal decided that the vessel was not unseaworthy within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Act, that the doctrine of common employment applied, and the defendant steamship company were free from liability. Plaintiffs appealed. Lord Chancellor considered there was evidence of negligence on the part of the master of the vessel, but if he was to be regarded as the servant of the company and fellow-workman with the seaman, liability did not attach to the defendants. The question arising under the Merchant Shipping Act was more difficult, but the fact that certain movable rails, although provided, were not used, did not render the vessel unseaworthy. Appeal dismissed.

City of London Court, March 15th.—Van boy claimed £62 8s. for injury sustained in obeying orders given by defendant's carman, who had, as alleged, caught his whip in the harness, and told the boy to get down and disentangle it without stopping the horse; horse swerved and knocked plaintiff down. Defence, that plaintiff fell off the van, and had received no orders. Verdict for plaintiff, £35.

Grimby County Court, March 16th.—Dock labourer sued stevedore (through Trade Union) for £100 for injuries sustained when removing railway waggons by defendant's orders. Defence that no orders were given, and that plaintiff should not have placed his hand upon the buffers. Verdict for plaintiff, £10 and costs.

Westminster County Court, March 19th.—Carpenter claimed damages for a crushed hand due to negligence of defendant's foreman. Plaintiff was boring holes in the framework of a hydraulic lift, when suddenly the lift came down. Defendant's foreman usually gave plaintiff warning each time the lift had descended, but on this occasion had omitted to give it. Defence,

that foreman had not warned plaintiff, who had himself signalled to the lift attendant every time the lift went up or down. Verdict for plaintiff, £60 and costs.

Leeds County Court, March 21st.—Bricklayer's labourer sued builders for £105 for injuries incurred through the fall of a badly constructed scaffold. Defence that it was the duty of the labourers to erect scaffolds, and that plaintiff, without orders, chose to go on the scaffold without making it secure. Verdict for defendants without costs.

Court of Session, First Division, March 22nd.—Pit drawer killed by kick of a horse belonging to defendants. Widow and daughter sued for £500 damages. Defendants denied fault. Verdict for pursuer, £200.

Court of Session, First Division, March 24th.—Dock labourer sued contractor for £250 at common law, or £234 under Employers' Liability Act for injuries received in the hold of defendant's steamer, a fore and aft beam and hatches having fallen upon him. Defence that pursuer was not in defendant's employment, and that accident was caused by pursuer and his fellow-servants. Verdict for defendant.

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Brisley Hill Police Court, March 1st.—Master cooper asked for order to compel apprentice to complete terms of agreement. Defendant was apprenticed to plaintiff in 1891, but owing to disagreement had been told he might go; he had taken a situation in a yard with which the trade union had a dispute, and the society had called upon plaintiff to enforce indentures. Verdict for defendant, indentures to be cancelled, each party paying costs.

Todmorden County Court, March 2nd.—Weaver sued for 1s. 3d. wages due from cotton manufacturer. One of plaintiff's looms got out of order, and plaintiff was told that if he would pay for what had happened it could be put right. He declined, and was discharged, 1s. 3d. being kept back from his wages. Defence that plaintiff was not discharged, but had failed to return to his work, and was not therefore entitled to his wages at all, and someone else had done the work. Judge non-suited plaintiff, considering defendant entitled to charge plaintiff for work he ought to have done.

Oldham County Court, March 9th.—Journeyman tailor sued clothiers for 1s. 6d. for work done. Plaintiff had had instructions to make a certain class of cape; an agreement had been signed by the masters and workpeople by which a certain price, 5s. 6d. was to be given for this class of work. For the first cape made plaintiff received 5s. 6d.; the next time defendants only paid 4s. As the agreement was not stamped, judge held that plaintiff could not proceed unless prepared to pay the penalty (£10) and the stamp duty. Plaintiff being unwilling to adopt this course was non-suited.

Castle Eden Police Court, March 10th.—Colliery owners sued 520 miners for 5s. each for absenting themselves from work without notice. The men had laid the pit idle because of the funeral of workman dead from injuries received in the pit. Defence, that it was the custom in such circumstances for the pit to begin work two hours earlier than usual for men to attend funeral. Magistrates found that defendants had failed to prove the custom; judgment for plaintiffs, with costs.

City of London Court, March 14th.—Errand girl sued milliner for 14s. two weeks' wages, in lieu of notice. Her hours were from 9 a.m. till 8 p.m., except on Saturdays. The second Saturday she left at 4 p.m. Defence, that plaintiff should have stayed till 6 p.m., and that the first Saturday she did stay till then. Commissioner thought the hours rather long for the pay, and found for the plaintiff.

Pontypridd County Court, March 22nd.—Colliery timber man sued collieries company for 9s. due to him for work done. This was a test case affecting a large number of colliers. The colliery had been transferred from one company to another. Plaintiff contended that he should be paid for timbering work at the prices previously paid by agreement with the old company, and paid up to a certain date by the new company. Defendant company stated that an agreement had been made between the management and the men that the rules and regulations in force at their other collieries should apply to this one. They considered that the words "rules and regulations" governed customs, but not prices. The custom of the other collieries was to class timber below 7 1/2 ft. as 6 ft. 6 in., and the price paid in this colliery for 6 1/2 ft. timber was 1s. 2d. The colliers under the former management were paid 1s. 7d. for setting timber between 6 1/2 ft. and 9 ft. Judgment for plaintiff, with costs on the higher scale.

(3) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT.

Burslem County Court, March 8th.—Widow sued a friendly society for money due to her on the death of her husband. Deceased got in arrears, and verbal notice was given him of suspension from benefit. Judge held that notice ought to have been either written or printed. Verdict for plaintiff with costs.

Liverpool County Court, March 13th.—Plaintiff sued to recover £10 from a friendly society for insurance on the life of his mother. He had insured her life in 1874 in a friendly society which, owing to the excessive liberality of its scale, had been unable to meet its engagements, and in 1885 the defendant society had taken over many thousands of members of the original society. The defendant society offered to pay £6 10s., that being the proper sum payable according to their scale of benefits at the time of the transfer. Verdict for plaintiff for £6 10s. with costs.

Golcar County Court, March 22nd.—The officers and 177 members of an unregistered friendly society had been disqualified from proceeding against a secretary because 42 other members refused to join in the action. (See LABOUR GAZETTE for March, p. 87.)

Plaintiffs now consented to a non-suit on condition that the assets of the society should be valued and the dissentient members should take their shares out.

Two cases are reported of embezzlement and fraud on the part of officers of friendly societies.

(4) SHOP HOURS ACT.

Manchester Police Court, March 2nd.—Corporation summoned shopkeeper for not exposing in a conspicuous place in his shop an extract from the Shop Hours Act 1892 dealing with the number of hours young persons may legally work. Notice had been hung up in defendant's workshops, but it was contended it should be in a place where it could be seen by the public. Fined 1s. and costs.

Three cases are reported of convictions of cotton manufacturers for using unjust weighing machines or weights.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS OF IRELAND.*

THE Report of the Congested Districts Board for the year ending December 31st 1893, gives the amount placed at the disposal of the Board between August 5th 1891 and December 31st 1893 as £109,588, of which amount about £88,400 has been expended, while projects involving an estimated expenditure of the balance have been either actually started or approved of.

The work of the Board is divided into four departments, viz., (1) land, (2) sea fisheries, (3) industries, and (4) engineering works, each branch being in charge of a separate committee.

The Land Committee, sent an agricultural instructor to Kiltimagh, Clifden and Achill and arranged with certain occupiers in each place to work portions of their holdings in accordance with advice given by the instructors, on condition that the Board supplied the necessary seed and artificial manure for the land if properly worked. The results were, in the majority of cases, satisfactory, but a few occupiers of the selected holdings did little or nothing towards carrying out the instructions given. Certain agricultural implements have been lent or sold to the people in the hope of inducing small occupiers to cultivate their holdings more thoroughly; and encouragement has been given to drainage and fencing. The trees planted in 1891-2 and 1892-3 at Knockboy, in Connemara, have done remarkably well. The results of the efforts of the Board to effect the improvement of horse-breeding are encouraging. Attention has also been paid to cattle, sheep and pig-breeding and poultry rearing, and a scheme has been put into operation for supplying the English market with fresh eggs. An instructor in bee-keeping selected ten persons, nine in Mayo and one near Tuam, to whom he supplied swarms of bees and suitable bee-frame hives. In five of the ten cases the hives and appliances were supplied for the use of schools. In eight instances the results were most satisfactory.

The Arklow boats, which in 1892 were induced by bounties to try mackerel fishing at the Aran Islands, co. Galway, returned in 1893 without bounties being offered. The Board opened a number of fish-curing stations in the counties Donegal, Mayo and Galway for salting and drying cod, ling, saithe and haddock, and later in the season for curing mackerel and herrings. Fishing instruction afloat was given to boys from Connemara and the south island of Aran. Trained fish-curers gave instruction to boys, women and girls at each curing station.

Loans and subsidies have been made to the Foxford and Ballaghaderin factories in consideration of the services rendered by the Sisters of Charity in developing woollen industries and in providing technical instruction for a large number of children; arrangements for the payment of capitation grants have been concluded. Instruction in knitting at Carraroe, in Connemara, and in the use of the sewing machine at Ballyshannon, in Donegal, has been provided.

A sum of £50,000 has been allocated to be expended in the construction of piers, boat-slips, causeways, roads, bridges and other miscellaneous engineering works.

* Second Annual Report of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, 1893. (C.—7,266.) Price 2d.

TRADE DISPUTES.

ONE HUNDRED new disputes occurred in March, as compared with 57 in February, 37 in March 1893, and 48 in March 1892.

In the Building Trades 14 disputes took place, 7 of which were upon wages questions, 3 with respect to working arrangements and material, and the remainder to unionism and demarcation of work.

Four of the 5 disputes in the Clothing Trades were directly upon the subject of wages, and in the fifth case the men desired a limitation of their working hours on Saturday.

In the Metal Trades 11 disputes occurred, 8 of which, including the series of strikes of iron-moulders on the North-East Coast were due to wages questions, 1 to demarcation of work, 1 to a question of reduction of hours of labour.

Seventeen disputes occurred in connection with Mining and Quarrying, of which 5 were due to wages questions, 9 to unionism and working arrangements, and the remaining 3 to disagreement as to hours of work.

Three disputes took place in the Seafaring and Dock Labour Trades. In the Shipbuilding Trade 16 disputes took place, 9 of which were due to wages questions, and 4 to demarcation of work.

The large number of 23 disputes occurred in the Textile Trades, 10 of which were more or less due to wages disagreements, and 10 to working arrangements and dissatisfaction with officials.

Eleven disputes took place in Miscellaneous Industries, including 5 in connection with agricultural labour. Eight were in respect of wages questions, 2 in defence of or objection to colleagues, and in one case the men objected to sign an agreement contracting out of the Employers' Liability Act.

The geographical distribution of the 100 disputes was as follows:—Northern counties 43, Midland counties 6, Eastern counties 5, South-Western counties and Wales 15, London 2, Scotland 24, Ireland 5.

Eight disputes which occurred in previous months were brought to a settlement in March, and at the end of the month it was known that 21 old disputes were still unsettled, including two which began in February, information respecting which was received too late for insertion in the March issue of the GAZETTE.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH 1894.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons on Strike or locked out.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Lathsplitters ...	Stirling ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. per hour	1	8	Mar. 5	Mar. 19	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Stonemasons ...	Blackpool ...	Against importation of ready dressed stone	1	10	16	19	Employer agreed to use the stone in question for another purpose. Obtained work elsewhere, and were replaced by men on full wages. No details of settlement.
Joiners ...	Leeds ...	Five young journeymen struck work, having been refused the full standard wage	1	5	17	...	Obtained work elsewhere, and were replaced by men on full wages. No details of settlement.
Bricklayers ...	Ditto ...	Against employment of labourers upon brick-setting in a tunnel	1	4	19	...	No details of settlement.
Navvies (railway construction)	Brechin ...	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour	1	...	22	24	Ditto.
Masons ...	Jedburgh ...	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour	1	...	26	27	Advance granted.
Plumbers ...	Cork ...	For reduction in hours to 51 per week, and an increase in amount for country allowance	13	52	26	26	Still unsettled.
Painters ...	Leeds ...	Against proposed reduction of 3d. per hour, and alteration of working arrangements	3	...	30	...	Men obtained work elsewhere.
Navvies (railway construction)	Elan Valley ...	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour	1	100	...	...	Some resumed at old rate, others remained out.
Ditto (sewerage construction)	D'Arcy, Essex ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Bricklayers ...	Widnes ...	Alleged infringement of rules with regard to apprentices and piece-work	1	44	...	...	Ditto.
Packing-case makers ...	Manchester ...	Alleged objection of employers to men becoming unionists	4	46	...	...	Ditto.
Plasterers ...	Nairn ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, with a 9 hours working day	...	...	...	Last 2 1/2 weeks	Demands conceded.
Stonemasons ...	Pontypool ...	Against importation of ready dressed stone	1	23	...	Last 1 day	Employer agreed to adhere to Union rules in the future.
Clothing Trades.							
Furriers (hat manufacture)	Northampton ...	Alleged discharge of certain female workers for participation in a movement for increased wages	1	80 dir. 20 indir.	1	15	Employer agreed to reinstate the discharged workers.
Boot-upper Makers (female)	Leeds ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 6d. and 9d. per dozen	1	50	14	14	Work resumed at old rates, pending settlement of a price list.
Handkerchief Hemmers	Belfast ...	Objection to hem large handkerchiefs at same price as smaller, equivalent to a reduction of about 2s. per week	1	40	20	23	Larger handkerchiefs to be withdrawn for the present, and a price list arranged
Clog Makers ...	St. Helens ...	Desire to cease work at 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoons	1	8	24	...	Still unsettled.
Hosiery Workers ...	Radford, Notts. ...	Against refusal of employer to pay full prices when working for samples	1	21	31	...	Ditto.
Metal Trades.							
Tinplate Workers	Liverpool ...	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	7	7	14	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Steel Smelters and Millmen	Morrison, Glam. ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 20 per cent.	1	...	12	21	Reductions varying from 2 1/2 to 10 per cent. accepted.
Ironworkers ...	Mostyn, Flintshire ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent.	1	100	9	...	No details of settlement.
Coppersmiths ...	Glasgow ...	Objection to certain work being assigned to tinplate workers	1	20	12	...	Ditto.
Steel Smelters ...	Wednesbury ...	Objection to non-payment for faulty steel, caused, the men assert, by experiments required by the employers	1	300	17	...	Still unsettled.
Iron Dressers ...	Hartlepool ...	For advance in time wages of 3s. per week, and 10 per cent. on piece prices	2	30	19	...	Ditto.
Iron Moulders ...	Hartlepool ...	For advance in time wages of 3s. 6d. per week, and 10 per cent. on piece prices	2	200	19	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Stockton-on-Tees ...	Ditto	3	140	20	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Rivers Tyne and Wear ...	Ditto	...	1,150	21	...	Ditto.
Steel Workers ...	Glengarnock, Ayrshire ...	Against requirement to work alleged excessive hours on 4 days per week	1	30	...	Last 9 days	Work resumed upon mutual concessions, men agreeing to work after 6 p.m. when required.
Puddlers and Mill Rollers	Wolverhampton ...	Against proposed reduction in wages equal to 1s. per ton	1	150	...	...	Still unsettled.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Coal Miners ...	Clifton, Manchester ...	Objection to working with non-unionists who, however, were riding in separate cages	1	300	1	2	Work resumed, the non-unionists continuing to ride separately.
Ditto ...	Treocky ...	Dispute as to supply of timber	1	40	5	12	Employer agreed to supply the timber required.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH 1894—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons on Strike or locked out.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Coal Miners ...	Lintz Green, Durham ...	For dismissal of certain men for alleged disloyalty to their colleagues	1	180	Mar. 10	Mar. 17	Work resumed as before.
Ditto ...	Pontycymmer ...	Dispute as to proposed change of medical officer for the colliery	1	550	11	22	Former medical man retained, and question referred to the Sliding Scale Committee. No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Ebbw Vale ...	For increased price, owing to thinness of coal seam	1	20	11	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Buckley, Flintshire ...	Against proposed change in method of coal getting, causing a reduction in wages	1	100	14	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Willington, Durham ...	Objection to ride in cage with a man in arrears with his union contributions	1	200	19	22	Man agreed to pay up his arrears. Strikers summoned, and 5s. per man obtained as damages for laying pit idle. Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Bothwell, Lanarkshire ...	Against requirement to work 11 days per fortnight	1	400	19	...	...
Ditto ...	Redding Dist., Stirlingshire ...	Against reduction in wages of 6d. to 1s. per day	6	1,000	20	April 3	Reduction of 6d. per day accepted, and the four days per week policy given up. Ditto.
Ditto ...	Baillieston, Lanarkshire ...	Refused admission to mine on account of adoption of the four days per week policy	1	...	23	...	...
Ditto ...	Pentre, Pontypridd ...	Against alteration in arrangements for weighing coal	1	400	27	Mar. 30	Change instituted by employer accepted.
Ditto ...	Motherwell ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. to 4d. per ton	1	200	...	Last 4 fortnight	Temporary settlement arranged, the wages question to be afterwards considered. No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Pontypridd ...	For reduction in hours of work to night shift men	1	1,500 dir. and indir.	27	...	...
Ditto ...	Airdrie ...	Against proposed reduction of 2d. per ton	1	300	...	...	Ditto.
Frame Workers (pit shaft)	Forest of Dean ...	Against proposed increase in hours to 9 per day	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Maesteg ...	Dispute as to identity of coal seam, men desiring to be paid as for the 9-foot seam	1	125	31	...	Still unsettled.
Sett-makers ...	Dalbeattie ...	Refusal of employers to accept a new price list	...	...	...	...	New price list accepted.
Seafaring, Dock, &c., Labour.							
Corn Porters ...	Bristol ...	Dissatisfaction with arbitration award on the question of a desired extra busheller in the hold	1	18 dir. 80 indir.	9	14	Arbitration award accepted.
Seamen ...	Holyhead ...	Refusal to proceed in a vessel alleged to be unseaworthy	1	6	15	16	Men prosecuted, a survey of the vessel was ordered.
Harbour Labourers ...	Greenock ...	Against employment of ships' crews in discharging cargo	...	200	19	...	No details of settlement.
Shipbuilding.							
General Engineering and Shipbuilding Labourers	Belfast ...	For advance in wages...	1	800	1	29	(Exact details not to hand.)
General Shipyard Helpers	Ditto ...	Ditto	1	600	1	29	Ditto.
Apprentice Riveters	Bill Quay, Newcastle ...	Against introduction of new piece price list, involving a reduction of 15 per cent.	1	18	5	19	Reduction accepted, pending further arrangements.
Helpers (Boiler Department)	Clydebank ...	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour, and in sympathy with certain men discharged for making the request	1	...	5	7	Advance granted to men according to ability.
Shipwrights ...	Howdon-on-Tyne ...	Demarcation of work dispute with joiners	1	40	20	20	Work resumed, pending reference to Joint Committee. Work meanwhile finished by joiners
Ship Carpenters' Labourers	Govan ...	For advance in wages to 18s. per week	1	20	12	14	Advance of 1s. per week granted.
Labourers	Linthouse, R. Clyde ...	Ditto	1	70	19	...	No details of settlement.
Apprentice Shipwrights	Ditto ...	Objection to remove gangways, alleged to be labourers' work	1	40	20	22	Work resumed on employer's conditions.
Shipwrights ...	Walker-on-Tyne ...	Demarcation of work dispute with joiners	1	40	20	20	Question referred to Joint Committee.
Apprentice Riveters ...	Wallsend-on-Tyne ...	Against reduction in piece prices	1	15	20	April 7	Uniform weekly wages accepted, less 25 per cent. on former rate. No details of settlement.
Rivet Boys ...	Paisley ...	Objection to limitation of number of rivets to be taken from store at one time	1	...	21	...	Ditto.
Shipyard Labourers ...	Whiteinch, Glasgow ...	For advance in wages of 1s. per week	1	20	21	...	Ditto.
Riveters ...	Govan ...	Objection to alleged inadequate staging...	1	...	...	Last 1 day	Employers agreed to provide proper staging.
Ship Joiners ...	Paisley ...	For advance in wages...	1	20	22	23	Advance of 1d. per hour conceded.
Rivet Boys ...	Govan ...	Cause not stated	1	...	28	29	Work resumed, result not stated.
Shipbuilders (generally)	Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	Against employment of 4 joiners who went in to work during a demarcation dispute with shipwrights, which is still maintained by the joiners, although the work in question is finished	1	80	31	...	Still unsettled.
Textile Trades.							
Bleachers, Dyers and Finishers	Middleton, Lancs. ...	For rearrangement of price list	1	70	1	10	Work resumed on day wages for two months. Piece-work statement to be arranged by a joint committee.
Woolen Weavers ...	Batley Carr, Yorkshire ...	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	60	2	3	Altered scale of prices accepted, with reduction of about 7 1/2 per cent. Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Jute Workers ...	Dundee ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	350	2	16	...
Piecers ...	Bolton ...	Dissatisfaction with selection in promotions, instead of proceeding by seniority	1	102 dir. 186 indir.	6	7	Mill laid idle two days. Wishes of piecers complied with.
Overlookers ...	Rochdale ...	For advance in poundage, and decrease in work and responsibility	1	12 dir. 220 indir.	8	...	Still unsettled.
Cotton Weavers ...	Haslingden ...	Alleged bad material and "driving"	1	100	12	15	Work resumed on a promise to improve the material.
Winders ...	Cliviger, Burnley ...	Alleged bad material	1	19	12	26	Work resumed, no promise of improved material being given. No details of settlement.
Cotton Weavers ...	Blackburn ...	Alleged objectionable language and "driving" by an overlooker	1	120	14	...	Ditto.
Gassers (silk manufacture) (Females)	Brighouse ...	Against proposed reduction in wages and increase in work	1	36	15	...	Ditto.
Jute Workers (Females)	Liverpool ...	Objection to working short time when another section of works was on full time	1	308 dir. 86 indir.	19	Mar. 2	Short time submitted to.
Cotton Weavers ...	Burnley ...	Strike of operatives in sympathy with a section of their number punished by employers for an offensive public description of the firm	1	120 dir. 30 indir.	26	28	Operatives expressed regret, and the proposed fines were withdrawn.
Weavers ...	Darwen ...	Refusal of employer to concede the afternoon off on Easter Monday	1	...	26	...	No details of settlement.
Jute Spinners and Hecklers	Blairstown ...	For resumption of full working time or increased hours	1	40	28	...	Still unsettled.
Cotton Weavers ...	Haslingden ...	Objection to the "slate" system of booking wages by overlooker	1	200	28	29	Employers agreed to abolish the system complained of.
Weavers ...	Walkden, Bolton ...	Dissatisfaction with discharge of a colleague	1	...	...	...	Work resumed, some obtaining employment elsewhere.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH 1894.—(Continued.)

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons on Strike or locked out, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons on Strike or locked out, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as occurring in February were still unsettled:—Stonemasons, Glasgow; saw-millers, Dublin; tailors' pressers, Leeds; sheep-shear grinders, Sheffield; fitters (colliery), Aberdare; cotton weavers, Stacksteads, Manchester; poulterers, Dublin.

The following, which began before February, were also still unsettled:—Stove-grate workers, Derby; woolsorters, Saltaire; tailors, London, W.; ironstone miners, Kilsyth and Maryhill; coal miners, Wortley, near Leeds; ship joiners, Newcastle-on-Tyne; dyers, Newton Heath; ironmoulders, Edinburgh; cotton spinners and card-room hands, Darwen; shuttle makers, Dudley-hill, Bradford; bricklayers and labourers, South Shields (which has, however, been brought to an end on 4th of the present month—April).

In addition to the above, the following disputes, commencing in February, but of which information was received too late for insertion in the March issue, were still unsettled.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons on Strike or locked out, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month of March it is reported that 21 mines, including 16 collieries, were opened or re-opened, or 1 less than in February, and that 6 mines, including 5 collieries, were discontinued or abandoned, 19 less than in February. Of the new collieries, 4 are in Lancashire, and 2 each in Derbyshire and Glamorganshire.

COAL:—New Mines. Durham—Farnacre Drift, Teams, Gateshead. Lancashire—Nook (Old Robin Seam), Oswaldtwistle; Chorley Colliery (Sinking), Chorley; Daubhill, Bolton; Morris Green (Three Quarter Seam), Bolton. (4) Derbyshire—Cowlery New (Mickley Seam), Chesterfield; Stanton (Stockings Seam), Burton-on-Trent. (2) Staffordshire—Newfield (Peacock Seam), Red Street. Gloucestershire—Peter's Farm, Newent. Monmouthshire—Bryngwyn Colliery, Bedwas.

Flintshire—Black Diamond (Diamond Seam), Coed Talon. Denbighshire—New Broughton (Four-foot Seam), Wrexham. Brecknockshire—Gwaun Clawdd, near Abercrave. Glamorganshire—Llest (No. 1 Rhondda Seam), Garw Valley; Barry Llantwit, near Cardiff. (2). Lanarkshire—Motherwell, No. 3 Pit (Splint Seam), Motherwell. FIRECLAY.—Derbyshire—Wheeldon Mill, Brimington, Chesterfield. Warwickshire—Haunchwood Brick and Tile Co., Nuneaton. LEAD ORE.—Flintshire—Halkyn Hall, Halkyn. Cardiganshire—Plynlimmon, Aberystwith. GOLD.—Devonshire—Fern Hill Reefs.

COAL:—Mines Abandoned. Lancashire—*Higher Shore (Little Coal Seam), Littleborough. Worcestershire—*Parkhead (Thick Seam), near Dudley. Denbighshire—New Broughton (Two-yard and Crank Seams), Wrexham. Ayrshire—Dalharco, No. 2 Pit (Patna Seams), Dalmellington. Tipperary—*Lisnamrock, No. 4 Pit, Thurles. LEAD ORE.—Flintshire—Glyndwr, Mold.

* Small Workings.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

THE number of fatal accidents to the undermentioned classes of workpeople reported in March was 325, which compares with 440 in February, distributed as follows:—

Summary table showing fatal accidents by class (Railway Servants, Miners, Factory and Workshop Operatives, Seamen) for March 1894 and February 1894.

On the total of the four classes there was a decrease of 115 as compared with February, and of 234 as compared with January. The decline in March is mainly due to a reduction in the number of lives lost at sea. Of the 1,382 non-fatal accidents reported, 802 were in factories and workshops and 268 to railway servants, as compared with 752 and 220 respectively in February. The number of accidents in mines remained the same, viz., 312. Accidents of a non-fatal character at sea are not reported.

NOTE.—The exact percentage which the number killed in each of these classes of employment bears to the total number employed cannot be stated, the figures, where given, being either for the number employed at a previous date, or for a portion only of those liable to accident, but the following particulars may be useful in forming some idea of the proportion that the numbers employed bear to the persons injured or killed.

Railways.—A Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) gives the number of persons employed on 31st December 1889 by railway companies in the United Kingdom as 381,026.

Mines.—The number employed in mines can be given more closely, being 718,747 in 1893, including persons employed on private branch railways and in washing and coking coal.

Factories and Workshops.—From a Parliamentary Paper (402 of 1890) it appears that the number of persons actually at work in factories when the returns were furnished to the Home Office was 3,270,835, but there are no figures available as to the number of persons employed in workshops, although the number is very large.

Seamen.—The returns of the number of seamen employed in British registered vessels in 1892 give 241,735 persons, all grades being included.

I.—Railway Servants.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

Tables showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of March 1894.

A.—Distinguishing the various classes of persons and nature of injuries.

Table showing number of railway servants killed or injured by class of service and nature of injury.

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

Table showing railway accidents by region (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom).

II.—In Mines.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, during the month of March 1894.

Table showing mine accidents by cause of accident and region.

III.—In Factories and Workshops.*

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of March 1894.

Table showing factory and workshop accidents by nature of injury and sex.

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

IV.—Seamen.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of March 1894 as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

(Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Table showing deaths of seamen by class of vessels and cause of death.

† Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—A Bill respecting Councils of Conciliation and of Arbitration for settling industrial disputes has been introduced into the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario. A strike has taken place at the coal mines at Lethbridge, in the North-West Territories, owing to a reduction of wages. In the south of Vancouver Island a few steady single men would find work at 20 dollars a month and board, but Chinamen are chiefly employed. Generally speaking, there is no opening in British Columbia for the ordinary emigrant without means; and in the town of Victoria, where the failure of a bank has caused exceptional depression in business, there is a large number of men out of employment, and the corporation is finding work for the unemployed at stonebreaking at one dollar a day. The Plumbers' Association in British Columbia have been striking against the system of sub-contractors.

New South Wales.—Work is being found for many of the unemployed at road-making, and on other public works, and 906 men were assisted to the gold-fields last January in search of work. Some 800 miners have been on strike at the southern collieries owing to a reduction in the hewing rate, but it is hoped that an agreement has been arrived at, by which the rate is fixed at 2s. per ton. A strike was also in progress at some of the northern collieries. In the gold districts of the colony the output of gold was considerably greater in 1893 than in 1892 or 1891. This increase is partly owing to the fact that the Government Labour Bureau at Sydney has assisted many hundreds of men to "fossick" on the gold-fields, nearly all of whom have done well. Over 30,000 men have been registered at the Bureau since its opening in February, 1892, and there is a tendency to accept lower wages than before.

There is a risk of disputes between the shearers and their employers arising out of the mode of engaging hands.

Victoria.—An official report dated the 31st January last, states that most of the surplus hands were engaged during last month in harvest work; but as the harvest is now over in most districts, many men have returned to Melbourne in search of employment. The Government will, it is expected, find work for some 200 of these men during some months at clearing mallee land, at a payment of 4s. to 5s. per acre. The amended Factories and Shops Act reduces the number of persons constituting a factory from six to four. The Leongatha Labour Colony, which was established for the benefit of the unemployed has, through want of adequate public support, become involved in financial difficulties, and the Government will therefore administer its affairs in future. The coal mining industry has received an impetus from the labour troubles at some of the New South Wales collieries, and one of the mines is putting out coal at the rate of 85,000 tons a year.

A tribunal of arbitration has been established at Melbourne for the cheap and speedy settlement of ordinary trade disputes. Pumping operations at the Mildura Irrigation Colony have been temporarily suspended owing to a strike of firemen and wood wheelers against the alleged irregularity in payment of their wages. Wheat growing in the Western Wimmera district is very depressed owing to the low price of wheat and a failure of the crops, but in the other districts of the colony the harvest has been good. With a view to reducing the burden of interest, which farmers have to pay for loans, the Government is proposing to make advances to them at 5 per cent. In Melbourne there are said to be some 12,000 unoccupied houses, causing a decline in rents from 30 to 50 per cent., and in consequence the building trades are practically at a standstill. The iron trade is also in a very depressed state, and most other industries are suffering.

South Australia.—There has been no improvement in the labour market of South Australia, and the supply of all classes of labour is still considerably in excess of the demand. Among the various village settlements which are now being established in the colony the most important is one at Lyrup on the Murray River, a short distance from Renmark, which consists of some 243 settlers. The land will require extensive irrigation.

Western Australia.—On February 4th, owing to the alarming scarcity of water at the Coolgardie Gold Fields, it was officially notified that no one should go to the gold fields until rain had fallen. The Colonial Government are spending £5,000 or £6,000 on water tanks, &c., on the route to the fields.

Tasmania.—There is no opening in Tasmania for more labour than is already on the spot, and many mechanics and others are out of work. The Government are opening a Labour Office at Hobart, and are preparing to establish village or homestead settlements with the object of letting the land in lots to deserving settlers.

New Zealand.—The monthly report of the Department of Labour, dated February 20th last, may be summarised as follows:—The Building Trades are very quiet at Wellington, very dull at Auckland, fairly busy at Wanganui, exceedingly dull at Christchurch, and very good at Invercargill. The Engineering and Iron Trades show no improvement at Wellington, are employing a full number of hands at Wanganui, are very dull at Auckland, have fallen off very much at Christchurch, are very busy at Dunedin, and at Invercargill are not quite so good as in the previous month. Unskilled labourers have for the most part found plenty of work during the harvest round Auckland, Gisborne, Martinborough, Masterton, Wellington, Wanganui, Stratford, Oamaru, Dunedin, and Invercargill, but the supply of labour seems to be sufficient for the demand. At Napier trade generally has much improved, and very few local men are reported to be out of employment. At Otaki work is very slack, owing to many of the flax-mills having shut down on account of low prices. At Wanganui the meat-freezing works are in full swing, and employ a large number of men.

Cape Colony.—A report from Colesberg states "there is no demand for more mechanics, farm hands, or domestic servants"; and another from Aliwal North states, "No present demand for mechanics; domestic servants and farm hands are nearly always coloured persons." Both these towns are in the north of the colony, on the frontier of the Orange Free State.

The Unemployed in New Zealand.—According to the Journal of the New Zealand Department of Labour, the total number of persons assisted in January was 323, as compared with 156 in December. Of these 323, 216, of whom 138 were general labourers, were sent to Government works.

Occupations.	Number Assisted.	Number sent to Private Employment.	Number sent to Government Works.
General Labourers	210	72	138
Bushmen	4	3	1
Building Trades... ..	15	6	9
Miners	58	2	56
Other Occupations	36	24	12
Total, January 1894	323	107	216
Total, December 1893	156	72	84

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

The April circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office, and the new Annual Handbooks, with maps, show the present prospects of emigrants to the various British Colonies, and give full details as to the climate and characteristics of the Colonies and other information useful to intending emigrants. They are now being issued, and can be obtained on application, either personally or by letter to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W. The Handbooks are 1d. each. The Circulars are free.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Trade Disputes in March.—There were 35 fresh disputes in March. In 26 of these, for which full particulars are given, 4,997 persons were involved, two, which are still unsettled, affecting over 1,000 persons each. The results are given in 19 cases, four being successful, 10 resulting in a compromise, and five in failure. Of five disputes begun in January two are reported as ended in March, one being unsuccessful, and the other being compromised. Of 12 begun in February, five are reported as terminated, one being successful, two unsuccessful, one ending in a compromise, and the result of the remaining one being unknown. Of the disputes begun in March, eight were in the Textile Trades, including two among ropemakers, five in the Clothing Trades, four in quarries, four in the Building Trades, two in metal works, two in bakeries, two amongst watermen, and nine in Miscellaneous Trades. The largest number of persons involved in any one dispute was 1,200. These were iron and steel workers belonging to an establishment in St. Nazaire, who struck against reduced wages and for the abolition of piece work.

State of Employment in March.—The improvement in the Building Trades usually expected at the close of the winter had not taken place up to the middle of March. From numerous reports supplied by Letterpress Printers' Unions it is estimated that in Paris 9 per cent. of the trade are out of work, and in the provinces 12 per cent. Complaint is made of the excessive employment of apprentices and women at lower rates than those paid to men, especially in establishments eager to secure contracts; also of the competition created by prisons and religious houses. On the whole, business is less brisk in this trade than at the corresponding period of last year.

The working shifts of colliers in the Pas-de-Calais mining region have now resumed their normal length of 9½ hours from bank to bank. During the increased activity which succeeded the coal strike of last autumn in this district, miners had the option of working two hours extra per day. The increased output of the mines is accompanied by a considerable increase in hewers' wages.

Arbitration and Conciliation.—Three more cases of recourse to the law on Arbitration and Conciliation occurred in February in addition to the six cases already reported in the LABOUR GAZETTE for March. Of these, two were successful; in one (a strike of weavers in Thillet, department of Vosges) work was resumed a few days after a second meeting of the Conciliation Board had taken place (though no definite settlement had been arranged at the meeting), the employers' concessions being accepted. The second case, a dispute of Paris skin dyers, was settled by the Board of Conciliation without any stoppage. In the third case a Board of Conciliation convened by the *juge de paix* at Oullins at the instance of the glass workers on strike, failed to bring about any settlement.

Eight attempts at conciliation, under the law, are reported for March. In five the initiative was taken by the workers, and in the remainder by the *juges de paix*. The proffered intervention was rejected by the employers on four occasions. Two strikes of bakers at Perpignan and Périgueux, one of weavers in the Vosges, and one of quarrymen in the Haute Savoie, were satisfactorily terminated, the *juges de paix* taking the initiative in two cases, and the workmen in the other two. Some saw mill operatives on strike in la Ferte Macé (Orne), went back to work, notwithstanding the refusal of their employers to respond to the invitation of the *juge de paix*. A strike of weavers was settled by direct negotiations between the parties concerned, in the presence of the prefect of the district. Two disputes in which the intervention of the *juges de paix* was declined by the employers, remain unsettled, one being a strike of hatters at Chazelle (Haute Loire), the other a strike of 1,100 glass workers at Rive de Gier for the dismissal of a non-unionist workman and for increased wages.

* Based on information supplied by the Office du Travail.

Conseil de Prud'hommes.—On March 16th, at the instance of the Minister of Commerce, a decree was issued for the formation of a *Conseil de Prud'hommes* at Châteauroux (Indre), to consist of 12 members, elected half by employers and half by workmen belonging to two groups of trades. The first group includes the Furnishing, Watchmaking and Jewellery Trades, Cloth-making and Clothing Trades, Bakeries, Breweries and allied Trades; the second includes the Metal, Engineering, Building, Printing and Bookbinding Trades.

Higher Council of Labour.—The permanent Commission of the Council has continued the examination of various proposals for the establishment of labour councils, which may at the same time fulfil the functions of permanent boards of conciliation.

Legal Decision affecting Trade Unions.—The Lyons Court of Appeal, on March 2nd last, decided that a trade union must compensate a workman whose employer has been forced to dismiss him, owing to the trade union having declared a strike in order to enforce such dismissal.

Factory and Workshop Regulations.—On March 11th a Presidential decree was promulgated under the law of 12th June 1893 dealing with questions of health and safety of people engaged in factories, workshops and other establishments (see GAZETTE, July 1893). The decree provides, amongst other things, for the cleansing, ventilation and sanitary arrangements of factories, workshops, &c., for a certain minimum of space (about 190 cubic feet) for each person employed, for appliances for carrying off dust and noxious gases, for fencing and guarding dangerous machinery, vats, &c., for the safety of persons cleaning or oiling machinery, for precautions in the use of electric dynamos, and other matters.

GERMANY.

Disputes.—In the report furnished by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, under date of April 2nd, and supplemented by information contained in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, 24 disputes are described as having broken out in various parts of Germany in March. Three others which had begun in February were still in progress. Of those which began in March six were in the Clothing Trades (five among tailors and one among shoemakers), five among wood workers, four among metal workers, two in the Building Trades, two among weavers, the remaining five being among leather-dressers, glass workers, art pottery workers, tobacco workers, and tram servants. Eighteen of the disputes are said to have affected single firms or establishments only. In 23 cases the question of wages was involved.

Among the more noticeable of the disputes were those of the tailors of Stuttgart, Rendsburg, and Nürnberg, each affecting several establishments. In Stuttgart the demand was for increased piece rates and a 10 hours day, in Rendsburg for 15 per cent. increase of wages and no nightwork, and in Nürnberg a new price list was demanded. In Freiburg and Berlin strikes of tailors also took place, but they only affected one establishment in each case. A general strike of Berlin tailors was in contemplation at the beginning of the month to enforce payment by all employers of the rates fixed last year, and several meetings were held. At a meeting held on the 21st March it was, however, decided not to strike this year.

An attempt to settle a dispute in which 135 tailors of Kiel were engaged since February was partially successful. The employers appealed to the industrial court to act as a Board of Conciliation. Many of them, however, have refused to submit to its award, which practically conceded the tailors' demand for 17s. 6d. instead of 13s. 6d. a week in wages.

A strike of weavers at a mill in Eupen was terminated through the intervention of the Government authorities. The results of March disputes are only reported in three cases, in two of which they were unsuccessful.

Mr. Mulvany further reports that at a congress of ropemakers of Germany, held on the 24th and 25th March, a proposal to join the Textile Union was negatived.

The typesetters of Berlin have decided to suspend agitation for a nine hours' day and improved wages for the present, owing to business depression.

Free Municipal Labour Registry.—The town authorities of Esslingen have decided to open a Free Municipal Labour Registry.

Depression in Glove Trade.—The glove industry of Haynau is again in a state of depression. At one factory all the workers except four have been dismissed, while at another the whole of the workpeople are under notice.

Extension of Old Age and Invalidity Insurance.—A new category of workpeople are to come within the scope of the Old Age and Invalidity Insurance Law from July 2nd next. By an Order of the Federal Council dated March 1st, and published in the official *Reichsanzeiger*, small master weavers and workers in knitted goods working to the order of manufacturers, merchants, &c., must subscribe to the Old Age and Invalidity Insurance Fund, and pay half the premiums of those whom they employ. Half the expenses so incurred must be refunded to the weaver by the manufacturer or merchant for whatever period the weaver has been working for him; but for the intervals during which the weaver works on his own account, he must himself bear the full cost of his own insurance and half that of his men.

Restriction of Sunday Work on State Railways.—Instructions were issued in November last by the Prussian Minister of Public Works to the various Prussian State railway administrations directing them to stop all goods traffic on Sundays and holidays on their lines, in so far as circumstances would permit. No reduction in the men's wages is to be made. This action is due to the report recently made by a committee appointed by the Minister in 1891 to inquire into the possibility of suspending the goods traffic on State railways on Sundays and holidays.

The report showed that complete stoppage would involve an immediate outlay of over £2,000,000, chiefly on new rolling stock, but this would be avoided if the rule for stoppage were suspended during the busiest time of the year and in cases of emergency. The report states that out of 52,278 persons in the goods traffic branch, 27,039 already had free Sundays and holidays.

SWITZERLAND.

The following is a summary of a report by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, dated March 30th, and based on notes by Herr Greulich, the Swiss workmen's secretary:—

Disputes.—Several strikes are in progress in Switzerland, and more are preparing. At Bettlach, in the watchmaking district, 140 workmen are on strike, owing to a reduction of wages. In Berne 200 tailors stopped work, demanding an increase of wages and shorter working hours. Among the workmen employed in the Building Trades, the painters have been the first to strike, in order to obtain the 9 hours day, but the painters and plasterers of Berne have decided not to join the movement. Of about 530 workmen 425 take part. The strike is said to be likely to be unsuccessful, the agitation for the 9 hours day meeting with great resistance.

In Lausanne the smiths and wheelwrights are striking for shorter hours and higher wages.

Many of the workmen in the Brewing Trade are said to work hard for long hours at a low rate of wages. Until two years ago they had no trade organisation. They have now obtained from most of the brewers in the Canton of Zürich, after long negotiations, a 10 hours day—between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.; minimum wages of 60 centimes (6d.) an hour; overtime and night work 25 per cent. extra; every other Sunday and the 1st of May free.

Demands of Workmen in the Building Trades.—The carpenters are demanding 9 hours work at 60 centimes (6d.) an hour; 50 per cent. extra for making piers or water constructions and for overtime; their labour bureau to be recognised and made use of, and an industrial board of arbitration to be introduced in case of disputes. The demands of the plasterers are the same, except that they only want 50 centimes (5d.) an hour.

In the case of the masons the negotiations will probably lead to nothing, and a strike will be the result.

According to a census taken this winter by the commission for the unemployed, the Building Trades employed last summer 6,500 workmen, of whom 4,300 were Italians and Tyrolese. Of these 6,500 workmen, about 4,000 are masons and masons' hodmen. The Masons' Trade Union, however, has hardly 400 members. The spread of organisation in this trade is specially difficult, as so many of the workmen arrive in the spring and leave at the beginning of winter, while the difference of language is a great bar to intercourse.

Swiss Trade Unions.—The annual report of the Swiss Trades Unions League has just appeared. It shows that there are now 9,450 paying members, who compose 12 central unions with 197 sections and 63 independent sections. The League's reserve fund for strikes amounts to 32,000 francs (£1,280). From the report we learn further that, in the years 1892 and 1893, 34 movements for a rise of wages took place, of which 13 were successful, 15 produced insignificant results, and 6 were entirely unsuccessful. The sum of 17,000 francs (£680) was spent, an amount quite out of proportion to the results obtained. All the struggles were of slight importance, and lasted only a short time. Their want of success was not to be attributed to insufficient funds, but to the impossibility, in every case, of obtaining anything by a strike.

Regulation of Crafts.—On March 4th the Swiss people rejected by 153,000 to 133,000 the article in the constitution, which was to empower the Confederation to frame a craft law (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March). The voting has again proved that federalism exists much more extensively in Switzerland than is often supposed.

Factory Inspection.—The number of industrial establishments coming under the Federal Factory Law on December 31st, 1893, was 4,753, with 190,400 workers. There are seven factory inspectors, by whom in the course of last year 5,223 visits were made to factories.—*Schweizerische Blätter für Wirtschafts- und Socialpolitik.*

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Proposed Austrian Labour Department.—A Bill has been introduced into the Reichsrath by the Minister of Commerce for the establishment of a Labour Department in Austria as a branch of the Ministry of Commerce or Board of Trade.

The duties of the department are to be the collection and publication of statistics relating to labour; but mining, forestry and agriculture, are to be excluded from its province.

The officers of the department are to have compulsory powers of examining wage books and other documents kept in factories and works, and are to be empowered to visit such establishments at any time when work is in progress.

The co-operation of State and Communal Authorities, Chambers of Commerce, Co-operative and Friendly Societies, Industrial Courts, Courts of Arbitration and Workmen's Insurance Offices is made obligatory, and provision is made for conferring by decree any further powers which may be found necessary by the Labour Department in future.

Employers are to be subject to fines for failure to comply with the requirements of the department; and officers of the department are also to be liable to penalties for divulging any information acquired officially.

Disputes.—Accounts of 17 fresh disputes in Austria-Hungary in March, and of 3 continued from the previous month, were published in the *Arbeiter Zeitung* during March. Of the fresh disputes 11 took place in Vienna. Metal workers were engaged in 7 out of the 16 recorded. One of the most important was a strike of 1,200 men employed in two lamp factories in Vienna. Their chief demand is for a 9-hours working day, and the men in both factories have asked the factory inspector to intervene.

Another important dispute was among the employees of the New Vienna Tramway Company. It had long been in contemplation, and began on the 13th March, owing to the company's refusal to concede the demands of the men including a net working day of 9½ hours, the division of the men into three classes with graduated scales of pay, and the organisation of a pension fund, to which the men were prepared to contribute.

On the 27th the strike was reported at an end, the men being defeated, and from 40 to 100 being thrown out of work. The failure of the strike is ascribed to the engagement by the company of outside men and to the partial substitution of steam for horses.

The men, numbering about 1,600, employed by the Imperial Continental Gas Association (an English enterprise) in Vienna, struck on March 29th, owing to the dismissal of one of the men and the rumoured intention of the company to dismiss others. The men's places were at once filled, and no interruption of public lighting occurred. The resumption of work at a branch establishment on the 5th is said to have discouraged the men, a deputation of whom waited on the Mayor, in the presence of whom and of a member of the Reichsrath arrangements were agreed to for reinstating the men if work were resumed, and on the 6th the strike ended. The company are said, however, to have insisted on a separate application in writing from each man, which is dealt with on its own merits. On April 7th 1,000 men were said to be out of work.

Of the 3 disputes continued from February 2 were reported at an end, 1 terminating partially in favour of the workers, and the result of the other being unknown.

ITALY.

Miners out of Work.—From Siena it is reported that the mines at Boccheggiano have been compelled to close, thus throwing 1,400 miners out of work. It is stated in the *Lotta di Classe* that this was due to the proprietors of the surrounding lands demanding compensation for damage done through the gases generated by the heating of the ores.

Disputes.—The same paper reports two disputes as being in progress, one among the tailors of Bolzano for increased wages and a ten hours day, the other among railway workers at Verona, of whom 400 have struck against an alteration in the constitution of their Friendly Society Fund. They also demand increased wages.

SWEDEN.

The following particulars are based on a report dated March 30th, furnished by Sir Spenser St. John, H.M. Minister at Stockholm:—

The Unemployed in Stockholm.—In January, in consequence of urgent demands for work from the unemployed, the Stockholm Municipality voted a sum of £2,778, in addition to £2,333 (which is annually allotted for minor street alterations), for the purpose of giving work to unemployed men who had rights of domicile in the city. The committee appointed for the purpose gave preference to married men, and to those who had been previously employed by the municipality. 1,348 names of applicants were inscribed on the register in three days, of whom 831 were stated to be married. The committee paid from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 7½d. a day to stonebreakers, and 2½d. an hour for other work, such as blasting, excavating, moving stones, clearing rough ground, &c. All men thus employed in extra work, except stonebreakers, were limited to eight hours' work a day. On February 25th the committee reported that 787 out of the above men were being employed. About half those who entered their names had accepted work, and after five weeks the places of the remainder were partly filled by men who had since made application, 306 in number. Several who began work stopped after a few days. Those breaking stones were specially irregular, most of them only earning from 3s. 3d. to 5s. 5d. a week. It is said that the municipality have accumulated sufficient broken stones to last for several years. This is due to the fact that of late years there have been large numbers of unemployed each winter, principally men who have come to Stockholm during the speculative building period of the last decade, and have now become domiciled there. The period of building activity was followed by a reaction, but not only have the workmen remained in Stockholm, but the idea has got abroad in the country that persons unemployed or not satisfied at home can find work in the capital. In spite of efforts to prevent the influx, fears are expressed lest the artificially created employment given by the municipality during the last few winters, together with the assistance given by charitable societies, may tend to draw more unemployed individuals to Stockholm in future winters.

Allotments.—A plan has been started at Malmö for

providing 350 small allotments for workmen. Hitherto the allotment system has not been tried in Sweden.

A congress of Socialists was held at Gothenburg towards the end of March.

No strikes are reported as now in progress.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO DISTRICT.

The following information has been supplied by Colonel J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of March 22nd:—

Employment and Wages.—In some respects an improvement has taken place in the labour market during the past month, and from time to time undertakings which shut down last summer are resuming operations. There are, however, thousands of persons still out of work in different trades, and it will probably be months yet before the unemployed are absorbed and the prevalent distress disappears, which the relief associations have been with difficulty able to meet.

The Illinois Steel Works at South Chicago, which had been idle since September last, and had only afforded occasional employment to a few hundred men during the winter, have started with a full complement of men, and a staff of more than 3,000 men were engaged on the 19th of March. Wages, which are determined by a sliding scale, have, however, been reduced 33½ per cent., in order to meet the price of rails, which have fallen in the open market from 30 dols. to 20 dols. Common labourers at the works now receive 1'00 dol. a day instead of 1'25 dol.; men who were paid 2'00 dols. a day now receive 1'44 dol., and watchmen 42'00 dols. a month instead of 65'00 dols. The same scale of reduction is made throughout, and in some occupations wages in September last were as high as 4'00 dols., 5'00 dols. and 6'00 dols. a day. The terms are accepted by the men, amongst whom there has been considerable distress during the winter.

In the mining districts of Colorado and Montana the mines are embarrassed by the low prices of silver and lead, and employers are dissatisfied over the question of wages. Though smelter owners have reduced charges to the lowest figure so that mine owners may continue at work, operations are limited.

Disputes.—The strike of union carpenters at the Stock Exchange Building at Chicago, reported last month, has terminated in favour of the men, who appear to have been assisted by a sympathetic strike of men in other branches of the Building Trade. It was settled that the wages were to be placed at a minimum of 35 cents per hour, no discrimination was to be made, all strikers returning to their respective positions, and all carpenters employed, including foremen, to be members of the union, the superintendent alone excepted. A few other strikes have occurred in different parts of the district, but have generally been amicably settled. At Cripple Creek, in Colorado, a rather serious strike of miners occurred, and troops were sent to the spot, but the men resumed work on the eight-hours shift system being adopted.

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.

Captain R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, reports as follows, under date of March 27th:—

General Trade.—There continues a steady increase in the volume of manufacture, but the progress is slow, and prices are low; the number of unemployed workmen, however, has decreased very considerably.

Iron and Steel.—The principal works at Pittsburgh are now nearly all running on a fair proportion of time, and many industries which had been closed have lately been re-opened. The output of coke has increased very considerably; the Connellsville coke region, which is the principal one in the country, had gained by the first week of this month 20,500 tons weekly output, of which 15,000 was gained after February 1st, and 3,000 during the first week of March. At recent prices it is expected that pig-iron can be produced very cheaply. Many workmen have

been given re-employment. Some difficulty is being experienced with reference to wages, as different wage rates are prevailing in various mills, and a settlement is desired on the basis of a uniform rate. The low rates of wages have caused some local strikes, but none of magnitude.*

Mining.—The reductions in wages in the coal mines have caused an unsettled feeling among the miners in portions of this consular district, but agreements, for the present at any rate, are being made, and the men are returning to work. In Michigan the condition of the miners has so much improved that the relief committee resigned early in March.

Glass.—The plate glass business is said to be improving, but prices are low. The company, which by cutting prices caused the dissolution of the plate glass combination, having now failed, it is considered possible that the other companies may again combine. The strike, which has been in force now for nearly nine months in the Flint Glass Trade, continues. Non-union men are said to continue to make application for membership of the union. The ranks of the union men remain unbroken, and the business rivals of the big trust are profiting in the markets by its inactivity.

Legal Decisions.—The first suit has occurred under the Employees' Liability Act of 1893 of Indiana. The law seeks to make a co-employee liable as a vice-principal where injury occurs without negligence on the part of the company. The jury found that a workman, who lost an arm on the railroad, is entitled to recover £1,000 damages from the company.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING MARCH, 1894.

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

- I.—SEVEN TRADE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—**
 Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Labourers' Society (London, E.C.).
 National Union of Operative Bakers and Confectioners of Great Britain and Ireland (London, E.C.).
 Operative Brickmakers' Society for Nottingham and District.
 Birkenhead Bricklayers Labourers' Society.
 Local Operative Carpenters and Joiners' Friendly and Trade Society (Northampton).
 Optical Workers and Spectacle Frame Makers' Union (London, E.C.).
 Amalgamated Cornice Pole Workers' Trade Union (London, N.).

- II.—TWO EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS REGISTERED:—**
 Wigan and District Milk Dealers' Association.
 Tunbridge Wells and District Dairymen's Association.

- III.—TWO INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—**
 Evesham Industrial Co-operative Society, Limited.
 Tibshelf Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited.

IV.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

(a) *New Societies:—*

Ordinary Friendly Societies	...	9
Specially Authorised Societies	...	6
Dividing Societies	...	3
Benevolent Societies	...	1
(b) New Branches of Existing Societies:—		
Ancient Shepherds	...	11
I.O. Oddfellows, M.U.	...	7
A.O. Foresters	...	5
G.U.O. Oddfellows	...	2
I.O. Rechabites, S.U.	...	3
Various others	...	12

V.—SOCIETIES DISSOLVED DURING MARCH, 1894:—

Industrial and Provident Societies dissolved	...	2
Friendly Societies Ordinary	...	6
Dividing	...	3
Building Societies	...	11

THE NAVY.†

New Ships.—In the coming financial year it is proposed to commence seven battleships of the first class, six cruisers of the second class, and two sloops. The sloops and five of the battleships are to be built in the dockyards, the six cruisers and two of the battleships by contract in private yards.

* Since the report was written a serious strike has broken out, affecting, it is said, 10,000 coke workers in the Connellsville region. It was begun on April 2nd by order of the United Mineworkers. A branch of this union was organised in the district on March 26th, when it was resolved to invite the coke manufacturers to a conference, to be held on the 26th of the month, with a view to bringing about a uniform rate of wage. The number of coke workers in Connellsville is said to be about 12,000, of whom 4,000 belong to the new organisation. According to reports from the district published in the English Press the strike is being attended by serious rioting, accompanied by loss of life. The strikers include a large number of Hungarians and other foreigners.

† Navy Estimates for 1894-95. PP. 5 of 1894. Price 3s. 6d. Statement explanatory of the Navy Estimates. (C.—7,295.) Price 1½d.

There will thus be building during the year eight first-class battleships, three second-class cruisers, and four sloops in the dockyards, and two first-class battleships, two first-class cruisers, six second-class cruisers and thirty-six torpedo boat destroyers in private yards. The new scheme of construction for 1894-95 forms part of a complete programme which has been arranged for a term of five years.

Men.—The published statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty explanatory of the Navy estimates for 1894-95 gives 76,700 as the net estimate of the numbers of officers, seamen, boys, coastguards and Royal Marines in 1893-94. A force of 83,400 is proposed for the coming year, being an increase of 6,700. About 1,600 of this increase is supplied automatically, as the boys from the training ships (3,700 of whom are entered annually) are drafted into the service. It is proposed to enter 800 seamen direct from the Mercantile Marine and other sources. The number of the engineering artificers is to be increased by 350, and the increase desired in the number of stokers amounts to 2,450. It is also proposed to repeat the increase of 500 made last year in the Royal Marines.

Loss of Life at Sea.—The number of masters and seamen on merchant vessels registered in the United Kingdom who lost their lives by wreck, drowning, or other accident in 1892 is given in a Parliamentary Paper* prepared by the Board of Trade as 1,835, of whom 1,607 were drowned. These figures are somewhat lower than in 1891, when 1,892 lives of seamen were lost from the above causes, 1,659 of the number being drowned. The proportion which the number of lives lost bore to the number of men employed was, in 1892, on sailing vessels 1 in 62 and on steam 1 in 193, while in 1891 it was 1 in 59 on sailing vessels and 1 in 188 on steam. In addition to the deaths of members of the crew, 98 passengers lost their lives in 1892 through wreck, 67 being on steam vessels and 31 on sailing. The number in 1891 reached the heavy total of 578, due to the loss of 555 persons in the steamship "Utopia," in collision with H.M.S. "Anson."

Changes in Address of Factory Inspectors.—The following alterations have occurred in the addresses of Factory Inspectors published on page 204 of the December issue and page 32 of the January issue of the GAZETTE:—

- T. O. Edwards, Esq. (new address), 17 Pembroke-terrace, Cardiff.
 C. F. Wright, Esq. (new address), Rosslyn, Worcester-street, Stourbridge.
 Capt. J. F. Bevan (new address), St. Clement's-lodge, Carlton-hill, Nottingham.
 J. H. Rogers, Esq. (new address), 31 St. John's-street, Longsight, Manchester.
 J. Law, Esq. (new address), 18 Stephenson-terrace, Deepdale-road, Preston.
 T. C. Butler, Esq. (new address), Home Office, London.
 A. H. Parkinson, Esq. (new address), 4A Bon Accord-terrace, Union-street, Aberdeen.

ERRATUM.—With reference to the account of the relief works at Leeds, given at page 78 of last month's issue, the rate quoted should have been 3d. per hour.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL FOR APRIL 1894.

Board of Trade Notices. State of the Skilled Labour Market, &c. Correspondence Relative to the Payment of Increased Railway Rates. The Russo-German Commercial Treaty. Commercial Enterprise in Germany. The Results of a Protectionist Policy in Spain. The Effect of the Fluctuation in the Value of the Dollar on the Chinese Tea Trade. Seal Fishing in Japanese Waters. The Development of Mozambique. Comparative Importance of the Mexican Gulf Ports. The Foreign Trade of British India. Regulations for the Navigation of the Suez Canal. Tariff Modifications in Switzerland and Norway. Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations. Extracts from Diplomatic and Consular Reports. General Trade Notes. Recent Trade Blue Books. Proceedings of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. Quarantine and Post Office Notices. Statistical Tables and List of Diplomatic, Consular and Colonial Office Reports.

The Board of Trade Journal may be purchased through any bookseller. Price 6d.

* P. P. 32, of 1894. Price 4d.

NOTICE.

Communications respecting the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to:—

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 43 Parliament Street, London, S.W.

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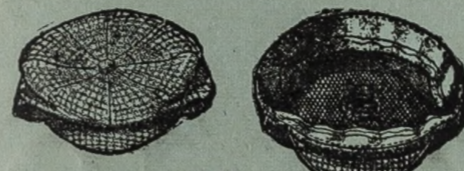
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