

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

Vol. XIV.—No. 6.]

JUNE, 1906.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

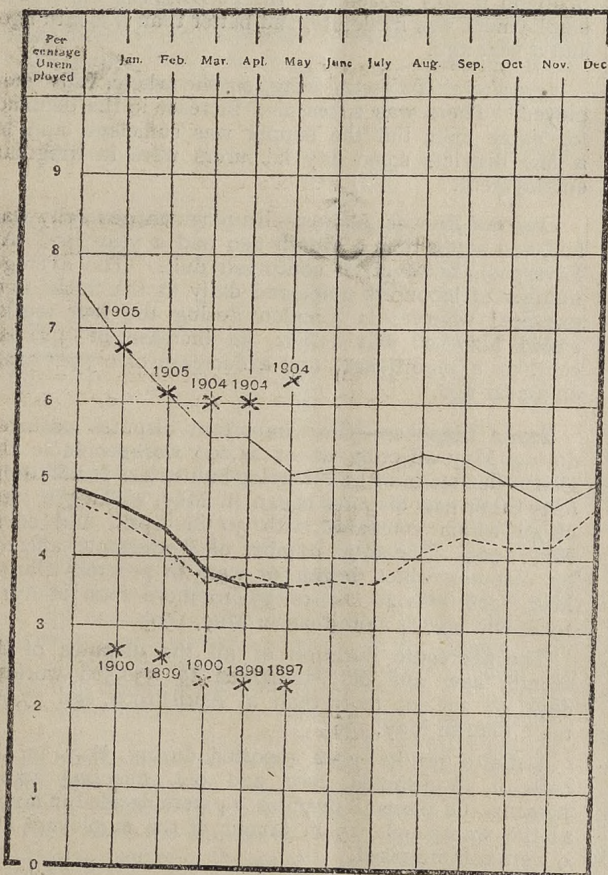


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve=1906. Thin Curve=1905.  
Dotted Curve=Mean of 1896-1905.

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

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MAY.

[Based on 8,013 returns, viz.: 3,911 from Employers and their Associations; 3,574 from Trade Unions; 456 from Local Correspondents; and 72 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in May showed little change compared with the previous month. In the engineering, tinplate, building and textile trades generally there was some improvement, while there was a slight decline in the coal mining, iron and steel, and shipbuilding industries.

Compared with a year ago employment in all the principal industries showed an improvement; there was a decline in the tinplate trade.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 590,919, making Returns, 21,080 (or 3.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, the same percentage as in April, 1906. The percentage unemployed at the end of May, 1905, was 5.1.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in the building trades was quiet generally except with painters, who were well employed. It was better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry was fairly good. It showed some decline compared with April, but was better than a year ago.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago.

**Fig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 24,500 workpeople, showed that 342 furnaces were in blast at the end of May, being the same number as at the end of the previous month, and 20 more than in May, 1905.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works in May continued to decline slightly, but was considerably better than a year ago. The volume of employment at 189 works from which Returns have been received was 0.6 per cent. less in the week ended May 26th, 1906, than in the week ended April 28, 1906, but 7.0 per cent. greater than a year ago.

**Tinplate and Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment during May was better than in April, but not so good as a year ago. According to Returns received, 415 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of May, as compared with 394 in April, and 428 a year ago.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment generally continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of May was 2.5, as compared with 2.7 at the end of the previous month, and 5.1 in May, 1905.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment continued good in the principal shipbuilding centres, but showed a slight decline compared with the previous month. It remained considerably better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 6.0, as compared with 5.1 at the end of April and 11.1 at the end of May, 1905.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 136,189 workpeople in the last week of May showed an increase of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 7.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 26,470 workpeople in the last week in May showed



an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,693 workpeople during the last week in May showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Flax (Linen) Trade.**—Employment continued fairly good. It was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,262 workpeople during the last full week in May showed increases in the amount of wages paid of 3.3 per cent. as compared with April, and of 4.5 per cent. compared with May, 1905.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment in this industry continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,354 workpeople in the last week of May showed an increase in the amount of wages paid of 10 per cent. compared with May, 1905. Compared with a month ago no change was shown.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment was rather better than a month ago, and decidedly better than a year ago. Firms employing 9,285 workpeople in the last week of May showed an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment in this industry continued fairly good on the whole, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,917 workpeople at the end of May showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the last week in April, and of 13.5 per cent. as compared with the last week in May, 1905.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment was fairly good in England, good in Scotland. It was better than a year ago. Firms employing 17,536 workpeople in the last week of May showed an increase of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 7.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke* branch was fairly good in London, good in the Provinces. In the *ready-made* branch it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Hat Trades.**—Employment in the *Silk Hat* branch showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was fair; it was generally worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of May in the *Silk Hat* trade was 10.7, compared with 13.6 at the end of April, and 10.7 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 4.0, 4.7, and 1.9.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—The improvement in employment was maintained, and it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 69,143 workpeople in the last week of May, showed, as compared with a month ago, a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed an increase of 2.9 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 4.0 per cent.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment showed some improvement compared with a month ago, and considerable improvement compared with a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,665 had 5.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, compared with 5.7 per cent. in April, and 7.5 per cent. in May, 1905.

**Papermaking Trades.**—Employment remained good, and was rather better than a year ago.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment in these trades continued quiet, but was better, on the whole, than a month ago and a year ago. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 4.7, as compared with 5.2 in April, and 5.0 in May, 1905. In the bookbinding trades the percentages were 5.1 for May, 1906; 5.9 for April, 1906; and 7.4 for May, 1905.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment continued fair, and was about the same as a month ago. It was slightly better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 3.6, as compared with 3.3 at the end of April, 1906, and 4.1 at the end of May, 1905.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment generally was moderate, but showed an improvement compared with the previous month. It was better than a year ago.

**Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.**—In the *Pottery* trade employment continued fairly good in England; in Scotland it was moderate. In the *Brick and Tile* trades employment was moderate, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

**Agricultural Labourers** were, on the whole, fully employed. There was a seasonal increase in the demand for extra men, but the supply was sufficient, and in a few districts some day labourers were in irregular employment.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment generally was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Liverpool, however, it continued dull. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended May 26 was 11,971, an increase of 3.7 per cent. on a month ago, and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. on a year ago.

**Trade Disputes.**—Two important disputes occurred during May affecting about 24,000 workpeople in the Belfast flax spinning and weaving industries. In addition, forty other new disputes began in May, making a total of 42 which compares with 30 in April, and 26 in May, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during May, 1906, was 48,122, or 35,410 more than in April, 1906, and 29,894 more than in May, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 330,500 working days, or 202,000 more than in April, 1906, and 77,900 more than in May, 1905.

Definite results were reported during May in the case of 38 disputes, new and old, affecting 40,237 persons. Of these 38 disputes, 14 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 15 in favour of the employers, and 9 were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The principal change in wages reported in May was an increase of 2½ per cent. on standard rates affecting 150,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The total number of persons affected by all changes reported was nearly 170,800, and the net effect of the changes was an increase of £4,100 per week, nearly 170,400 workpeople having received advances amounting to about £4,130 per week, and only about 400 having sustained decreases amounting to £30 per week. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 403,100 workpeople, the net result being an increase of about £11,800 per week. During May, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was nearly 161,600, and the net result a decrease of over £6,550 per week.

One change, affecting the 150,000 coal miners referred to above, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and nine changes, affecting nearly 12,400 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 8,400 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, six of these changes, affecting 200 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

### LABOUR DISPUTES IN GERMANY, 1905.\*

THE number of labour disputes which occurred in Germany during 1905 showed a marked increase on the preceding year, and reached a higher point than in any year since 1899, when the statistics were first compiled by the Imperial Statistical Office. The number of disputes which came to an end during the year was 2,657, of which 2,403 were strikes and 254 lock-outs, as compared with 1,990 in 1904, 1,444 in 1903, 1,106 in 1902, and 1,091 in 1901. Thus the increase in 1905 as compared with 1904 was 667, or 33.5 per cent.

The number of workpeople affected increased in an even more remarkable degree, being nearly four times as great as in the previous year. In 1905 the number of persons who struck work was 408,145, and the number locked out by employers was 118,665, but in addition 12,015 also had to cease work on account of strikes, and in the same way 3,739 were indirectly affected by lock-outs, giving a total of 542,564 directly and indirectly affected. The corresponding totals for each of the four preceding years were 145,480 in 1904, 135,522 in 1903, 70,606 in 1902, and 68,191 in 1901.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople affected directly and indirectly by strikes and lock-outs in each group of trades in 1905, the corresponding total for 1904 being added for purposes of comparison:—

Group of Trades.	1905.			Corresponding Total for 1904.
	Strikes.	Lock-outs.	Total.	
Building ... ..	66,565	20,502	87,067	66,883
Mining, Smelting, Salt, &c. ... ..	232,425	...	232,425	5,477
Metal and Engineering ... ..	32,937	61,507	94,534	16,110
Textile ... ..	13,072	25,315	38,387	10,681
Clothing and Cleaning ... ..	25,053	4,547	30,500	3,820
Transport ... ..	3,935	...	3,935	4,471
Printing and Paper ... ..	2,920	13	2,933	2,731
Pottery and Chemical ... ..	7,659	2,138	9,797	11,446
Woodworking ... ..	18,257	5,424	23,681	14,013
Food Preparation ... ..	5,422	1,157	6,579	7,821
Leather ... ..	4,759	794	5,553	957
Commerce ... ..	5,793	512	6,295	1,288
Other ... ..	533	...	533	102
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>420,160</b>	<b>122,404</b>	<b>542,564</b>	<b>145,480</b>

It will be seen that nearly one-half the persons affected by disputes in 1905, viz., 232,425 out of 542,564, were employed in the mining industry; this was principally due to the great strike of coal miners in the Ruhr district at the beginning of the year.

The number of workpeople affected by disputes in the metal and engineering, the textile, and in the clothing and cleaning trades was also much above the average. In consequence of these increases, the numbers affected in the building trades, which during the previous five years had averaged nearly 40 per cent. of the total, formed only 16 per cent. of the total in 1905, notwithstanding that the number affected in that group of trades was 31 per cent. greater than in 1904. There has been a large increase in disputes in the building trades each year since 1901, when the number of workpeople affected was only about a quarter of the number in 1905.

Compared with 1904 it will be seen that the numbers affected in 1905 showed a decrease in the transport, pottery and chemical, and food preparation groups, and an increase in the remaining groups. The largest increase was, as might be expected, in the mining industry, viz., 226,948, while the greatest decrease took place in the pottery and chemical trades, viz., 1,629.

The results of the 2,657 disputes of 1905 show that, as regards the strikes, 528 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 904 in favour of the employers, while 971 were compromised; in the case of the lock-outs 42 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 65 in favour of the employers, 147 being compromised. Taking the percentages of strikes and lock-outs together, it appears that in 1905 the workpeople were successful in 27.4 per cent. of the disputes, and the employers in 36.5 per cent., compromises being effected in 42.1 per cent. The corresponding percentages for 1904 were 24.7 in favour of the workpeople, 39.1 in favour of the employers, and 36.2 in compromises.

\* Based on an article in *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the Journal of the German Labour Department) for May, 1906.

### RECENT CONCILIATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

#### London Coopering Trade.

DIFFERENCES having arisen between the London Master Coopers' Association and the United Society of Coopers respecting the list of prices to be paid for work done by members of the latter society, it was agreed on May 11th to refer all questions in difference to the arbitration of the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board. The arbitrators appointed by the Board issued their award on May 18th, deciding (1) that members of the London Master Coopers' Association are entitled to deduct from payments to members of the United Society of Coopers for work done by them a sum equal to 5 per cent. below the prices specified in the printed price list, and the award of June 21st, 1900 (*see GAZETTE*, July, 1900, p. 198); and (2) that the foregoing reduction of 5 per cent. is not to be taken into account in connection with allowances made to master coopers by journeymen coopers for machine-made heads, which shall in all respects be determined by the terms of the award of November 21st, 1900 (*see GAZETTE*, December, 1900, p. 359).

As in the previous awards, it is provided that future disputes shall be referred to the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board, and that six months' notice shall be given of the termination of the award.

In view of statements made in the course of the proceedings, the arbitrators recommend that efforts be made by the parties to invite the co-operation of all other associations of employers and employed in the London cooperage trade in the establishment of a recognised list of prices and of conditions of employment, which shall be applicable to the trade as a whole.

#### Newspaper Distributors in London.

On April 25th 47 cyclists employed by the "Star" Newspaper Company in the distribution of copies of that journal struck work for an advance of wages and other alterations in the conditions of employment. Subsequently the matter was submitted to the arbitration of Messrs. James O'Grady, M.P., D. J. Shackleton, M.P., and John Ward, M.P., who decided that the whole of the men should be reinstated on May 12th, and the questions in dispute be considered between the representatives of the firm and the officials of the men's Union. On May 15th an agreement was arrived at by the parties providing for an advance of wages, the terms to remain binding until November 30th, 1908.

#### Weekly Pays: Clyde Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.

After a year's trial of weekly payments of wages in the engineering and shipbuilding trades in the Clyde district, the employers in May, 1900, discontinued the system and reverted to fortnightly pays (*see GAZETTE* for December, 1898, page 358, and May, 1900, page 155). In 1905 the workpeople resolved again to approach the employers on the question, and conferences were held between the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association and the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association, and representatives of the General Federation of Trade Unions and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. At first the employers declined to make the proposed change. A ballot of the men was taken which showed 16,069 in favour of striking, if necessary, to enforce weekly pays, and 2,728 against. Further negotiations ensued, the employers offering to grant weekly pays on certain conditions in regard to the steps to be taken to deal with bad timekeepers. These conditions not being acceptable, the men notified their intention to cease work on June 2nd unless a satisfactory reply was made to their demand before May 19th.

On May 18th the employers replied that they had resolved to pay wages weekly, the change to come into operation after the Glasgow Fair Holidays. They pointed out that they were not opposed to the payment of wages weekly, their objection being the injurious



effect which they alleged the system had on the time-keeping of a certain section of their workmen, and they intimated that arrangements were being made for a careful record of the timekeeping of the men complained of.

### TRADE UNIONS IN AUSTRIA IN 1905.

SINCE the year 1901, statistics relating to the membership, &c., of Trade Unions in Austria have been published annually by the Central Trade Union Commission (*Gewerkschafts-Kommission*) at Vienna. Those for 1905\* have recently appeared in *Die Gewerkschaft*, the journal of the Commission. The report has hitherto included, in addition to the Trade Unions in particular trades, a number of "general unions" not confined to any one trade, and "trade clubs" (educational associations possessing Trade Union functions to a greater or less degree). This year the second and third groups have been excluded, those in the first only being considered as Trade Unions proper.

The figures for 1905 show that since 1901 the number of "central" unions has increased from 32 to 47, and the number of "local" unions from 1,273 to 2,964. On the other hand the "district" unions show a decrease from 266 to 100. The total number of organisations has therefore increased from 1,571 in 1901 to 3,111 in 1905. During the same period the total membership has risen from 119,050 to 323,099.

During the year 1905, 244,674 persons joined the Trade Union organisations, while 110,696 ceased to be members, giving a net additional increase in membership of 133,978 on December 31st last, as compared with the same date of the previous year, or an increase of 70·8 per cent. in the twelve months.

Of the 323,099 members at the end of 1905, 294,697, or 91·2 per cent., were males, and 28,402, or 8·8 per cent., females. The increase in the female membership in 1905 was very marked, amounting to 15,347.

The total receipts of the Trade Unions in 1905 amounted to £193,405, and the total expenditure to £159,573; in the preceding year the corresponding totals were £141,374 and £125,173 respectively. Receipts for the provision of strike funds and expenditure in the form of dispute pay are not included in these totals. The receipts consisted chiefly of ordinary contributions of members, which amounted to £168,622 in 1905. The total expenditure was made up of the following items: unemployment benefit, £30,580; travelling benefit, £4,923; sick pay, £19,753; infirmity pay, £6,641; funeral benefit, £4,395; payments in cases of special distress, £5,887; legal defence, £2,912; cost of journal, £23,619; educational objects, £5,418; propaganda and organisation, £15,082; salaries and wages, £12,904; other costs of administration, £12,706; other expenses, £14,753.

The following Table classifies the members of Trade Unions at the end of 1905 into groups of trades:—

Group of Trades.	No. of Members.	Group of Trades.	No. of Members.
Building Trades ... ..	45,418	Woodworking and Furnishing Trades	26,915
Mining and Quarrying ...	17,749	Glass, Pottery, &c. Trades	11,000
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	61,062	Food and Tobacco Trades	17,388
Textile Trades ... ..	31,457	Leather Trades ... ..	6,211
Clothing Trades ... ..	17,042	Shop Assistants ... ..	4,716
Transport ... ..	58,741	Clerks, Warehousemen, &c.	1,270
Agricultural Labour and Forestry	1,050	Home Workers (Females)	939
Printing and Bookbinding Trades	20,401	Other Trades... ..	6,680
Paper and Allied Trades and Chemical Trades	15,072	Total ... ..	323,099

Of the total membership, 18·9 per cent. are workpeople in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 14·1 per cent. in the building trades, 12·0 per cent. in the transport trades, 9·7 per cent. in the textile trades, and 8·3 per cent. in the woodworking and furnishing trades.

It is estimated that, of the total population of 16 years of age and over engaged in industrial occupations, as shown by the latest census returns, 14 per cent. belong to Trade Union organisations.

\* Stärke und Leistungsfähigkeit der Gewerkschaften Oesterreichs im Jahre 1905. Die Gewerkschaft, May 25th, 1906.

### MINING AND QUARRYING IN 1905.\*

#### Coal Mining.

THE steady increase both in the numbers employed and in output at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts which has been shown in recent years was maintained during 1905. According to the statistics just published for 1905, the figures for that year proved the greatest on record in both these respects. Compared with the previous year, the total number employed in 1905 showed an increase of about 1·3 per cent. and the output of coal of 1·6 per cent. The accident death rate showed an increase in 1905 due to a serious explosion of fire damp at one colliery, causing the death of over 100 persons.

The following Table shows the total number of persons employed above and below ground at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, the accident death-rates, and the output of coal for the period 1901-5:—

Year.	Total Persons employed.	Accident Death Rate per 1,000 persons employed.	Output of Coal.
1901	806,735	1·56	219,037,240
1902	824,791	1·24	227,034,871
1903	842,066	1·27	230,324,295
1904	847,553	1·24	232,411,784
1905	858,373	1·35	236,111,150

Of the 858,373 persons working at the mines under the Coal Mines Act, 691,112, or over 80 per cent., were employed below ground. Of the 167,261 surface workers, 5,929, or 3·54 per cent., were females. There was an increase of 416 females as compared with 1904. The number of young persons under 16 employed below ground in these mines was 43,912, or 6·35 per cent. of the underground workers, while the total number of surface and underground workers under 16 was 60,058, or 7 per cent. of all workers.

All the inspection districts but three showed an increase over 1904 as regards numbers employed, the principal increases being in the Newcastle, Durham, and East Scotland districts. There was a trifling decrease in the West Scotland, Manchester and Ireland, and the Liverpool and North Wales districts.

Including 17,786 tons obtained from quarries, the total output of coal was 236,128,936 tons, an increase of 1·6 per cent. on the previous year. Eight of the inspection districts showed an increase in output over the previous year, the highest being in the Midland, York and Lincoln, Newcastle and Durham districts. Four districts, viz., Cardiff, Liverpool and North Wales, Southern District and West Scotland, showed a decrease in output as compared with 1904.

There were 953 separate fatal accidents in 1905, causing 1,159 deaths, or a decrease of 54 accidents, and an increase of 104 deaths over 1904. Of the 1,159 persons killed, 87 were under 16 years of age. The accident death rate among underground workers was 1·49 per 1,000 employed, compared with 1·34 in 1904; and among surface workers 0·75 per 1,000, compared with 0·85 in the previous year.

#### Other Mining and Quarrying.

The figures given under these heads relate to mines under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts, i.e., all mines not included under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, and to quarries under the Quarries Act, 1894, which excludes quarries less than 20 feet deep. For the purposes of comparison the following Table showing the numbers employed, output, and accident death rate during the five years 1901-5, has been compiled from the Report.

Year.	Numbers Employed.		Accident Death Rate per 1,000 employed.		Output.	
	Other Mining.	Quarrying.	Other Mining.	Quarrying.	Other Mining.	Quarrying.
1901	32,443	94,188	0·92	1·01	3,430,555	40,701,869
1902	30,812	97,108	0·94	1·23	3,322,830	44,230,794
1903	29,823	98,155	0·84	0·97	3,243,633	45,600,775
1904	29,504	97,577	1·19	1·15	3,246,336	45,701,818
1905	29,151	94,819	1·58	1·04	3,444,478	46,144,912

\* Mines and Quarries; General Report and Statistics for 1905. Part I.—District Statistics. Cd. 2974. Price 7d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

It will be seen that as regards numbers employed there has been a steady decrease in "other mining" in the five years under review while in the quarrying industry the numbers have fluctuated somewhat and in 1905 were only slightly higher than in 1901. The output for 1905 for both industries was higher than for the previous year; in fact, in the quarrying industry it was the highest in the eleven years for which figures are available. The accident death rate in mines under the Metalliferous Mines Acts was the highest in the period given in the Table, while in quarries it was slightly below the average for the previous four years.

*Metalliferous Mines Acts.*—Of the 29,151 persons employed in 1905, 17,286, or over 59 per cent., worked below ground, and of the 11,865 surface workers, 225, or 1·90 per cent., were females. Of the output of 3,444,478 tons, 1,768,307 tons were iron ore. The death rate of underground workers was 2·49 per 1,000 employed, and of the surface workers 0·25. The corresponding figures in 1904 were 1·62 and 0·57 respectively.

*Quarries Act.*—Of the 94,819 persons employed in 1905, 59,978 worked inside the actual pits or excavations, and 34,841 outside. This is a decrease on 1904 of 2,271 inside, and 487 outside workers. Of the total of 46,144,912 tons of stone and other minerals obtained in 1905 from quarries under the Act, 3,818,302 tons were ironstone. The accident death rate inside the actual pits or excavations was 1·42 per 1,000, and for persons employed at factories or workshops outside the quarries, but connected with them, 0·40 per 1,000. The corresponding figures for 1904 were 1·54 and 0·45 respectively.

### OLD AGE PENSIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

THE Commission appointed by the Governor-General to inquire into the question of Old Age Pensions in the Commonwealth of Australia has recently issued its Report. The Commissioners were empowered to inquire within Australia into (a) the working of the Old Age Pensions Acts of New South Wales and Victoria; and (b) the probable cost of and the best means to be adopted for establishing old age pensions for the Commonwealth.

The Report contains a comparative review of the Old Age Pensions Acts in operation in New South Wales, Victoria and New Zealand. It is shown that the maximum individual pension is, in New South Wales and New Zealand, 10s. per week, and in Victoria, 8s. per week. Separate provision is made in New South Wales in the case of married persons, the maximum pension being 7s. 6d. per week each. The total cost is approximately as follows:—

New South Wales, 22,000 pensioners,	£508,000 per annum.
Victoria, 11,452 "	£205,000 "
New Zealand, 11,770 "	£325,000 "

In each colony the amount of pension payable varies below the maximum according to the income from other sources already received by the pensioner, and deductions are also made on account of the capital value of property held by the pensioner. No pensions are granted to persons whose incomes exceed a stipulated sum, or who possess property in excess of a fixed amount. The age qualification is, in each of the three colonies, 65 years, but in the case of New South Wales and Victoria the pensions are payable at an earlier age on account of physical unfitness. In Victoria, when such unfitness results from dangerous and unhealthy occupations, the pension may be granted at any age. The pensions are granted subject to certain qualifications as to length of residence in the colony, New South Wales and New Zealand insisting on continuous residence for 25 years, while in Victoria the limit is 20 years. In each case a limited amount of absence during the period is permissible. Inquiries are made as to the character of applicants before pensions are granted.

The system in operation in Germany, under which employers, employees, and the Government jointly contribute towards an old-age pension fund, is not considered practicable in Australia owing to the "widely divergent conditions of the two countries."

The Commissioners estimate that the cost of an old-age pension scheme brought into operation throughout the Commonwealth in accordance with their recommendations would be £1,500,000 per annum. As against this expenditure may be set off the amounts already spent in New South Wales and Victoria (more than £700,000 annually), while it is anticipated that there would be in all the States considerable reduction in the indigent allowances, which, in many cases, are virtually pensions.

The recommendations of the Commissioners are, to a large extent, in agreement with the present legislation in New Zealand, and include in the first place the provision of old age pensions throughout the Commonwealth, the cost to be defrayed out of the Consolidated Revenue. The pension suggested is 10s. per week, and the qualifying age 65 years, except where the applicant is permanently incapacitated for work, when the age limit may be reduced to 60. Other recommendations deal with the qualifications as to residence, character, &c. The principle of making deductions on account of income or property already possessed by the applicant receives the approval of the Commissioners. It is recommended that the payment of pensions should be made fortnightly, through the Post Office.

### WHOLESALE PRICES IN AMERICA.

IN the "Bulletin of the Bureau of Labor" for March, 1906, the United States Department of Commerce and Labour has published statistics of wholesale prices in America during the period 1890-1905.

The prices have been collected from standard trade journals, from officials of boards of trade, chambers of commerce, and produce exchanges, and from leading manufacturers or their selling agents, and are usually New York prices, except in the case of commodities having their primary market in some other locality, such as, for example, grains, for which Chicago prices have been taken.

The following Table shows the changes in the general level of wholesale prices during the past sixteen years, the average price for the period 1890-1899 being represented by 100·0. As a means of weighting the commodities of greater importance, more than one series of quotations relating to different descriptions of the same article have been used.

Year.	Relative Price.	Year.	Relative Price.	Year.	Relative Price.
1890	112·9	1896	90·4	1901	108·5
1891	111·7	1897	89·7	1902	112·9
1892	106·1	1898	93·4	1903	113·6
1893	105·6	1899	101·7	1904	113·9
1894	96·1	1900	110·5	1905	113·9
1895	93·6				

In 1905, therefore, wholesale prices reached a higher point than in any other year covered by the investigation, being 11·5 per cent. above the average for the preceding fifteen years, 2·6 per cent. above that for 1904, and 29·2 per cent. above that for 1897, in which year wholesale prices were at a lower level than in any other of the years under consideration.

The commodities are classified under nine general groups, and in each group the level of prices in 1905 was considerably above the average for the decade 1890-1899, the amount of increase varying from 8·7 per cent. in the "food" group to 28·8 per cent. in the "fuel and lighting" group. Drugs and chemicals, and house-furnishing goods were each 9·1 per cent. above the 1890-1899 average. Cloths and clothing exceeded it by 12·0 per cent., "miscellaneous commodities" by 12·8 per cent., metals and implements by 22·5 per cent., farm products by 24·2 per cent., and lumber and building materials by 27·8 per cent.

Compared with 1904, wholesale prices of metals and implements increased by 11·8 per cent., and of lumber and building materials by 4·2 per cent. On the other hand, the prices of commodities comprised in the fuel and lighting group decreased by 2·9 per cent., and of those in the house-furnishing group by 2·3 per cent.



### STRIKES AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN FRANCE IN 1905.

#### Strikes.

FROM an article contained in the May issue of the journal\* of the French Labour Department, it appears that compared with 1904, a considerable decrease took place in 1905, both in the number of strikes† and in the number of workpeople taking part in them. In both these respects, however, the average of the 12 previous years, for which statistics have been compiled, was exceeded.

Eight hundred and thirty strikes were reported in 1905 as against 1,026 in the previous year, a decrease of 196 or 19 per cent. The number of strikers decreased from 271,097 in 1904 to 177,666 in 1905, a decline of 93,431 or 34 per cent. The aggregate number of working days lost by strikers during last year was 2,746,684, compared with 3,934,884 in 1904, a fall of 32 per cent.

The following Table classifies the number of strikes and the number of strikers taking part in each of the principal groups of trades in 1905, the corresponding figures for 1904 being also given for comparison:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Strikes.		No. of Strikers.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
Building Trades ... ..	119	121	14,672	32,352
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	34	37	8,056	9,891
Metal Trades ... ..	119	130	13,849	32,181
Textile Trades:—				
Manufacture ... ..	181	130	76,293	25,446
Textile Goods (Clothing, &c.) ... ..	13	23	1,103	2,033
Transport ... ..	186	87	69,293	15,386
Woodworking Trades ... ..	43	46	3,976	14,918
Stone, Pottery, Glass Trades ... ..	46	33	3,713	13,100
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ... ..	149	94	52,333	3,649
Leather Trades ... ..	47	94	7,506	16,234
Other Trades ... ..	89	94	20,303	12,476
Total ... ..	1,026	830	271,097	177,666

The only important increase in the number of disputes in any group of trades in 1905, as compared with 1904, took place in the leather trades, while large decreases occurred in the textile, transport, and agricultural groups. The decline in the total number of workpeople taking part in the strikes was due to the large decreases in the agricultural, transport, and textile manufacturing groups, in which the number of strikers declined by 48,684, 53,907, and 50,847 respectively; in the other groups, the number of strikers increased by about 60,000, the building and the metal trades each accounting for an increase of about 18,000. The number of strikers in the woodworking trades, and in the stone, pottery, and glass trades in 1905 was more than three times as great as in 1904.

In 57 per cent. of the disputes, involving 70 per cent. of the total number of strikers, an increase of wages (either alone or in conjunction with other claims) was demanded. In the French statistics, where a strike is attributable to more than one cause, it appears under each. In this way 1,346 causes of disputes were recorded; of these, 712 related to wages (471 being demands for increase and 41 being due to the rejection of proposed decreases), 133 were demands for the reduction of the hours of labour, either without reduction of wages or in conjunction with increase of wages, 278 related to the employment of particular classes or persons, 149 to working arrangements, and 74 to other causes.

One hundred and eighty-four strikes, involving 22,872 workpeople (or 12.9 per cent. of the total number of strikers), terminated in favour of the workpeople, 285, involving 29,778 workpeople (or 16.7 per cent. of the total), in favour of the employers, and 361, involving 125,016 workpeople (or 70.4 per cent. of the total), were compromised. The proportion of strikes resulting in complete success for either employers or workpeople was lower than the average during the 10 years 1895-1904, while the proportion of compromises was correspondingly higher.

\* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, Mai, 1906. (Les grèves et les recours à la conciliation et à l'arbitrage en 1905.)

† Lock-outs are not included.

#### Conciliation and Arbitration.

The number of disputes in which recourse was had during 1905 to the means provided by the French Conciliation and Arbitration Law of December 27th, 1892, was 246 (29.6 per cent. of the total number of disputes), including 16 in which no stoppage of work took place; in the previous year the disputes which it was attempted to settle by these means numbered 247 (24.1 per cent. of the total), including 9 in which no stoppage took place. The initiative in applying the law in 1905 came from the workpeople in 88 disputes, from the Justice of the Peace in 148 disputes, from the employers in 4 disputes, and from the employers and workpeople jointly in 6 disputes. In 68 cases the offer of intervention was declined (by the employers 51 times, by the workpeople 8 times, and by both parties 9 times). In 7 other cases the disputes were settled before the committee could meet.

Conciliation Committees were formed in the remaining 171 cases, resulting in the direct settlement of 96 disputes, 7 disputes being settled in addition, by arbitration. In 10 of the cases in which conciliation had been declined, and in 14 in which the committee had failed to bring about an agreement, settlements were reached by other means. The report therefore concludes that in 1905 there were 134 disputes settled directly by or indirectly after the application of the law, as compared with 116 in 1904.

#### PRICES OF EXPORTED COAL.\*

A RETURN has recently been issued giving for the years 1901 to 1905 the quantities and declared values of coal exported from each of the principal ports of the United Kingdom. The figures for 1901, however, relate only to the period from April 10th, the date of the imposition of the coal duty, to the end of the year, and the particulars are, therefore, omitted from the following Table:—

—	Quantities Exported at declared Values.					Total.
	Not exceeding 5s. per ton.	Exceeding 5s. and not exceeding 6s. per ton.	Exceeding 6s. and not exceeding 7s. per ton.	Exceeding 7s. and not exceeding 8s. per ton.	Exceeding 8s. per ton.	
1902	Tons. 785,369	Tons. 2,491,064	Tons. 815,329	Tons. 2,304,730	Tons. 56,762,554	Tons. 43,159,046
1903	524,536	3,995,795	833,867	2,137,794	37,428,564	44,950,057
1904	1,731,247	4,118,365	493,560	5,021,333	34,886,642	46,255,547
1905	1,704,493	4,200,491	734,539	8,132,032	32,705,102	47,476,707

From the above figures it will be seen that considerable changes have taken place as between 1902 and 1905 in the prices of the coal exported. The quantity of coal exported at declared values not exceeding 6s.† per ton has increased by 2,629,000 tons, or over 80 per cent. There has also been an increase of 5,827,000 tons or over 250 per cent. in the quantity exported at prices between 7s. and 8s. per ton. On the other hand the amount of coal exceeding in value 8s. per ton. has declined to the extent of 4,057,000 tons, or 11 per cent., and there has also been a slight decline (81,000 tons) in the quantity exported at prices from 6s. to 7s. per ton. Over the period, however, the total quantity at all values exported has increased from 43,159,046 tons to 47,476,707 tons, or about 10 per cent.

Of the total quantity exported in 1905, 20,055,000 tons, or over 42 per cent., were sent from Bristol Channel ports, Cardiff alone exporting over 14,000,000 tons. The North-Eastern ports exported 15,347,000 tons (Newcastle, Blyth, and North and South Shields 11,886,000 tons), and the East of Scotland ports 6,193,000 tons. 4,541,000 tons of which were exported from Methil, Burntisland, and Grangemouth.

The greatest increase in shipments has been from North-Eastern ports, the amount increasing from 12,860,000 tons in 1902 to 15,347,000 tons in 1905, or over 19 per cent. There has only been a slight increase in the exports from the Bristol Channel ports, viz., 604,000 tons, or about 3 per cent. The Humber ports show an increase of 623,000 tons (or 21 per cent.) and the East of Scotland ports 741,000 tons (or 11 per cent.).

\* Prices of Exported Coal. H.C. 111 of 1906. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 53d. † A rebate of duty is allowed on coal, the value of which, free on board, exclusive of duty, is proved not to exceed 6s. per ton.

### WORK OF MUNICIPAL LABOUR REGISTRY OF MUNICH IN 1905.

THE tenth Report of the Municipal Labour Registry of Munich,\* the most important municipal registry in Germany, has just been issued. The Report deals with the work of the registry in 1905, and contains also a retrospect of its operations during the period 1895-1905. Since its foundation on November 1st, 1895, its work has considerably increased. In 1896, the first complete calendar year after the establishment of the registry, 30,057 offers of situations were made by employers, 47,008 applications for work were made by workpeople, and 25,586 situations were filled through the registry; in 1905 the offers of situations numbered 67,986, the applications for work 65,507, and the number of situations filled 49,478. The increasing success of the labour registry as a means of procuring employment in the ten years can be gauged from these figures; thus, in 1896, for every 100 applications for work, 54 situations were obtained, whereas in 1905 the corresponding figure was 76 for each 100 applications. In all, since the establishment of the registry in 1895, the total number of situations offered by employers was 507,776, the number of applications made by workpeople was 595,955, and the total number of situations obtained was 396,885.

In addition to the work indicated by the figures given above, the registry also acts as a labour bureau for certain of the trade guilds. In 1905 the number of situations filled in this connection was 6,600.

Out of the 65,507 applications for employment in 1905, just over half (51 per cent.) were made by males, and a little less than half (49 per cent.) by females; of the former 81.7 per cent. resulted in situations being found, and in the case of female applicants, the corresponding percentage was 69.1.

Of the 49,478 situations filled during 1905, 27,317 (or 55.2 per cent.) were by males, and 22,161 (or 44.8 per cent.) by females. Of the situations obtained for males, 11,198 (or 41 per cent.) were for workmen in industrial occupations, 10,391 (or 38 per cent.) for unskilled workmen, and 3,342 (or 12.2 per cent.) for agricultural labourers. Of the situations obtained for females through the registry, 7,323 (or 33 per cent.) were for domestic servants, 7,042 (or 31.8 per cent.) hotel, inn, and restaurant employees, and 5,050 (or 22.8 per cent.) were described as for unskilled occupations.

#### STEAM DISINFECTION OF HORSEHAIR.

IN a Report† of the Medical Inspector of Factories just issued, 77 cases of anthrax among persons employed in the manipulation of horsehair and bristles, resulting in 18 deaths, are dealt with. These occurred in the 7 years, 1899-1905. Of the 77 cases, 3 occurred in central horsehair warehouses, 39 in horsehair factories, 12 in hair-dressing workshops, 15 in brush-making factories and workshops, and 4 in upholstery, etc., while 4 cases are included in which infection was conveyed to outside persons, presumably by workers in the hair factories. Six of the cases occurred in domestic workshops, or among home workers. Horsehair from China has been found to convey infection much more frequently than that coming from other parts of the world. Incidence has been greatest in processes connected with curled horsehair, in hair-drawing, and in brushmaking. Disinfection by steam of dangerous classes of horsehair and bristles is the surest means of destroying the spores of anthrax, but to be effectual the steam must be in contact with the material in a loosened condition for a sufficiently long time, and at a sufficiently high temperature. This temperature, however, must not exceed certain limits—about 220 degrees Fahrenheit, equivalent to a pressure of 2½ lbs. above atmospheric pressure—or the material may be injured. Seeing that no case of anthrax has been traced with certainty to hair from the Colonies or from America, it is suggested that any regulations which are contemplated for requiring

\* Städtisches Arbeitsamt München: Zehnter Geschäftsbericht, 1905. Munich, 1906. † Report on the Incidence of Anthrax in the Manipulation of Horsehair and Bristles. By T. M. Legge, M.D., H.M. Inspector of Factories.

steam disinfection might be limited to horsehair and undressed bristles from China, Russia, and Siberia.

Further, as the installation of expensive disinfecting apparatus cannot be expected in a large number of the 611 brush making factories and workshops, and as chance of infection occurs before the horsehair reaches the factory, the suggestion is made, as the best solution of the difficulty, that the trade should erect a steam disinfecting station in the immediate neighbourhood of the warehouses where the dangerous classes of horsehair are stored for a time.

Appended to the Report is a translation of the German regulations for the disinfection and manipulation of horsehair.

#### MUNICIPAL HOUSING IN VENICE.

A REPORT† has recently been issued showing the aims and work of the "Commission for Cheap and Healthy Dwellings for Working People" in Venice. The Commission originated in a proposal made in 1893 by the Savings Bank of Venice to devote to the erection of cheap and healthy dwellings 80 per cent. of that part of its net balance which, according to statute, must be applied to public purposes. The Municipal Council endorsed this proposal, authorised the borrowing of 500,000 lire (£16,700), and decreed that the returns from the houses should be applied to the building of other houses. For the purpose of constructing and administering the houses the Commission for Cheap and Healthy Dwellings for Working People was established. The Commission is composed of seven members—the Syndic and six others, three representatives from the Municipality and three from the Savings Bank. It possesses autonomy, which is interpreted as including the right to acquire areas for building purposes and the power to erect buildings and to administer the property thus created. It is one of the bodies described by the Law of 1903, which occupy a middle place between public and private effort, and which are supported by the Municipality in association with certain popular institutions.

In 1903 the Municipal Council decided to devote 500,000 lire to the erection of houses, and the Commission was entrusted with the work of construction and administration. The same rule was made as in 1893, viz., that the returns from the houses should be devoted to the erection of other houses. Up to the date of the present Report, the Commission has constructed altogether 30 blocks of buildings, providing accommodation for 1,706 persons. Other buildings are in course of erection, and other schemes are contemplated. Since 1897 the Commission has received 1,419,574 lire from the Municipality and the Savings Bank, and of that sum it has expended 1,090,887 lire, or nearly £48,000. This expenditure includes the purchase of an area on which provision will be made for housing more than 2,000 people.

#### APPRENTICESHIPS FOR BOYS FROM SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

THE Eighth Report of the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of administering the sums made available for the improvement of Congested Districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland has just been issued.\* The powers of the Board include "aiding migration of crofters and cottars from congested districts to other districts in Scotland, and settling any migrants under favourable circumstances in the places to which they first migrate." Under these powers the Board have established an apprenticeship scheme, which has now been in operation for a year. Suitable boys of from 15 to 18 years of age are apprenticed for a period of four, five, or six years, the Board supplementing the wages earned so as to make up a sum sufficient to pay for board and lodging. The Board also endeavours to find suitable lodgings for the lads, and to place them within reach of persons speaking the Gaelic language. At March 31st last, 81 boys were employed as apprentices under the scheme, mostly at shipbuilding works on the Clyde.

\* Cd. 2946. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 7d.

† Commune di Venezia. Case Sane, Economiche e Popolari.



**EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.**

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

**Canada.**

In spite of the very large influx of emigrants into Canada this year, there is still a considerable demand for competent farm labourers in Ontario, to take the place of those who have moved into Western Canada. Such persons—if they started now and were willing to work hard—would have no difficulty in obtaining employment at good wages. In Nova Scotia the collieries have been busy, but gold-miners have been slack. There has been a rush of miners, mechanics, and other labourers to the new mining district of Cobalt, in Ontario, and employment has been general. Miners have been busy in British Columbia, also at Rossland, Crow's Nest Pass, and on Vancouver Island. The manufacturing trades have been generally busy throughout Canada, and in Ontario there has been some scarcity of men. Among the busiest trades have been those connected with metals, steel rails, boots and shoes, clothing, and building. Railway construction is employing thousands of navvies and labourers in Ontario and the North-west.

**Commonwealth of Australia.**

There is a demand in many parts, more especially in Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland, for competent farm labourers, and such emigrants are eligible for reduced passages to these States under certain conditions. There is very little demand for more mechanics or miners. There is a good demand for female servants. Emigrants from the United Kingdom are not subjected to the dictation test on landing in Australia.

**New Zealand.**

The New Zealand Government grants cheap passages to railway navvies with their wives and families, and to experienced farm labourers and female servants. In Auckland the building trades absorb all efficient workers, but no more are wanted; the engineering trade is very slack. Several mechanics from Great Britain have secured work in the boot trade, and female machinists have been wanted. The timber mills have been fully working, and in the clothing factories there is an increasing demand for workers. In Wellington, business has been very good in all trades, with the exception of the engineering trade. Men in the building trades, except bricklayers, have been very busy. Good boot makers and first-class navvies have been in demand. In Greymouth, Invercargill, and elsewhere saw mills and flax mills have been very busy. In Christchurch and Invercargill, men in the building trades have been very busy, but the engineering trades have been quiet.

**South Africa.**

*Cape Colony.*—It appears from the returns for April of the Government Labour Bureau that there has been a demand for cigarette makers and packers in Cape Town, and the building trades at Malmesbury and Somerset East have been busy. Otherwise the labour market is dull, and the supply of labour is equal to, or in excess of, the demand in the building, engineering and other trades at Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Cradock, Kimberley, King William's Town, and practically all other places in the Colony. No one may enter the Colony unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured employment beforehand, according to a prescribed form of agreement.

*Natal.*—The supply of labour in the building trades is in excess of the demand.

*Transvaal.*—Emigrants should not go to the Transvaal at the present time. The building trades remain very slack, and the supply of men in these and other trades is more than sufficient.

*Orange River Colony.*—There is no demand for more labour, and many of those on the spot find great difficulty in procuring work.

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

**LABOUR ABROAD.**

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 161 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries.]

**FRANCE.\***

*Employment in April.*—Employment in the building and allied trades continued to improve in April. In the metal trades it remained on the whole satisfactory, as was also the case in the textile trades. With silk weavers at St. Etienne it improved considerably, but among machine weavers at Lyons it declined, though it continued plentiful in the districts around. Garment makers were fully employed, especially at Paris; and in the boot and shoe trade employment was generally satisfactory. There was no appreciable decrease, however, in the number of unemployed in the leather dressing centres in Tarn. Work continued very plentiful with carriage builders, especially at Paris, and also in the printing and bookbinding trades. Employment among vineyard labourers in the South of France was worse than a month ago. Owing to the temporary seasonal lack of work in the forests, and inability to obtain employment in farming, a fairly large number of woodcutters were out of work. Gardeners were fully employed.

Out of 187,089 members of 1,061 Trade Unions (miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments not being included) which made returns to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment, 15,995, or 8.5 per cent., were out of work in April, as compared with 9.4 per cent. in the previous month, and 9.3 per cent. in April, 1905. (As regards these figures see note under heading "Labour Abroad" above).

*Coal Mining in April.*—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground during April was 5.41, as compared with 4.69 in the previous month, and 5.91 in April, 1905. Taking surface and underground workers together, 62 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 24.5 per cent. worked from 5 to 6 days per week; the corresponding percentages for the previous month being 51 and 6 respectively, and for April, 1906, 79 and 17 respectively. The foregoing figures were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners. Owing to strikes they relate to only 82,000 workpeople, or less than half of all employed in and about the mines.

*Labour Disputes in April.*—No less than 222 disputes, two of which were lock-outs, were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in April, of which 45 resulted from the demand of printers, affiliated to the French Federation of Printers and Bookbinders, for a 9 hours day without reduction of, or with an increase of wages, and which should consequently be considered as constituting a single movement. The number of disputes which began in the previous month was 95, and in April, 1905, was 85. The number of workpeople taking part in 189 of the 222 new disputes was 58,734, as compared with 86,364 who took part in 93 of the disputes of the previous month, and 9,762 in 71 of the disputes of April, 1905. Fifty-four disputes took place in the printing and paper trades, 43 in the building trades, 33 in metal-working trades, 26 in textile trades, 17 in transport trades and warehousing, 13 in woodworking trades, and 8 in mining. One hundred and sixty-two new and old disputes came to an end in April; of these 45 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 52 in favour of the employers, and 65 in a compromise.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in April.*—Twenty-five cases of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having taken place in April. In one case, however, a

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

settlement of the dispute had been arrived at, and the employers and workpeople simply made application to the Justice of the Peace to draw up a *procès-verbal* of the agreement. The initiative was taken by the Justice of the Peace in 20 of the remaining cases, and by the workpeople in 4. In 15 cases committees of conciliation were formed, resulting in the direct settlement of 7 disputes, while 2 disputes, in which no agreement could be arrived at by means of conciliation, were settled by arbitration. Attempts to bring about an agreement were unsuccessful in 6 cases. One dispute was settled before a committee of conciliation could meet, and in the 8 remaining cases the employers refused to take part in any conciliation proceedings.

*"Eight Hours" Disputes in France.\**—The numerous disputes, which were reported in last month's GAZETTE (p. 139), in connection with the movement of an eight hours day without diminution of wages, have gradually decreased in number, and almost normal conditions now prevail, except in Paris.

**GERMANY.**

*Employment in April.*—No change was observed in April in the general condition of the labour market in the principal industries, and on the whole the state of employment continued favourable. Up to the time of reporting, the effect of the new commercial treaties had only been noticed in certain branches of the chemical trades. But for a series of strikes and lock-outs of considerable extent, the report for April would have been even more favourable. The state of employment in the building trades was good. Coal miners were well employed but labour conditions in lignite mines were much disturbed by wages movements. The metal and engineering trades, though much influenced by strikes and lock-outs, were very well employed. In the electrical industry employment continued good, although affected by metal trade disputes. In the textile trades labour conditions were decidedly favourable.

As is usual in April, a number of workpeople usually employed in industrial occupations, found work in agriculture, causing some scarcity of labour in certain trades and districts. Seasonal influences had a favourable effect on the ready-made clothing trades.

*Metal Trade Disputes in Germany.†*—In continuation of the account of disputes in the metal trades in Germany given in last month's GAZETTE (p. 131), it is now reported that work has been resumed at Dresden and Brunswick. A compromise was arrived at, the chief features of which were the abandonment of the demand for a minimum wage; the agreement that hours of labour should remain as before the dispute at the various works, but that overtime should be avoided when possible, and if necessary be paid for at a rate 25 per cent. above the ordinary rate of wages should it exceed half-an-hour; that payment should be made for defective work due to no fault of the workman; and that there should be no recrimination by either employers or workpeople on resumption of work.

Owing to the above settlements, and the withdrawal of demands for a minimum wage, and for the recognition of the Unions at Breslau, Hanover, and elsewhere, the threatened lock-out of 60 per cent. of all metal workers on June 2nd did not take place.

The lock-out at the establishments belonging to members of the Association of Silesian Metal Works has been declared at an end, and the men resumed work on June 11th, having been promised an increase in wages of from 1 to 2 pfennigs (¼d. to ½d.) an hour.

*Labour Disputes in May.*—According to the Berlin journal *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, 60 disputes commenced in Germany in May, as compared with 67 in the previous month. Fourteen of the disputes were in the building trades, 11 in the printing trades, 7 in the stone and earthenware trades, 6 in the textile industry, 5 in the woodworking and in the transport trades, 2 each in mining

\* Based on newspaper reports.

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

‡ Based on reports contained in the Berlin Journal "Soziale Praxis" and in "Deutscher Reichsanzeiger."

and smelting, in the food trades, and in the clothing trades, 1 in the metal and engineering trades, and 5 in other trades.

**BELGIUM.\***

*Employment in April.*—According to reports made to the Belgian Labour Department, out of 26,163 members of 119 Trade Unions which made returns, 397, or 1.5 per cent. were out of work towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 2.1 per cent. in the preceding month, and 1.5 per cent. in April, 1905. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 168.) The figures do not include particulars relating to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers.

*Labour Disputes in April.*—Twenty-seven labour disputes, one of which was a lock-out, were reported to the same department as having begun in April, 12,550 persons being involved (8,550 directly and 4,000 indirectly), as compared with 25 disputes, involving 3,070 workpeople, in the preceding month, and 6 disputes, involving 1,025 persons in April, 1905.

In the mining industry there were 3 strikes directly affecting 4,116 workpeople, and in the textile trades 8 strikes, directly affecting 1,083 workpeople, and 1 lock-out of 1,800 workpeople.

In addition to these 27 new disputes, 13 strikes which began during the two preceding months, and which involved 1,156 workpeople (997 directly and 159 indirectly) were in progress during April. Of 29 disputes of which the results were reported in April, 4, directly affecting 368 workpeople, terminated in favour of the workpeople; 22, directly affecting 6,121 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 3, directly affecting 569 workpeople, were compromised.

**ITALY.**

*Labour Disputes in April.†*—Ninety-eight disputes were reported to the Italian Labour Department as having occurred during April, as compared with 95 in the previous month. The number of persons directly affected by 72 of these was 9,985, as compared with 19,743 who took part in 70 of the disputes of March. The group of trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred was the building; in this, there were 18 disputes, 15 of which involved 2,078 workpeople. The agricultural disputes, however, affected a greater number of workpeople 2,205 being involved in 6 of the 7 disputes in this group. Other groups of trades considerably disturbed were the textile, with 17 disputes (13 of which affected 1,343 workpeople), and the stones, earth, clay, &c. trades, with 15 disputes, in 10 of which 823 persons were affected.

Out of 68 disputes which came to an end in April, 11 (8 of which involved 888 persons) terminated in favour of the workpeople; 25 (22 of which involved 2,617 workpeople) in favour of the employers; and 30 (28 of which involved 2,982 workpeople) in compromises. In 2 disputes (involving 424 workpeople) the results were not stated.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

*Coal Strike.‡*—The strike in the bituminous coalfields in Illinois (see last month's GAZETTE, p. 132) terminated at the end of May, the owners having decided to grant the miners' demand for the resumption of the 1903 scale of wages. In return the miners agreed to pay the wages of shot-firers, and to indemnify owners for losses sustained as a result of the calling of unauthorised strikes by pit committees.

*Strike of Painters at New York.§*—On May 21, about 1,500 painters struck work, demanding 4 dollars (16s. 8d.) a day for plain painting, and 4½ dollars (18s. 6d.) a day for decorative painting; increases of half a dollar (2s. 1d.) a day in each case.

\* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

† *Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro* (Journal of the Italian Labour Department).

‡ Based on a despatch from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, dated May 28th, 1906.

§ Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated May 22nd to June 5th, 1906.



REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT  
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES  
IN MAY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 518 Returns—454 from Employers, 48 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was fairly good during May. It showed some decline compared with April, but was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,392 pits employing 586,084 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended May 26th, 1906, was 5.37, as compared with 5.08 in April, 1906, and 4.94 in May, 1905. In April, 1906, however, an average of 0.54 days per week, and in May, 1905, an average of 0.26 days, were lost owing to holidays. Making allowance for holidays, employment was not quite so good in May, 1906, as in April, but was better than in May, 1905.

Of the 586,084 workpeople covered by the Returns, 469,785 (or 80.2 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended May 26th, and of these 350,642 (or 59.8 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

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

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in May, 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1906, as compared with	
		May 26th, 1906.	April 21st, 1906.*	May 20th, 1905.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	39,822	5.38	5.20	5.09	+ .18	+ .29
Durham ...	109,654	5.47	5.24	5.26	+ .23	+ .21
Cumberland ...	8,595	5.31	5.25	5.18	+ .06	+ .13
South Yorkshire ...	59,863	5.69	5.20	5.13	+ .49	+ .56
West Yorkshire ...	21,515	5.06	4.74	4.05	+ .32	+ 1.00
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	54,392	5.07	4.88	4.85	+ .22	+ .22
Derbyshire ...	37,317	4.69	4.64	4.74	+ .05	+ .55
Nottingham and Leicester ...	29,301	4.59	4.18	3.81	+ .41	+ .78
Staffordshire ...	26,840	5.03	4.57	4.28	+ .46	+ .75
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,677	4.85	4.76	4.58	+ .09	+ .27
Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,097	4.95	5.08	4.56	+ .13	+ .39
North Wales ...	11,485	5.52	5.06	4.61	+ .46	+ .91
South Wales and Mon. ...	119,916	5.80	5.35	5.40	+ .45	+ .40
ENGLAND & WALES...	535,474	5.36	5.04	4.92	+ .32	+ .44
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	22,473	5.34	5.30	5.09	+ .04	+ .25
The Lothians ...	6,228	5.66	5.59	5.48	+ .07	+ .18
Fife ...	21,297	5.50	5.52	5.26	+ .02	+ .24
SCOTLAND ...	49,998	5.45	5.42	5.22	+ .03	+ .23
IRELAND.						
... ..	612	4.26	4.82	4.84	+ .56	+ .58
United Kingdom ...	586,084	5.37	5.08	4.94	+ .29	+ .43

The greatest number of days worked per week was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.80). In South Yorkshire, North Wales, and the Lothians over 5½ days per week were worked. In Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, Warwick, Worcester and Salop, and Gloucester and Somerset, less than five days were worked, and in Staffordshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, West Yorkshire, Cumberland and West Scotland, the number of days worked per week was below the average for the kingdom.

In the Northern Counties employment continued good generally. In West Yorkshire and Lancashire and Cheshire, however, a large proportion of the men were employed at pits working less than 20 days during the four weeks.

In the Midlands employment was moderate, more than half of the men being employed at pits working less than 20 days.

In Wales and Scotland employment continued good.

\* Easter Holidays are included in this period.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. In pits employing 183,600 workpeople more than one description of coal was produced.

For each of the periods under review, manufacturing, steam and coking pits worked a higher number of days than the general average, while pits producing house coal worked less than the general average.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in May, 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1906, as compared with	
		May 26th, 1906.	April 21st, 1906.*	May 20th, 1905.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Anthracite ...	6,750	5.64	5.17	4.55	+ .47	+ 1.09
Coking ...	31,315	5.36	5.36	5.38	+ .20	+ .18
Gas ...	42,266	5.33	5.08	4.93	+ .25	+ .40
House ...	79,283	4.86	4.78	4.93	+ .08	+ .44
Manufacturing and Steam ...	242,874	5.54	5.15	5.12	+ .39	+ .42
Mixed ...	183,616	5.33	5.09	4.90	+ .24	+ .43
Total ...	586,084	5.37	5.08	4.94	+ .29	+ .43

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in May, 1906, amounted to 5,544,521 tons, as compared with 4,541,329 tons in April, 1906, and 4,495,458 tons in May, 1905.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING  
AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 86 returns—69 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in iron mines on the whole was good. Compared with a month ago and a year ago, holidays being taken into due account, employment showed a decline in Cleveland; in other districts little change was shown. In shale mines employment continued fair, but a decline was shown as compared with a year ago.

In tin and copper mines employment continued to improve, and it continued good in lead mines.

In quarries employment was fair generally, but it remained slack in slate quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended May 26th, the average weekly number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.79, as compared with 5.63 a month ago (reduced 0.26 of a day by Easter holidays), and 5.85 for the corresponding period in 1905.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in May, 1906, at all Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1906, as compared with	
		May 26th, 1906.	April 21st, 1906.*	May 20th, 1905.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland...	7,243	5.70	5.64	5.89	+ 0.06	- 0.19
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,022	5.94	5.67	5.90	+ 0.27	+ 0.04
Scotland...	1,016	5.67	5.67	5.55	...	+ 0.12
Other Districts...	2,936	5.78	5.49	5.74	+ 0.29	+ 0.04
Total and Averages	16,217	5.79	5.63	5.85	+ 0.16	- 0.06

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 86.0 per cent. were employed in mines working twenty-two or more days during the four weeks ended May 26th, as compared with 90.6 per cent. a month ago and 90.7 per cent. in May, 1905.

\* Easter holidays are included in this period.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,103 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended May 26th, as compared with 3,173 in April, and 3,009 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended May 26th was 5.53, as compared with 5.45 a month ago, and 5.85 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued to improve in Cornwall, and some difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour is reported.

Lead Mining.—Employment in North Wales continued good, and there was full employment in Derbyshire, where it was reported as rather better than a month ago.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment in North Wales continued slack, and was worse than a year ago. Full time was worked in the Festiniog district, but there was a large number of men unemployed. Employment was quiet in Argylshire, but a slight improvement was shown as compared with a month ago.

Granite.—In Aberdeenshire employment was fair, about the same as a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. Employment was also fair in Leicestershire, where an improvement on a month ago was shown. In Devonshire and Cornwall it continued bad, with much short time.

Limestone.—In South Durham employment was fairly good, the same as a month and a year ago. In Weardale it continued good. It was quiet in the Plymouth district, and was not so good as usual at Buxton, but in both districts it improved towards the end of the month.

Other Stone.—At Sheffield employment was fairly good, and there was full employment at Rotherham and Normanton. At Gateshead employment was fair. It continued moderate in the Cleve Hill road material quarries. In the Rowsley and district grindstone and building stone quarries employment continued moderate but was a little better than a year ago. In Forfarshire it continued bad, short time being worked in many quarries.

Settmaking.—Employment was good at Edinburgh and in Aberdeenshire, and fair at Airdrie. At Stoney Stanton it was good and better than a month ago, and it was fair generally in North Wales. It continued moderate in the Cleve Hill district.

China Clay.—Employment was good at Lee Moor and in the St. Austell district.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 219 Returns—199 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 6 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works, which fell off somewhat in April, showed a further slight decline in May. It was, however, much better than a year ago.

The total volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended May 26th, 1906, at the 189 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.6 per cent. less than during the week ended April 28th, 1906, but 7.0 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 522,000, as compared with 525,200 a month ago, and 487,900 a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there was an increase of 1.52, or 0.75 per cent., in the number of workpeople employed at iron works, and a decrease of 223, or 1.5 per cent. in the number employed at steel rolling mills. At establishments working in both iron and steel there was a decline of 201, or 0.9 per cent. The decrease took

place chiefly in Wales and Monmouth, and in Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire.

The number of workpeople employed was greater than a year ago in every district, and in every department except in iron forging and Bessemer converting departments.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.			
	In week ended May 26th, 1906.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with	In week ended May 26th, 1906.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		
					A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>IRON:</b>						
Puddling Forges ...	9,802	- 8	+ 281	5.02	- 0.09	+ 0.14
Rolling Mills ...	4,183	+ 69	+ 73	5.05	+ 0.14	+ 0.18
Forging ...	391	+ 33	- 87	5.33	- 0.11	- 0.32
Founding ...	3,420	+ 83	+ 132	5.98	- 0.01	+ 0.01
Other Departments ...	732	- 1	+ 111	5.92	+ 0.04	+ 0.03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,601	+ 24	+ 69	5.59	+ 0.03	+ 0.03
<b>Total Iron ...</b>	<b>20,219</b>	<b>+ 152</b>	<b>+ 581</b>	<b>5.27</b>	<b>- 0.02</b>	<b>+ 0.10</b>
<b>STEEL:</b>						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,076	- 14	+ 531	5.91	...	- 0.02
Crucible Furnaces ...	567	+ 3	+ 48	5.21	+ 0.12	- 0.23
Bessemer Converters ...	1,702	- 56	- 44	4.61	- 0.41	- 0.42
Rolling Mills ...	14,889	- 223	+ 591	5.41	- 0.10	+ 0.02
Forging and Pressing ...	2,861	+ 41	+ 323	5.61	+ 0.07	+ 0.05
Founding ...	8,418	+ 3	+ 997	5.66	+ 0.02	- 0.05
Other Departments ...	6,043	+ 30	+ 997	5.83	+ 0.06	- 0.03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	9,479	+ 102	+ 580	5.93	+ 0.02	+ 0.01
<b>Total Steel ...</b>	<b>52,035</b>	<b>- 114</b>	<b>+ 4,023</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>- 0.02</b>	<b>- 0.01</b>
<b>IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):</b>						
Rolling Mills ...	11,174	- 113	+ 449	5.25	- 0.04	+ 0.08
Forging and Pressing ...	687	+ 34	+ 23	5.56	...	+ 0.13
Founding ...	747	+ 7	+ 67	5.95	...	+ 0.05
Other Departments ...	2,864	- 2	+ 111	5.83	+ 0.02	+ 0.10
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,290	- 59	+ 240	5.75	...	+ 0.04
<b>Total Iron or Steel (not distinguished)</b>	<b>21,702</b>	<b>- 201</b>	<b>+ 890</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>- 0.03</b>	<b>+ 0.07</b>
<b>Total—All Iron and Steel Works</b>	<b>93,956</b>	<b>- 163</b>	<b>+ 5,494</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>- 0.02</b>	<b>+ 0.04</b>
<b>Districts.</b>						
Northumberland & Durham	12,298	+ 107	+ 769	5.53	- 0.04	+ 0.01
Cleveland ...	7,321	- 51	+ 448	5.71	+ 0.03	+ 0.05
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	18,543	- 27	+ 1,073	5.72	+ 0.05	+ 0.13
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,469	+ 7	+ 203	5.58	+ 0.01	+ 0.02
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	10,077	- 162	+ 180	5.41	- 0.12	+ 0.10
Staffordshire ...	9,749	+ 56	+ 443	5.35	- 0.14	- 0.06
Other Midland Counties ...	4,502	+ 87	+ 258	5.50	- 0.06	+ 0.12
Wales and Monmouth ...	9,395	- 216	+ 452	5.59	- 0.04	- 0.08
England and Wales ...	76,294	- 199	+ 4,426	5.55	- 0.03	+ 0.04
Scotland ...	17,662	+ 36	+ 1,068	5.57	...	+ 0.03
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>93,956</b>	<b>- 163</b>	<b>+ 5,494</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>- 0.02</b>	<b>+ 0.04</b>

The average number of shifts worked per man during the week ended May 26th, 1906, showed little change generally compared with a month ago or a year ago. The number worked at Bessemer converting departments continued to decline, the average being only 4.61 per man per week, or 0.4 of a shift less than both a month ago and a year ago. In no other department did the number of shifts worked average less than five. Compared with a year ago, the average number of shifts worked at iron forging and at crucible furnaces also declined considerably, by 0.32 of a shift in the former case, and by 0.23 of a shift in the latter.

TINPLATE WORKS AND SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 59 Returns—55 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May showed some recovery as compared with April, but was not so good as a year ago. At some mills short time was worked.

At the works covered by the Returns, 361 tinplate mills were working at the end of May, as compared with 344 in April, and 376 a year ago; the number of sheet mills for the corresponding periods was 54, 50, and 52 respectively.



The following Table shows the number of tinplate and sheet mills working at each of the three periods:—

	May, 1906.		April, 1906.		May, 1905.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	71	361	68	344	73	376
Sheet Mills ...	9	54	9	50	8	54
Total ...	80	415	77	394	81	428

With one or two exceptions the figures as to tinplate and sheet mills relate to firms in the South Wales and Monmouthshire district.

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets and blackplates for tinning are given in the Table below for the periods stated. Of the total exports of tinplates and tinned sheets during May, 5,523 tons went to the United States, 3,992 tons to the British East Indies, 2,720 tons to France, 2,416 tons to Germany, and 1,724 tons to the Netherlands. Of the blackplates for tinning, 1,416 tons went to Russia, 819 tons to Germany, and 554 tons to Belgium.

	Month ended May 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with May,		Five Months ended May 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
<i>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</i>						
To United States ...	Tons. 5,523	Tons. + 1,419	Tons. - 1,124	Tons. 20,582	Tons. - 7,907	Tons. - 7,021
„ Other Countries	24,068	- 4,336	- 1,332	132,160	+ 3,407	+ 18,132
Total ...	29,591	- 2,917	- 2,456	162,742	- 4,500	+ 11,111
<i>Black Plates for Tinning.</i>						
To United States ...	—	—	— 14	3	— 69	— 11
„ Other Countries	5,475	- 1,186	- 857	24,902	- 175	- 2,376
Total ...	5,475	- 1,186	- 871	24,902	- 244	- 2,387

**PIG IRON INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, 4 from Local Correspondents, and 1 other.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good, and was much better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of May was 342, being the same number as at the end of April, but an increase of 20 as compared with May, 1905. In the Cleveland district one furnace was blown out, and in Monmouthshire one was re-lit. In Cumberland two furnaces were blown out, and two others re-lit; in Yorkshire one was blown out and another re-lit. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the Returns summarised in the following Table is estimated at 24,500.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1906, as compared with	
	May, 1906.	April, 1906.	May, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	85	86	85	- 1	...
Cumberland & Lancs.	37	37	35	...	+ 2
S. and S.W. Yorks.	16	16	15	...	+ 1
Darby & Nottingham	42	42	36	...	+ 6
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	29	29	28	...	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester	35	35	31	...	+ 4
S. Wales & Monmouth	16	15	15	+ 1	+ 1
Other districts ...	6	6	6	...	...
Returned from England & Wales	266	266	251	...	+ 15
Returned from Scotland ...	76	76	71	...	+ 5
Total furnaces included in returns	342	342	322	...	+ 20

The Imports of iron ore in May, 1906, amounted to 752,202 tons, or 54,138 tons more than in May, 1905, and 143,816 tons more than in May, 1904.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during May, 1906, amounted to 148,637 tons, as compared with 88,059 tons in May, 1905, and 85,401 tons in May, 1904.

**SHIPBUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 329 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 305 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in the principal shipbuilding centres, but showed a slight decline compared with the previous month. It remained considerably better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 55,923 members had 3,362 (or 6.0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 5.1 per cent. at the end of April, and 11.1 per cent. at the end of May, 1905.

Compared with a month ago there was, according to the percentages of unemployed, a decline in employment in seven of the twelve districts included in the Table, the decline being most marked in the Mersey district. In the Humber district there was a considerable improvement, and in three of the remaining districts employment was a little better.

Compared with a year ago, there was considerable improvement in all districts except the Thames and Medway, where little change was shown.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1906, included in the Returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for May, 1906, as compared with a	
		May, 1906.	April, 1906.	May, 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,032	3.6	1.8	10.1	+ 1.8	- 6.5
Wear ...	4,919	1.4	1.4	6.7	...	- 5.3
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,935	6.2	4.5	12.6	+ 1.7	- 6.4
Humber ...	2,552	4.8	11.2	11.2	- 6.4	- 6.4
Thames and Medway ...	4,744	9.7	9.2	8.9†	+ 0.5	+ 0.8
South Coast ...	3,851	4.1	4.4	4.4	- 0.3	- 0.3
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,315	12.1	13.6	20.7	- 1.5	- 8.6
Mersey ...	3,591	14.5	5.7	21.3	+ 8.8	- 6.8
Clyde ...	12,113	5.3	4.5	10.5	+ 0.8	- 5.2
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ..	2,160	7.7	6.3	15.3	+ 1.4	- 7.6
Belfast ...	2,854	4.2	3.8	10.3	+ 0.4	- 6.1
Other Districts ...	3,047	6.5	7.2	9.1	- 0.7	- 2.6
United Kingdom ...	55,923	6.0	5.1	11.1	+ 0.9	- 5.1

Employment on the Tyne and Wear continued good generally. Platers, riveters, and caulkers reported an improvement at some yards. With shipwrights, however, a falling off was shown. In the Tees and Hartlepool district it was fairly good on new work, and about the same as a month ago, except with shipwrights, with whom there was a decline. On repair work in this district employment improved somewhat and was fair. Employment at Hull, Selby, Goole, and Grimsby showed an improvement and was fairly good, some overtime being worked. Compared with a year ago employment was considerably better at all the North-East Coast centres.

In the Thames and Medway district employment continued slack, showing little change compared with a month and a year ago. At Southampton it continued moderate on yacht work and fair on ship work. At other ports on the South Coast little change was shown compared with the previous month, and employment generally was about the same as a year ago. At the Bristol Channel Ports there was an improvement, and employment was considerably better than a year ago. It was fair on the whole at Cardiff, Penarth and Barry. On the Mersey employment remained moderate, and was rather worse than a month ago. It continued better than a year ago.

Employment on the Clyde continued good, and was considerably better than a year ago. At Leith it was good with boilermakers and fair with shipwrights; at Dundee it continued fairly good; at Aberdeen it was fair. At these three centres it was better than a year ago.

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

† Revised figures.

At Belfast employment remained good, with overtime in some branches, and was much better than a year ago.

At Barrow-in-Furness employment continued moderate with iron and steel shipbuilders; with shipwrights it was slack, but showed some improvement. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was good, some overtime being worked. It was fair at Ipswich, and bad at Cork.

**ENGINEERING TRADES.**

(Based on 919 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 877 from Trade Unions, and 32 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May generally continued good, showing a slight improvement on the previous month, and being much better than a year ago.

In a few districts there was a decline compared with a month ago, but the only one in which it was at all marked was the South Wales and Bristol district. The most marked improvements were shown in the East of Scotland and Belfast and Dublin districts. All districts showed a decided improvement compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to 152,859 members of Trade Unions show that 2.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.7 per cent. in the previous month, and 5.1 per cent. in May, 1905.

The percentage unemployed was lower than in any month since June, 1900.

The percentages for the various districts are shown below:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1906, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for May, 1906, as compared with a	
		May, 1906.	April, 1906.	May, 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,284	3.5	3.3	5.1	+ 0.2	- 1.6
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,317	2.5	2.9	5.7	- 0.4	- 3.2
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,491	1.9	2.4	5.3	- 0.5	- 3.4
West Riding Towns ...	12,224	3.0	3.2	7.2	- 0.2	- 4.2
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,659	1.5	2.2	2.5	- 0.7	- 1.0
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,937	1.3	1.8	4.0	- 0.5	- 2.7
Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester District	3,956	3.1	3.7	7.2	- 0.6	- 4.1
London and Neighbouring District	12,362	2.2	2.9	4.2	- 0.7	- 2.0
South Coast ...	3,847	2.1	2.0	3.8	+ 0.1	- 1.7
South Wales and Bristol District	6,610	4.0	3.1	4.6	+ 0.9	- 0.6
Glasgow and District ...	15,037	3.2	2.8	8.4	+ 0.4	- 5.2
East of Scotland ...	3,772	2.8	3.7	7.5	- 0.9	- 4.7
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,493	3.0	3.8	6.6	- 0.8	- 3.6
Other Districts ...	5,615	1.8	2.1	5.0	- 0.3	- 3.2
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	152,859	2.5	2.7	5.1	- 0.2	- 2.6

On the North-East Coast employment continued generally good. In marine engine shops on the Wear double shifts were still worked. At Jarrow and Newcastle much overtime was reported. Pattern-makers were generally well employed. At Hartlepool there was some falling off.

In Manchester and district employment continued good, and some overtime was reported with engineers and ironfounders. At Liverpool it continued fair generally, but had declined somewhat with brassfounders. At Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn, and Burnley employment continued good, with much overtime in nearly all sections. At Barrow it was good. At Preston it was moderate, and showed a slight decline from a month ago.

At Sheffield employment was good generally. With boilermakers it had improved and was fair, and overtime was reported by ironfounders. At Rotherham engineers and ironfounders were well employed, but at Barnsley were reported as slack. At Leeds employment was good generally, but had declined with brassworkers. At Stanningley it had improved with boiler-makers and engineers, and at Wakefield it was fair. Engineers at Bradford, Huddersfield, and Keighley were well employed. At Halifax and Dewsbury an improve-

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

ment was shown on a month ago. With ironfounders employment was moderate at Halifax, good at Keighley and Huddersfield, and fairly good at Dewsbury.

At Hull employment had improved with engineers, and was good generally, with some overtime and double shifts. It was good at Beverley, Selby and Grimsby. Pattern makers were not so well employed as a month ago. At Doncaster employment was moderate, and there was some short time with brassworkers.

At Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Coventry employment was generally good, considerable overtime being worked, particularly in motor and cycle shops.

At Derby it was improving in general shops, and was good in the railway shops, with some overtime; good with boilermakers and wagon and carriage builders, and slack with ironfounders. At Leicester, Loughborough and Rugby it continued good with engineers and toolmakers, but was moderate with ironfounders. At Nottingham employment was reported as improving in general engineering shops, and was good in cycle, motor and textile machinery shops, but not so good with moulders and boiler-makers. It had improved at Lincoln, and was good at Grantham and Newark.

In the Potteries employment was moderate generally but slightly better than a month ago. Boilermakers were fairly well employed.

In the Eastern Counties employment was good with engineers, slack with boilermakers at Norwich, and fair with ironfounders.

Employment in the London district was fair, rather better than a month ago, and much improved as compared with May, 1905.

In the dockyard towns employment was not so good as a month ago, the repairing work with private firms being nearly completed. At Southampton it was moderate with engineers and good with ironfounders.

In South Wales employment with engineers had improved generally, but was worse than a month ago at Cardiff. With ironfounders it was fair, but worse than last month. At Bristol it was good, except with iron and brassmoulders and boiler makers. At Gloucester and Swindon it continued good.

In the Clyde district employment generally was good, with some overtime; pattern makers were busy.

Employment at Edinburgh was fair in all sections; with heavy ironmoulders it was good. At Aberdeen it was good generally. At Dundee it had improved, and was generally good, with some overtime.

Employment at Belfast was good, and considerably above the average. At Dublin and Cork there was a slight improvement with engineers, but these trades were still slack generally.

**MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.**

(Based on 60 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 31 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued fair generally, and showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago. Eighteen Trade Unions with a membership of 15,200 had 350 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.6 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 3.2 per cent. at the end of May, 1905.

Tubes.—In the tube trade employment was fairly good generally. In South Wales it was very good, with overtime in some departments.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment with chain makers was good; with anchor smiths it continued slack, but had improved somewhat on the previous month. In the Tyne district employment was fairly good, and somewhat better than in April. In South Wales it continued fair. Employment was good with spring and axle makers in the Birmingham and West Bromwich district, and with anvil and vice



makers at Dudley, Stourbridge and Birmingham. At Walsall employment was very fair among buckle, chain, and cart gear makers. It was good upon railway ironwork at Wednesbury.

**Sheet Metal, etc.**—In London employment with tin and iron plate workers was fair, and had declined since the previous month; it was better than a year ago. With zinc workers in London it continued fair. Employment with sheet metal workers was good at Hull, Oldham and Nottingham; it was fair at Glasgow, Aberdeen, Leeds, Manchester and Edinburgh; it continued slack at Bristol. At Birmingham employment with iron plate workers was quiet.

**Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.**—With nut and bolt makers employment was good at Winton and fair in South Wales; at Darlaston it continued to improve, and was good. With nail and rivet makers it was fair at Birmingham and Smethwick. At Black Heath it continued fair with nail makers and quiet with rivet makers.

**Wire.**—Employment in this trade was good generally, particularly in Halifax, Manchester, and Sheffield, where overtime was worked, and at Warrington and Norwich. In almost all the important centres it was better than a year ago.

**Locks, Keys and General Hardware.**—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad, with short time. With makers of hollow-ware, and of iron fences and hurdles it was good. Employment with hollow-ware makers continued slack at Sheffield, and was moderate at Birmingham and West Bromwich.

**Stoves, Grates, etc.**—Employment in these trades continued good at Bolton and Bury, and was quiet in the Sheffield district and at Leeds. At Glasgow and Falkirk it was fair.

**Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.**—Employment continued fair on the whole, except in London, where it continued dull, with short time. At Birmingham it continued quiet among bedstead makers, with short time.

**Cutlery, Tools, etc.**—At Sheffield employment continued slack among cutlers generally; with sawmakers it was fair. In the file trades it was good at Sheffield, fair at Wolverhampton, and moderate at Birmingham. In the edge-tool trades employment was fair with grinders, and moderate with makers at Sheffield; at Birmingham it was fair, and at Wednesbury quiet. At Redditch employment in the needle trade continued good.

**Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.**—In London employment with goldsmiths and jewellers showed an improvement on the previous month, and was fair. With silversmiths and electroplaters it was quiet in London and Birmingham, with some short time at the latter place. With silversmiths it was very quiet in Sheffield. Employment with britannia metal workers was moderate at Birmingham, and slack at Sheffield. With jewellers at Birmingham it was quiet at the end of the month. At Coventry employment with watchmakers continued moderate.

**Farriers.**—Employment continued quiet in most districts, the same as a month ago.

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 597 Returns—502 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 87 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Owing to the advance in the rates of wages, the amount earned in the last week in May was greater than a month ago.

The price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool was 0.4d. per lb. higher in May than in April, and 1.72d. higher than a year ago. The price of "good fair Egyptian" was 0.24d. higher in May than in April, 1905, and 3.35d. higher than in May, 1905.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in May was 161,680, an

increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with the number employed by these firms in the last week in April, and of 2.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 136,189 of these operatives have stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with a month ago, the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.3 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 3.2 per cent. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 2.4 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 7.5 per cent.

**Analysis by Departments and Districts.**

Compared with a month ago, little change was shown in the number employed in any branch of the industry; the greater part of the increase in the amount of wages paid was due to the rise in rates of wages. (See LABOUR GAZETTE, May, 1906, page 132.) Compared with a year ago, all branches showed an improvement apart from that caused by increased rates of payment.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on last pay day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of		Per cent.	Per cent.
		April, 1906.	May, 1905.		April, 1906.	May, 1905.		
Preparing ...	14,684	+ 0.1	+ 1.6	13,268	+ 3.4	+ 5.4		
Spinning ...	26,276	- 0.1	+ 2.1	25,312	+ 2.6	+ 5.1		
Weaving ...	64,383	+ 0.4	+ 2.7	59,479	+ 3.5	+ 9.8		
Other ...	11,468	+ 1.1	+ 3.1	13,012	+ 2.6	+ 5.5		
Other Departments not specified	19,348	+ 0.1	+ 2.1	20,278	+ 3.4	+ 6.5		
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>136,189</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>	<b>131,349</b>	<b>+ 3.2</b>	<b>+ 7.5</b>		
<b>Districts.</b>								
Ashton District ...	7,368	+ 0.8	+ 1.6	7,289	+ 4.0	+ 2.7		
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	7,973	- 0.1	+ 2.3	7,395	+ 2.8	+ 6.4		
Oldham District ...	16,003	- 0.4	+ 2.6	16,445	+ 3.8	+ 4.7		
Bolton and Leigh ...	15,832	+ 1.2	- 2.9	14,214	+ 2.2	+ 1.1		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	10,726	+ 0.4	+ 2.7	10,350	+ 5.2	+ 7.4		
Manchester District ...	9,997	+ 0.9	+ 2.1	7,963	+ 4.1	+ 7.4		
Preston and Chorley ...	12,683	- 0.4	+ 0.9	11,743	+ 3.9	+ 10.3		
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	20,273	+ 0.1	+ 3.1	20,268	+ 2.1	+ 8.4		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	17,567	- 0.5	+ 1.2	20,813	+ 2.6	+ 10.3		
Other Lancs. Towns ...	5,658	+ 0.3	+ 1.5	4,845	+ 3.2	+ 5.6		
Yorkshire Towns ...	6,251	+ 1.5	+ 11.1	6,076	+ 5.1	+ 15.6		
Other Districts ...	5,878	+ 1.0	+ 16.7	3,973	+ 2.1	+ 14.7		
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>136,189</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>	<b>131,349</b>	<b>+ 3.2</b>	<b>+ 7.5</b>		

Compared with a month ago, the Stockport, Oldham, Preston, and Burnley districts showed a slight decline in the number employed; every district showed an improvement in the amount of wages paid.

Compared with a year ago, every district showed an improvement in numbers employed and wages paid, except the Bolton and Leigh district, which showed a decline in the number employed. The greatest improvement was shown in the groups of Yorkshire towns and miscellaneous districts.

**Raw Cotton.**

**American Cotton.**—During the month of May the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.15d., the highest price on any one day being 6.26d., and the lowest 6.04d. The price for April was 6.11d., and for May, 1905, 4.43d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 11th of June the average price of "middling American" was 6.02d. per lb.

**Egyptian Cotton.**—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during May averaged 10.0d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 10.1d., and the lowest 9.3d. The price for April was 9.76d., and for May, 1905, 6.65d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 11th of June the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 10.125d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on June 8th, 1906, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 798,790 bales, compared with 974,780 bales on June 9th, 1905.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month ended May 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with May,		Five months ended May 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
		Bales.	Bales.		Bales.	Bales.
American ...	281,579	- 159	+ 112,413	1,340,401	+ 14,526	+ 425,774
Brazilian ...	19,535	+ 11,879	+ 15,318	90,651	+ 72,328	+ 50,466
East Indian ...	9,302	+ 6,574	- 2,318	30,961	+ 16,972	+ 25,667
Egyptian ...	18,744	- 8,160	- 2,481	180,313	+ 26,475	+ 34,161
Miscellaneous ...	7,273	+ 4,062	+ 5,100	40,555	+ 24,857	+ 20,804
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>336,433</b>	<b>+ 14,156</b>	<b>+ 128,032</b>	<b>1,682,881</b>	<b>+ 155,358</b>	<b>+ 518,558</b>

**Exports of Cotton Goods.**

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

Description.	Month ended May 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with May,		Five Months ended May 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
		1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.		1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.
<b>Cotton Yarn and Twist—</b>						
Grey ...	14,508	+ 667	+ 5,058	73,324	+ 7,120	+ 20,335
Bleached ...	3,468	- 487	+ 1,353	16,931	+ 560	+ 4,798
<b>Dyed</b> ...						
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>17,976</b>	<b>+ 180</b>	<b>+ 6,411</b>	<b>90,245</b>	<b>+ 7,680</b>	<b>+ 25,133</b>
<b>Cotton Piece Goods—</b>						
Grey or Unbleached ...	234,726	+ 33,590	+ 101,259	1,026,822	+ 84,970	+ 269,751
Bleached ...	150,054	+ 14,909	+ 37,133	735,618	+ 15,957	+ 115,172
Printed ...	97,311	+ 14,620	+ 17,162	452,666	+ 44,573	+ 57,574
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ...	93,304	+ 9,919	+ 16,038	455,259	+ 22,658	+ 62,284
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>574,405</b>	<b>+ 73,038</b>	<b>+ 171,612</b>	<b>2,670,364</b>	<b>+ 168,160</b>	<b>+ 484,781</b>

**WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.**

(Based on 456 Returns—449 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

The improvement in the Woollen and Worsted trades was maintained, and employment was better than a year ago.

**Woollen Trade.**

Employment continued good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in May was 34,775, an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed by them compared with the last week in April, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 26,470 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	Number employed in last week in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in last week in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Wool Sorting ...	675	- 0.9	- 2.0	658	...	+ 3.3		
Spinning ...	5,177	+ 0.4	+ 3.4	4,429	+ 1.8	+ 3.7		
Weaving ...	10,950	+ 0.6	+ 5.1	9,515	+ 3.0	+ 7.3		
Other Departments ...	7,102	+ 0.5	+ 2.6	7,429	- 0.3	+ 3.7		
Unspecified ...	2,566	...	+ 3.3	2,560	+ 3.2	+ 5.8		
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>26,470</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 3.7</b>	<b>24,391</b>	<b>+ 1.7</b>	<b>+ 5.3</b>		
<b>Districts.</b>								
Huddersfield District ...	4,311	- 0.6	+ 5.5	4,617	+ 0.3	+ 10.1		
Leeds District ...	3,046	+ 1.2	+ 6.7	2,726	+ 3.8	+ 11.8		
Dewsbury & Batley District ...	3,807	+ 0.8	+ 2.9	3,776	+ 2.5	+ 4.3		
Other Parts of West Riding ...	1,755	+ 0.5	+ 3.8	1,582	+ 2.4	+ 8.7		
<b>Total West Riding</b> ...	<b>12,919</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 4.8</b>	<b>12,761</b>	<b>+ 2.0</b>	<b>+ 8.5</b>		
Scotland ...	7,339	- 0.3	+ 1.6	6,578	- 0.5	- 0.3		
Other Districts ...	6,212	+ 1.4	+ 4.0	5,052	+ 4.1	+ 5.1		
<b>Total Woollen</b> ...	<b>26,470</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 3.7</b>	<b>24,391</b>	<b>+ 1.7</b>	<b>+ 5.3</b>		

Compared with a month ago, the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.4 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1.7 per cent. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 3.7 per cent., and the amount of wages an increase of 5.3 per cent.

In Huddersfield employment continued good, and many of the Colne Valley firms worked overtime and night shifts. In Leeds employment was again reported as good, and was better than a month ago, a good deal of overtime being worked. In Rochdale there was a decline, but on the whole the miscellaneous groups of districts in England showed an improvement. In Scotland a slight decrease was apparent, and employment was reported as only fairly good at Hawick, Galashiels and Selkirk.

**Worsted Trade.**

Employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. Mainly owing to a rise in the rate of wages of woolcombers the amount paid in wages was greater than a month ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in May was 62,359, an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed by them compared with the last week in April, and of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 49,693 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with the last week in April the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.1 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1.4 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment in the Bradford district continued very good in the woolsorting and combing department, and woolcombers received a rise in wages; the improvement in the spinning branch was maintained; in the weaving branch there was a decline. In the Keighley and Halifax districts all branches showed an improvement. In the Huddersfield district employment continued good.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed in last week in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in last week in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Wool Sorting & Combing ...	5,839	+ 1.2	+ 6.1	5,751	+ 5.4	+ 10.8		
Spinning ...	26,399	+ 0.2	+ 1.8	14,163	+ 1.3	+ 4.7		
Weaving ...	10,195	- 1.0	+ 0.8	8,579	- 1.0	- 0.2		
Other Departments ...	4,739	+ 0.4	- 0.9	4,851	+ 2.7	+ 0.8		
Unspecified ...	2,521	+ 0.7	+ 3.4	1,815	- 1.0	+ 0.8		
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>49,693</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>+ 1.8</b>	<b>35,459</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>	<b>+ 3.6</b>		
<b>Districts.</b>								
Bradford District ...	25,625	- 0.6	+ 3.2	18,401	...	+ 3.8		
Keighley District ...	6,312	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	4,630	+ 2.5	+ 2.7		
Halifax District ...	6,372	+ 1.2	+ 0.7	4,055	+ 3.0	+ 2.5		
Huddersfield District ...	5,395	+ 1.2	+ 2.4	4,722	+ 5.2	+ 3.8		
Other Parts of West Riding ...	3,817	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	2,368	+ 1.4	+ 7.1		
<b>Total West Riding</b> ...	<b>47,521</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>	<b>34,176</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>+ 3.7</b>		
Other Districts ...	2,172	- 0.3	- 4.2	1,283	- 0.4	- 0.2		
<b>Total Worsted</b> ...	<b>49,693</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>+ 1.8</b>	<b>35,459</b>	<b>+ 1.4</b>	<b>+ 3.6</b>		

**Prices of Raw Material.**

Prices showed a further rise compared with a month ago, and were much higher than a year ago.

	May, 1906.	April, 1906.	May, 1905.
<b>Average Prices</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ...	14 1/2	14 1/2	12
40's Crossbred tops ...	18 1/2	18 1/2	14 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	29	28 1/2	25
<b>Course of Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs ...	14 1/2	14 1/2 to 14 1/2	11 1/2 to 13
40's Crossbred tops ...	19	17 1/2 to 18 1/2	13 1/2 to 16
60's Super Botany tops ...	29	27 1/2 to 28 1/2	24 1/2 to 25 1/2



Imports and Exports.

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

Description.	Month ended May 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with May, 1905.		Five Months ended May 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with corresponding period in 1905.	
	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
<b>Sheep and Lambs' Wool</b>	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	
<b>Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')</b>								
Imports (less Re-Exports)	45,788	+ 39,287	+ 22,372	260,580	+ 35,897	+ 58,858		
British Exports	1,601	- 1,509	- 686	12,439	+ 735	- 1,008		
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported.</b>								
<b>Yarn:—</b>								
Woolen ...	188	+ 54	- 5	951	+ 57	+ 190		
Worsted ...	4,928	+ 779	- 291	22,013	+ 3,125	- 1,252		
Alpaca and Mohair	1,613	+ 393	+ 424	6,515	+ 814	+ 1,263		
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>6,729</b>	<b>+ 1,196</b>	<b>+ 128</b>	<b>29,480</b>	<b>+ 3,996</b>	<b>+ 197</b>		
<b>Piece Goods:—</b>								
Woolen ...	5,438	+ 733	+ 1,093	30,666	+ 2,007	+ 7,185		
Worsted ...	7,402	+ 788	+ 386	43,063	- 393	+ 1,434		
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>12,640</b>	<b>+ 1,521</b>	<b>+ 1,479</b>	<b>73,729</b>	<b>+ 1,614</b>	<b>+ 8,619</b>		

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 133 Returns—127 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good. It was better than a month ago and a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last full week in May was 53,434, an increase of 0.5 per cent. as compared with April, and of 1.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Returns were also sent as to the wages paid by firms employing 46,262 workpeople. These Returns show that there were increases in the number of workpeople employed by these firms of 0.6 per cent. as compared with April, and of 1.6 as compared with a year ago; the amount of wages paid showing increases of 3.3 per cent. as compared with April, and of 4.5 per cent. as compared with last year.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table. It will be seen that the improvement as compared with the April Returns was greatest in the Belfast district. As compared with May, 1905, an increase of 8.6 per cent. is shown in the wages paid in Fifehire.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number employed in last full week of May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last full week of May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>46,262</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>27,136</b>	<b>+ 3.3</b>
<b>Districts.</b>				
Belfast ...	15,749	+ 1.6	9,188	+ 6.7
Other Places in Ireland ...	15,250	+ 0.3	8,301	+ 2.3
Ireland ...	30,999	+ 0.9	17,489	+ 4.5
Fifehire ...	7,567	- 0.3	4,823	+ 0.8
Other Places in Scotland ...	5,974	- 0.3	3,776	+ 0.9
Scotland ...	13,541	- 0.3	8,599	+ 0.7
United Kingdom* }	46,262	+ 0.6	27,136	+ 3.3

\* Including 7 Returns from England.  
† Employment in the Belfast district was interrupted by a dispute, some particulars of which are given on p. 188. The Returns from the works included in the above Table relate, however, to the last week of full employment at each works.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Description.	Month ended May 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with May, 1905.		Five Months ended May 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1905.	
	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
<b>Imports:—</b>								
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) Tons	9,981	- 1,808	+ 915	53,398	- 2,501	+ 6,459		
<b>Exports:—</b>								
Linen Yarn 100 Lbs.	12,900	- 1,655	+ 68	60,477	+ 74	- 1,075		
Linen Piece Goods 100 Yds.	147,127	+ 219	+ 27,698	820,441	+ 44,805	+ 133,201		

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 47 Returns—40 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good, and was much better than a year ago. The total number of workpeople employed in the last full week of May by firms making Returns was 23,399, an increase of 0.2 per cent. as compared with April, and of 4.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Of the total number reported on, 19,210, or 82.1 per cent., were employed in the Dundee district.

Firms employing 18,354 persons supplied particulars of the wages paid, as well as numbers employed. The number of workpeople employed by them showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with last month, and of 6.1 per cent. as compared with last year. The amount of wages paid showed no change compared with April, but an increase of 10.0 per cent. as compared with last year.

The following Table summarises these Returns, and shows that the improvement compared with a year ago was greatest in the weaving departments, where the increase in the wages paid amounted to 14.7 per cent.:

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number of workpeople paid Wages on the last pay day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>18,354</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>12,693</b>	<b>+ 10.0</b>
<b>Preparing ...</b>	<b>3,956</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>
<b>Spinning ...</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>2,955</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>
<b>Weaving ...</b>	<b>6,321</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>4,486</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>
<b>Other ...</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>
<b>Departments not specified</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>+ 3.0</b>

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Description.	Month ended May 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with May, 1905.		Five Months ended May 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1905.	
	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
<b>Imports:—</b>								
Jute Tons	25,585	+ 13,271	+ 19,671	161,696	+ 26,515	+ 12,285		
<b>Exports:—</b>								
Jute Yarn 100 Lbs.	38,635	+ 3,948	- 2,505	177,330	- 12,978	+ 10,545		
Jute Piece Goods 100 Yds.	150,324	- 19,403	- 19,966	684,576	+ 23,820	- 157,569		

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 68 Returns—64 from Employers and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the silk trade was rather better than a month ago, and decidedly better than a year ago.

Number of Workpeople.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in May was 10,517, an increase of 0.3 per cent. upon the number employed by the same firms at the end of April, and of 1.8 per cent. upon the number employed at the end of May, 1905.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 9,285 workpeople made Returns of wages paid in the periods under review. From these Returns it appears that, compared with April, there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, all the districts, except the Eastern Counties, showing an increase in wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Every district shows an increase in wages paid, the increase in the Macclesfield, &c., district being over 20 per cent.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. employed in last week of May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with April, 1906.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last week of May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with April, 1906.
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>9,285</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>6,153</b>	<b>+ 1.9</b>
<b>Districts.</b>				
Lancashire and W. Riding of York	3,073	+ 0.4	2,451	+ 5.9
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,670	+ 0.2	1,091	+ 1.3
Leek ...	493	- 1.9	369	+ 6.7
Eastern Counties ...	2,432	+ 0.4	1,483	- 3.6
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,677	+ 1.2	959	+ 1.1
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>9,285</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>6,153</b>	<b>+ 1.9</b>

Imports and Exports.

The imports of raw and thrown silk, and of spun silk yarn, and the exports of thrown silk and yarn, and of silk broad-stuffs are shown in the Table below for the periods specified:—

Description.	Month ended May 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with May, 1905.		Five Months ended May 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1905.	
	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.	
<b>Imports:—</b>								
Raw Silk lbs.	71,736	- 55,281	- 15,739	381,846	- 63,101	- 156,729		
Thrown Silk ...	51,349	- 173	- 5,390	239,851	+ 10,134	- 375		
Spun Silk Yarn ...	30,597	- 1,775	+ 17,370	120,755	- 40,060	+ 57,239		
<b>Exports:—</b>								
Thrown Silk, Twist & Yarn	75,143*	- 6,715	+ 38,031	1,339,141	- 22,260	+ 79,735		
Silk Broad-stuffs	551,949	+ 70,664	+ 221,159	3,201,186	+ 377,879	+ 1,437,170		

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 111 Returns—105 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Firms employing 10,917 workpeople, and paying £11,242 in wages in the week ended May 26th, made Returns, from which it appears that there was a slight increase in the number of workpeople employed, as compared with the last week in April, and an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. There was an increase of 5.6 per cent. in the numbers employed,

\* Yarn, 74,225 lbs. † Yarn, 333,653 lbs.

and of 13.5 per cent. in wages paid, as compared with the corresponding period in 1905.

In the Levers branch employment was fairly good, and was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. There was a decline in employment in the curtain branch, especially in Scotland, as compared with a month ago, and in Long Eaton as compared with a year ago. In the plain net branch employment was much better than a month and a year ago.

Branches.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. employed in last week of May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with April, 1906.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last week of May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with April, 1906.
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>10,917</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>11,242</b>	<b>+ 3.0</b>
<b>Districts.</b>				
Nottingham City ...	2,686	+ 0.7	2,717	+ 3.7
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	2,174	+ 2.7	2,761	+ 1.9
Other English districts	3,370	+ 1.8	3,225	+ 6.1
Scotland ...	2,687	- 2.1	2,539	- 0.2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>10,917</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>11,242</b>	<b>+ 3.0</b>

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 108 Returns—102 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fairly good in England and good in Scotland; it was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 17,536 workpeople, and paying £13,385 in wages on the last pay-day in May, made Returns, from which it appears that there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In Leicester employment continued to improve, and was better than a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough operatives were fully employed. In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment was fairly good and better than a year ago. In Scotland employment was good and better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages on last pay-day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with April, 1906.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with April, 1906.
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>17,536</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>+ 2.6</b>
<b>Leicester ...</b>	<b>7,637</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>5,815</b>	<b>+ 2.9</b>
<b>Leicester Country District ...</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>2,294</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>
<b>Notts. and Derbyshire ...</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>3,070</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>
<b>Scotland ...</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>+ 4.6</b>
<b>Other Parts of United Kingdom</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>+ 7.3</b>
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>17,536</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>+ 2.6</b>
<b>Amount paid to Outworkers</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>+ 2.5</b>

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 16 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

Woolen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was reported as fair, and as better than a month ago and a year ago. About two-fifths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-fifth worked overtime.



**Cotton Dyers.**—Employment on the whole was fair, but slackness for want of cotton was reported among yarn dyers.

**Silk Dyers.**—Employment was reported as moderate at Macclesfield, fair at Leek.

**Calico Printers, etc.**—Employment at New Mills was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; with calico printers at Dinting it continued fair. At Glasgow it was reported as good with calico printers, fair with printers' engravers and block printers.

**Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.**—At Leicester employment was moderate, but slightly better than last month; at Loughborough an improvement was shown compared with a month ago and a year ago. At Nottingham employment was good with bleachers, and with lace and silk dyers; it continued steady with hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Basford.

**Calenderers, etc.**—In Glasgow employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In Dundee it was reported as fair with calender workers and bleachfield workers.

### TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 135 Returns—109 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch was fairly good in London, good in the Provinces. In the *ready-made* branch employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

#### Bespoke Branch.

**London.**—Employment showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was much the same as a year ago.

Firms paying £15,573 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended May 26th showed an increase of 15.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the four weeks ended April 28th, and practically no change compared with the four weeks ended May 27th, 1905.

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

#### Ready-made Branch.

**London.**—Employment on the whole was good, and better than a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as good on contract work, fair on stock and shipping work.

**Leeds.**—Employment during the month continued good, and was better than a year ago. According to Returns received from firms employing about 10,000 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment was good with firms employing 61 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the Returns, and moderate with firms employing 39 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 47 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 43 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 10 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 81 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 10 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 9 per cent. as worse. The Jewish operatives reported employment as good.

**Other Centres.**—Employment in Manchester was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Bristol it continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the Midlands and the Eastern Counties it was reported as good. In Glasgow it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

### HAT TRADE.

(Based on 15 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 12 from Trade Unions.)

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 10.7, compared with 13.6 at the end of April, and 10.7 a year ago. In London an improvement was reported compared with a month ago, but employment was slightly worse than a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade

the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 4.0, compared with 4.7 at the end of April, and 1.9 a year ago. Employment on the whole was fairly good at Denton and Stockport, quiet in the remaining districts; it was worse than a year ago.

### BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 621 Returns—606 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 4 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

The improvement in the boot and shoe trade was maintained, and employment was better than a year ago.

The number employed in the last week of May by 606 firms making Returns was 81,084, a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed by them compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 506 firms, employing 69,143 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. These Returns showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Several districts showed a slight decline in the number employed, but every district showed an increase in the amount of wages paid except Kingswood, which showed a decline, and Leicester, which showed practically no change. In London employment generally showed improvement, and it was good in the hand-sewn branch. In Leicester employment continued fairly good and showed little change. In Northamptonshire employment showed an improvement. In Stafford nearly all firms worked overtime. In the Eastern Counties employment during the month was not so good as in April. In Kingswood nearly all the firms worked short time. In the Leeds district employment in the firms making Returns showed an improvement, but short time was general. Employment was fair in Glasgow and improved in Maybole.

Every district showed an improvement in wages earned compared with a year ago except Kingswood and Leicester; in this latter district practically no change was shown. The improvement was greatest in the Manchester district and in the country districts of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. employed on last pay day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of April, 1906.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of	
				April, 1906.	May, 1905.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>			£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London ... ..	5,490	+ 2.4	4,215	+ 1.8	+ 4.9
Leicester ... ..	14,145	- 1.3	15,764	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Leicester Country District	3,725	- 0.3	3,561	+ 0.7	+ 1.0
Northampton	9,358	+ 0.3	9,466	+ 2.6	+ 1.8
Northampton Country District	9,585	+ 1.8	8,986	+ 3.3	+ 10.1
Kettering ... ..	3,540	+ 1.0	3,692	+ 3.1	+ 4.6
Stafford & District	2,559	- 0.2	2,479	+ 5.4	+ 6.3
Norwich & District	4,337	- 0.0	3,792	+ 1.3	+ 6.0
Exeter & District ...	1,963	- 1.0	1,809	+ 0.4	+ 4.5
Kingswood ... ..	2,492	- 0.4	2,265	- 5.0	- 5.5
Leeds & District ...	2,767	- 0.7	2,504	+ 0.1	+ 3.2
Manchester & District	2,066	+ 0.9	2,108	+ 2.6	+ 17.2
Birmingham & District	1,067	- 3.9	878	+ 2.2	+ 0.9
Other parts of England and Wales	2,930	- 4.2	2,467	+ 2.5	+ 5.3
England and Wales ...	64,574	- 0.1	64,083	+ 1.7	+ 4.3
SCOTLAND ... ..	4,264	- 0.1	4,168	+ 2.8	+ 1.6
IRELAND ... ..	305	- 0.9	247	+ 2.1	+ 4.2
UNITED KINGDOM ...	69,143	- 0.1	68,498	+ 1.8	+ 4.0

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported during May, 1906, and the five months ended May 31st, 1906, together with the

increases or decreases, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1905 and 1904:—

	Month ended May 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with May,		Five months ended May 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
Imports						
Dozen pairs ... ..	19,122	- 2,474	- 390	97,167	- 3,085	- 2,468
Value ... ..	76,955	- 11,837	- 3,633	389,142	- 13,685	+ 16,435
Re-Exports						
Dozen pairs ... ..	1,070	- 51	- 181	7,203	+ 1,245	- 2,090
Value ... ..	3,009	- 89	- 1,021	20,410	+ 5,217	- 3,098
Exports (British and Irish)						
Dozen pairs ... ..	53,762	+ 1,995	+ 8,038	320,890	+ 22,615	+ 71,654
Value ... ..	137,722	+ 12,273	+ 26,914	781,767	+ 78,355	+ 203,333

### OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 44 Returns—1 from an Employers' Association, 27 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May showed some improvement in most branches, and was considerably better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,665 had 5.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, compared with 5.7 per cent. in April, and 7.5 per cent. in May, 1905.

**Skimmers, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.**—Employment, though still rather quiet in some centres, was better on the whole than in April and considerably better than a year ago. At Newcastle, Bolton, Bury, Wigan, Edinburgh and Glasgow it was good; at London, Leeds and Walsall it was fair; at Birmingham it remained quiet, short time being worked; at Northampton and Wellingborough it was improving.

**Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.**—Employment was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Walsall, however, it was quiet generally.

**Miscellaneous Leather Trades.**—Employment with fancy leather workers and portmanteau makers remained fair.

### OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 139 Returns—129 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the dressmaking trades in London was fairly good, and better than a year ago; in the wholesale millinery trade in London there was a decline. Employment in the shirt and collar trades continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. In the corset trade it was good, and better than a year ago.

**Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,766 dressmakers in the last week in May, showed an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers, employing 1,678 workpeople, showed an increase of 4.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 5.5 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was good, and better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms employing 5,246 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the last week in May, showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good. Firms employing 1,348 milliners showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with a year ago employment during the month was only moderate in wholesale firms, fair in retail firms.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed an increase in the demand for, and a decrease in the supply of dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago, the demand being much greater than the supply in both periods.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was moderate, and better than a year ago; firms employing 2,478 workpeople in the last week of May showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,337 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £5,058 in wages during the week ending May 26th, showed no change compared with a month ago in the amount of wages paid, and an increase of 5.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was fairly good in London, Manchester, Taunton and Belfast; good in Glasgow; moderate in Londonderry.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,116 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the last week of May showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 7.5 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 16 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 9 per cent. as worse.

### PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 461 Returns—145 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 295 from Trade Unions, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT remained good in the paper trades. In the printing and bookbinding trades it continued quiet, but was rather better, on the whole, than a month ago and a year ago.

#### PAPER TRADES.

Employment remained good, and was rather better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 21,252 workpeople at the end of May showed that there was an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with April, and of 0.8 per cent. compared with May, 1905.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of May, 1906, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:</b>			
Northern Counties ... ..	6,204	- 0.1	- 0.5
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland ...	2,176	- 1.3	+ 0.1
Southern Counties ... ..	6,409	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
Scotland ... ..	5,601	+ 0.7	+ 2.3
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	20,390	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Hand-made Paper ... ..	862	...	+ 1.1
Total ... ..	21,252	+ 0.1	+ 0.8

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,711 members had 2.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.7 per cent. a month ago, and 1.8 per cent. a year ago. In the *hand-made paper* trade, Trade Unions with 624 members had 5.3 per cent. unemployed, compared with 5.9 in April, and 6.9 in May, 1905.

#### PRINTING TRADES.

Employment continued quiet on the whole, showing little change, except in London, where it was better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of *letterpress printers* with 40,217 members had 4.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5.3 per cent. in April, and 5.0 per cent. in May, 1905.



Employment in the *lithographic* trade remained fair with artists and quiet with printers, Trade Unions with 6,539 members having 4·8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 4·7 per cent. in April, and 5·2 per cent. in May, 1905.

The following Table shows by districts the percentage unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the *Printing Trades* :—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1906.	April, 1906.	May, 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	18,676	3·6	5·3	4·4	- 1·7	- 0·8
Northern Counties and Yorkshire Lanes. and Cheshire...	5,182	6·5	4·5	5·6	+ 2·0	+ 0·9
East Midland and Eastern Counties	6,459	6·2	6·1	6·1	+ 0·1	+ 0·1
West Midlands	2,362	5·9	5·4	6·5	+ 0·5	- 0·6
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,735	3·5	2·7	4·2	+ 0·8	- 0·7
Scotland ... ..	5,502	3·9	3·7	3·8	+ 0·2	+ 0·1
Ireland ... ..	2,474	8·0	11·0	8·4	- 3·0	- 0·4
United Kingdom ...	46,756	4·7	5·2	5·0	- 0·5	- 0·3

*London*.—Employment with letterpress printers was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago, Trade Unions with 16,715 members having 3·4 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5·2 per cent. in April, and 4·2 per cent. in May, 1905. With lithographic printers employment remained quiet, but showed a slight improvement on the whole as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

*Other Centres*.—With letterpress printers in Edinburgh employment was fairly good. At Dundee, Oxford and Plymouth it was good. Elsewhere it was quiet generally. At Leeds short time was prevalent. At Glasgow both short time and overtime were frequent. At Newcastle and Bradford employment was worse than in April; but at Nottingham, Dublin and Belfast, an improvement was shown. With lithographic printers employment was good at Bristol; fair at Manchester and Glasgow; quiet at Edinburgh, Leeds, Bradford, Liverpool, and Belfast.

#### BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in these trades remained quiet in London, with some short time. Elsewhere it was fairly good, except at Dublin, where it continued slack. Employment, on the whole, was rather better than a month ago and much better than a year ago.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed by Trade Unions making Returns :—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1906.	April, 1906.	May, 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	3,676	6·4	7·5	8·4	- 1·1	- 2·0
Other Districts ...	3,320	3·7	4·1	6·3	- 0·4	- 2·6
United Kingdom ...	6,996	5·1	5·9	7·4	- 0·8	- 2·3

#### BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,762 Returns—124 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 1,593 from Trade Unions, and 45 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was quiet generally, except with painters, who were well employed. It was better than a month ago and a year ago.

*London*.—Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 41 London employers show that in the last week of May they paid wages to 9,682 workpeople of all classes, compared with 9,951 in April, and 11,979 in May, 1905. Employment generally remained very quiet, except with painters, who continued busy.

Returns from Trade Unions in London show little change on the whole in the state of employment as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters in London at the end of May was 8·2, compared with 6·5 in April, and 8·3 in May, 1905. With plumbers, the percentages unemployed for the three periods were 13·7 for May, 1906, 13·5 for April, 1906, and 14·2 for May, 1905. In the case of both carpenters and plumbers, the percentage unemployed in May, 1906, was higher in London than in any other district of the Kingdom. Bricklayers and plasterers reported a slight improvement in employment; masons and painters reported a decline.

*The Provinces*.—Seventy-four returns were received from Employers' Associations in towns outside of London. On the whole employment in these towns was quiet.

The following information is based on returns from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents :—

With *bricklayers* employment remained dull generally, but was better on the whole than a month ago, especially in Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, and the Midland Counties. Compared with a year ago little general change was shown, but there was an improvement in Lancashire and Cheshire.

Employment with *stonemasons* was dull generally, but slightly better than in April. It was much the same generally as a year ago, but worse at Aberdeen. At Plymouth, Nottingham, and Dundee it was worse than a month ago.

With *carpenters* and *joiners* employment showed no general change compared with a month ago, but was better than in May, 1905. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 5·4, the same percentage as in April. In May, 1905, the percentage was 6·8. The improvement, compared with a year ago, was shared by most districts; some decline, however, was shown in the Southern and South-Western Counties and Wales. In Scotland employment was fair on the whole.

Employment with *slaters* and *tilers* showed an improvement compared with last month. In Scotland it was fair and better than a year ago.

With *plumbers* employment, though quiet, was better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 7·9 compared with 9·0 in April, and 10·9 in May, 1905. The improvement was general, compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Employment with *plasterers* was dull. It showed a slight improvement on the whole as compared with April, but in Scotland it was worse than a month ago, and also worse than a year ago. Three hundred plasterers are reported to have left Glasgow this season for the United States and Canada.

*Painters* continued well employed, and reported an improvement compared with April and also compared with May, 1905. Overtime was worked in many cases. At Belfast, however, employment was quiet.

With *labourers* employment remained quiet, and showed little change as compared with April.

#### FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 157 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 125 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May continued fair, and was about the same as a month ago. It was slightly better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 3·6, as compared with 3·3 at the end of April, 1906, and 4·1 at the end of May, 1905.

#### Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was about the same as a month ago, but better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,607 reported 197 (or 4·3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, compared with 4·2 per cent. at the end of April, 1906, and 5·9 per cent. at the end of May, 1905. Employment was good at Nottingham and Coventry; fair or moderate at Burnley, Oldham, Preston, and Bristol; improving at Birmingham and Leeds; and bad at Liverpool, Hull, Wolverhampton, and Leicester.

#### Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment continued fair, and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 13,143 reported 521 (or 4·0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3·4 per cent. at the end of April, 1906, and 3·8 per cent. at the end of May, 1905.

#### Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued dull, and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, good at Fraserburgh and Peterhead, and fair at Greenock, Dublin, and Cork.

#### Coachbuilding.

Employment in this industry continued good, and was rather better than a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 8,712, reported 115 (or 1·3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 1·2 per cent. in the previous month and 2·0 per cent. a year ago.

#### Miscellaneous.

*Brushmakers*.—Employment with brushmakers, on the whole, maintained its improved condition, though with ivory and bone brushmakers in London it was quiet. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,716 reported 50 (or 2·9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, 1906, as compared with 2·8 per cent. in the previous month, and 3·3 per cent. a year ago.

*Other Trades*.—With packing-case makers trade was fair generally; with basket-makers it was good on the whole.

#### GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 127 Returns—79 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 22 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate generally, but showed an improvement compared with the previous month. It was better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 12,659 workpeople, and paying £15,184 in wages during the last week in May, 1906, show that compared with a month ago there was an increase of 1·1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 4·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1·9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed.

Branches.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Number employed on last pay-day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with April, 1906.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of April, 1906.	Per cent.
Glass Bottle ...	7,538	+ 1·8	+ 2·7	9,434	+ 5·6	+ 2·7
Plate Glass ...	851	+ 2·2	+ 12·6	998	+ 1·5	+ 10·4
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	2,845	- 0·6	- 1·4	3,102	+ 1·6	+ 3·6
Other Branches ...	1,425	+ 0·7	- 0·8	1,650	+ 1·0	+ 1·8
Total ...	12,659	+ 1·1	+ 1·9	15,184	+ 4·0	+ 3·3

Districts.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Number employed on last pay-day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with April, 1906.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of April, 1906.	Per cent.
North of England	1,753	- 4·0	+ 1·3	1,751	- 10·5	+ 3·4
Yorkshire ...	4,136	+ 2·8	+ 2·7	4,989	+ 6·8	+ 0·3
Lancashire ...	2,976	+ 2·9	+ 3·3	3,888	+ 8·4	+ 6·0
Worcester and Warwick	2,625	+ 1·2	+ 2·7	3,204	+ 3·9	+ 4·8
Scotland ...	894	- 1·7	- 7·3	1,090	+ 2·3	...
Other parts of United Kingdom	275	- 0·7	+ 3·8	292	+ 10·2	+ 14·5
Total ...	12,659	+ 1·1	+ 1·9	15,184	+ 4·0	+ 3·3

In Yorkshire, Lancashire, and at Worcester and Warwick there was a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, but employment was moderate on the whole. In the North of England and in Scotland there was a decline.

As compared with a year ago, there was an improvement in all districts except in Scotland, where the numbers employed show a decline.

Employment was reported as good with makers of flint glass tubes in the Newcastle district, with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens, and with bottle makers at Bristol and Portobello; it was fair with pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear, with glass blowers in London, and with flint glass makers and plate glass bevellers at Birmingham.

*Imports and Exports*.—The following Table shows the quantities of the various descriptions of Glass imported and exported during the periods mentioned :—

Description.	Month ended 31st May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with May,		Five months ended 31st May, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
<b>Imports:</b>						
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades & Cylinders	126,200	+ 43,165	+ 8,409	627,049	+ 228,498	+ 69,155
Plate ... ..	30,498	- 4,331	- 17,497	154,952	- 41,227	- 51,504
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented and other manufactures of Flint Glass	72,033	+ 4,210	+ 34,191	342,370	+ 46,746	+ 122,504
Manufactures, other sorts	3,138	- 5,357	- 17,509	19,961	- 17,451	- 89,135
Bottles ... ..	140,852	- 3,720	- 6,051	637,089	- 9,262	- 62,289
<b>Exports:</b>						
Plate ... ..	14,504	+ 2,936	+ 4,873	56,477	+ 10,796	+ 23,090
Flint ... ..	4,779	- 506	- 1,519	22,957	- 3,577	- 4,198
Manufactures, other sorts	53,502	+ 13,391	+ 20,183	181,621	+ 39,243	+ 57,003
Bottles ... ..	73,059	+ 8,669	+ 15,061	306,400	+ 49,587	+ 2,106

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

(Based on 34 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

In the *Pottery* trade employment continued fairly good in England; in Scotland it was moderate. In the *Brick and Tile* trades employment was moderate, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

*Pottery Trade*.—In Staffordshire employment continued fairly good, and was slightly better than a month ago. In the South Yorkshire and River Aire district it continued moderate, and short time was being worked. In North and South Devon it was generally fair, and better than a month ago. In Scotland employment generally was moderate, and better than a year ago. With tobacco pipe makers at Glasgow employment was bad, and worse than a month ago.

*Brick and Tile Trades*.—Employment on the whole was moderate, but was good in the Oldham district, and in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire; and fair in the Tees, Bradford, and Plymouth districts. In South Staffordshire it was bad.

#### AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on 172 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

AGRICULTURAL labourers were, on the whole, fully employed during May. There was a seasonal increase in the demand for extra men, particularly in the latter part of the month, for hoeing, weeding and sowing roots. The supply of such men was, however, equal to the demand, and in a few districts some day labourers could not obtain constant work.



**Northern Counties.**—Reports from *Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmorland* show that outdoor work was much interrupted by rain, but work under cover was generally found for the men. In *Lancashire* some day labourers were in irregular employment through wet weather. Regularity of employment was reported in *Yorkshire*, except in the case of day labourers, some of whom lost time in a few districts. The supply of labour in the Northern Counties was generally quite equal to the demand.

**Midland Counties.**—Agricultural employment was, on the whole, regular in *Cheshire and Derbyshire*. Some day labourers and Irish migratory labourers, however, were not fully employed. Farm labourers in *Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Shropshire* were for the most part in regular employment, and the supply of labour was equal to the demand. In *Worcestershire and Warwickshire* a few day labourers were in irregular employment in certain districts, but, speaking generally, there was ample work for farm labourers. The weather was favourable for hoeing and other work in *Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire*, and regular men were fully employed, as were most of the day labourers. Shepherds are reported to have been somewhat difficult to obtain in the *Towcester Union (Northants)*, and there was some scarcity of waggons, cowmen, and shepherds in the *Wellingborough Union (Northants)*. Farm labourers in *Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire* were well employed, and some overtime was worked in order to keep the weeds in check, which were making rapid growth. There was a fairly good demand for extra men for hoeing and weeding.

**Eastern Counties.**—Reports from *Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire* show that agricultural employment was generally regular. There was a fair demand for extra men for hoeing in certain districts, but the supply was sufficient. Regularity of employment was reported in *Lincolnshire*. Some day labourers, however, were not fully employed. At the yearly hirings there was a good supply of men, and their wages showed a downward tendency, but boys and youths were in demand. In *Norfolk and Suffolk* the weather was favourable during the greater part of the month, and there was some demand for extra men for hoeing, weeding, turnip sowing, and other work. There was no scarcity of labour, however, and in some districts a few odd men were not in constant employment. Farm work was well forward in *Essex*, and the supply of day labourers was in excess of the demand in several districts. A correspondent in the *Braintree Union* stated that more day labourers were seeking work than for many years past.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Regularity of employment was reported in *Kent*. Extra labour was frequently engaged for hoeing potatoes, digging round hops, hoeing and singling mangels, &c. In several districts, however, the supply of day labourers was more than sufficient. Farm labourers in  *Surrey and Sussex* were, generally speaking, in full employment. A report from the *Petworth Union (Sussex)* refers to a scarcity of men for permanent situations. In *Hampshire and Berkshire* there was an increased demand for day labourers, but some men of this class were in irregular employment. A scarcity of men for milking was reported in the *Wantage Union (Berks.)* Work in the fields was interrupted slightly by unfavourable weather in *Wiltshire and Dorsetshire*. There was not much demand for day labourers until towards the end of the month, partly owing to the backward state of the crops. Reports from *Somersetshire, Herefordshire, and Gloucestershire* show that outdoor employment was interrupted by rain on some days during the latter part of the month. Crops were backward, and there was not much hoeing to be done. Some day labourers lost time in consequence. A slight scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from certain districts. In *Devonshire and Cornwall* employment was generally regular. A report from the *Kingsbridge Union (Devon)* stated that boys for farm work were very scarce.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based on 133 Returns, 107 from Employers, 12 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. At *Liverpool*, however, it continued dull.

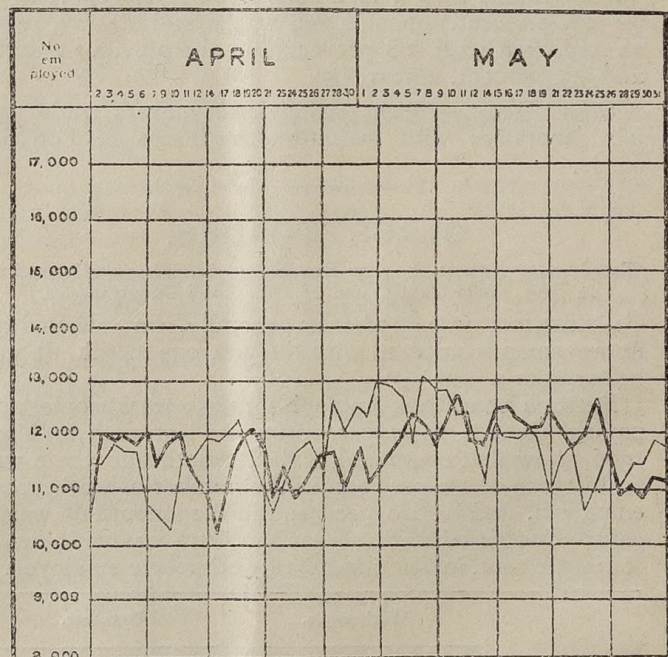
*London*.—Employment generally was fair, and better than in April. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended May 26th was 11,971, an increase of 3.7 per cent. on a month ago, and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. on a year ago.

The daily numbers in May ranged from 10,838 on the 26th to 12,784 on the 10th. During the corresponding period of 1905, the numbers ranged from 10,568† on the 24th to 13,050† on the 8th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves.				
	In Docks*			At 107 Wharves making Returns.	
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended May 5th	4,077	2,239	6,316	5,350	11,666
" " 12th	4,377	1,787	6,164	5,428	12,092
" " 19th	4,865	2,134	6,999	5,315	12,314
" " 26th	4,452	1,982	6,434	5,376	11,810
Average for 4 weeks ended May 26th	4,568	2,035	6,603	5,568	11,971
Average for April, 1906	3,778	2,334	6,112	5,431	11,543
Average for May, 1905	4,401†	2,131†	6,532†	5,477†	12,011†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 107 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of April and May, 1906. The corresponding curve for April and May, 1905, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1906, and the thin curve to 1905.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for May, 1906, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	11,150	11	11,851	22	11,712
2	11,339	12	11,767	23	11,938
3	11,625	13	12,444	24	12,607
4	11,872	14	12,472	25	11,718
5	12,345	15	12,262	26	10,838
6	12,113	16	12,129	27	11,038
7	11,795	17	12,104	28	10,885
8	12,242	18	12,475	29	11,218
9	12,784	19	12,054	30	11,158
10		20		31	

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,173 in May, as compared with 1,165 in April.

\* Exclusive of *Tilbury*. † Revised figures.

In *Liverpool* employment with dock labourers and quay and railway carters was dull.

*Other Ports.*—Employment generally was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago. At *Belfast* a scarcity of labour was reported. At *Bristol* employment was slack, though better than in April.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MAY.**

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during May 44,337\* seamen, of whom 5,416 (or 12.2 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. In 10 instances there were increases, and in 7 there were decreases as compared with a year ago, the net result being an increase of 3,843 on the number shipped in May, 1905. The principal increases were at *Liverpool, Glasgow, Southampton, and Bristol*, and the principal decrease at *London*.

During the five completed months of 1906, 185,464\* seamen were shipped, of whom 25,313 (or 13.6 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with the corresponding period of 1905, the only considerable decrease was at *Swansea*, the net result being an increase on the number shipped of 8,233 (or 4.6 per cent.). The principal increases were at *Liverpool, Glasgow, Southampton, and Hull*.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	May,			Five months ended May,		
	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<i>East Coast.</i>						
Tyne Ports ... ..	3,197	3,103	- 89	13,243	13,127	- 116
Sunderland ... ..	485	398	- 87	2,014	1,994	- 20
Middlesbrough ... ..	237	290	+ 53	1,148	1,123	- 25
Hull ... ..	1,032	1,124	+ 92	4,879	5,918	+ 1,039
Grimsby ... ..	146	191	+ 45	337	466	+ 129
<i>Bristol Channel.</i>						
Bristol ... ..	446	730	+ 284	2,620	3,238	+ 618
Newport, Mon. ... ..	1,005	959	- 46	4,603	4,489	- 114
Cardiff † ... ..	5,097	5,299	+ 202	23,422	23,812	+ 390
Swansea ... ..	403	350	- 53	2,339	1,964	- 375
<i>Other Ports.</i>						
Liverpool ... ..	15,730	18,174	+ 2,444	65,079	68,406	+ 2,427
London ... ..	6,713	6,373	- 340	28,573	29,399	+ 826
Southampton ... ..	2,058	2,507	+ 449	9,423	10,649	+ 1,226
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith ... ..	257	468	+ 211	2,017	2,499	+ 473
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth ... ..	193	163	- 30	995	967	- 28
Glasgow ... ..	3,217	3,952	+ 735	14,001	15,804	+ 1,803
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ... ..	52	78	+ 26	358	481	+ 123
Belfast ... ..	241	169	- 72	1,280	1,137	- 143
Total ... ..	49,494	44,337	+ 5,157	177,231	185,464	+ 8,233

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 22 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed during May shows a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with a year ago, as will be seen from the following Table:—

	Quantity.				Value.			
	May, 1906.		May, 1905.		May, 1906.		May, 1905.	
	Cwts.	Value.	Cwts.	Value.	£	Value.	£	Value.
Fish (other than Shell):								
England and Wales ... ..	1,017,676	1,148,847	1,148,847	1,148,847	611,589	568,945	611,589	568,945
Scotland ... ..	474,627	459,412	459,412	459,412	178,606	167,955	178,606	167,955
Ireland ... ..	152,771	199,384	199,384	199,384	61,476	58,571	61,476	58,571
Total ... ..	1,645,074	1,807,643	1,807,643	1,807,643	851,671	795,481	851,671	795,481
Shell Fish ... ..	—	—	—	—	40,649	50,123	40,649	50,123
Total Value ... ..	—	—	—	—	892,320	845,604	892,320	845,604

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

Employment at the principal ports was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Off *Plymouth* and the *South-Western coast*, however, fishing continued slack, and off the *South coast of Ireland* and at *Montrose* it was interrupted by stormy weather. At *Harwich* it was poor, and at *Macduff moderate*. At *Yarmouth* and *Lowestoft* fish curers were only moderately employed.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: VOLUNTARY HELP TO FELLOW WORKMAN.

Compensation is only payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, where the accident which caused injury to a workman arose "out of and in the course of the employment."

A workman was employed by a local authority in repairing roads. A road was being repaired and being rolled by a steam roller. The man had nothing to do with the engine, but had to sweep that part of the road at which the roller was engaged. He slept in a portable hut close to the works, but the engineman bicycled back and forward between his home and his work. At the request of the engineman the workman in question used to light up the fire and raise steam in the engine in the early morning before the engineman arrived. While so engaged he was injured. He was subsequently awarded compensation by the Sheriff-Substitute.

On appeal the Court of Session reversed this decision, on the ground that the accident had not occurred in the course of the claimant's employment, as he was voluntarily doing work which the engineman ought to have done. The workman was, therefore, not entitled to compensation.—*McAllan v. Perth County Council, Court of Session, May 12th, 1906.*

WHAT IS SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT? DISOBEDIENCE TO RULES.

Where injury to a workman is attributable to his own serious and wilful misconduct, it is provided by the Act, that any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall be disallowed.

In a factory was a lift, on which was fastened a notice: "No one is allowed to use this hoist except in charge of a load." Just before the breakfast hour one morning a workman, with his coat on and without any load, was found in the lift fatally injured. He had been seen at work a few minutes before with his coat off. He appeared to have been crushed between the floor of the lift and the top of a doorway, through the lift having been caused to move as he was in the act of leaving it. His widow took proceedings in a County Court for compensation, and the employers resisted her claim on the ground that the accident was attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the deceased. It was proved in evidence that the men frequently disregarded the notice and used the lift as a passenger lift, but that this was done without the knowledge of the employers. No one was in charge of the lift, and it was worked by any man who had occasion to use it. There was no evidence that there was any difficulty or danger attached to the use of it, or that the deceased was unacquainted with the method of controlling it. The Judge refused to award compensation, on the grounds put forward by the employers.

On appeal a majority of the Court of Appeal ordered a new trial, but one of the three Lords Justices thought that the judgment should be that the claimant was entitled to compensation.

Against this order for a new trial the claimant appealed to the House of Lords. The House made an order that the claimant was entitled to compensation, and directed the County Court Judge to assess the amount. It was laid down in the judgments that misconduct alone does not disentitle a workman to obtain compensation. To have that effect the misconduct must be "serious," a quality which it is impossible to define generally and the existence of which must depend on the facts of each case. Mere disobedience to rules does not render an act of misconduct "serious"; nor is misconduct "serious" because the consequences prove to be serious. In this case the deceased man might have used the lift if he had had charge of a load in it. He was forbidden to use it without a load, but it was none the more dangerous without a load; and there was nothing to lead any workman to think that any serious consequences were likely to follow from so using it. Therefore there was no evidence to support the finding of the Judge that the misconduct of the deceased man had been "serious" within the meaning of the Act.—*Johnson v. Marshall, Sons & Co. (Ltd.), House of Lords, May 1st and 17th, 1906.*

WHAT IS SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT? DRUNKENNESS.

A workman in the employment of a shipbuilding company came to work in a state of intoxication and quite unfit for work. He was ordered to go home. He left the place where he was working, and a few minutes later he was found injured at the foot of a ladder on board a vessel upon which he had been employed. He claimed compensation under the Act. The Sheriff found that the ladder was quite safe, and suitable for the ordinary use of sober men, and that the accident had happened entirely through the claimant being in a drunken condition. He therefore held that the accident



was attributable to the claimant's own serious and wilful misconduct, and refused to make an award in his favour. On appeal the Court of Session affirmed this decision.—*McGroarty v. John Brown & Co., Ltd., Court of Session, May 22nd, 1906.*

ON OR IN OR ABOUT AN ENGINEERING WORK.

Amongst the employments to which the Act applies is employment "on or in or about an engineering work." "Engineering work" includes any work of construction or alteration or repair of a railroad. It has been decided that "railroad" includes a tramway.

A company contracted to take up an existing horse tramway in a town and to lay down new rails, &c., for an electric tramway. The rails were brought to the town by railway, and on arrival were, by agreement with the railway company, stacked in a part of the station yard till required. A man in the service of the contractors was engaged in moving rails from the trucks and stacking them in this yard when he was injured by an accident. The yard abutted on a street along which the tramway to be removed ran; but at the time of the accident no work was being done nearer than 700 yards from the place of the accident. The injured man was awarded compensation by a County Court judge, and the employers appealed. The Court of Appeal reversed the decision of the County Court, and the House of Lords affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal. The House held that the words "on or in or about an engineering work" define the locality within which a workman must be employed at the time of the accident in order to have a right to compensation. The station yard was not part of the area in which engineering work was being carried on, and the moving and stacking of the rails was not of itself engineering work. Therefore the injured man was not entitled to compensation under the Act.—*Bach v. Dick, Kerr & Co., Ltd., House of Lords, May 15th, 1906.*

FACTORY: SHIPS IN DOCK: WHO ARE UNDERTAKERS?

The Act applies to employment by the undertakers in a factory. Factory includes "any dock, wharf, or quay," and "undertakers" in the case of a factory means the occupier of the factory. A shipwright in the employment of a fishing company used to work sometimes in a workshop on the quay, sometimes on ships in the dock, according to orders, and as occasion might require. One day he was ordered to go on board a steam trawler to do some repairs. The vessel was moored to the jetty or landing stage of the fish dock with her fore end touching the jetty, so that the man stepped directly on board from the jetty. In the course of his employment on the ship, the man was severely injured by accident. At the time of the accident the crew were engaged in unloading the fish. The man took proceedings against his employers in the County Court for an award of compensation; but the judge decided that he was not entitled to succeed, on the ground that the ship was not a "factory," nor were the fishing company "undertakers" within the meaning of the Act.

On appeal the Court of Appeal affirmed this decision, holding that the ship owners did not occupy the dock merely because their vessel was in the dock; and that the claimant at the time of the accident was employed, not on the dock, but on a ship which was no part of the dock, and in work which had nothing to do with the dock.—*Smith v. Standard Steam Fishing Company, Court of Appeal, May 24th, 1906.*

WHO ARE WHOLLY DEPENDENT? PARTIAL INCAPACITY OF DEPENDANT.

Where death results from injury to a workman, dependants wholly dependent upon his earnings at the time of his death are entitled to the maximum compensation under the Act. Those who are in part dependent are entitled to such sum, not exceeding the maximum, as may be agreed upon, or as may be fixed by arbitration under the Act.

A man in the employment of a colliery proprietor was killed by an accident in a mine. A step-daughter of the deceased claimed compensation as being wholly dependent upon him. Partly on the ground that she had the full use of one hand, and partial use of the other, the County Court Judge held that she was only partially, and not wholly, dependent upon the earnings of the deceased. He, therefore, awarded her £80 only, instead of the £150 which she claimed, and to which she would be entitled if she were wholly dependent.

On appeal the Court of Appeal held that this decision was wrong, and that on the evidence the claimant was wholly dependent, and entitled to the £150 she claimed.—*Evans v. Thomas, Court of Appeal, May 25th, 1906.*

REDEMPTION OF WEEKLY PAYMENTS: SETTING ASIDE AGREEMENT: ABSENCE OF GOOD FAITH.

Where weekly payments have been continued for not less than six months, the liability therefor may be redeemed by agreement, by the employers paying the injured man a lump sum.

A workman in the employment of a shipbuilding company was injured in December, 1902, and was paid compensation under the Act at the rate of 18s. a week till September, 1903. The man then agreed with an insurance association, acting on behalf of the employers, to accept £20 in satisfaction of all further claims under the Act. Subsequently the man brought an action against the employers to have the agreement set aside, and obtained a decision in his favour on the ground that, when he was induced to accept the lump sum in settlement, a fair representation of the medical report on his condition had not been disclosed to him. On appeal the Court of Session reversed this decision, and upheld the agreement.

On further appeal the House of Lords set aside the agreement, holding that the man had been induced to sign the discharge when he was in a very feeble state of health, on a surprise visit, and on terms most favourable to the insurance association, and also that there had been misrepresentation.—*Crosson v. Caledon Shipbuilding Company, House of Lords, May 15th, 1906.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

BENEFIT RULES: ALTERATION IN RULES: WHEN ALTERATION BINDING ON NON-ASSENTING MEMBER.

A workman in 1892 became a member of a trade union, by the rules of which he was entitled to benefit by way of sick pay at the rate of 8s. a week for 26 weeks, 4s. a week for another 26 weeks, and 2s. a week afterwards as long as the contributions were kept up. A rule of the union further provided that no new rule should be made, and none of the existing rules should be altered or rescinded without the consent of two-thirds majority of the members present at a meeting specially called to consider such amendment or rescission. In 1893 the man was removed to the county lunatic asylum, where he remained till he died in 1905. The union duly paid the 8s. a week for 26 weeks, and the 4s. a week for another 26 weeks, and then discontinued paying. Nine weeks after the last payment an alteration of the rules was made in due form by the union in these terms: "A member confined in a lunatic asylum, or under control of the Poor Law Authorities shall not be entitled to sick benefit." After the man's death his widow, who had kept up the contributions, sued the trade union in the County Court to recover a sum at the rate of 2s. a week from the time the union left off paying till her husband's death. Her contention was that the alteration was not good as against her husband who had been unable to have anything to say as to the rule. The judge decided that she was only entitled to the 2s. a week for the nine weeks preceding the change in the rules.

Against this decision the widow appealed, but the High Court affirmed the decision, holding that when the man joined the union he agreed to abide by any alteration in the rules which might be duly made.—*Burke v. The Amalgamated Society of Dyers, King's Bench Division, May 15th, 1906.*

In another case a man had become a member of a Friendly Society in 1845. At the time he joined the rules provided for full sick pay at the rate of 8s. a week, and after a certain period for half pay at 4s. a week. There seems to have been no rule providing for any alteration in the rules. The man, who was 81 years of age, had been receiving the 4s. a week for several years, when the society made an alteration in the rules by the operation of which he received thenceforward only 2s. a week. He had not assented to this alteration. He took proceedings before magistrates to recover the additional 2s. a week, and got a decision in his favour. The society appealed. It was urged in support of the appeal that the alteration was necessary as the society was bleeding to death. It was held by the High Court, however, that when the man joined the society he had made a contract with them to receive 4s. a week in the circumstances which had arisen, and the society had no power without his consent to alter that contract. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*King's Bench Division, May 10th, 1906.*

(3) Merchant Shipping Acts.

"LOSS" OF SHIP: CAPTURE AND DESTRUCTION BY WAR SHIP.

By the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, it is provided that where the service of a seaman terminates before the date contemplated in the agreement, by reason of the wreck or loss of the ship, he shall be entitled to wages up to the time of such termination, but not for any longer period.

On March 10th, 1905, a seaman signed articles at the British Consulate at New York to serve on the steamship "Oldhamia" at £4 a month wages. By the articles he agreed to serve for a voyage not exceeding three years in latitudes which included Japan, Manchuria, and Siberia. A state of war existed at that time between Japan and Russia. The "Oldhamia" subsequently left New York, it being stated that her first port of call was to be Hong Kong. On May 18th, 1905, she was captured by a Russian cruiser in the neighbourhood of the Straits of Formosa, and her whole crew were put on board another Russian war vessel. On June 2nd the Russians destroyed the "Oldhamia," and later the seaman was taken to Hong Kong, whence he was sent to England as a distressed seaman, arriving on September 5th, 1905. He then made a claim for wages from March 23rd to September 5th, and on the owner of the ship refusing to pay except up to May 18th, he took proceedings in a court of summary jurisdiction to recover the sum claimed.

No evidence was given as to the nature of the cargo of the "Oldhamia," nor that her capture was justified, nor that her destination was any belligerent port. The seaman did not in fact know the nature of the cargo, nor the destination of the ship beyond Hong Kong. On behalf of the owner it was contended that the seaman's right to wages terminated when the ship was captured on May 18th, as she was then lost within the meaning of the Act. The magistrate decided that the ship was not lost when captured, and that therefore the seaman was entitled to wages as claimed. The owner appealed to the High Court.

Without deciding whether the ship would have been "lost" if she had merely been captured, the High Court held that when the vessel was destroyed she was "lost" within the meaning of the Act, and that therefore the seaman was not entitled to wages after the time of such destruction.—*Sivewright v. Allen, King's Bench Division, April 26th, 1906.*

ROYAL COMMISSION ON MINES.

A ROYAL COMMISSION has been appointed to inquire into and report on certain questions relating to the health and safety of miners, and the administration of the Mines Acts, namely:—the desirability of compulsory watering of the roads in dry and dusty mines, and of prescribing the forms of safety lamp which may be used, or prohibiting any of those now in use: the better prevention of accidents, particularly those from the use and firing of explosives, from falls of roof and side, from underground haulage, and from winding: whether any special provision should be made to facilitate the work of rescue in the event of an accident: and whether any improvement can be made in the present system of investigation and inquiry into accidents: whether any steps should be taken to lay down a standard of ventilation in mines: steps to guard against the disease known as ankylostomiasis; the present system of special rules: the administration of the Mines Acts and discipline in mines: whether any change is desirable in the present system of examination for Managers' and Under-Managers' Certificates of Competency: whether the Managers of Metalliferous Mines should be compelled to hold such certificates, and whether certificates granted by Colonial Governments should not be accepted in this country.

The following are the members of the Commission:—The Right Hon. Lord Monkswell (Chairman); Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart.; H. H. S. Cunyngame, Esq., C.B.; William Abraham, Esq., M.P.; Frederick Lewis Davis, Esq.; Enoch Edwards, Esq., M.P.; Thomas Ratcliffe Ellis, Esq.; Dr. John Scott Haldane; and Robert Smillie, Esq. The Secretary of the Commission is S. W. Harris, Esq., 31, Great George Street, S.W.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on June 1st, 1906.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 211 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 120 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

District.	Present Prices (1st June, 1906.)			Price last quarter (1st March, 1906.)			Price a year ago (1st June, 1905.)		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	7	4½	5-78	7	4½	5-66	7	4½	5-72
Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4½	5-19	6½	4½	5-24	6	4	5-29
N. Mid. Counties...	5½	4	4-73	5½	4	4-76	5½	4	4-74
W. do. do. ...	5½	4½	5-04	5½	4½	5-06	5½	4½	5-15
S. do. do. ...	5½	4	4-84	5½	4	4-86	6	4	4-93
Eastern Counties...	6	4½	5-21	6	4½	5-20	6	4½	5-17
London ...	5½	5	5-38	5½	5	5-44	6	5	5-55
S.E. Counties ...	6	5	5-48	6	5	5-54	6	5	5-64
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon. }	5½	4½	5-02	5½	5	5-04	5½	5	5-11
England and Wales ...	7	4	5-14	7	4	5-15	7	4	5-24
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	6	5	5-84	6	5	5-84	6½	5½	5-79
Eastern Counties	6½	4	5-64	6½	4	5-66	6	4	5-68
Lanarkshire ...	6	5	5-54	6	5½	5-64	6	5½	5-63
Other Southern Counties ...	6	5½	5-89	6	5½	5-84	6½	5½	5-94
Scotland ...	6½	4	5-68	6½	5	5-71	6½	4	5-77
Great Britain ...	7	4	5-34	7	4	5-33	7	4	5-43

From the above Table it will be seen that the mean of the prices at June 1st charged by the Co-operative Societies making Returns is about the same as the mean

of the prices at 1st March, 1906. As compared with a year ago, the mean price shows a decrease of 10d. per 4 lbs. in England and Wales, and of 0·9d. in Scotland. The decrease in London was about a fifth of a penny per 4 lbs.; in the Northern Counties of Scotland it was ¼d. per 4 lbs.

Returns from Local Correspondents.

The Returns as to the price of bread per 4 lbs., as furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 26 large Provincial towns at the beginning of June.

As compared with a month ago, changes in price were recorded at Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead, where the predominant price of bread is now 6d. per 4 lbs. At the latter place, however, the change in the predominant price seems due more to a larger consumption of higher priced bread than to a rise in price.

As compared with a year ago, there is a decrease of 1d. at Middlesbro', and increases of ¼d. at Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead. In 5 towns (2 in England, 1 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland) the price is now ¼d. per 4 lbs. less than a year ago.

Place.	Predominant Price at 1st June, 1906, of quality of bread most generally consumed by workpeople in each town.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't. per 4 lbs.
London ...	d.	d.	d.	Jan. '06	d.
Birmingham ...	5	...	...	Aug. '04	+ ½
Bolton ...	4½ & 5½	...	...	...	- ½
Bristol ...	5	...	...	Oct. '05	- ½
Cardiff ...	5	...	...	...	...
Derby ...	4½ & 5	...	...	Feb. '05	- ½
Gateshead ...	6	+ ½	+ ½	May, '06	+ ½
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	4½ & 5	...	...	Feb. '04	+ ½
Ipswich ...	5½	...	...	Aug. '03	+ ½
Leicester ...	4½	...	...	...	...
Liverpool ...	5	...	...	June '05	+ 1
Manchester ...	4½	...	...	Mar. '03	+ ½
Middlesbro' ...	5	...	- 1	Jan. '06	- 1
Newcastle-on-Tyne	6	+ ½	+ ½	May, '06	+ ½
Norwich ...	4½	...	...	July '04	- ½
Nottingham ...	5	...	...	...	...
Oldham ...	4½	...	...	Sept. '03	+ ½
Plymouth ...	5	...	...	Feb. '05	- ½
Potteries ...	4½	...	...	April, '06	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	5	...	- ½	Nov. '05	- ½
Aberdeen ...	5½	...	...	Mar. '05	+ ½
Dundee ...	5 & 6	...	- ½	Jan. '06	- ½
Edinburgh ...	6	...	...	April '05	- ½
Glasgow ...	5½	...	...	May '05	- ½
Belfast ...	5½	...	- ½	June '05	- ½
Dublin ...	5½	...	- ½	Dec. '05	- ½

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
		Average Declared Value.	Wheat.	
			Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.
May 1905.	7 2½	7 2½	9 10½	10 3½
1906.	6 9½	7 1½	9 9½	9 9½
April ...	6 9½	7 2	9 7½	9 8
May ...	7 2	7 2	9 7½	9 8

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1905, to May 31st, 1906, amounted to 64,108,122 cwts., or 12,668,078 cwts. less than in the corresponding period of 1904-5. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-May, 1905-6, amounted to 11,293,600 cwts., or 2,523,326 cwts. more than during September-May, 1904-5.

\* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same in the different towns, the predominant prices quoted for the several towns are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago for the same towns. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices (not the average price of all bread sold) paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.



WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR OF MINERS IN PRUSSIA, 1904.

THE Quarterly Journal\* of the Prussian Ministry of Commerce and Industry contains statistics of wages and hours of labour of half a million workpeople employed in the principal mining districts in Prussia in 1904.

Earnings of Workmen.

In coal mines the average earnings, in 1904, of workmen over 16 were highest in Dortmund, where over 60 per cent. of the total are employed, being £70 15s. for hewers and trammers, £50 6s. for other underground workmen, and £55 16s. for surface workers.

The average net earnings for the year 1904 of workmen of 16 years of age and upwards employed at mines in the various districts are shown in the following Table. These earnings are found by dividing the total amount paid in wages during the year by the average number of workmen employed.

Table with columns: Kind of Mine and District, Average No. of Workmen (Males over 16) Employed, Average Net Earnings in 1904 (Hewers and Trammers, Other Underground Workmen, Surface Workmen).

Earnings during 1904 were in general slightly higher than during 1903. The only decreases were in the cases of hewers and trammers in the metalliferous mines in the Siegen Nassau district, and in the cases of underground workmen other than hewers and trammers in the coal mines in the Dortmund district.

Hours of Labour of Workmen.

For underground workmen in coal mines the 8-hour shift (bank to bank) was prevalent, except in Upper Silesia, where the average duration was about 10½ hours, and in the Aachen district, where 9½ hours was the average.

Underground workers at lignite mines in the Halle district worked on an average 11½ hours a shift, and surface workmen worked 11½ hours. Twelve hours was the length of the shift for all workpeople at the lignite mines on the left bank of the Rhine.

\* Zeitschrift für das Berg-, Hütten-, und Salinen-Wesen im Preussischen Staate, Jahrgang 1905 (Band 53), 1. Statistische Lieferung.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during May was 57, consisting of 56 cases of lead poisoning and 1 of anthrax. Two deaths were reported, both due to lead poisoning.

During the five months ended May, 1906, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 282, as compared with 268 in the corresponding period of 1905. The total number of deaths during the same period was 25 in 1906, as compared with 19 in 1905.

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

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, Month of May, 1906, Five Months ended May, 1906, 1905, Month of May, 1905, Five Months ended May, 1905, 1904. Includes sections for Lead Poisoning, Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, and Anthrax.

HOME OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Factory Act: Water Gas and other Poisonous Gases.—A memorandum signed by the Chief Inspector of Factories, and dated May, 1906, has been issued by the Home Office on the subject of poisoning by carbonic oxide, resulting from the use of water gas and other gases of a similar nature.

\* Of the 15 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in May, 1906, 3 were females. † House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 13 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during May, 1906, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the five months ended May, 1906, was 65 (including 17 deaths), and for 1905, 59 (including 12 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during May, 1906, was 206, a decrease of 30 as compared with April, and of 10 as compared with May, 1905.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in May, 1906, was 117. The number reported in May of the years 1901-1905 varied from 58 in 1904 to 151 in 1902, the mean for the five years being 96.

In the following Table the accidents reported in May, 1906, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year:—

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (May, 1906, April, 1906, May, 1905), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1906, as compared with (Month ago, Year ago). Includes sections for Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, Workshops, and Seamen.

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A copy of a monthly Return showing names of seamen whose deaths have been reported to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade may be seen at any Free Library, Mercantile Marine Office, or Sailors' Home throughout the country.

\* Now included under Factories.

appliances. The memorandum then describes the symptoms of carbonic oxide poisoning and the preventive measures which should be taken. As a model for others concerned, there is given a notice relating to the dangers, precautions and remedies, which has been drawn up by the Power Gas Corporation, Ltd., in consultation with the Medical Inspector of Factories.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for May. IMPORTS.\*

Table with columns: Month ended 31st May, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with (1904, 1905, 1906). Includes sections for I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco, II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured, III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured, IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.||

Table with columns: Month ended 31st May, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with (1904, 1905, 1906). Includes sections for I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco, II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured, III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured, IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £5,585,686 in May, 1904; £6,805,433 in May, 1905; and £7,116,955 in May, 1906.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended June 2nd, 1906, amounted to £5,335,733, an increase of £264,500 (or 5·2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

During the twenty-two weeks ended June 2nd, 1906, the total amount was £22,882,397, an increase of £894,410 (or 4·1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

Table with columns: 5 weeks ended June 2nd, 1906, 22 weeks ended June 2nd, 1906, Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905. Includes sections for English Lines, Scottish Lines, and Irish Lines.

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



TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Two important disputes occurred during May, affecting about 24,000 workpeople, in the Belfast flax spinning and weaving industries. In addition, forty other new disputes began in May, 1906, making a total of 42 which compares with 30 in April, 1906, and 26 in May, 1905. By the 42 disputes 29,840 workpeople were directly and 12,108 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 48,122 workpeople involved in trade disputes during May, 1906, compared with 12,712 in April, 1906, and 18,228 in May, 1905.

**New Disputes in May, 1906.**—In the following Table the new disputes in May are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ... ..	3	142	...	142
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	7	7,291	2,372	9,663
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	10	2,905	1,072	3,977
Cotton ... ..	9	1,407	202	1,609
Linen ... ..	3	17,060	7,340	24,400
Other Textile ... ..	3	323	1,100	1,423
Clothing ... ..	5	656	22	678
Other Trades ... ..	2	44	...	44
<b>Total, May, 1906</b> ... ..	<b>42</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>12,108</b>	<b>41,948</b>
<b>Total, April, 1906</b> ... ..	<b>30</b>	<b>6,441</b>	<b>2,856</b>	<b>9,297</b>
<b>Total, May, 1905</b> ... ..	<b>26</b>	<b>11,246</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>11,961</b>

**Causes.**—Of the 42 new disputes, 12 arose on demands for increased wages, 8 on objections to reduction, and 10 on other wages questions, 5 on details of working arrangements, 3 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 1 on a demand for reduction in hours of labour.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in May in the case of 30 new disputes, affecting 37,556 workpeople, and 8 old disputes, affecting 2,681 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 14, involving 13,211

persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 15, involving 23,639 persons, in favour of the employers; and 9, involving 3,387 persons, were compromised. In the case of 3 other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 1,032 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in May of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 285,400 working days. In addition, 45,100 working days were lost during May owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in May of all disputes, new and old, was 330,500 working days, as compared with 128,500 in the previous month, and 252,600 in the corresponding month of 1905.

**Summary for the First Five Months of 1905 and 1906.**—Summarised, by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the five months January-May, 1905 and 1906, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January to May.					
	1905.			1906.		
No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	
Building ... ..	18	5,979	165,600	11	767	31,100
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	33	16,642	216,500	28	16,296	395,700
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding ... ..	29	4,716	181,100	48	12,655	150,000
Textile ... ..	25	8,722	83,500	43	52,033	406,200
Clothing ... ..	18	2,567	66,300	21	1,300	22,100
Transport ... ..	5	276	8,300	3	249	4,400
Other Trades ... ..	12	2,391	27,000	17	714	13,100
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>140</b>	<b>41,291</b>	<b>748,500</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>84,014</b>	<b>1,032,600</b>

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1906.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.†				
<b>Coal Mining—</b>							
Miners ... ..	Aberdare Valley	5,400	...	1 May	8	Refusal to work with non-unionists, and dispute as to alleged victimisation	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation; other matter amicably arranged.
Miners ... ..	Nottingham (near)	1,200	280	30 May	...	Refusal to work with non-unionists	No settlement reported.
Hauliers, Hewers, &c. ... ..	Ystrad	150	889	14 May	1	Against dismissal of a fellow workman	Man reinstated.
<b>Steel Manufacture</b>							
Steel Workers ... ..	Workington	2,038	...	16 April	40	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Arrangement made with non-unionists; notices against firm withdrawn unconditionally.
<b>Engineering and Shipbuilding—</b>							
Shipbuilders ... ..	Glasgow	1,500	...	1 May	2	Misunderstanding as to "score-off" time	Misunderstanding removed and work resumed.
Pipe Moulders, Core Makers, &c., Pattern Makers, Fitters, Moulders Labourers	Middlesbrough	300	700	14 May	...	Against proposed reduction of hands consequent on introduction of new machinery	No settlement reported.
<b>Cotton Weaving—</b>							
Weavers, Winders, Warpers, Ring Spinners, &c. ... ..	Preston	257	84	10 May	11	Against proposed reduction in wages on account of new machinery	Reduction not enforced.
Weavers ... ..	Burnley	270	50	1 May	2	Alleged bad material ... ..	Amicable settlement effected.
<b>Linen Manufacture—</b>							
Spinners, Reelers, &c. ... ..	Belfast	5,000	...	14 May	5	For advance in wages ... ..	Advance of about 10 per cent. generally granted.
Weavers, Winders, Spinners, &c. ... ..	Belfast	12,000	7,000	21 May	17	For advance in wages ... ..	Work resumed generally on old conditions.
Reelers, Flax Spinners, &c. ... ..	Armagh (near)	60	340	4 May	3	For advance in wages ... ..	Work resumed on old conditions.
<b>Wool—</b>							
Washers, Carders, & Other Operatives	Bradford	200	1,100	25 May	4	For advance in wages of 5 per cent.	Work resumed without advance.

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

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

Wages.

**Changes reported in May.**—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in May was an increase of £4,097 per week, as compared with an increase of £11,795 per week in April, 1906, and a decrease of £6,566 per week in May, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 170,762, of whom 170,392 received advances amounting to £4,128 per week, while only 370 sustained decreases amounting to £31 per week. The total number affected in April, 1906, was 403,079, and in May, 1905, 161,568.

One change, affecting 150,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, was arranged by a Conciliation Board; and nine changes, affecting 12,381 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 8,381 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, six of these changes, affecting 206 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

**Summary for the Five completed Months of 1906.**—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were reported to have been changed since 1st January was 803,925, as compared with 295,766 in the corresponding period of 1905. The changes arranged gave 793,259 workpeople a net increase of £24,663 per week, and 6,566 workpeople a net decrease of £490 per week, while the remaining 4,100 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes was an increase of £24,173 per week, as compared with a decrease of £9,628 per week in the corresponding period of 1905.

Summarised by trades the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result of the changes on their weekly wages, were as follows—

Groups of Trades.	January—May.			
	1905.		1906.	
No.	£	No.	£	
Building ... ..	523	38	2,465	131
Coal Mining ... ..	198,190	8,012	308,250	5,704
Iron Mining ... ..	7,092	88	8,372	576
Quarrying ... ..	4,179	149	3,808	55
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	14,289	524	12,914	959
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	34,027	82	48,987	2,380
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	30,144	2,355	77,486	4,468
Other Metal Trades ... ..	100	19	10	1
Textile Trades ... ..	1,827	51	338,075	10,146
Other Trades ... ..	1,768	54	681	44
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	3,627	310	2,977	87
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>295,766</b>	<b>9,628</b>	<b>803,925</b>	<b>24,173</b>

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during May, 1906, affected 3,264 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 12,030 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour since 1st January last was 21,824, the net decrease in their working time being 39,732 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in May.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN MAY.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1906.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	
					Increase.	Decrease. (Decreases in Italics.)
<b>I.—RATES OF WAGES.</b>						
Coal Mining ...	South Wales and Mon.	1 June	Miners, &c. ... ..	150,000	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 32½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	Northumberland Durham and Cleveland	28 May	Puddlers ... ..	750	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d.) under sliding scale.
	Northern Counties and Cleveland, N. Lancs., S. Yorks., Midlands and Lincs.	6 May	Iron and Steel Millmen ... ..	2,650	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
			Steel Melters and Pitmen ... ..	1,907	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale.
			Gas Producers and Charge Wheelers ... ..	639	...	Advance of ½ per cent.
				12	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Iron and Steel ...	Lincolnshire ...	6 May	Enginemen, Mechanics, &c. ... ..	365	...	Advance of ½ per cent.
	Barrow-in-Furness	6 May	Plate Millmen ... ..	230	...	Advance of 1½ per cent.
	Midlands ... ..	6 May	Bar Millmen ... ..	122	...	...
	Scotland ... ..	6 May	Steel Melters and Pitmen ... ..	1,181	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale.
	Eston ... ..	6 May	Steel Workers ... ..	1,490	...	Advance of 4 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 20 per cent. above the standard.
	Workington ...	14 May	Steel Workers (except Enginemen and Cranemen) ... ..	600	...	Advance of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 19 per cent. above the standard.
	West of Scotland	28 May	Puddlers ... ..	3,000	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 9d.) under sliding scale.
			Millmen ... ..	...	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	Hull and District	1 Mar.	Angle-Iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters and Caulkers in Boiler Shops ... ..	60	...	Advance of 1s. per week on new work.
		3 May	Ditto in Shipyards &c. ... ..	954	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates.
	Bury ... ..	27 April	Fitters, Turners, Smiths and Machinemen ... ..	520	...	Advance of 1s. per week. Rates after change: Fitters, Turners and Smiths 36s. per week; Machinemen, 30s. to 34s.
Textile ...	Bradford ... ..	May	Woolcombers (night work) ... ..	2,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent., stated to be equal to an increase of about 1s. per week.
Employees of Local Authorities ...	Manchester	1 April	Labourers in Parks and Electricity Departments	342	...	Advance to a rate of 25s. per week.
			Cleansing Department:—			
			Van Drivers ... ..	108	...	Advance to a rate of 28s., day and night, throughout the year.
			Van and Ash Carriers & Labourers	196	...	Advance to a rate of 25s., day and night, throughout the year.
			Labourers, Street Sweepers, &c. ... ..	337	...	Advance to a rate of 25s. per week.
<b>II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.</b>						
Building ...	Worcester ...	1 May	Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Carpenters and Joiners, Plasterers, Painters and Decorators, and Labourers	602	...	Re-arrangement of winter working hours and extension of winter period. Hours before change, 48 for 4 weeks, 45 for 2, and 42½ for 8 weeks; after change, 48 for 8 and 42½ for 9 weeks.
Clothing ...	Leeds ... ..	18 Apl.	Clothiers' Cutters, Pressers and Machinists	672	...	Decrease of 3 hours per week (52½ to 49½).
				977	...	Decrease of 2½ hours per week (52 to 49½).

NOTE.—North of Ireland Flax and Linen Trade.—It has been reported that advances have been granted to several sections of workers in this industry. Full particulars will appear in the July GAZETTE.  
 \* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.



PAUPERISM IN MAY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in May, 1906, corresponded to a rate of 218 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with April, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 6,672 (1.7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 4. There was a decrease of 2,283 (1.4 per cent.) in the number of indoor paupers, and of 4,389 (2.0 per cent.) in the number of outdoor paupers. Decreases occurred in 21 districts, the most marked being in West Ham (49 per 10,000). Slight increases occurred in 11 districts, and the remaining 3 districts showed no change.

Compared with May, 1905, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 6,621 (1.7 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 6. There was a slight increase of 343 (0.2 per cent.) in the number of indoor paupers, but a decrease of 6,964 (3.1 per cent.) in the number of outdoor paupers. Decreases occurred in 22 districts, and were most marked in the Galway district (111 per 10,000, a potatoe famine causing exceptional distress in this district a year ago), Wolverhampton (25), and East London (21). Increases occurred in 12 districts, the greatest being in Central London (24 per 10,000). In the Bradford district no change was indicated.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of May, 1906 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago).

ENGLAND & WALES.\*

Table for England & Wales showing pauper statistics for Metropolitan, West, North, Central, East, and South Districts, and Total Metropolis.

Other Districts.

Table for Other Districts including Newcastle, Stokton & Tees, Bolton, Wigan, Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Hull, North Staffordshire, Nottingham, Lefcester, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff & Swansea, and Total Other Districts.

SCOTLAND.\*

Table for Scotland showing pauper statistics for Glasgow, Paisley & Greenock, Edinburgh & Leith, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, and Ceatbridge & Airdrie.

IRELAND.†

Table for Ireland showing pauper statistics for Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford & Limerick, and Galway.

Total for above 35 Districts in May, 1906

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

TWENTY Bureaux furnished Returns, of which fifteen can be compared with similar Returns for a year ago. The figures for the remaining five are not available for May, 1905.

(I.) Work done in May, 1906.

Table showing work done in May 1906 by London, Provincial, and Total of 15 Bureaux, with columns for Name of Labour Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during, Situations offered by Employers during, and Workpeople found Work during.

London.

Table for London showing work done in May 1906 by Poplar, Lewisham, and Provincial.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during May, 1906.

Table showing capacity in which employed, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, and Total.

Engaged by Private Employers.

Table showing employment found for workpeople during May 1906, categorized by Men, Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls, with sub-categories like Building Trades, Porters and Messengers, etc.

Engaged by Local Authorities.

Table showing employment found for workpeople during May 1906, categorized by Men, Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls.

Engaged by Salvation Army.

Table showing employment found for workpeople during May 1906, categorized by Men, Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls.

(III.) Occupations of the Workpeople on the Registers of 20 Bureaux at the end of May, 1906.

Table showing occupations of workpeople on registers of 20 bureaux at the end of May 1906, categorized by Men, Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls, with sub-categories like Building Trades, Engineer-ing Trades, General Labourers, etc.

\* Return is for period from May 7th to May 31st. † Includes 10 labourers temporarily employed by Central Unemployed Body for London.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May 781 fresh applications (487 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by eight Bureaux furnishing Returns, and 875 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 230 persons, of whom 129 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 230 situations found for applicants, 164 were of a more or less permanent character, while 66 were temporary only.

The work done by the Bureaux during May is shown by the following Table.

WORK DONE IN MAY.

Table showing work done in May by Central Bureau, Y.W.C.A., Other Bureaux, and Summary by Occupations, with columns for Applications by Workpeople during, Situations offered by Employers during, and Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.

Workmen's Compensation for Accidents in France.—By a law, dated April 9th, 1898, provision was made for compensation for accidents sustained by workpeople employed in the building trades, in factories and workshops, in shipbuilding, &c., yards, in transport by land or water, loading and unloading goods, public warehouses, &c., mines and quarries, and in all establishments in which explosives are manufactured or used, or in which machinery is run by motor power.

By a law, dated April 12th of the present year, the scope of the above law has been extended to include all commercial enterprises. The new law will enter into operation three months after the promulgation of certain decrees respecting details of its administration.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MAY.

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

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in May was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 16; under the Friendly Societies Act, 69 (including 36 branches of existing Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all 89.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—1, viz., United Kingdom Clerks' Union, 22, Kennington Road, S.E.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—12, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Distribution; 2, viz., Sovereign Co-op. Prov. Soc., Ltd., Harrington Chambers, Liverpool; Walworth and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 197, Walworth Road, S.E. Co-op. Soc. mainly for Production; 2, viz., Leader and Echo Printing and Publishing Soc., Ltd., Wakefield; Book-keepers' Record Publishing Soc., Ltd., 36, Hill Road, Wimbledon. Co-op. Agric. Soc.; 2, viz., Stainborough and Dist. Farmers' Trading Soc., Ltd., Stainborough, Barnsley; Mid. Her's Farmers' Supply Assoc., Ltd., Bank Chambers, Finchley, N. Misc. Soc.; 6, viz., 2 Working Men's Clubs and 4 others. Ireland.—4, viz., Co-op. Soc. mainly for Production; 1, viz., Wexford Co-op. Tobacco Growers, Ltd., Tagoal. Co-op. Agric. Soc.; 3, viz., Killarena Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Dromandora; Clonfad Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Clonfad; Longford Co-op. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Longford.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—30, viz., Loughborough Perm. Money Soc.; Loughborough; Hinckley Perm. Money Soc.; Hinckley; Victoria Embankment Loan Soc., 6, The Facade, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.; Wood Green Excelsior Brass Band, 3, Truro Road, Wood Green, N.; Workers Friend Working Men's Club and Inst., 165, Jubilee Street, Mile End, E.; Hendon Alexandra Working Men's Club, Brent View Road, West Hendon, N.W.; Great Doddington Working Men's Club and Inst., Doddington, Wellingboro'; Barnsley Central Working Men's Club and Inst., Barnsley; Batley Carr Working Men's Club and Inst., Batley Carr, Dewsbury; Woolroad Social Working Men's Club and Inst., Dobercross, Oldham; Spekefield Tontine Soc., Liverpool; M.S.C. Timber Dept. Friendly Benefit Soc., Salford, Manchester; Central Hall Brotherhood Sick and Prov. Soc., Liverpool; Countesthorpe Reliance Friendly Soc., Leicester; Cranbourne Mills Old Age Pension Soc., Leicester; Haymarket Benefit Soc., Cabmen's Shelter, Haymarket, W.; Macclesfield Sick and Prov. Soc., Macclesfield Arms, 268, City Road, E.C.; Lomzer Friendly Benefit Soc., 52, Beaumont Square, Mile End, E.; Norwich Shoe Trade Managers and Foremen's Prov. Soc., Norwich; New Church Inn Sick and Div. Soc., Smethwick, Birmingham; "J" Boot Works Sick Benefit and Div. Soc., Ipswich; Loyal Independent Yearly Dividing Soc., Birmingham; Charles Hill Friendly Sick and Div. Soc., Birmingham; West Birmingham Musical Sick and Div. Soc., Birmingham; Plough and Harrow Sick and Div. Soc., Birmingham; Saltley Amateur Gardeners' Sick and Div. Soc., Saltley, Birmingham; Sheffield and Dist. United Friendly and Trade Soc. Medical Assoc., Sheffield; City of Sheffield Friendly Collecting Soc., Sheffield; Dewsbury Moor Friendly Soc., Dewsbury; Wrexham Liberal and Labour Tontine Benefit Soc., Wrexham. Ireland.—3, viz., Aghabog Agric. Co-op. Bank, Newbliss; St. Patrick's Loan Fund Soc., Ringsend; Camolin Credit Soc., Camolin.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as dissolved, or as wound up, or as having had registration cancelled, or as amalgamated, in May, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 36; under the Friendly Societies Act, 46 (including 20 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 10; in all 95.

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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MAY.

UNITED KINGDOM. Mines and Quarries, 1905. Part I. District Statistics, Statistics of the persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom in 1905, arranged according to the Inspection Districts. [Cd. 2974: pp. 48: price 7d.] Mines and Quarries. District Reports, 1905. Persons employed, output, accidents, &c. East Scotland District [Cd. 2910: pp. 49: price 10d.] Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. [Cd. 2910-iv: pp. 91: price 1s. 2d.] Swansea District. [Cd. 2910-x: pp. 32: price 4d.] Stafford District. [Cd. 2910-viii: pp. 57: price 1s. 6d.] Durham District. [Cd. 2910-iii: pp. 55: price 5d.] Midland District. [Cd. 2910-vii: pp. 61: price 1rd.] Newcastle District. [Cd. 2910-ii: pp. 86: price 1s. 4d.] Prices of Exported Coal. Return giving the quantities of Coal exported from each of the principal ports in the United Kingdom in every quarterly period since the imposition of the Coal Duty in 1901, at various tonnage prices. [H.C. 111: pp. 52: price 5d.] Report to Home Office on the Circumstances attending an Explosion of Nitro-Glycerine in Waste Acid at Abbey Mills, Stratford-by-Bow, on 15th January, 1906. [Cd. 2971: pp. 15: price 2d.] Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the Three Months ending 31st December, 1905. Part II. Reports on Accidents. [Cd. 2969: pp. 126: price 1s.] Railway Rates (Preferential Treatment). Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to inquire into and report whether Preferential Treatment is given by the Railway Companies in Great Britain to Foreign and Colonial as compared with Home, Farm, Dairy, and Market Garden Produce. Report [Cd. 2959: pp. iv + 41: price 5d.] Minutes of Evidence, Appendices and Index [Cd. 2960: pp. iv + 259: price 2s. 11d.] Railway Returns (Preliminary Statement). Return relating to the Railways of the United Kingdom for the year 1905. [Cd. 2948: pp. 2: price 3d.] Accounts showing the Sums received and expended for the purposes of the Metropolitan Police, and Police Pension Funds, April 1st, 1905, to 31st March, 1906. [H.C. 146: pp. 23: price 2d.] Report. Police (Counties and Boroughs, England and Wales). For the year ended 29th September, 1905. Authorised strength of Police Forces, 1881-1905, ranks, numbers, and rates of pay, income and expenditure of Police Pension Funds. [H.C. 127: pp. iii + 251: price 2s.]



*Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, 1905.* Volume I. (Summaries, Abstract, and Detailed Tables of Imports and Exports.) [Cd. 2928: pp. xii. + 945: price 7s. 8d.]

*Sugar (Cost), London, Paris, and Berlin.* Return showing the price per pound retail of the kind of Sugar, whether refined or unrefined, most largely consumed by the Working Classes in London, Paris, and Berlin, at March 1st, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906, with the amount per pound of Customs and Excise Duties in each case. (H.C. 132: pp. 3: price 1/2d.)

*Aliens Act, 1905.* A return of Alien Passengers brought to the United Kingdom from ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ending March 31st, 1906; together with the number of Expulsion Orders made during that period requiring Aliens to leave the United Kingdom. [Cd. 2964: pp. 8: price 1/2d.]

*Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended 31st December, 1905.* [Cd. 2976: pp. 10: price 1/2d.]

*Public Elementary Schools (Scholarships, &c.).* Return showing provision made by Local Education Authorities for enabling public elementary school scholars to proceed to secondary schools. [H.C. 110: pp. 102: price 10d.]

*Special Reports on Educational Subjects. Vol. XVI. School Training for the Home Duties of Women. Part II.* Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, and France. [Cd. 2963: pp. vii. + 352: price 1s. 6d.]

*Eighth Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland, 1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906.* Apprenticing boys to trades, and training in seamanship, loans to fishermen, and aid to fisheries, aid to home industries, &c. [Cd. 2946: pp. xxxv. + 35: price 7d.]

*Technical Education (Scotland).* Return showing the extent to which, and the manner in which, Local Authorities in Scotland have allocated and applied Funds to the purposes of Technical Education during the year ended May 15th, 1905. [H.C. 139: pp. vii. + 52: price 6d.]

*Scotch Education Department. Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes,* providing further instruction for those who have left school, 1906. [Cd. 2981: pp. 36: price 2 1/2d.]

*Report of the Crofters' Commission for the year 1905.* Fair rents fixed, number of holdings, applications for enlargements of holdings, &c. [Cd. 2925: pp. xxiv. + 89: price 11 1/2d.]

*Banking and Railway Statistics, Ireland, December, 1905.* Contains tables of the membership, transactions, &c., of agricultural credit societies in Ireland for the year 1904. [Cd. 2912: pp. 45: price 8d.]

*Fifth Annual General Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 1904-05.* [Cd. 2929: pp. vii. + 493: price 2s.]

*Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland Journal.* April, 1906.

#### BRITISH INDIA, BRITISH COLONIES & DEPENDENCIES.

*Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India during the year 1904-5. 41st Number.* Statistics of emigration and migration; agriculture and mineral resources; trade and manufactures; factory inspection, &c. [H.C. 175: pp. iii. + 201: price 1s. 8d.]

*Reports by H.M. Agent and Consul-General on the Finances, Administration and Condition of Egypt and the Soudan in 1905.* Reference to proceedings of Agricultural Bank and Post Office Savings Banks, cultivation of cotton, wheat, &c., in the Soudan, supply of labour. [Cd. 2817: pp. viii. + 162: price 1s. 5d.]

*Imports into Canada.* Return showing the Imports of Merchandise into Canada from the United States of America, Germany, and other countries respectively, distinguishing "dutiable" and "free" goods, from 1890 to 1904. [H.C. 71: pp. 3: price 1/2d.]

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

*Canada. The Labour Gazette, May, 1906.* Contains tables of Wages and Hours in Railway Construction work in Canada, 1904 and 1905—statistics collected by personal investigation by the Fair Wage Officers of the Department of Labour.

*Sixth Report of the Bureau of Labour of the Province of Ontario for the year ending 31st December, 1905.* Wage statistics of Trade Unions in various districts, annual industrial statistical investigation returns in detail from manufacturers, &c. [Toronto: L. K. Cameron, King's Printer: pp. 245.]

*New Zealand. Awards, Recommendations, Agreements, &c., made under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, New Zealand. Filed for the year 1905. Vol. VI.* [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. xiv. + 423.]

*The Labour Laws of New Zealand. Fourth Edition.* Brought up to the end of the Session of 1905.

*Journal of the Department of Labour, March, 1906.* State of the Labour Market in January; disputes, agreements, &c., under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

#### FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

##### United States.

*36th Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour of Massachusetts, March, 1906.* Investigation into the industrial education of working girls, old-age pensions in Europe, America and the British Colonies, abstract of the statistics of manufactures, 1903-4, strikes and lock-outs, wages and hours of labour, trade unions, &c. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. xxiii. + 613.]

*Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour. (Department of Commerce and Labour.) No. 63. March, 1906.* Course of Wholesale Prices, 1890 to 1905; actual prices for 1905, and relative prices for the sixteen years 1890 to 1905.

*Third Report of the Commissioner of Labour on Hawaii, 1905.* General conditions of labour and industry, cost of living, immigration, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 333.]

##### France.

*Proceedings of Higher Council of Labour, November, 1905,* on subject of "Delai-Congé" (length of notice to be given to employers by workpeople as to termination of contract). 1906. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. xviii. + 168.]

*Bulletin of the French Labour Department, April, 1906.* Contains articles on mining in France in 1904, and statistics of industrial accidents in 1905.

##### Germany.

*Factory Inspection in Baden, 1905.* Baden Ministry of the Interior, 1906. [Karlsruhe: pp. 187.]

*Factory and Workshop Inspection in Prussia, 1905.* [Berlin: R. von Decker's Verlag: pp. lix. + 740.]

*Munich Statistical Yearbook for 1905. Part I., 1906.* Contains statistics of prices, wages of municipal labourers, the municipal labour registry, poor relief, &c. [Munich: J. Lindauersche Buchhandlung: pp. 82: price 1s.]

*Annual Report on Work of Munich Municipal Labour Registry for 1905.* [Munich: pp. 58 + 15.]

*Journal of the German Labour Department, May, 1906.* Contains articles on strikes and lock-outs in 1905, and factory inspection in Bavaria in 1905.

*Journal of the German Imperial Insurance Department, 15th May, 1906.*

##### Austria-Hungary.

*Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, April, 1906.* Contains articles on employment and labour disputes in March.

##### Italy.

*Numbers 1-3 of the Bulletin of the Italian Emigration Department.* [Rome, 1906.]

*Monthly Journal of the Italian Labour Department. April, 1906.* Contains articles on employment and labour disputes in March.

##### Belgium.

*Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, May 15th and May 31st.* Contain articles on employment and labour disputes in April.

##### Switzerland.

*Swiss Railway Statistics for 1904.* Swiss Federal Post and Railway Department. [Berne: pp. 224: price 3s. 7d.]

##### Denmark.

*Census of Population at Copenhagen on February 1st, 1906.* Copenhagen Municipal Office. [Copenhagen: pp. 32.]

##### Bulgaria.

*Statistics of Prices of Domestic Animals, and of the chief Articles of Food, and Rates of Wages in Bulgaria, 1893-1902.* Bulgarian Statistical Department, 1906. [Sofia: pp. xvii. + 121.]

##### Japan.

*Twenty-first Statistical Report of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Japan, 1906.* Contains statistics of wages, 1900-1904, in various industries, number of days worked per year in coal mines, accidents in mines, prices of mineral products. [pp. 569.]

*Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3567. Trade and Agriculture of the Consular District of Calais for the year 1905.* Notes on the coal strike in the Pas-de-Calais, in April, 1905, and upon the various industries of Calais, Boulogne, Lille, Amiens and the Croix district. [Cd. 2682-92, pp. 37: price 2 1/2d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ No. 3568. *Trade of Consular District of Beira, 1905.* Supply of labour; sugar, and mining industries, &c. [Cd. 2682-93: pp. 11: price 1d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ No. 3583. *Trade of Consular District of Philadelphia, 1905.* Production of coal, iron, and steel; average monthly price of iron and steel products; number of furnaces in blast at 1st January and 1st December respectively, and capacity per week. [Cd. 2682-108: pp. 47: price 2 1/2d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ No. 3587. *Trade and Agriculture of the States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho for the year 1905.* Notes on supply of labour, production of coal, coke, &c. [Cd. 2682-112: pp. 50: price 3d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ No. 3590. *Trade of Consular District of Bilbao for the year 1905.* Production of iron ore, price per ton, freight rates, &c. [Cd. 2682-115: pp. 32: price 2d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ No. 3595. *Trade of Sicily for the year 1905.* Feeding of children in municipal schools, emigration, notes upon industries. [Cd. 2682-120: pp. 51: price 3d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ No. 3596. *Trade of Rotterdam for the year 1905.* British seamen discharged and engaged, transmission of seamen's wages, &c. [Cd. 2682-121: pp. 17: price 1 1/2d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ No. 3597. *Trade of the Consular District of Tangier for the year 1905.* Notes on labour and the rates of wages paid. [Cd. 2682-122: pp. 53: price 3d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ No. 3598. *Trade of the Consular District of Boston for the year 1905.* Statistics of immigration; notes on the boot and shoe industry, strikes and lock-outs, &c. [Cd. 2682-123: pp. 47: price 2 1/2d.]

\_\_\_\_\_ *Miscellaneous Series. No. 650. Arms Industry of Liège.* Wages, hours of labour, employment of female labour, &c. [Cd. 2683-14: pp. 54: price 7 1/2d.]

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

Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & CO., LTD., 31-37, Cursitor Street, London, E.C.: and to be purchased, either directly or through any Newsagent, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C.; or OLIVER & BOYD, Edinburgh or E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.—Price 1d.—June, 1906.