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THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

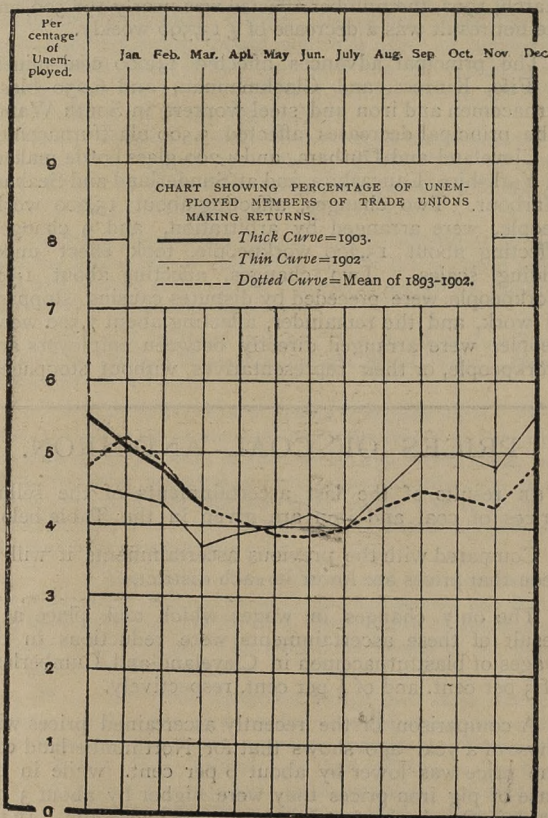
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APRIL, 1903.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[Based on 3,268 returns, viz.: 2,046 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,157 from Workmen and Trade Unions, and 65 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT was on the whole better in March than in February, owing partly to seasonal improvements in certain industries, but it continues to be worse than a year ago.

In the 226 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 559,129 making returns, 24,096 (or 4.3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 4.8 per cent. in February, and 3.7 per cent. in the 224 Trade Unions, with a membership of 551,270 from which returns were received for March, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of March during the past decade was 4.3.

Employment in various Industries.—*Coal Mining.*—Employment in the four weeks ended March 21st showed a slight falling off both as compared with a month ago and a year ago. At collieries employing 500,701 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5.10 days per week, as compared with 5.28 a month ago and 5.35 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.6 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Iron miners continue well employed. In the 134 mines and open works covered by the

returns received, 15,882 workpeople were employed, the average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended March 21st being 5.79, the same average as for a month and a year ago. The number of workpeople employed was greater by 3.1 per cent. than in the corresponding period of last year.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry shows little change compared with a month ago, and is better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 328 furnaces, employing about 22,600 workpeople, were in blast at the end of March, as compared with 329 in February, and 320 in March, 1902.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—In this industry employment is about the same as in February, but is worse than a year ago. At 201 works covered by the employers' returns, 73,587 workpeople were employed in the week ended March 28th, and the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with February, 1903, and of 2.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in this industry continues good. At the end of March 389 mills were working, as compared with 395 at the end of February, and 397 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation was about 19,400.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally is moderate, and better than a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March was 4.6, as compared with 5.1 at the end of February, and 5.2 in March, 1902.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment has improved slightly, but is still bad and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March was 9.8, as compared with 10.4 in February and 4.2 in March, 1902.

Building Trades.—Employment shows a slight improvement compared with a month ago, and is not much worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 3.4 at the end of March, compared with 5.0 in the previous month, and 4.4 in March, 1902. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 7.5 at the end of March, as compared with 8.2 in February, and 5.2 in March of last year.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues dull with mill-sawyers, coopers and coach-makers; in the furnishing trades it has improved. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March was 4.1, compared with 5.6 in February, and 3.4 in March, 1902.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has been quiet, and shows little change on the whole compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago it is worse in all branches. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March was 4.2, compared with 4.6 at the end of February, and 3.4 a year ago.

Employment in the *Paper* trade has been fairly good, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 2.6, as against 2.0 a month ago and 1.8 in March, 1902.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continues dull. In the *Pottery* trades it has improved, but is still slack. In the *Brick* and *Tile* trades it has improved and is fair.

Employment in the *Spinning* branch of the *Cotton* trade continues good, and is better than last month and a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it is fair; it has slightly declined as compared with February, but is still better than a year ago. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 96,400 women and girls shows that 94 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 91 per cent. in February and 88 per cent. in March, 1902. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 82 during March, compared with the same percentage in February and 77 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the *Woollen* trade is fairly good, and about the same as a year ago, except in the heavy branch which is not so good. In the *Worsted* trade it has declined in the wool combing branch, but is fairly good in other branches. Information respecting woollen and worsted factories in Yorkshire employing about 28,000 women and girls shows that 85 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment, compared with 84 per cent. in February, and with 92 per cent. in March, 1902.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade is fair, but shows a decline compared with a month and a year ago. Employment in the *Flax* trade continues good. It is fairly good in the *Jute* trade.

Leather Trades.—The general condition of employment remains dull and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 6.3 at the end of March, as compared with 6.8 in February, and 2.5 in March, 1902.

Employment in the *Boot* and *Shoe* trade continues quiet, being much the same as in February, but better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing about 72,000 workpeople show an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed at the end of March, as compared with a month ago, and of 4.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Of the total number, 78 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 76 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for February.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade has generally improved, and is fairly good. In the ready-made branch it has been fairly good during the month, but is beginning to show a decline.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade continues dull. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of March was 2.9, compared with the same percentage in February, and 2.7 per cent. a year ago.

Employment with *Agricultural Labourers* was not so good during March as in the previous month, work having been interrupted by bad weather, especially in the western counties of England, and many casual labourers are stated to have been in irregular work from this cause.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment was generally dull in March, and in London it was bad. It was a little better than in the previous month, but worse than in the corresponding month of last year. During the four weeks ended March 28th the number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London averaged 12,703, compared with 12,373 in the preceding four weeks, and 14,182 in the corresponding period a year ago. The average number employed in March during the six years 1897-1902 was 14,477.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during March, 1903, was 19,665, compared with 13,186 in February, 1903, and 10,150 in March, 1902. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 233,700 working days, compared with 191,900 in the previous month, and 95,700 in the corresponding month of last year.

Thirty-one disputes began in March, involving 9,784

workpeople, compared with 3,658 in February, 1903, and 6,285 in March, 1902.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 25 disputes, new and old, affecting 10,421 workpeople. Of these 25 disputes, 3, involving 432 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 14, involving 7,110 persons, in favour of the employers, and 8, involving 2,879 persons, were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during March affected about 39,200 workpeople, of whom about 21,400 received advances and 17,800 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of £15 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 146,300 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £886 weekly. During March, 1902, the number affected was nearly 198,500, and the net result was a decrease of £13,590 weekly.

The principal advances affected 14,000 coal miners in Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan, and 6,250 blast-furnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales. The principal decreases affected 5,500 blast-furnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, and 4,200 glass bottle makers in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and at Sunderland and Seaham Harbour. Two changes, affecting about 15,000 workpeople, were arranged by arbitration, and 9 changes, affecting about 15,200 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Two changes, affecting about 1,500 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting about 7,500 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE results of the last ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron are given in the Table below.

Compared with the previous ascertainment it will be seen that prices are lower in each district.

The only changes in wages which took place as a result of these ascertainment were reductions in the wages of blast-furnacemen in Cleveland and Cumberland of 3 per cent. and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. respectively.

A comparison of the recently ascertained prices with those of a year ago shows that for Northumberland coal the price was lower by about 6 per cent., while in the case of pig iron prices they were higher by about 3 per cent. in Cumberland and 7 per cent. in Cleveland. In the manufactured iron trades the variation shown is slight, prices being practically the same in both periods.

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with	
		Last Audit.*	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.						
Northumberland— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Dec.-Feb.	s. d. 7 3'06	s. d. 7 3'65	s. d. 7 8'19	s. d. -0 0'59	s. d. -0 5'13
Pig Iron.						
Cumberland ...	Jan.-Mar.	59 4'92	59 11'32	57 6'82	-0 6'40	+1 10'10
Cleveland	47 2'81	49 7'39	44 0'13	-2 4'58	+3 2'68
Manufactured Iron.						
North of England— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	...	124 3'33	125 1'54	125 2'23	-0 10'21	-0 10'90
Midlands— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips, &c.)	Jan.-Feb.	137 11'94	139 8'28	137 10'14	-1 8'34	+0 1'80
West of Scotland— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and rods)	...	125 5'50	127 3'29	125 0'18	-1 9'79	+0 5'32

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

WAGES AGREEMENT IN THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE.

ON July 1st, 1902, six months' notice was given by the South Wales Miners' Federation to the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coal Owners' Association for the termination of the Sliding Scale Agreement of 1898. The workmen desired that a minimum and maximum wage should be fixed, and that a Conciliation Board should be established to determine the general rate of wages, in place of the sliding scale, under which wages followed automatically the selling price of coal.

A committee of representatives of employers and workmen was appointed to deal with the arrangements to regulate wages after December 31st, 1902, the first conference being held on November 4th. A temporary arrangement was arrived at on November 15th that the conditions prevailing during December, 1902, at the associated collieries should continue until an agreement was arrived at, or, failing that, until the expiration of one month from the first day of the calendar month following the breaking off of the negotiations.

After prolonged negotiations an agreement was drawn up and was signed on March 31st. The principal provisions made by this agreement (which is to remain in force until the end of 1905) are as follows:—

1.—That a Board of Conciliation shall be established to determine the general rate of wages to be paid to the workmen and to deal with disputes at the various collieries of the owners, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned.

2.—The title of the Board shall be "The Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of Monmouthshire and South Wales," hereinafter called "The Board."

3.—The Board shall consist of 24 duly authorised Owners' Representatives and 24 duly authorised Representatives of the Workmen employed at the Collieries of the Owners, and when dealing with questions relating to general advances or general reductions in the rate of wages also of a Chairman from outside who shall not be financially interested in any coal mine in the United Kingdom and who shall have a casting vote only.

4.—... When and so often as the office of Chairman becomes vacant the Board shall endeavour to elect a chairman, and should they fail to agree, will ask the Lord Chief Justice of England for the time being, or in case of his refusal, the Speaker of the House of Commons, to nominate one.

5.—The parties to this Agreement pledge their respective constituents to make every effort possible to avoid difficulties or disputes at the collieries and in case of any unavoidable difference the owners or their officials together with their workmen or their agent or agents shall endeavour to settle all matters at the collieries and only in case of failing to effect a settlement shall a written appeal be made to the Board by either or both of the parties concerned in the dispute to consider the same and no notice to terminate contracts shall be given by either owners or their workmen before the particular question in dispute shall have been considered by the Board and it shall have failed to arrive at an agreement. The Board shall have power to refer such questions to a committee consisting of one or more owners' representatives and an equal number of workmen's representatives all of whom shall be members of the Board to consider and if so directed with power to settle and in all cases to report either a settlement or a failure to agree to the Board, within three calendar months from the date of the reference to such Committee, and should the Board then fail to arrive at an Agreement within one month, or any extended period that may be agreed upon by the Board, either party may give notice to terminate Contracts.

7.—The Mineral to be gotten is clean large coal only, as hereinafter described.

The cutting prices to be paid to the Collier shall be the several standard prices prevailing and paid at the Collieries of the Owners respectively.

Such standard cutting price shall be paid upon the weight of the large coal to be ascertained in manner hereinafter appearing and includes all services in respect of the small coal necessarily produced in filling the large coal in conveying it from the working places to the screen at the surface and in the process of screening that price being equal to the value of all the services involved in getting such large coal and small coal and being more than the value of the services rendered in respect of the large coal only."

The respective weights of such large coal and small coal

for the purpose of paying the collier are to be ascertained in the manner specified in detail in the Agreement.

10.—The Board shall at the meetings held under Rule 6 of the said rules of procedure determine the general rate of wages to be paid for the three months commencing on the first day of the month following the dates of such meetings, but should neither party desire to vary the rate of wages, the then prevailing rate of wages shall continue until the same shall be varied in accordance with the said rules of procedure.

(a) All standard rates and prices shall be the standards known as the Standards of December 1879 and 1877 respectively.

(b) The wages payable to the workmen shall as from the date of this Agreement and until the same shall be advanced or reduced by the Board, be 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the several rates actually paid at the respective Collieries under the Standard of December, 1879.

(c) During the continuance of this Agreement the rate of wages shall, subject to sub-section (d) hereof, not be less than 30 per cent. above nor more than 60 per cent. above the December 1879 Standard of wages paid at the respective Collieries, and in considering any proposal for an alteration in the general rate of wages the said minimum of 30 per cent. shall for that purpose be considered as equivalent to such an average nett selling price per ton of large coal not being less than 11s. 3d. nor more than 12s. 3d. as shall be forthwith determined by an independent person to be agreed upon by the parties or failing an agreement to be nominated by the Lord Chief Justice of England, or in case of his refusal, by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Such average nett selling price shall be taken as for large colliery screened coal, delivered f.o.b. at Cardiff, Barry, Newport, Swansea, and Llanelli.

(d) At collieries where the standard or basis upon which wages are now regulated is the rate of wages paid in the year 1877 the percentage payable thereat shall be 15 per cent. less than at the collieries where the 1879 Standard prevails provided that in cases where workmen have hitherto been paid nett rates of wages or fixed or other percentages whether upon the 1877, 1879 Standards or any other existing standards they shall continue to be paid such nett rates, fixed or other percentages only.

12.—A question having been raised by the owners as to the prices to be charged to workmen entitled to house coal for their own domestic purposes, it is agreed that the coal field shall be divided into not more than 10 sections, to be settled by the two chairmen and secretaries of the committee negotiating this Agreement; or failing them by a third party to be nominated by them in advance, such division to be settled not later than April 30th, 1903.

The prices to be paid for house coal in the various sections shall be first considered by the Board, and in the event of their failing to agree by the 30th May, 1903, shall be fixed by the person to be appointed under Clause 10, sub-section c of this Agreement, who shall give his decision not later than June 30th, 1903.

In fixing the prices to be paid regard shall be had to the cost of production, the origin and conditions under which coal has been supplied to the workmen hitherto, also the quantity and quality of the same, and the period of supply in the different sections.

15.—Nothing in the Clauses of this Agreement or in the Rules of Procedure is to preclude either party bringing any matters before the Board or Independent Chairman, which they consider as factors bearing upon the General Wage Question, but any evidence brought forward as to the selling price of coal shall be confined to the three calendar months immediately preceding the first day of the month in which the meeting is held."

The Rules of Procedure of the Board, which form part of this Agreement, provide as follows:—

5.—The Board shall meet once at least in each month for the purpose of dealing with difficulties or disputes arising at the several Collieries and referred to in Clauses 5 and 14 of the foregoing Agreement and the same shall be dealt with by the Board without reference to the Chairman. The Secretaries shall give to each Member of the Board five days' notice of the intention to hold any such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat.

6.—Should there be a desire by either party to vary the rate of wages the Board shall meet to consider the same on the 14th day of the months of February, May, August and November in every year (except where the 14th day of any of the said months falls on a Sunday when the meeting shall be held on the following day) to determine the general rate of wages to be paid for the three months commencing on the first day of the month next following the date

of such meetings. Either party intending to propose at such meetings any alteration in the general rate of wages shall 10 days before the said 14th day of the months of February, May, August and November for holding such meetings give to the Secretary of the other party notice in writing of the proposition intended to be made and of the grounds thereof and the Secretaries shall enter such intended proposition and the grounds thereof on the Agenda to the notice convening the meeting. The Secretaries shall send to each member of the Board 7 days' notice of each such meeting and of the business to be transacted thereat.

At all such last-mentioned meetings the questions to be dealt with thereat shall in the first instance be considered by the Board, it being the desire and intention of the parties to settle any differences which may arise by friendly conference if possible. If the parties on the Board cannot agree then the meeting shall be adjourned for a period not exceeding seven days to which adjourned meeting the Chairman shall be summoned and shall attend and preside thereat, when the questions in difference shall be again discussed by the parties, and in the event of their failing to arrive at an agreement with regard thereto, the Chairman either at such meeting or within seven days thereafter shall give his casting vote on such questions, and the parties shall be bound thereby."

PRICE OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

As compared with a month ago the price per 4 lbs. has remained unchanged in all the towns given in the following Table, with the exception of Aberdeen, where an advance of 1/4d. per 4 lbs. has taken place. On the other hand, the price of the cheaper qualities of bread in London has shown a slightly downward tendency.

Table with columns for Place, 1st April, 5th May, 1st July, 1st Sept., 1st Oct., 2nd Feb., 2nd Mar., 2nd April. Rows list various towns like London, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cardiff, Derby, Huddersfield, Hull, Ipswich, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbro', Newcastle-on-Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Potteries, District, Wolverpton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the colonies from 1st September, 1902, to 31st March, 1903, amounted to 47,583,650 cwts., compared with 36,830,720 cwts. in the corresponding seven months of 1901-2. The

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 2nd June, 5th August, 3rd November, 1st December, or 1st January, 1903.

imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 11,330,956 cwts., compared with 11,553,854 cwts. from 1st September, 1901, to 31st March, 1902. The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months January, 1902, to March, 1903:—

Table with columns for Month, British Wheat (Mean London Gazette Price, Per cwt. s. d.), Imports (Wheat, Average Declared Value, Per cwt. s. d.; Wheat-meal and Flour, Average Declared Value, Per cwt. s. d.). Rows list months from January 1902 to March 1903.

LABOUR LEGISLATION IN HOLLAND.

ACCORDING to information supplied, through the Foreign Office, in despatches from Mr. A. F. G. Leveson-Gower, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at the Hague, under date of March 9th, and from Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at that place, under date of April 1st, the three Bills intended specially to prevent the dislocation of railway traffic by strikes, brought forward by the Dutch Prime Minister, as stated in last month's GAZETTE (p. 68), were duly proceeded with. The Bills were passed on April 11th, and came into operation forthwith. Copies of the three Acts have been supplied to the Board of Trade by Sir H. Howard.

The first of these Acts amends the Penal Code by providing that any person who (1) unlawfully compels another by means of violence or any other forcible action, or by threats of violence or of any other forcible action, whether employed against that other person or against a third party, to do, or to abstain from doing, or to suffer anything, or (2) compels another, by threats of insult or libel, to do, or to abstain from doing, or to suffer anything, shall be punished with imprisonment for any period not exceeding nine months, or fine up to 300 florins (£25). Provided that with regard to (2) the offender shall be prosecuted only on the complaint of the person against whom the offence is committed.

This Law also enacts that any person, who on any public road unlawfully impedes the free movement of another person, or together with one or more others continues to obstruct himself upon another person against the expressly declared wish of that person, or continues to follow him in a troublesome manner, shall be punished by imprisonment up to one month, or fine up to 100 florins (£8 6s. 8d.).

With respect to railway service, this Act contains the following provisions:—

I. Any official, or any person permanently or temporarily employed in connection with the public railway traffic, not belonging to the staff of a railway on which the traffic is conducted exclusively at limited speeds, who, with the object of creating or causing to continue a stoppage of a public service or of the public railway traffic, neglects, or, having been lawfully charged therewith, refuses to perform duties to the performance of which he has bound himself either expressly or by virtue of his engagement, shall be punished with imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by fine not exceeding 300 florins (£25).

II. If two or more persons as a result of conspiracy commit the offence described in the foregoing Section, the guilty parties, and also the leaders or instigators of the conspiracy, shall be punished with imprisonment for not more than two years.

III. If the object described above under (I.) shall be attained, a penalty of imprisonment shall be inflicted, in the case of the offences described under (I.) not exceeding one year, and in the case of the offences described under (II.) not exceeding four years.

* Import Duty commenced in this month.

IV. When any person is convicted under (I.), (II.) or (III.), the sentence may include deprivation of the right of the offender (i.) to hold any office or any specified office or offices, (ii.) to serve in the armed forces of the Realm, and (iii.) to vote at any public election held in pursuance of any provision of the law, or to be elected at any such election.

The second of the three new Acts makes provision for extending and reorganising the railway company attached to the Corps of Engineers of the Dutch Army. The object of this enactment (as explained in the official Memorandum attached to the Bill) is to make it possible for this Railway Brigade to assist, if need be, in maintaining the service on some of the principal Dutch lines.

The third Act provides for the appointment of a Royal Commission, consisting of five members, to inquire into the legal position, and the conditions under which the staff is employed in the service of the railways, and into the complaints in relation to the same which exist among the staff, also to consider whether any, and if so, what changes are desirable, and if needful to submit proposals as to the method to be adopted in making such changes and in ensuring their efficacy in the future. This Law is to remain in force until January 1st, 1904.

ALIEN IMMIGRATION INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: NEW ACT.

THE Board of Trade have received through the Foreign Office a copy of an Act codifying and amending the existing legislation with respect to the immigration of aliens into the United States, which was approved on March 3rd.

The new Act raises the head tax on passengers not citizens of the United States from one dollar (4s. 2d.) to two dollars (8s. 4d.), and extends the liability for payment of this tax, previously only incurred in respect of passengers arriving by steam or sailing vessels, to those brought to the United States by railway or other mode of transportation. But this tax is not to be levied upon aliens in transit through the United States, nor upon aliens, who have once been admitted into the United States and have paid the tax, who later shall go in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory. Citizens of Cuba, Mexico, and Canada are also exempt from the payment of head-tax.

The classes of aliens, whose entry into the United States was prohibited by the laws previously in force, included (in addition to Chinese labourers) persons under contract or agreement, express or implied, to perform labour or service in the United States and "all idiots, insane persons, paupers, or persons likely to become a public charge, persons suffering from a loathsome or a dangerous contagious disease, persons who have been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime or misdemeanour involving moral turpitude, polygamists, and also any person whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another, or who is assisted by others to come, unless it is affirmatively and satisfactorily shown on special inquiry that such person does not belong to one of the foregoing excluded classes or to the class of contract labourers . . . , but this Section shall not be held to exclude persons living in the United States from sending for a relative or a friend who is not of the excluded classes under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe: Provided that nothing in this Act shall be construed to apply to or exclude persons convicted of a political offence, notwithstanding said political offence may be designated as a 'felony, crime, infamous crime, or misdemeanour, involving moral turpitude,' by the laws of the land whence he came or by the court convicting."

To these classes of excluded persons the present law adds certain additional categories, including "epileptics and persons who have been insane within five years previous; persons who have had two or more attacks of insanity at any time previously; professional beggars; anarchists, or persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States or of all government, or of all forms of law, or the

assassination of public officials"; and "those who have been, within one year from the date of the application for admission to the United States, deported as being under offers, solicitations, promises, or agreements to perform labour or service of some kind therein."

The laws previously in force provided "that any alien who shall come into the United States in violation of law may be returned as by law provided, at any time within one year thereafter, at the expense of the person or persons, vessel, transportation company, or corporation bringing such aliens to the United States, and if that cannot be done, then at the expense of the United States; and any alien who becomes a public charge within one year after his arrival in the United States from causes existing prior to his landing therein shall be deemed to have come in violation of law and shall be returned as aforesaid." The new law extends the period, within which persons landed in violation of the law, or who shall be found a public charge, are to be deported to two years after arrival, and further provides "that in case the Secretary of the Treasury shall be satisfied that an alien has been found in the United States in violation of this Act he shall cause such alien, within the period of three years after landing or entry therein, to be taken into custody, and returned to the country whence he came."

NEW INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED IN 1902.

THE following Table showing the number and nature of the New Industrial Organisations registered in the United Kingdom during 1902 is based upon monthly returns furnished to the Labour Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, and shows the number of each of the various classes of organisations registered in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, respectively.

The total number of new organisations registered in 1902 was 1,113, an increase of 152 when compared with 1901, and of 282 compared with 1900.

Trade Societies show a decrease of 11 compared with 1901, Industrial and Provident Societies an increase of 80, Friendly Societies, including branches, an increase of 94, and Building Societies a decrease of 11.

England and Wales shows an increase of 104 new organisations compared with 1901, Scotland a decrease of 7, and Ireland an increase of 55:—

TABLE showing the number and nature of New Industrial Organisations registered in 1902 in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, respectively, together with the totals for the United Kingdom, and the corresponding totals for the year 1901.

Table with columns for Description of Organisation, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Total Number registered in United Kingdom during 1902, Corresponding Totals for 1901. Rows include Trade Societies (Trade Unions, Federations, Employers' Associations), Industrial and Provident Societies (For Distribution, Production, Miscellaneous purposes), Friendly Societies (Ordinary, Dividing, Female, Juvenile, Medical, Benevolent, New Orders, Collecting, Cattle Insurance, Specially Authorised, Workmen's Clubs, New Branches of existing Friendly Societies), Building Societies, and Total Industrial Organisations Registered in 1902.

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN ANTHRACITE COAL-STRIKE COMMISSION.*

IN a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated March 25th, 1903, Sir M. Herbert, H.M. Ambassador at Washington, has forwarded copies of the Report of the Commission appointed by the President of the United States on October 16th, 1902, at the request of both the mine owners and the miners, "to inquire into, consider and pass upon the questions in controversy in connection with the strike in the anthracite region" of Pennsylvania, "and the causes out of which the controversy arose" (see GAZETTE for June, October and November, 1902, pp. 161, 275 and 304 respectively).

The following is a recapitulation of the awards of the Commission, whose Report is dated March 18th, 1903:—

1. *Demand for Higher Wages for Contract Miners.*—The Award provides that "an increase of 10 per cent. over and above the rates paid in the month of April, 1902, be paid to all contract miners for cutting coal, yardage and other work for which standard rates or allowances existed at that time, from and after November 1st, 1902, and during the life of this Award. . . . The amount of increase under the Award due for work done between November 1st, 1902, and April 1st, 1903, to be paid on or before June 1st, 1903."

2. *Demand for Reduction in Hours of Labour.*—On this point the Commission awards that "engineers who are employed in hoisting water shall have an increase of 10 per cent. on their earnings between November 1st, 1902, and April 1st, 1903, to be paid on or before June 1st, 1903. . . . and from and after April 1st, 1903, and during the life of the Award, they shall have 8-hour shifts, with the same pay which was effective in April, 1902; and where they are now working 8-hour shifts the 8-hour shifts shall be continued, and these engineers shall have an increase of 10 per cent. on the wages which were effective in the several positions in April, 1902."

In the case of engineers and pumpmen, other than those engaged in hoisting water, who are employed in positions which are manned continuously, the award is that, besides the increase of 10 per cent. on their earnings between November 1st, 1902, and April 1st, 1903, they shall, from and after April 1st, 1903, and during the life of the award, "have an increase of 5 per cent. on the rates of wages which were effective in the several positions in April, 1902; and in addition they shall be relieved from duty on Sundays without loss of pay, by a man provided by the employer to relieve them during the hours of the day shift."

Firemen are awarded an increase of 10 per cent. on their earnings between November 1st, 1902, and April 1st, 1903; and "from and after April 1st, 1903, and during the life of the award, they shall have 8-hour shifts, with the same wages per day, week, or month, as were paid in each position in April, 1902."

The Commission further awards that all employees or company men, other than those for whom the Commission makes special awards, "be paid an increase of 10 per cent. on their earnings between November 1st, 1902, and April 1st, 1903. . . . and that from and after April 1st, 1903, and during the life of this award, they shall be paid on the basis of a 9-hour day, receiving therefor the same wages as were paid in April, 1902, for a 10-hour day. Overtime in excess of 9 hours in any day to be paid at a proportional rate per hour."

3. *Demand for Payment by Weight.*—The award of the Commission is "that during the life of this award the present methods of payment for coal mined shall be adhered to, unless changed by mutual agreement."

4. *Demand for Agreement with United Mine Workers of America.*—The finding of the Commission under this head is "that any difficulty or disagreement arising under this award, either as to its interpretation or application, or in any way growing out of the relations of the employers and employed, which cannot be settled or adjusted by consultation between the superintendent or manager of the mine or mines, and the miner or miners directly interested, or is of a scope too large to be so settled, or adjusted, shall be referred to a permanent joint committee, to be called a board of conciliation, to consist of six persons, appointed as hereinafter provided. That is to say, if there shall be a division of the whole region into three districts, in each of which there shall exist an organisation representing a majority of the mine workers of such district, one of said board of conciliation shall be appointed by each of said organisations, and three other persons shall be appointed by the operators, the operators in each of said districts appointing one person.

"The board of conciliation thus constituted shall take up and

*Report to the President on the Anthracite Coal Strike of May-October, 1902, by the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1903, 58th Congress, Special Session, Senate Document No. 6.

consider any question referred to it as aforesaid, hearing both parties to the controversy; and such evidence as may be laid before it by either party; and any award made by a majority of such board of conciliation shall be final, and binding on all parties. If, however, the said board is unable to decide any question submitted, or point related thereto, that question or point shall be referred to an umpire, to be appointed, at the request of said board, by one of the circuit judges of the third judicial circuit of the United States, whose decision shall be final and binding in the premises.

"The membership of said board shall at all times be kept complete, either the operators' or miners' organisations having the right at any time when a controversy is not pending, to change their representation thereon.

"At all hearings before said board the parties may be represented by such person or persons as they may respectively select.

"No suspension of work shall take place, by lock-out or strike, pending the adjudication of any matter so taken up for adjustment."

5. *Check Weighmen and Check Docking Bosses.*—The Commission awards "that whenever requested by a majority of the contract miners of any colliery, check weighmen or check docking bosses, or both, shall be employed. The wages of said check weighmen and check docking bosses shall be fixed, collected, and paid by the miners in such manner as the said miners shall by a majority vote elect; and when requested by a majority of said miners, the operators shall pay the wages fixed for check weighmen and check docking bosses, out of deductions made proportionately from the earnings of the said miners, on such basis as the majority of said miners shall determine."

6. *Distribution of Mine Cars.*—On this point the Award is "that mine cars shall be distributed among miners, who are at work, as uniformly and as equitably as possible, and that there shall be no concerted effort on the part of the miners or mine workers of any colliery or collieries, to limit the output of the mines or to detract from the quality of the work performed, unless such limitation of output be in conformity to an agreement between an operator or operators, and an organisation representing a majority of said miners in his or their employ."

7. *Mine Cars.*—The Commission awards "that in all cases where miners are paid by the car, the increase awarded to the contract miners is based upon the cars in use, the topping required, and the rates paid per car which were in force on April 1st, 1902. Any increase in the size of car, or in the topping required, shall be accompanied by a proportionate increase in the rate paid per car."

8. *Sliding Scale.*—The finding of the Commission upon this point is, "that the following sliding scale of wages shall become effective April 1st, 1903, and shall affect all miners and mine workers included in the awards of the Commission:—

"The wages fixed in the awards shall be the basis of, and the minimum under, the sliding scale.

"For each increase of 5 cents (2½d.) in the average price of white-ash coal of sizes above pea coal, sold at or near New York, between Perth Amboy and Edgewater, and reported to the Bureau of Anthracite Coal Statistics, above 4.50 dollars (18s. 9d.) per ton f.o.b., the employees shall have an increase of 1 per cent. in their compensation, which shall continue until a change in the average price of said coal works a reduction or an increase in said additional compensation hereunder; but the rate of compensation shall in no case be less than that fixed in the award. That is, when the price of said coal reaches 4.55 dollars (18s. 11½d.) per ton, the compensation will be increased 1 per cent., to continue until the price falls below 4.55 dollars per ton, when the 1 per cent. increase will cease, or until the price reaches 4.60 dollars (19s. 2d.) per ton, when an additional 1 per cent. will be added, and so on.

"These average prices shall be computed monthly by an accountant or commissioner named by one of the circuit judges of the third judicial circuit of the United States, and paid by the coal operators, such compensation as the appointing judge may fix, which compensation shall be distributed among the operators in proportion to the tonnage of each mine.

"In order that the basis may be laid for the successful working of the sliding scale provided herein, it is also adjudged and awarded that all coal-operating companies file at once with the United States Commissioner of Labour a certified statement of the rates of compensation paid in each occupation known in their companies as they existed April 1st, 1902."

9. *Discrimination, Lawlessness, Boycotting and Blacklisting.*—The Commission awards "that no person shall be refused employment, or in any way discriminated against, on account of membership or non-membership in any labour organisation; and that there shall be no discrimination against, or interference with, any employee who is not a member of any labour organisation by members of such organisation."

10. *Direct Payment to Labourers.*—On this point the award is

"that all contract miners be required to furnish within a reasonable time before each pay day, a statement of the amount of money due from them to their labourers, and such sums shall be deducted from the amount due the contract miner, and paid directly to each labourer by the company. All employees when paid shall be furnished with an itemised statement of account."

11. *Life and Conditions of the Award.*—With regard to this the Commission adjudges "that the Awards herein made shall continue in force until March 31st, 1906; and that any employee, or group of employees, violating any of the provisions thereof, shall be subject to reasonable discipline by the employer; and, further, that the violation of any provision of these Awards, either by employer or employees, shall not invalidate any of the provisions thereof."

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.*

CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Bookbinders in London.

MR. C. J. STEWART, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (see GAZETTE for December, p. 332), issued his Award on March 20th.

The London Societies of Journeymen Bookbinders had asked that the minimum wage should be raised from 32s. to 36s. a week, and that all time beyond 48 hours should be paid as overtime at the rate of time and a quarter up to 57 hours, and thereafter at the rate of time and a half. They also put forward claims in regard to the training of apprentices and piece-work rates. The employers made counter-claims in regard to the extension of the right to work piece or time or both, the employment of female labour, and other matters.

The operative clauses of the Award are as follows:—

1. That the minimum wage be raised to 35s. per week of 48 hours.
 2. That all time, whether time work or piece work, after 52½ hours in a week or after ten hours on a single day shall be counted as overtime and shall be paid at the rate of time and a quarter.
 3. That the limit of the number of apprentices shall remain as it is at present, namely, one apprentice to every three men, and the test as to proportion shall be the number of apprentices the employer is entitled to according to the average number of men employed in the year preceding the apprentice's appointment, it being further agreed by the employers that only a reasonable proportion of apprentices shall be grouped in one department, and that the apprentices shall be trained, not merely in a sub-section, but in a branch. Evidence was given me as to the technical training of apprentices at technical classes, and as to the desire of the employers to co-operate with the Societies in encouraging and improving the apprentices' training.

4. That the present basis on which the scale of prices for piece-work, so far as at present fixed, namely, that a man of average skill and ability should be able to earn at least 1s. per hour, appears fair and reasonable, and beyond what I award as regards the claim of the masters under claim No. 5 no adjustment is required.

5. That the right now existing in certain shops to work piece or time, or both simultaneously at option, in case-making, blocking and forwarding shall in future apply throughout the trade, and that a Board, consisting of three employers and three employed, shall be formed in order to draw up a scale of prices for such piece-work blocking and forwarding, and making such re-arrangements of the present piecework case-making scale as may be agreed to be desirable, due regard being paid to the rate of wages paid for time work. That the said Board be empowered to sit permanently and amend and adjust any differences that may from time to time arise on the scale of prices as fixed. That in the event of a dispute the Board should have power to appoint an arbitrator, or in the event of disagreement in choice of arbitrator, should be empowered to apply to the Board of Trade to appoint an arbitrator.

6. That the right or practice existing with regard to female labour employed on wrapping and for laying on gold in case work cloth, or leather or other material in certain workshops in the trade, shall be made to apply to all workshops in the trade, it being agreed by the employers that no man exclusively employed in gold laying on shall lose his employment by reason of the employment of women on such work.

*For "Wages Agreement in the South Wales Coal Trade," see p. 61.

That inasmuch as claim No. 7 was withdrawn by the employers, no award is required.

That as regards No. 8 it has been agreed by both parties that the following clause shall apply to "honourable leave." In the event of a dispute arising between the employers and the employed, the Society will not interfere with a foreman provided he has held the position for not less than twelve months.

And I further declare that this my award so far as the claims Nos. 1 and 2 and 5 shall not come into effect until the 29th day of June 1903, except so far as No. 5 relating to the appointment of a Board for the purpose of fixing a piece-work scale, which provisions shall come into effect with the remainder of my award as from this date.

And I further award and declare that any question relating to the construction of this my award is to be referred to me for decision.

It is estimated that about 2,500 bookbinders are affected by this Award, of whom about 1,000 will have their wages raised to the minimum.

Carpenters and Joiners at Walsall.

The Board of Trade have received applications from the Walsall Master Builders' Association, and the local branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with certain matters in dispute between the parties.

The Board of Trade, on April 4th, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act as arbitrator.

Pottery Trade at Hanley.

The Board of Trade have received a joint application for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle the making prices for certain articles at the Cliffe Vale Works, Hanley. The Board on April 14th appointed Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., to act as arbitrator.

OTHER CASES.

Cardroom Operatives' Agreement.

At a joint meeting of representatives of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, Limited, and of the Amalgamated Association of Card and Blowing Room Operatives, held in Manchester on March 13th, a universal list of prices relating to single revolving flat cards was agreed to. This is the first recognised uniform list for the regulation of the wages of card room operatives, and the negotiations which attended its drawing up extended over a period of four years.

The list came into operation on March 21st, and it is estimated that about 4,000 workpeople will be affected by its provisions.

Clause (1) of the agreement relates to the price to be paid per card, which varies according to the weight carded, a minimum and maximum price, however, being fixed. Clause (2) determines the method by which the weight carded is to be obtained.

The full text of the two clauses is as follows:—

(1) 550 lbs. to 750 lbs. per card, 2s. per card. Below 550 lbs., ¾d. per card for every 50 lbs. to be deducted down to 300 lbs., beyond which no further reduction shall be made. Above 750 lbs., ¾d. per card for every 50 lbs. to be added up to 1,000 lbs., beyond which no further addition shall be made.

Minimum price 1s. 9½d. per card.
 Maximum price 2s. 2½d. per card.

In arriving at the weights and prices no alteration in price shall be made unless the difference in weight is above half the difference between one scale and the other.

(2) Weight carded to be based on hanks produced by slubbers. Four weeks to be taken in case a test is required, full weeks preferred. When cards have worked full weeks, if the material is put through the slubbers, such to be taken as full weeks, irrespective of time worked by slubbers.

Of the other clauses, (3) relates to the employment and payment of lap carriers, (4) to strippers' work, (5) grinding, (6) extras to be paid in mills having no lap bogeys and for the carrying of laps, (7) extras to be paid to grinders assisting to do under-carder's work where no under-carder is employed, (8) and (9), duties, &c., of grinders. In clause (10), the last in the agreement, it is provided that "Should any case arise with which the foregoing clauses do not deal, the same shall be a case for adjudication, as per the Brooklands agreement."

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ACTION FOR DAMAGES AGAINST STRANGER BARRED BY CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION AGAINST EMPLOYER.

Section 6 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, is as follows:—"Where the injury for which compensation is payable under this Act was caused under circumstances creating a legal liability in some person other than the employer to pay damages in respect thereof, the workman may, at his option, proceed either at law against that person to recover damages, or against his employer for compensation under this Act, but not against both, and if compensation be paid under this Act the employer shall be entitled to be indemnified by the said other person."

A man was acting as foreman over a gang of labourers, who were about to commence loading a steamer belonging to a firm by whom he was employed, when he was injured, in consequence, as he alleged, of the defective condition of a hydraulic crane supplied by the owners of the docks and worked by their servants. He brought an action for damages against the dock-owners, who pleaded that this man, having elected to take compensation from his employers under the Compensation Act, was barred by the provision of that Act cited above from insisting in the present action. This plea was sustained by the Sheriff-Substitute, who dismissed the action, with expenses. On appeal, the Court of Appeal affirmed this interlocutor, with additional expenses—*James Masson v. The Trustees of the Clyde Navigation, Court of Session, March 14th.*

NEGLECT TO HAVE INJURY TREATED: REVIEW OF COMPENSATION.

A workman, whose thumb had been amputated as the result of an injury received in the course of his employment, refused to undergo a surgical operation which would, in all probability, have removed the sensitiveness of the injured part and have enabled him to earn the same wage as before the accident, or at least to earn more wages than he was able to do before the operation. The operation was a simple one, not attended with serious risk, and was such as a reasonable man not claiming compensation or damages would, for his own advantage and comfort, have elected to undergo. The Court of Session found that the workman's refusal to submit to the operation disentitled him to a continuance of substantial compensation, but allowed him 1d. weekly until the further order of the Court.—*Anderson v. Baird & Co., Court of Session, reported March 28th.*

(2) Merchant Shipping Acts.

INJURIES TO CREW: SHIPOWNER'S LIABILITY FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES.

By Sect. 207, sub-sect. 1, of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, it is provided that "if the master of, or a seaman or apprentice belonging to, a ship receives any hurt or injury in the service of the ship, the expense of providing the necessary surgical and medical advice and attendance and medicine, and also the expenses of the maintenance of the master, seaman, or apprentice, until he is cured, or dies, or is brought back, if shipped in the United Kingdom, to a port of the United Kingdom, or, if shipped in a British possession, to a port of that possession, and of his conveyance to the port, and in case of death the expense (if any) of his burial, shall be defrayed by the owner of the ship, without any deduction on that account from his wages." A man was engaged at Liverpool as master of a ship on the two-thirds system—i.e., he collected the freights and out of two thirds of them he disbursed the ship, rendering periodical accounts to the owners and remitting the balance. In the service of the ship on a voyage from Liverpool he broke his leg. He was taken back to Liverpool, where he remained for four months before he was able to return to the ship, and during that period he provided and paid a substitute. He then brought an action against the owners of the ship to recover the expenses of medical attendance and maintenance incurred in consequence of his accident. The action was tried before a Judge without a jury. The Judge held that the defendants were liable to pay all the expenses incurred by the plaintiff for necessary surgical and medical advice and attendance and medicine, but were not liable to pay for his maintenance after the date of his being brought back to Liverpool (see GAZETTE, April, 1902, p. 103). The defendants appealed; and the Court of Appeal held that upon the true construction of Sect. 207, sub-sect. 1, the defendants were not liable to pay the expenses incurred by the plaintiff for necessary surgical and medical advice and attendance and medicine after the date of his being brought back to Liverpool, and allowed the appeal.—*Anderson v. Rayner, Court of Appeal, March 4th.*

(3) Trade Union Acts.

PAYING STRIKE PAY AGAINST RULES OF UNION: ACTION BY MEMBER.

In the case noticed in the GAZETTE of February, 1903 (p. 38), in which a member of a Trade Union obtained an injunction restraining the Union, its general treasurer, and the treasurers of its branches, from misapplying the funds of the Union by paying strike pay to certain of its members in violation of its rules, and on appeal, this decision was upheld by the Court of Appeal, the defendants are appealing to the House of Lords; and the plaintiff, desiring to have the direction of the Court as to the form in which the injunction should be drawn up, applied to the Court, which,

the defendants assenting, directed that the following words should be added to the injunction:—"This injunction not to prejudice or affect such right, if any, as may be vested in the defendant association to alter its rules," the costs of the application to be included in the costs of the appeal to the House of Lords.—*Howden v. The Yorkshire Miners' Association and Others, Court of Appeal, February 26th and March 2nd.*

(4) Friendly Societies Acts.

ARBITRATION: IRREGULARITY: INJUNCTION.

The Friendly Societies Act, 1896, provides that every dispute between a member of a registered Friendly Society and the Society or an officer of the Society shall be decided in manner directed by the rules of the Society, "and the decision so given shall be binding and conclusive on all parties without appeal, and shall not be removable into any Court of Law or restrainable by injunction."

The rules of a Friendly Society directed that disputes between members and the Society should be referred to arbitration. A dispute, which had arisen between 6 committeemen of the Society and its trustees, was accordingly referred to 5 arbitrators, but one refused to act. The other 4 were equally divided; but the chairman of the committee, who by the rules was not competent to act as arbitrator, gave his casting vote against the 6 committeemen, the result being that they were ordered to pay a certain sum or have their names taken off the books. They brought an action against the trustees, claiming an injunction restraining the trustees from expelling them. On behalf of the trustees it was contended that the Court could not interfere, there being a dispute directed by the rules to be decided by arbitration. But the Judge held that, as the arbitration had been irregular, the Court had power to interfere, and granted the injunction with costs. Counsel on behalf of the plaintiffs asked that the injunction might be dated from the time of their expulsion, as otherwise they might be prejudiced in any claims that might have arisen in the interval; but the Judge said that he could not make the injunction retrospective.—*Rind and Others v. Silverman, King's Bench Division, March 23rd.*

(5) Miscellaneous.

SHOP CLUB: RIGHTS OF MEMBERS LEAVING EMPLOYMENT.

By the Shops Clubs Act, 1902, which was passed in August, 1902, and came into operation on January 1st, 1903, it is made an offence under the Act, if an employer shall make it a condition of employment that any workman shall join a shop club or thrift fund, unless the club or fund is registered and certified as in the Act specified, and it is enacted that "in any case where a workman, by the conditions of his employment, is a member of a shop club, he shall upon his dismissal from, or upon leaving his employment, unless contrary to the rules of the club, have the option of remaining a member or of having returned to him the amount of his share of the funds of the club, to be ascertained by actuarial calculation."

By one of the rules of a company it was provided that all employees should contribute rateably to the company's provident fund, except in cases where express agreement was made to the contrary. In consequence of the passing of the Shop Clubs Act, the trustees of this fund proposed to make new rules, to come into force on December 1st, 1902, whereby it was no longer made a condition of employment that an employee should join the provident fund, and every member in the company's employment was given the opportunity of subscribing to the fund with its new rules or of giving up his membership and joining some other provident institution.

An employee of the company, who left its service of his own accord on January 3rd, 1903, claimed to have his subscriptions to the fund returned to him. This being refused by the company, he brought an action, suing on behalf of himself and all other the members of the fund, against the trustees of the fund and the company, asking (amongst other things) for a declaration that the old provident fund had become illegal by reason of the Shop Clubs Act, and that its affairs ought to be wound up. He moved the Chancery Division for an injunction to restrain the trustees of the fund from dealing with the funds as if the same belonged to the new provident fund, and asked, alternatively, that an actuarial calculation might be made of the amount of his share of the fund.

On entering the service of the company the plaintiff signed an agreement giving his adhesion to the rules of the provident fund, which were endorsed upon the back of his agreement. Rule 1 provided that the provident fund should be maintained (1) by the deduction from the wages or salary which each employee was for the time being entitled to receive from the company at certain rates therein specified; (2) by contributions, if necessary, from the funds of the company; and (3) by voluntary donations from members of the company and others and by such other funds as might from time to time become available for the purpose. The sums so realised were to be invested by the directors and held upon the trusts of a deed of trust dated February 2nd, 1887, and subject to the rules. Rule 6 provided that no person dismissed from the company's employment, or leaving it of his or her own accord, should have any claim upon the provident fund; but in the case of those who had been in the company's employment for 5 years, the trustees should have absolute discretion to return to him or her the whole sum which he or she had subscribed, with or without a bonus not to exceed the whole sum subscribed by the recipient. Rule 12 gave the trustees power from time to time to alter or revoke the rules, and make new rules. It appeared that the fund was supported by staff subscriptions amounting to £900 a year, and an annual donation from the company of £2,000.

On October 18th, 1902, the trustees of the fund sent out a circular, with an accompanying form for those to sign who desired to remain members of the fund on a voluntary footing. The

plaintiff did not sign the new agreement, but returned the form and gave particulars of a new society to which he proposed to belong. On December 30th the plaintiff wrote saying that, as he was leaving the company's employment, he made a formal application for the moneys paid by him to the provident fund. Out of 727 possible contributors only about seven had not come in under the new rules, which had been acted upon by the trustees of the fund as from December 1st, 1902. The total amount contributed by the plaintiff was 27s., but during his absence as an Army Reservist at the late war the company had kept up his contributions for him, thus bringing the total amount contributed by him or on his behalf to about £5.

The Judge held that on the balance of convenience and inconvenience in this case there ought to be no order upon the motion except that costs be costs in the action; he did not then deal with the alternative relief asked by the motion.—*Balchin v. Lord Ebury & Others, Chancery Division, March 11th.*

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

THERE is now a general demand throughout Canada for farm labourers, female servants, and mechanics, and the present is the best time of year in which to arrive. A report from Fredericton in New Brunswick states that there is no demand for miners or mechanics, but that general labourers are in demand, and that farm labourers and female servants are badly wanted. Reports from Manitoba and the North-West state that there is a good demand for farm labourers and female servants, and in some cases for carpenters and bricklayers. A report from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, states that farm labourers, who can milk, are much wanted. The manufacturers of Ontario—especially those connected with the iron trade—complain of the great scarcity of skilled mechanics owing to the large increase in the industries of the Province. A strike of freight handlers on the Canadian Pacific Railway has commenced at Vancouver and Winnipeg, and involves a great many employees on the Railway. Throughout Canada there is great activity in the metal, engineering, ship-building and building trades, and there is good demand in them for competent mechanics; the clothing and leather trades are not so brisk. Miners are busy in Nova Scotia, and to a less extent in Ontario; but in British Columbia the strike of coal miners at the Crow's Nest Pass has not only thrown hundreds of coal miners out of work, but seriously affects gold, silver and other mines at Rosland and other places which depend upon these collieries for their coal and coke. A report from Nova Scotia states that lumbermen and miners are well employed; coal miners are specially in demand, owing to the large increase of the coal industry.

Australia.

New South Wales.—The coal mines at Lithgow have been very depressed and the number of miners has been reduced. In other parts of the State the supply of labour seems fully equal to the demand, and for the present no one is recommended to go to New South Wales in search of work unless he has some money, or unless there are special circumstances justifying his emigration.

Victoria.—There is no general demand for more labour, but at busy seasons of the year competent farm hands are wanted in country districts. The supply of mechanics at Melbourne and other large towns is sufficient. Shearing rates have been reduced from 16s. per hundred sheep to 15s. The strike of miners at the Outtrim Collieries is still unsettled. The Royal Commission appointed to report on the working of the Factories and Shops Act recommends, amongst other things, that the Wages Boards fixing the minimum rates of wages in certain trades should be abolished, and that Courts of Conciliation and Arbitration should be substituted for them.

South Australia.—Emigrants are not recommended to go to South Australia at the present time in search of

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

work. Fresh discoveries of gold have been made at Arltunga, in the Macdonell Ranges of the Northern Territory, which it is hoped may lead to great developments; Arltunga is situated in a very dry and difficult district.

Queensland.—Queensland has not yet recovered from the drought, and the demand for labour, other than farm hands in the South, is small.

Western Australia.—There is a good demand for farm labourers, but none for miners. There are stated to be a good many unemployed persons on the Kalgoorlie gold fields, but other accounts say that those who wish it can obtain work.

New Zealand.

There is a good demand in New Zealand for farm labourers, and for men and boys able to milk cows, look after horses and stock. Mechanics are well employed, and, though the demand for more hands is not so general as that for farm labourers, there are good openings for skilled men. The timber industry both in the forest and in the saw mills, the mining, dairy, fruit, fishing, and frozen meat industries are considerable, and provide work for competent men. There is the usual demand for female servants.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—The Government Labour Bureau at Cape Town reports that female servants are badly needed, and that any skilled artisan, especially carpenters and bricklayers, can obtain work, but that no miners are wanted. Employers domiciled in Cape Colony can obtain cheap passages at £3 a head for male or female servants engaged by them in England. The cost of living is high.

Natal.—There is a very fair demand for competent mechanics and general labourers, and the number of English miners employed in the Northern Collieries is increasing as the coal industry expands. The bricklayers' strike at Durban is over, and men are resuming work at 17s. a day instead of 16s., but this increase of 1s. is to be subject to arbitration. Carpenters are asking to have their wages raised to 16s. a day. There is a good opening for female servants if they go under proper care, but not for dressmakers, shop assistants, waitresses, typists or clerks.

Transvaal.—Permits are still required by those going to the Transvaal or Orange River Colony. There is a good demand for printers; the strike in the trade at Pretoria has been settled, and the men have resumed work at the slightly advanced wages of £5 15s. a week. There is a good deal of work going on, but while skilled men can often get work, there is no opening for incompetent men, for men without a trade, or for general labourers, and even many skilled men are unemployed. The cost of living remains two or three times as high as in England, especially for men with families. Female domestic servants may obtain assisted passages, provided they undertake to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages; they must apply to the South African Expansion Committee, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W. Crown land is now open for purchase or lease on reasonable terms, but some capital is necessary.

Orange River Colony.—There is some demand for carpenters, masons, and others in the building trades; but the cost of living is very high. There is a demand for female servants; they should apply to the South African Expansion Committee mentioned above. Government land is open for selection, but some capital is necessary. British subjects residing in the Colony can now obtain Assisted Passages for their wives and families, or near relations, by applying to the Resident Magistrate of their district; the applicant must undertake to repay by 12 equal monthly instalments the whole amount advanced: the reduced fare from London to Bloemfontein will be about £11 1s. 3d. for a closed berth in the third class, and £9 11s. 3d. for an open berth (men only); and £23 8s. od. for adults in the second class, and £15 11s. od. for children under 11 years.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

*Employment in February.**—The comparatively mild weather during February favoured agricultural labour, and enabled the building trades to resume work. Employment in timber felling was still retarded in some districts by differences between employers and workpeople; in several districts the season for work of this nature was already over. In the textile trades a normal degree of activity was reported for the Nord, Vosges, Loire and Maine-et-Loire departments, but there was a considerable lack of employment in Normandy and at Rheims. In silk manufacture, the machine weaving branch alone was well employed. Ribbon makers continued very busy. Garment and hat-making were in their slack season. In the metal trades employment continued to improve for moulders and smelters, but for engineering establishments it was less plentiful than before. Tin box makers continued practically without any employment. The slack season set in for the furniture trades. In boot and shoe making and coachbuilding there was a revival of activity. Printers and bookbinders were fairly well employed in the provinces, but were slack in Paris.

Of 986 Trade Unions (not including the miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais), having a total membership of 143,306, which made returns as to the state of employment during February, 16,394, or 11 per cent., were stated to be out of work. The percentage for the previous month was the same, and for February, 1902, 15.

*Coal Mining in February.**—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in February was 5.87, as compared with 5.96 in the preceding month, and 5.78 in February, 1902. Taking all workpeople together (surface and underground), 67 per cent. worked full time (6 days per week or over) and 32 per cent. from 5 to 6 days in February, as compared with 94 and 6 respectively in January.

*Labour Disputes in February.**—Thirty-two disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in February, the number of workpeople who took part in 31 of these being 3,489. In the previous month 31 disputes occurred, in 29 of which 4,700 workpeople took part; while in February, 1902, there were again 31 disputes, in 29 of which 3,902 workpeople took part. Two of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 2 in mining, 4 in the metal trades, 12 in the textile trades, 3 in the pottery trades, 2 in woodworking trades, 4 in the printing trades, and 3 in trades not included within the foregoing groups. Twenty-five disputes came to an end in February, 3 terminating in favour of the workpeople, 10 in favour of the employers, and 12 being compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in February.**—Three cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department as having taken place in February, the initiative being taken in each case by the Justice of the Peace. In the first case a Committee of Conciliation was formed, which brought about a settlement save as regards two of the eight points in dispute which were made the subject of arbitration, the men having agreed to resume work whatever the award. In one of the two remaining cases the workpeople on strike were replaced by others before a Committee of Conciliation had time to meet, and in the remaining case no Committee of Conciliation had been formed at the time of reporting.

Dockers at Marseilles: Movement for 9 hours' day.—In a report to the Board of Trade dated April 3rd, 1903, Mr. M. C. Gurney, H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles, stated that the dockers of Marseilles were agitating for a nine hours' working day.

Recently, the leaders of the movement, the Committee of the Dockers' Union, informed the wharfingers that they intended to demand an alteration in the agreement of August, 1900, in the matter of the number of working days during the summer months, the agreement binding the men to a ten hours' day from April 1st to September 30th. They expressed the hope that the wharfingers would be willing to discuss the matter with

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

the representatives of the dockers. The Wharfingers' Association replied that they were willing to discuss the matter with the duly elected representatives of the men, but that they would not consider themselves bound in any way. They insisted that each branch should be represented by one of their number and not by any of the Committee. This was considered by the Union leaders as tantamount to a refusal to consider their request; and they persuaded the Union men to knock off work after nine hours, whereupon the wharfingers declared that if the men left the docks at 6 p.m. instead of at 7 p.m., as settled by the 1900 Convention, they would not pay the men their second half-day, as by the terms of the agreement the wages were due by half-day only. In reply to this the Union men decided at a public meeting to work during the morning hours only, and not to return to work in the afternoon.

At a meeting held on April 3rd they again passed a resolution to adhere to this plan, and declared they had no intention to "go out on strike." At the date of reporting some of the wharfingers had given way; others had been able to engage a sufficient number of non-Union hands, while others were employing morning shifts only.

GERMANY.

Employment in March.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment in March, as shown by reports from public labour registries, was better than either a month ago or a year ago, the number of applications for work per 100 situations offered being 124.6, as compared with 175.9 in the preceding month and 148.6 in March, 1902.

Labour Disputes in March.—The same journal reports 66 disputes as having begun in March, as compared with 40 in February. Nineteen of these took place in the building trades, 19 in the metal and engineering trades, 4 in the textile trades, 8 in the clothing trades, 2 in the pottery, &c., trades, 6 in the woodworking trades, and 8 in trades not included within any of these groups.

BELGIUM.*

Employment: November, 1902—January, 1903.—The proportion of the total membership reported to the Belgian Labour Department as unemployed by the Trade Unions making returns on this subject for January, 1903, was 6.2 per cent., as compared with 7.6 per cent. in December and 5.1 per cent. in November, 1902. The Unions reporting for January, 1903, numbered 117, with 31,204 members, as compared with 115 Unions having a membership of 29,920, reporting for December, and 109 Unions with 25,010 members reporting for November, 1902. With regard to the percentage of unemployed in January, 1903, it is stated that the returns, on which the figure is based, covered only a comparatively small number of workmen in the building trades, where the seasonal scarcity of employment was greatest.

Labour Disputes: November, 1902—January, 1903.—Fourteen disputes (13 strikes and 1 lock-out) were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in the three months November, 1902, to January, 1903, the number of workpeople affected by 13 of these being 2,680 (viz., 2,203 directly and 477 indirectly). Three of the disputes occurred in the building trades, 5 in mining and quarrying, 2 in the textile trades, and 4 in trades not included within any of these groups. Of 12 new and old disputes, which came to an end within this period, 3 (with 479 participants) were decided in favour of the workpeople, 7 (with 1,204 participants) in favour of the employers, and 2 (with 103 participants) were compromised.

HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM AND ROTTERDAM CONSULAR DISTRICTS: QUARTERLY REPORTS.

In a despatch, dated April 5th, Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, transmits the reports from H.M. Consuls at Amsterdam and Rotterdam on labour in their respective districts during the quarter ended March 31st. The strikes of railway and other transport workers,

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

already described in the GAZETTE (February, pp. 40-41), are dealt with in both reports as constituting the most important labour movements during the quarter under review. H.M. Consul at Amsterdam further states that, at the date of reporting (March 31st), the earth workers were out on strike for an advance in their wages to 5d. per hour, which in some instances had been partially accorded to them; and that the working smiths had presented a similar ultimatum and had gone out on strike.

GENERAL STRIKE.

Reporting to the Foreign Office under date of April 4th, Mr. W. C. Robinson, H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, stated that, since April 3rd the entire water transport of Amsterdam, and practically nearly the whole of the shipping trade of the city, were at a standstill in consequence of a strike of the lightermen, and that some of the largest industrial works of the city were also laid idle, owing to all their men having struck at a moment's notice.

From information supplied to the Foreign Office in despatches dated April 6th and 7th, by Sir H. Howard and by H.M. Consuls at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, it appears that on April 6th a strike of workmen employed in the transportation trades was declared throughout the whole of Holland both for railway and dockworkers.

It is stated that the railway strike was the result of a manifesto issued by a committee of railway and other labourers, who opposed the passing by the States-General of certain laws directed towards guarding against intimidation in cases of strikes, and safeguarding regular railway communication throughout the country. (See above, p. 92.)

At Amsterdam the whole movement among the shipping and in the docks was at a standstill on April 6th, but some of the express trains were kept running by the companies. On the following day nearly the whole of the passenger trains were again running regularly, but the companies had announced that no goods traffic would be accepted for the time.

At Rotterdam on April 7th traffic on the railways was partially suspended, but the necessary steps had been taken by the Post Office authorities to ensure the conveyance of foreign mails.

Work on board the vessels in the harbour was also partially at a standstill, but the steamers of the regular lines plying between Rotterdam and the United Kingdom were loading and discharging as usual.

NORWAY.

Strike and Lock-out in Shipbuilding Yards at Christiania.—Telegraphing to the Board of Trade on March 30th, the Hon. C. S. Dundas, H.M. Consul at Christiania, reported that in consequence of a strike, a lock-out had been declared at the three shipbuilding yards at Christiania, to commence on April 1st. Reporting under date of April 6th, H.M. Consul stated that the number of men thus out of work was 1,750.

ITALY.

General Strike at Rome.—Referring to a strike of printers, which had taken place at Rome, Sir F. L. Bertie, H.M. Ambassador at that city, telegraphing to the Board of Trade on April 8th, stated that the strike had, on the day of reporting, extended to all trades in Rome. A telegram from the same source, dated April 10th, however, reported the general strike as over.

From accounts which have been published in the newspapers it appears that the printers struck for higher wages and an 8-hours' day.

SPAIN.

Strike of Carpenters, Builders and Shoemakers at Malaga.—Telegraphing to the Board of Trade on March 31st, H.M. Consul at Malaga stated that a strike of all journeymen carpenters and builders at that place had broken out. In a further despatch, dated April 8th, H.M. Consul reported the shoemakers also as having struck.

Strike of Ship Labourers at Carthagena.—Telegrams from the same source, dated April 6th and 8th, reported the commencement and termination respectively of a strike of ship labourers at Carthagena.

PORTUGAL.

Strike at Coimbra.—Reporting to the Foreign Office under date of March 16th, Sir M. Gosselin, H.M. Minister at Lisbon, stated that during the last few days Coimbra had been the scene of a serious agitation against an increase of the licence tax imposed on all retail traders before they are able to sell goods; and that this measure had led to a strike.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Strike in New York Shipyards.—In despatches to the Foreign Office dated March 17th and 20th, Sir Percy Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, reported concerning a strike which has affected several of the shipyards in New York, but more especially that of Messrs. Townsend and Downey on Shooter's Island.

It appears that on January 16th the Iron Shipbuilders and Boilermakers' Union demanded from Messrs. Townsend and Downey the discharge of two non-Union workmen; that none but Union workmen should be employed in erecting iron plates on ships under construction; and that piece-work should be abolished. Messrs. Townsend and Downey referred the matter to the New York Metal Trades Association, of which they are members.

The New York Metal Trades Association asked the Union to delay ordering any strike till a conference could be held. This request was disregarded, and about 350 men were called out on strike. Endeavours were made by the Marine Trades Council to obtain an opportunity for a committee of workmen to confer with the employers, but in the meantime a sympathetic strike had been ordered of all workmen engaged in the shipyards, and under such conditions the conference was refused. The strike involved between 4,000 and 5,000 men, but Messrs. Townsend and Downey stated that they had a fair number of applications from non-Union men. The matter was now taken up by the New York Civic Federation, a branch lately formed of the National Civic Federation (see GAZETTE, April, 1902, p. 106), whose efforts resulted in an agreement that the sympathetic strike should be called off, leaving the original strike which began in January in order to force the discharge of two non-Union men from the shipyards of Messrs. Townsend and Downey and the discontinuance of the system of piece-work. At the date of Sir P. Sanderson's last report (March 20th) arrangements were being made for a conference between committees of the Metal Trades Association (representing employers) and of the Marine Trades Council (representing the workmen), the chief difficulty being apparently that of the employment of non-Union men, with a view to ending this strike.

Strike of Street Car Men at Waterbury: Attachment of Trade Union Funds.—In a series of despatches to the Foreign Office, commencing February 3rd and ending March 20th, Sir P. Sanderson reports concerning a strike, begun on January 11th, by 80 men employed by the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company at Waterbury (Conn.), owing to the employment of non-Union men. A boycott has been instituted by the strikers and their sympathisers against all persons using the Company's trolley cars. On March 13th, the Company obtained a temporary injunction restraining the trolley men's Trade Union and all other Trade Unions and persons from acts calculated to interfere with the Company's business, or its employees. The injunction was obtained in the Supreme Court, in a civil suit for 20,000 dollars (about £4,000), in respect of which an attachment has been obtained of all the money held in the banks of Waterbury for the different Labour Organisations. On March 20th the strike was still in progress, and endeavours were being made to maintain the boycott against all persons using the cars of the Company in Waterbury.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—BUILDING TRADES.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS supplied by 78 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 84,000 building operatives of all classes, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 200,000, show that employment in the building trades generally was moderate during March. On the whole it was, however, better than in the previous month, and not much worse than a year ago. The returns from Employers' Associations covering 58 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the returns show employment to have been dull or bad, 27 per cent. fair or moderate, and 15 per cent. good.

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

With carpenters and joiners employment is fair, showing an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago, the principal change being on the North East Coast, where the labour market has been opened by the termination of the dispute in the shipbuilding trade. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 3.4 at the end of March, compared with 5.0 in February and 4.4 in March, 1902.

Employment with painters is fair, and better than in the previous month, but not so good as a year ago. With plasterers it is dull in England, good in Scotland, and moderate in Ireland. The plumbers report employment as fair. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union plumbers was 7.5 at the end of March, compared with 8.2 in February, and 5.2 in March, 1902. The slaters and tilers report employment as good.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts.

Table showing the proportion of unemployed members among Trade Union carpenters and joiners, and plumbers in the principal districts for March, 1903, compared with February and March 1902, and with the corresponding months of the previous year.

London.—Employment in the building trades in London is still rather dull, but shows an improvement as compared with a month ago. It is, however, not so good as in March, 1902. The returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 84 employers show that in the last week of March they paid wages to 17,414 men, as compared with 15,852 in February, and 19,237 in the corresponding week of March, 1902.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

Branches of carpenters and joiners with 7,298 members had 4.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 5.1 per cent. in February, and 2.4 per cent. in March, 1902. Branches of plumbers with 1,222 members had 12.8 per cent. unemployed, as compared with 14.5 per cent. in February, and 5.6 per cent. in March, 1902. With plasterers employment is bad, with painters and bricklayers moderate but improving.

Northern Counties.—Employment in the Tyne and Wear district has somewhat improved during the month, and is fairly good especially with carpenters and joiners; with plumbers it is moderate; bad with plasterers. On the Tyne employment for bricklayers is reported as dull. On the Wear fairly good for bricklayers and good with slaters and tilers. At Hartlepool bricklayers and joiners report employment as moderate. At Stockton employment is good with slaters, moderate with bricklayers, joiners, plumbers, and painters. At Middlesbrough employment is fair.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment has slightly improved during the month. At Liverpool bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and plasterers report employment as better, masons and painters as fair, plumbers as quiet. At Manchester employment for bricklayers is dull, masons slack, carpenters and joiners moderate. At Oldham employment generally is dull. In Bolton employment is better. At Warrington with bricklayers it is improving, with carpenters it is bad.

Yorkshire.—Employment is reported as being rather better than a month ago in some towns, but is still moderate on the whole. At Sheffield the bricklayers report employment as dull, the masons and slaters and tilers as moderate, the carpenters and joiners and plumbers as slack. At Leeds employment with bricklayers, masons, joiners and painters is reported as fair. At Hull a slight improvement is reported. Employment is quiet at Bradford, Huddersfield and Harrogate; slack at Barnsley; bad at Doncaster.

East Midland Counties.—A slight improvement in employment is reported. At Derby the joiners report employment as quiet, the plumbers and painters as moderate. It is slack with bricklayers and carpenters at Leicester, bad with plumbers. At Nottingham employment is rather better than last month, but not so good as a year ago.

West Midland Counties.—Employment generally continues dull. It is also rather worse than a year ago. At Birmingham employment with bricklayers and plumbers is reported as bad. At Wolverhampton it is improving with bricklayers, bad with carpenters and joiners, fair with painters. At Tamworth and Stourbridge employment is fair; at West Bromwich, Redditch and Coventry it is quiet. In the Potteries it is slack.

Eastern Counties.—Employment generally continues quiet, though a slight improvement is shown in some branches. At Norwich the bricklayers and painters are reported as slack; masons as busy. At Ipswich, Felixstowe, and Bury St. Edmunds, employment with plasterers is reported as bad. At Cambridge, Yarmouth, and Cromer employment generally is fairly good; at Lynn and Wisbech it is dull.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment, on the whole, shows very little change as compared either with a month ago or a year ago. At Bristol and Gloucester it is reported as slightly improved; at Swindon it is fair. In Plymouth and Devonport employment is fair with joiners and bricklayers, dull with masons, moderate with plumbers and painters, bad with plasterers. At Exeter employment is moderate with bricklayers and quiet with joiners.

Wales and Monmouth.—Employment in the seaport towns of South Wales remains quiet, and about the same as a month ago, but is rather better in the inland towns; the painters are fairly well employed. In North Wales employment is fair with bricklayers and painters, moderate with other branches. With joiners generally it is slack.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—BUILDING TRADES; COAL; OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

Scotland.—Employment is fairly good, and is better generally than a month ago, but with masons it is reported as dull. At Glasgow employment is dull with bricklayers. At Edinburgh it is quiet on the whole, but is better than a year ago; at Dundee it is dull with plumbers. At Aberdeen the plumbers and plasterers report employment as bad.

Ireland.—The returns show a slight improvement in the state of employment. At Belfast the bricklayers and plasterers report employment as dull, the carpenters and joiners as quiet, the painters as fair, the plumbers as bad. At Dublin the bricklayers and painters report it as moderate, the labourers as good. At Cork, Limerick and Waterford employment with masons is reported as bad.

COAL MINING.

[NOTE.—The following Tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was heven and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during March showed a slight falling off, both as compared with a month and a year ago, but the number of workpeople employed at collieries for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.6 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Returns received relating to 1,324 pits employing 500,701 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked by the collieries included in the returns during the four weeks ended March 21st was 5.10 per week, as compared with 5.28 a month ago, and 5.35 a year ago.

In the following Table detailed particulars are given for the different mining districts:—

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MARCH, 1903 AND 1902, AND IN FEBRUARY, 1903.

Table comparing the average number of days worked by collieries in March, 1903 and 1902, and in February, 1903, for various districts including England & Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

It will be seen that as compared with February, the decline in the average number of days worked was, with one exception, common to all districts in the United Kingdom. The falling off exceeded a quarter of a day per week in Northumberland, Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, North and South Wales, Fife and Ireland. The falling off in Ireland was to some extent caused by the holiday on St. Patrick's day.

Compared with a year ago the only districts which show an increase in the number of days worked by the collieries were North Wales and the three Scottish districts, a decrease being shown in all the other districts, amounting in the case of the Cumberland, Yorkshire,

Derbyshire, Nottingham and Leicestershire and South Wales districts to about half a day per week.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. Of the total number 67.3 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in the four weeks ended March 21st, as compared with 76.0 per cent. in February and 78.3 per cent. a year ago.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.

Table classifying workpeople according to the number of days worked in four weeks by the collieries, showing percentages for February 1903 and March 1902.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland steam coal pits worked on an average 4.7 days per week and house coal pits 5.3 days. Employment in Durham is stated to have been fair, but not so good as in February last or a year ago; in the Whitehaven district it has been slack, but at other Cumberland pits full time has been worked. In the Leeds district employment generally was good, but at certain house coal pits only four days per week were worked. In the Dewsbury district only two or three days per week have been worked and a large number of workpeople are unemployed. At Castleford, Hemsworth and South Kirby employment has been fairly good. In the Sheffield district 4.56 days per week were worked, a falling off of 0.17 days per week compared with a month ago; in South Lancashire employment though still fairly good has declined, owing partly to seasonal causes. In Staffordshire employment has, on the whole, declined. In Leicester employment is stated to have fallen off; in North Wales it has been good in the Ruabon district and quiet in the Wrexham and Buckley district. In Bristol and Radstock the miners have worked 4 1/2 days and 4 days per week respectively. In the Forest of Dean employment has been fair.

In Lanarkshire a number of miners are reported to be on short time; in the West Lothian district employment has not improved; in Mid and East Lothians it has been steady, full time generally being worked.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during March amounted to 3,678,416 tons, as compared with 3,302,174 tons in February, and 3,419,251 tons in March, 1902.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing 18,519 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations and from Local Correspondents.

In iron and shale mines employment has been good; in tin and copper mines quiet; at slate and limestone quarries it was good generally; with granite quarries and sett makers it was fairly good in England and Wales and fair in Scotland.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. During the four weeks ended March 21st, the average number of days worked by the 134 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.79 per week, the same average as for a month ago and for the corresponding period of last year.

It will be seen that while the general average number of days worked by the mines was the same in all three periods, some fluctuation is shown in certain districts.

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

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Table with 6 columns: District, No. employed in Mar., 1903, Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1903, as compared with, A month ago, A year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,882, or 3.1 per cent. more than a year ago, and of these, 91.2 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended March 21st, as compared with 88.9 per cent. in February and 88.0 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners in the Lothians continues good. At the 27 mines covered by the returns received, the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended March 21st was 5.63 per week, being the same as in February, while in March, 1902, the average was 5.51.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—In Durham employment with lead miners in slightly better than a month ago; with tin and copper miners in Cornwall it shows little change as compared with a month ago, being quiet in the Calstock district and fair in the Camborne district.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Apart from the dispute affecting the Bethesda district, employment with slate quarrymen in North Wales continues good. In Devon and Cornwall it is fair.

Limestone.—In Weardale employment with limestone quarrymen continues good; in the Gateshead district it is not so good. In Cumberland and Derbyshire employment was interfered with by bad weather; in North Wales it was good; in Devon and Cornwall moderate.

Granite.—Quarrymen in Leicestershire remain fairly well employed; in Shropshire and North Wales employment continues good; in the Penryn district (Cornwall) it is fair and in the Dartmoor and Gunnislake districts good. In Forfar, Aberdeen, and Kincardine employment was fair, but worse than either a month ago or a year ago. In the Peterhead district however, there was a slight improvement as compared with February, while in the Kenmarr district employment has been good.

Other Stone.—In the Barnsley district employment with quarrymen is moderate; at Normanton full time has been worked. It is stated to have been bad with stonecutters and labourers in Rowsley and district (Derbyshire) and worse than either a month or a year ago, short time being worked. In North Wales it continues good.

Settmaking.—In Leicestershire settmakers continue fairly well employed; in the Clee Hill district (Shropshire) employment is stated to have been good; in North Wales they are fully employed. In the Aberdeen and Edinburgh districts employment is fair, in the West of Scotland quiet.

Clay Works.—In the St. Austell district (Cornwall) china clay workers are well employed.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows little change as compared with a month ago, but at the works for which returns have been received the number of furnaces in blast is greater than a year ago. Returns received relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 328 furnaces were in blast at the end of March, as compared with 329 in February, and 320 at the end of March 1902.

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

Table with 6 columns: Districts, Present time compared with a month ago (Mar., 1903, Feb., 1903, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1903), Present time compared with a year ago (Mar., 1903, Mar., 1902, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1903).

In addition to the returns summarised above the Department has received reports from its Local Correspondents which show that in Durham employment has been fairly good and regular. In Cleveland employment has been good; in North Staffordshire it was regular; in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire it is stated to have declined.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.†

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works shows little change compared with a month ago, but is rather worse than a year ago.

At 201 works covered by the returns received from employers, 73,587 workpeople were employed during the week ended March 28th, a decrease of 200 compared with a month ago, and of 2,414 compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Number Employed.

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

Table with 6 columns: District, Numbers employed in week ended (Mar. 28th 1903, Feb. 21st 1903, Mar. 29th 1902), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Mar., 1903, as compared with, A month ago, A year ago.

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has also been received with regard to works at which 91 per cent. of the workpeople included in the above Table were employed, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below.

The average number of shifts worked per man was 5.43 in the week ended March 28th, compared with 5.44

* Revised figure. † Including iron puddle and rolling and steel making and rolling.

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

in the week ended February 21st, and with 5.37 in March, 1902.

Table with 5 columns: Number of Shifts worked, Number employed in Mar., 1903, so far as returned, Percentage proportion to Total, Corresponding percentage in (Feb., 1903, Mar., 1902).

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the above Table (9 per cent. of the total number returned as employed) worked the same average number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople given in the first Table may be estimated to have been 399,700 in the week ended March 28th, compared with 401,410 in the week ended February 21st, and with 408,210 in March, 1902.

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment at the steel plate and bar mills at Consett and Newburn has improved, practically full time being worked; at sheet angle and cogging mills in the Jarrow district it is much the same as a month ago.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—Employment at steel works and rail mills has been good, and in other departments moderate. In metal expansion works employment has been fair.

South Yorkshire.—In the Sheffield district employment has been quiet, the steel smelters being on short time at some works. In the Rotherham district at one works ironworkers are slack and steelworkers busy; at Masbro' and Eccles employment with both iron and steel workers is fair.

Midlands.—In Derbyshire the puddlers continue working short time, but malleable iron workers are busy. In North Staffordshire employment with iron and steel workers has improved, steel smelters are busy and rollers are well employed. In South Staffordshire steel smelters and sheet millmen report an improvement. In Shropshire the iron mills are working short time.

South Wales.—Iron and steel workers generally have been working regularly.

Scotland.—Employment with steel smelters has in most districts been good; with iron and steel workers it has been fairly good.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues good. At the end of March 389 mills were in operation (the majority of them running full time), as compared with 395 at the end of February, and with 397 a year ago. The total number of works open was 76, and at 51 of these all the mills (261) were in operation, whilst at the remaining 25 works, 128 mills, out of a total of 169, were at work.

Of the 389 mills in operation, and employing about 19,400 workpeople, 377 were situated in the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire districts, compared with 383 in February, and 385 a year ago.

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

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

Table with 5 columns: Works giving full employment, Works giving partial employment, Total at end of March, 1903*, Corresponding Total for Feb., 1903*, Corresponding Total for Mar., 1902*†.

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

Table with 6 columns: Tinplates (Mar., 1903, Feb., 1903, Mar., 1902), Blackplates (Mar., 1903, Feb., 1903, Mar., 1902), To United States, To Other Countries, Total.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, from two large Shipbuilding Companies, from 5 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment, though rather better than a month ago, is still bad, and much worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,776 members had 5,657 (or 9.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 10.4 per cent. in February and 4.2 per cent. in March, 1902.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: Districts, No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1903, included in the returns, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Mar., 1903, as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

As will be seen from the Table the percentage of unemployed was greatest on the North East Coast and the Clyde, while it was least in the Barrow, Belfast, Mersey and South Coast districts. As compared with a month ago a great improvement is shown at the repairing ports of the Bristol Channel, and considerable improvement on the North East Coast, while the figures for the Thames district indicate a considerable falling off.

Employment generally on the North East Coast has improved, but is still much worse than a year ago. In the Tyne and Tees and Hartlepool districts the termination of the joiners' dispute has led to some improvement. In ship repairing employment has been moderate. On

* See (*) in previous column.

† Revised figures.

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

year ago. In the St. Helens and Newton-le-Willows district it is bad, and is worse than a year ago, but shows a slight improvement compared with February. In Yorkshire generally it continues bad, and worse than a year ago; at Leeds and Castleford it shows an improvement; at Wakefield it is good; in the Mexborough and Barnsley districts it has improved, although it is still bad; at Rotherham it is fairly brisk; in London it is reported as bad. In the Glasgow, Alloa and Portobello district it is bad generally, being worse than last month or a year ago; in Glasgow, however, it is reported as fair. In Dublin employment is reported as fair.

In London glass blowers report employment as remaining fairly good, and as better than a year ago. In Bristol, glass cutters, bevellers and silverers report it as good. In Birmingham flint-glass makers report it as bad; flint-glass cutters as quiet; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as fair. At West Bromwich glass workers report it as moderate. All branches of the flint-glass trades at Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge are quiet. Flint-glass makers at Leeds report an improvement. At St. Helens glass flatteners report employment as fair; sheet glass makers as good. With pressed glass makers at Gateshead it is worse than a month ago; with flint-glass makers at Newcastle it is fair, and better than a month ago. At Glasgow employment with flint-glass makers is moderate; with pressed glass makers it has improved. At Edinburgh glass makers and glass cutters report employment as slack.

Pottery Trades.—In the Staffordshire Potteries employment shows a slight improvement in most branches; a few factories have been fully employed, but short time has been the rule; the hollow-ware pressers report that their members have averaged fully 4½ days per week; the sanitary pressers are also more regularly employed; the printers and transferers report employment as fair, the former being hindered owing to a scarcity of transferers; flat pressers, jolliers, turners, handlers, mould makers, designers, modellers, and artists are all better employed; the Trade Union ovenmen, firemen and saggmakers are averaging 5 days a week.

In the South Yorkshire and Aire districts employment continues fair, and is about the same as a month and a year ago. In the Glasgow and Portobello district employment is reported as fair, showing little change compared with a month ago, and a slight decline compared with a year ago; generally full time was worked with little overtime or short time.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment with brickmakers in Leicestershire has improved slightly. In Nottinghamshire it is not quite so good as a month or a year ago. In the Birmingham district it has slightly improved, and is also a little better than a year ago, time being lost mainly through wet weather. In West Bromwich and Oldbury employment is fair, a little better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In the Oldham district it is reported as bad, and as worse than a year ago. In the Bradford district it is good, and better than a month or a year ago. At Normanton brickmakers are on full time. Brick and terra cotta workers in North Wales continue fully employed. In the Glasgow district employment is fair, being about the same as a month ago, but hardly so good as a year ago.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trade see page 107).

RETURNS have been received from 5 Employers' Associations, and 12 Trade Unions. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 6·3 at the end of March as compared with 6·8 in February and 2·5 in March, 1902. The general condition of employment remains dull and much short time is reported, especially in the preparatory and dressing stages of the trade. Skinners generally have been poorly employed. With tanners employment is reported as bad, but with belt makers and lace cutters fair. Curriers generally report employment as slack, except in London, Leicester, Edinburgh and

Dundee, where some improvement is reported. With morocco dressers employment is still quiet. At Bolton leather workers are fairly well employed.

With saddlers employment is reported as slightly improving in London, and as fair at Walsall, though not so good as a year ago. In Birmingham employment is bad, except with cycle saddlers who are well employed. In most other centres saddlers have not been well employed. With harness makers employment generally has been dull, but with female stitchers of harness at Walsall it has improved from dull to fair. "North American harness" makers at Walsall report employment as fair. Horse collar makers in London report a slight improvement, while at Walsall employment is fair.

In London fancy leather workers report employment as quiet, pocket-book and leather case makers as bad, with short time general. Portmanteau makers report employment as fair generally and slightly better, although some short time is still being worked.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the condition of employment in Agriculture has been received from 219 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that work on the land was interrupted in March by unfavourable weather, particularly in the western counties, and many casual labourers suffered loss of time in consequence. In some of the eastern counties, however, the weather has been more favourable, and farm work there is reported to be in a forward state. The supply of labour was in most counties sufficient, although a scarcity is reported in certain districts. A continued difficulty is said to be experienced in many parts in finding capable men for permanent situations.

Northern Counties.—Reports from *Durham*, *Cumberland*, and *Westmorland* show that work was much interrupted in certain districts by wet weather, and ploughing and sowing were consequently in a backward condition. In *Lancashire*, owing to the wet and boisterous weather, outdoor employment has been much interfered with. Many casual labourers have not had full employment, and the supply is said to have been equal to the demand. A correspondent in the *Prescot* Union states that a few Irish labourers have arrived in the district seeking employment at potato planting. The permanent men have been busy attending to stock, the lambing season having commenced. Agricultural labourers in *Yorkshire* have been fairly well employed, and in a few districts a scarcity of labour is reported. The weather has been favourable on the whole, and in certain districts the spring sowings are now well forward.

Midland Counties.—Reports from *Cheshire* and *Derbyshire* show that casual farm labourers have been regularly employed on the whole, although sowing has been somewhat delayed by stormy weather. In *Nottinghamshire* and *Leicestershire* hardly any agricultural labourers are said to be out of employment, and skilled men for permanent situations are scarce. Threshing and field work have been hindered by unfavourable weather. Correspondents in *Staffordshire* state that employment has been regular on the whole, the supply of labour being scarcely equal to the demand, and similar reports come from *Shropshire*. Wet and windy weather has somewhat interfered with sowing and threshing operations in these counties. Some irregularity of employment among casual labourers is reported from *Worcestershire*, and work on the land, especially in sowing, has been much hindered by wet weather. The supply of extra men is said to have been sufficient. In *Warwickshire* agricultural labourers are stated to have been mostly in regular employment, although work on the land has been interrupted by wet weather. The difficulty in obtaining good men for permanent situations is stated to have somewhat diminished.

Reports from *Oxfordshire* show that few agricultural labourers were out of work, and there was some scarcity of shepherds, cowmen, and carters. When not interfered with by wet weather outdoor employment was plentiful,

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

especially in sowing, hedging and ditching. In *Northamptonshire* the supply of casual labourers is said to have been equal to the demand, and some men of this class lost a few days through wet and boisterous weather. Employment has been, generally speaking, regular in *Buckinghamshire*. The supply of casual labour is reported to have been rather more plentiful than a year ago. A correspondent in the *Henley* Union states that good men for permanent situations are difficult to find, and can command good wages. Employment for farm labourers in *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire* is reported to have been a good deal interrupted by wet weather; hoeing and spring sowings have been much delayed. The supply of casual labour is considered to have been rather better than a year ago.

Eastern Counties.—Reports from *Huntingdonshire* state that there was some irregularity of employment, the weather not having been very favourable for farming operations. There was consequently less demand for casual labourers, and the supply was quite sufficient in most districts. In parts of *Cambridgeshire* some casual labourers are said to have been in irregular work in consequence of stormy weather. There is a demand for good able-bodied men for permanent situations. According to a correspondent in the *Peterborough* Union, difficulty is experienced in getting good men to stay in situations which are a long way from a village or town. Employment in *Lincolnshire* is reported to have been fairly regular on the whole. The heavy root-crop provided work during wet weather, but threshing was a good deal interfered with by the high winds. A scarcity of labour is reported in several parts. In *Norfolk* employment has been fairly regular in most districts. The weather has been favourable on the whole, and work is well forward; the demand for casual labourers has consequently not been great, and the supply of this class was sufficient. Reports from *Suffolk* state that employment was not affected to any great extent by the weather, except in regard to threshing, which was rendered difficult by strong winds. Owing to work having been got well forward, some casual labourers were not in full work. Agricultural employment was fairly regular in *Essex*, and good progress was made on most branches of work. There is generally a good supply of casual labour, but carters and stockmen continue to be scarce.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Correspondents in *Kent* report that employment has been somewhat interrupted by bad weather, and some casual labourers have been in irregular work. The supply of this class of labour is stated to have been sufficient. In *Surrey* and *Sussex* employment has been, generally speaking, but little interrupted by the weather. The supply of labour has been about equal to the demand. A correspondent in the *Hailsham* Union mentions an increasing difficulty in getting good men as carters and stockmen. Agricultural work in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire* has been delayed by wind and rain in some parts, and several casual labourers have lost time in consequence. Employment in *Wiltshire* is said to have been interrupted by wet weather, and sowing is rather backward. In *Dorsetshire* farm work has been considerably interrupted by wet weather, and much time has been lost by casual labourers and by men on piecework. There was a scarcity of skilled farm labourers. A report from the *Wareham* and *Purbeck* Union refers to "Thirty-four advertisements in the local paper for carters only." Work on the land is reported to have been retarded by rain in *Somersetshire*, and the Spring sowings have been much delayed. Farm labourers have, however, been fairly well employed on odd work, and the supply of labour in most districts is stated to have been insufficient, particularly in the case of carters. In *Gloucestershire* agricultural work is reported to have been hindered by rainy weather, and some casual men have been only partially employed. The supply of casual labour is said to have been rather in excess of the demand in many parts of the county. Similar reports come

from *Herefordshire*. In *Devon* and *Cornwall* employment for casual labourers has been irregular, ploughing and spring sowing having been greatly hindered by wet and boisterous weather. Some men, however, found employment in road-making and wood-cutting.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Collectors of Fishery Statistics in England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; and also from Local Correspondents.

The fishing industry during March was much affected by unfavourable weather, with the result that the quantity of fish landed was below the total for the corresponding month of last year. Employment was therefore only moderate.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed:—

COUNTRY.	Quantity (Exclusive of Shell Fish).		Landing Value (Inclusive of Shell Fish).	
	Mar., 1903.	Mar., 1902.	Mar., 1903.	Mar., 1902.
England and Wales	Cwts. 571,278	Cwts. 581,440	£ 525,813	£ 543,635
Scotland	222,476	276,696½	141,698	140,059
Ireland	10,683	13,334	10,383	12,183
United Kingdom	804,437	871,470½	677,894	695,877

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that the unsettled state of the weather has interfered with the work of the boats, though good supplies of white fish were landed.

At Hull and Grimsby employment was also interfered with by bad weather. The Yarmouth and Lowestoft boats were mostly engaged in mackerel fishing off the Cornish coast, and employment at these ports with those engaged on shore in connection with the industry has consequently been only moderate. At Plymouth fishing operations were interrupted by bad weather throughout the month, and only very small catches were made. Employment was consequently slack with fish packers, carters and curers.

Reports supplied by the Fishery Board for Scotland show that at Aberdeen employment with fishermen was somewhat affected by stormy weather. With fish dock labourers and fish curers it was fair. For all classes it was much the same as a month ago, although not quite as good as a year ago. With fishermen and fish curers it was moderate at Macduff and Peterhead, and bad at Fraserburgh. At the two latter ports employment was worse than a year ago; at Macduff it was much the same. Compared with a month ago employment in these two branches was better at Macduff, the same at Fraserburgh, and worse at Peterhead. Among fish dock labourers employment was bad at Fraserburgh and moderate at Peterhead. At both ports it was worse than a year ago.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions. As regards other principal ports, information has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, Local Correspondents of the Department, and Trade Unions.

Employment was generally dull in March, and in London it was bad. It was a little better than in the previous month, but worse than in the corresponding month of last year.

LONDON.

Employment at the docks and wharves during March was slightly better than during February, but was much worse than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH, 1903.

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

Summary.—The net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported during March was a decrease of £15 per week. The total number whose wages were affected was 39,223. Of the total number, 21,394 received advances averaging 9d. per head per week, and 17,829 sustained decreases averaging 11d. per head per week.

The principal advances reported affected 14,000 coal miners in Fife, Kinross and Clackmannan, and 6,250 blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales. The principal decreases affected 5,500 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Durham, and 4,200 glass bottle makers in Yorkshire, Lancashire and at Sunderland and Seaham Harbour.

Methods of Arrangement.—Two changes, affecting 15,000 workpeople, were arranged by Arbitration, and nine changes, affecting 15,229 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Two changes, affecting 1,515 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting 7,479 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for First Three Months of 1903.—For the three months, January to March, 1903, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have received advances or sustained decreases is 205,963, as compared with 290,462 for the corresponding period of 1902. Of these, 146,809 have obtained a net increase averaging 4d. weekly per head, and 59,154 have sustained a net decrease averaging 1s. 1d. weekly per head.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1903, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes sub-sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, and ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH (continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1903, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes sub-sections for MISCELLANEOUS TRADES and EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

* Including a few men at Blaydon, Newport (Mon.) and London who were also affected.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH, 1903.

THE changes in hours of labour reported in March affected 75 workpeople, whose working hours in a full week were reduced on the average by about 2 1/2 hours per head.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1903, Approximate number of Workpeople affected, Hours of Labour in a Full Week (Before and After change), Extent of Decrease per week.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGER'S CERTIFICATES.

East Scotland District.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under Manager will be held at Edinburgh, on the 22nd May. Candidates must, on or before May 12th, send their names to the Secretary to the Board of Examinations, Mr. R. Calder, Finty Place, Broughty Ferry, N.B., from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Liverpool & North Wales District.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under Manager will be held at the Mining and Technical College, Wigan, on 23rd June, 1903. Candidates must, on or before 20th, June next, send their names to the Secretary to the Board of Examinations, Mr. Thomas Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King Street, Wigan, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Persons residing outside the District are eligible for these examinations.

REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN 1901.

The Annual Report on Registered Trade Unions of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1901 has been issued, and shows that at the end of that year there were 759 registered Unions, of which 676 made returns. The total membership of these was returned at 1,598,809, the total income for the year as £2,416,932, and expenditure as £1,950,920.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. ‡ Summer hours. § P.P. 109-II. of 1902 (Eyre & Spottiswoode).

REPORT OF CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

THE Department of Labour of the Dominion of Canada has issued its Second Annual Report, which relates to the year ending June 30th, 1902. The Report states that during the year applications were made to the Department under the Conciliation Act for its intervention to aid the settlement of 11 existing strikes or lock-outs. The trades and industries affected embraced cotton and lumber mills, metalliferous and coal mines, piano-making, cigar and furniture manufacturing, stove mounting, dock building, railway and steamship transportation.

The total number of the workpeople directly involved in all the 11 disputes, in which the intervention of the Department was requested, was 4,118. In 6 of these disputes, with 2,130 workpeople involved, the Department was enabled to effect a settlement; while in 1 dispute, with 230 involved, the strikers were unwilling to accept the agreement, which their employers, in the course of the negotiations, were prepared to enter into, and continued the strike for a few days longer, accepting, however, at the conclusion of that time, the terms originally presented to them by the Conciliator. In the remaining 4 cases, with a total of 1,758 workpeople involved, "it appeared that the intervention of the Department had been requested at too late a date to admit of any settlement being secured through its good offices. In all of these latter cases the employers claimed either to have replaced the strikers with other hands, or to be no longer embarrassed by the strike."

The Department is charged with various duties in regard to the "Fair Wages" resolution passed by the Canadian House of Commons in March, 1900, its work in connection with which, as carried on during the year, "is divisible into three parts:—

- (1) The preparation of schedules of current rates of wages for insertion in contracts awarded by the several Departments of the Government, and of other conditions to be inserted in the same for protection of the employees of contractors on public contract work. (2) The investigation of complaints concerning the non-payment by contractors of the rates of wages current in the localities where work is being performed, or a minimum wage equal to that fixed in the schedules inserted in their contracts, or the non-performance by them of other conditions in regard to sub-letting, hours of labour, &c. (3) Correspondence in respect to all inquiries concerning the nature of the conditions under which work is being performed in different localities, inquiries as to current rates in these localities, etc."

The work done by the Fair Wages Branch in the year under review is described in detail. This included the investigation of 17 complaints as to the non-payment of current rates of wages, or the non-performance by contractors of other conditions mentioned in their contracts.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-one new disputes began in March, 1903, compared with fourteen in February, and twenty-one in the corresponding month of last year.

New Disputes in March, 1903.—In the following Table the new disputes in March are summarised by trades affected:—

Table with 5 columns: Group of Trades, No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total). Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, etc.

Causes.—Of the thirty-one new disputes, twelve arose on demands for advances in wages, five on objections to reduction, five on other wages questions, two on questions of hours of labour, three on questions of working arrangements, two on questions of trade unionism, and two from other causes.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with 6 columns: Occupation, Locality, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* 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 working days.

NEW GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS. THE German Legislature has passed five new laws, four of which are dated June 2nd, 1902, and one March 23rd, 1903, and all of which came into operation on April 1st.

Results.—Twenty-one new disputes affecting 7,738 workpeople and ten old disputes, affecting 6,020 workpeople, were reported as having terminated in March.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in March of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 142,500. In addition 91,200 working days were lost in March owing to disputes that began before that month and at the end of the month were still unsettled.

Summary for the First Three Months of 1903.—For the three completed months of 1903 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 79 disputes which commenced in these months was 18,957, as compared with 41,901 in the 89 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1902.

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

period, he shall receive overtime pay in respect of such employment. On trans-Atlantic voyages the engine-room staff is to be divided into 3 watches, with 8-hour spells. Work on Sundays and holidays must be restricted within the narrowest possible limits, and in home ports seamen must not be employed at all on Sundays or holidays in loading or discharging cargo.

The law dealing with seamen's registry offices has already been noticed in the GAZETTE, June, 1902, p. 160.

[See (i.) Archiv für Soziale Gesetzgebung und Statistik (Heransgegeben von Dr. Heinrich Braun) xvii. Band, 5 und 6 Heft. Berlin: Carl Heymann Verlag, 1902; and (ii.) Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger, March 25th, 1903.]

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in March was 364,141, corresponding to a rate of 215 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1903.

Compared with February there was a decrease of 3,227 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Twenty-four of the 35 districts show decreased rates, the greatest decreases being in the Stockton and Tees district (16 per 10,000), Central London (12), Cork, Waterford, and Limerick (9), and Galway (8).

Compared with March, 1902, the number of paupers relieved has increased by 14,087, and the rate per 10,000 by 5. Twenty-five of the 35 districts show increased rates, the largest increases being South London (21 per 10,000), West Ham (15), Sheffield (13), Central and East London (12 each), Newcastle and Leicester (11 each), and Stockton and Tees district (10).

Table with 6 columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of March, 1903 (In-door, Out-door, 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).

Table for ENGLAND & WALES.* showing pauperism statistics for various districts including Metropolis, West Ham, Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea.

Table for SCOTLAND.* showing pauperism statistics for Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock District, Edinburgh & Leith District, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coathridge & Airdrie.

Table for IRELAND.† showing pauperism statistics for Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick, Galway District, and totals for the above Scottish and Irish Districts, and for the above 35 Districts in March, 1903.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

FIVE Bureaux furnishing returns for both March, 1903, and March, 1902, registered 1,896 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,260 a year ago. Work was found by these Bureaux for 700 workpeople, of whom 554 were engaged by private employers. The number engaged by private employers in March, 1902, was 386. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 1,127 as against 533 a year ago.

Returns for March, 1903, were received from five other Bureaux, which were not in operation a year ago, and the figures relating to them are included in the following Tables.

(I.) Work done in March.

Table with 8 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Mar., 1903, Mar., 1902), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Mar., 1903, Mar., 1902), No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities).

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during March.

Table with 4 columns: Category (Men, Women and Girls, Total Males, Total Females), No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total.

For the ten Bureaux included in the Tables, the total number of fresh applications registered during March was 3,148, the total number of workpeople for whom work was found was 985, and the number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 2,928. This number included 2,546 men, 142 lads, and 240 women and girls.

* Engaged by Salvation Army Bureau not in operation in March, 1902.

TEMPORARY LABOUR REGISTRIES.

In addition to the Bureaux included in the Tables on p. 117 returns were received from labour registries of a more or less temporary character at Hackney, Stepney, Lambeth and Bradford. At Hackney 287 fresh applications were registered during March, 8 situations were offered by private employers, 10 men were temporarily engaged by the Guardians, and 2,036 days' work provided by the Borough Council. At Stepney 59 fresh applications were registered, and 6 situations offered by employers. At Lambeth 89 fresh applications were registered, but no situations were offered nor work found. At Bradford 127 fresh applications were registered, and employment found by the Corporation for 40 permanent and 157 temporary men. The number remaining on the registers of the four Bureaux at the end of March was 4,759, including 2,266 described as General Labourers.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF LEAD, MERCURIAL, PHOSPHORUS, AND ARSENIC POISONING AND OF ANTHRAX REPORTED TO THE HOME OFFICE UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, DURING THE UNDERMENTIONED PERIODS.

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

Table with columns for Disease and Industry, Cases (Mar. 1903, 3 months ended March 1903, 1902), and Deaths (Mar. 1903, 3 months ended March 1903, 1902). Rows include Lead Poisoning, Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, and Anthrax.

*Of the 9 cases in the china and earthenware industry in March, 1903, 8 affected females. †House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 11 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during March among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported for the three months ended March, 1903, was 31 (including 2 deaths), and on the corresponding period of 1902, 27 (including 7 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) THE total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1903, was 434, as compared with 398 in the corresponding month of 1902, 618 in 1901, 657 in 1900, and 303 in 1899. The average number of fatal accidents in the month of March in these five years was thus 482, so that the total for the past month continues well below the average.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz.: Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping and Factories, the number of workpeople killed was 393, compared with 370 in March, 1902. The approximate number employed in these industries at the date of the latest returns was about 5,700,000. In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between March, 1903, and a month and a year ago.

Table showing Fatal Industrial Accidents Reported in March. Columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (March 1903, February 1903, March 1902), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in March, 1903, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, Workshops, Seamen, and Grand Total.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

THE free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on April 1st, and contain information for intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages, and cost of living. Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the various colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to emigrants. Copies of the circulars can be obtained free, on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

Summary for March.

The trade returns for March, 1903, show an increase in the value as compared with the corresponding month of 1902 of the Imports into the United Kingdom, and also of the Exports of British produce, and of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in March, 1903, was £46,916,524, an increase of £6,018,663, or 14.7 per cent., as compared with those in March, 1902, whilst the total Exports amounted to £30,566,547, showing a total increase of £4,034,838. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £2,890,956, or 13.0 per cent., as compared with March, 1902, whilst there is an increase of £1,143,882, or 26.5 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for March, 1903, as compared with the corresponding months of 1902 and 1901, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table showing Imports by Month of March (1901, 1902, 1903) and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902 and 1901. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco; Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post); and Total value of Imports.

Exports.—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of March, 1903, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table showing Exports by Month of March (1901, 1902, 1903) and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902 and 1901. Rows include Food, Drink, and Tobacco; Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post); and Total value of Exports of British produce.

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.

—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended March, 1903, amounted to 3,038,625 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,725,269 tons, as against 2,678,411 tons entered and 3,447,628 tons cleared in the month of March, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during March, 1903, amounted to 2,524,977 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,496,957 tons, as against 2,538,182 tons entered, and 2,460,338 tons cleared in March, 1902.

* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

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

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during March was 38,132, as compared with 28,569 in March, 1902. Comparing the three completed months of 1903 with the corresponding period of 1902, there is an increase of 22,411, viz., from 56,286 in 1902 to 78,697 in 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 38,132 passengers in March, 20,179 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 6,941 as compared with a year ago. This increase was almost entirely due to emigration to Canada. For the three months of 1903 the total number was 43,532, as compared with 29,416 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 14,116, chiefly accounted for by the great increase in numbers bound for British North America and British South Africa.

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

Table showing numbers of British and Irish passengers by Destination (Country in which passengers contracted to land) for Mar. 1903, Mar. 1902, and Total for three months ended (Mar. 1903, Mar. 1902). Rows include British Empire (British North America, Australia and New Zealand, British South Africa, India, Other British Colonies and Possessions) and Foreign Countries (United States, Other Foreign Countries).

Foreign.—The remainder of the 38,132 passengers in March, viz., 17,953, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 2,622 more than in March, 1902. For the three months ended March, 1903, their number was 35,165 as against 26,870 in the corresponding period of 1902, the difference being mainly due to increases in the numbers proceeding to British North America, British South Africa and the United States.

Alien Immigration.—During March 23,557 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 16,468 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 3,892 as compared with March, 1902. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 5,764 (exclusive of seamen), or 1,059 more than a year ago. The figures for March, 1903 and 1902, and also for the three months ended March in each year, are as follows:—

Table showing Alien Immigration by Mar. 1903, Mar. 1902, and Total for three months ended (Mar. 1903, Mar. 1902). Rows include Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries (Seamen, Others) and Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of March, and also during the three completed months of 1903, with comparative figures for 1902 and 1901:—

Table showing Cotton Statistics by Month of March (1903, 1902, 1901) and Three months ended March (1903, 1902, 1901). Rows include Imported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, and Exported.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from

ports to inland towns during March in the years 1903, 1902 and 1901 respectively, are given in the following Table:—

Description of Cotton forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	March, 1903.	March, 1902.	March, 1901.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	270,274	229,592	228,699
Brazilian	12,811	11,218	4,990
East Indian	3,502	1,698	2,724
Egyptian	27,877	22,647	22,876
Miscellaneous	5,464	5,595	6,049
Total	319,928	270,750	265,338

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended April 4th amounted to £6,731,349, a decrease of £96,998 (or 1·4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,713,708, a decrease of £342,865, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,017,641, an increase of £245,867.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during March, numbered 415, being 57 more than in March, 1902, 15 less than in March, 1901, and 17 less than in March, 1900.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MARCH.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in March was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 30; under the Friendly Societies Act, 69 (including 42 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all, 105.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—3, viz., Federal Union of Wireworkers of Great Britain and Ireland, 44, King-street, Higher Broughton, Manchester; East London Bakers' Union, 20, Old Montague-street, Whitechapel, E.; United Garment Workers of Great Britain, 35, Varden-street, Stepney, E.

Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—

Workmen's Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution, 3, viz., Kingswear and Dartmouth Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 2, College View, Kingswear, Dartmouth; Warsop Vale Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, Warsop Vale, Mansfield; Abercynon Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 22, Commercial-street, Abercynon, Glam.; Workmen's Co-operative Societies mainly for Production, 2, viz., Midland Locksmiths, Ltd., Wood-street, Willenhall, Wolverhampton; Martley Basket Makers, Ltd., Ivy Cottage, Martley, Worcester. Agricultural Societies, 9, viz., Gwernogle Agric. Soc. Ltd., Store, Gwernogle, Nantgaredig, Carm.; Carmarthen Agric. Soc., Ltd., The Store, Carmarthen; Llandybyther Agric. Soc., Ltd., The Store, Llandybyther, Cardigan; Fishguard and Goodwick Agric. Soc., Ltd., Park House, Fishguard, Pembroke; Leigh and District Agric. Soc., Ltd., 47, Oxford-street, Leigh, Lancs.; Melksham and District Poultry, Ltd., Melksham, Wilts.; Brock Agric. Co-op. Trading Soc., Ltd., Cannon-street, Chamber, Preston; Cross Inn Co-op. Agric. Trading Soc., Ltd., Cefngwrthhavan, Pennant Aberarth, Aberystwyth; Penbryn Cranog Agric. Soc., Ltd., The Store, Llangranog, Llandyssil. Miscellaneous: One Workmen's Club and one Land Society. Scotland.—Workmen's Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution, 2, viz., Glasgow Workers' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 9, Oxford-street, Glasgow; Newburgh and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., High-street, Newburgh, Fife. Ireland.—Workmen's Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution, 1, viz., Keady and Dist. Co-op., Main-street, Keady, co. Armagh. Agricultural Societies, 11, viz., Murroe Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Murroe, co. Limerick; Ballymacelligott Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballydwee, co. Kerry; Kilmeena Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Myna National School, co. Mayo; Caim Co-op. Threshing Soc., Ltd., Caim, co. Wexford; Ballinlo Lane Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballinlo Lane, co. Limerick; Fessiagh O'Neill Co-op. Poultry Soc., Gessiagh O'Neill, co. Donegal; Loughduff Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Loughduff, co. Cavan; Inishkeel Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Inishkeel, co. Donegal; Frontier Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Leish Lerrettspass, co. Armagh; Meenbaniwan Co-op. Poultry Soc., Knocknagashel, co. Kerry; Glencany Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Sallows, Letterbarrow P.O., co. Donegal.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—19, viz., Manchester Cooks and Waiters' Friendly Soc., Manchester; Seaforth P.S.A. Tontine Soc., Liverpool; King Edward's Coronation Sick Benefit and Friendly Soc., London, E.; West End Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Junction Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Dudley and Dist. Sick and Dividend Soc., Dudley Port, Tipton, Staffs; Star Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Edgbaston Hotel Sick

and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Priory Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Pershore Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; City Bar Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Royal George Oddfellows' Friendly Soc., Huddersfield; Cleveland and South Durham Order of Shepherds Friendly Soc., Middlesbrough; Belvedere Mutual Aid Soc., Belvedere, Kent; Liverpool and Dist. Barmen's Assoc., Liverpool; St. George's Loan Soc., Battersea, S.W.; East Splott Ratepayers' Permanent Financial Assoc., Cardiff; Rowditch Working Men's Recreation, Cycling, and Fishing Club, Derby; Normanton Liberal Working Men's Club, Normanton. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—8, viz., Innismacsaint Agric. Bank, Ballyshannon, co. Donegal; Ballinode Agric. Bank, Ballinode, co. Monaghan; Newport East Agric. Bank, Newport East, co. Mayo; Derrylohan Agric. Bank, Derrylohan, co. Mayo; Tully Keeran Agric. Bank, Maghera, co. Londonderry; Friendly Brothers of Ireland Loan Fund, Dublin; Brian Boree Thrift Soc., Dublin; Stillorgan Friendly Benefit Soc., Stillorgan, co. Dublin.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in March, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 6; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 7; under the Friendly Societies Act, 68 (including 19 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 11; in all 92.

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.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March, 690 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 871 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 207 persons, of whom 105 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 500 to 594, and the number of servants applying fell from 393 to 380; the number permanently engaged rose from 77 to 92. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 87 to 135, and the number requiring such situations fell from 79 to 70; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 46, compared with 47 in February.

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

WORK DONE IN MARCH.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C.	61	69	19	2
Society for Promoting Training and Employment— 22, Berners-street, W.	25	23	4	21
Y.W.C.A.— 26, George-street (1)	566	405	85	9
Hanover-square, W. (2)	156	107	25	26
Other Bureaux	63	86	15	1
Total of 7 Bureaux	871	690	148	59
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc. ...	26	37	5	—
Shop Assistants	1	8	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	135	70	24	22
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	22	59	6	18
Apprentices and Learners	37	13	12	1
Domestic Servants	594	380	92	13
Miscellaneous	56	123	9	5
Total Number in Mar., 1903	871	690	148	59
Total Number in Feb., 1903	712	789	139	70
Total Number in Mar., 1902	878	593	143	63