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The present number of the LABOUR GAZETTE continues, for the month of May, the various reports and other information on the conditions of labour which were given in the opening number, with a few additions, of which the most important is the information respecting mining, which has been supplied by the Home Office from materials furnished by the Mines' Inspectors.

Arrangements have been made with the Marine Department of the Board of Trade to supply, for future numbers, monthly reports on the number of seamen shipped, the changes in their wages, and the state of employment for seamen at the principal ports.

During the month two important workmen's congresses have taken place, viz.: the Annual Co-operative Congress at Bristol, and the International Miners' Congress at Brussels. The Labour Department was represented at both these congresses, and reports on their proceedings are given elsewhere.

Arrangements have been concluded with the French *Office du Travail* for the monthly interchange of information with regard to trade disputes in the United Kingdom and France respectively. A summary of the first report received from the *Office du Travail* appears in the present number.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

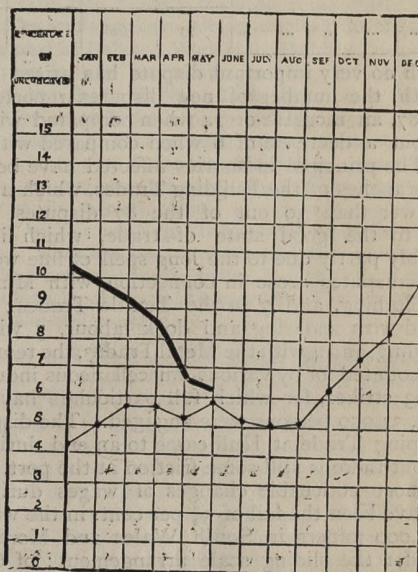
On the whole the state of employment has improved during the past month. This is the more noticeable as occurring along with the Australian banking failures. The collapse of credit in Australia is one of those events which, according to past experience, are likely to react unfavourably on the foreign trade of the United Kingdom, and possibly to postpone for a time the revival of trade, of which certain symptoms appear in some of the reports from local correspondents.

The only sources from which perfectly trustworthy statistics can be obtained regarding want of employment are those workmen's organisations which pay out-of-work benefit. Twenty-six societies make returns, including 397,959 members, of whom 19,391, or 6.2 per cent., were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 20,478, or 6.9 per cent. of unemployed shown by the 23 societies which made returns for April. It may be remarked that though these absolute percentages only apply strictly to the organised workers in certain groups of trades, their monthly changes probably afford an index of changes in the total volume of employment in the skilled trades of the country. For this reason the following chart has been prepared, from which these changes, both from month to month and from year to year, can be seen.

PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED IN 1892 AND 1893 COMPARED.

NOTE.—The Chart shows the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1892, and of each month yet completed of 1893.

The thick line applies to 1893, the thin line to 1892.



The percentage of unemployed in the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades has only slightly fallen, viz., from 8 to 7.8; but the improvement would probably have been more noticeable but for the effect of the Whitsuntide holidays. The most marked improvement is in the Oldham Cotton-spinning Trade, which has now assumed its normal condition. The present return shews only 1.45, or 2.2 per cent. of members of the Oldham Spinners Association unemployed, compared with 1,804 or 28 per cent. last month. The Building and Furnishing Trades continue to find full employment for their members, the percentage of unemployed returned by the Building Trades remaining stationary (2.3), while that returned by the Furniture Trades has slightly risen (from 2.5 to 2.9). The Printing and kindred Trades are only moderately employed, regard being had to the season of the year. The bespoke branches of the Clothing Trades are returned as exceptionally busy, but the Wholesale Clothing and Boot and Shoe Trades are somewhat depressed, the export branches being probably affected by the financial disasters in Australia. Mining is depressed in Scotland, the North of England, and elsewhere, a large number of miners being quite idle, and many collieries working short time. In South Wales the state of employment for miners has improved.

Of the 26 unions making full returns, 11 describe trade as "good," 7 as "moderate," and 8 as "bad."

Several societies (including some which do not pay out-of-work benefit, and are hence not included in the above returns) publish monthly reports describing the state of trade in each branch. These particulars are

here collected for three groups of trades, being useful as an additional means of comparison with former months :

Description of Trade.	May.		Percentage of Members.	
	Branches	Members	May.	April.
Building Trades—				
"Fair to very good" ...	468	29,463	47	46
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	281	18,977	30	31
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	191	14,165	23	23
Total ...	940	62,605	100	100
Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	73	4,565	5	2
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	275	56,497	60	36
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	424	32,997	35	62
Total ...	772	94,059	100	100
Furnishing Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	43	3,256	62	52
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	20	874	17	33
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	10	1,134	21	76
Total ...	73	5,264	100	100

Though no very important dispute has arisen during the month, the number of new disputes reported has reached 87, an increase of 14 when compared with last month, but a decrease of 6 when compared with May 1892. The principal industries affected have been the various branches of the Building Trades, which account for no fewer than 39 out of the 87 disputes, owing perhaps to the good state of trade, which in turn is probably partly due to the long spell of fine weather. Thirteen disputes arose in connection with Mining, 7 in the Clothing, and 7 in the Textile Trades; 6 were connected with seafaring and dock labour, 5 with the Shipbuilding, and 4 with the Metal Trades, the remainder being accounted for by various miscellaneous industries. In the 63 strikes, for which full particulars have been obtained, 34,950 persons were engaged. The dispute in the Shipping Trade at Hull came to an end during the month, but there is still some friction at the port.

The most noticeable changes of wages during the month have been the fall of 3½ per cent. in the wages of some 90,000 miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire under the sliding scale arrangement; of 6d. per day among 30,000 to 40,000 miners in Scotland; and of 1s. per week among 6,000 to 7,000 surface-workers. There have been numerous reductions in wages in the Engineering, Shipbuilding, and kindred Industries of the North of England, and 7,000 shale miners and oil workers of the East of Scotland have suffered reductions of 5 to 10 per cent. On the other hand, rises of wages in the Building Trades are reported in a large number of districts.

With the advent of Summer, the pauperism returns for selected districts of the United Kingdom show a slight decline compared with last month, the proportion of persons relieved on a given day falling from 208 to 203 per 10,000 of population. The corresponding proportion for May 1892 was 210, but the figures for that month were swollen by the exceptional distress due to the Durham miners' strike. During the month the proportion of paupers per 10,000 of population has fallen in London from 221 to 215, and in the other selected districts in England and Wales from 201 to 197. The figures for Scotland and Ireland remain almost stationary.

II.—REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District.—Mr. J. Ratcliffe reports that in the Boiler-makers' and Shipbuilders' Society the number of unemployed fell from 31·6 per cent. in the beginning of March, and 23 per cent. in April, to 18·1 per cent. in the beginning of May upon an average membership of 7,691. In the Amalgamated Engineers' Society the percentage, which was 21·7 in March and 20·2 in April, fell to 18·1 on an average membership of 5,828. In the Carpenters and Joiners' Society, the percentage, which was 9·1 in March and 10·7 in April, fell to 3·2 in May on an average membership of 2,719. The Shipwrights have a large percentage of unemployed, and have

accepted modified reductions of wages, affecting amongst others the Associated Shipwrights and the Sunderland local society. The number of vessels laid up has decreased by quite one-half, and there has been a better demand for River-side Labourers, Firemen and Sailors. The Northumberland Miners are if anything rather less busy; prices during the month have not been well maintained, and fully 400 men are still in receipt of stoppage pay. In Durham many collieries do not average 2 days a fortnight, and some are not working at all. Pits in West Durham are said to be the best worked, with 10, 10½ or 11 days as the maximum working time for the fortnight. During the last fortnight £3,587 was disbursed by the union as "stoppage" allowance, from which it would appear that the total number of unemployed miners throughout the county cannot be far short of 6,000. Workers in Lead, Chemical and Copper Factories show no change. A dispute is pending between the Carpenters and Joiners and the Tyne Shipbuilders' Association, who have extended their notice of a reduction a week longer; another dispute with the Wear Shipbuilders has been referred to the Conciliation Board. At Howdon-on-Tyne about 128 men and boys were thrown out of work for two days by a strike of apprentice Rivet-heaters, over a grievance of two colleagues. A single shop strike of Pattern-makers at Sunderland still continues.

Oldham, Bolton, and District.—Mr. J. T. Fielding reports that there has been little change during the last month. Business is only quiet in the various sections of the Iron Trade. The Building Trades are prosperous, and particularly so in Oldham. Employment in the Cotton Trade is much the same as reported last month, all the mills and weaving sheds working full time. So far as the Fine-yarn Trade is concerned, and yarns made from Egyptian cotton, there is no ground for complaint. Prices have been steadily maintained, and at the close of the month are ½d. per lb. of 60's twist in favour of sellers. In Oldham, however, the trade in Cotton Yarns has gradually become worse. The margin between an average 32's twist yarn and middling Orleans cotton, which was 3d. per lb. at the end of April, only reached 2½d. per lb. at the end of May. The cloth market has shewn a more healthy tone than it has done for some time. The minor trades of these districts are all fairly well employed, and the labour market generally may be said to occupy its normal position as regards the number of persons out of work. In Oldham about 500 Carpenters and Joiners, 60 per cent. of whom belonged to no trade union, struck for an advance of wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour. The advance was at once conceded by several of the leading firms, and at present only nine firms, employing about 100 men, still refuse it. As the result of a strike of Stonemasons at Bolton, which lasted for 10 days, it was agreed at a conference of representatives of employers and workmen that no employer should encourage piece work; that no hand worked stone should be allowed to come into the town; that sawn slabs should be allowed to come into the town up to 6½ in. thick, sawn on the beds, but not on the faces, except heads and mullions, which might be sawn on the faces if 6 ft. long or over; that steps and landings should come in as before.

Burnley, Accrington and District.—Mr. W. H. Wilkinson reports that during the past month the Weaving Trade of the district has shown some improvement. A number of looms have been restarted, and although a great number are still standing idle, yet the tone of the cloth market appears far healthier than it has been for a considerable period. The Iron and Building Trades keep fully occupied, though the strike of Blackburn plasterers will have retarded matters a little in their district. A strike has arisen at Harwood amongst the joiners for an advance in wages from 7d. to 7½d. per hour all round in accordance with a notice they gave six months ago. It seems probable that the dispute about the list of prices which was impending in the Nelson weaving district, and which would have affected some 2,000 workpeople, will be averted. At a joint conference of employers and workmen, held on May 31st, the weavers' representatives asked for the full adoption of the list, involving an advance of about 1¼ per cent. upon the present prices. The employers finally agreed to call a meeting of their members at an early date, and to recommend them to adopt the list.

Manchester and District.—Mr. G. D. Kelley reports that a significant indication of the state of trade is afforded by the prolongation of the Whitsuntide holidays, which have this year been extended in many cases to a full week. There is, however, no reason to believe that trade is any worse than at the end of last month. In the Engineering Trade some firms are fairly busy, whilst others are the reverse. The Tin Packing-case Makers are not fully employed just now. This can, perhaps, be traced to the unsettled state of the market, consequent upon the late dispute in the Cotton Trade. In the Building Trades there is no change to report, and trade may be generally described as moderate, although in no worse position than at the end of April. The state of the Printing and kindred Trades can only be described as most unsatisfactory, especially the Printing

Trade. In fact, the Printing Trade in Manchester is in a worse state than has been known for some years. At Macclesfield the Tailors gave notice for an alteration in the "log" prices, accompanied by a general rearrangement of their pay. A settlement has now been arrived at, which, in effect, gives the men an advance of 15 per cent. in wages, shorter hours, and the avoidance of overtime as much as possible. In all establishments conducted on trade union lines, all the work will, in future, be executed on the premises. In Macclesfield and district generally, trade is dull.

Liverpool and District.—Mr. J. Sexton reports that there has been little change in the employment of Dock Labourers, notwithstanding the fact that several companies whose ships had been laid up during winter have re-commenced sailing. It is supposed that the slight effect produced is due to the increased traffic being of passengers merely, and to the return cargoes of cargo-carrying ships being largely composed of live cattle and grain in bulk, which require very little labour in unshipping. Seamen and Firemen have been better employed, but the rate of wages remains unaltered. The Shipbuilding Trade continues depressed; the Engineers and Boiler-makers also complain of bad trade. Employers have given notice for a further reduction of 2s. per week to the Boiler-makers, in addition to the 1s. 6d. accepted by the trade union some time before. There is an increased demand for labour in every branch of the Building Trade; the concessions recently obtained by the carpenters and joiners were not, however, universally granted, and disputes with particular employers have consequently arisen. The want of employment among the general labourers is still very acute. Excavation work has been commenced at Ellesmere Port, which, as it develops, may slightly improve the state of employment. An effort is being made to create a municipal labour exchange. The principal dispute among the Dock Labourers has been caused by their refusal to discharge or load certain ships whose owners were connected with the Hull dispute, although trade union rates and conditions were offered; the ships were ultimately discharged by non-unionists. The United Pattern-Makers' Society has given notice for the abolition of systematic overtime.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.—Mr. A. Main reports that trade during May has been much the same as last month, the slight improvement reported in some branches having been maintained. There is a distinctly better feeling in the district, and it is believed that trade has touched bottom and commenced to move upwards. Orders are more numerous and prices are stiffening. In the Steel Trade the manufacturers are well employed, but the Finished Iron Trade continues very dull, the report of the Arbitration Board for the North of England showing a further decline in prices, but not sufficient to affect the wages of the workmen, which under the sliding scale in force will be the same for June and July as for April and May. The number of blast furnaces at work is 86, as against 87 last month, but as the make of Pig Iron is 5,532 tons more than last month, the number of workmen employed in connection with the furnaces and at the Cleveland Ironstone mines will not have varied much. In the Marine Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades reductions of wages have been general, and have been arranged without cessation of work, except in the case of the moulders in the employ of one firm, and of the smiths' strikers in three other firms, at Hartlepool. The percentage of unemployed continues at 10 per cent. for the Engineering Trades, for though slightly reduced at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, it has increased at Stockton; but the prospect is brighter than last month. The strike of painters at Middlesbrough for the new code of rules has been settled, the employers having accepted it with one or two modifications. The strike at Hartlepool, where the demands included an advance of 1d. per hour, still continues, although the men have offered to accept ½d. per hour as a compromise. The men say that some of the employers are paying the full increase asked for.

Leeds and District.—Mr. O. Connellan reports that the slight improvement announced in some trades last month has not been sustained, and a general condition of depression prevails. In the Ready-made Clothing Trade, where a change for the better appeared likely, a relapse has taken place, and it is now exceptionally bad, short time being worked at many of the larger factories. The Boot and Shoe Trade is also very depressed. Bespoke Tailoring continues good, and one cloth manufacturer recently reported a better demand for cloth in this department than he had known for some years. The Building Trades are fairly good, but Joinery, Cabinet-making and Brush-making are only moderate. In the Dyeing Trade full time is being worked only by the cloth and wool dye-houses, other branches being dull, and particularly the dress stuff department. No improvement can be reported in any branches of the Iron Industry, and the eleven branches of the Engineers'

Society in Leeds report trade as being "bad" or "very bad." The Printing Trade remains dull, but the Glass Bottle-making continues to be exceptionally busy. There has been no dispute of any great magnitude here during the month. The strikes of Builders' Labourers at Harrogate and Wakefield remain unsettled, but at the latter place a few of the smaller employers have conceded the advance asked for. Demonstrations of unemployed have taken place in Leeds, and it is urged on their behalf that special efforts should be made by the authorities to find work for them.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.—Mr. A. Gee reports that the Woollen Trade in Huddersfield is in about the same state as last month. A few firms are still working night and day, but on the other hand some are only working the regular time of 56½ hours per week, while a few do not keep all their hands fully employed. The Woollen Trade in the neighbourhood of Batley and Dewsbury is very quiet, and the workpeople find it very hard to make ends meet. The Worsteds Cloth Trade is a little better in Huddersfield, Bradford, and its neighbourhood than last month. The best evidence of this is the fact that manufacturers have to let their looms stand idle for want of weavers. This is more noticeable in Bradford than in Huddersfield, but even in the latter place one firm has had to advertise for weavers during the month. Trade is rather quiet in rugs, blankets, &c., both in Dewsbury and other places in the district. The Iron Trade in the whole of the district is also very quiet. The employers have not yet enforced the reduction which was proposed in Halifax. Work in the Building Trades is no doubt better than it was last month, not only in Huddersfield and Bradford, but also in Halifax. In the latter place the men intend coming out on strike for a penny an hour advance, and also for certain changes in their working rules. In the Painting Trade there is a fairly good demand in this district, as evidenced by the fact that the employers are advertising in many papers, apparently without much success. Trade is moderately good in Cotton Spinning, but this may be partly accounted for by the recent Cotton Dispute. Work has been fairly plentiful in the Tailoring Trade. The Wire Drawers' strike at Lindley, Huddersfield, is still going on, and a strike of Wool Sorters has occurred at Clayton, near Bradford, which is also still unsettled.

Barnsley and the Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).—Mr. J. Wadsworth reports that there seems very little indication of recovery in the Iron Trade; pig-iron is very dull. Coal prices appear to be going down in this district, and there is great distress in some of the mining localities. Some of the pits have only been worked two half-days in a week; many collieries are only working two days, others three and four days. Large numbers of men have been out of work through stoppage of collieries, breakage of machinery, floodings, etc. The Yorkshire Miners' Association has paid through these causes alone over £3,600 to its members during April and May, besides large amounts of strike and lock-out pay. About 90 men at a colliery near Leeds are on strike, complaining of the action of the manager. About 60 men are on strike at another colliery, against a proposal to reduce the rate from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 4d. a ton. Over 50 men have been discharged at one pit owing to bad trade. About 60 men are stopped at a colliery near Wakefield, on the alleged ground that the manager wants them to hole their coals, contrary to the conditions in their price list. A similar grievance elsewhere has been amicably settled. A difficulty is arising at a colliery near Rotherham, as to a new price list drawn up by the employers. At some collieries near Barnsley over 600 men have been out on strike for a fortnight, in consequence of a proposed reduction of 1d. per yard in the rates of payment of 11 coal-cutting machine-men. The matter was then referred to the Joint Board of Colliery Owners and Workmen, who appointed a committee of two owners and two workmen to get out an accurate statement of time worked and money earned by the machine-men, work at the collieries being resumed in the meantime. The Hull dock strike has had serious effects on the trade of Yorkshire, the Coal Trade feeling the effects all the more on account of the general depression.

Sheffield and District.—Mr. S. Uttley reports that trade generally is bad, with but few exceptions. Iron and Steel Founders and Engineers are very slack, as well as those engaged in making railway tyres, axles and springs, and in wagon and coach building. The makers of steel castings complain of the severe cutting down in prices, to which they are subjected; such orders, however, as are being placed are generally given to the best firms. Several orders have been recently given to the armour-plate mills, but the work has not yet been begun. The only section of the heavy trades in which there is any real activity shown is in the manufacture of marine cranks and shafting, and of patent tubes and flues for boilers. In the general Steel Trade some houses are doing a fair business in

Bessemer billets, and some orders are on hand for best crucible steel for tools. The makers of reaper-knives, scythes and steel spades, forks and shovels, are fairly well employed. The File Trade is quiet, and the Razor and Electro-plate, and Britannia-metal Trades report themselves as "bad." In the higher class of goods in the Cutlery Trade there is a decided improvement, and a better demand for them in the American market; common qualities very slack. There is a fair amount of activity in the Building Trades. During the month the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners has opened several new branches in the district. The local trades council has adopted a code of rules for the federation of all trades, for trade defence purposes. In Rotherham, Housebuilding is active, and the Stove, Grate, Bath and Brass Trades are fairly busy, especially those sections directly connected with the Building Trades. At Staveley there is a large demand in the Iron-Pipe Department, chiefly on account of the requirements for electric-lighting, telephone, gas and water.

Hull and District.—Mr. W. G. Millington reports that the great dispute in the Shipping Trade, which began on April 4th and lasted through the first three weeks of May, has been the most absorbing matter of interest during the month. The terms of settlement of the dispute are given on another page. Matters are now rapidly assuming their normal condition, the imported free labourers (who are stated to have numbered 3,000 to 4,000 at the conclusion of the dispute) having left the town, and the extra police and military having also departed. During the dispute, the Hull Trades and Labour Council collected £14,000, which enabled them to pay strike pay at the rate of 6s. a week for six weeks to about 9,000 men. It is as yet too soon to judge of the effect produced on the general trade of the port by the recent dispute. Some of the men who were previously employed as permanent labourers are now only taken back as casuals, others are said not to have been re-instated at all. The cognate and allied trades affected by the dispute have resumed work, employment being given to as many as the state of trade will admit. The Seed Crushing Mills have begun running, with the exception of one firm, which insisted on terms that the men assert are contrary to the working agreement made with the Employers' Association in 1891; the firm maintains that the men by leaving their employment without notice during the recent dispute have violated the agreement of 1891, and that it is therefore free to impose new conditions. About 100 seed crushers are resisting this course of action. The Building Trades are fairly active. Those dependent upon shipbuilding and engineering are still much depressed; orders for steam fishing vessels are still being given to one or two firms that lay themselves out for this class of work, but many of the orders for these vessels have gone to the North-East coast and Clyde shipbuilding yards. The Twine Spinners at Grimsby are resisting a proposed reduction in their rates of payment in one large firm, but most of the men have secured employment elsewhere.

Wolverhampton and District.—Mr. W. F. Mee reports that the depression in the Ironworkers' Trades is still maintained, large numbers being unemployed. The average selling-price of the past two months shews a decline of 10d. per ton. This of itself is not sufficient to carry a reduction in wages, but it proves conclusively that the demand has not increased. The Ironworkers are agitating to have their wages governed by the selling-price of iron here instead of, as at present, by the price in the North of England. The Steel Manufacturers are fairly well off for orders. The Chain-makers strike still continues, although about 25 of the principal employers have conceded the 5s. price-list. The small chain-makers are fairly employed, the men at one firm having been successful in obtaining the price-list after a strike of twelve months. The Rivet-makers having suffered from gradual reductions until 3s. 3d. per cwt. was paid (instead of 4s. 6d.), gave fourteen days' notice for a return to the 4s. 6d. list, and have generally obtained the 4s. list. Owing to the closing of ironworks at Walsall 40 out of the 150 men discharged are still out of work. The Nut and Bolt Trade of Smethwick and Darlaston is in a very bad state. A slight improvement has taken place amongst Boiler-makers, Bridge-builders, Tank and Gasometer Makers, Brass and Copper Workers, Light Ironfounders, Hollow-ware Casters, Galvanisers and Makers of Engineers' Ironwork, Edge Tools, Iron Hurdles and Wire Fencing. Employment amongst the Safe Makers is steady, and trade is reported "fair" amongst the Iron and Tinplate Workers and Japanners. The men are still fully employed in the Bicycle Trade, but orders are now falling off somewhat, the season being well advanced. Trade is fair among Tailors and Boot and Shoe Makers. The Coal Trade of the district is very quiet, but prices are fairly firm, especially for household qualities. The Hardware Trade is well up for orders, and full time is being worked in some of the branches. In the group of Building Industries, the

improvement evinced during the preceding month has been more than maintained, several large contracts having been secured by local firms. An advance in wages (½d. per hour) has been secured by the bricklayers and their labourers at Kidderminster. The Electrical Trades are also well employed, and work is steady.

Birmingham and District.—Mr. W. J. Davis reports that the Building Operatives are fairly well employed, and that the demand for builders' ironmongery is pretty good. The Cycle Trade is still busy, and many men are working overtime. The pressure is, however, not universal, and makers who confine themselves to old pattern machines may be slack while others are busy. The Wire-workers are still busy, and Tin Plate-workers are all well employed. The Jewellery Trade is greatly depressed. This industry in Birmingham is divided and sub-divided into many branches, which makes it possible for some workers to be busy while others are partially or wholly out of employment; but no branch of the trade is in a good state. Changes in fashion affect this trade very much. Silver jewellery, for instance, is going out of fashion. The common qualities of gold and gold plated jewellery are in poor demand. Many of the operatives are suffering great distress. Some manufacturers complain of being directly or indirectly affected by the Australian bank failures. The private trade in guns (sporting for export) is perhaps slightly better. Glassmakers complain of bad trade, and many, including some of the best workmen, are making short time. The Printing Trade, both litho. and letterpress, is dull. Boot and Shoe Operatives are fairly well employed, but manufacturers say that this is not likely to be permanent, good trade being entirely due to the early season, which has left them with large accumulations of winter stock. Tube drawing—for bedsteads, cycles, and general trade—is active. The Brassfoundry Trade shows no change. The Ironworkers in the neighbouring district of South Staffordshire are looking forward to an improvement of trade. At a meeting of employers and workmen, held on May 29th, it was resolved to continue the present rate of wages till August next.

Nottingham, Derby and District.—Mr. W. L. Hardstaff reports that although taking the trades as a whole, the general tone is fairly good (the number of unemployed being small as compared with other large towns), yet in the Lace Trade slackness is very apparent. In the leavers branch about 300 out of a membership of 2,500 are unemployed, the slackness being attributable to temporary causes. The curtain, plain-net, and warp lace branches are very quiet, short time being worked. Curtain Readers and Correctors, and Card Punchers are very busy, and are moving for a uniform list of prices. Designers and Draughtsmen are with but few exceptions only moderately employed. Short time prevails in the lace finishing departments; frilling departments are well employed; Winders and Menders in the lace factories only partially so. Tailoring and Outfitting establishments continue busy. In the Iron Trade some firms are making full time, while others are reducing their staff. Lace Machine Building is on the whole brisk, men being fully engaged. Hosiery Machine Building is quiet, a few men are out of work, and most firms are very slack. The Sinker, Bobbin and Carriage Makers are very busy, Ironmoulders are very slack, and Engineers are only moderately employed. The small branch of Boiler-makers is busy, the Steam Engine Makers are moderately, and the Iron Dressers very fairly employed. In the Building Trades work appears to be going on smoothly and well after the recent dispute with the carpenters, particulars of which will be found on another page; no important local works are being started at present. The Hosiery Trade remains almost stagnant, many being out of work and others on short time; the Hand-frame Branch is exceedingly depressed, severe distress existing among the operatives. Elastic and Surgical Bandage-makers are well employed. There has been no dispute worthy of note during the month.

A report received from Derby states that the Coal and Iron Trade is very quiet. Bridge and girder works are not fully employed. Orders for lace machinery are fairly plentiful, but with that exception engineering work and orders for machinery are scarce; the Midland Railway works are on short time. The Stove Grate Makers are busy, and the Building Trades are very fairly employed. The Bricklayers and Labourers are asking for an advance. The House Painters and Decorators have obtained an advance of ½d. an hour, with an alteration in rules. The Elastic Web Trade is very brisk, and the demand for superior qualities is increasing. The Silk Trade is in a healthier condition than has been known for many years, and the demand for fancy trimmings for dresses and upholstery is greatly on the increase, and the prospects are good. Box-makers are fairly well employed.

Leicester and Northampton District.—Mr. T. Smith reports that the general condition of trade continues moderately good, and

employment fairly regular. In the Leicester Boot and Shoe Industry a falling off in the number of orders was reported during the latter part of May. In the shoe clicking branch there are for the time of the year rather an unusual number of workmen out of employment, and working short time. In the Northampton district shoe manufacturers also report business as less active, the busy season for the production of light-made boots and shoes having passed; attention is now being given to the preparation of samples for the autumn trade. Business in the Hosiery Department has improved, and the manufacture of goods for the home markets is more brisk. Orders are more plentiful, and workmen steadily employed. The Shipping Department is somewhat affected by the financial and commercial crisis in Australia, and the delivery of orders has in many cases been postponed pending the restoration of trade confidence. In the Wool, Yarn, and Spinning Industries a less healthy state of trade prevails. There is a decrease of output on the home account, but the export branch of the trade maintains a fairly healthy tone. The Building Trades continue busy, there being a greater demand for bricklayers and painters than can be supplied. Plasterers, carpenters and joiners are fully employed. In the agricultural districts, labourers have no difficulty in obtaining full employment, workmen being able to command the maximum rate of pay for outdoor work at this season of the year. The only strike of importance in May was at Northampton, where the Bricklayers and General Labourers struck work for an advance of one penny per hour. Between 400 and 500 men were originally affected. Several of the smaller master builders, employing from 70 to 100 men, conceded the advance, but a majority of the employers refused, and the remainder of the men are still out. The date when the Northampton boot and shoe manufacturers are to provide workshops for their operatives has been fixed for January 1st, 1894. Sir Henry James, as umpire, has decided that operatives employed on weekly wages in the Boot and Shoe Trade shall receive the minimum rate of wages at the age of 20 years. The umpire of the Leicester Arbitration Board has awarded an advance ranging from 10 to 15 per cent. to the Leicester Shoe Clickers who work on the piece-work system. At Hinckley, Barwell, and Earl Shilton, in the district of Leicester, the Boot and Shoe Operatives have obtained, by arbitration, a reduction of their working hours from 56 to 54 per week. In the Leicester Hosiery Trade the workmen engaged in the glove branch have obtained a re-arrangement of their wages list, the advance ranging from 5 to 7½ per cent. The Leicester Framework Knitters' Union is now negotiating a uniform statement of wages for the men working on the "Cotton's Patent Rib Hose" machines. An amicable arrangement is anticipated. At Leicester and Northampton special committees have been formed by the local trades unions, for the purpose of inquiring into the grievances of the employés who work the new machinery used in the lasting and finishing of boots and shoes, with a view to establishing a minimum wage for day workers and of regulating or limiting the production of the operatives who are so engaged. The continued refusal of the London Branches of the Boot and Shoe Operatives' Union (numbering nearly 5,000 members), to abide by the decision of the conference recently held at Leicester, calling upon them to have their disputes referred for settlement to arbitration, is causing great anxiety in the trade. The executive of the Operatives' Union at Leicester declines to sanction the men's action.

Eastern Counties.—Mr. J. Robinson reports that from a census just obtained from a number of villages in Essex, Suffolk, Cambridge and Norfolk it is found that about 2½ per cent. of the Agricultural Labourers are out of employment. This is very unusual at this time of the year, but is accounted for partly by the want of rain, and partly by the agricultural depression caused by low prices of corn. Time wages, as for last month, are about 11s. to 12s. per week, which is 1s. per week below the rates 12 months ago, but in most villages it is 1s. higher now than it was three years ago, especially in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Wages appear to increase as one travels northwards from Suffolk. In Norfolk the wages are a little higher generally than in Suffolk, while in Cambridgeshire the wages are the lowest of any in the four Eastern Counties. The outlook for the coming winter appears far from satisfactory. The members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers are fairly well employed, but the trade can only be considered as moderate. The Boot and Shoe Operatives are fairly brisk just now; the Ipswich members of the Boot and Shoe Operatives Union have had a small strike against outdoor workshops, and as to the price of a certain class of goods, but a settlement was arrived at in the men's favour after a few interviews with the employer. The Cabinet-makers consider their trade as good just at present; all members of the Cabinet-makers' Union in the district appear to be fully employed. The Tailoring Trades are brisk, many men working overtime. Bricklayers are fairly well employed in Ipswich, Felixstowe and

Colchester, but in the Eastern Counties generally trade is only moderate, while in Norwich it is reported as dull.

Bristol and South-Western District.—Mr. J. Curle reports that little change has taken place in the condition of trade in this locality during the past month. The Bristol Boot and Shoe Trade is seriously depressed. At the end of the month a dispute arose at one of the factories through an alleged grievance against the management, and at the time of reporting all the workers were out. In the Kingswood district, the operatives are well employed. At Street (Somerset), trade with rounders and finishers is very good, but the sew-round workers are slack. A strike was in progress there during the first two weeks of the month against the wages offered for lasting "patent calf straps," which work had been previously done by day workers. On the 15th, however, the men accepted the conditions laid down by the firm. The Clothing Trades continue well employed; an amalgamation has been effected between the Leeds Operative Clothiers' Union and the Bristol Clothiers' Cutters' Society; the latter body has hitherto restricted its membership to cutters, but, under the new rules, other branches of the trade will be admitted. A further improvement is noted in the Cabinet and Furnishing Trades, and Printers, Brush-makers and Basket-makers are fully employed. A slight improvement is also perceptible in the Iron and Steel Trades. Those engaged in the Cycle business are very busy, and the proportion of unemployed with the Engineers is about 6½ per cent., as compared with 8½ per cent. in the preceding month. Work is still very slack with the Ironfounders; and the Boiler-makers and Iron Shipbuilders, who have been moderately well employed for some time past, are expecting a decline. Taken as a whole, work has been rather more plentiful with the Dock Labourers during the month. The traffic returns of the Bristol Docks for the four weeks ending 27th May show an increase of 6,710 tons as compared with the corresponding period of last year. Efforts have been again made to end the lock-out at the Federated Timber-yards. A deputation of the locked-out men waited upon the Federation on the 30th with a view to effecting a settlement; the terms then submitted were formally accepted by the deputation, but were refused by the general body, and consequently the lock-out continues. Work in the Building Trade continues fair. The Masons of Bath have obtained ½d. per hour advance on ordinary time and 1d. per hour extra on overtime. A branch of the Amalgamated Society of House Decorators and Painters was opened in Bath during the month, with 63 members; a branch of the Operative Stonemasons' Union has also been started at Street.

Cardiff and District.—Mr. T. Davies reports that there has been a great improvement in trade, especially in the Ship Repairing Yards of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea. Several firms nearly idle in April have since been well employed. The change is in a great measure due to the withdrawal of the boycott established by the Boiler-makers' Society. Every branch of the Building Trade throughout the district is active, and the Tin-plate Industry shows signs of improvement. There have been a number of small disputes during the month, but they are not nearly so numerous as last month, and have in most cases been settled without stoppage. The strike of Boiler-makers in the district began twelve months ago, and on March 13th the union adopted the system of refusing to repair any vessel that carried ore or manufactured material for the principal companies affected. The boycott was withdrawn on May 16th, and a settlement has been effected with one of the companies, by which the Boiler-makers will obtain a considerable advance on their day wages, and the piece work system recognised by the society will be adopted. The Cardiff Masons, who came out on strike twelve months ago, decided on May 4th to close the strike, without any settlement with the Master Builders' Association, and without a code of working rules. Wages will be ½d. an hour more than under the old rules, but the men will still resist the importation of worked stone. Seamen's wages at the port remain, with few exceptions, unchanged this month.

South Wales and Forest of Dean Mining Districts.—Mr. W. Evans reports that prices in the Coal Trade have advanced during the last month, but the effect of the improved rates did not come within the scope of the last audit, which included March and April only; the wages of the South Wales and Monmouthshire workmen have therefore been reduced 3½ per cent., but it seems probable that the minimum point has been reached. The collieries on the whole have been working regularly during the last month. The stoppage of so many collieries in the first quarter of the year resulted in an overcrowding of the collieries still at work, and wages were thus lowered, but employment secured for the large number who were thrown out of work. At the beginning of May, 600 men were thrown out of work owing to the closing of a colliery at Cwmaman. Since the beginning of the year, about 2,500 men

have been out of work through depression of trade in the Aberdare Valley, but there are now not more than 150 to 200 idle. A fortnight's notice has been given to 600 workmen at a colliery at Bridgend. The miners at a colliery near Llanelly have been on strike, since the beginning of March, against a reduction in the list of prices; an effort will be made to settle the dispute amicably. At a colliery at Pontypridd, 70 men were on strike for a week owing to disagreement as to a list of prices for a 9 ft. seam; they then agreed to work upon day wages. Notice of reduction at a colliery at Clydach Vale, Glamorganshire, has been suspended until June 10th, in order to arrange matters amicably, if possible. Owing to failure to agree upon a list of prices, 600 men at a colliery at Maesteg, Glamorganshire, have received a month's notice. At a colliery at Caerphilly, the colliers have tendered a month's notice to their employers, in order to claim 2d. per ton for working double shift, and to be allowed 2 cwt. per ton for "Billy Fair Play" deductions. The strike at Resolven, which has lasted 6 months, is still going on.

London District.—Mr. C. J. Drummond, one of the Labour Correspondents to the Department, reports as follows:—In 55 branches of unions connected with the Engineering Trades, containing 10,128 members, 652 (or 6.4 per cent.) are unemployed, as compared with 6.2 per cent. last month, 40 of these branches reporting trade as "bad," 11 "moderate," and 4 "good." In the Building Trades, 114 branches containing 9,835 members make returns, 216 (or 2.2 per cent.) being unemployed, as compared with 1.9 per cent. last month, 61 branches reporting trade "good," 29 "moderate," and 24 "bad." Numerous strikes, several of which have been successful, have taken place in the Building Trades during the month, primarily for the purpose of enforcing the working rules agreed to last year. Some of these disputes are still going on. In the Cabinet-making Trades, 16 branches, comprising 1,936 members, report trade as "good," the number of unemployed being 47 (or 2.4 per cent.), as compared with 4.6 per cent. last month. The bespoke branches of the Clothing Trades are busy. The difficulty between the London Branch of the Boot and Shoe Operatives Union and the Executive on the question of arbitration remains unsettled. The Letterpress Printing Trade shows little or no signs of improvement, but the Lithographic Trade is described as "decidedly good." The state of employment at the Docks during the month is shewn on the chart given on another page. It is reported that the Fruit Import Trade is very quiet, and consequently a number of fruit porters are standing idle. By arrangement, however, between the fruit porters and the orange porters, 50 casual men are employed every week, a fresh gang of 50 being engaged until every man on the fruit porters' list has been employed, when the procedure is repeated. The trade at the wharves is increasing, but very slowly. Work in the river is fairly busy, but the Cork boats which generally discharge "in the stream" have been discharged in the St. Katharine Dock, under the control of the owners. Work at the East and West India, South, and Millwall Docks is slack, the grain and timber departments being very quiet. At the Victoria Docks a number of men are still to be found waiting for a chance of employment. The recent dispute at these docks is now at an end. The dispute at the Surrey Commercial Docks is also over, and everything is settling down, the men having signed contracts for this season's trade. The Timber Trade is just beginning, and the Indian Tea Season and Colonial Trade will soon begin, so that an immediate improvement may be looked for in the state of employment in the port.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.—Mr. J. Mallinson reports that the principal Building Trades continue brisk; Plasterers, however, are not so busy. The Printing Trades are still quiet, numbers of piece workers are not fully employed, the average percentage of unemployed for the month being 2.2, and of the Lithographic Printers 6.4 per cent. The Iron Trades continue bad, and there is an increase in the number of unemployed in the Leith branches. Iron Moulding is still bad, though there has been a decrease in the percentage of unemployed for the month. There has been a considerable increase in the number of Coopers unemployed. The following report trade to be quiet:—Bookbinders, Brass Finishers, Skinners, Cabinet-makers, and Bakers; Shoemakers and Painters are busy. Tailors are fully employed, but there is not the usual demand for workmen at this season of the year; they have been agitating for some time for the abolition of home work, and have met with considerable success. Two large firms have stopped giving out work, and another has agreed to have all work done inside as soon as arrangements can be made. The Tin-plate Workers report 60 of their members on short time. There is an improvement in the Leith Shipping Trade, there being fewer unemployed; wages have remained steady during the month. In the Shipbuilding Trades the number of unemployed for the month has been abnormally

large. The Coal Trade in Mid and East Lothian has been dull during the month; 11 per cent. of the miners have been getting only three days' work per week, and 32 per cent. only four days; there has also been a good deal of broken time amongst those who were nominally on full time; only those engaged in the production of gas coal have been able to depend on full time. The Oil Trade of Mid and West Lothian continues in a very disturbed condition. The oil companies, with one exception, recently notified a reduction of five per cent. on the wages of Oil Workers generally, 10 per cent. on the wages of Shale Miners, and 1s. per week on the wages of Coopers. These reductions came into effect on May 25th, but the shale miners are pursuing a restrictive policy of working four days a week, with a view of compelling the companies to withdraw the reductions. This is the third reduction of 10 per cent. in the shale miners' wages during the last twelve months.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.—Mr. A. J. Hunter reports that the state of the Coal Trade in Ayrshire has been unsatisfactory. Little more than half time has been worked for several months over the greater portion of the county, and reductions have brought down wages. (See Changes in Wages Table.) In Lanarkshire the miners have only worked 3½ days a week on an average for quite four months, and a fortnight ago a general reduction of 6d. per day was enforced by the employers. The miners, having adopted the four days a week system of restriction since the last general reduction was enforced, are now agitating to have the amount of the reduction restored. The collieries in the western part of Stirlingshire have had regular work for the past three weeks since the resumption of work, after a fortnight's stoppage, in resistance of a reduction of 6d. a day. In the eastern part of the county work has been slack, partly owing to the doubts entertained as to the course the miners might take on the wage question. Reductions have been made of from 4d. to 6d. per day at several collieries. In the Iron and Steel Trades the smelters consider that trade has never been so bad before. They do not anticipate further reductions, and the question of a sliding scale has been discussed in a friendly conference with the employers. The Millmen, Iron Shipbuilders, Boiler-makers, Engineers, Iron Moulders, Blacksmiths and Tin-plate Workers, all give unfavourable reports, but the Pattern-makers in the Clyde district have been well employed for the last three months, and have only about 3 per cent. of their men idle. The position of the Building Trades is still good. The Sett-makers report that the Paving Trade has not been so busy for years; work is plentiful in the quarries, in the West of Scotland, and all over the country (granite districts included) trade is unusually active. The Societies connected with the Textile Trades in Bridgeton, Glasgow, the Sewing-Machine and Cycle Makers and the Boot and Shoe Riveters report a slight improvement. In the latter trade a strike affecting upwards of 200 workers began on the 7th April at Kilmarnock, and there seems to be no prospect of a settlement; many have gone elsewhere for work, but there are still about 70 members on the strike roll. A strike is proceeding at a colliery at Bannockburn over a proposal of the management to change the method of working one of the seams. In Glasgow about 300 carters struck work in March to obtain an advance on the ordinary day wage for Sunday work; the strike lasted six weeks, but was unsuccessful: they were obliged to give in for want of funds. Some of them are still idle, but are being taken on again as required, many of them having to leave the union as a condition of their re-engagement. A conference with the employers on the Sunday question will shortly be held.

Dundee and District.—Mr. R. D. B. Ritchie reports that there has been but little change in the state of trade in this district since April. There are considerable numbers of Textile Workers unemployed, chiefly owing to stoppage of machinery in some smaller towns. The Building Trades continue busy, but the Iron and Shipbuilding Trades do not yet show much improvement. Shipping is somewhat improved, and the standard of wages is being fairly well maintained. Printing is "quiet." Tailors are fairly well employed, and the same may be said of Dressmakers, Milliners and kindred Trades. After a strike lasting ten days, the Operative Plumbers have obtained an increase of ½d. per hour on their wages. As already reported, nearly 25,000 workers in jute mills and factories struck work on May 1st against a reduction in wages, work being resumed on the 6th at the old rate. The reports of the state of trade in the Fifeshire Mining Districts are not encouraging, but no definite steps have yet been taken in regard to the proposed adoption of short time.

Aberdeen and District.—Mr. W. Johnston reports that the Building Trade is exceptionally busy, and there is every probability of its continuing so for some time, as some large jobs are in contemplation; no members are out of work. Shipbuilding continues in a very depressed state, and a number of Iron Shipbuilders, Ship-

wrights and Moulders are idle at the present time. Employment has been slack in these trades for the past 12 months, and the prospect does not seem to improve. The Printing Trade is very dull, and will probably continue so for another two months. The Cabinet-makers are asking for an advance in wages, and are endeavouring to establish a code of bye-laws relating to their wages, hours of labour, &c. The Granite Stonemasons, of whom there are about 900, have been asking for an advance in wages; a settlement will in all probability be effected by arbitration. In other industries trade is in a fairly prosperous condition. Unskilled labourers, however, have in many cases great difficulty in finding work. In the rural districts, on account of the genial Spring, agricultural work is well forward, and many Farm Servants have had to accept reduced wages, or take the chance of finding employment in the city as General Labourers.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.—Mr. J. P. Nannetti reports that the Building and allied Trades are active, as well as the Clothing, Baking, and Bottle-making Industries. The members of the Typographical, Lithographic, and Bookbinders' Societies are fairly well employed, and a new Paper Factory was opened at Drimnagh in the middle of the month. An improvement has set in amongst the Seamen and Firemen and the Unskilled Labourers. The Boot and Shoe Trade is slack. The Iron, Engineering, Furnishing, and Cabinet-making Trades are depressed, and in the smaller industries work is described as "bad." During the month two strikes occurred. Full particulars appear elsewhere. The number of men concerned was not large. The United Labourers' Union opened a new branch during the month at Blackrock. The lock-out of the Bakers in Navan, which took place in April, still continues.

Belfast and District.—Mr. R. Sheldon reports the continuance of a very fair state of employment throughout the month just closed, there being very little change in any of the industries in the district. The Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades are still exceptionally busy, and the Building Trades are fully employed. The Furnishing Trades have shown considerable improvement during the month, and the Linen Industries may be said to be in a very fair condition, though one or two sections, viz., Hackle and Gill Makers, and Flax Roughers, report their trade as being very quiet. Particulars have been obtained from 41 trade societies with a membership of 17,208, of whom 646, or 3.8 per cent., were unemployed at the end of the month. The Textile Trades showed 312 unemployed out of 3,053 members, or 10.2 per cent.; the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades had 206 unemployed out of 8,153, or 2.5 per cent.; and the Building Trades 36 out of 2,371, or 1.5 per cent. There has been no dispute of any moment during May. The strike at the Newry Foundry Company's Works was settled on May 10th, the workers returning to work under the old conditions. The Riveters (330) employed in a Belfast Shipbuilding Yard came out on strike against the introduction of a new system of furnishing to the employers a list of particulars of work done by the piece, but after being out for four days they resumed work under protest. The Carpenters and Joiners, Cabinet-makers, Sawyers and Wood-working Machinists employed in the shipyards secured an increase of ½d. per hour or 1s. 1½d. per week, taking effect on May 19th 1893. The Packing Case-makers were successful in reducing their working hours from 57 to 54 per week.

Cork and District.—Mr. P. O'Shea reports that at Cork great depression exists in the Engineering, Boiler-making and Moulding Trades. The Typographical and Boot-making Trades are in a very fair state. Business in the Coal Trade is very dull; a considerable proportion of the quay labourers and coal porters are idle. Trade was dull in Limerick in the earlier part of the year, but has improved during the last month, particularly the Building Trade. The Engineering Trade is, however, not very brisk, although there are not many engineers idle. The continued fine weather has had a good effect on the demand for Agricultural workers. A number of strikes have occurred during the month, full particulars of which will be found in another column.

FOREIGN TRADE.

The imports for May 1893 were £36,836,951, against £35,035,738 for May 1892, an increase of £1,801,213. The exports of British and Irish produce were £17,822,460 in May 1893, against £17,783,969 for May 1892, an increase of £38,491.

For the first five months of the year 1893 the imports were £165,851,927, or £14,163,467 less than for the same period in 1892; and the exports of British and Irish produce for the same period were £88,992,669, or £4,798,015 less than for 1892.

THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE Twenty-fifth Annual Congress of the Co-operative Union was held in Bristol on May 22nd, and two following days. The Co-operative Union is a federation of 852 co-operative societies, of which 286 sent 645 delegates to the Bristol Congress, compared with 758 delegates from 346 societies at the Rochdale Congress last year.

Mr. G. Hawkins, of the Oxford Co-operative Society and Chairman of the Oxford Trades Council, was President for the first day; Mr. J. Clay, of Gloucester, and Mr. W. H. Brown, of Newport, presiding on the two following days respectively.

The subject which attracted the most attention at the Congress was the treatment by co-operative societies of their employés, both as regards hours of work and share of management and profits. In a paper read by the Chairman of the Scottish Wholesale Society, a table was given shewing that there are 163 societies in which the employés work as much as from 70 to 85 hours a week, though in the discussion it appeared that these hours included meal times, and the opinion was expressed that on the whole the hours worked in co-operative stores were considerably less than in retail shops. Eventually the following resolution was adopted:—

That in the opinion of this Congress the long hours of labour and the small remuneration paid to employés in a large number of co-operative stores is discreditable to the movement, and opposed to the principles and aims of co-operation; and that the Central Board are requested to take immediate action with a view of bringing the subject prominently before the different sections of the Union.

Greater differences of opinion were brought out by a resolution affirming the principle of the "co-partnership of labour," and commenting upon the action of the "wholesale" societies as regards production. Eventually the following amendment, deleting the reference to the wholesale societies, was adopted:—

That we re-affirm the principle of co-partnership of labour as an essential of industrial co-operation, and as the best mode to adopt to create a greater interest by the employés of the movement in its work and advancement; and that we hereby earnestly urge upon all federal bodies to adopt a measure that shall be generous towards their employés.

The question of overlapping and competition for trade, both among productive and distributive societies, was raised in a paper read at the Congress, and also on the report of the productive committee of the Co-operative Union. This committee reported that, owing to the too rapid formation of societies in certain industries, an unhealthy competition for the trade of the stores had been created, and that the committee had come to the conclusion that it would be wise to exercise a veto upon the formation of new societies in these trades, and to withhold permission to use the copyright model rules prepared by the Union, except where its approval has been obtained. A scheme for the federation of the productive societies had been prepared, but the committee had failed to secure its adoption, owing to the difficulty of uniting the conflicting interests of the various societies.

The Congress adopted a scheme for affixing a label or other mark to all goods produced under trade union conditions of labour, which had been prepared by the Parliamentary Committees of the Co-operative Union and of the Trade Union Congress.

A plan for reconstituting a joint committee of trade unionists and co-operators for the settlement of disputes, also approved by the Parliamentary Committees of both bodies, was submitted to Congress, and adopted. The plan provides for the formation of a joint committee representing both parties, with power to offer its services as arbitrator in all cases of dispute between co-operative societies and their employés. Where its services are declined, the committee may inquire into the dispute and report the result to both parties, and also to the Co-operative and Trade Union Congresses.

An exhibition of the products of the various co-operative productive societies was held during the Congress.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN MAY.

THE following Table is based on information obtained from Local Correspondents and from Newspapers and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by the principal Employers' Associations.

Table with columns for Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople affected, and Particulars of Increase/Decrease. It is divided into sections for 'INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES', 'DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES', and 'INCREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR'.

NOTE.—Further particulars of changes in wages were received too late for insertion.

* Marine Engine-building Shops. † Shipbuilding Yards.

THE RECENT SHIPPING DISPUTE AT HULL.

IN the last number of the GAZETTE an account was given of the causes and early stages of the late dispute in the Shipping Trade at Hull, which began on April 4th. In spite of repeated attempts at negotiation, the dispute lasted nearly seven weeks before a settlement could be effected, the men resuming work on Tuesday, May 23rd. The full terms of settlement were as follows:—

AN AGREEMENT made the 19th day of May 1893, Between ARTHUR WILSON, Chairman of the Hull Employers' Committee, of the one part, and BENJAMIN TILLET, on behalf of himself and the other leaders of the men now on strike in Hull, of the other part.

WHEREAS certain Union men are and for some time past have been on strike in Hull.

AND WHEREAS a Meeting of The Shipping Federation of the United Kingdom was recently held at York, when the following terms and conditions were offered by such Federation:—

- 1. Unionists to agree to work with non-unionists. Employers will engage any suitable men who are ready and willing to work in harmony with other men, whether belonging to a union or not.
2. No objection to be raised to the foremen and shipping clerks severing their connection with the Dockers' Union, provided they are allowed the right to an organisation of their own choice, if they think fit.
3. The British Labour Exchange in Hull to be kept open, the employers insisting on entire freedom of contract in employing such men as they deem suitable.

AND WHEREAS the Hull Employers' Committee subsequently sent a letter to the Worshipful the Mayor of Hull, of which the following is a copy:—

HULL, 13th May 1893.

To the Worshipful the MAYOR OF HULL.

SIR, We having been informed that the men and their representatives are willing to accept the following three conditions, viz.:

- 1. Unionists to agree to work with non-unionists. Employers will engage any suitable men who are ready and willing to work in harmony with other men, whether belonging to a union or not.
2. No objection to be raised to the Foremen and Shipping Clerks severing their connection with the Dockers' Union, provided they are allowed the right to an organisation of their own choice, if they think fit.
3. The British Labour Exchange in Hull to be kept open, the Employers insisting on entire freedom of contract in employing such men as they deem suitable.

But the men and their representatives having asked for an explanation as to meaning or intention of Clause 3, we hereby explain that neither registration at the British Labour Exchange nor membership of any union shall, in itself, carry with it either preference or prejudice in regard to employment.

Certain local details have still to be arranged, and it must be understood that the employers intend to employ union men with registered men.

Yours truly, (Signed) ARTHUR WILSON, Chairman of the Employers' Committee

AND WHEREAS on the receipt of such letter the representatives of the men agreed to the said York conditions, and the following letter was sent by the said Benjamin Tillet to the Mayor.

55 CHARLOTTE STREET, HULL, May 16th 1893.

To The Worshipful the MAYOR OF HULL.

SIR, In reply to your letter of to-day's date, I beg to state that my committee on behalf of the men agree to the three conditions stated in Mr. Wilson's letter of the 13th inst., together with the explanation therein contained. It is understood that a meeting between the employers and the men and their representatives shall be held for the purpose of settling the local terms and conditions as to the resumption of work.

Yours truly, (Signed) BEN. TILLET, Secretary Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Labourers' Union.

AND WHEREAS representatives of the employers and employed met at the Town Hall in Hull yesterday, when the following preliminary announcement was made by the said Arthur Wilson and agreed to:—

- 1. That the Shipping Federation of the United Kingdom is not represented in this conference to settle local details, their functions having terminated when the York conditions were ratified.
2. That the conditions adopted by the local conference to be valid must be in accordance and consistent with the York conditions.
3. Before proceeding to the consideration of the terms formulated, it is to be clearly understood that these terms apply to inshore workers only, including stevedores, lumpers and lightermen.

AND WHEREAS a further meeting has been held this day between the representatives of the employers and employed, when the following local terms and conditions were agreed to, such terms and conditions being altogether independent of and without prejudice to the York terms.

AND IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:—

- 1. The men to return to work as soon as places may be vacant for them.
2. The men and their leaders undertake to use their utmost influence that no man who has been at work during the strike, or who may be subsequently engaged, shall be molested.
3. Employers will dismiss or refuse employment to any man who intimidates or uses threats to non-union or union men.
4. No agents or representatives of the Dockers' or other union to visit ships or other craft, docks or quays, warehouses, mills, timber yards, or other places of employment whilst the men are at work.
5. No external emblem of any description to be worn by any member of a union or British Labour Exchange whilst at work or applying for work.
6. Dock foremen and assistant foremen, gatemen, weighers, bookers, gangsmen, berthing masters and assistant berthing masters, being relatively in the same position as the foremen, stevedores and shipping clerks of the ship-owners, are to sever their connection with the Dockers' Union.

AS WITNESS the hands of the parties hereto.

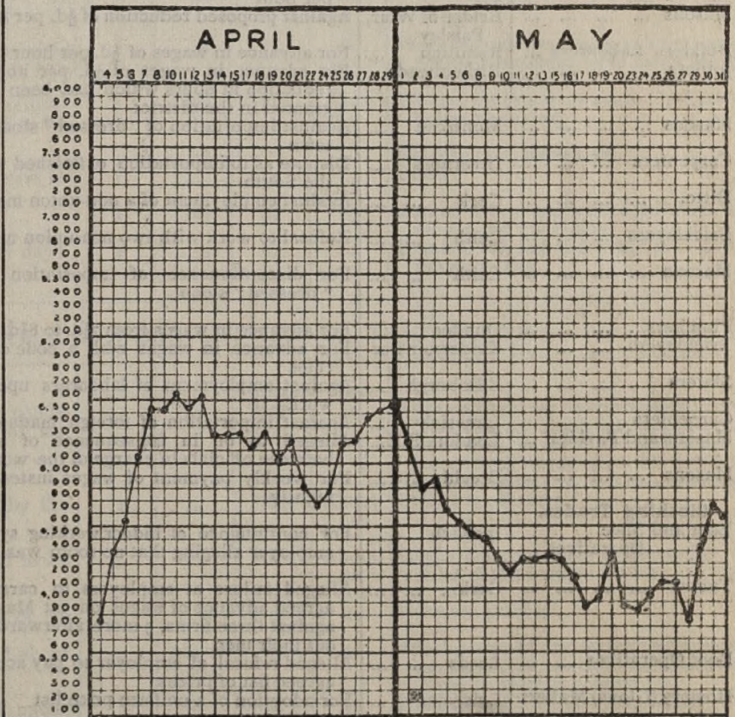
ARTHUR WILSON. BENJN. TILLET.

Countersigned by GEO. HALL, The Mayor.

At the conclusion of the dispute, the free labourers who had been imported left the town. Some particulars of the effects of the dispute on the state of employment in Hull are given in the report from the Local Correspondent for that district. It is at present premature to attempt a general survey of the results of the strike.

DOCK EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

NOTE.—This chart is constructed in continuation of the charts prepared by Mr. Charles Booth for the Royal Commission on Labour, from figures supplied by the courtesy of the London and India Docks Joint Committee. It shows the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the month. The corresponding diagram for the previous month is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.



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

Table with columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed. It lists daily employment figures for April and May.

(Sundays and Holidays are omitted.)

[During the corresponding period of two months in 1892, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 4,300 (on May 16th) to 6,602 (on April 27th).]

Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during April and May 1893 varied from 3,175 on April 10th, to 1,455 on May 15th. The wool sales ended on May 3rd.

TRADE DISPUTES OF THE MONTH.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1893.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons affected, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result. Includes entries for Building Trades, Bricklayers, Carpenters, etc.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY—(Continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons affected, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result. Includes entries for Coal Miners, Dock Labourers, Shipbuilding, etc.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons affected, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result. Includes entries for Building Trades, Chain Makers, etc.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN PREVIOUS TO MAY, AND WERE STILL IN PROGRESS AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The strikes of wire-drawers at Lindley, deal runners Bristol, quarrymen near Loughborough, shipwrights Blackwall, French polishers Limehouse, miners at Rotherham, near Llanelli, and Burton-on-Trent, patternmakers Sunderland, engineers and tailors Leeds, painters Hartlepool, boot operatives Kilmarnock, chain makers Cradley Heath, and plasterers Blackburn, of which particulars were given in last issue, are still in progress. Strikes of joiners in the Potteries, miners Resolven, twine-spinners Grimsby, quarrymen Midlothian, miners Bristol, and bakers Navan, which began before May, but have only recently been reported, are also in progress. The boilermakers' strike in South Wales, which has lasted since March 1892, has been settled so far as the men in the employ of one large company are concerned.

THE MINERS' INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT BRUSSELS.

The following account of the Miners' Congress has been prepared by Mr. Burt, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade:—

The Fourth Annual International Miners' Congress was held in the Maison du Peuple, Brussels, on Monday May 22nd, and four following days. The hall, which is the property and the headquarters of the Labour Party of Belgium, was placed, free of charge, at the disposal of the representatives of the miners. There were in all 63 delegates present, 38 of whom were from Great Britain, 14 from France, 9 from Belgium, 1 from Germany, and 1 from Austria. Six of the British delegates are members of Parliament, and two of the French representatives are members of the Chamber of Deputies. At the first congress, held in Jolimont, Belgium, in 1890, 109 delegates attended, while in Paris and London the numbers respectively were 99 and 79. It would be a mistake to infer that this falling off in numbers necessarily indicates a decline either in membership of the various unions or in the interest felt by them in the Congress. In Jolimont, for instance, the numbers were swelled by many of the small local miners' unions and co-operative societies having sent delegates to the Congress. As regards the actual members represented, the Brussels Congress would probably head the list.

According to the figures given in, considerably over a million miners were represented. These, however, are the total persons employed in and about the mines of the respective countries. The German delegate claimed to represent 183,000, and the Austrian 100,000 miners. In both these countries union is very feeble, and it was not suggested that any large number of these men are organised. The British delegates represented a union membership of 339,000, the French of 92,000, and the Belgians of 69,000. Here again some deduction would have to be made to find the exact figures. The British delegation took pains to avoid duplicate representation. In the above figures, however, the Durham association, which is connected both with the Miners' Federation and with the National Union, is reckoned twice over. Deducting their 55,000 members, there would still be left a membership of 284,000 for the British miners' unions. As the voting is based on numbers, it is important to understand these details.

The election of the officers, of business committee and tellers, and other preliminaries, were quickly got through, and within the first two hours the Congress had plunged into a discussion on the Eight Hours Question. This was the great subject of controversy, and, in one form or another, it occupied much time. Progress at these congresses is necessarily slow; every speech must be translated twice over. Ultimately, the resolution affirming the principle of a legal eight hours day from bank to bank for underground workmen was carried by an overwhelming majority, the only dissentients being Durham and Northumberland. The numbers (reckoning the total persons employed) were: for, 994,000; against, 100,000.

The next proposition discussed was: "That, if necessary, owing to the various parliaments refusing a legal eight hours day, a universal strike should be resorted to, to obtain the same." This, too, was carried by a large majority. Wales now joined Durham and Northumberland, thus raising the minority to 120,000, as against 974,000 for the resolution. The British delegates were not at all enthusiastic for an universal strike, while the Germans, French and Belgians pressed for it strongly, urging that the date for its commencement should be fixed.

The subject of mining royalties and way-leaves was on the programme for discussion. The British representative sought to elicit information as to the system in force, and the amounts paid on the Continent. Little seemed to be known of royalties, and nothing of way-leaves, by the Continental miners.

A resolution was carried with unanimity, in favour of prohibiting female employment in and about mines.

Belgium was the only country represented in which women are employed underground, some 3,500 women and girls working in the Belgian pits.

A long discussion followed on inspection of mines Resolutions were adopted in favour of increasing the number of inspectors, and of appointing men who are working, or who have worked, in mines. An amendment had been submitted, to the effect that the working miners should elect, and the State should pay, the inspectors. This received the unanimous support of the Continental delegates, but it was defeated by the British. The votes were 424,000 for, and 650,000 against.

The French delegates proposed that no distinction should be made, as regards hours of labour, between workers above or below ground. At the congress in London last year, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain opposed a similar resolution. On this occasion they declined to vote. There voted: for the resolution, 399,000; against, 100,000; neutral, 565,000.

The magnitude of the figures here given calls for a few further words of explanation. At the earlier congresses, voting was always by nationalities—each nation, without respect to the number of persons employed, or to the membership of the unions, counting for one. The Continental delegates strongly supported, and the British as resolutely opposed the continuance of this system. It appeared unfair, almost ridiculous, for Bohemia with a few hundred men in union to carry as much voting power as Great Britain, with two or three hundred thousand. In London last year a constitution was formed in which voting was based on membership of the unions.

For the first time, at Brussels, this new rule was put in force. At the outset, however, a practical difficulty was encountered. According to the constitution, membership of the unions was the principle upon which the voting was to be conducted. The German and the Austrian delegates, however, could only give the total number of persons employed, and for convenience that principle was ultimately accepted, though it manifestly placed the British miners at a disadvantage, since they included a much greater proportion of the unionists represented than of the total persons employed in mining.

WORKING HOURS IN GERMAN BAKERIES.

A REPORT on the working hours of German baking and confectionery establishments has been published by the Imperial Statistical Department at Berlin. Information was collected by schedules, of which 2,932 were issued to employers and 2,777 to employés. Of these, 5,347 were duly filled up, giving information about over 13,000 persons engaged in the trades. It appears from the returns that scarcely any women are employed in the actual work of baking, while the women returned as employed in bakers' and confectioners' shops outnumbered the men by nearly 20 to 1.

The usual hours of work in the three classes of establishments dealt with are shewn in the following table:—

Daily Hours, excluding intervals and overtime.	Number of Establishments.		
	Ordinary Bakeries (working at night)	Day Bakeries.	Confectionery Establishments.
10 hours and less ...	1,914	138	61
10 to 12 ...	1,282	85	219
12 to 14 ...	652	38	112
14 to 16 ...	199	9	2
16 and upwards ...	18		
Indefinite ...	43	3	12

It appears that in large towns (of over 100,000 inhabitants) nearly 30 per cent. of bakeries work more than 14 hours a day. The longest hours prevail in North-West Germany, the shortest in the Central districts.

Overtime is customary at certain periods (e.g., before holidays, &c.), in nearly all bakeries, while in 30 per cent. of ordinary bakeries it is regularly worked, on one or two days in each week, commonly for over two hours. There is a tendency, however, to reduce the hours of work on Saturday night and Sunday morning, by extending the hours on Friday night. In a large number of baking and confectionery establishments (no fewer than 46 per cent. of ordinary bakeries), work is carried on throughout the year without a single break of 24 hours, and only in a few districts (e.g., Münster and Düsseldorf) do many establishments cease work for 24 hours on Sunday. The slack period, however, which lasts for a few weeks after Christmas, often gives opportunities for journeymen to visit their homes. Less than 9 per cent. of ordinary bakeries are closed more than 10 days in the year.

REPORT ON CO-OPERATION IN MAY.

THE most important event of the month in the co-operative world has been the holding of the Annual Congress, of which an account is given in another column.

On May 3rd, the Barnsley British Society opened the first block of 26 dwelling-houses which it has built and sold to its members. A deposit of 10 per cent. of the value is paid by the member at the time of purchase, the balance being paid by equal quarterly instalments, spread over 12, 18 or 24 years. The society has also, this month, opened its fortieth branch. The Peterborough Society on May 6th opened a new branch at March (Cambridgeshire).

On May 8th, the English Wholesale Society opened a factory at Manchester for the manufacture of household furniture and shop-fittings, in which 55 workmen are already at work.

The Scottish Wholesale Society's report for the quarter ended April 1st, shows that the total sales amount to £740,997, an increase of 3.7 per cent. over the corresponding period of last year. The profits, including the balance brought forward from last quarter, amount to £25,834, of which £1,030 is allocated as bonus on wages to all the workers at 7d. in the pound, the same proportion as is paid to customers on their purchases. Under the new rules which have come into force during the quarter, permitting the employés to become shareholders in the society, 77 employés have applied for 1,400 £1 shares, upon which £518 has been paid up.

During the past month the Leeds Industrial Co-operative Society

has abolished in its boot and shoe making department at Marshall-street the charges usually made by employers in the trade to boot and shoe finishers for shop rent and gas. This is estimated to be equivalent to about 1s. per week increase of wages.

The Co-operative Union has published a directory containing very full information as to the various societies, stores and branches in the United Kingdom, their employés, the hours of closing the stores, and other matters.

From this directory it appears that out of 1,116 societies making returns, 1,086 give their employés a half-holiday weekly, while the remaining 30 give a whole or half day fortnightly or monthly.

1,288 stores make returns, showing that they directly employ no fewer than 42,043 persons.

434 societies make returns, showing that they have among them 2,091 branch shops, in addition to their central stores.

242 societies have invested £1,038,135 in house and cottage property, which is rented to members, but retained as common property of the society.

160 societies have lent capital amounting to £956,734 to their members, to enable them to build houses and cottages for themselves.

348 societies make regular grants out of profits for educational purposes, the amount so devoted last year being £32,663. Seven others report that they make occasional grants for this purpose.

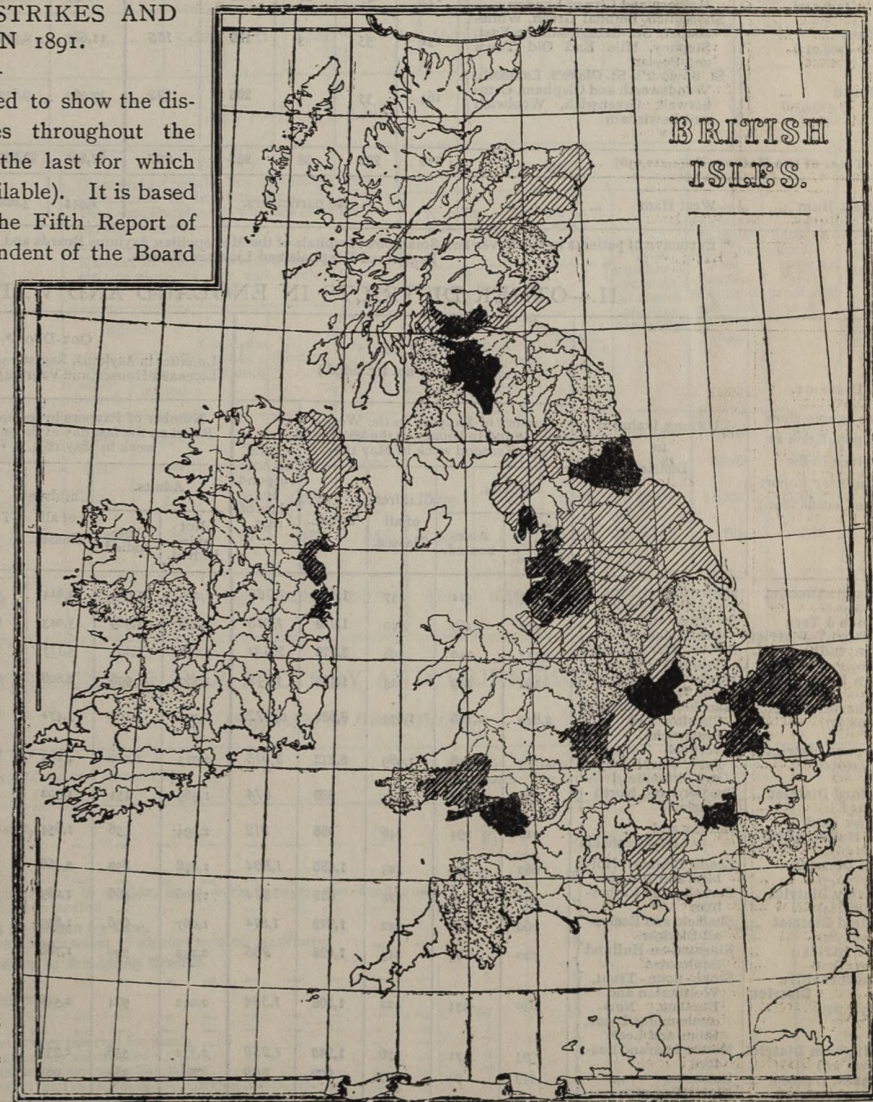
910 societies, having a total membership of 515,591, have made returns showing that 107,168, or 20.78 per cent. of their members are females holding shares in their own names.

DISTRIBUTION OF STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN 1891.

THIS map has been prepared to show the distribution of trade disputes throughout the country for the year 1891 (the last for which complete particulars are available). It is based on statistics published in the Fifth Report of the Chief Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on Strikes and Lock-outs. It has only been possible to include 606 out of the 906 recorded disputes of the year, owing to defective information about the remainder, but the 606 include all the important disputes, and their distribution may be taken as a fair index of the distribution of the whole number.

The total number of working days lost in each county during the year on account of trade disputes has been ascertained by multiplying the number of persons affected by each strike by the number of days over which it extended, and adding the results. The counties are shaded in five degrees, according to the proportion which this total bears to their population on the following scale:—

- Group. I. Under 1 day lost in year per 100 of population: White.
- II. 1 to 5 days " " " Dotted.
- III. 5 to 15 days " " " Thin lines.
- IV. 15 to 30 days " " " Thick lines.
- V. 30 days and upwards " " " Black.



The actual figures on which the map is based may be summarised as follows:—

Group.	Population.	Total days lost.	Number of days lost per 100 of population.
I.	10,937,037	29,099	0.27
II.	6,860,534	186,037	2.71
III.	6,442,782	874,035	13.41
IV.	4,899,164	1,448,436	29.56
V.	8,800,766	4,292,407	48.89
Total for United Kingdom	37,740,283	6,830,874	18

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

By the courtesy of the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office, the Department is able to give particulars of the number of paupers, both indoor and outdoor, in London and the chief industrial districts of the country, on one day in the second week in May 1893, together with the total number for the corresponding date in 1892.

The main (but not the only) consideration kept in view in the grouping of the Poor Law Unions or Parishes has been the character of the staple trades of the districts.

The last column in the table shows the proportion of paupers per 10,000 of population (as given in Census for 1891) who received relief on the one day in the second week of May 1893.

I.—METROPOLITAN.

Table I: METROPOLITAN. Columns include District, Unions included in District, Vagrants (Men, Women, Children, Total), Paupers (In-door, Out-door, Total), Total in corresponding week of 1892, Rate per 10,000 of Population on last day of second week of May 1893.

* Exclusive of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

II.—OTHER DISTRICTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Table II: OTHER DISTRICTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES. Columns include District, Unions included in District, In-Door (Vagrants not included), Out-Door (Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses, and Vagrants, not included), Total of In-door and Out-door, Total on corresponding date of second week in May 1893, Rate per 10,000 of Population on last day of second week in May 1893.

* It should be noted that when Medical Relief is obtained by a husband or father for his wife or child, he himself is counted as receiving relief as well as the person for whom it is actually obtained.

† Exceptional distress among iron and steel workers, resulting from the Durham miners' strike in 1892.

PAUPERISM IN MAY—(Continued).

III.—SCOTLAND.

Table III: SCOTLAND. Columns include District, Parishes included in District, In-Door (Lunatics and Vagrants not included), Out-Door (Lunatics and Vagrants not included), Total of In-door and Out-door, Total on corresponding date of 1892, Number of In-door and Out-door Paupers on 14th May 1893, per 10,000 of population.

IV.—IRELAND.

Table IV: IRELAND. Columns include District, Unions, In-Door (Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, etc., who are classified as not able-bodied), Out-Door, Total number of In-door and Out-door Paupers at close of second week in May 1893, Total on corresponding day in preceding year, Number of In-door and Out-door Paupers at close of second week in May 1893 per 10,000 of population.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN MAY.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table V: PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN MAY. Columns include Particulars of Offences, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Cases Withdrawn, Cases Dismissed, Total amount of Penalties.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD SOLD BY CERTAIN WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

THE Retail Prices of articles of food given in the following table are published as an experiment, and with a view to criticism and extension. They are based on returns for April supplied to the Department by various workmen's co-operative societies. The present table is thus very partial and incomplete; it is hoped in future to extend widely the number of societies making returns, until the table becomes fairly representative of Retail Prices charged by workmen's co-operative societies throughout the Country.

Tables of comparative Retail Prices may be compiled on two different principles. They may aim either at comparing the current prices charged at different times or places for precisely similar articles, or at giving the true average price at each time or place of certain articles (regardless of variations of quality). The first method is only applicable to articles of definite standard quality, and it is then misleading, since it is impossible to strike an average of mere price list quotations. The second method (which is adopted below) is more useful in throwing light on the cost of living, being based on records of actual transactions. In using its results, however, some caution is needed. It should be remembered that while the prices given represent the real average prices paid by members of each co-operative society for such qualities of each article as they are accustomed to purchase from the society, the qualities of various articles sold by different societies are not necessarily identical, while the result may be partially affected by the different practice of the societies in regard to the percentage returned to the members. The rate of dividend is therefore shown in the first column.

Table with columns for Town, Dividend per £ paid, and various food items like Flour, Bread, Fresh Meat, Bacon, Sugar, Tea, Butter, Margarine, Cheese, Milk, Potatoes, Jams and Marmalades.

CO-OPERATION IN 1892.

Statement showing Membership, Capital, Trade and Profits of Workmen's Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom for the year ending December 31st 1892. Based mainly upon returns collected by the Co-operative Union.

Table with columns for Description of Societies, Number of Societies, Members, Capital, Cash received for Sales, Gross Profits, Trade Charges, Net Profits after allowing interest on Capital, and Percentage of Net Profit on Capital.

(a) A few societies do not include "Interest" as a "Trade Charge," but pay it out of "Net Profits"; the number is not, however, sufficient to appreciably affect the percentages in this table.

(b) These societies are associations of consumers for the supply of their own wants. While the main part of the business carried on by the societies is distributive (through retail stores managed by committees elected by the members), many of these stores have productive departments attached to them (e.g., for baking, shoemaking, tailoring, farming, &c.). The twelve existing "Supply Associations," not being workmen's societies, are omitted from this table.

(c) These are societies for production managed by committees elected by the shareholders, who are sometimes workers in the employ of the societies, sometimes outside individuals, sometimes delegates from distributive societies which have invested capital in the societies. It is the number of these shareholders, not the number of workers employed, which is shown in the third column (Number of Members).

(d) These societies are federations of co-operative societies, and the members shown in the third column are exclusively societies, not individuals. (Since the return was prepared the Scottish Wholesale Society has somewhat modified this rule.)

(e) Including £6,655,059 reinvested in other concerns. (f) Including £6,397,613 reinvested in other concerns.

WAGES IN JEWISH TAILORING WORKSHOPS IN EAST LONDON.

THE following account of wages in Jewish tailoring workshops is based on inquiries in East London, made during May by one of the Labour Correspondents of the Department, in continuation of the inquiries in Leeds and Manchester of which the results were published in the May number of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

The workshops of 53 Jewish coat makers were visited, in which the average number employed was about eleven. The system of organization and the class of work seemed to correspond very closely with that prevalent in Manchester. The system of payment was, however, in most cases similar to that adopted most generally in Leeds.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN FIFTY-THREE WORKSHOPS IN EAST LONDON.

Table with columns for Class, Machinists, Pressers, Tailors, Button-holers, Fellers & Finishers, Errand Boys & Girls, Men & Boys, Women & Girls, and Work-shops.

Only 5 machinists were women. Buttonholes were in some cases given out to be done at home or in one or two workshops used exclusively for machining buttonholes. The rate of payment for buttonholes made by hand averaged 3d. and 4d. a hole, according to the class of work; the rate for machined holes ranged from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per 100 holes, the only work thus given out being stock work. The women classed as "fellers and finishers" were as a rule more skilled than those in Manchester, and might be more properly designated "tailoresses" or "general hands." There were but few instances of the sub-division between fellers and finishers, which is almost universal in Leeds. The recognised hours of work for men in East London were in most cases 12 hours, exclusive of meal times, i.e., one hour and a-half more than in Leeds and Manchester. In some workshops the hours were longer still, but here the machinists and pressers were paid by the piece, and are not included in the table of wages given below :-

TABLE OF RATES OF WAGES FOR A DAY OF 12 HOURS (MEN), 10 1/2 HOURS (WOMEN).

Table with columns for Occupation, Under 2s., 2s. to 3s., 3s. to 4s., 4s. to 5s., 5s. to 6s., 6s. to 7s., 7s. to 8s., 8s. to 9s., 9s. to 10s., 10s. to 11s., 11s. to 12s., and Average wage per day.

Such evidence as has been obtained tends to show that earnings are somewhat higher where piece work is adopted.

If it be assumed that these average rates hold good for the workshops in which information as to wages was not given, the average rate of wages for men in these Jewish coat shops comes to 6s. 3d. for a day of 12 hours, and for women to 3s. 4d. for a day of 10 1/2 hours; from this must frequently be deducted charges for twist, thread, &c. Comparing the rates of wages of "tailors" in Leeds, Manchester and East London (this being the

only branch of the trade in which rates of wages have been obtained in all three places), we find that in Leeds the rate per hour is about 5 1/2d., in Manchester 6d., and in East London 6 1/2d.

From the table of rates of wages, recognised by the Amalgamated Society of Tailors* (consisting almost exclusively of English tailors), it appears that the nominal rate per hour in Leeds, in 1891, was 5d., in Manchester 6 1/2d., in East London 6d., 6 1/2d., and 7d. It must be remembered that the Jewish "tailors" only do a part of the work which the non-Jewish tailors do throughout.

The season was at its height at the time the East London employers were visited and gave information, and they were exceptionally busy; but if their statements are correct, there are but few Jewish workshops which average 4 days a week throughout the year, and many that have only averaged from 2 to 3 days a week between Christmas and Easter.

LABOUR CASES FOR MAY.

THE following are among the more important legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, and the Mines Regulation Acts are summarised in another part of the GAZETTE.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Westminster County Court, May 1st.—Bricklayer injured in back and head and front teeth knocked out, through strut giving way while working in man-hole of drain. Claim of £30 from contractors. Judgment for defendants.

Cardiff County Court, May 4th.—Labourer injured by fall of steam crane at Barry Dock (leg amputated). £200 claimed from contractor. Defence, that crane man, who was responsible for accident, was not a person in authority. Judgment for defendant.

Cardiff County Court, May 4th.—Carpenter injured by fall owing to giving way of scaffolding. Claim for £300 against contractor. Defence, contributory negligence. Compensation awarded, £75.

City of London Court, May 10th.—Night watchman at dry dock killed by fall into dock. Claim by widow for £175 against dock owners. Defence, that watchman was not a workman within the meaning of the Act. Non-suited.

Keighley County Court, May 10th.—Navy injured by overturning of truck (leg broken). Claim for £100 from contractors. Defence, that plaintiff had made no complaint, except to his "mate," of the defects of the metals, and also that the excavation had been sublet, and that defendants were not plaintiff's employers. Non-suited.

St. Austell County Court, May 15th.—Sawyer killed by blow from wood caught and carried round by circular saw. Claim by widow for £264 against employers. Verdict for defendants.

Paisley Sheriff Court, May 16th.—Man injured in hand while working piling machine. Claim for £156 under Employers' Liability Act, or £200 at Common Law. Compensation, £25, with expenses.

Lambeth County Court, May 16th.—Bricklayer injured in ankle and leg by falling of stone when being hoisted. Claim of £40 from contractors. Judgment for defendants.

Manchester County Court, May 17th.—Engine-driver on passenger train killed by collision with post while leaning over side of engine. Claim for £330 by widow from company. Defence, contributory negligence on part of plaintiff. Judgment for defendants.

Leeds County Court.—Joiner's labourer, aged 17, arm caught in machinery and had to be amputated. Defence, that plaintiff was only a boy earning 4s. a week, and not a labourer within meaning of Employers' Liability Act. Compensation, £58 10s. and costs.

Bury County Court, May 15th.—Lad in employ of printers killed by explosion of cask of "softening," alleged to be due to use of a cask which had formerly contained petroleum. Claim by father for £117. Held that negligence had not been proved. Verdict for defendants.

City of London Court.—Stevadore's labourer injured by fall of barrels from sling while loading a vessel. On first trial jury disagreed (see GAZETTE for May, p. 16). Verdict for defendants.

City of London Court.—Workman engaged in boring operations injured by fall of piece of iron owing to alleged negligence of foreman. Claim for £200. Defence, that occurrence was pure accident. Verdict for defendants.

Northallerton County Court, May 25th.—Labourer fatally injured by being caught in thrashing machine. Claim by widow for £250 against farmer. Verdict for defendant.

Birkenhead.—Ship scraper, head injured by fall of gangway. Compensation awarded, £50 and costs.

Runcorn.—Labourer on Ship Canal, hand crushed by tip wagons and points. Compensation awarded, £125 and costs.

Appeal Cases.—Queen's Bench Division. Appeal from Leeds County Court. Worker at hand-crane injured owing to neglect of fellow employé in charge of crane to push home a lever. Held by

* Fifth Report on Trade Unions, 1891 (Board of Trade).

County Court judge that defendants were responsible, their foreman not having instructed crane-man that the machine was dangerous unless the lever was pushed home. Appeal dismissed.

Appeal from Clerkenwell County Court. Boy caught by belt of machinery and wounded while mending belt; machinery being in motion and unfenced. This was alleged to be the usual custom. Jury had found for defendants on ground of contributory negligence. New trial ordered on ground of insufficient direction by judge.

Appeal from Clerkenwell County Court. Potman injured while cleaning window. Held by County Court judge that potman is a menial servant, and not within the Act. Confirmed on appeal.

Appeal from Cumberland County Court. Miner killed by ascending cage while putting his head through the fence out into the shaft to signal by shouting. Case had been tried twice. First time jury awarded £150; set aside by judge on ground that jury had not attended to evidence on contributory negligence. Second, verdict for defendants. Appeal on ground of misdirection. New trial ordered.

Lord Campbell's Act.—Liverpool. Claim by widow against Railway Company for compensation for death of husband, crushed between lorry and wagons while crossing rails on the way to crane. Defence, that the right way to the crane was not across the rails. Compensation, £700 (£220 for widow and £480 for children).

(2) TRADE UNION ACTS.

On May 9th a trustee of a branch of the National Association of Builders' Labourers was summoned at the instance of the association under the following circumstance:—It appeared that the members of the branch had resolved to dissolve it and to share among themselves the balance of funds after paying various debts. The trustee in question acted on this resolution, but it appeared from the rules that the funds were vested in the Central Association, and that branches had no power to dissolve themselves and divide the funds. Defendant was ordered to refund the amount (£5 is.), and pay £1 costs.

(3) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

On May 6th, at Castle Eden, 187 coal miners were summoned for breaking their contracts by doing insufficient work. A single case was taken as a test. It was stated that a miner was dismissed on account of the "dirty coals," whereupon the other miners reduced their output, owing, as they alleged, to having to clean the coals. The case was eventually settled out of court, the summonses being withdrawn, and the question of reinstatement of the dismissed miner being referred to arbitration.

On May 18th, at Bradford, a case was decided affecting the notice to be given to carters on terminating their engagement. The rules of the National Vehicular Traffic Workers' Union, to which the complainant (a carter) belonged, provide for a week's notice, and he gave this notice to his employer, who replied by dismissing him on the spot. In the absence of an agreement, the magistrates held that they should be guided by the custom of the trade, i.e., one day's notice, and allowed one day's wages to the plaintiff.

(4) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACTS.

On May 4th the secretary of a lodge of the Kingston Unity of Odd Fellows was fined 50s. and 3 guineas costs for neglecting to send returns to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. He gave notice of appeal.

The widow of a deceased member of the Rose of Glantaff Lodge of Odd Fellows sued the lodge for funeral allowance on account of her husband, who, after getting out of compliance, had been reinstated five weeks before his death. It was contended in defence that funeral allowance was limited to members who had been 14 weeks in compliance, but it was held that reinstatement constituted a waiver, and the claim (£8) was allowed.

In the Queen's Bench Division, on May 13th and 15th, an appeal was heard from a decision of the justices with regard to a claim by a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters for sick pay. It appeared that the rules of the branch provided for the election of an arbitration committee to settle all disputed claims, with right of appeal to the arbitrators of the district, and after that to the final arbitrators provided by the general laws. The claim was made before the arbitration committee, and rejected, and the claimant, instead of appealing, took legal proceedings, alleging that the arbitration committee were interested in the sick fund, and had heard evidence when he was not present, and that their decision was therefore invalid. In defence the jurisdiction of the justices was denied, since provision was made in the rules for appeal. The justices held that there had been no real decision, and dealt with the case, submitting the question of their jurisdiction to the Court of Appeal. It was decided that the award of the committee of arbitrators was invalid, on the ground, not of interest, but of legal misconduct, and that therefore the justices had jurisdiction.

(5) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS.

Board of Trade Prosecution, May 27th.—A person was convicted at Liverpool for unlawfully supplying five seamen, and fined £10 3s. and £1 2s. 6d. costs.—M. S. Act, 1854, s. 147.

On May 5th, at Liverpool, keepers of boarding-house summoned for illegally supplying seamen. Stated that complainants (three seamen), had been engaged by them to go to a ship at Cardiff, but were taken with a number of others, to Hull, where they declined to sign articles. Defence, that men were sent to Hull to get what employment they could find, and not supplied to particular vessels, and that they knew they were going to Hull. Case dismissed. (Notice given of appeal.)

On May 9th, at Cardiff, a marine engineer made a claim for wages and compensation for delay in payment. It was stated that he had joined a ship at Barry, and was told three days later that he would not be allowed to go on board without taking a "Federation ticket" which he refused. He was awarded 11s. 5d. (two days' wages), £2 compensation, and advocate's fee.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

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

I.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of May 1893.

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Amputations, Fractures, Crushes, Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries.

II.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured as above, in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, distinguishing accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents, in May 1893.

Table with columns: Region (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom), Type of Accident, Killed, Injured, Total.

* Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. Reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons during May 1893. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

The only Accidents to be reported are the following:—

- (a) Any accident which causes loss of life to any person employed in the factory or the workshop; and
(b) Any accident which causes bodily injury to a person employed in the factory, and is produced either by machinery moved by steam, water, or other mechanical power, or in the factory or the workshop caused through a vat, pan, or other structure filled with hot liquid or molten metal or other substance, or by explosion, or by escape of gas, steam, or metal, and is of such a nature as to prevent the person injured by it from returning to his work in the factory or workshop, and doing five hours work on any day during the next three days after the occurrence of the accident.

Table with columns: Nature or effect of Injury, Adults (over 18), Young Persons, Children, Total.

MINES.

(The following information has been supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month 311 accidents, causing 69 deaths and injuries to 267 miners, were reported. Of these, 280 miners were killed and injured in England and Wales, 56 in Scotland, and none in Ireland.

Thirty-one convictions have been obtained under the Mines Act, viz., 5 against owners and managers, and 26 against miners.

During the month of May, information was received of the re-opening of 21 and the closing of 10 mines. Eleven of the mines opened or re-opened and all the 10 mines abandoned are collieries; 8 of the collieries opened or reopened and 7 of those abandoned, are in South Wales, Monmouth and the Forest of Dean.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

Table showing the number of persons reported during the month of May 1893, as killed or injured in or about mines.

Table with columns: Cause of Accident, Region (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland), Total, Killed, Injured.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE MINES ACTS IN MAY.

Table with columns: Cause of Prosecution, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.

MINES OPENED IN MAY.

The following 21 mines have been reported during the month of May as having been opened or re-opened:—

- Carmuir Colliery, near Larbert, Stirlingshire.
Ferguson Colliery, (Ladya Coal Seam, No. 26 Pit), Ayrshire.
Brownlee Colliery (Brockwell Seam), Durham.
Cudhill Mine (Iron), near Leeds.
Worrall Mine (Fire Clay), near Sheffield.
Firth Fields Mine, near Bradford.
Bull Close Colliery, Dronfield, Derbyshire.
Wheeldon Mill (Clay) Mine, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
Gwernaffield (Sand) Mine, near Mold, Flintshire.
Diphwys Casson (Slate) Mine, Festiniog.
Redmoor (Metalliferous) Mine.
Kelly Bray " " } Callington, Cornwall.
Holmbush " "
Hopewell Engine Colliery, Forest of Dean.
Broming Hill Colliery, Berry Hill, Forest of Dean.
Wimberry Colliery (Hopewell Seam), Forest of Dean.
Old White Rose Level Colliery, Monmouthshire.
Dinas Mine (Gannister), Glyn Neath, Glam.
Gower Colliery, Duntarf, Glam.
Drim Unisedwyn Colliery, Onllwyn, Brecon.
Llywdu Graigola Colliery, Glais, Glam.

MINES ABANDONED IN MAY.

The following 10 collieries have been reported during the month of May as having been abandoned:—

- Gateside Colliery (Upper Coal Seam), Cambuslang.
Coxlodge Colliery (Low Main Seam), Newcastle-on-Tyne.
California Colliery (Buff Coal Seam), near Bristol.
Dan's Drift Colliery, Whitecroft, Forest of Dean.
Derlwyn Colliery, Monmouth.
Dinas Colliery, Rhondda Valley.
Red Ash Colliery, Llantwit Vardre, Glam.
Cwmneol Colliery, near Aberdare.
Elba Colliery, Gowerton, Glam.
Bryncoch Colliery, Taff's Well, Cardiff.

LABOUR ABROAD.

The paragraphs in large type are summaries of reports received through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Offices abroad. Except where otherwise stated, the small print paragraphs have been compiled from information in the Foreign Press.

FRANCE.

Sir Joseph Crowe, H. M. Commercial Attaché at Paris, in a despatch dated June 3rd, transmits statistical information supplied for the use of the Labour Department by the French Office du Travail, with regard to trade disputes in France in April 1893. Some of the trade disputes therein referred to have already been noticed in the GAZETTE, but as the present information is complete, and as similar reports will henceforth be forthcoming for each month, it is thought desirable to give a summary of it in the present number. It appears that during April 80 new strikes were recorded, while 16 which had begun before the first day of April continued during part or all of the month. In 47 of the 80 fresh strikes, for which full particulars are supplied, 15,388 workpeople were engaged. In 23 cases fewer than 100 strikers were involved in each dispute. The Textile Trades account for 29 of the disputes, including 8 of spinners and 15 of weavers. Twenty of these disputes affected no fewer than 9,771 persons, 5,000 of whom are accounted for by a single strike of weavers at Flixecourt (Somme), to protest against a new tariff and the dismissal of an employé. The next largest dispute in the Textile Trades in point of numbers was a strike of 1,500 dyers and finishers at Amiens, for an increase of wages, which ended after 3 days in a compromise. Another important strike was that of 800 weavers at Houplines on account of inferior materials, and to secure higher wages, and the dismissal of a foreman. It was settled on May 3rd in favour of the workers, but was resumed next day on account of the alleged failure of the employer to keep his promise.

Next to the Textile Trades come the Building Trades, which show 15 fresh strikes, of which 11 affected 2,818 operatives. Of these disputes, 5 were among masons or stonecutters, 3 among painters and plasterers, and 5 among navvies. The most important strike was that of 1,500 painters and plasterers at Lyons, for the adoption of a new tariff. The only other dispute of importance was one of 420 building operatives of various classes at La Rochelle for a rise of wages, by which a slight increase was obtained after a fortnight's contest. The Clothing Trades show only 3 strikes, of which the largest was the strike of 1,000 shoemakers at Amiens. There were 5 strikes of miners, of which 4 affected 771 men. The most important were the strike of 300 miners at Ludre and Chaligny, to obtain the dismissal of an Italian workman, and of 270 miners at St. Etienne owing to the transfer of a manager. Both strikes ended in a compromise. The only other important dispute recorded was a successful strike of employés at a factory of military equipment at Bordeaux for the dismissal of a foreman, in which 525 persons were engaged, and which lasted three weeks.

GERMANY.

Mr. Helyar, H. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Munich, under date May 26th, has transmitted a summary of the reports of the Württemberg Factory Inspectors for 1892, from which it appears that the year was one of industrial depression in the Cotton, Worsted, Silk and Woollen Trades, as well as in the Leather, Glass, Boot and Shoe and Paper Industries. The harvest was a fair one, but the prices of all kinds of grain were low. The Building Trades were tolerably active, chiefly with private dwellings and Government buildings—few new factories being built. Fair activity existed in saw-mills and in parquetry and machinery factories. The large chemical works were but little affected by passing troubles. Everywhere the complaint was made that the smaller works were being gradually strangled by the pressure of competition, and of the large factories. Visits were made to 2,254 out of a total of 3,281 factories, employing in all over 80,000

workpeople. Little or no increase in the number of workers took place during the year; 10,430 boys and girls from 14 to 16 were employed, and 227 boys and girls of 12 to 14. The latter class has greatly decreased of late years. The principal breaches of rules and legal regulations were found to consist in the employment of boys and girls over regulation hours (137 cases), and errors and irregularities in the official lists and book entries of workpeople. 31 persons were killed, and 81 severely wounded from accidents of various kinds. Attention is being devoted to the diminution of dust, with all its injurious effects, and the use of water-pans throughout factories and the laying of dust by steam are being largely introduced. Attempts are being made to improve the position and well-being of the work-people by establishing workmen's kitchens, canteens, lodging-houses with cheap tariffs, baths and wash-houses.

Strikes.—The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* reports a strike in the Berlin Felt Shoe Trade, which originated in the dismissal of 7 workpeople for celebrating May Day. The movement has extended to several factories, the demands of the strikers being for 15 per cent. increase of wages and the reinstatement of those who were dismissed. Fourteen of the employers are reported to have acceded to these demands. The contest is being continued, and the number of strikers is said to be about 500. The textile workers of Berlin propose striking for increased wages, as business promises to be very good. The coopers in the petroleum dépôt have struck because their demand for 27s. a week has been refused. Other disputes reported from Berlin during May are those at a glove factory, owing to a reduction of wages, and at a walking-stick factory, also on a question of wages. The Berlin masons have resolved to demand a minimum wage of 6½d. per hour, and to enforce their demand if necessary by a strike.

About 180 men engaged in deepening the petroleum docks at Hamburg have refused to continue work, owing to a proposal to lengthen the working day without a corresponding increase of wages. A number of journeymen carpenters at Bremen have struck in consequence of the proposed re-arrangement of the time for beginning and leaving off work. A dispute, which has been going on in the town, regarding the working hours of builders, has concluded in favour of the workmen. Strikes reported from Prussia during May were those of the riveters in a Stettin factory, the result of which was unfavourable to the workpeople; of the carpenters in Oderburg, province Brandenburg, against a reduction of wages and an increase of working hours; of the workers in a tobacco and cigar factory in Jersitz, near Posen, against a reduction of wages; and in a factory in Markirch, province Alsace, owing to the dismissal of a workman.

The "strap turners" of Barmen, in the Rhine district, went on strike on May 8th, demanding a 15 per cent. increase of wages, a 10-hour working day, and the abolition of overtime, piece work and premiums. On the 15th they numbered 900. The strike still continues. Owing to a reduction of piece-work wages, a strike took place in a cycle works in Cologne.

A strike in the brushmaking industry at Zittau, in Saxony, has been avoided by the granting of an increase in wages amounting to 10 to 15 per cent.

The men engaged in the earth works of the Braunschweig-Meine Railway have struck for increased pay; they were being paid at the rate of 2s. 6d. a day. A strike is reported in a brewery in Flensburg.

Labour Registries.—The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* publishes statistics showing the results achieved during 1892 by the labour registry at Stuttgart. During that year there were 6,539 applications from employers, and 8,443 from workers. At the end of the year, 66 of the employers' applications remained to be dealt with. Since its establishment in 1865, it has dealt with 479,450 applications, and obtained work abroad for 14,107 persons. Unlike the Berlin labour registry, the bulk of the applications refer to skilled labour. No registry is kept for female labour. The *Handels Museum* reports that 11,672 persons applied to the Berlin labour registry for work during 1892, the number of vacancies being 7,949, and the number of persons placed 7,552. In the previous year there were 13,459 applicants, 8,011 vacancies, and 7,376 persons placed. The same paper reports that a free registry for "casual" labourers has been open in Hamburg since the beginning of April. It is chiefly used by the Municipal Quay Administration, the Hamburg-American Line, and a few other transport enterprises. During April, work was secured for 3,462 out of 6,953 applicants.

The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* publishes the regulations recently passed by the Federal Council for restricting female and child labour in the German brick and tile industries. Henceforward it

is forbidden to employ women and young persons in the work of obtaining or conveying the raw material, and tending the ovens; and of women in the hand-moulding of bricks, tiles, &c., except those used for roofing. Hours of work and intervals of rest for women and children engaged in this industry are also dealt with.

AUSTRIA.*

Strikes.—According to the most recent information, the Vienna carpenters' strike which was reported in the May number of the GAZETTE, is still in progress. The employers have offered to reduce the working day by half-an-hour, but refused all other demands. The *Arbeiter Zeitung* reports that a large number of the strikers have left the district, many obtaining work elsewhere as day labourers.

All the women (about 300) and a number of men engaged by a firm of cotton bleachers and finishers went on strike on the 3rd of May, demanding a 10-hour working day and an undertaking not to dismiss any of the strike committee within six months. The strike spread to a number of other firms, and was brought to an end on the 18th of May, among the concessions made being the following: a 10-hour working day, work on holidays to be exceptional, not to exceed 5 hours, and to be paid as three quarters of a day; none of the strike committee to be dismissed within six months; overtime to be paid 50 per cent. more than ordinary work, but never less than 10 kreutzer per hour (about 2d.).

The strike of Vienna photographic cabinet-makers, which began on May 6th, still continues. Among their demands are: a minimum rate of wages, a 9-hour working day, and the abolition of piece work. The employers offer to accede to the first of these demands. It is stated that three employers have already given way.

Between 200 and 300 day labourers employed by the Danube Steam Navigation Company in Vienna are reported to have struck for higher wages on the 4th of May. The result is not reported.

A strike also began in a Vienna weaving and dyeing establishment on May 23rd. The strikers number 250, and demand increases in the scale of pay amounting to 25 or 30 per cent. for different classes of piece work, increased time-work wages, and the removal of certain abuses.

Numerous strikes are reported from the provinces. At Brünn, 500 tanners are on strike, demanding 25 per cent. increase of wages, a 10-hour working day, and the abolition of Sunday work. Three other strikes are reported from the same place, one at a soft metal foundry, the cause of which is not stated; another at a worsted spinning establishment where the sorters have resented certain deductions from their wages, and claim a higher scale for piece work; a third in a file-cutting establishment, to secure the dismissal of an employé who had been introduced while work was alleged to be scarce.

On the 23rd May, about 500 masons at Cracow struck for a 10-hour working day.

Strikes are also reported from Prague, where the gilders demand a shorter working day, and from Klagenfurt, in consequence of the alleged punishment of certain employés at a metal works for celebrating May Day.

Invalidity and Mortality in the Austrian Mining and Smelting Industries.—The *Handels Museum* gives a summary of recent statistics compiled in the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, from which it appears that during 1891 there were 1,269 cases of invalidity for every 100,000 men engaged in mining and smelting works in Austria; of these, however, only 94 resulted from accidents sustained during work. The greatest risk of permanent invalidity existed in the salt boiling industry, the proportion being one out of every 23 persons so engaged. Risk of permanent disablement from accident was greatest in the lignite industry, viz.: 1 out of every 500 workers, as compared with 1 out of every 3,620 in the Coal Industry proper.

Of every 100,000 persons engaged in mining and smelting, 1,104 died during 1891. Of these, however, only 194, or 1 out of every 517, died from injuries sustained at work, while the proportion of deaths from all causes was 1 for every 91 workers.

ITALY.

Mr. Raikes, Second Secretary to the British Embassy at Rome, reports that 400 carters engaged in the sulphur trade at Ravanusa went on strike on May 12th, owing to a reduction of their pay from 85 to 50 centimes a load.

With regard to this dispute, Mr. Dupuis, H.M. Consul in Sicily, has also forwarded extracts from the *Giornale*

*The information as to strikes is based mainly on reports in the *Arbeiter Zeitung* and the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.

di Sicilia, dated May 15th, stating that soldiers and carabinieri had arrived at Ravanusa to preserve order, but that no disturbances had occurred. The movement among workmen in Sicily was stated to be spreading, and the situation to be anything but bright. The "fasci dei lavoratori," or workmen's bands, which have sprung up in great numbers in Sicily, have with few exceptions a strongly socialistic programme.

Mr. Reader, H.M. Acting Consul at Genoa, supplies the following particulars with regard to the progress of a co-operative society at San Pier d'Arena, founded in 1864:—

	Members.	Capital. Lire.	Reserve Fund. Lire.
1864	50	...	...
1874	1,000	88,600	...
1890	2,150	279,660	55,000
1892	2,500	349,983	64,000

The sales amounted to 1½ million lire (£60,000) annually. Since 1864, 207,000 lire (£8,280) has been paid to shareholders, and 330,000 lire (£13,320) returned to purchasers.

BELGIUM.

In a despatch dated June 3rd, Sir E. Monson, H. M. Minister at Brussels, forwards a report from H. M. Vice-Consul at Ghent, who states that there has been a further slight decrease in wages in the Belgian coal mining districts, and that the mining population is suffering considerable distress.

In the manufacturing establishments at Verviers, the strikes are extending among the weavers. It is said that the strikers are sanguine of being able to bring about a general strike of all the weavers of Verviers and the neighbourhood before the end of another week. The strike is causing distress among the small tradesmen and shopkeepers, and meetings are being summoned to consider the situation.

The great event of the last month in Belgium in connection with the labour question has been the International Miners' Conference at Brussels, of which a report is given in another column.

Mr. G. H. Hallett, H. M. Vice-Consul at Ghent, reports under date of May 25th, respecting labour questions in the provinces of East and West Flanders and Hainault, as follows:—

There have been no strikes within the Flanders or Hainault provinces since my report of last month.

Work continues in the coal districts of Mons and Charleroi, although complaints are general among the miners of the low wages they receive. This industry is passing through a crisis; prices are low, and sales very sluggish.

The situation among the lucifer-match makers of Grammont remains about the same; some of the works are closed except during three or four days in a fortnight, and the greatest distress prevails.

The strike of the weavers at Roulers is at an end, the workers returning to work on the old conditions. It will be remembered that the strike was in protest against a proposed reduction of 10 per cent. in wages; this proposal has been withdrawn.

The Unemployed in Brussels.—The Belgian paper *Le Peuple* states that the Mayor of Brussels proposes the establishment of a fund for the unemployed, which will be directed by a council of 7 persons, of whom 2 will be employers, 2 will belong to the working classes, and 3 will be communal councillors. It will be supported by the subscriptions of members and employers, by private contributions, and by public subsidy. The workers will contribute 40 centimes a month, which will entitle them to receive at least 1 franc per day when out of employment in the winter, if unmarried, and 1½ francs if married, and having a family.

SWEDEN.

Sir F. R. Plunkett, H. M. Minister at Stockholm, reports under date of May 29th that no labour disputes of general importance have occurred recently in Sweden, though there have been a few partial or local strikes. For instance, during the whole month of May a strike has been going on at Stockholm against 13 master-

shoemakers on a technical point regarding the specification of certain sorts of work.

At the beginning of May a wages strike broke out in the great portland cement factory at Hellekis, near Kinnekulle, but was abandoned after two days. At the same time, 50 men employed at the peat litter factory at Hersebg went out on strike for higher wages. Early in May there was a partial lock-out of working tailors at Eskilstuna. The Masons' Trade Union for all Sweden is likely to interfere in a dispute now going on at Gothenburg. The present wages for masons at that place are 3½ kronor (3s. 10d.) a day, but the men are asking for 40 öre (4½d.) an hour instead.

No changes in legislation or administration with regard to labour have occurred this year, but several have been discussed.

In April last both Chambers passed a resolution asking the Government to prepare a law establishing a system of collecting, editing, and publishing statistics of labour in Sweden at the cost of the State. Herr Beckmann, in bringing forward his resolution, had divided the subject into two heads, as follows:—

The first embraced the number of workmen employed in the different trades, divided according to age, sex, and position; also their pay, system of payment, and hours of labour, the condition of their work places, questions of health, &c., their expenses of living, kind of food, their housing, the price of articles of necessity used by them, employment of workmen's wives outside their own dwellings, workmen's want of employment, strikes, accidents during work, savings clubs, amount of savings in savings banks, co-operative undertakings, institutions for the benefit of workmen, &c. The second part embraced such particulars about the state of the different branches of trade as would enable the Legislature to judge how far measures tending to increase the cost of production might be taken without unduly interfering with the possibility of competing with other markets.

At present the only case in which adults have the duration of their work limited by law is that of workmen in phosphorus match manufactories, where, under the law of 1870, no one may be employed for more than six months at a time. At least two months must elapse, and no bad effects be found, before a workman can be again employed for a further period.

As to the hours of work in Sweden generally, the only information available is from an inquiry made by a Parliamentary committee into another, but cognate, subject in 1891. Incidentally the committee ascertained the hours of work of 133,935 persons (113,659 men and 20,276 women) over 18 years of age, employed in factories, &c. The average hours of work per day (including rest during employment) were as follows:—

	Hours of Labour.	Hours of Rest.	Total.
Workers over 18 years of age (Males ...)	10.7	1.8	12.5
(Females ...)	10.7	1.8	12.5

Saturday, however (on which the hours are almost universally shorter), seems not to have been taken into account in these calculations.

The Criminal Code (chap. vii., art. 3) forbids, in general terms, work on Sundays and holidays between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. Consequently the average of 12½ hours, including rest and mealtimes, only applies to five days in the week.

At the beginning of May, a deficiency of working tailors was felt in Stockholm, arising from the increased emigration to America this Spring.

On May 2nd the Cabinet-Makers' Trade Union decided, in view of the competition of the cabinet-makers in Småland (a central province where furniture is largely made in the cottages), to send representatives to the workmen of that province.

A system has been instituted of payments to workmen for travelling expenses abroad, "in acquiring greater knowledge and practice in their different trades." Those already abroad when the grant is allotted receive £22 each, the rest £28 each. Out of 230 applicants, the Board of Trade recently (May 13th) recommended grants to 43 persons belonging to 32 distinct trades, the total amount payable being £1,146.

SWITZERLAND.

Mr. H. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated May 29th, transmits a report on Labour in Switzerland, prepared by Herr Greulich (*Schweizerischer Arbeiterssekretär*).

Trade Disputes.—An unsuccessful strike has taken place at Berne among the blacksmiths and cartwrights, who claimed a 10-hours' day, with 20 per cent. increase of wages for overtime, a minimum day's wage of 3½ francs (2s. 11d.), and the abolition of the compulsory custom of boarding and lodging with the masters, which still prevails in these trades. The strike, after having lasted about seven weeks, broke down, as the masters succeeded in attracting workmen from abroad. Mediation was tried by the Swiss Trades' Union, to which the strikers belonged, as well as by the Town Council of Berne.

Changes in Hours of Labour and Wages.—The Printers' Association of Berne has now succeeded in securing a 9-hours' working day dating from July 1st next, this being the first instance in Switzerland in which the 9-hours' day has been introduced by an amicable arrangement with the masters. The 9-hours' day is also being introduced in some printing offices in other places.

At Coire (Canton of Grisons) the workers in wood, about 160 in all, have succeeded, after long negotiation with their employers, in securing a 10-hours' day, minimum wages, abolition of overtime, and the introduction of arbitration.

The tailors and shoemakers at Vevey-Montreux (Canton of Vaud), about 60 in number, have also succeeded in obtaining the 10-hours' day.

A change in wages and working hours has also taken place in some of the large industries, e.g., reductions in the Watch and Embroidery Industries, and to some extent reductions both of wages and production have taken place in the Machine Industry.

Workmen's Organizations.—The former Watchmakers' Union having ceased to exist several years ago, there only remained isolated syndicates of special branches of the trade. The depression in the Watch Trade, which has lasted for several years, coupled with the reduction of wages, has induced the workmen again to form a general union, counting now about 4,000 members. It is therefore the most important of all such associations in Switzerland, and forms a branch of the Swiss Trades' Union. There is, however, still much room for growth, the whole Watch Industry having provided employment during its better times for about 30,000 to 35,000 persons.

In the Textile Industry—the most important in Switzerland—there is hardly any organization amongst the workmen. There exist only a few insignificant unions of silk-workers and lace and fringe makers, counting scarcely more than 500 members, while according to the Factory Statistics of 1888 the Cotton Industry alone gives employment to 54,000 and the Silk Industry to 28,000 workers.

In the Embroidery Industry of the Eastern Cantons, in which from 18,000 to 20,000 persons are engaged, workmen's organizations exist, but not of sufficient strength to exercise any perceptible influence on wages or working hours.

In 1887 the Embroidery Union of Eastern Switzerland and Vorarlberg (Austria) was founded at St. Gall. It included all classes engaged in the industry except the workmen proper. The union of the workmen themselves, called "Union of Embroiderers," has never been of great consequence. Now the large Embroidery Union is crumbling to pieces, whilst that of the workmen alone is beginning to flourish. Though its numbers at present scarcely 500 members, the change from house into factory industry, which is gradually taking place in this branch of industry, will probably lead to an increase.

The Swiss Printers' Union decided, at their meeting of delegates on May 20th, to amalgamate the special fund for unemployed and travelling workmen seeking employment with their other funds, the former having caused considerable losses.

Demand for Federal Trades Legislation.—The demand for professional arbitration boards figures on the list of several trades unions. In some cantons bills for this purpose have been laid on the table of the legislative bodies, but everywhere the basis—a "federal trades law"—is wanting. "Conciliation boards" are also generally desired, and are provided for by a Bill applying to the Canton of Zürich. But these cantonal demands have lately given way to a certain extent before the general one for a federal trades law. Whilst "conciliation boards" could only be introduced locally for each canton, the desired federal trades legislation would settle these matters for the whole of Switzerland, and would naturally include conciliation and arbitration board in the cantons. At the last meeting of the Swiss Trades' Union at Bienne (April 2nd and 3rd, 1893) the assembly unanimously approved of the introduction of compulsory trades' unions sanctioned by a federal law.

Insurance for the Unemployed.—The partial want of employment occurring during the winter 1892-3 has induced the workmen to study the question of insurance for the unemployed, and in the cities of Berne, Bâle, St. Gall and Zürich, preliminary steps have been taken to effect such an insurance. The following general principles have been laid down:—

- (1) That the organised unions of the workmen and the municipal authorities should jointly take in hand the organization and administration.
- (2) That assistance should be given as much as possible "in kind" (victuals, clothing, etc.).
- (3) That the persons insured should themselves pay certain contributions in order to remove from them the stigma of taking alms.
- (4) That such contributions should have been paid for some time before assistance can be claimed.

This matter is now under deliberation.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, reports, under date of May 19th, that the waiters' strike, begun in April, was concluded in Philadelphia by a compromise, about the middle of May; in the meantime, however, it has spread to Indiana.

In the Iron and Steel Trades, small strikes have occurred, but none on a large scale. The introduction of improved machinery at Homestead, and the consequent lowering of rates, have given rise to apprehensions that competing firms will have to resort to lower wages.

The most important strike, owing to the numbers involved, has been that of the Ohio miners, which was brought to a close without an increase of wages being granted to them. A joint committee of operators and miners has been appointed to consider the conditions of the industry in various districts, and to report by October.

In Pennsylvania an arbitration law has been passed, providing that each party to a labour dispute shall appoint three arbitrators, and the courts shall appoint three others, making nine, who are to investigate and report to the court. If either side fail to appoint, the court is to nominate arbitrators for them.

In the same State, a rigid enforcement of the Blue Laws, prohibiting all Sunday labour, has given rise to a strong effort to obtain their repeal.

The Eight Hour Law regulating the work of letter carriers came into effect in Philadelphia on May 1st. The Act, as construed by the Supreme Court of the United States, provides that if a man work fewer than eight hours on one day the time he misses cannot be added to his work on any other day, and that any time over eight hours on any day is to be paid for additionally if the work be ordered by the proper official.

The Lake Superior Iron Company have begun work on the eight hours plan, the wages being untouched, as the men promise to do as much in eight hours as formerly in ten.

The Pittsburg Iron and Sheet-Steel Manufacturers are still considering the question of alterations in rates of wages which may be necessitated by the adoption of the new standard plate gauge on July 1st.

At a convention of miners at Monongahela City, the miners of the Monongahela Valley resolved to join the organization of United Mine Workers, the fundamental object of such organization being to form the Monongahela Valley miners in an association, which shall form yearly scales, to be agreed on with the mine operators, and thus obviate strikes and lock-outs over the question of wages in future.

On May 6th, the International Association of Machinists, at its convention at Indianapolis, declined for the present to alter its rules so as to admit negroes, and hence remains ineligible for membership of the Federation of Labour.

Mr. Booker, H.M. Consul-General for New York, reporting under date of May 11th, states that no important labour disputes have begun or closed during the past month in his district.

Col. J. H. Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reporting under date of May 20th, states that no important labour disputes have occurred in his district during the last month. There have been a few small strikes, notably amongst waiters at hotels or restaurants, on account of increase of work, and the higher rates charged, or increased profits of proprietors owing to the influx of visitors to the World's Columbian Exhibition. These strikes have not been of great importance, but a rise in the wages of this class has been general.

No general change in wages or hours of labour has taken place except the above-mentioned rise in the wages of waiters in the city of Chicago, a rise which extends also to the servant class.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—Farm hands, who wish to emigrate to Canada this year, should start as soon as possible. There is very little demand for fresh hands, without capital, after August.

New South Wales.—Work is still bad, especially in Sydney. The Building Trades have been particularly depressed, building of all kinds having been overdone during the last few years. Wages and hands are being reduced in both private and Government establishments. Nearly half the officers in the Government Architects' Department, and some 200 officers, clerks, &c., in the Works Department have been dispensed with. A strike at one of the collieries south of Sydney has been settled by the Council of Arbitration, the miners accepting a reduction of wages. These collieries are barely working half time, and the large collieries at Newcastle in the North have also been depressed. The sentences on the leaders of the late protracted strike at the Broken Hill mines have been reduced. Some 150 draymen employed on the excavations at the new city market site have struck work; they receive 10s. per load, and demand 1s. A government report on the wheat harvest of 1892-3 shows a large increase over that of 1891-2, both in area and in produce per acre.

Victoria.—Work is still very bad at Melbourne. The distress has been aggravated by commercial failures and other causes. Many officers in the Railway and other Government Departments have been dispensed with, and salaries have been reduced from 2½ to 15 per cent. Similar reductions have taken place in private factories and shops. Meetings have been held in Melbourne to protest against the sweating system, which is alleged to exist, especially in the Tailoring and Furniture Trades. Work in the country districts is better. With the object of drawing men away from the over-crowded towns and of providing employment, more land has been thrown open for settlement, and steps have been taken to promote village settlements and the construction of country railways. The Government have also decided to set some 200 of the unemployed to work at splitting timber in the country at reduced wages; at clearing scrub at Dookie at about 18s. to 20s. a week; at clearing the coal lines at Korumburra at 5s. a day; and at draining swamp land with a view to future settlement. Some members of the Government have expressed an opinion that the Government labour bureau has proved a failure by attracting men to Melbourne from the country. A strike of Amalgamated Engineers on the question of wages has taken place in South Melbourne, and strained relations have arisen between miners and their employers at Bendigo, and at the Moe Coalfields.

South Australia.—There has been no such distress in South Australia as exists in New South Wales and Victoria; but the supply of labour is plentiful, and many persons find difficulty in procuring employment.

Queensland.—Large reductions have been made in the Public Service. The damage done by the late floods has caused a temporary increase of work at Brisbane, but there is little employment in the country generally, with the exception of the sugar districts.

Western Australia.—The construction of the Midland Railway has been recommenced, and is providing work for navvies. The Building Trade at Northam has been dull, and work has been retarded at Perth by an outbreak of small-pox.

Tasmania.—A report by the Government Geological Surveyor states that, though the Zeehan and Dundas Silver Mines on the west coast have suffered severely from the general depression of the last two years, and mining operations on many sections have been abandoned, the mines generally have made good progress. Owing to the stoppage of several of the saw mills, there has been a good deal of distress on the Huon, and the Furniture Trade at Hobart is very depressed through Chinese competition.

New Zealand.—The arrivals continue to exceed the departures, and the Colony is in a prosperous condition, but there is no special demand for fresh hands. To meet the wants of any who cannot find work, the Government have set aside blocks of land in country districts. Men out of work will have the offer of clearing these at a fair rate of pay, and settling on them afterwards at a rental of about 4 per cent. of the value of the land. The Government propose appointing a female inspector under the Factory Acts.

Cape Colony.—Tenders have been called for the sewerage works of Cape Town. The Government advertises work for 200 or 300 white men in the construction of a bridge at a minimum wage of 2s. 6d. a day. The Farmers' Congress has passed a resolution in favour of bringing boys from public institutions in England, to be apprenticed to farmers in the country. Business at Kimberley has been bad.

Natal.—The trade of the Colony has been somewhat depressed. No railway construction is being carried on at present, and the Coal Industry has suffered. New Crown Lands regulations have been issued, the main change being that cultivation by purchasers is not now made a condition of occupation. 458 persons were introduced in 1892 by the Land and Immigration Board. A Bill is to be brought in by the Government to enlarge the powers of the Board.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, 1893.*

THIS Report deals with the evidence of the Factory Inspectors on the working of the Factory Act 1891, with special reference to the clauses relating to sanitary inspection of workshops, special rules for dangerous or unhealthy processes of manufacture, registration of workshops, and lists of outworkers. The revised rules now in force in white lead works are given in full, and Mr. Henderson describes the conditions of lead workers in Newcastle and Glasgow, while Mr. Cameron notes the difficulties which obstruct the endeavours to carry out the prescribed rules. Similar rules are now prescribed in paint and colour works and iron plate enamelling works. The special rules for lucifer match factories now require every case of necrosis to be reported to the Factory Inspector; and, amongst other precautions, forbid the employment of any person in the processes of mixing, dipping, or drying, after the extraction of a tooth, without a medical certificate that the jaw is healed, while all persons complaining of toothache or swelling of the jaw are to be examined by a medical man at the expense of the occupier. Suggestions of Factory Inspectors with regard to dust and lead poisoning in potteries are given. The details are given of the prosecutions under the Factory Act, of which there were 2,800, convictions being secured in 2,664 instances, cases being withdrawn on payment of costs in 77 instances, and dismissed in 59.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURER.—The Royal Commission on Labour has issued four parts of the Reports of Assistant Commissioners on the Agricultural Labourer. Notice is reserved until they can be dealt with as a whole.

FACTORY AND MINE REGULATIONS IN FRANCE.

The employment of females and children is regulated by a comprehensive law, promulgated on November 2nd of last year. The special rules, however, relating to males under 18 years employed in mines, and to females and children in establishments offering special dangers to health or morals, were left to be dealt with by special regulations to be framed subsequently, and the following is a summary of two decrees which have been recently issued under those provisions:—

(1) **DECREE REGULATING THE EMPLOYMENT OF LADS IN MINES.**—The *Journal Officiel* of May 6th publishes an ordinance dated May 3rd, regulating the employment of males over 13 and under 18 years of age. Those under 16 years may be employed underground in mines or quarries for not more than eight hours per shift in each 24 hours, those over 16 years for not more than 10 hours per diem, or 54 hours per week, exclusive of the time spent in travelling to and from the pit-top and the working face, or the intervals for rest (which are to be not less than one hour per shift). The classes of work at which lads and boys may be employed underground, and the length of time for which they may be employed, are defined, and exceptional cases provided for.

(2) **FEMALE AND CHILD LABOUR IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.**—A Presidential decree was issued on May 13th, regulating the employment of women, young girls, boys and lads in various branches of industry. The decree, which was published in the *Journal Officiel* of May 14th, may be said to consist of two parts, of which the first deals principally with the employment of women and children in connection with machinery when in motion, or in which the dangerous parts are not duly protected, in glass blowing, and in carrying weights.

The second part of the decree consists of three tables, of which (A) enumerates certain industries, chiefly the manufacture of acids, dyes, chemicals, &c., also manures, and glass, crystal and metal polishing, in which female and child labour are prohibited; (B) those in which children under 18 must not work, chiefly the manufacture of explosives; and (C) a large variety of other industries in which female and child labour are only allowed conditionally. The great majority of these are industries involving special risk through the disengagement of dust-particles or vapours, while a few are ranked as dangerous owing to risk of fire, the contraction of special diseases, &c.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING MAY 1893.

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

I.—THREE TRADE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

(a) Agricultural:—

Warwicksh. Agricul. & Gen. Workers' Union (Leamington).

(b) Metal Trades:—

Hammermen, Helpers & Gen. Labourers' Soc. (London, E.).

(c) Mining:—

St. Helens District Federation of Miners (St. Helens, Lanc.).

II.—ONE TRADE SOCIETY DISSOLVED:—

Billiard Assoc. of Gt. Brit. and Ireland, India and Colonies.

III.—NINE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

(a) Four Distributive Societies:—

1. West Cornforth Industrial Co-operative (Durham).

2. Hayward's Heath and Dist. Indust. Co-op. (Sussex).

3. Marsden Industrial and Provident (South Shields).

4. West London Industrial Co-operative (Fulham).

(b) Five Miscellaneous:—

1. Cosmopolitan Hotel Employés (London, W.).

2. Great Britain Mutual Banking (London, E.C.).

3. Leicester Eagle Builders.

4. Manchester Labour Press.

5. News and Book Co-operative (London, E.C.).

IV.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES:—

1. Twenty-eight New Societies Registered:—

* (a) Ordinary Friendly Societies	...	16	}—28
(b) Working Men's Clubs	...	5	
* (c) Specially Authorised Societies	...	2	
(d) Dividing Societies	...	5	

2. Thirty-nine New Branches of Existing Societies:—

(a) I.U.O. Mechanics, Morpeth Unity	...	13	}—39
(b) I.O. Rechabites	...	10	
(c) A.O. Foresters	...	4	
(d) Free Gardeners	...	4	
† (e) Various	...	8	

* One of the "Specially Authorised Societies"—the International Society of Wood Engravers—appears to be confined to members of that craft, while two of the "Ordinary Friendly Societies"—the Naval Steam Coal Collieries Friendly Society and the Merthyr Vale Colliery Working Men's Sick and Accidental Fund Friendly Society—are also directly connected with labour.

† One of this class appears to be directly connected with labour, viz.: The Newton Heath Branch of the Loco-steam Enginemens' and Firemen's Society.

EMIGRATION IN MAY.

RETURN OF THE NUMBERS, NATIONALITIES, and DESTINATIONS of the PASSENGERS that left the UNITED KINGDOM for PLACES out of EUROPE during the Month ended May 31st 1893, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Nationalities.	United States.	British North America.	Australasia.	Cape of Good Hope and Natal.	All other Places.	Total.	
						1893.	1892.
Month ended May 31st.							
English	10,089	2,707	575	774	504	14,649	11,990
Scotch	2,204	446	87	61	56	2,854	2,733
Irish	8,249	202	53	2	15	8,521	11,217
Total of British origin	20,542	3,355	715	837	575	26,024	25,940
Foreigners	10,972	4,672	6	226	138	16,014	17,368
Nationality not distinguished	...	...	...	...	180	180	763
Total, May 1893	31,514	8,027	721	1,063	893	42,218	...
Total, May 1892	33,821	7,007	1,023	763	857	...	43,471

IMMIGRATION IN MAY.

RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF ALIENS that arrived from the CONTINENT at PORTS* in the UNITED KINGDOM during the Month ended May 31st 1893, compared with the corresponding Period of the previous Year.

(Compiled from the ALIEN LISTS received by the Customs, under Act 6 Will. IV., c. 11, sect. 2.)

	Gothenburg.	Hamburg.	Christiana, Arenal, and Christiansand.	Other Continental Ports.	Total.	
					1893.	1892.
Month ended May 31st.						
Aliens not stated to be en route to America:						
Arrived at London	141	695	43	612	1,491	1,706
" Grimsby	16	163	...	68	247	345
" Hull	49	24	55	314	442	329
" Tyne Ports (Newcastle, North and South Shields)	33	18	235	308	594	501
" Leith	...	58	5	103	166	143
" Other ports	13	92	120	358	583	782
Total	252	1,050	458	1,763	3,523	3,806
Aliens en route to America:						
Arrived at Grimsby	1,309	146	...	2,311	3,766	3,557
" Hartlepool, West	...	5	...	...	5	794
" Hull	3,231	68	1,972	5,145	10,416	12,540
" Leith	...	...	8	1,122	1,130	1,580
" Other ports	2	...	...	315	317	31
Total	4,542	219	1,980	8,893	15,634	18,502
Total of aliens en route and of aliens not stated to be en route to America.						
May 1893	4,794	1,269	2,438	10,656	19,157	...
May 1892	5,636	6,716	2,774	7,182	...	122,308

* The ports from which alien lists are received are Aberdeen, Belfast, Bristol, Dover, Dublin, Folkestone, Glasgow, Goole, Grangemouth, Granton, Greenock, Grimsby, Harwich, Hull, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Liverpool, London, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields, Southampton, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool. The lists received from Dover, Folkestone, Harwich, and Southampton, show only deck passengers and persons who, after landing, proceed by train as third-class passengers.

† In addition, 1,033 aliens, who after landing proceeded by train as third-class passengers, were reported to have arrived at Newhaven in May 1893. Returns were not received from Newhaven in May 1892.

‡ The number of sailors included with the aliens who arrived at ports in the United Kingdom not en route to America in the month of May 1893 was 1,015 and 1,127 in the same month of 1892.

NOTICE.

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