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CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

	PAGE
Summary of the State of Employment in March	97
Special Articles and Reports—	
EMPLOYMENT IN 1895	112
CO-OPERATIVE DOCK LABOUR AT BURNTISLAND	111
THE WORK OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BOARD OF ARBITRATION	112
WAGES AND WORKING HOURS IN FRANCE	113
PRICES OF COAL AND IRON	114
Employment in Special Industries and Districts—	
REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.	
IRON MINING	99
COAL MINING	98
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	100
STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS	100
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	101
SEAMEN	102
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	102
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	103
DISTRICT REPORTS.	
LONDON	103
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	104
Lancashire	104
Yorkshire	106
Midland Counties	106
Eastern Counties	108
South Western Counties	108
WALES	109
SCOTLAND	109
IRELAND	110
Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—	
COLONIES	114
FRANCE	115
GERMANY	115
SWITZERLAND	116
BELGIUM	116
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY	116
NORWAY	117
ITALY	117
UNITED STATES	117
Miscellaneous Reports for March—	
LABOUR CASES	118
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION... ..	124
ARBITRATION, CONCILIATION AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS	113
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	128
FOREIGN TRADE	117
TRADE NOTES	118
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	118
Statistical Tables for March—	
TRADE DISPUTES	122
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	125
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... ..	128
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	121
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	111
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	119
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	120
PAUPERISM	120
Notes and Reviews—	
INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS	111
REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN 1894	124
FACTORY INSPECTORS—NEW APPOINTMENTS AND ADDRESSES	124

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

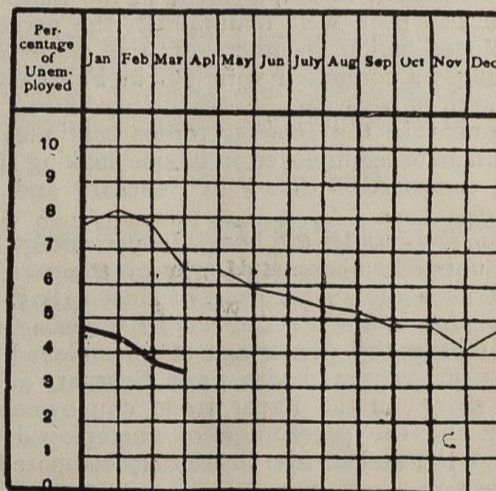
THERE has been an improvement in the general state of employment as compared both with last month and with March, 1895. The improvement affects most of the important branches of industry except mining which shows a very slight decline.

In the 108 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 415,731, making returns, 14,717 (or 3.5 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 3.8 per cent. in February, and with 6.5 per cent. in the 83 unions, with a membership of 387,907, from which returns were received for March, 1895.

The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1895, and of each completed month of 1896.

[The thick line applies to 1896, the thin line to 1895.]



The proportions of unemployed in the 108 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	62	264,753
3 and under 5 per cent.	19	68,379
5 and under 7 per cent.	10	19,698
7 and under 10 per cent.	7	51,388
10 per cent. and upwards	10	11,513

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

There was a slight falling off in employment during March as compared with a month and a year ago. In the second fortnight of the month there was, however, a recovery in the great export districts. The average number of days worked by 1,061 pits, at which 296,661 workpeople were employed, was 4.81 per week in March, as compared with 4.91 in February and 4.93 in March 1895. The proportion of unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham was 2.0 per cent. of the membership at the end of the month, or the same as in February, the corresponding percentage at the end of March 1895 being 3.2.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—GENERAL SUMMARY.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry has fallen off slightly since the previous month, but continues better than a year ago. At the mines included in the returns an average of 5.77 days per week was worked, as compared with 5.85 in February, and 5.59 in March 1895. The total number employed at the mines was 13,317, or about 500 more than a year ago. Of these 68.6 per cent. worked full time.

In the *Pig Iron* industry employment is better than in February, and considerably better than a year ago. At the end of March the ironmasters making returns had 339 furnaces in blast, being 3 more than at the end of February, and 40 more than at the corresponding date last year. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 21,522, an increase of 78 over the previous month, and of 1,559 over March 1895.

Employment in *Steelworks* maintains its improvement as compared with a year ago, the number of workpeople employed in 107 works being 32,193 at the end of March, or 11.5 per cent. more than at the end of March, 1895.

At 85 *Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills*, the number employed at the end of March was 16,767 or 4.3 per cent. more than a year ago.

The *Tinplate Trade* has been much disturbed, and fewer mills are working than in February. The number of mills in operation in the 89 works included in the returns was 286 at the end of March, as compared with 339 at the end of February. Only 40 of the 89 works were giving full employment.

A further improvement has taken place in employment in the *Engineering* and kindred trades, and the percentage of unemployed union members has fallen from 3.4 in February to 2.9 at the end of March, compared with 7.8 per cent. in March 1895.

The improvement in employment in the *Shipbuilding* trades has also been well maintained, the percentage of unemployed union members at the close of the month being 7.2 compared with 7.8 in February, and 12.4 in March of last year.

Employment in the *Building* trades continues good, the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns being 2.6 compared with 2.5 in February and 4.9 in March 1895.

The *Furnishing* trades are busy, the percentage of unemployed union members being only 1.0 compared with 2.6 in February and 4.9 per cent. in March 1895.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades continues steady, the percentage of unemployed members being 4.6, compared with 4.9 in February and also in March 1895. In the *Paper* trade employment has fallen off, and the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of March was 4.7 compared with 2.8 in February.

In the *Glass* trade 14 per cent. of union members are reported as unemployed.

In the *Leather* trades employment has slightly improved, and the percentage of unemployed union members is 5.9, compared with 6.2 in February, and 5.7 in March 1895.

Employment in the *Boot and Shoe* trade is only moderate in the principal centres.

Employment in the ready-made branch of the *Tailoring* trade is very good, some overtime being worked, and there is the usual seasonal improvement in the bespoke branch.

Employment for *Cotton Spinners* has improved; *Weavers* are better employed in some districts, but are slacker in others. The *Woollen* trade continues very busy, but the *Worsted* trade is not quite so well employed. Employment in the *Hosiery* trade generally is good; in the *Silk* trade it is fair.

As regards the employment of women in the *Textile* trades, information respecting 490 mills, employing about 90,000 women and girls, shows a slight decline, 86 per cent. being in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 88 per cent. among

those for whom returns were received for February; 12 per cent. in mills giving only partial employment or running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month. The slight decline was most marked in the worsted trade.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—In London the average daily number of dock labourers employed during March at the docks and principal wharves was 13,316, as compared with 13,210 in February.

Agricultural employment was rather less regular in March than in February, more particularly in arable districts, owing to wet weather, which interfered with outdoor work.

Trade Disputes.—The number of fresh disputes occurring in March was 95, as compared with 78 in February and 49 in March 1895. Thirty-four disputes took place in the mining industry, 16 in the textile trades, 14 each in the building and metal trades, 7 in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, 2 in the clothing trades, and 8 in the miscellaneous group of industries. In 78 of the disputes, 19,407 workpeople were involved. Seventy-two new and 18 old disputes, involving altogether about 22,000 workpeople, were settled in March. Of these disputes, 34, involving about 10,000 persons, resulted in favour of the workpeople; 41, involving about 8,000 persons, in favour of the employers; and 8, involving 2,860 persons, in a compromise; the results of the remaining 7 being indefinite or not known.

Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour.—The changes in rates of wages reported during March affected about 129,000 workpeople. Of the total number about 57,000 received increases and 72,000 sustained decreases, the net result of the changes being an average fall of 7½d. per week. Among those affected by increases were about 47,000 workpeople engaged in the engineering, metal and shipbuilding industries, and about 5,500 building operatives. The decreases reported were mainly confined to coal miners and tinplate workers. In Scotland 67,000 miners had their wages reduced in most cases by 6d. per day; and in South Wales and Monmouthshire about 4,900 workpeople were affected by further reductions in the tinplate trade.

During the month about 1,200 persons were reported to have had their hours of labour reduced.

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts on one day in the second week of March was 341,674, or 220 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1896. These figures show a decrease as compared with March 1895, when the number of persons relieved was 386,220. The number for February last was 344,335.

Emigration.—The total number of British and Irish passengers from the United Kingdom to places out of Europe during March was 10,877, a decrease of 2,502 as compared with March 1895, when the number was 13,379.

II.—REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN MARCH.

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

Summary.—Employment at the 1,061 pits from which returns have been received, and at which 296,661 workpeople were employed, was good on the whole in the four weeks ended 28th March, though it showed some slight falling off, both as compared with the previous month and a year ago. The decline for the month was most marked in the first fortnight, the figures for the second fortnight showing some recovery in Northumberland, Cumberland, South Wales and Scotland. Some of this improvement may be due to

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

the opening of the Baltic, and to the settlement of the disputes in Scotland.

The average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom is given in the following table:—

District.	March 1896.			March 1895.	Feb. 1896.
	1st Fortnight.	2nd Fortnight.	Total.		
England and Wales ...	4.76	4.86	4.81	4.90	4.92
Scotland ...	4.71	4.90	4.81	5.20	4.84
Ireland ...	5.43	4.86	5.14	4.26	4.58
United Kingdom ...	4.76	4.86	4.81	4.93	4.91

If the workpeople be classified according to the number of days worked by the pits at which they were employed, it appears that 50.8 per cent. were at pits which worked 5 or more days per week, as compared with 55.1 per cent. in February, and 58.3 per cent. a year ago. The details of this comparison are given in the subjoined table.

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

Number of days* on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	March, 1896.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	March, 1895.	February, 1896.
24 days (full time) ...	25,245	8.5	8.4	9.0
20 and under 24 days ...	125,460	42.3	49.9	46.1
16 " " " " ...	88,457	29.8	27.3	28.2
12 " " " " ...	48,477	14.3	9.3	13.2
8 " " " " ...	10,331	3.5	4.2	2.9
Under 8 days ...	4,691	1.6	.9	.6
Total ...	296,661	100.0	100.0	100.0

The number of workpeople now employed at the pits covered by the returns is 2,388 less than it was a year ago, an increase of 739 in England and Wales being more than counterbalanced by decreases of 3,072 and 55 in Scotland and Ireland.

Unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham at the end of March formed 2.0 per cent. of the membership, as compared with 2.0 per cent. in February and 3.2 per cent. in March 1895.

Comparison by Districts.—In the following table the districts are grouped so as to show whether the number of days worked was more or less in March than a year ago. In 8 districts, with 154,616 workpeople, there has been an improvement varying from nearly a day in the small Irish districts to .01 of a day in North Wales. In the 8 other districts, with 142,045 workpeople, the falling off amounts on the average to nearly half a day. This group includes South Wales and Monmouth, Northumberland, West Scotland, Fife, and Cumberland, the falling off in the last district being one day per week (5.94 to 4.93).

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MARCH 1896 AND 1895, AND IN FEBRUARY 1896.

District.†	No. employed in Mar. 1896 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Days worked per Week in		
		Mar. 1896.	Mar. 1895.	Feb. 1896.
(a) Districts in which March 1896 exceeds March 1895.				
Ireland ...	734	5.14	4.26	4.58
Derbyshire ...	22,118	4.28	3.98	4.49
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	32,868	5.17	4.99	5.01
Durham ...	28,761	5.13	4.99	5.46
The Lothians ...	3,572	5.29	5.16	5.34
Staffordshire ...	17,159	4.71	4.63	4.84
Yorkshire ...	43,434	4.64	4.59	4.73
North Wales ...	5,970	4.66	4.65	4.85
Total and averages for group ...	154,616	4.82	4.74	4.93

* Allowance is made in all the calculations for short days.

† The districts are arranged according to the differences in the number of days worked in March 1896 and 1895.

(b) Districts in which March 1896 is less than March 1895.

Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	6,576	4.79	4.82	4.67
Northumberland ...	30,640	4.41	4.60	4.50
West Scotland ...	18,384	5.04	5.23	5.13
Notts and Leicester ...	8,844	3.91	4.19	3.91
South Wales and Monmouth ...	54,068	5.23	5.55	5.49
Gloucester and Somerset ...	7,095	4.57	4.90	4.86
Fife ...	10,993	4.25	4.87	4.21
Cumberland ...	5,445	4.93	5.94	4.65
Total and averages for group ...	142,045	4.80	5.22	4.87
Grand Total and Averages ...	296,661	4.81	4.93	4.91

Taking the district averages, and classifying them according to the average number of days worked at the pits in those districts in March 1896, we get the following groups:—

Average number of days per week worked in districts.	Number employed in districts.	Average days worked per week in districts.
5 days and upwards per week ...	138,387	5.17
Over 4½ but less than 5 days ...	85,679	4.68
Over 4 but less than 4½ days ...	63,751	4.34
Less than 4 days per week ...	8,844	3.91
Total ...	296,661	4.81

The first district on the list is the Lothians with 5.29 days per week, closely followed by South Wales and Monmouth with 5.23 days. Lancashire and Cheshire, Ireland, Durham and West of Scotland also fall into the first group. The only district in which the average was less than four days per week was Notts and Leicester, the same as in the previous month, and the districts in which the average was less than four and a-half were Fife (4.25 days), Derbyshire (4.28) and Northumberland (4.41). In the remaining 6 districts the average was between four and a-half and five days per week.

Exports of Coal.—During March 2,472,707 tons of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel were exported from the United Kingdom, compared with 2,308,521 tons in the previous month and 2,464,913 tons in March 1895.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

As compared with the corresponding period in 1895, the figures for March show an improvement both as regards the number of days worked and the number of workpeople employed. The days worked by the mines were, however, somewhat less in March than in February.

The average number of days worked during March was 5.77 per week, as compared with 5.85 in February and 5.59 in March 1895. Of those employed 68.6 per cent. worked full time (24 days), as compared with 73.3 per cent. in the previous month, and 52.5 per cent. in the corresponding month of 1895. A comparison of the numbers employed shows that there are now about 500 more workpeople employed than in March 1895, an increase of nearly 4 per cent.

The tables below summarise the particulars returned:—

(1) Days worked per week in each district.

District.	No. of mines from which returns were received.	Total No. of workpeople employed at 28th March.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended		
			28th Mar. 1896.	30th Mar. 1895.	22nd Feb. 1896.
Cumberland & Lancs. ...	44	5,951	5.87	5.61	5.90
Cleveland ...	12	3,576	5.96	5.85	5.95
Other places in England ...	49	2,702	5.36	5.08	5.66
Scotland ...	5	836	5.66	5.89	6.00
Ireland ...	1	252	5.62	4.96	6.00
Total ...	117	13,317	5.77	5.59	6.00

* This average relates to a much smaller number of workpeople than that for March 1896.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(2) Percentage proportion of workpeople, included in the returns, who were employed at mines working the undermentioned number of days in four weeks.

Table with 4 columns: Number of days worked by mines, March 1896, March 1895, February 1896. Rows include 24 days (full time), 22 and under 24 days, 20, 20 and under 20 days, and Total.

(c) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS IN MARCH.

THE returns received from employers in these industries again indicate an improvement, both as compared with February and with a year ago. The improvement is most marked in the case of steelworks, the increase in the numbers employed at ironworks being very slight.

Of the 72,736 persons, 32,193 were employed at 107 Steelworks, being 527 more than at the end of February, and 3,333, or 11.5 per cent., more than at the end of March 1895.

The number of workpeople employed at the end of the month at 85 Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills was 16,767, or about the same as last month. As compared with a year ago the numbers have increased by 687, increases being recorded in the Midlands, Lancashire, Cumberland and Cheshire, and Northumberland and Durham districts.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the undermentioned occupations at the end of March 1896 and 1895 and February 1896 respectively, by 207 employers making returns:—

Table with 5 columns: Occupation, Mar. 1896, Mar. 1895, Feb. 1896, Number Employed (England and Wales, Scotland, United Kingdom). Rows include Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling, and Forging; Iron Puddling and Rolling; Tinplate Manufacture; and Other workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.

Returns received with regard to employment at 89 Tinplate Works in South Wales, Monmouthshire and neighbouring districts show that at the end of March 40 were giving full employment, and 19 partial employment, the remaining 30 being idle.

* The table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes

Table showing number of tinplate works and mills in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire fully or partially employed, or wholly idle, at the end of March, so far as stated in the returns received by the Department.

Table with 5 columns: Works giving full employment, Works giving partial employment, Works idle, Total to which returns relate, Total at the end of February. Includes sub-table for No of Mills (Working, Not Working, Total).

Returns from the owners of 49 Tinplate Works give the number of workpeople employed at the end of March 1896 as 11,589, being 1,597 (or 12.1 per cent.) less than a year ago.

The total quantity of tinplates and sheets exported from the United Kingdom during March was 21,258 tons, as compared with 18,454 tons in the previous month, and 30,801 tons in March 1895.

(d) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN MARCH.

THIS industry continues to improve, the improvement compared with a year ago being very marked.

As compared with March 1895, the total number of furnaces in blast at end of March 1896, so far as covered by the returns received from 107 ironmasters owning 91 per cent. of the whole number of blast furnaces in the United Kingdom, shows an increase of 40, the figures for the two periods being 299 and 339, respectively.

As compared with February last, the returns show 3 more furnaces in blast, and the number of workpeople employed has increased by 70 in England and Wales, and by 8 in Scotland.

The subjoined table gives— Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of March 1896 with the number in blast at end of March 1895, and at end of February 1896, so far as included in the returns made to the Department by 107 ironmasters owning 91 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom:—

Table with 6 columns: Districts, Present time compared with a year ago (Mar. 1896, Mar. 1895, Increase or Decrease), Present time compared with a month ago (Mar. 1896, Feb. 1896, Increase or Decrease). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES (Cleveland, Cumberland & Lancs., S. and S.W. Yorks., Lincolnshire, Midlands, Glamorgan and Mon.), and SCOTLAND.

The following particulars respecting the pig iron industry in Cleveland are taken from the monthly circular issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association:—

Production.—The amount of pig iron produced in March was 274,950 tons, against 254,780 tons in the previous month, and 247,202 tons in March 1895.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Stocks.—These amounted on March 31st to 355,555 tons, an increase of 3,701 tons as compared with February, and of 38,732 tons as compared with March 1895.

Shipments.—102,910 tons of pig iron were shipped coastwise or foreign during the month from Middlesbrough and Skinningrove, being 33,646 tons more than during February, and 25,026 tons more than during March 1895.

The quantity of pig iron shipped from all ports of the United Kingdom to foreign countries and British possessions was 70,792 tons in March 1896, as against 52,178 tons in March 1895, and 63,055 tons in March 1894.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Employment in England in March.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department on the basis of 180 returns from various parts of England, including one from an Agricultural Labourers' Trade Union, reports as follows:—Generally speaking, employment was fairly regular in the month of March, but not so satisfactory as in the month of February, owing to wet weather in the latter part.

In the Northern Counties of England work was generally regular. In the Midlands the districts where work was the most irregular were in the counties of Nottingham, Warwick, Huntingdon, and Bedford. In the Eastern Counties Suffolk was the most affected by wet weather, but in no case is the irregularity of work serious.

Seasonal changes in wages amounting to a rise of 1s. a week are reported in districts in the counties of Bedford, Cheshire, Essex, Gloucester, and Warwick, and in parts of North Lancashire of 6d. a day.

Northern Counties.—In Cumberland favourable reports come from the Unions of Cockermouth and Penrith. A few men are reported in irregular work in the Carlisle Union. Work is said to be generally regular in North Lancashire, except at Pilling, in the Chester-le-Street and Darlington Unions of Durham, and in the Nantwich and Tarvin Unions of Cheshire.

Midland Counties.—A favourable report is given of the Chesterfield Union of Derbyshire. In the Lichfield Union of Staffordshire a few men are reported to be in irregular work. In the Southwell and Bingham Unions of Nottinghamshire there is some irregularity of work, but a favourable report comes from the Claypole and Worksop Unions.

In Oxfordshire favourable reports come from the Unions of Abingdon, Banbury, Thame, and Witney; in Leicestershire from the Unions of Blaby, Billesdon, Melton Mowbray, and Market Harborough, and in Worcestershire from the Pershore Union, but some are out of work in the Tenbury Union.

Eastern Counties.—In Essex work is reported to be generally regular in the Unions of Colchester, Halstead, Orsett, Ongar, and Lenden and Winstree. Owing to wet weather there was some irregularity of work in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree,

Dunmow, Maldon and Tendring. In Suffolk employment was affected by the wet weather in the following Unions: Cosford, Bosmere and Claydon, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Sudbury and Thingoe. Favourable reports come from the Samford and Risbridge Unions. Reports from Norfolk state that work was generally regular in the Unions of Depwade, Mitford and Launditch, and Swaffham. In the Downham Union the state of employment is said to be far from satisfactory on the western side of the Ouse.

Home Counties.—In Berkshire work is said to be regular in the Wantage Union, and in Buckinghamshire in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham and Winslow. In the Newport Pagnell Union the wet weather slightly affected employment in some districts.

Southern and Western Counties.—Reports from Sussex are satisfactory from Battle and Horsham, but some men are in irregular work in Cuckfield and Rye Unions. In Hampshire very little irregularity of work is reported from districts in the Hartley Wintney and Kingsclere Unions. In Dorsetshire the state of employment is reported as satisfactory in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne, and in Wiltshire in the Unions of Highworth and Swindon, Pewsey, Warminster, Westbury, and Wilton.

Recent Agricultural Hirings.

At the recent hirings in Scotland, and also in the North of England, in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, the rates of wages were on the whole about the same as those at the corresponding period in 1895, though in some districts there was a tendency to reduce them or else the number of farm servants employed.

England.—In Northumberland, at Alnwick, Berwick, Belford and Wooler, though wages generally remained the same as those paid last year, there was, in some cases, a tendency to reduce them, and at all these markets a certain number were left unhired, chiefly in the case of men without women workers.

Scotland.—In Scotland, in Berwickshire and Roxburghshire, fewer men were required, owing, it is said, to the conversion of arable land to grass. In both counties those who remained in their places generally made better terms than those who changed them. Men without women workers found a difficulty in getting situations. At the hirings in Edinburgh the rates of wages obtained were usually similar to those of last year, but a certain number of men remained unengaged owing to farmers reducing the numbers employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(f) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MARCH.

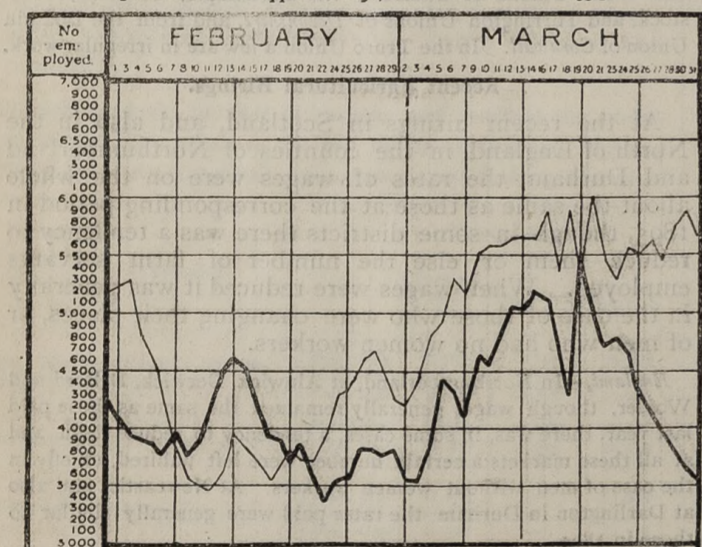
EMPLOYMENT for dock and wharveside labour, as a whole, was slightly better in March than in the preceding month, but dock labourers were worse employed than a year ago.

Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Table with 4 columns: Period, By Dock Companies, By Ship-owners, &c., Total, and Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during February and March is shown on the chart below.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of February and March 1896.



The following are the figures on which the Chart for March 1896 is based.

Table with 6 columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed.

year ago can only be made in the case of labourers employed by the Dock Companies. It will be seen from the following figures that employment was considerably worse throughout the month than a year ago.

Table with 5 columns: Period, 1896, 1895, Increase, Decrease. Rows for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th weeks of March and a 4-week average.

Employment in mid-stream has been fair, though not equal to last month. Stevedores have been well employed; coal porters fairly so for the time of year.

The fruit porters in Thames Street have not been so well employed as last month. The average daily number employed was 321 for the first week, 466 for the second, 235 for the third, and 285 for the fourth.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MARCH.

AN increase is again shown in the number of men shipped from the principal ports in the United Kingdom as the crews of foreign-going vessels during March, as compared with the total for the corresponding month of last year, the totals being for March, 1896, 30,831, and for March, 1895, 29,707.

Particulars of some unimportant variations in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen, affecting small numbers of men, will be found in the table of Changes in Rates of Wages on p. 128.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in March 1896 and 1895 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the three months ended 31st March in each of these years:—

Table with 6 columns: Principal Ports, In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total in 1896, Total in 1895, Total number shipped in 3 months ended March.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN MARCH.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, the proportion of women employed in the textile trades who were working short time during March was slightly greater than in February both in the cotton and worsted trades.

Table with 4 columns: State of Employment, Number of Mills, Approximate Estimate of Women and Girls employed (Number, Percentage for Mar., Percentage for Feb.).

Cotton Trade.—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 69,204. Of these 85 per cent. were employed in mills working full time.

Woolen and Worsted Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woolen and worsted mills reported on is estimated at 19,538. Of these 89 per cent. were employed in mills working full time.

Silk Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the silk mills reported on is estimated at 1,275. Of these 94 per cent. were employed in mills running full time.

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—In all the important industries in London the state of employment has continued to improve, the improvement being very marked in engineering and cognate branches of trade.

Returns from 386 branches of 99 unions, with an aggregate membership of 69,200, show 1,908 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, compared with 3,121 last month and 5,311 for March 1895.

The Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding trades are on the whole well employed. Reports from 107 branches of 23 unions show that 517 (or 2.5 per cent.) out of a membership of 20,963 were unemployed at the end of March.

With the exception of the plumbers and stoneworkers the Building trades continue well employed. Reports from 181 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit and having a membership of 12,897 show that 237 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of March, compared with 211 in February and 56 in March 1895.

painters and decorators as improving; the stonemasons and stoneworkers as dull; the plumbers as bad.

The Furnishing trades have still further improved, and employment is brisk, the state of the cabinet-making trade being reported as especially prosperous.

The Coopers remain busy. Two societies, with a membership of 930 have only 8 members unemployed (or less than 1 per cent.).

The Coachbuilding trades are well employed. Reports from 11 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,086, show that 20 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 25 per cent. in February and 39 in March 1895.

The Printing and Bookbinding trades have somewhat improved. Returns from 19 unions, with a membership of 20,139, show that 768 (or 3.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade has continued good throughout the month, overtime being worked; the West-end tailoring trade has been quiet, but improved towards the close of the month.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The machine branch is dull; the high-class bespoke branch is good; slipper-makers are very slack.

The Leather trades continue well employed. Returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 1,197, show that 22 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 17 per cent. in February and 45 in March 1895.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in these trades remains stationary. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,481, show that 83 (or 5.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5 per cent. last month and 51 in March 1895.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—These trades are still well employed. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 957, show that 22 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 32 per cent. last month and 59 in March 1895.

The Gold and Silver trades remain busy. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,088, show that 12 (or 1.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 10 per cent. in February, and 58 per cent. in March 1895.

The Tobacco trades are rather slack. Returns from 3 unions, with a membership of 2,110, show that 161 (or 7.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 56 per cent. last month.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at docks and wharves was slightly better in March than in February. The dock labourers, however, were worse employed than a year ago.

Disputes.—Four disputes, affecting in the aggregate 206 persons, have been reported as occurring during the month. One of these disputes was in the boot and shoe trade, two were in the cabinet trade, (French polishers and upholsterers), and one in the fancy leather trade.

Labour Bureaux.—The four labour bureaux furnishing returns for March and for the corresponding month of last year registered 1,541 fresh applications from workpeople during last month, as compared with 3,115 in March 1895.

Fauperism.—The number of persons relieved on the last day of the second week in March was 106,337. As compared with the number on the corresponding day of February this shows a decrease of 1,952, and as compared with March 1895 of 24,362, more than half this decrease being in the Southern district.

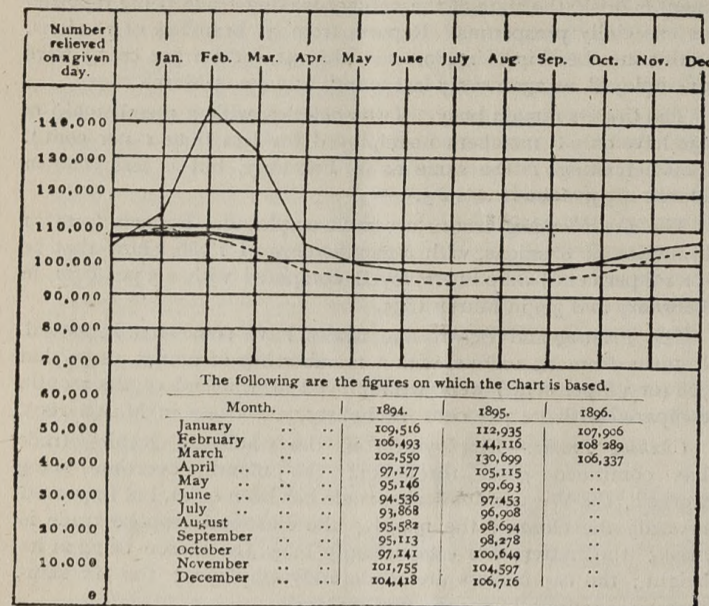
The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume

An exact comparison with the state of employment a

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1894, 1895 and 1896:—

[The thick curve represents 1896; the thin curve 1895; and the dotted curve 1894.]



The number of vagrants in London on one day in the second week in March was 1,079, as compared with 1,054 in March 1895.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 9,444 in March, 9,311 in February, and 12,463 in March 1895.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Durham.—At 27 pits, employing 16,980 men and boys in gas, steam, and house coal seams, the average number of days worked is 9.2 per fortnight. At three of these pits a number of men are under notice, and others have been discharged owing to lackness. Several pits, producing chiefly gas coal, are fully employed, 100 men having restarted work at one colliery. The number of unemployed miners (exclusive of 380 men idle owing to accidental stoppages) is 1,386 (or 2.37 per cent.), as against 2.6 per cent. in February. Cokemen continue fully employed. **Northumberland.**—Pits are beginning to work fuller time, the average number of days worked each successive week being 3.8, 3.8, 4.3, and 5.3 respectively. The number of miners in receipt of stoppage pay is 210 (or 1.02 per cent.), as against 0.52 per cent. at the end of February.

Metal Mining.—Employment in the lead mines continues steady, and at two iron mines full time has been worked.

Quarrying.—Weardale whinstone quarries are busy. At Gateshead and district work at all the quarries is fairly good; the quarrymen are moving for an advance in wages. Three limestone quarries, employing 500 men, have worked six days per week.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the Tyne.—The principal yards in the middle and upper reaches of the river are busy on special work. In the Shields district repairing yards are moderately employed, a number of riveters and caulkers being idle. At the Elswick gun factory employment is brisk, fitters and turners working overtime and night shifts. Marine and electrical engineering firms are busy. Repair shops and dry dock work continue dull. The North Shields sailmakers report a large percentage idle. Reports from 45 branches of these trades, with a membership of 9,538, show 861 (or 9.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 10.5 per cent. at the end of February. **On the Wear.**—There is continued improvement in all yards on this river. Marine engine building firms are well employed. Out of 4,016 members of the engineering and iron shipbuilding trades included in 20 returns, 351 (or 8.7 per cent.) are out of work, as against 10.2 per cent. in February. The shipwrights have none unemployed out of 3,227 members on both rivers. Out of 407 pattern-makers none are idle. The joiners have 2 per cent. unemployed, and the plumbers 5 per cent. The steel smelting, plate and angle mills have worked full time; iron plate mills 5 shifts per week.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The coal porters report employment as bad, especially in the steam coal trade, little more than half time being worked; the trimmers and teamers as unchanged; the Tyne wherry men as slack; the quayside labourers as dull. There is a fuller demand for seagoing men in the lower reaches of the Tyne.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—The building trades on the Tyne continue dull. On the Wear employment is fairly good. Coopers on the Tyne in chemical factories are suspended ten days, owing to slackness; in the brewery trade full time is worked. Millsawyers and woodcutters have 2.3 per cent. idle.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers on the Tyne have 50 (or 9 per cent.) of their members unemployed, as against 8.1 per cent. at the end of February; at Sunderland 10 per cent. are idle. The bookbinders and machine rulers are slack, with 5 per cent. of their members out of work. Four paper mills have worked 140 shifts out of a possible 240 during March.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—The pressed glass makers report the opening of new works at Sunderland, and have 7 per cent. out of work. Bottle-makers at Seaham, Southwick, and Blyth are working full time; owing to the stoppage of a tank 25 per cent. are, however, laid idle. Chemical factories continue slack. Cement and white lead works are working short time.

Fishing.—Steam trawl fishing has been good during the month; line boats have been less successful.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

General.—Societies with 4,823 members report 106 (or 2.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 121 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners continue well employed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—All the large steel works are reported as busy, the one laid off having recommenced. The finished iron-works have maintained the improvement reported. Employment is good at the blast furnaces, foundries, and bridge works.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches of the engineers, moulders, and smiths and strikers in Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough, and Darlington, with 3,257 members, report employment as good with 93 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 112 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipbuilding.—Employment at Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Thornaby is good; at Hartlepool, it is not so good. The shipjoiners report employment as very good, with 1 per cent. unemployed, the shipwrights and the smiths and strikers with none.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good throughout the district. Branches of the carpenters and joiners and millsawyers with 1,001 members, report 13 (or 1.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 9 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as quiet both at Middlesbrough and the Hartlepoons. Dock labour is good at Middlesbrough; moderate at the Hartlepoons. Riverside labour is good.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the cotton trade has slightly improved, and the spinners in Oldham, Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton, and Stockport, out of 9,307 members, report 399 (or 4.2 per cent.) as receiving unemployed benefit, as against 497 (or 5.3 per cent.) at the end of February. In Oldham the card-room workers, out of 11,188 members, report 348 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 7 per cent. at the end of February. The power-loom overlookers are fully employed, and report employment in the fustian and velvet weaving trades as good, and in calico weaving as slightly improving. Employment in ring frame spinning and twining is good, and in reeling and winding fair.

Woolen Trade.—Woolen spinners and weavers in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport are fully employed, many men working overtime.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, out of 2,125 members, report 105 (or 4.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 100 (or 4.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Six branches report employment as moderate and four as bad; boiler-makers, ironfounders, spindle and flyer makers, machine-makers, iron grinders, brass-finishers, tinplate-workers and gas-meter makers as good; pattern-makers and coremakers as moderate.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, painters, plasterers, carpenters and joiners and plumbers, out of 768 members, report only 2 as unemployed, as against 48 (or 6.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Coal Mining.—The coal miners are employed on an average about five days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Cloggers, rope and twine makers, reed and heald makers and skip makers report employment as good.—*T. Ashton.*

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE (continued).

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—The spinners, with 4,332 members in Bolton, Manchester, Chorley, Leigh and neighbourhood, report employment as good, with 61 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 5.7 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The weavers in Bolton also report employment as good. In Bury improvement is reported in both spinning and weaving. In Chorley the weavers continue slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Bolton the engineers, with 1,700 members, report employment as improved, with only 30 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed; the machine-makers as good, overtime being worked. Labourers in ironworks are fairly well employed; steel smelting is not so good. In Wigan the engineers are exceptionally busy; steel roller-makers and steel smelters are fully employed; the finished iron workers are averaging from 4 to 5 days per week. In Bury, with the exception of the machine shops, employment in these trades is moderate. In Chorley employment is good.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as fair at Bolton; moderate at Bury; improved at Chorley.

Coal Mining.—The miners are slacker in Bolton, Walkden, and Little Hulton. In Wigan the best collieries have only averaged 4½ days per week, and inferior seams have only been worked from two to three days.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is moderate in the minor trades in Bolton. The wagon-builders in Chorley report improvement.

R. Tootill.

Burnley, Accrington, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The improvement in employment for calico weavers has been well maintained, with fewer stoppages for warps. In the large weaving centres, however, some thousands of looms are still idle. At Darwen a mill containing 786 looms and 30,648 spindles has closed, and at Helmsshore a mill containing 600 looms. Employment in the hardwaste trade continues exceptionally good, and is fair in the coloured goods and sateen trades. Winders and warpers are irregularly employed. Loomers and drawers continue fairly well employed. **Spinning.**—Employment in the spinning branch shows little change; in Blackburn 80 (or 7.6 per cent. of the members) are unemployed, all but two of whom have drawn their full out-of-work benefit. At Preston 2 per cent. are receiving out-of-work pay; at Burnley 62 (or 14.6 per cent.) are unemployed and receiving out-of-work pay; at Darwen 35 (or 14.7 per cent.) are unemployed, and in receipt of out-of-work benefit; whilst at Accrington 5 (or 1.2 per cent.) are unemployed, all of whom have drawn their full out-of-work benefit.

Building Trades.—Employment is fair, especially amongst masons, wallers, carpenters and joiners; one branch of the latter, with a membership of 258, having only one member receiving unemployed benefit. The brickmakers are fully employed; stone quarrymen are also in full work.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment in several branches of these trades continues good; the machine makers and erectors are working overtime.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment is good with the letterpress printers, with less than 1 per cent. unemployed; paper-makers and paper-stainers are in full work.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is only moderate in the calico printing and dyeing trades; in some departments short time is being worked. Employment is fair with the felt carpet printers.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Societies with 17,505 members report 676 (or 3.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 714 (or 4.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, steam engine makers, boiler-makers, ironfounders, braziers, brassfounders, smiths and machine workers in Manchester and Northwich, with 9,686 members, report 202 (or 2.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 280 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. In Warrington, wire drawers and wireweavers are fully employed, and the ironworkers are moderately employed.

Textile Trades.—The cotton spinners report employment as moderate in Manchester, the number unemployed having risen from 5½ to 7½ per cent. Two mills in the coarse trade have closed. Cotton workers at Macclesfield remain fairly well employed. All departments of the silk trade are fairly busy except the silk dressers. Fustian cutters are busy. The dressers, dyers, and finishers, with £3 per cent. idle, report employment as good. Thread doubling continues busy.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as good in Manchester, Macclesfield and Stockport, with few unemployed. An improvement is felt in the wholesale clothing and ready-made mantle trade. The felt hatters report employment as moderate; the boot and shoe makers as bad. Waterproof garment making is slack, but has improved. Capmakers continue busy. Shirtmakers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners, bricklayers and fret lead glaziers in Manchester and Northwich, with 2,892 members, report 50 (or 1.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 30 (or 1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The masons, plumbers, plasterers and plasterers' labourers in Manchester, with 1,285 members, return 83 (or 6.5 per cent.) as unemployed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The coachmakers in Manchester, Stockport and Warrington report employment as good; the cabinet-makers and coopers are also well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders, with 2,457 members, report 363 (or 14.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 340 (or 13.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The iron-workers are very busy, the works going night and day. Steel workers are exceptionally busy.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers in marine shops continue fairly busy, although a number of fitters have been temporarily suspended. Pattern-makers, ironmoulders, brass moulders, brass finishers, copper-smiths, and other branches of the engineering trade are busy, overtime being the rule.

Coal Mining.—In some districts the miners are only employed from three to four days per week, and in others from five to six. Production is said to be far in advance of the demand with the result that stocks are increasing.

Iron Mining.—Owing to the flooding of a mine a number of iron miners were thrown out of work; some others are out of work through a breakdown, and at least 150 men will for a time be unemployed; otherwise employment has been fair.

Building Trades.—All branches of the building trades are active.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The shipping at the Barrow Docks has improved, and the coasting traffic has increased considerably. The north west coast ports have been somewhat busy.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers, confectioners and millers are well employed; pulp and paper workers are busy; jute workers moderately so.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as fairly good; the engineers as again improved; the pattern-makers and brassfounders as good; the iron and steel dressers and whitesmiths as moderate; the shipwrights as fair, but declining; the shipjoiners, painters and mast and block makers as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers, French polishers, upholsterers, coachmakers, coopers and packing-case makers report employment as fairly good.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as improved; the boot and shoe makers as unchanged.

Building Trades.—Employment with the joiners has slightly declined; with the plumbers it is slack; with the mill sawyers moderate. Other branches are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate in jobbing and fair in news work; the lithographic printers as unchanged; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as moderate.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with sailors and firemen is improving; the dock labourers, quay and railway carters, flatmen and coalheavers, all report employment as dull.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—The sheet glass makers are fairly well employed. With the glass bottle makers employment is improving; with the chemical workers it is moderate.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coalminers have been fairly well employed, especially in the St. Helens district. Quarrymen are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—The tanners and beltmakers report employment as fair, the bakers and confectioners as quiet, the gasworkers as declining. Excavators and general labourers are fairly well employed.—*C. Rouse.*

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

A report from Winsford states that most of the day workmen employed by the Salt Union have been put on half-time; in the other firms at Winsford and Middlewich employment is fair; employment with chemical workers at Middlewich continues normal. At Winsford the building trades are slack, and moulders are working short time; fustian cutters are busy.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

General.—Societies with 7,070 members report 240 (or 3.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 388 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The shipwrights, engineers, machine workers, ironfounders, smiths and strikers, iron and steel dressers, and brassfounders, with 3,151 members, report 31 (or 1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 102 (or 3.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The boiler-makers are also well employed. The shipyard, engineering, and general labourers report employment as improving, but with fully 11 per cent. unemployed.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, masons, plumbers, sawyers and builders' labourers, with 2,273 members, report 75 (or 3.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 152 (or 7.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The number of unemployed painters has fallen from 200 in February to 8 in March owing to spring cleaning.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen report employment as moderate, but improving; the dock labourers as improved during the month; the steam trawling engineers and firemen (fishing vessels) as moderate.

Seed Crushing, Paint and Colour Trades.—Employment in the seed crushing mills has been slack; several mills have been stopped or are working short time. About one-third of the men usually engaged in this industry are unemployed. Employment in the paint and colour works is good. The oil mills at Selby are busy.

Fishing.—The trawl fishermen report employment as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders, with 366 members, report 28 (or 7.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 26 (or 7.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Metal Trades.—The engineers, ironfounders, pattern-makers, machine-workers and brassworkers in Leeds, with 2,472 members, report 117 (or 4.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 146 (or 5.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Engineering at Wakefield is only moderate. At Stanningley and Rodley ironfounders are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made clothing trade has been busy, overtime being worked at most factories. Bespoke tailoring is fairly good. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is unusually slack.

Textile Trades.—These trades continue well employed in Leeds, the willeys and fettlers reporting most firms as working overtime. At Wakefield and Stanningley employment continues good. Employment in the dyeing trade is moderate at Leeds and very slack at Wakefield.

Leather Trades.—The leather shavers, tanners, and curriers report employment as bad.

Building Trades.—In Leeds the carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers, and painters, with 1,464 members, report 75 (or 5.1 per cent.) as unemployed.

Glass Bottle Trades.—At Leeds and Wakefield employment is fairly good; the medical bottle branch is moderately busy.

Mining.—Employment in house coal pits has fallen off to three and four days per week; ironstone miners are working five days.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers, with 775 members, report 55 (or 7.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 61 (or 7.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worst Trade.—Employment in Bradford again shows a decline. Weavers are waiting for warps at some places, and the other departments are not so busy. In the Worth Valley, however, employment is reported as unusually brisk, and in Keighley as good. In Halifax there is a slight decline, but in Huddersfield employment continues good. The woolsorters at Bradford report employment as moderate, with 10 per cent. unemployed, and the woolcombers as bad.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield is good, many firms still working overtime, and some all night. In heavy

woollens there is a slight decline, but mills are still working overtime. Employment in the blanket trade is fairly good.

Metal Trades.—The engineers in Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield, with 1,656 members, report 50 (or 3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 52 (or 3.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February; in Keighley few are unemployed. The ironfounders have none idle at Keighley, and only one at Huddersfield. Employment in the Brighouse district is reported as good.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as fair.—*A. Geo.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—Some pits are working five days a week, others only three days, and the general average for the colliers is hardly over four days a week. The improvement with the cokemen has been maintained. About 820 men and boys have been unemployed during the month through the stoppage of two collieries.

Metal Trades.—Employment has improved. The engineers report it as moderate; the ironfounders as good. Other branches make favourable reports.

Glass Trades.—The glass bottle-makers report employment as good at Barnsley and Stairfoot, and moderate at Mexbrough and Swinton.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades is reported as good.

Railway Servants.—At Mexbrough and Swinton employment is reported as good.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Blast furnace men are well employed; merchant iron rollers report employment as good; Siemens steel smelters, and all engaged on armour plates, are busy. Branches of the engineers, ironfounders, wire drawers, iron and steel dressers, and boiler-makers, with 1,850 members, report employment as good, with 24 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 18 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February; the railway spring fitters as moderate, with 20 per cent. on short time. The makers of small steel castings, for mining machinery, are much quieter, but employment on malleable iron castings is fair. At Parkgate, Staveley, Thorncliffe, and Renishaw blast furnace men, ironworkers, steelworkers, and filemakers are fairly well employed. At Masbrough, Holme, and Eccles iron and steel workers are busy; and at Rotherham and Masbrough brassworkers and stovegrate makers are moderately, and bathmakers well employed.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment on table cutlery is good; on spring knife cutlery it has improved. The pen and pocket blade forgers and grinders, table blade and edge-tool grinders, saw handle and engineers' tool makers and hand file cutters, with 2,788 members, report 8 (or 0.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 12 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The pen and pocket blade forgers have fewer on short time. Haft and scalepressers are quieter. Razor forgers and grinders and scissors makers are slack. The wool shear grinders and benders report employment as moderate, with 5 per cent. unemployed. Other branches report employment as good.

Other Metal Trades.—The silver trade, although quiet, has slightly improved. The silversmiths, stampers and finishers, with a total of 674 members, report 12 unemployed and fewer on short time.

Building Trades.—The masons, bricklayers and carpenters and joiners are well employed throughout the district. Painters have improved, but plumbers are slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, but improved; the bookbinders as good; the lithographic printers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The saddle and harness makers report employment as fair and improved; the railway carriage and wagon builders and coachmakers as good; the bottle-makers as fair; the potters as good.—*S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Forty-six branches of societies, with 3,747 members report 54 (or 1.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 97 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Twenty-three branches of unions connected with these trades, with a membership of 2,010, report employment as good, 10 members (or 0.5 per cent.) being unemployed, as against 35 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The railway works at Derby continue fully employed. In Dronfield edge tool makers, shovel and spindle makers and grinders are fully employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Coal Mining.—Returns of employment from 24 collieries, employing 7,000 persons, show an average of 4 days per week in all districts, with few totally unemployed.

Quarrying.—Stone quarry men are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Returns from 15 branches in these trades, with 1,085 members, show 26 (or 2.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 49 (or 4.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Employment generally is reported as good.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton trade is reported as fair in Belper and Borrowash, and as bad in Glossop; in the Long Eaton lace trade as bad; as dull with the hosiery-workers in Belper; as moderate with the dyers. The wool, silk and merino manufacturers in Lea and Holloway are very busy. The elastic web weavers in Derby report employment as dull; the surgical bandage makers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with boot and shoe operatives, tailors and dress and mantle makers is reported as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers in Derby, with 326 members, report 12 (or 3.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 7 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Employment in these trades generally is fair. The railway carriage and wagon-builders in Derby continue to improve.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

General.—Societies with 8,275 members report 684 (or 8.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 1,124 (or 13.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Lace Trades.—The operative lacemakers, warpplacemakers, warpers and curtain readers, with 3,910 members, return 189 (or 4.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 245 (or 6.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February, together with 10 per cent. unemployed but not on benefit, as against 19 per cent. at the end of February. The women lacemakers report employment as moderate.

Hosiery Trades.—The improvement in these trades is well maintained; employment generally is good.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 32 collieries, employing about 16,000 men working underground, show an average of 14½ days worked during the month, only 5 pits making 4½ days a week.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Sixteen branches of engineers, ironfounders, stove-grate workers, tool machinists, brassworkers, irondressers, carriage straighteners, farriers, and wheelwrights, with 1,928 members, report 35 (or 1.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 49 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Five branches of letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders, and lithographic artists, with 590 members, report 18 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 38 (or 6.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is fairly good on bespoke and ready-made work. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is only moderate in Nottingham and Mansfield, but fair at Hucknall.

Building Trades.—Twelve branches of carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, masons, plumbers, sawyers and deal carriers, with 1,720 members, return 40 (or 2.3 per cent.) as unemployed, showing no alteration as compared with February.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—There is an entire absence of the activity in the boot and shoe trade usual at this season of the year, and the percentage of workpeople on short time or wholly unemployed in the Leicester, Northampton and Kettering districts is consequently much above the average. Employment is likewise slacker in the leather-dressing trade.

Clothing Trades.—A number of operatives in the wholesale tailoring trade are working overtime, and improvement is reported in the bespoke branch. Milliners and dressmakers are busy, and corset-makers continue fully employed. Some branches of the hatting trade are working overtime.

Hosiery, Yarn and Spinning Trades.—Employment continues satisfactory in most branches of the hosiery trade. In the yarn and wool-spinning mills workpeople are also fully engaged. Trimmers and dyers are not quite so busy.

Elastic Web Trade.—In the cord, braid, and narrow webbing departments employment continues good, but makers of shoe webbings are not fully employed.

Engineering, Iron, and Cycle Trades.—Most branches of the engineering trade this month report employment as moderate. Work continues good with hosiery and shoe machine builders and needle-makers. It is quieter with boiler-makers, moulders, ironfounders, and pattern-makers. In the electrical branches many lampmakers, winders, and dynamo-builders are on short time. Cycle-makers are busy.

Mining and Quarrying.—The colliers in this district are working about three days a week. Employment is still good with the ironstone miners, and improved among stone quarry workers.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment among letterpress printers is good at Northampton and improving at Leicester. It is still good in the lithographic branch, and regular with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Work is plentiful with all branches.

Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.—Many operatives engaged in the cabinet-making and upholstering trades are working overtime. Coachmakers are busier. Railway carriage and wagon-builders are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—In the wholesale confectionery, brick and tile, cigar, and boxmaking trades, employment is good. Basket-makers in the artistic branch are better engaged. Work is not quite so brisk with saddlers, brushmakers, and leather bag and trunk-makers. Gardeners and general outdoor labourers are more fully employed.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Seven societies of pottery workers, with 4,390 members, return 9 (or 0.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Sanitary pressers are only working 4 days in some departments.

Iron and Steel Trades.—There is a decided improvement in the iron and steel trades, and employment is exceptionally good in all branches.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers in Crewe, Stafford, and the Potteries, with 2,270 members, report trade as good, with 17 (or 0.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 20 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. At Longport brassworkers are busy. At Crewe the moulders are slack; machine workers are busy in the milling department. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter are busy. At Froghall and Oakmoor the copperworkers are busy.

Coal Mining.—The North Staffordshire miners, with 6,000 members, report employment as quiet, with about 4 per cent. unemployed. Pits connected with ironworks are busy.

Textile Trades.—At Leek the silk workers report an improvement. At Congleton trimming weavers are indifferently employed; throwsters and fustian cutters are busy. At Cheadle and Tean both silk and tape workers are regularly employed.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors are better employed. The shoemakers at Stafford report employment as quiet, with only two men out of work; at Stone as fair. Corset makers at Uttoxeter remain busy.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate in the Potteries and at Leek; as dull at Stafford. Employment is good in the stone quarries at Alton and Hollington, and in the brick and tile yards.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches of these trades, with 255 members, report 12 (or 4.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 9.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants at Stoke, Crewe and Stafford report employment as good. The bakers are moderately busy. Gasworkers are well employed.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in these trades, both with millmen and forgemen, is reported as good in South Staffordshire and South Shropshire, and fair in East Worcestershire. Wire rolling has not been so brisk. At Horsehay bridge and girder makers have been making overtime. Steel-smelters at Wednesbury are reported as fairly well employed.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—The engineers, iron-founders, wheelwrights and smiths, toolmakers and machinists, safemakers and brassworkers in Wolverhampton, and the ironfounders in West Bromwich and district, out of 1,250 members report 27 (or 2.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 33 (or 3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Cycle-makers are extremely busy, and full time continues at the railway sheds in all departments.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MID., EAST, AND SOUTH-WEST COUNTIES.

Hardware Trades.—The chain and anchor makers, lockmakers, tinplate workers, edge-tool makers and japanners report employment as good; vice and anvil and wrought hinge makers as improving; key-stampers, galvanizers and enamellers as fair; nail-makers and ironplate workers as moderate; fender and fire-iron makers, tube-workers, and plantation hoe makers as declining.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is reported as fair; in the tailoring trade as improved.

Coal Mining.—In the Cannock Chase district (household coal) a slight improvement is reported in one colliery only, and a number of men are reported as out of work. On the Hednesford side miners are reported as working about 3 days per week, and at some pits men are being discharged. In the Black Country district (largely manufacturing coal) employment is worse. In South Shropshire (mixed coal) the men are working 4 and 5 days per week.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment with cabinet-makers and upholsterers is reported as improved; with the packing-case makers as moderate; with coachbuilders, wet cask coopers, railway carriage and wagon makers as good.

Glassmaking.—Employment in the flint glass trade of Dudley, Wordsley, and Brierley Hill continues good. Glass bottle-workers at Brierley Hill continue slack.

Building Trades.—All branches are fairly well employed.

Printing Trades.—Employment in all branches of the printing trade is reported as moderate. In Wolverhampton the compositors have 5.6 per cent. out of work.

Miscellaneous.—Chemical workers, tar distillers and oil, colour and varnish makers continue fully employed. Railway men, carters and carriers are busy; gas stoking has declined. Wool spinners and carpet weavers at Kidderminster continue well employed.

W. F. Mee.

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—Returns from 6 branches of the engineers report employment as good in all sections, with only 12 men unemployed.

Brass and Copper Working.—General cabinet brass foundry is improving. Employment in the brass trades generally is good. Coppersmiths are not so well employed.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—The jewellers are fairly well employed; none are known to be working short time. Silversmiths are in some places busy on prize cups. Electro-plate work is returned as only moderately good, several working short time.

Other Metal Trades.—Bedstead work has fallen off a little. Tinplate workers are busy. Metal rolling is good, and night shifts are common. Wireworkers are fairly busy, especially on dog muzzles. Cycle-makers are busier than ever. Ironfounders report employment as good. Ironplate working is normal; a small percentage are working short time, and there are 50 unemployed. Steel pea work is fairly good. In Redditch the needle-makers have plenty of work at low rates. In Walsall the locksmiths are busy.

Building Trades.—Employment is not brisk, but few are reported as unemployed.

Glass Trade.—Flint glass makers report no change; the glass-cutters have been making 5½ days per week, and have 10 unemployed; glass bevelling and silvering are good.

Woodworking Trades.—Coachmaking is good. Cabinet-makers and coopers are fairly busy. Packing-case makers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors' work is improving. Boot and shoe work is only middling, and short time is being made.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the pearl and linen button trade is fairly active. Saddlery and harness workers generally are dull. In Coventry employment is fair in the ribbon and trimming trades; not so good in watchmaking.—W. J. Davis.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

General.—Throughout the district 14 societies, with 566 members, report employment as good; 27 societies, with 2,296 members, as fair; 12 societies, with 835 members, as dull; 6 societies, with 172 members, as bad; 3 societies, with 195 members, as dull at first, but improving.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in these trades is reported as dull at Norwich and Thetford; as good at Great Yarmouth, Melton Constable and Lynn. The shipwrights report employment as fair at Yarmouth and good at Lowestoft.

Textile Trades.—At Yarmouth the silk and crape factories are on full time, and employment is fair; in Norwich some of the operatives are on short time.

Clothing Trades.—The clothing factories at Norwich are on full time, and employment is fair. Bespoke tailors are busier, but still slack. Employment in the boot and shoe trade in Norwich has improved, and few are on short time.

Building Trades.—These trades are busy at Lowestoft, Yarmouth and Cromer; quiet at Norwich, with few unemployed; slightly better at Cambridge.

Printing and Bookbinding.—The letterpress printers and bookbinders at Norwich are fairly busy, with few idle.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Dock, wharf and riverside labourers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft are fairly well employed.

Fishing.—The fishing has been poor at Lowestoft; fair at Yarmouth.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as declining at Ipswich; fair at Leiston, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; good at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, and Chelmsford; bad at Wickham Market; the boiler-makers at Ipswich, with 5 per cent. unemployed, as moderate, and the shipwrights as improving.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is fair at Ipswich and good at Colchester. At both Ipswich and Colchester the wholesale tailoring trade continues good. The corset makers report employment as fair at Ipswich, good at Sudbury.

Textile Trades.—The matmakers report employment as good at Lavenham and Long Melford, and moderate at Sudbury, Hadleigh, and Glemsford; the horsehair weavers as good at Lavenham and Long Melford. The silk weavers at Sudbury are well employed, and the silk and crape workers at Halstead, Braintree, and Bocking continue busy.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as improved at Ipswich, except with stonemasons; rather dull at Colchester, fair at Chelmsford; good at Hadleigh, Sudbury, and Earl's Colne; moderate at Halstead; improving at Bury St. Edmunds.

Printing Trade.—Employment with the letterpress printers has been moderate at Ipswich and Colchester, dull at Bury St. Edmunds, declining at Beccles.

Dock Labour.—At Ipswich dock labourers have been but moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment continues good at the horticultural works at Ipswich; slack at Chelmsford. The cigarmakers at Ipswich continue busy.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.

Building Trades.—Branches of the carpenters and joiners, plasterers, bricklayers, stonemasons, lathrenders, and brickmakers, out of 2,598 members, report 96 (or 3.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 316 (or 11.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Clothing Trades.—The wholesale garment makers report employment as not quite so busy; the boot and shoe operatives as moderate in Bristol and slack at Kingswood; the bespoke tailors as improved; the silk hatters as fair.

Leather Trades.—The saddle and harness makers report employment as improving, the carriers as fairly good.

Coal Mining.—The Bristol miners report that the various pits in the district are working from four to five days per week. The time worked in the Forest of Dean continues to average about four days per week. No improvement is reported from the Radstock district.

Woodworking Trades.—In Bristol the cabinet-makers and coopers describe employment as good; the mill-sawyers as fair.

Printing Trades.—Branches of the letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders, out of 626 members, report 20 (or 3.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 34 (or 5.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Branches of the engineers, boiler-makers, ironfounders, toolmakers, smiths, coachbuilders, shipwrights and brassfounders, out of 2,326 members, report 23 (or 1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 46 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seagoing men at Bristol report employment as scarce; the dock labourers as fair upon general cargo work, but slack in the grain trade.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—WALES & SCOTLAND.

Miscellaneous.—The glass bevellers and cutters report employment as good; the glass bottle makers as improving; the oil and colour workers as busy; the cotton operatives as steady; the general labourers as improving.—J. Cwrl.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—The metal mining industry of Cornwall remains in the same depressed condition. Relief works have been started, and about 500 miners are employed on them. Some have returned to South Africa. The clayworkers and quarrymen are reported as fairly busy.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Four branches of engineers and boiler-makers in Plymouth and district, with 1,177 members, report 11 (or 0.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 4 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership, at the end of February. The boiler-makers, ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers, smiths and wheelwrights again report employment as fair; the engineers as good.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made branch of the tailoring trade continues busy. The bespoke department has shown an improvement. Employment has been slack in the boot and shoe trade.

Building Trades.—Societies with 2,241 members report 0.2 per cent. on unemployed benefit, and 0.3 per cent. as unemployed without benefit, as against a total of 70 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Dock Labour and Shipping.—Dock and quayside labourers have been fairly well employed. Seamen report berths as difficult to obtain.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report 6 per cent. as unemployed. The lithographic printers and bookbinders are also quiet.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and furniture workers report employment as fair, the coachbuilders as busy.

Miscellaneous.—The brushmakers and bakers continue slack. The gasworkers report a decline. The fishing industry has been quiet throughout the district. General labourers are better employed.—J. Welland.

WALES.

North Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the coal trade in North Wales during the month has not been satisfactory. The collieries have averaged about four days' work per week. A few collieries have worked full time; some others only two and a half days a week.

Quarrying.—Employment in slate quarrying is exceedingly brisk, the whole of the men being fully employed, with the exception of about 200 thrown idle through the caving in of a quarry in the Festiniog district. Freestone, limestone and granite workers are working full time, with none unemployed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in these trades is reported as very good with no unemployed.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate for bricklayers, carpenters, painters, plasterers, slaters, and labourers.

Brick and Terra Cotta Works.—Employment is good in all branches, full time being worked throughout the month.

Woollen Trade.—Woollen operatives are reported as well employed, with very few idle.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment has slightly improved, but many collieries in the Western and Monmouth Districts have not been worked more than three or four days a week. During the month the report of the auditors as to the selling price of coal left wages unchanged. A suspension of work was also threatened on account of the introduction of a discharge-note system by the employers, but this was averted by a suspension of the system for the present.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been moderate at Barry, Cardiff, Penarth and Newport. At Swansea all shipping has been dull. General cargo shipments have been fair at Newport and Cardiff. The pitwood and iron ore trades have been fair at Cardiff, but dull at Newport, and the pitwood trade has been slack at Barry. Dock hoppers have been slack. Changes in crews have been more frequent.

Building Trades.—14 branches of carpenters and joiners, with 1,603 members, return 61 (or 3.8 per cent.) as unemployed. The

masons report employment as moderate, with none idle at Cardiff; the bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers as good; the paper-hangers and decorators as improved, but with many out of work. Builders' labourers and general labourers have had fair employment.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Employment generally has been better; 15 branches of engineers, with 2,485 members, report 202 (or 8.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 176 (or 7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February; but the latter number was in addition to 75 men out through a dispute now terminated. Nearly all these branches report employment as bad or dull. The boiler-makers report employment as fair, with about 15 per cent. unemployed throughout the district, but with none at Swansea; the shipwrights as worse, at least half being unemployed, although at Swansea they are all in work; the moulders as good in the sea-ports, and declining inland. Labourers in ship-repairing yards have been fairly well employed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in Blaenavon, Dowlais, Ebbw Vale and Cyfarthfa is reported as improving.

Miscellaneous.—The wagon-builders and repairers report employment as good; the compositors as bad; the patent fuel workers as dull at Newport and Swansea, and good at Cardiff; the copper and silver workers as dull; the chemical workers as slack.

T. Davies.

The Tinplate Trade in South Wales and Monmouth.—Reports received relating to the tinplate industry in the South Wales and Monmouthshire district show a decided falling off in employment during March as compared with the previous month. At the 89 works to which the returns relate there were only 286 mills in operation at the end of March, compared with 339 at the end of February, a decrease of 53 mills. Of the 89 works, 40 with 217 mill's are reported as fully at work; 19 with 110 mills as partially employed (69 of the 110 mills being at work); while 30 works with 173 mills are reported as idle. At nearly all of the mills in operation the employees are working at reductions of 10 to 15 per cent., and in some cases from 20 to 25 per cent., below the amended 1874 list of prices. Reductions of wages affecting 4,900 tinplate-workers were reported during March. (See also pages 100 and 126.)

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining.—Employment in Mid and East Lothian has been much the same as in February, 80 per cent. working nearly full time, the remainder from three to four days per week. In West Lothian employment has improved slightly, from 10 to 12 days per fortnight being generally worked.

Mineral Oil Trade.—This industry continues busy, all classes of workers being fully employed. Of the workpeople employed at 28 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, 82 per cent. were at mines which worked full time during the four weeks ended March 28th. The number of men at work at these mines was 3,893, as against 3,464 in March 1895.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Fifteen branches of ironmoulders, engineers, range and stove fitters, blacksmiths, horse-shoers, pattern-makers, tinsmiths and gas-meter makers, and brassfounders, with 3,516 members in Edinburgh, Leith and Falkirk, report 67 (or 1.9 per cent.) as unemployed, against 80 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipbuilding.—The shipwrights report employment as good, with none idle; the boiler-makers as fair, with 13.8 per cent. idle, as against 22.2 per cent. at the end of February.

Textile Trades.—The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good. In Dunfermline the linen industry has improved. In Hawick and Selkirk woollen spinners and weavers are fairly well employed, but in Galashiels a good many weavers are idle. In Selkirk employment in the hosiery trade is good; in Hawick the machine-made departments are busy, but the hand-made departments are slack. Dyers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—The plumbers report employment as fair, the other branches as good.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Eight branches of these trades, with 829 members, report 10 (or 1.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The coal porters and dock labourers are fairly well employed; the seamen and firemen report a number unemployed.

EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH—DISTRICT REPORTS.—SCOTLAND (continued) AND IRELAND.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers, lithographic artists, typefounders, stereotypers, and bookbinders, with 2,094 members, report 42 (or 2.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 55 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors, shoemakers, and settmakers report employment as good; the bakers and saddlers as fair; the glass-cutters and curriers as quiet; the general labourers as busy.

J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Great activity is now shown in all the yards on the Clyde in all branches, shipwrights and shipjoiners being exceptionally busy. The boiler-makers, however, have some unemployed in Greenock and Port Glasgow. The sail-makers report employment as improved.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as good, with few idle in Glasgow, Greenock and Paisley. The blacksmiths and ironmoulders again report improvement, the latter having 200 fewer idle. The brassmoulders, brassfinishers and coppersmiths, tinplate workers, range stove and ornamental fitters, wireweavers, irondressers, pattern-makers, spindle and flyer makers, and horse-shoers report employment as good, with few idle.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment in the iron and steel trades continues brisk.

Coal Mining.—Employment in Stirlingshire shows a little improvement, many of the men working 5 days per week. In Ayrshire 4 days' work per week is reported as the average.

Building Trades.—Reports from all branches engaged in these trades in Glasgow and surrounding towns continue favourable.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The coachmakers report employment as exceptionally busy, with none idle; the cabinet-makers, woodcarvers, woodturners and sawmillers as good; the upholsterers as dull, but improved; the coopers as quiet.

Textile Trades.—The weavers in all branches continue well employed; lacemakers are busy in Glasgow, and in Ayrshire calendermen are very busy; the warpers have slightly improved, averaging 43 hours per week.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade is reported as good; in the ready-made branches as fair. The shoemakers report employment as improved; the pump, boot, and slipper makers as dull.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as slightly improved; the dock labourers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as improved, with 4.5 per cent. idle; the bookbinders as quiet; the lithographic printers as unchanged.

Miscellaneous.—The railway servants, hackney-carriage drivers and carters are all well employed. Flint-glass cutters report employment as improved; plate-glass workers as bad; glass bottle makers as dull; pottery workers as good; tobacco pipe makers as quiet.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

General.—Societies with 2,705 members report 177 (or 6.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 250 (or 8.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry continues good. Through a breakdown about 400 operatives were thrown out of work, but are now again employed. The linen operatives are well employed. With few exceptions, spindles and looms are kept fully running.

Coal Mining.—The Fife coal trade in the last week of the month showed signs of improvement. Information received with regard to 26 collieries, for the four weeks ending 28th March, shows the average week's work to have been 4.2 days.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers, ironmoulders, blacksmiths, boiler-makers and shipwrights, with 1,745 members, report 164 (or 9.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 205 (or 10.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as dull; the other branches as fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is exceptionally brisk. The carpenters and joiners, sawmillers and painters, with 621 members, report 4 (or 0.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 35 (or 5.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders, with 287 members, report 9 (or 3.1 per

cent.) as unemployed, as against 8 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Fishing Industry.—When able to proceed to sea, the haddock fleet has been moderately successful, and the prices obtained fair. The salmon fishing was but moderate at first, but improved towards the end of the month. Taking the season as a whole, it is the best for some years past.

Dock and General Labour.—Employment at the docks has been slack. General labourers in the city continue fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment has improved with the tailors. Boot and shoe operatives continue well employed. Floorcloth and linoleum makers are busy, and bleachfield workers moderately so.

P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—The drillers, blockers, cranemen, settmakers and labourers report employment as good; the monumental masons as moderate; the hewers and builders as quiet; the granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—Branches of the carpenters and joiners, plumbers, plasterers and slaters, with 1,333 members, report employment as good, with 3 members as unemployed, as against 11 at the end of February.

Fishing.—In March the trawl boats landed 36,609 cwts., realising £22,532, and the line boats 15,141 cwts., realising £9,283, a slight decrease in quantity, but an increase in value, as compared with February.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of the boiler-makers and shipbuilders, shipwrights, blacksmiths, ironmoulders, engineers, and tinplate workers, with 852 members, report 57 (or 6.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 64 (or 8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the flax, woollen, jute, cotton, rope-spinning and hemp-dressing industries is reported as good, with carpet-weavers as bad.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe riveters and finishers report employment as moderate; the hand-sewn branch as good; the tailors as quiet, but slightly improved.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches of the letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers, with 264 members, report 16 (or 6.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 11 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Furniture and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in these trades is fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers report employment as moderate; the combmakers as bad; general labourers as fair; dock labourers as moderate.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good; 8 societies of carpenters and joiners, painters, slaters, plumbers, glaziers, whiteners and lathsplitters, with 2,417 members, report 242 (or 10 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 237 (or 9.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The coachmakers, cabinet-makers and upholsterers, with 479 members, report 31 (or 6.5 per cent.) as unemployed.

Metal Trades.—Three societies of engineers, whitesmiths and smiths, with 514 members, report 17 (or 3.3 per cent.) as unemployed, showing no change.

Printing Trades.—Five societies of letterpress and lithographic printers, stereotypers and bookbinders, with 1,224 members, report 83 (or 6.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 104 (or 8.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. Bookfolders have been fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Dock labourers report employment as good. The bootmakers and riveters, with 230 members, as bad, with 30 per cent. unemployed; one union of labourers, with 1,500 members, as fair, with 10 per cent. idle; another, with 512 members, as dull, with 13.4 per cent. unemployed, in addition to 8.8 per cent. idle through a dispute.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—Societies with 17,357 members report 626 (or 3.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 716 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Societies with 6,624 members return 180 (or 2.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 284 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The engineers report

CO-OPERATIVE DOCK LABOUR AT BURNTISLAND.

The following information is based on personal inquiries made by one of the special investigators of the Department:—

For some years past the work of stowing coal at Burntisland (Fife) has been carried out by a co-operative group of associated coal trimmers, consisting of 61 members—a foreman and 5 squads of 12 men each. The association elects its own members, and once a year chooses the foreman, and appoints one member of each squad to be leading man. The foreman and the 5 leading men form the committee, which is the executive body of the organisation. The rules of the association contain stringent provisions as to the suspension or the expulsion of members guilty of misconduct. On the other hand, while the voluntary discipline of the co-operative workmen is strict, their employers, the company which controls the dock, do not attempt to exercise any sort of control either over the membership of the association, the selection of the foremen or the leading hands, or the composition of the squads; nor are any labour superintendents employed by the company to supervise the work. The association is, in fact, in the position of an independent contractor, an agreement having been made with the committee to trim all coal requiring to be dealt with, at certain fixed rates. The agreement under which the men are now working was made early in 1890, as a contract for one year, determinable by three months' notice on either side, and has remained in force until the present time.

The money due from the employers on each fortnightly pay-day is paid by them to the foreman, by whom the amount (less certain small sums retained as working capital) is divided among all the members of the association, who (foreman and leading hands as well as ordinary members) all take equal shares. If a man be absent (from illness, &c.) his place is taken by a substitute, who is usually one of the members of another squad. Only in rare cases does an outsider act as a substitute; and in such cases the outsider shares equally with the members. The sums retained as working capital are used to keep up the small amount of tackle (value about £20) required for the work, and any surplus is divided twice a year among all the members equally. Each man owns his own shovel. The association meets regularly once a month; the committee once a fortnight. The foreman delivers to the committee the note showing the amount of work done in the fortnight which he receives from the employers, and hands over any cash retained for working capital to the treasurer, to whom he submits the accounts. The secretary to the committee makes a report to the association at each monthly meeting. At the end of the year the books are audited by a professional auditor.

It may be added that the Coal Trimmers' Association is nearly identical with the trade union organisation concerned, the local branch of the National Union of Dock Labourers consisting entirely of members of the association, and only three members of the association being outside the union. The branch secretary is the treasurer of the association. The co-operative arrangements here described are stated to give satisfaction to both employers and employed.

Information for intending Emigrants.—The quarterly free circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on April 1st and contain particulars useful to intending emigrants regarding the demand for labour in the various British Colonies, and the rates of wages prevailing, and cost of living. Information is also given as to the cost of reaching the various colonies and the arrangements made to receive emigrants on landing. A new edition of the penny handbooks—one for each colony—has also been issued. These books contain a map and description of the colony to which they relate, together with an account of the climate, government, religious and educational systems, and of the conditions of labour and commerce, rates of wages, and cost of living, and various other subjects of interest to intending emigrants. These publications can be obtained of the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

employment as moderate, the iron shipbuilders as improving, the smiths' helpers and strikers, brassfounders, carpenters and joiners, and platers' helpers and general labourers as fair; the blacksmiths, furnishing trades, pattern-makers, shipwrights, machine workers, drillers and hole-cutters, enginemen, cranemen and firemen, and ironfounders as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,150 members report 198 (or 4.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 145 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The flax roughers report employment as bad; the power-loom yarn-dressers as dull; the power-loom tenters as improving; the flax-dressers, linen-lappers, women workers and yarn bundlers as fair; the beetling enginemen, hackle and gill-makers, and the spindle and flyer-makers as good.

Clothing Trades.—Societies with 708 members report 9 (or 1.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 61 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as slack, and the tailors as good.

Building Trades.—Societies with 2,722 members report 109 (or 4 per cent.) as out of work, as against 148 (or 5.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The carpenters and joiners and plumbers report employment as moderate; the plasterers and painters as fair; the bricklayers, hodsmen and general labourers, and the mill-sawyers and woodworking machinists as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 625 members report 20 (or 3.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 36 (or 5.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The upholsterers report employment as quiet; the brushmakers, cabinet-makers, coachbuilders, packing-case makers, and French polishers as fair, the coopers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies with 831 members report 43 (or 5.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 33 (or 4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February. The bookbinders and machine rulers and lithographic printers report employment as good; the lithographic artists as fair, and the letterpress printers as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,697 members, report 67 (or 3.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 61 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of February.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as exceptionally good throughout the district, especially in Cork and Passage West. Engineering in all its branches is bad in Cork and Waterford and moderate in Limerick. Employment with iron and brass moulders is good, with shipwrights and shipjoiners bad.

Building Trades.—These trades report employment as fair in Cork and Limerick.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe makers and tailors report employment as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists, upholsterers, cabinet-makers, and coopers report employment as fair; the coachmakers as bad.

Printing and kindred Trades.—All branches of these trades report employment as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The bacon curers are fairly well employed. The feather and tweed operatives, gasworkers, railway servants, brewery workmen and quay labourers report employment as fair.—P. O'Shea.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The following table, compiled from information furnished by the Home Office, shows the number of cases of poisoning reported to the Factory Department* as having occurred in factories or workshops during the month ended 31st March last, together with total figures for the previous month:—

Diseases.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.	Total for previous Month.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
Lead poisoning	38	21	4	2	—	—	65	53
Phosphorus poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arsenical poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Total	38	21	4	2	—	—	65	—
Total for previous Month	36	17	2	4	—	—	—	59

* Under Section 29 of Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.

EMPLOYMENT IN 1895.

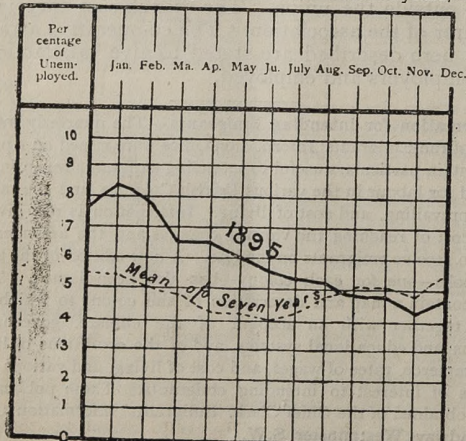
In the February number of the GAZETTE preliminary figures were given with regard to changes of wages and hours of labour, and strikes and lock-outs in 1895. The information given below relates to the condition of employment in the same year, as shown by the monthly returns made to the Department.

The following table shows the percentage of members returned by Trade Unions as unemployed at the end of each month of 1895, compared with the corresponding figures for each of the two previous years and also with the mean figures for the period of seven years, 1888-1894:—

Month.	1893.	1894.	1895.	Mean of seven years, 1888-1894.
January	10.0	7.0	8.2	5.4
February	9.5	6.3	7.9	5.0
March	8.7	6.5	6.5	4.8
April	6.9	6.1	6.5	4.3
May	6.2	6.0	6.0	4.3
June	5.8	6.3	5.6	4.1
July	6.2	7.4	5.3	4.3
August	7.1	7.7	5.2	4.8
September	7.3	7.6	4.9	5.0
October	7.3	7.4	4.8	5.0
November	7.2	7.0	4.2	4.8
December	7.9	7.7	4.8	5.5
Mean for Year	7.5	6.9	5.8	4.8

From this table it appears that on the average the condition of employment in 1895 was better than in 1894 or 1893, but not quite up to the average of the whole cycle of seven years, 1888-1894. The year, however, was one of steady improvement. The percentages returned as unemployed in the first two months (8.2 and 7.9 respectively) were exceptionally high, owing to the prolonged frost; not only are these figures above the average of seven years (5.4 and 5.0 respectively), but also above the corresponding percentages (7.0 and 6.3) for 1894. Up to the end of April the state of employment in 1895 compared unfavourably with that in the previous year. It will be remembered that a slight improvement of employment took place in the spring of 1894, which, however, proved quite temporary, employment from May onwards falling off again. To some extent no doubt the decline was attributable to the indirect effects of the Scottish coal dispute. In 1895, on the other hand, the chief abnormal causes tending to retard the revival of industry (viz., the prolonged frost and the dispute in the boot and shoe trade) had ceased to operate by the end of the Spring, and a continual improvement in employment took place throughout the remaining months of the year. By the end of September the percentage of unemployed had fallen slightly below the average of the preceding seven years (4.9, compared with 5 per cent.), and it continued below this average during the last quarter of the year. The following chart shows more clearly the course of employment in 1895, compared with the mean curve for seven years.

Chart showing percentage of members of trade unions returned as unemployed at the end of each month of 1895, and the corresponding percentage for the mean of seven years, 1888-94.



THE WORK OF THE STATE BOARD OF ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION IN MASSACHUSETTS IN 1895.

The report of the Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation for 1895 has just been received. The report contains a short introduction, an account of each of the cases in which the Board has intervened or taken action during the year, and an appendix giving the text of various State laws providing for mediation and arbitration.

The law of Massachusetts dates from 1886, and provides for the appointment by the Governor of a State Board consisting of three members, holding office for three years, one to be selected from some employers' association, one from a labour organisation, and one to be appointed on the recommendation of the other two, or, failing agreement, by the Governor. Application for the Board's services may be made by an employer employing at least 25 persons in the same town and business, or by a majority of the employees in the department of business affected, or by their agent. On such application it is the Board's duty to visit the locality, inquire into the dispute, hear witnesses, and publish a decision. When the Board hears through other sources of an existing or threatened dispute in a business employing at least 25 persons, it is its duty to communicate with the parties and endeavour to effect an amicable settlement, and it may, if it think advisable, investigate the causes of the dispute and publish a report stating which party is to blame. On application being made, each side may nominate an expert assistant to the Board. The Board has power to summon as witness any operative in the departments affected and any person who keeps records of wages, to examine them on oath, and to require the production of wages-books.

The report gives particulars of the action of the Board in the case of 32 disputes or threatened disputes during 1895. From the information supplied it appears that the Board succeeded in settling or promoting a settlement of 17 of these differences, viz., 10 by arbitration and 7 by conciliation; that in 4 cases it exercised its power of publishing a report without, however, settling the dispute; that in 9 other cases it was unsuccessful; and that the remaining 2 disputes were otherwise settled before the Board had time to take action.

Fifteen out of the 32 cases were in the boot and shoe trade, one of the chief industries of the State. Of these 9 were settled by arbitration and 3 by conciliation, 2 were otherwise settled without action by the Board, and in the remaining case (a strike of lasters on the question of wages to be paid to workers of lasting machines) the Board published a report but did not effect a settlement. Seven of the questions settled by arbitration referred to the determination of piece prices for certain articles or operations. One case of the dismissal of an employee was referred to the Board, resulting in his reinstatement. Two cases submitted related to the fixing of a "fair day's work" to be performed by certain classes of machinery.

It will be seen that nine out of the ten successful arbitrations, and three out of the seven successful cases of conciliation during the year were in the boot and shoe trade. The remaining case of arbitration was the fixing of wages for ship caulkers in Boston. Seven disputes dealt with by the Board were in the textile trades, but in five of these the intervention was unsuccessful, the remaining two being settled by conciliation. In both of the two disputes in the building trades (plumbers and painters) the Board was unsuccessful.

A dispute among steam fitters at Boston, who demanded an eight hour day with no reduction of wages, was settled by a compromise between the parties, who had been induced by the Board after several efforts to meet in conference.

It appears from the information contained in the report, that 10 of the cases were submitted by both parties, 7 by the workmen only, 2 by the employers only, and 13 were dealt with on the initiative of the Board. Of the 10 cases of joint application (of which 9 were in the boot and shoe trade), 9 were successfully

ARBITRATION, CONCILIATION, AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS IN MARCH.

Arbitration in the Cotton Trade.

A request for extra remuneration on the part of three cardroom operatives employed in a mill at Oldham having led to their dismissal, the cardroom operatives of the mill tendered notices. These notices were ultimately withdrawn, and the questions at issue were referred, by agreement, to two arbitrators. On March 7th the arbitrators gave their decision. They held that according to the Brooklands Agreement (clauses 6 and 7), it was the duty of the Operatives' Society, before notices were tendered, to communicate in writing with the Employers' Association. They also held that an employer was not bound to assign any reason for discharging an operative. The amount of extra pay due to the discharged men was assessed, and at once paid.

An understanding was arrived at that in future the Cardroom Society, if they believed that any of their members were being victimised, could claim a meeting of the joint committee before the notice to leave expired.

Arbitration Agreement in the Tyne Shipbuilding Trade.

On March 20th a meeting was held in Newcastle of eight employers, eight representatives of the Boiler-makers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Society, Tyne and Blyth district, and eight representatives of the National Amalgamated Union of Labour for the district. At this meeting it was agreed that in future all disputes arising out of the "scales of help" originally agreed upon by the Tyne Shipbuilders and the Amalgamated Union of Labour should be referred to three referees. These referees are to be selected by ballot, on the occasion of each dispute, out of a permanent list of ten persons. The agreement is subject to a six months' notice of termination from either side.

Settlement of an Inter-Trade Dispute on the Tyne.

Since the beginning of 1894 differences regarding certain matters of trade policy and discipline have existed between the Amalgamated Society of Cabinet-makers and the United Trades Committee of Carpenters and Joiners' Societies in the Tyne district. The differences originated during a shipyard dispute, when the former Union declined to comply with the instruction of the committee (to which it was affiliated for trade purposes) to stop certain of its members doing work for a firm holding a contract for a shipyard from which the joiners and other federated trades were on strike. The cabinet-makers, on being censured, withdrew from the committee. By an agreement between the United Trades Committee and the Tyne Shipbuilders' Association of Employers, dated October 26th, 1894, members of the Amalgamated Cabinet-makers' Union (except 15 then under engagement in the shipyards) were excluded from employment in shipbuilding yards pending the settlement of the difference between the two Unions. In May 1895 the Amalgamated Cabinet Makers became affiliated with the Shipbuilding and Engineering Federation, with which the United Trades' Committee was also connected, and under the rules of that body claimed that the points at issue between them and the committee should be referred to arbitration. Accordingly each side nominated an arbitrator, and Mr. J. O'Neill, J.P., of Sunderland, was chosen umpire. On March 25th the umpire decided that the Cabinet-makers' Union had violated "recognised trade union principles," and that they should pay £50 to the United Trades Committee, besides all expenses of the arbitration. One month from the date of payment the agreement excluding their members from work in the shipbuilding yards to lapse, but the cabinet-makers who resumed work to comply with the same conditions and receive the same rate of wages as recognised for joiners.

Miners' Conciliation Board.

At an informal meeting of this Board held on March 26th the following proposal was made on behalf of the coal-owners:—"That the Conciliation Board inaugurated at the Rosebery Conference, and as now established in conformity therewith, be continued, to determine

settled by arbitration and the remaining 1 was otherwise settled. Of the 9 cases submitted by one side only, 3 were successfully settled by conciliation, 1 by arbitration, and 5 resulted in failure. Of the 13 disputes in which the Board took action on its own initiative, it was successful in settling four.

The report states that the disputes dealt with involved persons whose yearly earnings are estimated at about £355,000. The cost of the Board in 1895 was about £2,100.

WAGES AND WORKING HOURS IN FRANCE.*

The third volume of statistics resulting from the inquiry into wages and hours completed by the French Labour Department in the summer of 1893, deals with certain industries in the parts of France outside the Seine Department, including the wood and metal trades, the working of stone and earth, and State and Communal industries. For an account of previous volumes, see GAZETTE of May 1895, p. 145. The appendix contains the tabulated results of inquiries addressed by the French Labour Department to associations of employers and workers on the conditions of employment in most of the trades dealt with in the report.

Average Wages and Hours in Certain Industries—

The following particulars of the average daily wages and working hours in a certain number of important trades are extracted from the summary, which appears on pp. 452-5 of the report:—

Trades.	Average length of working day (excl. of meal times).	Average Daily Wages.	
		Men (excl. of Foremen).	Women.
Metal Trades:—	Hours.	s. d.	s. d.
Iron and Steel Smelting	10½	3 3	1 4
Smelting (other metals)	10½	2 10	1 2
Iron Founding	10½	3 5	1 6
Copper and Brass Founding	10	3 3	1 8
Engineering	10½	3 5	1 4
Boiler-making	10	3 4	1 4
Smiths' Work	11	3 5	1 7
Nail-making	10½	3 0	1 6
Locks and Hardware	10½	3 2	1 6
File-making	10½	3 4	1 6
Cutlery	10½	3 8	1 6
Temple Working	10½	3 6	1 6
Watch and Clock-making	10½	3 4	1 9
Scientific Instrument-making	12	3 1	1 5
Working of Precious Metals	10½	3 2	1 5
Brick, Pottery and Glass:—			
Brick, Tile, &c. (for building)	10½	3 5	1 4
Earthenware, Pottery, &c.	11	3 1	1 7
Glass Bottle-making	9	3 10	1 3
Wood-working, &c.:—			
Furniture-making	10½	3 4	1 6
Saw-mills	11	3 10	1 6
Brushes and Brooms	11½	2 8	1 1

Standard Rates of Wages in the Building Trades.—

An appendix gives a table of standard rates of wages of building operatives and others in the most important towns, based on returns from the "Maires." The following summary relates to the building trades in the twenty largest provincial towns:—

Towns.	Standard Rates of Daily Wages.				
	Masons & Bricklayers.	Carpenters.	Painters.	Plumbers.	Navvies.
Marseilles	s. d. 4 5	s. d. 4 5	s. d. 3 7	s. d. 4 5	s. d. 2 5
Lyons	4 5	5 7	4 5	4 5	3 2
Bordeaux	4 5	4 5	4 0	4 5	3 2
Lille	3 2	3 7	3 7	3 7	3 1
Toulouse	3 2	3 2	2 10	3 0	2 0
Saint-Etienne	3 7	4 5	4 5	3 2	2 10
Nantes	3 7	3 10	3 11	3 8	2 3
Roubaix	3 2	3 2	3 2	3 2	2 11
Rouen	4 0	4 0	4 5	4 10	2 5
Rheims	3 2	3 6	4 0	4 0	3 10
Nice	3 0	4 10	3 0	3 7	2 5
Nancy	3 5	4 10	3 7	3 5	3 2
Amiens	3 2	3 2	3 2	3 7	2 10
Limoges	2 10	3 2	3 2	3 7	2 0
Angers	3 2	3 10	4 0	3 7	2 5
Nimes	2 10	4 0	3 2	3 2	2 5
Rennes	2 10	2 10	3 0	3 0	2 0
Dijon	4 0	4 0	3 2	3 2	2 10
Orleans	3 2	4 5	4 5	3 2	2 5
Grenoble	3 7	3 10	3 7	3 7	2 2

* Salaires et Durée du Travail dans l'Industrie Française. Tome III. Paris. Berger-Levrault et Cie.

from time to time the rate of wages on and from August 1st, 1896" (this being the date when the present agreement expires). On behalf of the miners it was proposed:—"That the agreement now in existence be continued till August 1st, 1898." It was agreed that the two proposals should be submitted to the coal-owners and miners in every district, and the meeting was adjourned until April 30th.

Agreement in the Cased Tube Trade.

An agreement was signed on March 6th and 11th, creating an alliance between employers and workmen engaged in the manufacture of cased tubes and stair rods. The members of the Employers' Association agree to employ only members of the Workmen's Association, and the members of the latter not to work for "any manufacturer who is not a member of the Manufacturers' Association, or is selling his goods at lower prices than those which from time to time are decided upon." The agreement provides that prices shall be fixed by the Employers' Association, that alterations in these prices shall be in the form of percentage alterations in the discounts given on the gross list prices, and that every alteration of 2½ per cent. in the gross discount shall entail an advance or reduction of 5 per cent. in wages. After the preliminaries are arranged, the men are to receive an advance of 10 per cent. A Conciliation Board of 14 members, including a chairman on the employers' side, and a vice-chairman on the workmen's side, is to be formed forthwith to settle all disputes as to day and piece rates, and hours and conditions of labour, and no strike or lock-out is to take place before the matter in dispute has been discussed by the Board. Any matter which the Board fails to settle is to be submitted to arbitration under the rules for the time being of the Birmingham and District Chamber of Arbitration. (See "Changes of Wages" Table.)

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE prices stated below are not market quotations at a given time, but averages determined over a given period. In the case of the coal trade in South Wales, and the Midland and North of England manufactured iron trade, the price is ascertained every two months from employers' books by accountants appointed by the employers and men. It applies to the sales of the previous two months, and is used to adjust wages for the next two months under sliding scales. In Northumberland, where there is a Conciliation Board but no Sliding Scale, the ascertainment is similarly made by accountants every three months. The figure for the Cumberland and district pig iron trade is the average selling price for three months of Cumberland pig iron in the Glasgow market, by which wages are governed under the sliding scale. The figure for Cleveland is the average price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron for three months as ascertained, by accountants, from the books of eight selected firms, for the purpose of the sliding scale.

Product and District.	Number of work-people.	Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit.	Dates from which last audit affects wages.	Average ascertained selling price per ton.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.
Coal. Northumberland— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	Dec., Jan., Feb.	April 1896	s. d. 5 0 77	s. d. 5 5 07	s. d. - 0 4 3
South Wales and Monmouth— (Average for certain classes of coal, f.o.b.)	100,000	Jan., Feb.	April 1 1896	9 1 1/2 to 9 3 1/2	9 1 1/2 to 9 3 1/2	—
Pig Iron. Cumberland and N. Lancashire	1,600	Jan., Feb., Mar.	April 1896	48 1 9	48 0 4	+ 0 1 5
Cleveland	5,000	Jan., Feb., Mar.	April 1896	37 2 54	36 5 06	+ 0 9 48
Manufactd. Iron North of England: (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	Jan., Feb.	April 1896	96 7 89	96 3 69	+ 0 4 2
Midlands:— (Bars, hoops, sheets, plates and strips)	20,000	Jan., Feb.	April 1896	116 8 02	115 3 08	+ 1 4 94

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, and newspapers, &c., mostly dated in March and February last.)

Canada.—There are good openings at this time of the year for experienced farm labourers, and especially for men with a little money, who desire to take up land. With the exception of an occasional demand for bricklayers and carpenters in some country districts, there is no opening for mechanics. The demand for female servants is large.

New South Wales.—The building trades are still said to be in an unsatisfactory condition, though there has been an undoubted improvement during the last year. Both the Southern and the Newcastle collieries are working badly, and at Newcastle, a strike—which will involve some 300 hands—has occurred, on a refusal to advance wages, and other strikes are threatened. At Sydney there are still a certain number of unemployed persons; it is expected that 35 branches of the Government Labour Bureau will soon be at work in country districts, which will be a great assistance to those in search of employment. A report states that the gold fields at Wyalong (338 miles west of Sydney), are developing well, and that there is a good demand for miners there, at 40s. to 50s. a week; the general outlook for squatters, selectors, and farmers is reported to be "very promising." The number of miners at the large Broken Hill silver mines is quite sufficient.

Victoria.—For those who have a little capital and some knowledge of fruit growing, Victoria offers many openings at the present time; but there is no demand for the ordinary emigrant without money.

South Australia.—The export cattle trade and gold mining, which are the two chief industries of the Northern Territory, showed a considerable decline last year, and agriculture showed no progress; the pearl-shell fishery, however, was in a prosperous condition. In South Australia proper there has been no improvement in the labour market, there being a good supply of nearly all classes of labour with only a moderate demand. A strike has occurred among the engineers and boilermakers.

Western Australia.—There has been a good demand for navvies accustomed to the construction of railways, and the demand for miners continues.

New Zealand.—A dispute has occurred in the boot trade, and 200 men are out on strike. The import and export trade of the Colony was less in 1895 than in 1894, the port of Auckland alone showing an increase. The district of Auckland produced more gold in 1895 than any other district, the output having been twice as large as in 1894. The Journal of the Department of Labour, dated the 19th of February last, states that the building trades were at that date fairly busy at most places, including Auckland, Gisborne, Napier, Wanganui, New Plymouth, Christchurch, and Invercargill, but dull at Nelson, and not so brisk as they had been at Wellington and Dunedin. The engineering trade was quiet at Auckland and Wanganui, and dull at Nelson; improving at New Plymouth and Wellington, and fairly busy at Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill. Of the retail trades, the reports from most centres are good; and at the majority of the settlements unskilled labour was well employed, though at Auckland and Dunedin the number of applicants for employment was on the increase, and elsewhere the end of the harvest was expected to leave a considerable number of men without employment.

Cape Colony.—Considerable numbers continue to arrive at Cape Town. The demand for labour in the Colony is limited, and emigrants are not advised to go there at the present time; especially as, owing to the unsettled labour conditions in the Transvaal, some mechanics are returning to Cape Colony. Applicants for police employment in the Bechuanaland Protectorate and the territories of the British South Africa Company have been warned by the Colonial Office that no recruiting is being carried on in this country, and that there is an ample supply on the spot of men ready to enter the force as troopers. It would therefore be unwise for anyone to go out on the chance of employment.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in March.—Employment is good in the textile, clothing, iron and steel, and building trades. The leather trades continue quiet; 490 trade unions, with 115,000 members, report 4.8 per cent. unemployed on March 15th.

Labour Disputes in March.—At the beginning of March 18 disputes remained unsettled since previous months. In the course of March 40 fresh strikes and 2 lock-outs took place, 1,671 persons being engaged in 35 of the strikes for which full information was available, and 37 persons being affected by the two lock-outs. Eleven of the fresh strikes were among textile operatives; 5 in the clothing trades; 4 in the building trades; 3 among metal-workers; 2 each among leather-workers, navvies and employees in transport trades, and 11 in unclassified trades. None of the fresh strikes for which figures are available involved more than 200 workpeople. Of 32 disputes terminated in March, 10 ended favourably, and 16 unfavourably, for the workers, and 6 were settled by compromise.

Conciliation and Arbitration in March.—Eight cases of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported in March, the initiative being taken by the workpeople in 5, and by the *juges de paix* in 2 cases; information on this point being wanting for the remaining case. Conciliation proceedings, however, only took place in 5 cases, in 4 of which no settlement could be arrived at, while in one case a settlement was effected for one of the two establishments concerned.

Conciliation and Arbitration in 1895.—The law of 1892 was put into operation in 84 cases, 79 of which were actual strikes or lock-outs. The initiative was taken in 46 cases by the employees, in 2 cases by the employers, in 3 cases by the employers and employees jointly and in 34 cases by the *juges de paix*. One of the cases affecting two departments is here counted twice over. In 4 cases work was resumed before the commencement of conciliation proceedings, and in 31 cases conciliation was refused by one or both parties. Committees were appointed to deal with the remaining 49 disputes, and settled 24 of them. Arbitration was proposed in 22 cases, but took place only in 3. The remaining 3 disputes were settled by direct negotiation between the parties. As regards the 5 cases in which no actual strike had taken place, one was settled by the Committee, but only after a disagreement in the first instance, followed by a strike.

The 84 cases of application of the law were in the following industries: Textile trades, 34; building trades, 22; metal trades, 10; leather trades, 3; mining and clothing trades, 2 each; other trades, 11.

GERMANY.

The Great Strike in the Tailoring Trade.—According to the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, difficulties have arisen between the contractors or middlemen in the women's clothing branch in Berlin and the wholesale firms, on the subject of the tariff agreed to on February 19th (see last month's GAZETTE, page 81).

On March 10th a meeting of middlemen rejected the tariff accepted by their Committee, objecting especially to its being called a "wages list," and demanding a "price list" on which they might base the piece rates to be paid to their employees. A fresh list was drawn up, but this was also rejected.

According to the *Fachzeitung für Schneider* of April 4th, no settlement had been arrived at in Stettin, the employers' union refusing to negotiate with the workers' representatives. The 26 large firms constituting the union are said to employ 5,500 workers. In Dresden, the strike was declared at an end on March 6th, a compromise having been effected before the Industrial Court between three wholesale firms and the women on strike, the remaining firms having conceded the workers' demands.

In Görlitz, the strike has been settled by the granting of a minimum price list, providing for a 15 per cent. increase in the rates hitherto paid. In Hamburg and Halle, the workers at one establishment are still out, while in Carlsruhe, Mainz, and Pforzheim, the disputes are still general.

* Supplied by the courtesy of the French Office du Travail.

According to *Soziale Praxis* of April 8th, a Government inquiry into the conditions of work in the ready-made clothing trades in Germany was to be begun on April 14th.

Sir F. Lascelles, H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, reporting under date of April 1st, states that the strikes were in a great measure organised by the Central Union of "German Tailors and Workers at Kindred Trades," having, it is said, a total membership of 19,000 men and women, of whom 9,000 have recently joined.

Other Labour Disputes.—The number and importance of the disputes reported as occurring during March were exceptionally great. The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* contained accounts of 38 fresh disputes and of 6 continued since previous months. The latter do not, however, include the strikes of tailors referred to above.

Of the 38 fresh disputes, 9 were in the building trades, 8 among metal-workers, 7 among woodworkers, 5 among textile operatives, 3 in the clothing trades, 2 among leather-workers, and 4 in unclassified trades. Nineteen of the fresh disputes were general. The workers were successful in six out of sixteen disputes reported as terminated, unsuccessful in three and partly successful in seven.

Among the more important disputes was a general strike of textile operatives which was begun in Mülhausen on March 23rd. The operatives demand a working day of 10 hours, the list rates to be increased 15 per cent., the minimum piecework earnings for 12 days' work to be £2 12s. for cotton spinners and £3 for wool spinners. The employers issued notices declaring that re-employment would be refused to all who had not resumed work by March 30th, but the strike was still in progress on April 7th. A strike of 2,000 operatives belonging to the Berlin Jute Spinning and Weaving Company, in Stralau, owing to differences on the wages question was also reported.

The strike in the textile trade at Kottbus (see last month's GAZETTE) continued throughout the whole of March. On the 30th of that month the workers rejected proposals made by the employers at a joint conference held on the 28th. A general strike of wood carvers and joiners of Berlin for a working day of 8½ hours, and minimum wages of 21s. a week, terminated in the first week of March. It is reported that out of 1,000 establishments employing 10,500 workers, only one, employing 180 workers, has refused these demands.

Regulation of Bakers' Working Hours.—Rules determining the working hours of journeymen and apprentices in bakeries have been drawn up by the Federal Council, and are to take effect from July 1st, 1896. The rules apply to establishments in which night work prevails, and which bake more than three times a week. Their substance is as follows:—The actual working hours per shift must not exceed 12, and the number of shifts per week must not exceed 7, while at least eight consecutive hours of rest must intervene between every two shifts. Journeymen may be employed beyond the legal hours on incidental work for not more than half-an-hour in the preparation of the leaven. The length of shifts for apprentices must be less than those for journeymen by two hours in their first year and one hour in their second year.

Overtime is allowed on not more than 20 days in the year at the discretion of the employer, and on not more than 20 other days (with the permission of the Lower Administrative Authorities) on which there is a special demand in connection with festivals, &c. The periods of rest to be allowed between the shifts (as stated above) must, however, in all cases be observed except on the days preceding the Christmas, Easter and Whitsun festivals. Where there is no work on Saturday night and Sunday the shifts may be prolonged by two hours on the two preceding working days.

Extension of Accident Insurance.—By a resolution of the Federal Council dated February 6th, 1896, insurance against accidents has been declared obligatory, from April 1st, for the crews of German smacks engaged in the herring fishery. The obligation is limited to smacks with a nett tonnage measurement of at least 100 cubic metres (about 35 tons), which remain at sea for several weeks, and on which the herrings are cleaned, salted, and packed during the voyage.—*Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, March 2nd, 1896.

Municipal Labour Registries in Württemberg ("Clearing-house" System).—The Royal Statistical Office of Württemberg has begun to publish monthly statistics of the operations of the eight municipal labour registries of the Kingdom (see GAZETTE of February 1896, p. 54, and of November 1895, p. 340). The statistics for January, as published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* of March 21st, show that, altogether, 5,357 applications for work were registered during the month, as compared with 2,114 situations offered. Taking the principal occupations for which figures are published, it appears that, roughly, 25 per cent. of the applications from work-people and 60 per cent. of those from employers were satisfied. The demand for women (chiefly as domestic servants) was greater than the supply, there being 921 situations offered and only 771 applications for work.

SWITZERLAND.

Wages Movement of Railway Employees.—According to the report of the Swiss Workmen's Secretary, transmitted by H.M. Consul at Zürich on March 28th, this movement is now practically at an end. The strike was to have taken place on the night of March 1st to 2nd, but on March 1st the directors of the North Eastern Railway agreed to treat with the Central Committee of the employees. The directors of the Jura-Simplon Railway came to the same determination a week later. The rise in wages was soon agreed to, but it was only after prolonged negotiations that the employers agreed to a "pragmatic" regulation of the wages conditions. (See last month's GAZETTE, page 54). The settlement was hastened by the decision of the Federal Council to carry on the traffic of the railway in the event of a strike, the willingness of the men to work in the service of the Confederation having first been ascertained.

Wages Movement among Gardeners.—Gardeners at Zürich and Basle have demanded the ten hours' day and a minimum wage of 3s. 2d. At Zürich an arrangement has been come to, but at Basle half of the master gardeners refused to negotiate, and in consequence a strike took place. The strikers have formed a productive co-operative society.

Insurance against want of employment in the Commune of St. Gall.—Under date of March 6th H.M. Consul at Zürich reports that the only commune in which the Cantonal law on unemployed insurance, which came into force in the Canton of St. Gall on June 25th, 1894, has as yet been put into operation is the town of St. Gall itself. The introduction of the law by communes is optional, and subject to a resolution of the citizens. The institution at St. Gall is managed by a commission of 9 members, 7 of whom are elected by the insured workmen and 2 by the parish council. The work of collecting premiums, controlling obligation to insure, and calculating and paying compensation, is undertaken free of charge by the parish authorities.

All workmen earning less than 4s. per day and not insured in a voluntary insurance union affording at least as much relief are compelled to insure; but while receiving the unemployed benefit, or while ill and unable to earn their living, or if they have met with an accident and are not under the protection of the Employers' Liability Act, they are excused from paying premiums. The premiums range from 1½d. to 3d. per week, according to wages, and the corresponding relief from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 11d. per day for at most 60 days per year; but in times of crisis and great claims on the funds the commission are empowered to reduce the relief, beginning with unmarried persons. Relief is granted to unemployed persons, capable of working, if they cannot be provided with work suitable to their trade and their strength at the usual prices of the day and season at the place in question. But insured persons who are unable to work in consequence of an accident, or of sickness, and persons out of work through their own fault or because on strike, have no claim to relief. A maximum sum of 1s. 7d. per year for every member of the Insurance Fund is contributed to the insurance fund by the commune. (See GAZETTE of June, 1894, p. 190, and of July, 1894, p. 221.)

BELGIUM.*

State of Employment in March.—On the whole, the conditions prevailing in the labour market in March were more favourable than in the preceding month, owing to the seasonal revival of the building and clothing trades, in both of which, but more especially in the building trades, there were few unemployed. The boot and shoe trade in Ghent, however, was depressed through the want of sufficient plant, and tailors in all parts are having to struggle harder and harder against the competition of the wholesale firms who get their work done at low prices in the country, and cater for the poorer classes of customers.

The commencement of the brickmaking season, which is reported as favourable, has drawn workers

* Supplied by the courtesy of the Belgian Office du Travail.

from the metal-smelting trades in which there were very few unemployed, and from the collieries. The metal-smelting trades are very busy. A new blast-furnace has been opened at Seraing by the Minister of Labour; it is to turn out from 150 to 200 tons per day. The benefit is being felt in the coal trade, where there are scarcely any unemployed.

Of textile workers, both flax and cotton spinners and weavers are very fully employed, 2 per cent. being out of work; the wool trade is slack in Verviers, and a considerable number are wanting work; lacemaking is very prosperous. Brewers, millers, cutlers, and arms factory operatives are well employed. The baking trade is passing through a crisis similar to that of the tailors, the smaller tradesmen being unable to compete successfully against the large capitalist and co-operative bakeries which are being established in various parts of the country.

Labour Disputes in March.—Twenty-six disputes, affecting 4,650 workers and 32 establishments have been reported to the Office du Travail in March, the most extensive and most serious being in the coal trade, particularly in the Province of Liège. Next to the coal trade, the textile trade was most disturbed. Nine disputes were due to demands for increased wages; 2 to reductions of wages; 5 to dismissals of workpeople; 3 to demands for the dismissal of unpopular overseers; while one serious dispute was indirectly due to hostility on the part of the employer to the workers' union. Six disputes resulted in the dismissal of a number of strikers. Of 18 disputes terminated in March, 14 ended unfavourably for the workers; they were successful in 3, and partially successful in 1.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The following is based on reports dated March 8th and 24th, and April 3rd and 5th, supplied, through the Foreign Office, by Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Vienna:—

Strike of Vienna Firemen.—A strike was begun by the men at the central fire station in Vienna on April 1st, and extended to all the branch stations. The chief cause of dissatisfaction is said to have been the severe discipline exercised by the officers in charge of the brigades who, for some years past, have been recruited from the army. The men's demands included the reorganisation of the present system, increased pay, and a weekly day of rest. The municipal authorities refused to make any concessions unless the men returned to their duties at once. Prompt measures were at the same time taken to cope with the strike, 8 officers and 300 men of a pioneer regiment being placed in charge of the stations, and various employees being detached for service from other departments. On April 4th, after negotiations between the commandant and the representatives of the men, and, after several meetings had been held, it was decided that the men should return to duty on the old conditions. One hundred and seventy of them were, accordingly, re-admitted; but the leaders of the strike and those who had left their posts while actually on duty, were refused re-employment.

Strike of Moravian and Silesian Colliers (see last month's GAZETTE, p. 85).—Work was resumed at most of the collieries on March 23rd. It appears that the number of colliers on strike, who on March 2nd were calculated at 20,000 (out of a total of 30,000 employed), had, by March 4th, fallen to 12,000. Most of the iron foundries of the vicinity received supplies of coal from Upper Silesia and Westphalia, and the men received pecuniary assistance from abroad, more especially from England. The conditions of the settlement are described in the Handelsmuseum of March 25th. Hitherto wages have been paid at intervals of about a month, with irregular advance payments. Henceforth the miners can claim fortnightly instalments up to a certain proportion of their wages.

Inquiry into the Employment of Women.—An unofficial inquiry is being conducted by a committee in Vienna into the conditions of labour of women.

NORWAY.

Labour Disputes.—A report from Mr. T. Michell, H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, dated March 30th, contains accounts of some recent labour disputes. In the beginning of March, the workers at a match factory in Christiania demanded an advance in wages, threatening to strike unless the demand was complied with. The firm thereupon locked out the workers. Swedish match manufacturers complain of the competition of the match industry of Japan.

The workers at a cellulose factory have struck against a reduction of 15 to 20 per cent. in wages, said to be caused by the decline in the price of sulphate pulp.

At an engineering works in Christiania, 400 operatives have struck, demanding the dismissal of a newly-appointed manager. The police-court has inflicted a fine of 5s. 6d. on each of the strikers (who left without giving legal notice), but it is said that they have declined to pay it.

ITALY.

Venice Chamber of Labour.—At the sitting of the Venice Municipality on January 4th last it was decided to discontinue the annual subsidy of £400 hitherto granted to the Chamber of Labour, which was instituted a few years ago to promote the interests of the workmen, to procure them employment, and to settle disputes between them and employers. The absence of strikes among labourers and peasants and the fact that the labour movement had never been much developed are said to have led the town councillors to the conclusion that the chamber was a useless institution.

Venice Municipality and Dwellings for the People.—The Town Council of Venice has approved a project for contracting a loan of £20,000 from the local Savings Bank for the further construction of houses for workpeople, the net profits to be devoted to the erection of other similar houses. It appears that through the agency of the communal administration, groups of large, well-ventilated houses for the working classes have already been constructed in different quarters of the town and are always occupied. [Foreign Office Report, Annual Series, No. 1,665, C.—7,919.—33.]

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied by Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of March 19th:—

Strike in the Clothing Trade.—Towards the end of February 800 cutters employed in the clothing manufacturing business of Chicago struck work. The market for the Chicago clothing trade covers the country west of Pittsburg and the islands of the Pacific. The business employs in all branches some 75,000 persons. At first the strike did not greatly interfere with the bulk of these operatives, but on March 13th some 10,000 tailors struck in sympathy. Since that date the number on strike has rapidly increased, and it is stated that thousands of cutters in eastern cities have determined to strike if the employers make any attempt to help out the manufacturers of Chicago by taking their work. Out of 25,000 engaged in the manufacture of clothing in Chicago about 12,000 belong to the Garment Workers' Union. The United Garment Cutters' Union has laid down for each shop a scale of work, fixing the maximum amount that any man may do and the minimum rate of wages. In some shops these are fixed at 14 suits per day and £4 2s. 6d. per week respectively, while for boys cutting trimmings the minimum weekly rate is £3 6s. The manufacturers contend that a competent cutter can turn out from 18 to 22 suits per day, and that the men should be paid according to the work done and their worth to the employer. The cutters assert that the manufacturers are attempting to introduce the piece system of payment, to which they will not submit.

Other Disputes.—Of the 800 journeymen stonecutters who struck work on January 7th (see LABOUR GAZETTE for February, p. 55), between 110 and 125 resumed work on March 9th. Concessions have now been made by both parties which practically end the strike. Eight hours has been fixed as the limit of a day's work; the minimum rate of wages has been fixed at 1s. 3½d. per hour from March 1st 1896 to March 1st 1897, and 1s. 5½d. per hour from March 1st 1897 to March 1st 1898; and the number of apprentices has been limited

to one boy of 18 years of age for each shop, with an additional apprentice for every 24 journeymen employed.

Conciliation and Arbitration in Labour Disputes.—In six important industries, differences between employers and workpeople in Chicago have, within the last few months, been settled by joint conferences, supplemented by reference to an umpire when necessary. The brick-makers, bricklayers, carpenters, painters, steam-fitters and printers have in this way dealt with their employers through committees.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR MARCH.

Imports.—The total declared value of the imports during March and during the first three months of the year was greater than for any year in the period 1891-1895. The value for March was £38,344,750, and for the first three months of the year £112,295,342, being increases of 6.6 per cent. and 11.4 per cent. respectively on the values for the corresponding periods of 1895.

The following table shows the declared value of the imports grouped in large classes for the months ended March 31st, 1896 and 1895:—

Class of Goods.	Mar. 1896.	Mar. 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£15,618,190	£13,992,534	£1,625,656	—
Metals ...	1,580,956	1,379,370	201,586	—
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,535,561	1,505,824	—	30,263
Raw Materials for Manufacture ...	10,424,398	11,181,000	—	756,602
Manufactured Articles ...	7,868,203	6,508,004	1,360,199	—
Miscellaneous ...	1,317,442	1,333,158	—	15,716
Totals ...	38,344,750	35,959,890	2,384,860	—

The chief increases under the head of foodstuffs were those of £567,670 in the import of corn (more than half of which was due to an increase of about 2½ million cwt. in the imports of maize), £627,717 in the import of sugar, £325,286 in the value of live animals for food, and £269,992 in that of butter. Sheep and lamb's wool and jute decreased by £1,329,587 and £328,878 respectively, while raw cotton increased by £548,647 in value, but decreased in quantity by 192,730 cwt. The increase in the value of manufactured articles imported was very general, the most noticeable being that of £481,526 in the value of silk manufactures.

British and Irish Exports.—The total declared value of the exports during March and during the first three months of the year was greater than for any year since 1891. The value for March was £20,422,419, and for the first three months of the year £61,233,043, being increases of 10.3 per cent. and 16.1 per cent. respectively on the values for the corresponding periods of 1895.

The following table shows the declared value of the exports grouped in large classes for the months ended March 31st, 1896 and 1895:—

Class of Goods.	Mar. 1896.	Mar. 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	£802,682	£815,028	—	£12,346
Raw Materials ...	1,315,365	1,418,660	—	103,595
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	9,343,265	8,505,620	837,645	—
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	2,684,456	2,229,136	455,320	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,341,020	1,121,680	219,340	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,935,637	4,432,606	503,025	—
Totals ...	20,422,419	18,523,030	1,899,389	—

The exports of most of the textile manufactures increased, cotton piece goods increasing by nearly 27 million yards in quantity and £534,753 in value. On the other hand the export of worsted tissues decreased by over a million yards in quantity and £66,504 in value. All metals except lead increased, the greatest increase being that of wrought and unwrought iron (£340,745). With the exception of agricultural machinery, all classes of machinery, (especially mining machinery) and steam engines increased. The exports of coal and patent fuel increased slightly in amount, but decreased in value by £73,727.

Re-Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—The value of these in March was £4,623,326 or £223,273 less than in March 1895.

Tonnage of vessels entered and cleared.—During March vessels of a total tonnage of 2,578,904 tons were entered at ports in the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions, or 245,624 tons more than in March 1895. The tonnage of vessels cleared was 2,866,355 tons, or 94,446 tons more than in March 1895. The tonnage of vessels entered Coastwise was 2,591,334 tons, or 85,717 tons less than a year ago, and the tonnage cleared was 2,497,585 tons, or 39,653 tons less than in March 1895.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during March show an increase compared with the corresponding month last year...

Table with columns: Imports, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Exports. Rows for March 1896, 1895, 1894 and three months ending March 1896, 1895, 1894.

British Corn.—The following statement shows the price per quarter of British Wheat, Barley, and Oats in the last week of March during the five years 1892-96...

Table showing Price per Quarter in last week of March for Wheat, Barley, and Oats from 1892 to 1896.

The rise in the price of wheat between March 1895 and 1896 was 4s. 7d. per quarter. Barley remains very much the same as in March 1895...

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways in the United Kingdom, for the four weeks ended March 28th, amounted to £5,331,370, an increase of £242,104 (or 4.8 per cent.) over the total for the corresponding period of 1895.

Fishery Statistics.—During March fish and shell fish to the value of £551,308 were landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during March was 436, or 12 less than in March 1895, 17 less than in March 1894, and 12 less than in March 1893.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—In March 17,741 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, a number less by 1,845 than that for March 1895.

British and Irish.—Of the above total 10,877 were of British and Irish origin, a decrease of 2,502, or 18.7 per cent., on the numbers last year.

The figures for March 1896 and 1895 respectively are as follows:—

Table showing Emigration by Destination for March 1896 and March 1895.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 17,741 passengers, viz., 6,864, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens who arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during March was 9,551. Of these 5,740 were stated to be on their way to America...

LABOUR CASES IN MARCH.

The following are among the legal cases of the month specially affecting labour of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Meaning of "Earnings" of an Apprentice.—Defendants appealed from a judgment of the County Court Judge of Cornwall, in an action by an infant under the Employers' Liability Act, against a Foundry Company...

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Time for terminating half-day engagements.—Twelve dock labourers claimed from a firm of shipowners 2s. 6d. each for half a day's work. Plaintiffs were engaged on a day in August to assist in unloading a steamship.

(3) TRADE UNION ACT.

The officials of a Trade Union and the dismissal of a workman.—A joiner claimed £12 damages from a trade union, the agent of a trade union, and the secretary of a branch for on various occasions molesting him by inducing his employers to dismiss him.

(4) MINES REGULATION ACT.

The Election and Discharge of a Checkweigher.—The manager of a pit was summoned under the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1887 for having refused to afford the checkweigher the requisite facilities for carrying out his duties.

(5) FACTORY ACTS.

The "Particulars" Clause.—For failing to supply correct "particulars" a cotton manufacturer was fined £2 10s. and £3 12s. costs, on March 4th, at the Borough Police Court, Bury.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MARCH.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing Industrial Prosecutions under Factory and Workshop Acts for March 1896 and March 1895, categorized by Nature of Offence.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing Industrial Prosecutions under the Mines Acts for March 1896 and March 1895, categorized by Nature of Offence.

* In none of these cases the defendant was admonished only.

III.—Under the Quarries Act.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing Industrial Prosecutions under the Quarries Act for March 1896 and March 1895, categorized by Nature of Offence.

IV.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Table showing Industrial Prosecutions under Merchant Shipping Acts for March 1896 and March 1895, categorized by Nature of Offence.

V.—Under the Friendly Societies Acts.

Table showing Industrial Prosecutions under the Friendly Societies Acts for March 1896 and March 1895, categorized by Nature of Offence.

piece-work and some by time. The union had picketed the plaintiffs and had also ordered a strike against a maker who made only for the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs alleged that one letter written as part of the trade contest to an employee amounted to a libel...

Powers of a Trade Union to exclude a Member.—A shipwright claimed £2 damages from a trade union, and also asked for an injunction to restrain defendants from excluding him from the benefits of the union.

The Election and Discharge of a Checkweigher.—The manager of a pit was summoned under the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1887 for having refused to afford the checkweigher the requisite facilities for carrying out his duties.

The "Particulars" Clause.—For failing to supply correct "particulars" a cotton manufacturer was fined £2 10s. and £3 12s. costs, on March 4th, at the Borough Police Court, Bury.

Notification of Accidents.—A contractor was fined 10s. and 7s. 6d. costs for failing to give notice of an accident which had occurred at a building in course of construction.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

THE 12 labour bureaux furnishing returns registered during March 2,669 fresh applicants for work. During the month work was found through the bureaux for 2,221 workpeople, of which number 1,745 were engaged by private employers and 476 by local authorities. In 1,440 cases, however, the engagement was stated to be of a temporary character. Of the 2,753 workpeople on the registers at the end of the month, 1,840 were men, 94 lads and boys, and 819 women and girls.

Comparing the figures of the 8 bureaux, which also furnished returns for March 1895, a large decrease (2,630) is again shown in the number of fresh applicants for work, the figures being 1,908 in 1896 and 4,538 in 1895.

(I.) Work Done in March.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Workpeople on Register at End of Mar. 1896, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during Mar. 1896, No. of Fresh Applications by Employers during Mar. 1896, No. of Workpeople found by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities. Lists bureaux like London, St. Pancras, Battersea, etc.

(II.) Previous Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of March.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Stablemen, Clerks, Porters, General Labourers, Other Occupations), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Servants, Dress-makers, Others), Grand Total. Lists bureaux like London, St. Pancras, Battersea, etc.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Servants, Dress-makers, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total. Lists bureaux like London, St. Pancras, Battersea, etc.

* Particulars relating to men only have been furnished. + In addition to these numbers 1,422 were temporarily, and 20 were permanently, found work in March 1895 by the Army in its works and depots. † Women and Girls are not registered at Hackney, Salford and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

ON one day in the second week of March 341,674 persons were relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom. This corresponds to a rate of 220 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1896.

Compared with February these figures represent a decrease of 2,661 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000. The largest variations in the rate are an increase of 6 in Coatbridge and Airdrie, and a decrease of 6 in Leicester.

Compared with March 1895 there is a diminution in numbers relieved of 44,546, corresponding to a decrease in the rate per 10,000 of population of 32. In 2 districts only has the rate increased, viz., Dundee and Dunfermline, and Coatbridge and Airdrie, where the increase amounts to 13 and 24 respectively, while Aberdeen remains the same—the Scottish districts taken together showing a decrease of 1 only in the rate per 10,000 of estimated population. The largest decrease occurred in Stockton and Tees district, where the rate dropped from 411 to 283. Other noticeable decreases took place in the Southern and Eastern districts of London, of 92 and 78 respectively; in West Ham, of 79; in Bradford, of 45; and in Wolverhampton and Newcastle, of 42 in each case. In the metropolis as a whole the decrease in the rate amounted to 58. The high rate in March 1895 is chiefly attributable to the effects of the long frost.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of March 1896, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year. Includes sub-columns for In-door, Out-door, Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population.

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolitan, Other Districts, Total Metropolitan, West Ham, Total "Other Districts". Lists districts like Newcastle, Stockton & Tees, Bolton, Oldham, etc.

Table with columns: SCOTLAND, IRELAND, Total for the above Scottish Districts, Total for the above Irish Districts, Total for above 35 districts in March, Total for previous month. Lists Glasgow, Paisley & Greenock, etc.

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

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

THE number of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed by accidents reported in March was as follows:—

Table with columns: March 1896, March 1895, Railway Servants, Miners, Quarrymen, Factory and Workshop Operatives, Seamen, Others (so far as reported), Total. Shows 410 deaths in March 1896 vs 356 in March 1895.

Of the 4,890 non-fatal accidents reported, 1,228 were to railway servants, 612 in mines, 56 in quarries, 2,754 in factories and workshops, 178 to seamen, and 62 to other workpeople.

Railway Servants.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.) Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of March 1896. [The number of servants employed by the railway companies of the United Kingdom was 381,626 on 31st December 1889.]

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Cause of Accident (Causing Amputations, Dislocations, Fractures, Contusions, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries). Lists services like Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, etc.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 6 servants killed and 892 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during March. These figures have been reported in accordance with a new order recently issued by the Board of Trade, and are scarcely comparable with those for March 1895.

Miners and Quarrymen.*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries, during the month of March 1896. [The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 739,097, and in and about quarries as 84,986, in 1894.]

Table with columns: Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured), Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured). Lists categories like Underground (Explosions of Fire-damp, Falls of ground, etc.) and Surface (Miscellaneous).

NOTE.—The majority of the non-fatal injuries occurring among the crews of vessels trading within the Home Trade limits are only reported half-yearly, and will be so published.

Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).

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

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of March 1896 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours. (Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatics under Asiatic agreement, are not included.)

[The returns of non-fatal injuries are probably far from complete, the tabulation being now made for the first time.]

Table with columns: Cause and Class of Accident, Number reported as Killed or Injured (On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels, Total in Mar. 1896), Total for 3 months Jan. 1896 to Mar. 1896, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1895. Lists categories like I.—By Wreck or Casualty, II.—By other Accidents, III.—All Accidents.

NOTE.—The majority of the non-fatal injuries occurring among the crews of vessels trading within the Home Trade limits are only reported half-yearly, and will be so published.

Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

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

Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of March 1896.

Table with columns: Nature of Works, &c., Number of Persons (Killed, Injured, Total), Use or Working (Number of Persons, Injured, Total). Lists works like Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, etc.

NOTE.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, provides that notices of accidents occurring on or after 1st January 1896 in the following employments, scheduled to the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, viz., the construction, use, working or repair of any gaswork, harbour, dock, port, pier and quay, and the construction or repair, by means of a scaffolding, of any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, or use or working of any such building in which more than 20 persons, not being domestic persons, are employed for wages, shall be sent to the Inspector of Factories for the district, and in certain cases also to the Certifying Surgeon instead of to the Board of Trade.

The effect of this legislation has been a considerable reduction in the number of accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, and a corresponding increase in the number reported to H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,510 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors. ‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,510 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, returns from Employers and Trade Unions, and newspaper reports. Application for particulars is made to the Employers and Trade Unions affected in each dispute, and the information so obtained up to the time of going to press is used.)

Number and Magnitude.—Ninety-five fresh disputes occurred in March 1896, compared with 78 in February and 49 in March 1895. In 78 of these disputes 19,407 workpeople were involved.

Causes.—Of the 95 disputes 60 arose chiefly upon wages questions, 2 upon questions of working hours, 20 upon matters connected with working arrangements and material, 5 were due to dissatisfaction with the action of fellow workpeople or the employment of non-unionists, 1 arose in defence of fellow-workpeople, 5 were upon questions of alleged objectionable action of employers or officials, full details of the causes of the two remaining disputes being not yet to hand.

Results.—Seventy-two new and 18 old disputes, 77 of which involved 21,216 workpeople, were settled during March. In 34 disputes, 30 of them, involving 9,835 persons, the workpeople were successful; in 41, 32 involving 7,529 workpeople, unsuccessful; in 8, involving 2,860 workpeople, partially successful; and in the 7 remaining cases, involving 992 workpeople, the results must at present be classified as indefinite.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH 1896.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Work-people, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes entries for Building Trades, Mining, and various other trades.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MARCH 1895—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Work-people, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes entries for Tinplate Trade, Artisans, Engineers, Shipwrights, and various other trades.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Work-people, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes entries for Building Trades, Plasterers, and Stone masons.

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

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Workpeople, Commencement, Termination, Result. Includes entries for Joiners, Plasterers, Coal Miners, Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Clothing Trades, Dyers, and Lasters and Finishers.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in February were still unsettled:—Coal miners, near Sheffield; employees in glass bottle works, Dublin; bricklayers, Newcastle-on-Tyne; silk dyers, Macclesfield; elastic web weavers, Leicester (since settled April 1st).

The following disputes which commenced before February were also still unsettled:—Cotton weavers, Barnoldswick (2 disputes); mat and matting weavers, London, S.E.; fancy leather workers, London, E.C.; coal miners, Coleford, Glos.; fitters, Dowlais; dyers; labourers, Leeds; coachmakers, Dublin; packing case-makers, Liverpool; coopers, St. Helens; building trade employees, Plymouth; circular hosiery hands, Nottingham.

The following dispute commencing in February, of which information has only recently been obtained, was also still unsettled:—

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, Establishments, Workpeople, Date of Commencement. Includes entry for Painters in Woolwich.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

England and Wales.—One new co-operative distributive society has been registered during March; five existing distributive societies have opened new branches and a co-operative tannery has commenced business.

Distributive societies at Broughton, Child's Hill, Leek Wootton and Navigation and a house painters and decorators' society at Bristol, have ceased to exist.

At the quarterly meeting of the Co-operative Wholesale Society it was decided to establish a candle factory. The society also appointed a deputation to visit Australia and New Zealand for the purpose of opening direct trading relations with Colonial producers.

Returns for the year 1895 received from the ten existing co-operative corn mill societies, with a total membership of 7,032 (6,622 individuals and 410 societies), show that 404 workers were employed and that the total sales for the year amounted to £955,034, as compared with £946,510 in 1894.

Scotland.—No societies have been registered or dissolved during the month. The dispute between the Scottish Wholesale Society and its boot and shoe operatives ended on April 2nd, when work was resumed under an agreement, by which future disputes as to responsibility for breakages may be referred first to the management, and secondly, if necessary, to a joint committee of representatives of the society and of the men's union, no strike or lock-out to take place pending such appeal.

Ireland.—Four new co-operative agricultural and dairying societies have been registered during March.

REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN 1894.

The annual report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies* containing particulars of the returns made for the year ending December 31st, 1894, by registered trade unions shows that 568 unions in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,089,663, made returns, compared with 542 unions, with 1,080,465 members, in 1893.

FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Appointments and Changes of Addresses.

New Appointments:—

To be H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops:— B. A. Whitelegge, M.D., Home Office, London, S.W.

To be H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops:— W. Buchan, 4 Milner Street, Chelsea, S.W.

E. V. Clark, 1 Elton Terrace, Darlington.

W. F. Ireland, 121 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

J. Kellett, 141 Derby Street, Bolton.

To be Inspectors' Assistant:— A. G. H. Thatcher, 33 Princess Street, Manchester.

New Addresses:—

H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops:— J. Pearson, 35 Lancaster Road, Brighton.

G. Sedgwick, Prudential Assurance Buildings, Gallowtree Gate, Leicester.

* Report of Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1894. Part C, Trade Unions, 110.—11., 1895. Price 3d.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH.

Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers* and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many Employers, Employers' Associations and Trade Unions.

Summary.—The total number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported during March was about 129,000, and the estimated general effect of all the changes on the wages of this number of workpeople was a decrease of 17½ per week. About 57,000 received increases averaging 1s. 7d. per week, and 72,000 sustained decreases amounting on the average to 2s. 4d. per week.

Increases.—As in January and February the principal increases were in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, over 37,000 men (in addition to those previously reported) having secured advances in time and piece rates. Of this number, 19,000 are employed on the East Coast of England, 2,500 on the Mersey, over 13,000 on the Clyde, and 700 at Belfast.

Decreases.—In Scotland 67,000 miners had their wages reduced, generally to the extent of 6d. per day, and in South Wales and Monmouthshire about 4,900 workpeople in the tinplate trade sustained decreases.

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

Main table showing changes in rates of wages for various trades including Building Trades, Coal Mining, and Quarrying. Columns include Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages, and Increase or Decrease.

Table for Quarrying section showing changes in wages for Slate Quarrymen and Settmakers.

Table for Iron and Steel Trades section showing changes in wages for Blastfurnacemen and Steel Smelters.

* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is enquired into before the information is used here. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full Week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

IRON AND STEEL TRADES—continued.

Table listing various iron and steel trades with details on employment, dates, and wage changes.

Increases—Nil.

TINPLATE TRADE.

Decreases—4,884 persons.

Table detailing tinplate trade activities, including locations like Lydney and Lydbrook, and specific wage adjustments.

46 Increases—37,718 persons.

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

Decreases—Nil.

Large table covering engineering and shipbuilding trades, listing numerous sub-trades like fitters, turners, and shipwrights across various localities.

* The amount of the advance to 250 smiths' strikers at Hull has not yet been definitely settled. † In addition to the 140 ironmoulders at Aberdeen published in last month's GAZETTE.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full Week, Increase or Decrease in a full Week.

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES (continued).

Table continuing engineering and shipbuilding trades, including entries for brass fitters, blacksmiths, and boiler makers.

3 Increases—710 persons.

OTHER METAL TRADES.

Decreases—Nil.

Table listing other metal trades such as file cutters, brass tube makers, and chain makers.

4 Increases—1,856 persons.

TEXTILE TRADES.

Decreases—Nil.

Table detailing textile trades including drawing frame tenters, woollen spinners, and dyers.

4 Increases—229 persons.

CLOTHING TRADES.

Decreases—Nil.

Table covering clothing trades like cloggers, pressmen, and tailors.

6 Increases—343 persons.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

1 Decrease—59 persons.

Table listing miscellaneous trades such as meter inspectors, carpenters, and shovel makers.

7 Increases—44 persons

SEAMEN.

8 Decreases—98 persons.

Port.	Voyage.	No. shipped at new Rate during March.		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Monthly Rates.			
		Increase.	Decrease.		Feb. 1896.	Mar. 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Able Seamen.								
Sailing Vessels:—					s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Liverpool ...	W. Coast of North and South America	...	8	Decrease of 5s. per month	55 0	50 0*	...	5 0
London (Dock St.)	East Coast of N. America	4	...	Increase of 5s. per month	55 0	60 0	5 0	...
Leith...	West Indies and E. Coast of S. America	13	...	Increase of 5s. per month	55 0†	60 0	5 0	...
Steamships:—								
Newcastle-on-Tyne	Mediterranean ...	...	22	Decrease of 10s. per month	80 0	70 0	...	10 0
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...	5	Decrease of 5s. per month	80 0	75 0	...	5 0
Newport, Mon.	West Indies and E. Coast of S. America	...	8	Decrease of 5s. per month	70 0	65 0*	...	5 0
Bristol ...	East Coast of N. America	7	...	Increase of 5s. per month	70 0	75 0*	5 0	...
Glasgow ...	West Indies and E. Coast of S. America	7	...	Increase of 5s. per month	70 0	75 0	5 0	...
Firemen.								
Newcastle-on-Tyne	Mediterranean ...	...	28	Decrease of 5s. per month	80 0	75 0	...	5 0
North Shields ...	East Indies and China ...	...	12	Ditto ...	80 0	75 0*	...	5 0
Liverpool ...	West Indies and E. Coast of S. America	...	11	Ditto ...	75 0	70 0*	...	5 0
Newport, Mon. ...	Ditto ...	...	4	Ditto ...	75 0	70 0*	...	5 0
Bristol ...	E. Coast of North America	7	...	Increase of 5s. per month	75 0	80 0*	5 0	...
Glasgow ...	East Indies and China ...	3	...	Ditto ...	75 0	80 0*	5 0	...
Trimmers.								
Glasgow ...	Mediterranean ...	3	...	Increase of 10s. per month	60 0	70 0*	10 0	...

* The predominant wage, however, remained the same as in the previous month.

† This rate was paid in January. No men were shipped in sailing vessels for this voyage during February.

REDUCTIONS IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MARCH.

The 10 cases of changes in hours of labour reported during the month were all of the nature of reductions, and affected 1,202 workpeople. The adoption of the eight-hours' day for 66 gas workers was reported from Leeds.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	Dec. per week.
Building Trades.						
Carpenters and Joiners	Ash'on-under-Lyne	1st April	343	Summer		1
	Stalybridge			54½	53½	
	Hyde					
Plumbers ...	Denton ...	1st April	17	53	49½	3½
	Leeds ...			54	46½	
Operation Employees.						
Gasworkers—Purifiers ...	Heywood ...	1st April	12	Winter		7½
				54	46½	
Cinder Throwers	Leeds ...	27th Mar.	25	54*	48	6*
				29	48	
Enginemen Parks Dept.—Gardeners	Hull ...	21st Mar.	6	Summer		3
				56	53	
Labourers	Hull ...	21st Mar.	21	Winter		3
				50	47	
Sanitary Dept.—Enginemen Machinemen and Stokers	Birmingham	1st April	61	59½	48	11½
Miscellaneous.						
Lithographic Printers, Bookbinders and Machine Rulers	Manchester, Salford, and district	1st April	70	52½	50	2½
				72	50	
Brassworkers ...	Rotherham	27th Mar.	143	54	53	1
				100	68	
Shop Assistants	West Benhar, Harthill & Whitturn, N.B.	8th Feb.	11	52½	51½	1
Labourers...	Kilworth, Ireland	2nd Mar.	280	59½	53½	6

* The hours of labour worked before change by the gasworkers at Leeds included meal times, for which no regular times were fixed.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MARCH.

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

The summary given below of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations during March shows that 8 Trade Unions, 1 Co-operative Association for Distribution, 4 Co-operative Associations for Production, 6 miscellaneous Co-operative Associations, 24 new Friendly Societies, and 35 new branches of existing Friendly Societies (including 1 new district) have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the month. Three Trade Unions and 5 Industrial and

Provident Societies have been dissolved; while 21 Building Societies are returned as having sent notice of commencement of dissolution or as having ceased to exist.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—London United Wheelwrights, Blacksmiths, Painters, and Hammermen, 19 Theydon Rd., Grove Rd., E.; International Bakers, 167 Cannon St. Rd., E.; United Kingdom Butchers' Association, 75 Lime St., Liverpool; Huddersfield Builders' Labourers' Protective, Accident and Burial Society, Boy and Barrel Inn, Beastmarket, Huddersfield; Manchester and District Plate and Machine Moulders, Egerton Arms Inn, North Porter St., Manchester; Queen Pit, Legh Pit, and Princess Pit Miners' Trade Union and Checkweigh Fund, Wagoners' Rest Lodge, Wagon and Horses Hotel, Haydock, St. Helens. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Sligo Brick and Stonelayers Friendly Trade Union, D. McLynns, Jail St., Sligo; Coleraine Operative House Painters', 20 Pates Lane, Coleraine.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Abergwynfi Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Abergwynfi R.S.O., Glam. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None. **(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.**—None. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Clonpet Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Clonpet; Edenderry Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Edenderry; Drombane Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Drombane; Silvermines Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Silvermines. **(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.**—Peckham New Reform Club, Ltd., 11 Peckham-rye, S.E.; Employment Agency Co-op. Association, Ltd., 9 East Ascent, St. Leonards-on-Sea; Trades' and Friendly Societies' Hall, Ltd., 472 New Cross Rd., S.E.; Bilston Independent Labour Club, Ltd., Parliament St., Bilston; Higham Ferrers Working Men's Club and Institute Soc., Ltd., Backway, Higham Ferrers; Bardsley Liberal Club Land and Builders' Soc., Ltd., 243A Oldham Rd., Bardsley, Ashton-under-Lyne. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 4; Females, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 6; Specially Authorised, 7; Dividing, 6. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None. **(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.**—A.O. Foresters, 11; Manchester Unity, O.F., 4; G.U. Odd Fellows, 3, and 1 District; A.O. Shepherds, 3; Various others, 9. **Scotland.**—Various, 4. **Ireland.**—None.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Berkshire Agricultural and General Workers' Trade Union, Reading; Mattress and Palliasse Makers' Soc., Banner St., E.C.; No. 6 Branch, South Side Labour Protection League, Union St., Borough, S.E. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Leek Wootton Co-op. Ind. and Provident Soc., Ltd., Leek Wootton, Warwick; Broughton Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Broughton, Wrexham; Little Paradise Productive Soc., Ltd., Bedminster; Navigation Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Navigation R.S.O., Glam.; Childs Hill and Cricklewood Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Hendon. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—Dissolved by award of Registrar, 1; by Instrument, 7. Sent notice of commencement of dissolution, 1; of termination of dissolution, 12.