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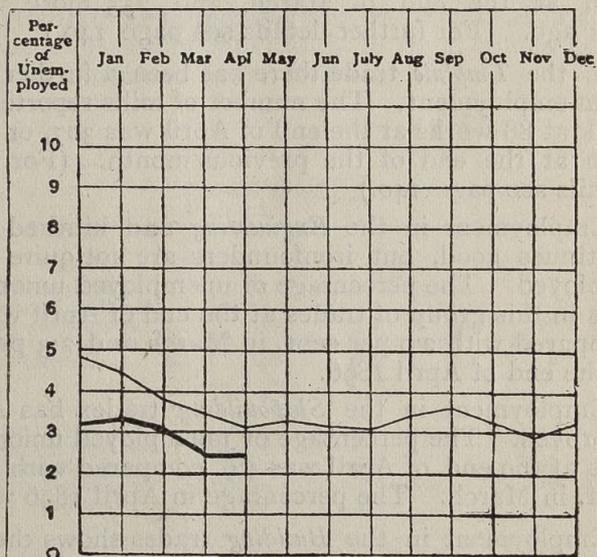
STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL.*

The state of employment as a whole remained practically unchanged during April, being still materially better than at the corresponding period of any year since 1890.

In the 114 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 455,157, 11,378 (or 2.5 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of April, about the same proportion as a month ago, compared with 3.2 per cent. in the 109 unions, with a membership of 416,741, from which returns were received for April 1896.

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 1896 and of each completed month of 1897.



The following table classifies the total membership of the 114 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed,	At end of April 1897.		Corresponding Percentages for		
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		Number.	Percentage.		
Under 1 per cent.	34	110,521	24.3	20.5	15.9
1 and under 2 per cent.	23	172,996	38.0	40.3	34.4
2 " 3 " "	17	25,512	5.6	8.3	16.4
3 " 5 " "	19	73,612	16.2	22.5	13.8
5 " 7 " "	15	66,453	14.6	6.9	3.5
7 " 10 " "	2	910	0.2	0.3	1.0
10 per cent. and upwards	4	5,153	1.1	1.2	2.0
Total	114	455,157	100.0	100.0	100.0

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.— Employment during April was better in almost every district than a year ago. The average number of days

* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of April, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between April 30th and May 15th. This remark also applies to the reports on pp. 138-149.

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worked per week at pits employing 417,372 persons was 4.84, compared with 4.69 in April 1896. Unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted at the end of April to 0.9 per cent. of the membership, the same as at the end of March. The percentage at the end of April 1896 was 1.9 per cent. (For further details see page 138.)

Iron Mining.—Employment during April was practically the same as a year ago, the average number of days worked per week by 16,487 workpeople covered by the returns being 5.66 as compared with 5.82 in March, and 5.65 in April 1896. The falling off in the average number of days worked in April as compared with March is accounted for by the Easter holidays. The number employed was greater by 4.3 per cent. than a year ago. (For further details see page 139.)

In the **Pig Iron Industry** employment was about the same as a year ago. At the end of April the ironmasters making returns had 351 furnaces in blast, the same number as in April 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 22,275, compared with 22,171 a year ago. Compared with the end of March, employment is stationary, the number of furnaces in blast being the same, although the number of workpeople employed has decreased by 28. (For further details see page 139.)

Employment at **Steelworks** was better than last month, and much better than a year ago. At 131 works 37,722 persons were employed at the end of April, or 473 more than at the end of March, and 2,495 more than at the end of April 1896. (For further details see page 140.)

Employment at **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** fell off slightly during the month. At 96 works 18,652 persons were employed at the end of April, or 661 less than at the end of March, and 255 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 140.)

In the **Timplate** trade there has been a further falling off in employment. The number of mills reported as at work at 88 works at the end of April was 307, or 13 less than at the end of the previous month. (For further details see page 140.)

Employment in the **Engineering** and kindred trades continues good, but ironfounders are not quite so well employed. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of April was 2.1, compared with 2.0 per cent. in March and 2.3 per cent. at the end of April 1896.

Employment in the **Shipbuilding** trades has slightly improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 4.9, compared with 5.0 per cent. in March. The percentage in April 1896 was 7.4.

Employment in the **Building** trades shows the usual seasonal improvement, and these trades are now very busy. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns for April was 1.0, compared with 1.2 for March and 1.5 per cent. in April of last year.

The **Furnishing** trades remain busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was only 0.5, compared with 0.7 in March and 0.9 at the end of April 1896.

Employment in the **Printing** and **Bookbinding** trades is unchanged, and is fairly good for the season. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 3.5, the same figure as in March. The percentage for April last year was 4.4.

Employment in the **Paper** trade is scarcely so good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 4.8, compared with 3.0 per cent. in March, and 4.2 per cent. in April 1896.

In the **Glass** trade employment, though still slack, has somewhat improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 11.6, compared with 12.6 in March, and 14.4 per cent. in April of last year.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has slightly fallen off, but is still good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of April was 2.9, compared

with 2.1 in March. The percentage at the end of April 1896 was 4.1.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade is good in the Midlands, but quiet in Leeds and Bristol. In London employment was good in the early part of the month, but fell off towards the close. In the bespoke branch employment generally is good, especially in London.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade continues good. In the bespoke branch it is fairly good.

In the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade employment continues moderate; in the **Weaving** branch it has declined.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade is still dull, but has slightly improved. A slight improvement is also reported in the **Worsted** trade. Employment in the **Hosiery** trade is fair in some departments, slack in others.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 476 mills employing 78,000 women and girls shows that 81 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 76 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for March, and 92 per cent. for April 1896. (For further details see page 142.)

Dock and Riverside Labour.—In London employment was not so good as in March, but better than a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily in the docks and principal wharves was 14,162, as compared with 14,596 in March, and 13,006 in April 1896. (For further details see page 141.)

Agricultural employment was generally regular throughout the country during the month of April. In a few districts there was some slight irregularity early in the month, owing to wet weather. For further details see page 140.)

Trade Disputes.—Eighty-five fresh disputes occurred in April 1897, involving 7,454 workpeople, as compared with 113,* involving 31,636* workpeople in March, and 84 disputes, involving 8,572 workpeople, in April 1896. Twenty-five disputes took place in the building trades, 8 in the mining industry, 17 in the metal engineering and shipbuilding trades, 10 each in the textile and clothing trades, 5 in connection with dock labour, 4 in the transport trade and 6 in the miscellaneous group of industries. Of the 102 new and old disputes, involving 8,943 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 44 involving 2,416 persons were successful from the point of view of the workpeople, 24 involving 2,171 persons unsuccessful, and 34 involving 4,356 persons resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 156.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in rates of wages affecting about 55,000 workpeople were reported during April, of which number about 54,000 received increases, and 1,000 sustained decreases. The net result of the changes is an advance estimated at 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases include 33,000 building trade operatives, and 15,000 workpeople engaged in the engineering and shipbuilding trades. A small decrease took place in the wages of blast furnacemen at Barrow-in-Furness. Changes affecting 1,000 workpeople took place under sliding scales, arbitration, &c., and changes affecting about 1,600 workpeople were preceded by strikes. The remainder, involving about 52,400 workpeople, were settled by negotiation or otherwise. (For further details see page 150.)

Pauperism.—In the 35 selected urban districts 325,024 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of April. These figures correspond to a rate of 207 per 10,000 of the population of those districts, or 5 less per 10,000 than in April 1896. (For further details see page 155.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during April was 16,170 as compared with 20,282 in April 1896. (For further details see page 159.)

* Corrected figures, disputes being included which occurred in March, but of which information was received too late for insertion in the April GAZETTE.

COAL SUPPLY OF THE WORLD.

From the third report* issued by the Board of Trade, dealing with the production, consumption and price of coal, and number of persons employed in coal production in the principal countries of the world in each of the years 1883-95, the following table has been summarised:—

PRODUCTION.
Table showing the production of coal in the years 1885 and 1890-95 of the six largest coal producing countries in millions of tons†:—

Countries.	1885	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
United Kingdom ...	159	182	185	182	164 $\frac{1}{2}$	188	190
Germany ...	58	70	74	71	74	77	79
France ...	19	26	26	26	25	27	28
Belgium ...	17	20	20	20	19	21	20
Austria-Hungary ...	8	10	10	10	11	11	11
United States ...	99	141	151	160	163	152	172

Of the British Colonies and possessions New South Wales, with an output of nearly 4 million tons, and Canada, with an output of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, are the largest producers. The output of the latter colony, however, although increasing is still insufficient for its own requirements.

Although the production of coal in the United States is not much less than that of the United Kingdom, it is not much in excess of what is required for home consumption. In 1895 the excess of exported coal over imported coal in the United Kingdom was 43 million tons; in Germany it was 7 million; in Belgium 4 million; in the United States it was only 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ million tons.

In comparing the values of coal at the pit's mouth in different countries, unexplained differences in methods of estimating the values and differences in quality, as well as in cost of production, have to be considered. The average values in the United Kingdom in the four years, 1892-5 (inclusive), were, 7s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6s. 8d. and 6s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The average values in Germany in the same years were, 7s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6s. 9d., 6s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 6s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., the value in 1895 being thus distinctly above the price of British coal in that year.

As regards the consumption of coal per head of population, the highest proportion is found in those countries where steam traction, and machinery worked by steam, are mostly in use, such as the United Kingdom, the United States and Belgium, where, in 1894, it was 3.75, 2.20 and 2.56 tons per head respectively; in Germany it was 1.36 tons, and in France only 0.95, but this low rate may be accounted for in great measure by the large quantity of fuel of other sorts extensively used in that country.

The British colonies where the amount of coal consumed is highest are Canada and New South Wales, where 1.16 tons and 1.23 tons per head of the population are consumed respectively.

The following table shows the percentages of British and other coal consumed in the foreign countries in which the excess of coal imported over coal exported is the largest:—

Country.	Amount of Coal consumed (1000's of tons)	Percentages of Coal consumed.		
		Home Produce.	British.	All Other.
France ...	36,585	72.23	11.75	16.02
Austria-Hungary ...	15,067	66.58	0.91	32.51
Russia ...	9,524	79.01	16.94	4.05
Italy ...	4,953	5.19	38.71	6.10
Spain ...	3,483	47.14	47.83	5.03
Sweden ...	2,192	10.22	87.32	2.46

The percentages in the above table are based on returns for 1895 for France, Austria-Hungary and Sweden; for 1894 for Italy and Spain; and for 1893 for Russia; the latest return available being used in each case.

* Coal Tables (P.P. No. 1 of 1897). Price 5d. Eyre & Spottiswoode.
† For the United Kingdom and United States the tons used are 2,240 lbs; in all other cases they are metric tons of 2,204 lbs.

† The output in the United Kingdom was very much reduced in 1893 by the great coal disputes of that year.

SICKNESS INSURANCE IN AUSTRIA.*

Latest Statistics.

INSURANCE against sickness, as prescribed by the law of March 30th 1888, is effected in one or other of the following kinds of sick funds:—(1) The *Miners' Sick Funds*, or "*Bruderladen*," existing since 1854, and not included in the present statistics; (2) the *Guild Sick Funds*, for the insurance of journeymen employed by small masters belonging to trade guilds; (3) *Friendly Society Sick Funds*, which are recognised when they comply with certain conditions; (4) *Factory Sick Funds*, established under certain conditions by owners of factories, &c., for their own workpeople. This group includes also the sick funds of railway and steamship companies, and of enterprises administered by the State, as well as the industrial sick funds established under laws of 1859 and 1885; (5) *Building Works Sick Funds*, established temporarily for persons employed for a long time on temporary works of construction; (6) *District Sick Funds*, established by the Civil Authorities in each judicial district to insure persons not provided for in any of the above five ways.

The following statement gives particulars, for each year, 1890-1894, of all the above classes of sick funds except those for miners. (Funds for apprentices employed by members of trade guilds are dealt with separately at the end of this article.)

Years.	No. of Sick Funds.	Mean Membership.	Cases of Sickness.		Days of Sickness.		Deaths.
			Total.	Per 100 Members.	Total.	Per Member.	
1890	2,740	1,548,825	797,683	51.5	12,409,327	8.0	15,925
1891	2,822	1,666,790	750,221	45.0	12,754,508	7.7	16,674
1892	2,837	1,741,074	819,738	47.1	13,869,285	8.0	17,211
1893	2,876	1,840,043	900,342	48.9	15,089,873	8.2	18,435
1894	2,915	1,940,985	879,307	43.3	15,629,256	8.1	19,377

Particulars as to membership and sickness in each of the above classes of sick funds in 1894, compared with 1893, are contained in the following table:—

	Classes of Sick Funds.				
	Guild.	Friendly Society.	Factory.	Building.	District.
1893.					
Mean Membership ...	302,173	307,077	543,215	1,845	685,733
No. of cases of Sickness ...	98,472	177,442	322,726	1,265	300,437
Ratio per 100 Members ...	32.6	57.8	59.4	68.6	43.8
No. of days of Sickness ...	1,757,733	3,058,097	5,458,188	16,096	4,799,705
Ratio per Member ...	15.8	10.0	10.0	8.7	7.0
1894.					
Mean Membership ...	326,900	320,277	549,484	3,479	740,835
No. of cases of Sickness ...	99,738	173,003	301,081	2,372	302,908
Ratio per 100 Members ...	30.5	54.0	54.8	74.1	40.9
No. of days of Sickness ...	1,839,030	3,141,508	5,585,930	23,316	5,039,472
Ratio per Member ...	5.6	9.8	10.2	6.7	6.8

The following table shows the income and expenditure of the above classes of sick funds in 1894, as compared with 1893:—

	1893.	1894.
Income:—		
Contributions of Employers and Workpeople	1,175,076	1,260,110
Other receipts ...	80,137	88,340
Total ...	1,255,213	1,348,450
Expenditure:—		
Sick and Funeral Benefit ...	1,019,240	1,057,260
Administration ...	91,511	97,914
Other expenditure ...	44,695	50,113
Total ...	1,155,446	1,205,287
Excess of Income (i.e., amount paid into Reserve Funds) ...	99,767	143,163
Total value of Reserve Funds at end of year...	750,085	899,227

It appears from the above that in 1894 the amounts placed in reserve funds were equal to 11.4 per cent. of the contributions from employers and employed, the corresponding percentage for 1893 being 8.5, and for the whole period, 1890-1894, 9.9; whereas, under the terms of the Sickness Insurance Law, at least

* Die Gebarung und die Ergebnisse der Krankheitsstatistik der nach dem Gesetze vom 30 März 1888 (R. G. Bl. Nr. 33), betreffend die Krankenversicherung der Arbeiter eingerichteten Krankenkassen im Jahre 1894. Vienna, Government Printing Office, 1896.

20 per cent. of theyearly premiums paid by employers and employed should go to the reserve fund.

Particulars of one of the classes of sick funds maintained by the trade guilds—viz., the funds for sick journeymen—are included in the foregoing tables. In 1894, there were, in addition, 284 guild sick funds for apprentices. These funds are not constituted on lines expressly laid down in the Sickness Insurance Laws, the impulse for their establishment being, to a great extent, given by the Sickness Insurance Amendment Law, of April 4th 1889, by which an apprentice was declared exempt from the obligation to be insured if he had a right, when ill, to claim from the guild free medical attendance and treatment for at least twenty weeks.

The following statement gives particulars of the apprentices' sick funds, which numbered 284, with 48,976 members, in 1894, compared with 255, with 45,795 members, in 1893:—

	1893.	1894.
Cases of Sickness per 100 members	17.7	17.7
Days of Sickness per member	2.7	2.6
Income:—		
Contributions from Masters	9,458	10,438
Other receipts	1,757	869
Total	11,215	11,307
Expenditure:—		
Sick and Funeral Benefit	8,298	8,057
Other expenditure... ..	1,201	1,195
Total	9,499	9,252
Total value of Reserve Funds at beginning of year	6,366	8,487

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1896.*

THE net result of the passenger movement in and out of the United Kingdom during 1896 was a balance outwards of 43,083 persons, as compared with 67,595 persons in 1895, and 28,016 persons in 1894. The movement both outwards and inwards was less than in 1895, but greater than in 1894.

The excess outwards was the result of a net native emigration of 61,800 persons, and an immigration into this country of 18,800 foreigners. To arrive, however, at the net alien immigration it is necessary to deduct 10,500 foreign sailors, who, coming as passengers, are reckoned in the above total as immigrants, but of whom there is no such record when they leave as members of the crews of outgoing ships.

The total number of British and Irish emigrants was 161,925, as compared with 185,181 in 1895, and 156,030 in 1894. The number going to the United States was lower than in any year since 1879, and the number going to British North America lower than in any year since 1878. The number going to South Africa was the highest recorded, being greater than in 1895 by over 4,000.

Turning to the class of Russian and Polish immigrants (other than seamen) among whom the "destitute aliens" are principally found, it appears that 12,773 of these, not stated to be *en route* to other countries, arrived from European Ports in 1896, as compared with 10,204 in 1895, and 7,482 in 1894. More than 76 per cent. of these came to London. In order to ascertain the net addition during the year to the number of persons of this class in the country, it is necessary to make allowance for immigrants other than those stated in the Alien Lists to be *en route* to other countries, who actually left the country during the year, including immigrants assisted to do so by various charitable bodies. As a result of estimates based on the data available, the conclusion is arrived at that the net addition to the population of persons belonging to the "destitute alien" class in 1896 cannot have exceeded some 5,500 in London, and about 2,500 in the rest of the United Kingdom, or 8,000 in all.

* Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration in 1896. [Parl. Paper No. 165 of 1897: price 6d.] Eyre and Spottiswoode.

WORKMEN (COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS) BILL.

THE following is the full text of the Bill introduced in the House of Commons on the 3rd instant, to "amend the law with respect to compensation to workmen for accidental injuries suffered in the course of their employment."

1.—(1.) If in any employment to which this Act applies personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment is caused to a workman, his employer shall, subject as hereinafter mentioned, be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the First Schedule to this Act:

(2.) Provided that:

- (a) The employer shall not be liable under this Act in respect of any injury which does not disable the workman for a period of at least *two weeks* from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed;
- (b) When it is decided, as hereafter provided, that the injury was caused by the wilful and wrongful act or default of the employer or some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in this Act shall affect any liability, civil or criminal, of the employer or persons for whom he is responsible; but the employer shall not be liable to pay compensation both independently of and also under this Act, and shall not be liable to pay compensation independently of this Act, except in case of such wilful and wrongful act or default.

(3) If any question arises as to whether the employment is one to which this Act applies, or whether the injury was caused by the wilful and wrongful act or default of the employer, or of any person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, or whether the injury was caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment of the workman injured, or as to the amount or duration of compensation under this Act, or otherwise as to the liability for compensation under this Act, the question, if not settled by agreement, shall, subject to the provisions of the First Schedule to this Act, be settled by arbitration, in accordance with the Second Schedule to this Act.

(4.) If the Registrar of Friendly Societies certifies that any scheme of compensation or insurance for the workmen in any employment is on the whole not less favourable to the workmen than the provisions of this Act, the employer may, until the certificate is revoked, contract with any of those workmen that the provisions of the scheme shall be substituted for the provisions of this Act, and thereupon the employer shall be liable only in accordance with the scheme, but, save as aforesaid, this Act shall apply, notwithstanding any contract to the contrary made after the commencement of this Act.

2.—(1.) This Act shall apply only to employment on, in, or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work.

(2.) In this Act—

- "Railway" means the railway of any railway company to which the Regulation of Railways Act, 1871, applies, and "railway" and "railway company" have the same meaning as in that Act.
- "Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, or warehouse, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.
- "Mine" means a mine to which the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, or the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872, applies.
- "Quarry" means a quarry under the Quarries Act, 1894.
- "Engineering work" means any work of construction of a road, harbour, dock, canal, or sewer, and includes any building or other work on which machinery driven by steam, water, or other mechanical power is used for the purpose of the construction thereof.
- "Employer" includes any body of persons corporate or unincorporate.
- "Workman" includes every person who is engaged in an employment to which this Act applies, whether by way of manual labour or otherwise, and whether his agreement is one of service or apprenticeship or otherwise, and is expressed or implied, is oral or in writing.

3.—(1.) This Act shall not apply to persons in the naval or military service of the Crown, but otherwise shall apply to any employment by or under the Crown to which this Act would apply if the employer were a private person.

(2) The Treasury may, by warrant laid before Parliament, modify for the purposes of this Act their warrant made under section one of the Superannuation Act, 1887.

4. Any contract existing at the commencement of this Act, whereby a workman relinquishes any right to compensation from the employer for personal injury arising out of and in the course of his employment, shall not, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to continue after the time at which the workman's contract of service would determine if notice of the determination whereof were given at the commencement of this Act.

5.—(1.) This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

(2.) This Act may be cited as the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897.

SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE.—SCALE AND CONDITIONS OF COMPENSATION. Scale.

- (1.) The amount of compensation under this Act shall be—
 - (a) where death results from the injury—
 - (i.) if the workman leaves dependants, a sum equal to his earnings during the *three years* next preceding the injury, or the sum of *one hundred and fifty pounds*, whichever of those sums is the larger, but not exceeding in any case *three hundred pounds*, provided that the amount of any weekly payments made under this Act shall be deducted from such sum; and
 - (ii.) if he leaves no dependants, the reasonable expenses of his medical attendance and burial, not exceeding *ten pounds*;
 - (b) in case of incapacity for work, a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding *fifty per cent.* of his weekly earnings at the time of the accident, such weekly payment not to exceed *one pound*.
- (2.) The payment shall, in case of death, be made to the legal personal representative of the workman, or, if he has no legal personal representative, to his dependants, or, if he leaves no dependants, to the person to whom the expenses are due.
- (3.) The expression "dependants" in this Schedule means such members of the workman's family as are entitled to damages in cases under the Fatal Accidents Act, 1846; and any question as to who is a dependant, or as to the amount payable to each dependant shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.
- (4.) If any of the dependants is an infant his share of compensation may be invested for his benefit as directed by the arbitrator.
- (5.) Any weekly payment may be reviewed at intervals of not less than *three months* at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished, or increased, subject to the maximum above provided, and the amount of payment shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act.
- (6.) A weekly payment shall not be capable of being assigned or charged and shall not pass to any other person by operation of law.

SECOND SCHEDULE.—ARBITRATION.

The following provisions shall apply for settling any matter which under this Act is to be settled by arbitration:—

- (1.) If any committee, representative of an employer and his workmen exists with power to settle matters under this Act in the case of the employer and workmen, the matter shall, unless either party objects, be settled by that committee.
- (2.) If either party so objects, or there is no such committee, the matter shall be settled by a single arbitrator agreed on by the parties, or, in the absence of agreement, by the county court judge, or, if the Lord Chancellor certifies that under the circumstances of the particular district it is not convenient that the county court judge should be called upon to act as arbitrator, by a single arbitrator appointed by such county court judge.
- (3.) Any arbitrator other than the county court judge shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament in accordance with regulations to be made by the Treasury.
- (4.) The Arbitration Act, 1889, shall not apply to any arbitration under this Act; but an arbitrator, may, if he thinks fit, submit any question of law for the decision of the county court judge, and the decision of the judge on any question of law, either on such submission, or in any case where he himself acts as arbitrator under this Act, shall be final; and any award made under this Act shall be enforced in the same manner as an order of a county court.
- (5.) The costs of the arbitration shall be in the discretion of the arbitrator.
- (6.) The duty of a county court judge under this Act shall, subject to rules of court, be part of the duties of the county court, and the officers of the court shall act accordingly.

(7.) Any sum awarded as compensation shall be paid on the receipt of the person entitled, and his solicitor or agent shall not be entitled to recover from him, or to claim a lien on the amount recovered for, any costs except such as have been awarded by the arbitrator.

(8.) Any committee, judge, or other arbitrator may appoint a legally qualified medical practitioner to report on any matter which seems material to any question arising in the arbitration; and the expense of any such medical practitioner not exceeding *two guineas*, shall be paid by the employer.

(9.) In the application of this schedule to Scotland "sheriff" shall be substituted for "county court judge."

SUNDAY LABOUR IN BELGIUM.

Two further instalments of the Report of the inquiry into Sunday Labour, carried out by the Belgian Labour Department, have appeared since last August, when some figures based on the contents of the first volume were given in the GAZETTE (p. 242). One* of the two volumes since issued gives an account of Sunday Labour in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The other† contains monographs of each of the 1,459 industrial establishments in Belgium, which were treated statistically in Volume I. of the inquiry. Monographs are also given of 68 industries in which the information obtained was sufficiently typical to permit of interesting deductions being made. Finally, the information collected in the whole of the 268 trades investigated is analysed under each of the following heads:—

(1) *Work during the early hours of Sunday to complete the Saturday night shift.*—The results of the inquiry are stated to show that in the great majority of the trades which work from Saturday night to Sunday morning no absolute necessity exists for doing so.

(2) *General review of the causes of Sunday labour properly so-called.*—The inquiry has shown that 89.2 per cent. of the workers, and 71.4 per cent. of the establishments carrying on work on Sundays are engaged in production, as distinct from repairing and cleaning plant, keeping furnaces alight, &c. The most important cause of regular Sunday labour in production is the necessity for continuity of work entailed by certain processes; while irregular Sunday labour in production is chiefly caused by the necessity for completing orders, this being the object with which two-thirds of the establishments, and nearly nine-tenths of the workpeople employed on occasional Sundays carried on work on those days.

(3) *Employment of women and protected workers on Sundays.*—About 4.3 per cent. of the establishments investigated employ women over 21 years of age on Sundays; 1.9 per cent.—chiefly in the metal, glass, and textile trades—do so every Sunday in the year, irrespective of establishments of the same groups of trades in which such persons work until 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning on alternate Sundays.

About 11 per cent. of establishments employ boys or girls under the age of 16 or young women under 21 on Sundays. The employment is, in the majority of cases, irregular, and due to pressure in the completion of orders. In 22 (or 1.5 per cent.) of the establishments investigated protected workers are employed on every Sunday in the year. Twenty of these establishments are either glass works or metal works. It is also a common thing for protected workers to be employed till 6 o'clock on Sunday morning once a fortnight in iron works and rolling mills, and in the manufacture of glass and china utensils.

(4) *Number of recognised holidays in the year and proportion of Monday absences.*—Of the 1,459 establishments investigated, 1,430 may be classified as follows, according to the number of holidays (not counting Sundays) regularly observed in the year:—

* "Travail du Dimanche," Vol. V., Pays Etrangers (Allemagne, Autriche, Suisse, Angleterre), Office du Travail, Brussels, 1896. Société Belge de Librairie, Rue Treurenberg, 16.

† "Travail du Dimanche," Vol. II., Etablissements Industriels (non compris les mines, minières et carrières), Monographies, Office du Travail, Brussels, 1896. Société Belge de Librairie, Rue Treurenberg, 16.

No. of Holidays regularly observed in the year (Sundays not counted.)	Establishments.	
	Number.	Per cent.
None	123	8.6
Less than 6 days	232	16.2
Six and under 10 days	630	44.1
Ten	434	30.3
Twenty days and over	11	0.8
Total	1,430	100.0

The following statement classifies 1,423 of the 1,459 establishments investigated, according to the proportion of workpeople usually absent on Mondays:—

Proportion of workpeople usually absent on Mondays.	Establishments.	
	Number.	Per cent.
None absent	981	68.9
Under 2 per cent.	211	14.8
2 and under 5 per cent.	87	6.1
5 " 10 "	59	4.2
10 per cent. and over	85	6.0
Total	1,423	100.0

LABOUR DISPUTES IN ITALY, 1895.*

The magnitude and importance of the industrial strikes of 1895 were considerably less than in 1894, though the actual number of strikes recorded was somewhat greater. Thus, the number of strikers was 30 per cent. less, and the number of days lost through strikes 61 per cent. less than in the previous year.

The figures for the years 1890 to 1895 are as follows:—

	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Industrial Strikes Reported	139	132	119	131	109	126
Industrial Strikes for which number of Participants is known	133	128	117	127	103	126
Number of Participants	38,402	34,733	30,800	32,109	27,595	19,307
Strikes for which number of days lost by the Participants is known	129	123	114	122	103	126
Number of days lost	167,657	258,059	216,907	234,323	323,261	125,968

Fewer days were lost by participants in industrial strikes in 1895 than in any year since 1886.

The total number of days lost owing to industrial strikes in 1895 was 166,217, in which are included 40,249 days (compared with 9,221 in 1894) lost by persons other than the actual strikers. Of the 19,307 persons taking part in strikes in 1895, 2,327 were under 15 years of age, and 5,192 were women or girls (over 15 years old). As in previous years, so in 1895, the bulk of those engaged in industrial strikes consisted of textile operatives, miners and day labourers.

In the following statement the strikes of 1894 and 1895 are classified according to objects or causes, and results:—

Objects or causes.	Percentage of strikers for undermentioned objects or causes who were					
	Successful.		Partially Successful.		Unsuccessful.	
	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894	1895
For increased wages...	15	36	25	53	60	11
Against reduction of wages...	68	9	4	29	28	62
For shorter working day	6	75	54	17	40	8
Against extension of working day	—	—	—	—	100	—
Other	28	33	11	31	61	36
All objects or causes	19	33	24	40	57	27

The above disputes do not include agricultural strikes, of which there were seven in 1895, six of them involving 1,711 workpeople, and 20,565 lost days. None of these strikes were entirely successful; four succeeded partly, and three failed completely.

Of seven lock-outs which occurred during 1895, only one arose out of differences between the employer and his workpeople, the rest being meant as protests against decisions of the authorities relating to taxes or similar matters.

* Statistica degli Scioperi avvenuti nell'industria e nell'agricoltura durante l'anno 1895. Ministero di Agricoltura, Industria e Commercio, Rome. On sale at the Libreria Bocca. Price 1 lira (about 10d.).

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Strike of Wire Drawers at Cleckheaton.

Some time since a firm of steel wire manufacturers at Cleckheaton introduced some new machines for wire drawing. Prolonged negotiations took place between the firm and the members of the local branch of the Federated Wire Drawers of Great Britain, with regard to the class of men by whom the machines should be worked. Eventually, the society being dissatisfied with the proposals of the employers with regard to the working of these and other similar machines, withdrew their members on April 21st. About 60 persons were affected by this dispute.

On April 27th an application was made to the Board of Trade to take action under the Conciliation Act. A representative of the Labour Department visited the district on April 30th, and after interviews with both parties, placed in the hands of the men's officials a series of proposals on the part of the firm for the settlement of the dispute. After further negotiations between the parties the dispute was settled on May 8th in general accordance with the proposals referred to above.

Carpenters and Joiners in the Potteries.

Sir William Markby, the umpire appointed by the Board of Trade at the request of both parties to settle certain questions in dispute between the master builders and the carpenters and joiners in the Potteries and Newcastle district (see GAZETTE for April, p. 100), heard the statements of the parties on April 27th, and issued his award on April 30th. The award raises the wages of carpenters and joiners from 8d. to 8½d. per hour (the rate recognised for bricklayers), and makes the following addition to the rule relating to apprentices:—

"Any builder having more apprentices than are authorised by this rule, owing to the dismissal of journeymen through slackness of trade, will not be allowed to take on any more apprentices until the number has been reduced below the standard set forth in the foregoing clause."

The umpire declined to make the other alterations asked for by employers and men respectively in the apprenticeship rules. Rule 7 (that apprentices should be bound) is not to be enforced until August 1st.

Demarcation Dispute in the Leicester Building Trades.

For some time past both bricklayers and plasterers in Leicester have claimed certain cement work. Meetings were held between deputations of both societies and the master builders, but no solution satisfactory to both parties was arrived at. Finally, on April 3rd the plasterers withdrew 16 of their number from four or five jobs, the men, however, being given work elsewhere. On April 9th, at the request of both sides, Mr. T. Smith presided at a conference of the two societies, and a basis of settlement was agreed upon. The terms were ratified at separate meetings of the bricklayers' and plasterers' Trade Unions held on April 13th, and signed by representatives of the two societies on April 30th. They are as follows:—

1. That all *in situ* work and rendering of rain-water cisterns and flats to w.c.'s be done by bricklayers;
2. That all screeding and hearths be done by plasterers; and,
3. That wherever a plasterer is required on any job, the bricklayer shall not do any kind of plastering.

(b) OTHER CASES.

New Working Rules for Builders' Labourers in London.

A new code of working rules has been agreed to by the Central Association of Master Builders of London and the various unions of builders' labourers. The rules fix the hours of labour, overtime rates, &c., and provide for an advance of ¾d. per hour from June 1st, making the rate for builders' labourers in London 7d. per hour. The new rules also provide for conciliation in the event of a dispute. The rules may be terminated by six months' notice, to expire at any time. The dispute

clause, which is similar to the one agreed to by the plumbers, and smiths and fitters, is as follows:—

"That in case of any dispute arising under these rules which cannot be settled by the employer and employee, no strike shall take place, but such dispute shall be referred to and decided by the Board of Conciliation, whose decision shall be final. Provided that no objection shall be taken to any workman in consequence of his belonging or not belonging to any trade society."

The rules are operative within a radius of 12 miles from Charing Cross, and are stated to affect about 20,000 workmen.

FACTORY INSPECTION IN GERMANY.

The following particulars, relating to the year 1895, are based on the annual summaries prepared by the Imperial Home Office from the reports on factory inspection published by the various States.* The total number of separate establishments visited during 1895 was 69,450 employing 2,356,191 persons, compared with 64,471 employing 2,295,280 in 1894.

The following statement shows the number of children and young persons under 16 and of women and girls above that age employed in factories, &c., in the Empire in each year from 1892 to 1895:—

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Children under 14—				
Boys	7,426	3,730	2,682	2,669
Girls	3,913	2,181	1,577	1,658
Total	11,339	5,911	4,259	4,327
Young persons, 14 to 16—				
Males	139,513	140,694	139,391	143,441
Females	69,322	73,265	70,324	73,981
Total	208,835	213,959	209,715	217,422
Women and Girls—				
16 to 21	229,638	249,209	250,689	260,303
Over 21	346,795	367,336	383,094	403,813
Total	576,433	616,545	633,783	664,116

The Industrial Code fixes the maximum length of the working day for women and girls over the age of 16 at 11 hours (10 on Saturdays and the eves of holidays). Permission to employ such persons beyond these hours on weekdays other than Saturdays can be obtained in times of unusual pressure of work, but not for more than 40 days in the year, or for more than two hours per day. The conditions on which overtime is permitted on Saturdays and the eves of holidays are more stringent.

In the following table, showing the amount of overtime sanctioned for women and girls over 16 in the German Empire in 1893, 1894 and 1895, permits for Saturday overtime are not included, but the number of these is comparatively small:—

	1893.	1894.	1895.
Establishments granted permits	1,884	2,582	2,938
Women and girls permitted to work overtime	133,826 hours.	197,019 hours.	243,977 hours.
Total	3,511,651	3,557,946	4,984,139
Amount of overtime allowed (Average per person)	26.2	18.1	20.4

Of the total amount of overtime worked in 1895, 3,117,048 hours, or 62.5 per cent., was worked by textile operatives.

Infringements of the Law relating to the employment of children and young persons under 16 were proved in 8,178 or 11.8 per cent. of all establishments visited in 1895, and against the provisions as to the employment of women and girls over 16, in 2,833, or 4.1 per cent. of such establishments.

PROFIT-SHARING.

Representation of Employees in Management of Company.

In regard to the scheme of profit-sharing in force with the South Metropolitan Gas Company, an Act passed last year (see GAZETTE, September 1896, p. 275) provided that, at any time after the total investments of the employees of the company in the ordinary stock of the company, dating from the distribution of the first profit-sharing bonus in July 1890, should exceed the nominal amount of £40,000, the directors might prepare a scheme for enabling employees holding

* Amtliche Mittheilungen aus den Jahresberichten der Gewerbe-Aufsichts Beamten. Jahrgang 1895. Zusammenge stellt im Reichsamt des Innern, Berlin, Verlag, von W. T. Bruer, 1896.

ordinary stock to elect one or more of their number, but not exceeding three, to be a director or directors, and that the scheme should fix the qualification of an employees' director, but such director must have been at least seven years in the constant employ of the company, and must have held for not less than twelve months not less than £250 stock. By an Act recently passed (the South Metropolitan Gas Act, 1897, sec. 3), the provisions just stated are amended, by making the amount of stock which is to constitute the qualification of an employees' director, £100 (in place of £250).

LABOUR CASES IN APRIL.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases of the month, specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers.

(1) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN'S ACT.

Engagement of Large and Small Glassworkers.—A glassworker was summoned by a firm of glass manufacturers for £3 10s., being the loss of profit, and loss of value of fuel through his neglect of work. The case against defendant was that he had been given instructions to make a certain kind of shade, but that he left his work for six hours, and induced 15 others to do the same. The case for defendant was that he had been asked to make a large shade, but that he was engaged as a small glassworker only, and that the rules of the men's society forbade them to work at large sizes if they were recognised small glassworkers. The stipendiary dismissed the summons with costs, holding that defendant was engaged as a small glassworker, and that he was right in refusing to do the large work. —*Briery Hill Police Court, April 1st.*

Collier's engagement not terminated by "Fall" in Coal Pit.—A collier was sued by his employers for 12s. 6d. as damages for absenting himself from work on five days. On the first day a fall of roof took place in a certain part of the pit, and in consequence about 45 men were unable to work in their own place. They were offered work at the "fall" and in other places in the pit, but 30 of them refused to work. Subsequently, all except the defendant returned to work and signed an agreement to pay 1s. for breach of contract. It was submitted on behalf of defendant that it was a custom in the district in case of a fall that men should have the option whether they went to work or not. The Bench ordered defendant to pay the amount claimed and costs. —*Barnsley Police Court, March 29th.*

(2) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

Failure to Wear Respirators.—Three operative brushers employed by a firm of enamelled plate manufacturers were fined each 5s. and 6s. 8d. costs for failure to observe special rules in not wearing a respirator while brushing. —*Police Court, Wolverhampton, April 21st.*

(3) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT.

Breach of Rules by a Lunatic.—A board of guardians summoned the secretary of the sick society of the locomotive department of a railway company, for sick money due to a lunatic member of the club who was chargeable to them. The lunatic had ceased working for the railway company in December 1895, and declared on the funds, and received one week's sick pay. He was not heard of again until November 1896, when it was reported that he was being maintained as a lunatic by the board of guardians. It was argued on behalf of the society that the man was not entitled to sick pay, because he had broken the rules of the society by making no claim between November 1895 and November 1896, and by not paying his subscriptions, and that he had removed out of the jurisdiction of the court. It was further urged that according to a rule of the society all disputes between a member and the society should be settled by arbitration. The case for the board of guardians was that the man was not mentally fit to "dispute" or to comply with the rules of the society, and further, that his change of residence was not a voluntary act. The magistrate held that the lunatic was not responsible for his default, and ordered the society to pay the guardians 3s. a week from the time they made their demand. —*North London Police Court, March 15th.*

NOTICE TO SEAMEN.

EXTENSION OF THE TRANSMISSION OF WAGES SCHEME TO ANTWERP, DUNKIRK, HAMBURG, AND ROTTERDAM.

After April 1897 seamen discharged from British ships at Antwerp, Dunkirk, Hamburg, and Rotterdam, with sufficient wages due, will be able to arrange to draw the balance of their wages at any Mercantile Marine Office in the United Kingdom, thus enabling them to proceed direct to their homes in Great Britain or Ireland as soon as the vessel is securely moored and their services are no longer required.

A Board of Trade officer from the British Consulate will board the ship on her arrival at the Port, and will give each seaman, who avails himself of the system, steamboat and railway tickets, and cash for the journey.

A commission, at the same rate as that for Seamen's Foreign Money Orders (3d. in the £), will be deducted for every £1 transmitted, in order to meet expenses.

INGRAM B. WALKER,

Assistant Secretary, Marine Department

Board of Trade, April, 1897.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad-way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, &c., mostly dated March and April last.)†

Canada.—At this season of the year farm hands are well employed in nearly all parts. There is a good demand near Grenfell in the North-West for a few carpenters, masons and plasterers. At Winnipeg, however, the market is over-supplied with all kinds of mechanics.

New South Wales.—A report from Newcastle states that the supply of miners for the collieries is greater than the demand.

Victoria.—A correspondent writes from Horsham—which is the centre of a large wheat and wool district—"any hardworking earnest man need have no fear of obtaining work; good workmen are sure of constant work." On the other hand a correspondent in the large mining town of Bendigo, writes—"In general, work is scarce in this city and district," and urges "emigrants not to come to Victoria unless they have at least £20 or £30 clear when they land;" he adds "there are even now great numbers of men walking about out of employment," and "the demand for female servants is small, and female shop assistants, milliners, and dress-makers are wretchedly paid."

South Australia.—The labour market in the Colony remains in the same condition; there is practically no demand for more hands.

Queensland.—A special notice has been issued by the Executive in New Guinea warning miners against going there in search of gold, unless they are in good health, and are properly equipped.

Western Australia.—A report from the good agricultural district of Newcastle, states that there is a fair demand for general farm hands, and a good one for female cooks and servants; a similar demand for the latter is also reported from Albany and the neighbouring district.

New Zealand.—A farming correspondent in the Province of Auckland writes "I consider that there is a good opening in the North Island for young men with moderate capital—say £500 to £1,000. There are large areas of some of the best lands in New Zealand in course of acquisition by the Government from the natives. On arrival intending settlers of this class should obtain employment for at least a year in the vicinity of some of the districts, where land will be available, before making any investment of their capital." With some exceptions work both in the towns and the country districts continues to be fairly plentiful, more especially in the building trades; unskilled labour also has been for the most part well employed in country work, but in some large towns like Auckland and Wellington the number of those seeking employment has increased.

Cape Colony.—The report of the Horticultural Board on the Cape Colonization Company at Tulbagh—which was referred to in this column last February—has now been issued, and does not give a favourable account of the suitability of the company's land for fruit culture. There is a demand at Grahamstown for plasterers, bricklayers and masons at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. an hour.

Natal.—The Railways Report, which has just been issued, shows that the gross revenue for 1896 was 87 per cent. higher than the revenue of any previous year. This remarkable increase was mainly due to the extension of the line to Johannesburg. The working expenditure was proportionately less than usual.

Transvaal.—It is stated that the Transvaal Immigration Law has been repealed. The latest reports from Johannesburg state that trade is very depressed, that a considerable number of persons are unable to

* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

† Handbooks, with maps of the different Colonies, may be obtained from this office at a penny each, post free.

procure work, and that the wages of miners have been in some cases reduced, and strikes of white miners have taken place. It is, therefore, unadvisable for the ordinary emigrant to go there at the present time. A report, dated the end of March, gives the following rates of wages and prices: mechanics, 15s. to 20s. a day—all trades "considerably overstocked at present;" female servants, £5 per month and cooks £6; bread, 1s. 6d. per 4lb. loaf; coals, 30s. per ton; milk, 1s. per quart; potatoes, £1 to £2 per cwt.; and per lb. bacon 1s. 6d., beef 8d., butter 3s. 6d., cheese 1s. 6d., coffee 1s. 9d., mutton 8d., sugar 3½d., tea 2s., and tobacco 2s.; rent, £5 to £8 a month; board and lodging, £8 a month.

THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING PEOPLE.*

THE eighth special report of the Commissioner of Labour for the United States deals with the housing of the working people in different countries. Methods of sanitary organisation in England, France, Belgium and Germany are described, special attention being given to the local regulations of metropolitan centres within those countries and the United States. The building regulations of representative cities in different countries are set forth with the aim of showing what provision is made for guarding against the perpetuation of structurally defective habitations. The report gives in full the Belgian law of 1889 permitting the General Savings Bank to lend money at a low rate of interest to local loan and building companies, which aim at making the workman the proprietor of his home, and incorporating with this loan the life insurance feature to secure the home to the family in the event of the premature death of the householder, and the similar law passed in France in 1894.

The greater part of the volume deals with model housing; the chapters on block buildings and lodging houses referring in great detail to experiments made in Great Britain. The chapter on model small houses is largely concerned with the very numerous cases in which employers have made provision for housing their workmen in France, Belgium, Germany and the United States, only few instances being quoted from Great Britain. Amongst the more important cases described in which employers have made such provision may be mentioned the houses of the Pullman's Palace Car Company, Pullman, Illinois; of the Blanzly Mining Company, Blanzly, in France; of the Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company, Marcinelle and Couillet, in Belgium; and of Friedrich Krupp, Essen, in Germany. The number of persons employed by the last mentioned firm in 1892 was 25,200; the members of their families amounted to 62,700, making a total population of 87,900. Of this total 15,300 lived in houses owned by the heads of the family, and 25,800 lived in houses owned by the company. Tenants are required to vacate their dwellings when they leave or are expelled from the firm's employ.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.†

Coal Mining in March.—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in March was 5·81, as compared with 5·95 in the previous month. In March, full time (six days and over) was worked by 39 per cent., and from five to six days by 59 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 2 and 96 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

Labour Disputes in April.—Thirty-five labour disputes (including one lock-out) were notified to the French Labour Department as having begun in April, as compared with 34 in the preceding month, and 44 in April

* Eight Special Report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1895. The Housing of the Working People. Washington, U.S.A., Government Printing Office.

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department

1896. Eleven disputes begun before April 1st were also in progress. The number of persons known to have been directly involved in 31 of the newly-reported disputes was 4,014. The trades most frequently affected were the textile, building, and metal trades, with nine, eight, and seven disputes respectively. Of the remaining nine disputes, two were in the transport trades, and seven in unclassified trades. Twenty-six disputes had reference to wages questions, including 19 demands for increased wages.

The most serious of the April disputes occurred in the coal mining industry, at La Grand' Combe (Gard department). The strike, which began on April 12th, was caused by the dismissal of 575 workpeople, and, including these, involves 2,000 miners. No settlement had been arrived at up to May 11th.

The results of 31 disputes terminated in April were (from the point of view of the workpeople) as follows: successful, 4; unsuccessful, 11; partially successful, 16.

Liability of the State towards its Employees in case of Accidents.—In an action for compensation brought against the French War Department by a workman injured in an arsenal, the Council of State has decided that a workman injured through an accident sustained in the service of the State is entitled to compensation without being required to prove fault on the part of his superior—provided that the accident has not been caused by the workman's own imprudence or negligence.

This decision establishes the principle of trade risk, and differs from the decisions given by civil courts in the case of private employment, and according to which no claim for compensation exists without proof of fault on the part of the employer.

GERMANY.

Strike of Grain-carriers at Stettin.—On April 30th, Mr. Wilfred Powell, H.M. Consul at Stettin, reported to the Foreign Office that the grain-carriers at that port had begun a strike. The *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* states that the reason given by the men for striking was to enforce adherence, on the part of the employers, to a scale of prices fixed last autumn, by which wages were said to have been increased 30 per cent. Negotiations took place on April 28th, but no settlement resulted. However, at a meeting of the men, held on April 30th, it was resolved to resume work on the 3rd of May.

Other important disputes in April.—Other important disputes reported on in the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* in April were the following:—In Bremen a general strike took place among the journeymen boot and shoe makers, who demanded the erection of workshops, freedom to board and lodge apart from their employers, a working day of 10 hours, increased time and piece wages and free grindery. The employers' guild granted the 10 hours day, and increased wages for piece-workers, and gave freedom in the matter of boarding and lodging, and the men returned to work after being on strike for three weeks. A general strike of journeymen boot and shoe makers also took place in Munich. Besides the 10 hours day, the men demanded an improvement in the wages list and in workshop rules. The strike began on the 7th of April, and on the 23rd of that month was reported to be settled, 77 of the employers having, it was stated, conceded the journeymen's demands. A dispute occurred at a jute mill in Bremen, where 800 out of 1,400 spinners and weavers struck for increased wages and the re-instatement of some workers who had been dismissed. The strike was settled by conciliation before the Industrial Court. The men on strike in the boot and shoe trade at Offenbach (see last month's GAZETTE) have resumed work unconditionally.

Operations of Public Labour Registries in April.—The total number of situations offered by employers in April at 29 of the municipal or municipally-subsidized registries which have sent returns to *Soziale Praxis* was 19,958, compared with 21,989 in the preceding month and 18,611 in April 1896.

The number of situations sought by workpeople during the month was 22,133, compared with 24,813 in the previous month, and 22,826 in April 1896. The number of situations found was 14,492, compared with 15,190, in the previous month and 13,454 in April 1896. (This last set of figures is subject to some deduction, since in some registries a situation found is counted twice—viz., once to the employer and once to the workman.)

SWITZERLAND.

Principal Labour Disputes in April.—The most important dispute reported on in *Der Grüllianer* in April, was a general strike of the painters and plasterers of Berne, begun on the 13th and terminated on the 28th of April; the object of the strike was to obtain fixed conditions of work on the lines of an agreement made in 1891, and stated to have been since abandoned by the employers. The terms on which the strike has been settled include a 10-hours working day and the fixing of uniform wages lists with minimum rates per hour of 4 3d. for painters and 4 8d. for plasterers, and extra pay for overtime, night work and Sunday work. The strikers are said to have numbered some 450.

The house smiths and similar metal workers of Interlaken, numbering about 450, struck for a 10-hours day and an allowance for board and lodging. The result has not been reported.

Notice as to Time Tables in Factories.—The Federal Home Department has issued a notice requiring a statement to be posted in a prominent position in all factories, showing the hours of beginning and leaving off work. This step has been taken in order to facilitate the work of the inspectors in securing observance of the provisions of the factory law dealing with working hours.—*Der Grüllianer*.

BELGIUM.

Trade Unions in Ghent.—The latest information regarding trade unions in Ghent—where such organisations are stronger than in any other part of Belgium—is contained in a work* prepared by M. L. Varlez, a correspondent of the Belgian Labour Department, from which it appears that there are in that town 53 trade unions, with a total membership of 17,804. Of these unions nine, with 8,693 members, are in the textile trades; seven, with 2,306 members, consist of clerks, &c., commercial travellers and foremen; four, with 1,907 members, are in the metal trades; six, with 1,208 members, in the building trades; six, with 1,186 members, in the woodworking trades; five, with 938 members, consist of day labourers and workers in transport trades; while 14 unions, with 1,325 members, are in the printing, clothing and food preparing trades, and two unions, with 241 members, in other trades. Of 43 unions which have supplied copies of their rules, 22 have some regular system of out-of-work benefit. Monthly returns from a large proportion of the societies for each of the 12 months, December, 1895—November, 1896, show an average of 4 per cent. out of work.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

General Strike of Flax and Jute Workers in the Aupa Valley (Bohemia).—The most important of the disputes reported on by Austrian employers' and workmen's papers* in April was a general strike in the Aupa Valley (Bohemia) by which the flax and jute mills of the district were chiefly affected. According to *Die Industrie*, the operatives, numbering 1,000, at a flax-spinning mill in Nieder-Altsadt, struck on April 22nd for an increase of 2d. a day in wages. On the following day the operatives at six other mills in the district joined in the movement and the total number of strikers amounted to 4,810. On the 24th an unsuccessful attempt to settle the dispute at the mill first affected was made by the factory inspector and the chief executive official of the district. On the 26th, the strike extended to a number of other trades, including engineering and foundry work, paper-making and mining, the demand in each case being for increased wages. On the 27th, 300 operatives at the spinning mill first affected, returned to work, and the strikers numbered 5,070 in all. On April 29th, a further 2,000 strikers joined, 1,620 of that number being jute spinners belonging to three mills; but a considerable number of the operatives at three other mills returned to work. On May 1st there were 4,355 operatives on strike, all of them flax or jute mill workers; on May 3rd most of these resumed work unconditionally.

Strike in Trieste Dockyard.—The whole of the workmen employed in the Government dockyard in Trieste, numbering, it is stated, some 1,500, struck on April 20th, owing to the refusal of the directors to grant a 20 per cent. increase of time-wages, a reduction of the working hours from 10 to 9 per day, and new conditions as to piece-work. The directors are stated to have authorised the factory inspector to offer the 9 hours day for the 5 winter months and 10

* "Le Plan Social de Gand." Par Louis Varlez, Avocat à la Cour d'Appel de Gand, 111e. Partie. Syndicats d'ouvriers et d'employés. Ad. de Brabant, rempart St. Jean, 16, Ghent. 1897.

† Including *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), *Das Handels-Museum*, *die Gewerkschaft*, *Die Arbeiter Zeitung*, and others.

hours for the rest of the year, and the arrangement of piece-work conditions under supervision of the factory inspector. The men have rejected these offers.

Trade Guilds and Co-operation.—The Bill mentioned in the GAZETTE of December 1896 (p. 374) as having been passed by the Austrian Lower House, has now become law,* so that in future any trade guild may establish a co-operative society, when a vote to that effect is given by three-fourths of the members present at a meeting sufficiently well attended to pronounce upon the question. The minimum attendance required to make such a vote valid varies with the size of the guild. For instance, in guilds with a membership of 500 to 1,000 an attendance of 30 per cent. (but not less than 200) of the members is required; whereas if the membership exceed 1,000, only 20 per cent. (but not less than 300) need attend.

In the Law of 1883 it is laid down as part of the optional work of the trade guilds to engage in co-operation, e.g., by establishing loan funds, raw material depôts, joint sale rooms, &c. The almost complete failure of the guilds to fulfil this part of the programme traced for them is stated to be due to the interpretation hitherto placed on the law, according to which a unanimous vote of the guild assembly was required before the corporation could engage in a co-operative undertaking.

Effect of Reduction of Hours on Output and Wages in certain Austrian Coal Mines.—In the GAZETTE for November 1895 (p. 338) figures were given showing the output and wages of workers in certain coal mines in Moravia for two triennial periods, one preceding and the other following the reduction of the working shifts from 11½ to 9 hours. Circumstances were at the same time mentioned which would account in some measure for the increase both in output and wages under the shorter, as compared with the longer shift, system.

The Report of the Brünn Chamber of Commerce for 1896†—just issued—gives figures relative to output and wages in the mines in question for a further triennial period, viz., 1894-96. These are shown in the following table, together with the figures already published in the GAZETTE.

	1886-1888	1891-1893	1894-1896
Length of shift (including time occupied in descent, but excluding time occupied in ascent)	11½ hours	9 hours	9 hours
Average Output per annum (total) ...	Tons. 655,196	Tons. 825,165	Tons. 928,233
" " " " per Man ...	150'56	185'86	213'84
" " " " shift ...	0'63	0'68	0'74
" " " " Hewer ...	2'08	2'23	2'37
Average Daily Earnings: Hewers ...	d. 24'12	d. 29'40	d. 29'20
" " " Trammers ...	17'30	19'80	20'00
" " " Screeners ...	12'18	14'86	14'00

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike in Chicago and Milwaukee Tanneries.—Mr. Vansittart, H.M. Consul in Chicago, in a report to the Foreign Office, dated April 21st, states that the efforts of the State Board of Arbitration to settle this dispute have failed, the workmen refusing to reopen the case. (See April GAZETTE, p. 104.)

In anticipation of a lock-out, the men have, it is stated, made preparations for a long fight.

Strikes and Lock-outs in the State of New York in 1895.—The Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration for the State of New York states that during the year ending October 31st 1895, the Board received information of 417 strikes and lock-outs, about the same number as in the preceding year. Of these disputes 11 lasted over two months, 15 lasted one month and less than two months, 60 one week and less than one month, 233 one day and less than one week, and 89 were terminated within 24 hours.

Of the disputes, 167 occurred in the building trades, 100 in the clothing trades, 27 in metal trades, 25 in textile trades, 12 amongst cigar-makers, 11 each among bakers and printers, and the remaining 64 in thirty-one miscellaneous trades.

The report states that in the more protracted disputes the board constantly intervened, and that in many cases final adjustment was arrived at on a basis proposed by the Commissioners.

* Gesetz vom 23. Februar 1897, betreffend die Abänderung und Ergänzung der Gewerbeordnung. (R. G. Bl., XX Stück, Nr. 63.)

† Summarischer Bericht der Handels- und Gewerbekammer in Brünn, 1896, Brünn, 1897.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN APRIL.

(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.—Except in Durham employment in every district in April was better than a year ago. Owing to the Easter Holidays the average number of days worked per week was not so great as during March.

Returns received respecting 1,323 pits, employing 417,372 workpeople, show that the average time worked in the four weeks ended April 24th, was 4'84 days per week, as compared with 5'14 days per week in March and 4'69 days per week in April 1896. The following table gives the average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in April 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		24th April 1897	25th April 1896	27th Mar. 1897
England and Wales ...	382,654	4'78	4'64	5'11
Scotland ...	34,051	5'48	5'23	5'43
Ireland ...	667	4'73	4'19	4'66
United Kingdom ...	417,372	4'84	4'69	5'14

The following table gives the average number of days worked in the pits classified according to the class of coal principally raised. It will be seen that coking coal gave the best, and house coal the least employment, whilst the greatest falling off in the month was in the gas coal pits:—

Description of Coal.	No. employed in April 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1897
		April 1897	March 1897	
Coking Coal ...	23,687	5'26	5'61	- '35
Gas " ...	33,029	4'72	5'22	- '50
House " ...	73,950	4'36	4'82	- '46
Manufacturing Coal ...	17,519	4'95	5'16	- '21
Steam " ...	134,807	5'01	5'32	- '31
Mixed " ...	134,280	4'76	5'03	- '27
All Classes of Coal ...	417,372	4'84	5'14	- '30

If the workpeople be classified according to the number of days worked by the pits at which they were employed, it will be seen that 50'9 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as against 41'6 per cent. in April 1896.

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.	April 1897.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	April 1896.	March 1897.
24 days (full time) ...	7,485	1'8	1'4	11'5
20 and under 24 days ...	205,126	49'1	40'2	55'8
16 " " 20 " ...	150,472	36'1	41'3	28'7
12 " " 16 " ...	47,993	11'4	12'8	7'7
8 " " 12 " ...	5,674	1'4	3'0	1'9
Under 8 days ...	922	0'2	1'9	0'4
Total ...	417,372	100'0	100'0	100'0

The number of workpeople now employed at pits covered by the returns is greater by 6,727 (or 1'6 per cent.) than a year ago. This increase was made up of increases of 6,221 in England and Wales, 496 in Scotland, and 10 in Ireland.

Comparison by Districts.—Except in Durham, where there was a very slight falling off, employment was better in every district than a year ago, the improvement amounting to over half a day in Ireland and to nearly half a day in Derbyshire and Cumberland.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

In only four districts was the average time worked actually greater in April than in March, viz., Cumberland, Fife, Ireland, and Gloucester and Somerset.

The three Scottish districts worked the highest averages during the month. The average in the Lothians was 5'56 days, in West Scotland 5'53 days, and in Fife 5'38 days. South Wales and Monmouth, and Cumberland come next with averages of 5'32 days and 5'30 days respectively. The lowest averages were in Nottingham and Leicester (3'79 days) and Derbyshire (4'32 days). Other districts worked averages of between 4½ and 5 days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN APRIL 1897 AND 1896, AND IN MARCH 1897.

District.	No. employed in April 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1897 as compared with	
		24th April 1897.	25th April 1896.	27th March 1897.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES						
Northumberland ...	31,367	4'83	4'66	5'01	+ '17	- '18
Durham ...	85,239	4'98	5'05	5'26	- '07	- '28
Cumberland ...	5,575	5'30	4'82	5'07	+ '48	+ '23
Yorkshire ...	45,993	4'56	4'31	5'06	+ '25	- '50
Lancashire and Cheshire	43,256	4'76	4'65	5'18	+ '11	- '42
Nottingham and Leicester	25,996	3'79	3'74	3'96	+ '05	- '17
Derbyshire ...	33,435	4'32	3'84	4'80	+ '48	- '48
Staffordshire ...	21,259	4'68	4'34	5'11	+ '34	- '43
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	8,250	4'73	4'33	5'04	+ '40	- '31
Gloucester and Somerset	7,979	4'66	4'42	4'62	+ '24	+ '04
North Wales ...	10,472	4'78	4'48	5'26	+ '30	- '48
South Wales & Monmouth	63,833	5'32	5'20	5'61	+ '12	- '29
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	19,252	5'53	5'21	5'57	+ '32	- '04
The Lothians ...	2,876	5'56	5'44	5'70	+ '12	- '14
Fife ...	11,923	5'38	5'17	5'17	+ '21	+ '21
IRELAND ...	667	4'73	4'19	4'66	+ '54	+ '07
Grand Total & Averages	417,372	4'84	4'69	5'14	+ '18	- '30

The percentage of **unemployed** miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham, amounted to 0'9 per cent. of the membership at the end of April the same as at the end of March. The percentage at the end of April 1896 was 1'9.

Exports of Coal.—During April 2,825,593 tons of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel were exported, as compared with 2,880,910 tons in March and 2,651,260 tons in April 1896.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

GOOD FRIDAY was observed as a holiday in all the districts except Scotland, and in the Midland districts most of the mines were closed on Easter Monday; consequently, the average number of days worked per week was less in April than in March. The decline was not so marked in Cleveland and Cumberland and Lancashire as in the less important districts. As compared with the corresponding period a year ago, the average number of days worked was practically the same, and the number of persons employed greater by 4'3 per cent.

During the four weeks ended April 24th, the 16,487 workpeople employed at 122 mines and open works included in the returns worked an average of 5'66 days per week, as compared with 5'82 days in March, and 5'65 days in April 1896. The number employed was greater by 677 than a year ago. The great majority (76'4 per cent.) worked between 22 and 24 days; a smaller proportion working full time than in April 1896.

The following tables show for the mines included in the returns received:—

(I.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—

District.	No. employed in April 1897 at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1897, as compared with	
		24th April 1897.	25th April 1896.	27th March 1897.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	6,139	5'79	5'76	5'94	+ '03	- '15
Cleveland ...	6,472	5'72	5'71	5'76	+ '01	- '04
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	617	5'74	5'24	5'96	+ '50	- '22
Northamptonshire	546	5'17	5'57*	5'79	- '40	- '62
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,274	5'09	4'88*	5'39	+ '21	- '30
Other places in England ...	270	5'23	5'74	5'98	- '51	- '75
SCOTLAND ...	995	5'59	5'94	5'83	- '35	- '24
IRELAND ...	174	5'89	5'67	5'97	+ '22	- '08
Total ...	16,487	5'66	5'65*	5'82	+ '01	- '16

(II.) Classification of workpeople according to days worked by the mines:—

Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	April 1897.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	April 1896.	March 1897.
24 days (full time) ...	1,838	11'1	15'2*	68'2
22 and under 24 days ...	12,589	76'4	72'7*	22'5
20 " " 22 " ...	764	4'6	5'5*	5'4
Under 20 days ...	1,296	7'9	6'6*	3'9
Total ...	16,487*	100'0	100'0	100'0

(c) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT at the end of April remained the same as at the end of March. It also showed no appreciable change as compared with the end of April 1896.

The 110 ironmasters, from whom returns have been received, and who own about 93 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, had 351 furnaces in blast at the end of the month. These furnaces gave employment to 22,275 persons, or 104 more than were employed at the 351 furnaces in blast a year ago.

During the month seven furnaces have been relit, and seven blown out or damped down in England and Wales. The number of furnaces in blast in Scotland remains unchanged. The number of persons employed is less by 39 in England and Wales, and greater by 11 in Scotland than at the end of March.

The subjoined table gives:—
Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of April 1897, with the number in blast at end of April 1896, and at end of March 1897, so far as included in the returns made to the Department by 110 ironmasters owning 93 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	April 1897.	April 1896.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1897.	April 1897.	Mar. 1897.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in April 1897.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	93	95	- 2	93	94	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs	44	46	- 2	44	45	- 1
S. and S.W. Yorks...	18	16	+ 2	18	18	...
Lincolnshire ...	13	14	- 1	15	15	...
Midlands ...	91	88	+ 3	91	89	+ 2
Glamorgan and Mon.	19	18	+ 1	19	20	- 1
Other districts ...	7	10	- 3	7	6	+ 1
Total England and Wales...	287	287	...	287	287	...
SCOTLAND ...	64	64	...	64	64	...
Total furnaces included in returns ...	351	351	...	351	351	...

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British Possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during April amounted to 107,135 tons, as compared with 114,920 tons in March, and 78,532 tons in April 1896.

* Amended figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES AND ROLLING MILLS.

As compared with a month ago the numbers employed show, on the whole, no change, a slight decrease at ironworks being counter-balanced by a corresponding increase at steel and tinplate works. As compared with a year ago employment has improved markedly in the steel and tinplate trades, and to a less degree in the iron trade.

Of the 82,348 persons employed in these industries at the end of April by 251 firms from whom returns have been received, 37,722 were employed at 131 Steelworks, or 473 more than at the end of the previous month, and 2,495, or 7.1 per cent. more than a year ago.

The number employed at 96 Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills was 18,652, or 661 less than at the end of the previous month, but 255 more than at the end of April 1896.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of April 1897 and 1896 and March 1897 respectively, by 251 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in April 1897 as compared with	
	April 1897.	April 1896.	March 1897.	A year ago.	A month ago.
Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling and Forging.					
England and Wales ...	31,660	30,094	31,339	+ 1,565	+ 321
Scotland ...	6,062	5,133	5,910	+ 929	+ 152
Total ...	37,722	35,227	37,249	+ 2,495	+ 473
Iron Puddling and Rolling.					
England and Wales ...	14,492	14,522	15,120	— 30	— 628
Scotland ...	4,160	3,875	4,193	+ 285	— 33
Total ...	18,652	18,397	19,313	+ 255	— 661
Tinplate Manufacture.					
England and Wales ...	12,133	11,287	11,944	+ 866	+ 209
Other Workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.*					
England and Wales ...	12,521	12,065	12,507	+ 455	+ 14
Scotland ...	1,300	1,239	1,336	+ 61	— 36
Total ...	13,821	13,305	13,843	+ 516	— 22
Grand Total ...	82,348	78,216	82,349	+ 4,132	— 1

Returns have been received respecting 88 Tinplate Works in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire. The number of mills at work has again fallen off considerably. At the end of April 44 works with 239 mills were giving full employment, 24 works with 127 mills were idle, and 20 works were giving partial employment, 68 of their mills being at work and 53 idle. Thus out of a total of 487 mills, 307 only were at work, or 13 less than at the end of March.

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 April, so far as stated in the returns received by the Department:—

	No. of Works.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	44	239	—	239
Works giving partial employment ...	20	68	53	121
Works idle ...	24	—	127	127
Total at end of April ...	88	307	180	487
<i>Corresponding Total for March ...</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>487</i>

Returns received from the owners of 54 tinplate works show that they had 12,153 persons employed at the end of the month, as compared with 11,944 at the end of March, and 11,287 a year ago.

* This table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.
† The figures on this line relate to only 279 of the 487 mills referred to in the next table.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during April amounted to 25,489 tons, as compared with 28,201 tons during the previous month, and 24,267 tons during April 1896. Of these quantities the United States took 8,146 tons in April, 10,358 tons in March, and 10,903 tons in April 1896.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN APRIL.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 170 returns from various parts of the country, reports as follows:—Generally speaking, agricultural employment was regular during the month of April. In a few districts some slight irregularity of work is reported in the earlier part of the month owing to wet weather, but as a general rule there was a good demand for labour, and in some districts it is stated that it was difficult to obtain.

Changes in Wages.—In the month of April the weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers rose to the extent of 1s. a week, making them 1s. a week higher than in April 1896, in parts of the following Poor Law Unions, namely in Cambridgeshire in the Whittlesea Union; in Lincolnshire in the Lincoln Union (1s. 6d. increase); in Norfolk in the Unions of Aylsham, Mitford and Launditch, Smallburgh, Swaffham, and Walsingham; in Northamptonshire in the Peterborough Union (1s. to 2s. increase); in Rutland in the Uppingham Union; in Kent in the Bridge, and Hollingbourne Unions, and in the Hoo Union (4d. to 6d. increase).

In the following Poor Law Unions there was a seasonal rise in certain parishes in April of 1/- in the weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers, the wages in such districts being the same as a year ago, viz., in Lancashire in the Garstang Union and in Dorsetshire in the Wimborne Union.

In the month of April a good deal of piecework is undertaken in certain districts.

Northern Counties.—Reports of a favourable character come from certain Unions in Cumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland, and Yorkshire.

Midland Counties.—Reports from the Nantwich Union of Cheshire, from the Balper Union of Derbyshire, and the Derbyshire portion of the Mansfield Union (Notts) state that work was regular in April. Favourable reports come from Nottinghamshire from the Unions of Bingham, Newark, and Southwell; from Shropshire from the Market Drayton, and Oswestry Unions; from Staffordshire from the Unions of Lichfield, and Tamworth (Stafford and Warwick); from Warwickshire from the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick. In Worcestershire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Evesham, and Pershore; in Leicestershire in Unions of Lutterworth (Leicester and Warwick), and in the Market Bosworth Union; in Rutland in the Oakham Union, and in the Leicestershire portion of the Uppingham Union; in Oxfordshire in the Unions of Banbury (Oxon, Northants and Warwick), and Witney. In the Thame Union there was some irregularity in the first part of the month, but in the latter part work is said to have been regular. Favourable reports come from Northamptonshire from the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Peterborough, and Potterspurty; from Huntingdonshire from the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives and St. Neots (Hunts and Beds), and from Bedfordshire from the Bedford, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton Unions.

Eastern Counties.—In Essex reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Maldon, Ongar, and Tendring; in Suffolk, with few exceptions, from the Unions of Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. In Norfolk work is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Henstead, Mitford and Launditch, Loddon and Clavering, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Wayland, and Walsingham. In the Giltcross Union in the early part of the month some men were in irregular work owing to wet weather, but in the latter part the state of employment was generally satisfactory. Favourable reports come

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

from Cambridgeshire from the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford, Wisbech, and Whittlesea, and from Lincolnshire from the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Lincoln, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford.

Home Counties.—In Buckinghamshire work is reported to be generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Winslow; in Berkshire in the Unions of Abingdon, Wallingford, and Wantage; in Surrey in the Farnham Union; in Kent in the Unions of Bridge, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, and Sevenoaks; in Hertfordshire in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hemel Hempstead, Hitchin, and Ware.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Sussex reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Horsham, and Rye; in Hampshire from the Unions of Hartley Wintney and Kingsclere. In Dorsetshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne; in Wiltshire in the Unions of Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Pewsey, and Wilton; in Gloucestershire in the Unions of Cirencester, and Gloucester; in Herefordshire in the Unions of Bromyard, and Ledbury; in Somersetshire in the Unions of Langport, Taunton, Wells, Wellington, and Wincanton; in Devonshire in the Unions of Barnstaple, and Torrington; in Cornwall in the Union of Bodmin.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN APRIL.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

THE number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 32,646, being 1,166 more than in April 1896. The supply of seamen and firemen during April was reported as equal to or greater than the demand at nearly all the ports. At Dublin and Leith there was a scarcity of seamen for sailing vessels. A general increase in the wages of seamen on steamships and sailing vessels was reported from Cardiff (see Table of Changes in Rates of Wages, p. 152).

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 April 1897 and 1896 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the three months ended April in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in April 1897.			Total in April 1896.	Total number Shipped in four months ended April.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in April 1897.		1897.	1896.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	111	3,255	3,366	2,932	12,787	11,391
Sunderland ...	—	586	586	566	2,331	2,537
Middlesbrough ...	67	390	457	590	1,758	2,067
Hull ...	73	1,081	1,154	1,001	4,240	4,054
Grimsby ...	—	33	33	45	215	229
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	—	131	131	112	610	959
Newport, Mon. ...	26	1,130	1,156	1,190	4,814	4,673
Cardiff ...	959	4,691	5,650	5,485	23,498	21,672
Swansea ...	162	369	531	444	2,528	2,302
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	474	9,332	9,806	9,043	35,966	36,488
London ...	274	5,100	5,374	5,355	22,818	22,062
Southampton ...	—	1,392	1,392	1,248	5,344	4,970
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	48	549	597	799	2,432	2,461
Glasgow ...	123	2,004	2,127	2,469	8,630	8,270
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	69	69	68	339	202
Belfast ...	22	195	217	143	880	644
Total, April 1897 ...	2,339	30,307	32,646	—	129,387	—
<i>Ditto, April 1896 ...</i>	<i>2,125</i>	<i>29,355</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>31,480</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>124,655</i>

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN APRIL.

EMPLOYMENT for dock and wharf labourers in London fell off in April as compared with March. It was, however, considerably better at the docks, though not at the wharves, than in the corresponding period of last year.

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

At all the docks, and at 113 of the principal wharves, the average daily number employed during the four weeks ended April 24th was 14,162, as compared with 14,596 in the four preceding weeks and 13,006 a year ago. The estimated numbers employed on any one day ranged from 15,365 on March 29th to 12,465 on April 17th.

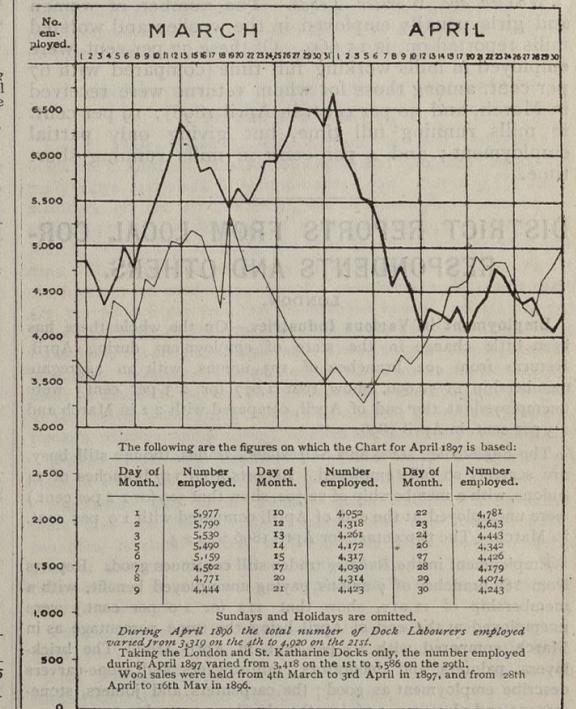
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 113 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of April ...	7,701	1,829	9,530	5,207	14,737
2nd " " ...	6,749	2,017	8,766	5,181	13,947
3rd " " ...	6,363	2,070	8,433	5,008	13,441
4th " " ...	6,452	3,170	9,622	4,831	14,453
Average for 4 weeks ending April 24, 1897 ...	6,853	2,240	9,093	5,069	14,162
Average for April 1896 ...	6,927	1,850	7,877	5,129	13,006
Average for March 1897 ...	7,065	2,158	9,223	5,873	15,096

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during March and April is shown on the chart below. The numbers in April ranged from 5,977 on the 1st to 4,030 on the 17th.

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 March and April 1897. The corresponding curve for March and April 1896 is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1897, and the thin curve to 1896.]



Work in mid-stream was not so good as in March. Deal porters and grain porters have been slack; stevedores, lightermen, coal porters, lumpers, and winchmen moderately well employed.

The fruit porters in Thames Street have had fair employment, though not so good as in the previous month. The daily average number employed was 376, compared with an average of 413 during March.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women in the woollen and worsted trades during April showed an improvement. Employment in the cotton trades showed little change. Information has been received with regard to 476 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills, which is summarized as follows:—

State of Employment.	April 1897.			Corresponding Percentages in—	
	Number of Mills.	Approximate No. of Women and Girls employed.	Per-centage.	March 1897.	April 1896.
Full time	398	63,340	81	76	92
Ditto, but partial employment	47	10,200	13	15	6
Short time	26	3,780	5	7	1
Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes ...	5	960	1	2	1
Total	476	78,280	100	100	100

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on, is 60,940. Of these, 82 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 80 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in March, and with 93 per cent. in April 1896); 12 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 5 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on, is 15,660. Of these 77 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 67 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in March, and 90 per cent. in April 1896); 19 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 4 per cent. in mills running short time.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—On the whole there has been little change in the state of employment during April. Returns from 402 branches of 105 unions, with an aggregate membership of 72,696, show that 1,677 (or 2·3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 2·2 in March and 2·5 per cent. in April 1896.

The **Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding** trades, though still busy, are scarcely so fully employed. Reports from 117 branches of 24 unions, with a membership of 22,702, show that 509 (or 2·2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 1·9 per cent. in March. The percentage for April 1896 was 2·3.

Employment in the **Building** trades still continues good. Reports from 180 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,017, show that 112 (or 1·0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April being the same percentage as in March, compared with 1·4 per cent. in April 1896. The bricklayers, painters and decorators, mill-sawyers and stone-carvers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, stone-masons and plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the **Furnishing** trade continues brisk. Reports from 35 branches of 9 unions, with a membership of 6,038, show 31 (or 0·5 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as in March, and also in April of last year.

Coopers are hardly so well employed. Two societies with a membership of 967, return 20 (or 2·1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1·0 per cent. in March. In April 1896, these societies had no unemployed members.

The **Coachbuilding** trades still continue actively employed.

Returns from 11 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,237, show that 11 (or 0·9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0·3 in March, and 1·4 per cent. in April 1896.

The **Printing and Bookbinding** trades remain steadily employed. Reports from 22 unions, with a membership of 21,496, show that 599 (or 2·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·9 at the end of March. The percentage in April 1896 was 3·5.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade has continued busy; in the East End bespoke trade it has been rather slack; the West End bespoke trade has continued to improve, but is not so brisk as usual at this season. Employment in the mantle trade has continued fair, but fell off somewhat towards the close of the month. The hat trade has remained fairly good; the cap trade has been fair; the helmet trade good. The fur skin dressers are slack; the furriers well employed for the season. The silk weavers are quiet.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the machine branch remained fairly good, but towards the end of the month some falling off was observable; in the high-class bespoke branch employment has, as a rule, been good; the slipper-makers have been fairly well employed, though there have been exceptions in certain firms.

The **Leather** trades are not quite so well employed. Returns from 6 societies with a membership of 1,771, show that 49 (or 2·8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of April, compared with 1·7 in March and 1·1 per cent. in April 1896.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in these trades remains steady. Returns from 7 unions with a membership of 1,452, show that 85 (or 5·9 per cent.) were unemployed, the same percentage as in March. The percentage for April of last year was 4·4.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—Employment in these trades has continued to improve and is now brisk. Returns from 5 societies with a membership of 889, show that 9 (or 1·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·2 in March and 1·4 per cent. in April 1896.

The **Gold and Silver** trades are scarcely so busy. Reports from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,085, show that 21 (or 1·9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1·6 in March and 1·5 per cent. in April of last year.

The **Tobacco** trades are not busy. Reports from 3 societies, with a membership of 2,173, show that 118 (or 5·4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·1 in March and 10·4 per cent. in April 1896.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Three fresh disputes have been reported as taking place during the month—one in the cork-cutting trade, and two with wharf and other labourers—involving in all about 600 persons (see pp. 157 and 158). The builders' labourers, to the number of 20,000, have had their wages increased by one halfpenny per hour, and 88 ironmoulders and others have secured a reduction in their working hours from 54 to 48 per week (see pp. 150 and 153). A movement is in progress among the engineers, boiler-makers and kindred trades to obtain an eight hours' working day without reduction of pay.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—At the docks and wharves employment was better than a year ago, but not so good as in March. During the four weeks ended April 24th, an average daily number of 14,162 were employed at all the docks and the principal wharves, compared with 14,596 in March and 13,006 a year ago. Stevedores, lightermen, coal porters, lumpers and winchmen have been moderately well employed, deal porters and grain porters slack, mid-stream workers not so well employed. Fruit porters have had fair employment, though not so good as during March. (For further details, see p. 141.)

Labour Bureaux.—The eight labour bureaux which furnished returns, registered 1,365 fresh applications for work during April, being 1,017 less than in April 1896. Work was found during the month for 768 persons (555 being engaged by private employers and 213 by local authorities), as compared with 2,050 persons (1,721 by private employers and 329 by local authorities) during March 1896. The falling off is chiefly attributable to a large decline in the operations of one of the bureaux. (See table on p. 155.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on the last day of the second week of April was 100,722, being a decrease as compared with the corresponding day of March, of 4,157. As compared with April 1896 there were decreases in all the Metropolitan districts except the Western district, which showed a small increase. The decrease for the whole of London amounted to 1,305.

The number of vagrants relieved in London on one day in the second week of April was 1,026, as against 965 in April 1896.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 8,315 in April, 8,477 in March and 8,911 in April 1896.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—The holidays have affected employment at the collieries, steam and house coal pits having averaged 4·72 and 4·80 days per week respectively, as against 4·93 and 5·39 days in March. Of the 20,117 union miners 14 (or 0·06 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 23 (or 0·11 per cent.) at the end of March. Durham.—Pits producing a mixed class of coal continue working well. Coking and gas coal collieries have averaged respectively 5·03 and 4·87 days per week, as against 5·62 and 5·23 in March. From 103 returns from collieries employing 55,156 men and boys, the average number of days worked per week is shown as 4·94 as against 5·26 in March, holidays and "breakages" included. The number of union miners unemployed owing to bad trade is 661 (or 1·1 per cent.), as against 706 (or 1·2 per cent.) in March.

Metal Mining.—Lead miners continue slack, iron mines are working 5 and 6 days per week.

Quarrying.—Lime and whinstone quarries in Weardale and Stanhope are busy. At Blyth and Gateshead freestone quarries are fully employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Branches with 11,074 members have 157 (or 1·4 per cent.) idle, as against 228 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Electrical engineering firms are busy. At one or two marine shops fewer men are employed on night shift. The Ordnance factory continues brisk. Night shifts are worked at most boiler shops; platers, riveters, and caulkers are in good demand.

On the Wear.—Branches with 4,415 members of the engineering and iron shipbuilding trades have 114 (or 2·6 per cent.) out of work, as against 86 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Employment at the yards is somewhat easier; one or two engine shops are only moderate. Forges are fairly busy. Drillers and hole-cutters on both rivers and at Blyth are all employed, and specially busy on repair work. Of the 1,330 iron and steel moulders 10 (or 0·7 per cent.) are idle. Shipwrights on the Wear are fully employed. Of the 497 pattern-makers on both rivers 3 (or 0·6 per cent.) are unemployed. Steel smelting shops and plate mills continue on full time. Steel angle and iron mills are working 4 shifts per week.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Quayside labourers report employment as good; Tyne watermen as improving. Sailmakers have 10 per cent. of members idle. Of the 719 coal porters and shippers on the Tyne and Wear, and at Blyth and Seaham Harbour, none are wholly idle. The demand for sailors and firemen has not been good.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers on the Wear report employment as good. Masons in all the monumental yards are busy. On the Tyne there is a demand for bricklayers. Masons are also fully employed. House and shop joiners have 2 per cent. idle at Sunderland. On the Tyne the demand for joiners is increasing.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and woodcutters are busy in the yards but slack at the mills. Lathrenders report employment as better, with only one member idle. Of the 222 coopers included in 4 returns, 15 (or 6·7 per cent.) are out of work.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Two paper mills are busy. One has worked 36 shifts out of a possible 48. Five mills continue working less than half time. Bookbinders on the Tyne have 3 per cent. unemployed, letterpress printers 8 per cent.; printers at Sunderland are also quiet, with 10 per cent. out of work.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle-makers on the Wear and Seaham Harbour are all fully employed. Pressed glassmakers are fairly busy, with 5 per cent. off work, owing largely to furnace repairing. White lead factories and copper works are busy. Chemical and cement factories continue moderate.

Fishing.—Good catches of white fish have been made by both trawl and line boats during the month.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron Mining.—Cleveland miners are reported as being fairly employed during the month.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Finished ironworkers and steelworkers have been fairly employed, and most of the steelworks are reported as busy. Employment is fairly good at the blast furnaces and on bridge work. Employment in foundries is fair, but some firms are not so busy.

Engineering.—Employment is good without exception throughout the district. Branches with 3,334 members report 14 (or 0·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 26 (or 0·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipbuilding.—The improvement at the Hartlepoons still continues, and two of the yards are reported as busy; the alterations and enlargements in the other yard are nearly completed. The yards at Stockton and Thornaby are busy, and the men well employed. Two of the Middlesbrough yards continue busy, the other is reported to have a fair amount of repairing on hand. Shipwrights, smiths and strikers and shipjoiners report employment as good.

Building Trades.—All branches are well employed, especially bricklayers. Employment with joiners is brisk at the Hartlepoons, Stockton and Thornaby; steady at Middlesbrough, Darlington, and Whitby. Branches of carpenters and joiners (house and ship), sawyers and machinists with 1,208 members, report 4 (or 0·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 46 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as quiet at both ports. Dock labour is quiet at the Hartlepoons and moderate on the Tees. Riverside labour is moderate.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry improved during April, the average number of days worked at the pits from which returns have been received was 5·30 per week, as against 5·07 last month and 4·82 in April 1896. The number of workpeople employed, so far as shown by the returns, is greater than last year.

Iron Mining.—Employment at iron mines in Cumberland has again been good; the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ending 24th April at the 43 mines for which returns have been received, was 5·79, as against 5·94 days in March for 44 mines, and 5·76 days in April 1896 for 47 mines. The number of workpeople employed at the 43 mines was 6,139, against 6,171 for 47 mines in April 1896.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that 44 furnaces for the production of pig-iron were in blast at the end of April, or one less than at the end of March, and two less than in April 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 3,337, a decrease of 41 as compared with the previous month, and of 20 as compared with last year.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment is still reported as moderate in Oldham, Mossley, Stockport and Rochdale; as good in Stalybridge, and slack in Ashton-under-Lyne. Out of 9,137 union members 432 (or 4·7 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, as against 385 (or 4·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Generally speaking, the spinning mills are working full time. The cardroom operatives in Oldham and Mossley report employment as moderate; out of a membership of 12,000 there are 317 (or 2·6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 253 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Ring frame spinners are fully employed. Twiners report employment as moderate. Weaving.—The overlookers and weavers report employment as slack in velvets, and moderate in calicoes, about one-half of the velvet looms being stopped on account of trade depression. Reelers, winders, and sectional warpers are moderately employed.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in woollen mills is reported as slack in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport districts.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Pattern-makers, irongrinders plate and machine moulders, spindle and flyer makers, brass-founders, machine makers and engineers report employment as good at all firms not affected by the strike; as moderate with boiler-makers, ironfounders and tinplate-workers; and as slack with gas meter-makers.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and painters report employment as good; the plasterers, plumbers, carpenters and joiners as moderate.

Coal Mining.—Returns received from 4 collieries show that employment still continues good.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment in Bolton is reported as moderate, but all mills are now in full operation. Of 4,492 members in 9 branches, 65 (or 1·4 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit. Card and blowing room operatives are better employed in Bolton, Wigan, Chorley and Bury. Weaving.—Employment continues slack in Bolton and the surrounding district. In Chorley hundreds of looms are still idle waiting for warps. At Bury there are fewer unemployed.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd).—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers report employment as good. Branches with 1,826 members have 26 (or 1.4 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, the same number as at the end of March. Most firms are active in the metal and allied trades. Iron machine-making shops are not so brisk. In Bury engineers are busy, and machine shops fairly so. At Chorley and Wigan employment in the iron trade is moderate; steel smelters continue busy, whilst iron rolling mills in Wigan are still working short time; pattern-makers, iron-grinders, spindle and flyer makers and metal workers are in full employment.

Building Trades.—Most branches are better employed in Bolton, Bury and Wigan. At Chorley employment remains slack.

Coal Mining.—In Bolton, Walkden, Ratcliffe, Little Hulton and Barcy Lever most collieries are working between 5 and 6 days per week. At Wigan the collieries are working an average of 4 to 5 days per week.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors, cloggers and shoemakers are moderately busy.—R. Tootill.

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment shows a decline in almost all the weaving districts. Numbers of looms are temporarily stopped for warps, and in Burnley some 2,300 looms are working short time. In Preston 1,700 looms are totally stopped; in Darwen 1,362 are stopped; in Nelson, Blackburn, and Colne employment is worse. Employment in the coloured goods trade in the Nelson and Colne districts shows a slight improvement. Loomers and drawers in Burnley are only moderately employed, and in Blackburn are not busy. **Spinning.**—Employment in Preston and Padiham is fair; in Blackburn, Burnley and Darwen good. Cardroom workers and others employed in the spinning department are also well employed. Branches of twistlers, warp dressers, and spinners with 3,907 members return 148 (or 3.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 179 (or 4.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Masons and bricklayers continue busy; plumbers are slack, several being on short time; carpenters and joiners are brisk, three branches with 405 members having no unemployed; painters are also brisk.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Moulders, fitters, and erectors engaged in the large machine shops continue well employed, but moulders and engineers in other works report employment as only moderate.

Mining and Quarrying.—Miners in the Accrington district report employment as good; in the Burnley district as brisk. Stone quarrymen are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors report employment as good; boot, shoe and slipper makers in the Rossendale district as fair; calico printers and dyers as dull, some departments working only five days per week.—W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches with 23,347 members return 524 (or 2.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 430 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 11,478 members have 280 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 252 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The engineers in Manchester, Northwich and Warrington, report employment as moderate, the steam engine makers as good; the boiler-makers as moderate in Manchester, and good in Northwich; the iron-founders, machine workers, brassfounders and finishers as good; the smiths and strikers as moderate; the sheet metal workers as bad. At Warrington wire-drawers and wireweavers are fully employed, and the file-smiths report an improvement; with ironworkers in general, employment is somewhat irregular. In Stockport and Macclesfield, those in the iron trades are fully employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment in cotton spinning is reported as good in Manchester, all mills working full time; in Warrington it is not so good. In Macclesfield cotton workers are all on full time, but winders and warpers are not so busy; the hand, and power loom silk-weavers are slack. Dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as good. Fustian cutters are moderately well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring department is fairly good. In the wholesale tailoring branch it is moderate; with ready-made mantle-makers it is described as fair; capmakers are moderately well employed; shirtmakers are slack in Manchester, busy in Macclesfield and Stockport; waterproof

garment-making is quiet; boot and shoe makers, and hatters are well employed.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners in Macclesfield, Northwich, and Stockport report employment as moderate; bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers, stonemasons, fret lead glaziers, and painters as good; plasterers as moderate; and plumbers as bad. Branches with 4,550 members return 69 (or 1.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 42 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in Manchester, Warrington, and Stockport, report employment as unchanged; lithographic printers and bookbinders as moderate; pattern card-makers as bad.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Branches with 1,521 members have 18 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 5 (or 0.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and French polishers in Manchester, Warrington and Stockport report employment as good. Coach-making in Warrington is not so brisk; coopers are fairly well employed. Coachmakers in Manchester report employment as good. G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, engineers, pattern-makers, iron and steel dressers, and whitesmiths report employment as fairly good; shipwrights, iron and brass-founders as good; ship-joiners as fair; ship-painters as improved.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers and French polishers continue well employed; upholsterers report employment as fair; coachmakers and painters as moderate; coopers as improved; mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists as good.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as improving. Dock labourers, quay and railway carters continue moderately employed; Mersey flatmen report employment as dull; coal and salt heavers as unchanged; timber porters as improving.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers, electrotypers and stereotypers report employment as fair; lithographic printers, bookbinders and rulers as good. Branches with 1,269 members return 72 (or 5.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 57 (or 4.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—In the tailoring trades employment is reported as good; with boot and shoe makers as quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches continues good.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners are still working five days per week in St. Helens, and full time in Skelmersdale. Quarrymen are fully employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass-bottle makers report employment as good; chemical workers as slightly improved.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has improved, additional pans having been put to work. Employment is normal in the chemical trades at Middlewich, though about 200 persons have been thrown out of employment by some plant changing hands. The moulders at Winsford are on full time. The fustian cutters both at Winsford and Middlewich are well employed. Employment in the building trades is moderate.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The shipbuilding yards, engineering works and boiler shops are still busy. The engineers, machine-workers, pattern-makers, smiths and strikers, ironfounders, brass-founders and finishers, iron and steel dressers, boiler-makers, shipwrights, and sailmakers, report employment as good; the general shipyard, engineering, and boiler shop labourers as fair. Employment on repair work is not so good. Engineers at Doncaster report employment as moderate; boiler-makers, blacksmiths, and shipwrights at Goole and Grimsby as good.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good in Hull, Grimsby, Goole, Selby, and Driffield.

Shipping, Dock and Railway Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as fair, with fewer unemployed; dock labourers at Hull as moderate; at Grimsby as bad; at Goole as fair. Timber cargoes are beginning to be delivered, but the higher Baltic ports are still closed. The railway workers generally report employment as good.

Fishing Industry.—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen,

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd).—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

fish-curers, twine-spinners and dressers report employment as good; the trawl fishermen as moderate; the net braiders at Grimsby are well employed.

Seed-crushing, Paint and Colour Works.—Many of the seed-crushing mills in Hull have been slack, and a number of oil-mill workers have been unemployed. The paint and colour works are running full time.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers in Hull and Doncaster, and lithographic printers in Hull report employment as moderate; the bookbinders and machine rulers as good.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The coopers, cabinet-makers and brushmakers at Hull report employment as good; the coach-makers at Hull and Doncaster as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Leather workers at Doncaster and Hull, and braid-mill workers and general labourers at Selby, report employment as good.—W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches with 7,759 members return 145 (or 1.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 164 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades continues brisk in Leeds, overtime being general; at Wakefield it is good. Iron-moulders at Leeds, Stanningley and Rodley are busy; boiler-makers, machine workers, spindle and flyer makers, and whitesmiths are well employed. Employment with brassworkers is moderate; with stove grate workers dull. Branches with 3,349 members return 33 (or 1 per cent.) as unemployed, the same number as at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe industry remains slack in Leeds, and is quiet at Bramley and Heckmondwike. Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades is fairly good. Slipper-makers are slack.

Textile Trades.—The cloth mills in Leeds continue quiet, short time being r-sorted to. Woollen spinners, willeys and fettleys report employment as slack; blanket raisers as dull. Employment in the linen trade is moderate; in the flax trade fairly brisk. At Wakefield employment is fair; at Yeadon bad; at Morley, Stanningley, and Bramley quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment with joiners, bricklayers, and masons is good; with plumbers moderate; with painters fair. At Harrogate employment is good; at Wakefield fair.

Mining.—At most Leeds collieries employment has been good, full time being worked. In the Wakefield district also employment has been good.

Leather Trades.—Employment in the tanneries has improved; with fancy leather shavers it is moderate; in the calf kid department it is bad.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers, lithographers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as moderate.

Glass Trades.—Employment in the glass bottle making industry at Castleford, Leeds, and Wakefield continues fairly good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers continue busy; brushmakers and coachmakers fairly so.—O. Connellan.

Bradford and Huddersfield District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in the worsted weaving and spinning industries in Bradford does not show much change, but the wool-sorters report employment as good, and woolcombers seem to be a little better employed. In Haworth district there are some weavers waiting for warps, but none are out of work entirely. In Halifax employment shows little change; in Huddersfield it is a little better.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in the woollen trade in and around Huddersfield is again somewhat better; nightwork is still carried on at several firms in the Colne Valley, and some are also working overtime. In the heavy woollen trade employment is still bad in the Dewsbury and Batley districts.

Other Textile Trades.—In the silk trade at Brighouse employment is a little better, but no change is reported at Manningham or Halifax. In the cotton trade of Brighouse and Huddersfield employment is good; in the carpet trade it is quiet.

Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers and ironfounders is fairly good. Branches of these societies in Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, Huddersfield, and Dewsbury, with 2,969 members, have 63 (or 2.1 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 60 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—One society of dyers reports employment as exceptionally good; another as moderate. Employment in the printing and allied trades is reported as fair; in the tailoring trade as good throughout the district; in the rag trade as quiet.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 14,603 members have 81 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of March.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Blast furnacemen, puddlers, shinglers, pilers, and rollers in the iron trade are making full time. Armour plate makers continue quiet. Engineers and ironfounders report employment as very good. Bessemer steel workers are fully employed. Engine and crane men, hammermen, boiler-makers, iron and steel dressers, spring smiths, railway springmakers, coremakers, and stove grate workers all report employment as good; Siemen's steel smelters as very fair. Crucible steel melters and makers of small castings are well employed. Wire-drawers report employment as moderate. Branches in this section with 5,076 members have 32 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 27 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders are fairly employed. At Rotherham and Masbro' both iron and steel workers are well employed. At Thorncliffe and Chapelton blast furnacemen, iron pipemakers, ironfounders and engineers are all making full time, and in many cases overtime.

Cutlery and Tools.—All branches of the cutlery trades are fairly well employed. The table and butcher blade, saw and file trades, are exceptionally busy. Employment in the razor trade has also much improved. Makers of garden and agricultural tools are fairly well employed. Sawhandle makers and haft and scale pressers report employment as brisk and improved. Shear grinders and benders are only moderately employed, and in the sword and bayonet trade employment is slack. Societies with 6,185 members have 16 (or 0.3 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of March.

Other Metal Trades.—The brassworkers continue busy; silver smiths are well employed; stampers, finishers, and hollow-ware buffers fairly so. Out of 990 members of these societies there are only 3 unemployed.

Coal Mining.—Owing to the holidays most pits have stood 2 and, in some cases, 3 days. Returns from 56 of the principal collieries show an average of 5 days worked per week during the month.

Building Trades.—Masons, bricklayers and carpenters are fairly well employed; plumbers moderately so. These sections, with 1,312 members, have only 8 unemployed (or 0.6 per cent.) as against 9 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Painters are busy. Employment is moderate at Barnsley, and good at Rotherham.

Linen Trade.—Employment continues to improve.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailoring trade is quiet; in Barnsley it is moderate. In the ready-made trade there is a fair amount of work. In the boot and shoe trade employment is slack in Barnsley, and only moderate in Sheffield.

Glass Trades.—In Barnsley both bottle makers and flint glass workers are well employed, and at Mexborough and Rotherham employment is fair in all classes of goods.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers and lithographers report employment as fair; bookbinders as good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Coachmakers, railway carriage and wagon builders at Sheffield and Rotherham, cabinet-makers and boxmakers at Barnsley and Penistone, saddlers, harness makers and fancy leather workers are well employed. S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 6,528 members have 32 (or 0.5 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 27 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,333 members have 19 (or 0.8 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 17 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Employment in the locomotive and other engineering branches and in the bridge and girder yards continues good; ironfounders report employment in Derby as improving, and at Butterley, Somercotes, and Chesterfield as moderate; brassmoulders and finishers at Derby and Burton-on-Trent as good; iron wagon builders at Long Eaton as fair; lace machine builders continue slack; cycle-makers are busy and continue to work night shifts. Stove grate workers in

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

Derby and Langley Mill report employment as fair; in Belper as brisk.

Coal Mining.—Employment has slightly declined. Returns from 58 collieries, employing 23,000 men, show an average worked of nearly 4½ days per week; a few pits continue playing on Saturdays.

Quarrying.—Employment in limestone quarries in Wirksworth, Miller's Dale, Buxton and Peak Forest is reported as fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton spinners and weavers continues good at Borrowash and Belper; moderate in Glossop and Hadfield. Hosiery workers in Heanor, Belper and Ilkeston report an improvement, but short time continues. Lacemakers in Long Eaton and Ilkeston report employment as declining; surgical bandage makers in Derby as moderate; elastic web weavers as dull.

Building Trades.—All branches continue well employed. Branches with 1,629 members have only 8 on unemployed benefit.

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

Coachbuilding Trades.—Employment with railway carriage and wagon builders is reported as good; carriage builders in private shops report employment as fair.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—In Burton-on-Trent the coopers report employment as good; in most timber yards employment continues fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers, bookbinders and lithographic printers is reported as good.

C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The improvement in the levers branch has not been maintained; employment in the plain net branch is good; in the curtain branch slack; warp lace workers, wipers, designers, draughtsmen and curtain readers report employment as slack; the female lace workers as moderate. Bleachers are fairly well employed; dyers at Basford and Nottingham moderately so.

Hosiery Trade.—Framework knitters except on best goods are working short time. Employment on circular hosiery is moderate; Shetland shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard are busy; half-hose makers at Mansfield are well employed. Hand-frame workers at Sutton-in-Ashfield are slack on plain goods. Employment is steady at Arnold; quiet at Carlton. Hosiery trimmers and finishers at Basford, Bulwell, and Nottingham are moderately employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In the cycle trade overtime is general at Beeston, Nottingham, Lenton, and Colwick; machine building and general engineering is quiet. Boiler-makers are moderately employed. Employment in other branches is fair at Nottingham. All branches are well employed at Mansfield, Colwick, Retford and Newark. Employment is only moderate at Grantham. Branches with 3,485 members return 55 (or 1·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 68 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—Employment is fair at Nottingham; good at Mansfield, Newark, and Retford; moderate at Worksop. Branches with 2,753 members return 19 (or 0·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 21 (or 0·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—The average number of days worked by pits was somewhat less than last month, being a little over 3½ days per week.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers are slack; bookbinders are busy.

Railways.—Employment is good for all grades of labour.

Miscellaneous.—Boxmakers and stationery cutters, bakers, basket-makers, brushmakers, coachbuilders, enginemen and cranemen are well employed. Boot and shoe operatives and bespoke tailors report an improvement.—W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—During April trade improved rapidly, and all classes of workpeople in the boot and shoe trade are now fully employed. In almost all departments overtime is being worked. Tanners and curriers at Northampton are fully employed; at Market Harborough they are slack.

Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Spinning Trades.—Employment is reported as slightly improved in the plain, shirt, pant and circular rib branches, but remains slack in other departments. It is moderate with the yarn and wool spinning operatives; improved with trimmers; and quiet with dyers and scourers.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in the wholesale and bespoke tailoring trade, and in the staymaking industry; most

milliners and dressmakers are working overtime. Employment is better with silk hat and cap makers, and fairly good with felt hatters.

Elastic Web and Rubber Trades.—Elastic web weavers report employment as slack. Operatives employed on narrow and belt webs are fairly employed, and a slight improvement is noted in the gusset branch. Work continues brisk with rubber cycle tyre-makers.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—With general engineers employment remains good. Engine-makers, fitters, turners, pattern-makers, and boiler-makers are generally working overtime. Employment is moderate in the shoe and hosiery machine building branches. Workpeople in the cycle industry are busy.

Mining and Quarrying.—At the South Leicestershire coalpits employment has slightly improved during the month. Of 15 pits in Leicestershire, from which reports have been received, 2 worked 5 days per week, 5 worked 4 days and under 5, 6 worked 3 days and under 4, and 2 worked less than 3 days per week. Ironstone miners and stone quarrymen are in full work.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment is good with letterpress printers at Northampton and Kettering, and fairly good at Leicester, Loughborough and Rugby. Lithographic printers and bookbinders are generally well employed.

Building Trades.—Work continues good with bricklayers, builders' labourers, plasterers, and carpenters and joiners; moderate with stonemasons. Plumbers and painters are now more fully employed; gas-fitters are slack.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Cabinet-makers and upholsterers, and furniture workers generally are fully employed. Work is good with coachmakers and tramcar builders; but slightly slack with railway wagon builders and repairers.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workmen are on full time. Employment is good with brushmakers, wood cutting machinists, saddlers and paper boxmakers; fair with cigar-makers, farriers, wheelwrights and basket-makers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment has further improved. Hollow-ware pressers are now averaging 5 days per week, with about 20 per cent. on short time. Sanitary pressers are well employed at most firms. Work with flat pressers is much better, but many are still on short time. Printers and transferrers report a decided improvement; women gilders, decorators, modellers, designers, and mould-makers are well employed; work with ovenmen is better at Hanley and Stoke, but at Burslem short time prevails.

Iron and Steel Trades.—There is a further improvement at most of the forges in North Staffordshire, but the mills are only averaging 4 days per week. Blast furnacemen are busy. Iron and steel workers are all employed. Anchor chainmakers at Ford Green are busy.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers at Crewe, Stafford, and the Potteries, are busy. Brassmoulders and finishers at Longport, copper-workers at Oakamoor and Froggall, agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley, steel-moulders and pattern-makers at Crewe, are busy.

Coal Mining.—In Talk-o'-th'-Hill district and at Kidsgrove colliers are well employed. In the Potteries and at Rugeley they are not averaging 4 days per week. At Cheadle a number are out of work.

Textile Trades.—At Leek silk trimming weavers report a further improvement, but hard silk workers are slack. Dyers are busy. At Congleton silk trimming weavers are better employed. Silk dressers are working overtime, and fustian-cutters are busy. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are busier.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are busier. Boot and shoe-makers at Stafford have fully 50 per cent. working overtime. At Stone employment is good.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is good.

Miscellaneous.—With quarrymen at Alton and Hollington overtime is general. Railway servants throughout the district are well employed. Gas stokers report a further decline.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire steel smelters are well employed. Employment in the steel trade is reported as good; in the iron bar trade as quieter; in the sheet trade it has fallen off; at the mills and forges it is fairly good. In Shropshire employment at the mills and forges has fallen off during the month. Wombridge and Heybridge are only working 2 days, and other forges 4 days per week. The steel works at Prior's Lee are working full time.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd).—MIDLAND, E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment at Wolverhampton and Coalbrookdale is very good; at Madeley and Tamworth fair.

Hardware Trades.—Employment in the chain trade is fair. Makers of galvanised tanks and roofing, anvils and vices, tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, wrought nails, malleable nails and protectors, cycle-castings and accessories, tin and galvanized oddware, hand-cut files, wrought-iron oddwork, builders' ironmongery, and stampers and piercers report employment as good. Brass-workers and makers of anchors, spring traps and keys, hollow-ware, steel toys, tips, tacks, cut nails, mortice, latch and cabinet locks report employment as fair. Employment in the galvanised sheet, iron plate, edge-tool, plantation hoe, brazil hoe, and common padlock trades is slack.

Coal Mining.—In the Cannock Chase district the colliers are working from 3 to 4 days per week. The pits in Shropshire report no change.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as good.

Glass Trades.—Employment with the flint glass workers at Wordsley and Brettle Lane is quiet. The engraving department is slack. At Brierley Hill the glass bottle makers are still working half time.

Textile Trades.—Employment at the Kidderminster carpet mills is fairly good. Spinners are fairly busy. The tape mills at Tamworth are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in ready-made and bespoke tailoring is good. In the boot and shoe factories employment is good in all branches.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—All branches report employment as good, nearly all making overtime. Electrical engineers are especially busy.

Brass and Copper Working.—Employment in all branches of the brass trade is good. Copper working is fair.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, Electro-platers.—Employment in the jewellery trade is not so brisk; with silversmiths it is normal. Electro-plate workers are fairly busy, with no unemployed. Several firms are working overtime, and one only is on short time. Britannia metal work is fair.

Other Metal Trades.—The bedstead workers report employment as fair, but with several unemployed. Ironfounders report employment as good. Steel pen work is plentiful, with a scarcity of workers. Filesmiths are still busy. Fendermakers are busy on brass work, slack on cast iron. Japanners and tinplate workers are busy. Wire-workers are fully occupied on account of the demand for dog muzzles. Cycle makers are working overtime. Die-sinkers are in request.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Glass Trades.—The improvement among flint glass blowers has been maintained. Bevelers and silverers and stained glassworkers are busy.

Woodworking Trades.—Coachbuilders and cabinet makers are well employed; coopers are busy. Overtime is being made at railway carriage works.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as good, with 10 out of 700 unemployed. Tailors are busy. Pearl button workers are fairly employed, and vegetable ivory workers are busier. Employment is brisk in military firearms. In Coventry ribbon weavers are still slack, but the cycle and kindred trades, and the building trades are busy. Employment in the Walsall and Redditch trades is good.—W. J. Davis.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.**Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

General.—Branches with 2,786 members return 17 (or 0·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 57 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—At Yarmouth, Cambridge and Norwich, bespoke tailors are fairly busy. Clothing factories at Norwich are running full time and are busy in all departments. Boot and shoe makers at Cambridge are fairly busy. The dispute in the boot and shoe trade at Norwich still continues.

Building Trades.—Employment is active in every branch throughout the district.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers at Lynn, Melton Constable, Thetford and Norwich are fully employed; at Yarmouth there are none idle. Employment in shipyards at Yarmouth is bad; at Lowestoft it is dull.

Textile Trades.—Workers at both Norwich and Yarmouth are on full time.

Fishing Industry.—The fleet of drift fishing vessels from both Yarmouth and Lowestoft are actively engaged in the westward

fishing. Trawlers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft are doing fairly well.

Miscellaneous.—Horticultural builders at Norwich are very busy. Electric light workers are better employed. Navvies and labourers generally are well off for work.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is good with engineers at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Chelmsford, Halstead and Earl's Colne; fair at Ipswich and Leiston; dull at Wickham Market, and good with boiler-makers at Ipswich. The shipwrights report employment as good at Ipswich, Wyvenhoe, and Rowhedge.

Clothing Trades.—In the wholesale tailoring trade at Ipswich employment is reported as moderate, and at Colchester as good. Bespoke work is generally good in the district. The boot and shoe operatives at Ipswich and Colchester, and corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury have been fairly employed.

Textile Trades.—The mat weavers at Sudbury, Long Melford, Hadleigh, and Lavenham, horse-hair weavers at Lavenham, silk weavers at Sudbury and Braintree, and silk workers generally at Halstead and Earl's Colne, report employment as good; mat weavers at Glemsford as moderate.

Building Trades.—All sections are well employed, bricklayers being in demand in several districts.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair at Ipswich, Beccles, and Colchester; and good at Bury St. Edmunds and Southend. The bookbinders and lithographers report employment as good at Ipswich.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour at Ipswich has been fair. General labour has improved at Ipswich, and is good at Halstead, Colchester, and Southend. Employment is reported as good with brickmakers at Chelmsford and Braintree, and with horticultural workers at Ipswich and Chelmsford. In the leather trade employment has improved at Ipswich, and is moderate at Colchester.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.**

General.—Societies with 7,554 members have 101 (or 1·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 89 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building Trades.—All branches are well employed, out of 2,118 members 19 (or 0·9 per cent.) are reported as unemployed, as against 25 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—Employment at Bedminster is reported as fair; upon the Gloucestershire side as slack at some pits, and fair at others, in the Radstock district as averaging about five days per week.

Engineering.—Employment is good in all branches except with boiler-makers upon ship repairs in Bristol, who report a decline. Branches with 3,117 members report 18 (or 0·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 7 (or 0·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen in Bristol report a good demand for labour; the dock labourers report employment as dull. Employment at Bridgwater is reported as bad; at Gloucester as quiet with grain and timber, and brisk with general cargo hands.

Clothing Trades.—The silk-hatters and wholesale garment-makers report employment as fair; the bespoke tailors as good.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in Bristol is reported as very slack; in the Kingswood district employment has slightly improved with a few firms.

Textile Trades.—Employment is dull at Trowbridge; slack at Tiverton; dull on heavy woollens; and fair on worsted coatings and trouserings at Stroud.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The coopers report employment as dull; the basket-makers as declining. In other trades employment is fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—The brick and tile makers and the glass bottle-makers and glass cutters report employment as good; the letterpress printers as fair; the tobacco workers as brisk.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and Clay Industries.—The metal mining industry of Cornwall remains unchanged. The clay-workers and quarrymen throughout the district continue well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with the engineers, brassfounders and finishers, and boiler makers continues good, with no unemployed. The ironfounders report a decline.

Clothing Trades.—Employment both in the ready-made and bespoke branches of the tailoring trade is good. The boot and shoe

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—S.W. COUNTIES, WALES AND SCOTLAND.

operatives continue fairly well employed. The bespoke branch remains steady.

Building Trades.—Employment generally, except in Torquay, has been very good. Branches of masons, bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters and joiners, plumbers and painters with 2,418 members, had only 6 unemployed before the dispute began.

Shipbuilding and Dock Labour.—Employment with the quayside and dock labourers, and seamen has been quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment generally is reported as quiet.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is very fair with the upholsterers, polishers and cabinet-makers; good with the machinists and mill-sawyers; slack with the brushmakers.

Miscellaneous.—Brickyard workers, general labourers, and excavators are well employed. The fishing industry in most ports is not satisfactory.—*J. Welland.*

WALES.

North Wales District.

Mining.—Employment has been good at most of the coal mines of North Wales; one colliery at Mold has become exhausted, but all the men have been taken on at another pit. The work of developing the lead and blende mines of Flintshire makes satisfactory progress.

Quarrying.—Employment continues brisk in the slate quarries of North Wales, the majority of the men affected by the dispute have obtained employment elsewhere. Employment is fair in the granite set quarries; good at the freestone quarries; and moderate at the lime and roadstone quarries.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment at the Brymbo steel works continues fair. The engineers at Sandycroft and Oswestry report employment as moderate; at Cefn and Ruabon as good. Employment is good at the spelter works at Mold and Baggilt, and at the railway wagon works, Johnstown. Employment is good at the Mold tinplate works.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers at Wrexham and Oswestry report employment as moderate; the plasterers at Llandudno as very good; at Wrexham as dull; the painters at Wrexham as quiet; the carpenters and joiners as fair. Employment in Mold and district is reported as quiet; at Rhos, Ruabon and Cefn as brisk in all departments.

Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.—Employment continues good at Mold, Wrexham, Rhos, Ruabon, and Penybont.

Chemical Trades.—Employment continues good at the Flint and Ruabon chemical works.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as not good in the Montgomery tweed industry. The bespoke tailors at Rhyl and Bangor report employment as good.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry is unchanged. Returns from Blaenavon, Tredegar, Merthyr, and Dowlais, show that collieries are working regularly. At Ebbw Vale, collieries average 5 days a week; in the Garw Valley and Western District from 4½ to 5 days a week; and returns from the Rhondda Valley and Ferndale collieries show that 39 collieries have worked full time, and 9 collieries have made stoppages amounting in the aggregate to 17 days.

Building Trades.—Branches of the carpenters and joiners with 1,219 members, return 35 (or 2.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 30 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Masons, bricklayers and plasterers report employment as rather dull, with few out of work; plumbers as moderate, and painters and decorators as fairly good.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Employment has fallen off except at Newport. Branches of the engineers with a membership of 2,538 have 59 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 72 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Shipwrights report 5.5 per cent. unemployed, and boiler-makers 3.0 per cent. Moulders report employment as moderate. Engineering works and foundries in the inland and colliery districts have been busy.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been sluggish. The iron ore and pitwood trades have been fair. The timber trade has been dull; the corn trade has greatly improved. Dock hoppers have had a fairly good month. The shipping of seamen has been fairly active, and a rise of wages has taken place during the month.

Iron and Steel Trades.—This industry continues busy. At six large works the mills and furnaces are going regularly, and many works are increasing their plant. The Dowlais Works, Cardiff, however, only averaged 4 days a week.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with fuel workers is moderate; with wagon builders and lifters good; with printers and bookbinders moderate. In the chemical and copper smelting industries it is still dull.—*T. Davies.*

The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.—The number of mills at work has again fallen off during the month. At 88 works respecting which returns have been made, 307 mills out of 487 were at work at the end of April, as against 320 at the end of March. Forty four works with 239 mills were giving full employment, and 24 works with 127 mills were idle. The remaining 20 works were giving partial employment, 53 mills out of 121 being idle. Notices were posted on May 3rd by the men's society at about 60 works for a week's stoppage with a view to reducing stocks.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches with 16,186 members return 168 (or 1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 161, or the same percentage of their membership as at the end of March.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the coal industry in the Lothians continues fairly good. In Mid and East Lothian about 90 per cent. are fully employed. In West Lothian full time continues to be generally obtained.

Mineral Oil Trades.—Employment in these trades is not so good. Out of the 27 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian from which returns have been received, 18 worked full time, the remaining 9 employing 834 workpeople, worked from 21 to 23 days. The number of men employed at the 27 mines was 3433, as compared with 3754 in April 1896.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,375 members have 36 (or 1.5 per cent.) idle, as against 23 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. Branches of the iron trades in Falkirk with 2,144 members again return none out of employment.

Shipbuilding.—Employment with the boiler-makers has improved. Three branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights with 618 members have 15 (or 2.4 per cent.) idle, as against 50 (or 8.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Textile Trades.—The improvement in employment in the linen industry in Dunfermline has been maintained. Employment with the woollen spinners and weavers in Hawick is fairly good. Employment in the machine-made hosiery department is busy, but in the hand-made department is slack. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good on the ¾ looms but slack on the ½ looms.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,647 members have 18 (or 0.3 per cent.) idle, as against 19 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,038 members have 29 (or 2.7 per cent.) idle, as against 15 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen still report a considerable number idle. The coal porters and dock labourers are quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,234 members have 57 (or 2.6 per cent.) idle, as against 30 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Miscellaneous.—The settmakers, shoemakers, and saddlers report employment as good; the tailors, carriers, bakers, and glass-makers as fair; the glass cutters as quiet.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues good in all the shipbuilding centres. Branches with 10,346 members have 323 (or 3.1 per cent.) idle, as against 328 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Reports continue good from Glasgow and all surrounding districts. Branches with 25,185 members return 537 (or 2.1 per cent.) as idle, as against 479 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Mining.—In Lanarkshire employment has improved. At most collieries 5 days, and at a number of important pits 6 days per week is being worked. In Dumbartonshire full time has been worked. In Renfrewshire the colliers are working regularly. In Stirlingshire employment has improved, especially in collieries depending on the export trade, 5 days per week being worked. In Ayrshire employment continues good. The ironstone miners in Nitshill district have only worked 5 days per week.

Building Trades.—Reports are again favourable. Branches with 12,731 members return 71 (or 0.6 per cent.) as idle, as against 164 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

EMPLOYMENT IN APRIL—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is still good in nearly all districts. Branches with 4,023 members return 57 (or 1.4 per cent.) as idle, as against 59 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow cotton weavers are not busy; many woollen and mixed looms are standing. Employment in silk weaving continues bad. In Newmilns, Darvel and Galston districts employment is reported as fair. In Kilbirnie the thread works and rope works are busy; the net workers are not working full time. In Port Glasgow employment is still good. In Paisley the thread mill workers remain slack. In Glasgow rope, twine and hemp-spinners are fully employed. Employment with carpet weavers and dyers is still good; with the powerloom beamers it is not satisfactory; with calico engravers it is good.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and tailors' machinists and pressers are busy. The clothiers' operatives, boot and shoe operatives, and slipper-makers are fairly well employed. The knee shoemakers are well employed, but the curriers are still dull.

Dock and Transport Labour.—The seamen and firemen report no change; the dock labourers report a decline; carters, railway and tramway men and hackney carriage drivers are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report no improvement; the lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as moderate; the electrotypers and stereotypers as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Spindle and flyer makers and scale beammakers are busy. Employment with potters is good; with flint glass-makers and bottle-makers dull; with tobacco pipemakers and finishers good; with general labourers fair.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute trade continues good; in the linen trade it is fairly good.

Coal Mining.—Pits employing over 11,000 workpeople during the four weeks ending 24th April, worked a weekly average of 5.6 days.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—All sections of the engineering and shipbuilding trades continue brisk. Returns from branches with 2,203 members, report 45 (or 2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 48 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—All branches of the building and woodworking trades continue busy. Branches with 1,434 members return 6 (or 0.4 per cent.) as idle, as against no unemployed at end of March.

Dock and General Labour.—Employment at the harbour and docks has been on the whole good. General labour throughout the city has continued moderately brisk.

Fishing Industry.—The weather has been more settled, and fairly good results have been obtained. The salmon fishing shows a little improvement at some stations, but there is still great scarcity.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and allied trades remains moderate. In the tailoring trade it is busy; boot and shoe makers are moderately well employed; floorcloth and linoleum makers continue busy.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches with 4,230 members return 43 (or 1 per cent.) as idle, as against 32 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Quarrying.—Blockers, drillers, cranemen and settmakers report employment as good; monumental masons and granite polishers as considerably improved.

Building Trades.—Branches of joiners, plasterers, painters, plumbers, slaters and sawmillers with 1,384 members have 6 (or 0.4 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of March; masons report employment as good.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Except on bridge work employment is reported as good. Branches with 1,155 members return 22 (or 1.9 per cent.) as idle, as against 16 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers, and paper workers report employment as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Boot and shoe makers and tailors report employment as good; boot and shoe riveters and finishers as bad; flax, jute, woollen and cotton operatives as good; carpet weavers as bad.

Transport Trades.—Railway servants, seamen, and firemen report employment as good.

Fishing.—In April, at the port of Aberdeen, the trawl and line boats landed 63,714 cwt., valued at £35,240, a considerable increase both in weight and value as compared with the previous month.

W. Johnson.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Industry.—Employment in nearly all branches has been exceptionally good. Branches of unions with 2,796 members return 100 (or 3.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 157 (or 5.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 759 members return 64 (or 8.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 50 (or 6.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The cabinet-makers and coach-makers report employment as quiet.

Metal Trades.—Employment continues fair. Branches with 815 members return 20 (or 2.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment generally continues good. Branches with 1,235 members return 72 (or 5.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 74 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report an improvement, but many are only casually employed; boot and shoe makers are quiet.

Dock and Transport Labour.—Employment has been dull with seamen and firemen; fair with dock labourers; good with tramway men and railway servants.—*J. P. Nanmetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—Societies with 21,001 members have 430 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 332 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches with 9,677 members have 188 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 116 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The drillers report employment as slack, the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as improving, the blacksmiths and blacksmiths' helpers and strikers as fair, and other branches as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,002 members return 121 (or 3.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 96 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The powerloom yard-dressers report employment as dull; the flax dressers, flax roughers, and powerloom yarn bundlers, as fair; the tenters as middling; beetlers, linen lappers, spindle and flyer makers, and hackle and gill makers as good.

Building Trades.—Societies with 3,320 members again return only 2 as unemployed. All branches report employment as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 641 members return 22 (or 3.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. All sections report employment as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies with 888 members report 30 (or 3.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 37 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The letterpress printers report employment as fair; the bookbinders, lithographic printers and lithographic artists and designers as good.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives and the bespoke tailors, with 7,201 members report 20 (or 2.8 per cent.) as unemployed, the same number as at the end of March. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as bad and the tailors as good.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with 1,753 members report 47 (or 2.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 37 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of March. The bakers and butchers, railway servants and paviors report employment as fair; the carters and loco. engine drivers, tinplate workers and sailmakers as good.

R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment with boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders is fair in Cork, and Passage West, as also with engineers, shipwrights, sailmakers, and riggers.

Building Trades.—Employment in the branches of these trades throughout the district continues good.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed, down, and feather operatives in Millfield, Blarney, Douglas, and Cork, continue busy. With tailors and boot and shoe makers employment is bad.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—With cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers, and coachmakers employment is fair; with coopers in Cork and Ballincollig dull.

Fishing.—The mackerel fishery round the south and west coast has been successful, especially during the latter part of the month.

Miscellaneous.—Engine drivers and railway employees, corporation labourers, gasworkers, and brewery workmen report employment as fair; quay labourers and coal porters as dull; letterpress printers as fair.—*P. O'Shea.*

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL.

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

Summary.—The total number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wages reported in April was about 55,000, and the net effect of all the changes on the week's wages of these workpeople was an average increase of 1s. 8½d. per head.

Increases.—About 15,000 workpeople engaged in the engineering and shipbuilding trades received advances, of which number about 8,500 were employed on the North-East Coast, 1,600 at Edinburgh and Leith, and about 2,000 at Belfast.

Decreases.—The principal decrease reported affected the blast-furnacemen at Barrow-in-Furness.

Method of Settlement.—Of the 55,000 workpeople whose wages were changed, 1,000 had their wages altered by sliding scales, arbitration, &c.; and 52,400 after negotiation, mutual arrangement, or by the voluntary concession of employers.

Totals for first four months of 1897.—For the four months, January—April, about 298,300 workpeople are reported as affected by advances of wages, and 5,200 as having 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.

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, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full Week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES and SCOTLAND.

* 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL—(continued).

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, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for MINING AND QUARRYING, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, and ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

* The sliding scale in force at Barrow-in-Furness, under which the wages of blastfurnacemen are regulated, has been slightly altered so as to give the men an advance of ½ per cent. for every rise of 2s. 4d. in the selling price of pig iron.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN APRIL—(continued).

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, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, Tinplate Manufacture, Textile Trades, Clothing Trades, Employees of Local Authorities, Woodworking and Furnishing Trades, and Miscellaneous Trades.

Table with columns: Port, Voyage, Occupation, No. shipped at new Rate during April, Particulars of Change, Monthly Rates. Includes sections for Steamships and Sailing Vessels.

Rise in Agricultural Wages.—In some of the Poor Law Unions of Cambs., Lincoln, Norfolk, Northants, Rutland and Kent, wages of agricultural labourers were increased from the beginning of April, and are higher by amounts varying from 4d. to 2s. per week than in April last year.

Marine Engineers.—An agreement was made on 20th April, between the shipowners and representatives of the sea-going engineers at the Port of Hull, for an advance of £1 per month or 5s. per week to engineers on foreign going steamers, and of 2s. 6d. per week to engineers on home and coasting steamers.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Liverpool District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a mine will be held on the 15th June. Intending Candidates should communicate on or before 12th June with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Thomas Ratcliffe Ellis, 18 King-street, Wigan.

North Staffordshire District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on 29th and 30th June. Intending candidates should communicate on or before 22nd June with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Joseph Knight, Newcastle, Staffs.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN APRIL.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during April affected about 4,000 workpeople, of which number 3,200 were engaged in the building trades. The average amount by which the working hours were shortened was 1 1/4 hours per week.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate number of people directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of change per week. Includes sections for Building Trades, Engineering Trades, Printing Trades, and Miscellaneous.

Special Rules as to Wool-sorting.—Under section 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1891, and section 28 of the 1895 Act, the Home Secretary has issued special rules for the wool-sorting industry, regulating the duties of the occupiers of factories and workshops, and of the persons engaged therein.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

United Kingdom.—The Annual Co-operative Congress will be opened at Perth on Whit Monday, under the presidency of Mr. Wm. Maxwell, the Chairman of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

England and Wales.—Six new co-operative societies for distribution have been registered in April. Two distributive societies at Westleigh and Broompark have ceased to exist, and one at Beckton has amalgamated with one at Stratford.

Scotland.—Two new distributive societies have been registered in April.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Overtime in separate Departments.—The Home Secretary has made an Order, dated 27th March, under section 39 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, directing that different branches or departments of work carried on in the same factory or workshop may, so far as regards the employment of women during overtime, be treated as if they were different factories or workshops, provided that each branch is quite distinct as regards rooms, management and persons employed.

Period of Employment in Separate Departments.—Another Order, also dated 27th March, and taking effect from 1st April, makes similar provision as to different branches or departments of work, so far as regards the period of employment of children, young persons and women.

Particulars Clause (Handkerchiefs, &c.).—By an Order of the Secretary of State, dated April 22nd, the provisions of section 40 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, have been applied with modifications to factories and workshops in which handkerchiefs, aprons, pinafores and blouses are made.

* Hours in Summer Months. † Hours in Winter Months.

Reports for the first quarter of 1897 have been received from 178 distributive societies in Scotland with a total membership of 190,577, as compared with 171 societies with 149,518 members for the corresponding period of 1896.

Ireland.—Four new agricultural and dairy societies have been registered in April.

BUILDING SOCIETIES, 1895.

THE first Annual Report* (Part II.) upon Building Societies, issued under the Building Societies Act, 1894, contains a summary of the returns made by Building Societies in the United Kingdom for the year ending at various dates in 1895.

There were in existence 3,730 societies (2,735 incorporated and 995 unincorporated) of which 2,625 made returns, or 203 more than have made returns for any previous year.

The total membership of the 2,625 societies is shown as 637,635 and the total receipts for the year as £29,853,449.

The total liabilities were returned at £55,959,128, made up of £35,165,641 due to shareholders; £17,718,606 due to depositors and other creditors; and £3,074,881 undivided profit balances of 2,153 societies.

The assets were made up of £43,866,031 due on mortgage securities; £11,693,155 investments in other securities and cash; and £399,942 deficit balances of 401 societies.

Of the 2,625 societies making returns, 2,428, with 92.9 per cent. of the total membership and 96.9 per cent. of the total annual receipts were in England and Wales; 141 societies, with 5.8 per cent. of the members and 1.6 per cent. of annual receipts, were in Scotland; and 56 societies, with 1.3 per cent. of members and 1.5 per cent. of annual receipts, in Ireland.

Under Part I. of the Schedule to the Acts of 1894 £1,302,791 is returned as the aggregate amount due on mortgages exceeding £5,000 each. Under Part II. £2,752,542 is returned as the aggregate value of properties in possession of societies for upwards of twelve months; and under Part III. mortgages in arrears of repayment for more than twelve months (exclusive of the amount returned under Part II.) are returned at £353,463.

* First Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Building Societies' Acts. Part II. Abstract of Accounts. (147-1.) Price. 2s. 0d.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL.

THE numbers of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed or injured by accidents reported in April 1897 and 1896 respectively are shown in the following table.

SUMMARY.

Table with columns: Occupations, Killed (April 1897, April 1896), Injured (April 1897, April 1896). Rows include Railway Servants, Miners, Seamen, etc.

The particulars are given in greater detail in the following Tables :-

I. 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 April 1897.

[The number of Servants employed by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom was 465,112 on 31st December, 1895.]

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Causing Amputations, Dislocations, Contusions and Bruises, Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total Injured. Rows include Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, etc.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 1 servant killed and 819 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during April, as compared with 3 killed and 788 injured in April 1896.

II. Miners and Quarrymen.*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of April 1897.

[The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 733,657, and in and about quarries as 104,625, in 1895.]

Table with columns: MINES, QUARRIES, Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured). Rows include Underground Explosions of Fire-damp, Falls of ground, etc.

* Supplied by the Home Office.

III. 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 April 1897 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

Table with columns: Cause and Class of Accident, Number reported as Killed or Injured (In April 1897, Total for 3 months Feb. to April 1897, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1896). Rows include By Wreck or Casualty, By other Accidents, All Accidents.

NOTE.—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 Asiatic serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.*

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of April 1897, distinguishing Factories and Workshops. [The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 (2) of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

Table with columns: Class of Accident, Number of Males (Adults, Young Persons, Boys, Total), Number of Females (Adults, Young Persons, Girls, Total), Total Males and Females. Rows include In Factories, In Workshops, Total in Factories and Workshops.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 2,119 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, viz., 2,116 in Factories and 3 in Workshops.

V. 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 April 1897.

Table with columns: Nature of Works, &c., Construction or Repair, Use or Working, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured). Rows include Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, etc.

* Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. † Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. ‡ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

PAUPERISM IN APRIL.

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

THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of April was 325,024—a number which corresponds to a rate of 207 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1897.

Compared with March last there has been a decrease of 10,684 in the number relieved, and of 7 in the rate per 10,000. Every district shows a decrease; the most marked decreases being in the Leicester district (22 per 10,000), Central London (19), Dublin district (16), Hull district (13), South London (11), and North Staffordshire and Bristol districts (10 each).

Compared with April 1896 the total number relieved has decreased by 4,238, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 5. The decrease was entirely in outdoor pauperism, indoor pauperism showing a small increase. In nine districts the rate has increased; the largest increases being in the Paisley and Greenock district (24), Dublin district, and Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (10 each), and North Staffordshire (7 per 10,000). In the Cardiff and Swansea district the rate was the same, while of the remaining 25 districts showing decreases those in which the falling off was most marked were Hull district (23), Stockton and Tees district (22), Barnsley district (20), Leicester district and Wolverhampton district (16 each), and Nottingham district (13).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of April 1897 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Paupers on corresponding date in previous year (Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, WEST HAM, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND, IRELAND.

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

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN APRIL.

DURING April 2,017 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns. Private employers engaged 714 persons, and local authorities 226. Of the 2,730 workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month, 1,405 were men, 150 lads and boys, and 1,175 women and girls.

Comparing the figures of the 12 bureaux which also furnished returns for April 1896, the number of fresh applicants for work decreased by about 36 per cent.

(I). Work Done in April.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Apr. 1897, Apr. 1896), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Apr. 1897, Apr. 1896), No. of Workpeople found by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities). Rows include London, Provincial, Glasgow.

(II). Workpeople on Registers at end of April classified by Occupations.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Build-ing, Engi-neering and Metal Trades, Car-men, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Ware-house-men, Porters and Messen-gers, General Labour-ers, Other Occu-pations, Total Men), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Serv-ants, Dress-makers and Semp-stresses, Others, Total Women and Girls), Grand Total (Apr. 1897, Apr. 1896). Rows include London, Provincial, Glasgow.

* New register opened 1st January 1897. † Not furnished. ‡ Women and Girls are not registered.

TRADE DISPUTES IN APRIL.

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

Number and Magnitude.—Eighty-five fresh disputes occurred in April 1897, compared with 113* in March, and 84 in April 1896. In these disputes 7,454 workpeople were involved, compared with 31,236* in March, and 8,572 in April 1896.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 25 disputes occurred, involving 879 workpeople; mining, 8 disputes, involving 1,798 workpeople; metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 17 disputes, involving 992 workpeople; textile trades, 10 disputes, involving 1,025 workpeople; clothing trades, 10 disputes, involving 504 workpeople; transport, 4 disputes, involving 162 workpeople; dock labour, 5 disputes, involving 962 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 6 disputes, involving 1,132 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 85 disputes, 42 arose chiefly on wages questions, 19 on questions of working arrangements 6 on questions of employment of non-unionists, 7 on questions of reinstatement or discharge of colleagues or officials, 6 were demarcation disputes between various classes of workpeople, and 5 arose from other causes.

Results.—Sixty-four new disputes, involving 5,262 workpeople, and 38 old disputes, involving 3,681 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the new and old disputes of which the terms of settlement are known, 44, involving 2,416 persons, were successful from the point of view of the workpeople; 34, involving 4,356, partially successful; and 24, involving 2,171 persons, unsuccessful.

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in April owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 360,000, as compared with 470,000 in March, and 220,000 in February.

Total Disputes for first four Months of 1897.—For the four completed months of 1897 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 323 disputes which commenced in those months was nearly 80,000, as compared with about 52,000 in the corresponding months of 1896. The number of working days lost owing to disputes in the first quarter of 1897 was about 1,360,000.

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople Directly and Indirectly Affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
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I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1897.

25 Disputes.		BUILDING TRADES.		879 Workpeople.			
Bricklayers and Labourers	Leeds ...	April 5	Against employment of a non-union foreman ...	5	18	Men obtained work elsewhere.	
	Ditto ...	28	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour in view of difficult nature of job	19	2	Employers gave the extra 1d. per hour during the job in question. Men found work in other firms.	
	Lowestoft ...	12	For advance in wages from 6d. to 6½d. per hour, with a code of working rules	16	1		
	Brighouse ...	1	For advance in wages of ¾d. per hour, with a code of working rules	55	21	Advance granted, and also a code of working rules.	
	Stonemasons ...	Weston-super-Mare	13	Refusal to work with two men who declined to join the union	10	3	One man agreed to join union; the other left the employment. Still unsettled.
		Dudley ...	5	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, with a code of working rules	27	...	
		Erith and Belvedere	3	For advance in wages of ¾d. per hour ...	100	...	Still unsettled.
	Tavistock ...	1	For advance in wages to a rate of 6½d. per hour, reduction of hours of labour, and a code of working rules	16	...	Still unsettled.	
	Carpenters and Joiners	Ayr ...	26	Dispute as to date on which agreed code of by-laws should come into operation	140	...	Still unsettled.
		Huntly ...	1	For increased wages and reduced hours ...	17	...	Still unsettled.
Irvine ...		5	For advance in wages from 7d. to 8d. per hour ...	11	2	Advance of ½d. per hour conceded as from 19th April.	
Kirkcaldy ...		1	For advance in wages of ¾d. per hour, with a code of rules similar to those governing the trade in Edinburgh	80	2	Advance granted, and new rules signed.	
Newtownards	1	For advance in wages, reduction in hours, and regulations as to apprentices	11	13	Advance granted of 1d. per hour, hours of labour reduced by three per week, and apprentice rules signed. Still unsettled.		
	Douglas, Isle of Man	12	For advance in wages from 28s. to 32s. per week, and reinstatement of discharged men	120	...		
	Bolton ...	19	Against acceptance of piecework by a member of the union	8	11	The member paid fine for breach of rule, and work was resumed. Fine paid, and work resumed.	
Slaters ...	Aberdeen ...	12	To compel payment of a fine by a man alleged to have acted contrary to union principles	15	½		
	Glasgow ...	6	Against employment of a labourer to do work alleged to be slater's work	9	...	Still unsettled.	
Plumbers ...	Scarborough	5	For advance in wages from 7½d. to 8½d. per hour, and alteration of rules with regard to limitation of apprentices	35	28	Advance of ½d. per hour granted, with conditional promise of further advance in April 1898. Still unsettled.	
	Coventry ...	1	For advance in wages, with a new code of working rules	30	...		
	Liverpool ...	3	Objection to other trades laying cement flooring	10	...	Still unsettled.	
Plasterers ...	Leicester ...	3	Demarcation dispute with bricklayers as to inside cement work	16	9		
	Nottingham ...	6	Employment of an alleged under-aged apprentice, and objection to presence of non-unionists	22	15	A basis of settlement was arranged at a conference between the two trades, with an independent chairman. (See p. 134). Proof eventually furnished of age of apprentice, and work resumed on employer paying expenses of strike. Advance conceded.	
Painters ...	Whitby ...	15	For advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour ...	27	3	Work resumed without any advance.	
	Coventry ...	1	For advance in wages from 5½d. to 6½d. per hour	60	14		
Excavators (Dock Construction)	Port Dinorwic	12	For a uniform rate of 5d. per hour ...	20	3	Men resumed work at old rates.	
8 Disputes.		MINING AND QUARRYING.		1,798 Workpeople.			
Coal Miners ...	Consett	Objection to work with non-unionists ...	252	3	Non-unionists agreed to join union. Still unsettled.	
	Near Barnsley	5	Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent.	226	...		
Ditto ...	Unstone ...	12	Dispute as to payment for "ripping," and "packing"	80	7	"Ripping," and "packing" to be paid for. Still unsettled.	
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	23	Alleged non-fulfilment of terms of settlement in above strike	80	...		
Ditto ...	Ruabon ...	3	Dispute as to tonnage rate on stone coal, and for guaranteed minimum of 5s. per day when explosives may not be used	800	...	Still unsettled.	
Hauliers ...	Merthyr ...	1	In sympathy with certain discharged hauliers replaced by mechanical labour	200	13	Work resumed unconditionally.	
Shale Miners ...	Broxburn ...	23	Against proposed reduction of 3d. per ton instead of requiring extra weight on account of dirt in mineral according to custom of other companies	80	1	Reduction not to be enforced, but instead, the dirt scale referred to.	
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26	Alleged excessive scale of overweight on account of dirt (see result of foregoing dispute)	80	1	Management promised to modify the dirt scale.	

* Corrected figures; disputes being included which occurred in March, but of which information was received too late for insertion in April GAZETTE.

Trade	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople Directly and Indirectly Affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
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1.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1897—(continued).

11 Disputes.		ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.		879 Workpeople.		
Fitters (Ship Repairing Yard)	North Shields	April 13	For advance in wages ...	41	2	Advance granted.
	Wallsend ...	17	Against "shoring up" work being given to millwrights	24	7	Work stopped pending decision by Joint Committee. Still unsettled.
Ditto ...	Hull ...	17	For advance in wages of 1s. conceded by other firms in August 1896, also a further immediate advance of 1s. and a promise of an additional 1s. in August	15	...	
	Leeds ...	9	Dispute as to payment of monthly bonus ...	20	½ day	The bonus in dispute to be paid. Places filled by non-union men.
Wagon-frame Erectors	Newton Heath	20	Objection to action of foreman ...	30	7	Men resumed work without conditions.
	Oldham ...	21	Refusal of one man to pay union levies to defray expenses of a previous extensive dispute	26	9	
Ironfounders ...	Warrington ...	9	For advance of wages as granted by other firms in district	31	20	Advance of 2s. per week granted.
	Swansea ...	19	For employment of larger number of men when docking ships	50	3	Number of men increased to extent of 5 per cent.
Spindle and Flyer Makers	Glasgow ...	23	As to wages of machine workers, and as to employment of an unskilled man upon a machine	81	14	Journeyman of two years' standing to be paid the standard minimum rate. Question of machine in abeyance. Work resumed pending enquiry as to practice in other firms; disputed work meanwhile in abeyance.
	Shipwrights ...	Govan ...	22	Demarcation dispute with joiners as to erection of side deck houses	50	10
Fitters, Turners, and Pattern-makers	Leith ...	26	Objection to certain patterns being made by a man who was not a joiner, against agreement of yard	11	2	

2 Disputes.		TINPLATE MANUFACTURE.		340 Workpeople.		
Tinplate Workers ...	Carmarthen ...	3	Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent.	200	15	Reduction of 7½ per cent. accepted.
Ditto ...	Garnant, Carmarthenshire	23	Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent.	140	...	Still unsettled.

4 Disputes.		OTHER METAL TRADES.		273 Workpeople.		
Wire Drawers ...	Cleckheaton ...	21	Against continued employment of youths and less skilled men, who had been introduced to work a new system of machine wire drawing	60	14	Satisfactory settlement effected (see p. 134).
Silversmiths ...	Sheffield ...	12	For an improved price list, and other grievances	15	...	Still unsettled.
	Small Anchor Smiths ...	Cradley Heath District	26	For advance in wages of 15 per cent. ...	116	...
Stove Grate Fitters ...	Falkirk ...	12	Refusal to accept employers' price list on change from time to piece working	82	...	Still unsettled.

10 Disputes.		TEXTILE TRADES.		1,025 Workpeople.		
Overlookers ...	Oldham ...	13	Alleged payment at less than the usual rate of poundage on weavers' earnings	14	2	Agreement to pay full list price, meaning an advance of 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. per week each to eight men.
Piecers (Cotton) ...	Patricroft ...	19	Against proposed penalties for taking holiday on Easter Monday contrary to arrangement	215	2	Big piecers to be fined 2s., and little piecers 1s.
Cotton Weavers ...	Padiham ...	1	Objection to action of clothlookers and other officials	158	11	Work resumed, and manager then promised to inquire into causes of complaint.
Ditto ...	Oswaldtwistle	21	Objection to dismissal of an engine tenter ...	301	4	Weavers resumed work, acknowledging that they were in the wrong. Places filled by other operatives. Still unsettled.
Worsted Spinners ...	Halifax ...	8	Against discharge of an overlooker ...	56	3	
	Woolen Weavers ...	Skelmanthorpe	12	Dispute as to prices, for better sharing of work, and for reinstatement of discharged weavers	30	...
Finishers, Fettlers, &c. (Woolen Trade)	Kirkburton, Huddersfield	13	For advance in wages and reduction in hours, and in sympathy with discharged fellow workpeople	11	...	Still unsettled.
	Bradford ...	7	Against employment of a non-union workman ...	132	11	Non-union man left. Work resumed on old conditions. Still unsettled.
Woolen Dyers ...	Leith ...	21	Insufficient earnings on account of short time ...	100	10	
Rope Workers ...	Ilkeston ...	5	Against proposed reduction in prices to those of surrounding district	8	...	

10 Disputes.		CLOTHING TRADES.		504 Workpeople.		
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Nottingham ...	6	Against substitution of a youth as foreman in place of a man	25	1½	Man reinstated, and youth removed to other work.
Shoemakers ...	Glasgow ...	28	For advance in wages	230	5	Advance granted.
Tailors ...	Accrington ...	5	Tailors put forward a new log or price list ...	108	3	Employers agreed to pay advance of 10 per cent. on the log, pending mutual settlement of a revised log. Contention of men allowed.
Ditto ...	Middlesbro' ...	19	Objection to employment of a day wage man in a piecework shop	9	7	Man to resume piece work.
Ditto ...	Sheffield ...	10	Against removal of a man from piece to time work to superintend newly introduced female labour	12	4	
Ditto ...	Leamington ...	12	For revision of log or price list ...	39	9	Agreement that a revision of log shall be mutually undertaken, to come into operation on 25th September.
Ditto ...	Aberdeen ...	1	Objection to garments being sent out to be made	17	...	Employer agreed to send out no more work to be made.
Ditto ...	Edinburgh ...	2	For reinstatement of a discharged fellow-workman	43	6	Employers agreed to reinstate the man.
Ditto ...	Paisley ...	5	For increase in rate of wages of ½d. per hour, on the log which had been generally granted by employers	7	2	Desired advance conceded.
Ditto ...	Renfrew ...	20	For increase of ½d. per hour on log or price list ...	14	6	Increase conceded, stated to be equal to 10 per cent.

4 Disputes.		TRANSPORT.		162 Workpeople.		
Marine Engineers ...	Hull ...	17	For advance in wages of £1 per month on monthly and 5s. per week on weekly trading vessels	70	3	Agreement signed, conceding the advance demanded on monthly vessels, and 2s. 6d. per week in the home and coasting trade.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26	Refusal to men on two vessels of an advanced rate granted on weekly boats by other employers	4	...	Men's places immediately filled up.
Tramcar Drivers and Conductors	Birmingham ...	19	For reinstatement of two men alleged to have been wrongly dismissed	75	3 hours	Men provisionally reinstated, such reinstatement being afterwards confirmed.
Van Boys ...	Dundee ...	22	For advance in wages from 8s. to 9s. per week	13	1	All reinstated but 4; no advance given

5 Disputes.		DOCK LABOUR.		962 Workpeople.		
Dock Labourers ...	Liverpool ...	17	Employers' objection to men wearing union badge	150	10	Union badge only to be worn where formerly recognised.
Porters, Lumpers, &c.	Runcorn ...	13	Objection to man appointed to work the machinery at a salt tip.	400	1	A suitable man to be selected by the manager.
Wharf Labourers (Manure Transfer)	Victoria Docks, E.	8	For advance in rates from 6d. to 9d. per ton, with 1s. per hour for overtime instead of 7d.	350	17	Work resumed at old rates by those who had not obtained other employment.
	Gloucester ...	5	For an additional busheller in transferring corn from ship's bags to sacks	38	1	Grain to be removed in ship's own bags.
Coal Wharf Men ...	Dublin ...	26	For advance in wages ...	24	...	Places filled by non-union men.

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople Affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL, 1897.—(continued).						
6 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 1,132 Workpeople.						
Gasworkers ...	Leeds ...	April 22	Objection to new rules in connection with mechanical stoking	130	3	Work resumed under new conditions for a fortnight pending discussion by a joint committee.
Brick and Tile Makers	Birmingham District	23	To obtain at an earlier date an increased rate of wages offered by employers in reply to men's demand	500	5	Work resumed on concession of demand
Guano Workers	London, E. ...	7	For advance in wages to guano carriers	218	2	Places filled by other men.
Cork Cutters ...	London, E.C. ...	14	For advance in wages on certain sizes of corks	24	3	Work in dispute to be done by time instead of piece work.
Packing Box Makers ...	Glasgow ...	13	Against use of timber from a firm whose men had been out since February, and whose places had been taken by sawyers.	200	...	Still unsettled.
Miner Water Operatives	Dublin ...	6	For advance in wages, and against proposed increase in summer hours of labour	60	21	Places filled by other men.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE APRIL AND WERE SETTLED DURING THAT MONTH.

Bricklayers ...	Cambridge ...	1897 Feb. 27	Bricklayers refused to work for one firm alleging a breach of working rules, whereupon the members of the Employers' Association locked out their union bricklayers	184	35	Union allowed its members to work at the firm in question, and the lock-out was withdrawn.
Ditto ...	London, W. ...	11 Feb.	Against employment of slaters on tiling work	6	61	Promise that bricklayers should do tiling work in future.
Bricklayers' Labourers	Paisley ...	31 Mar.	For advance in wages from 5d. to 5½d. per hour...	61	15	Advance conceded.
Coal Miners ...	Doffcocker Bolton	25 Feb.	For advance in wages of 6d. per ton	25	40	Advance of 3d. per ton conceded on thin coal.
Hauliers and Coal Miners	Blaina... ..	25 Feb.	Against discharge of a fellow-workman	420	35	Work resumed unconditionally.
Caulkers ...	Birkenhead ...	1 March	Demarcation of work dispute with drillers	700	33	Compromise effected, and work resumed.
Casters (Harness Furniture)	Walsall ...	6 Mar.	Against reduction in price to one man on a particular order	5	...	Places filled by other men.
Tinsmiths ...	Barrhead ...	1 Mar.	For abolition of piecework, adoption of the Glasgow rate—7½d. per hour, with time and a halt for overtime	19	49	Piecework to be continued, with an advance of from 10 to 15 per cent. Increased rate for overtime granted, and also the Glasgow rate—7½d. per hour.
Spinners and Card Room Operatives	Bolton... ..	3 Feb.	Refusal of employers to pay prices demanded on fine count spinning	48	53	Work gradually resumed by those who could be re-employed.
Cotton Spinners ...	Near Chorley	10 Feb.	Against threatened fines for absence from work without leave during a stoppage of engine	82	60	Fines not to be imposed, but leader dispensed with.
Cotton Weavers ...	Whittlefield, Burnley	25 Mar.	Against discharge of certain fellow-workpeople...	100	...	Work gradually resumed by those who could be re-employed.
Woolen Weavers ...	Eccleshill, Bradford	24 Mar.	Against proposed reduction in wages, and introduction of two-loom system	26	11	Slight modification of original proposal made and accepted by some weavers, others replaced.
Tailors (Jewish) ...	Leeds ...	20 Mar.	For abolition of piecework given out by a middle-man	23	18	Middleman abolished, and work done directly by men for the employer.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27 Mar.	In sympathy with men in foregoing dispute	70	5	Terms of foregoing dispute.
French Polishers ...	Gloucester ...	29 Mar.	For advance in wages, and abolition of "lump" work	14	16	Advance granted of 3d. per hour in two instalments to men at 6½d. per hour, and immediately to men having less.
Cabinet Makers and French Polishers	Kirkcaldy ...	23 Mar.	Refusal to work with non-unionists	97	23	"Lump" work to be abolished.
Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers, &c.	Inverness ...	2 Mar.	For advance in wages of 10 per cent., and reduction in hours of labour from 54 to 51 per week	42	34	Objection to work with non-unionists withdrawn.
Dock Labourers ...	Sunderland ...	1896 Mar. 30	Refusal to work with non-union men	20	13	Demands conceded.
Bakers ...	Plymouth ...	1897 Nov. 9	For increased wages and reduced hours	29	145	Men returned to work unconditionally.
Lithographic Machine Minders	Glasgow ...	1897 Feb. 6	Objection to overtime	4	55	Strike declared closed by union.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	20 Feb.	Alleged payment at less than the minimum rate of wages	4	43	Places filled by non-unionists.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE APRIL, BUT OF WHICH INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVED.

Bricklayers ...	Lincoln ...	1897 Mar. 22	Against employment of labourers to lay bricks	6	3	Labourers not to lay bricks.
Ditto ...	Chislehurst, Kent	18 Mar.	Alleged refusal of employers to observe usual hour of leaving off work	6	12	Employers agreed that work should cease at the usual time—5 o'clock.
Carpenters and Joiners	Duftown, Banffshire	20 Mar.	For advance in wages	9	8	Advance of 3d. per hour conceded.
Slaters and Tilers	Blackpool ...	5 March	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour	24	4	Advance of 3d. per hour conceded.
Plasterers ...	Potteries ...	29 Mar.	Against bricklayers doing plastering work, and for advance in wages	5	1	Men's terms conceded.
Coal Miners ...	Washington, Durham	26 Mar.	Against discharge of two men without apparent cause	850	2	Employers put the two men to other work.
Ditto ...	Ebbw Vale ...	29 Mar.	For allowances in respect of "hard places" in coal getting	32	32	Allowances to be given in necessary cases.
Horse Drivers (Quarrying)	Blackheath, Staffs.	31 Mar.	For advance in wages	7	2	Advance of 2d. per day granted.
Engineers ...	Blackburn ...	13 Mar.	Dispute as to rules with regard to notice for leaving employment	290	5	Six days' notice to be given by either side instead of seven.
Turners and Fitters ...	Oldham ...	16 Mar.	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	17	1	Advance conceded.
Brass Finishers and Moulders	Oldham ...	11 Feb.	Against machine men working certain machines	48	24	Machines in dispute to be worked in future by brass finishers or apprentices
Ironmoulders ...	Hyde ...	Mar.	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	87	2	Advance granted.
Engineers ...	Woking ...	26 Mar.	Against altered conditions as to overtime...	12	...	Shop closed to members of the union first concerned.
Brass Finishers, &c. (Apprentices)	Dundee ...	17 Mar.	In sympathy with brassfounders and finishers on strike	12	12	Work resumed when the journeymen had obtained their demands.
Ring Spinners ...	Chadderton ...	29 Mar.	Alleged bad material	200	1	Satisfactory arrangement made with union officials.
Corn Porters and Lightermen	Gloucester ...	5 Mar.	For an extra busheller in each gang	10	2	Extra man granted to each gang.
Fishermen ...	Anstruther ...	20 Mar.	For an allowance of 50s. per boat for bait...	87	7	Demands conceded.

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

The following 23 disputes, the commencement of which has previously been reported, and which now involve about 12,000 workpeople, were still unsettled at the end of April:—Disputes commencing in February 1896: fustian weavers, Norden; June: joiners, Chorley; July: engineers, Shipley; August: cotton weavers, Padiham; September: quarrymen, Bethesda; October: cotton operatives, Oldham; November: steel smelters and millmen, Brymbo, Wrexham; flax-dressers, Belfast; cabinet makers, Shipley; December: plasterers and plasterers' labourers, Douglas; plasterers, Ipswich; January 1897: plush weavers, Reddish, Stockport; boot and shoe operatives, Cork; February: silk weavers, Macclesfield; ironfounders, Plymouth; lace-workers, Nottingham; boot and shoe operatives, Norwich; sawmillers, boxmakers, &c., Glasgow; tinplate workers, Ayr; March: painters, Middlesbrough; builders' labourers, Kilmarnock; coalminers, Pontefract; tinplate-workers, Pentrych; wire-drawers, Sheffield; engineers, iron-grinders, &c., Oldham (since settled); ship-joiners, Chiswick; lithographic printers, Dublin; leather-shavers, Leeds.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead and Phosphorus poisoning, or Anthrax, reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during April, classified by industries [M.—Males, F.—Females]:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Lead Poisoning— China, Earthenware, and Glass Works	20	12	4	3	—	—	24	15	39
White Lead and Colour Works	3	15	—	—	—	—	3	15	18
Smelting ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tinning and Enamelling	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Coach-making, &c. ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other Industries ...	15	3	1	—	—	—	16	3	19
Total Lead Poisoning	42	30	5	3	—	—	47	33	80
Corresponding Total for March 1897	65	24	3	1	—	—	68	25	93
Phosphorus Poisoning— Lucifer Match Works ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Corresponding Total for March 1897	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax— Tanners, Fellmongers, Curriers* ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Industries... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total Anthrax—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Ditto, March 1897 ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	8

The value of sheep and lamb's wool exported, especially to the United States, was again unusually large, the increase over April of last year amounting to £204,182, or 376 per cent. Coal and fuel increased in quantity by 174,333 tons, and in value by £82,307. Cotton piece goods decreased by £487,474, the corresponding decrease in yardage being 54,525,300 yards, whilst woollen and worsted tissues increased in value by £355,303 and in yardage by 6,840,800 yards. The exports of galvanised sheets was less, but of other important classes of iron and steel greater than a year ago, the total increase in value amounting to £202,136.

Re-Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—These amounted in April to £7,308,181, or £1,920,119 more than in April 1896.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom in April from Foreign Countries and British Possessions was 2,651,091 tons, or 55,256 tons less than in April 1896. The tonnage cleared was 3,263,634 tons, an increase of 50,576 tons on the tonnage cleared in April 1896. The tonnage entered *Coastwise* amounted to 2,618,205 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,464,013 tons, being increases of 65,333 tons and 20,883 tons on the figures for a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during April were 28 per cent. less than in April 1896, this decrease being chiefly due to American cotton which shows a falling off of 97,477 bales in the quantity imported. As compared with April 1895 the total imports show a decrease of about 13½ per cent. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was more than in April 1896, but less than in April 1895.

The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	Exports.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
April 1897 ...	213,750	263,615	31,419
" 1896 ...	297,407	245,805	29,877
" 1895 ...	253,697	300,644	33,969

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended May 1st, amounted to £6,091,112, being £290,492 (or 5 per cent.) more than for the corresponding period of 1896. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,821,436, an increase of £204,324, while the receipts from goods and mineral traffic amounted to £3,269,676, an increase of £86,168.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during April was £708,959, an increase of £46,597 as compared with April 1896. In England and Wales the increase amounted to £32,018, in Scotland to £9,896, and in Ireland to £4,683.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during April numbered 333, being 65 more than in April 1896, 45 less than in April 1895, and 64 less than in April 1894.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during April was 21,845, as compared with 29,106 in April 1896.

British and Irish.—Of the 21,845 passengers 16,170 were of British or Irish origin, being a decrease of 4,112 as compared with a year ago. All destinations shown in the following table, which gives the figures for April 1897 and 1896, shared in the decrease:—

Destination.	April 1897.	April 1896.
United States ...	11,479	14,842
British North America ...	1,651	2,154
Australasia ...	763	787
South Africa ...	1,603	1,791
Other places ...	674	708
Totals ...	16,170	20,282

Foreign.—The remainder of the 21,845 passengers, viz., 5,675, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 3,149 less than in April 1896.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during April was 8,240. Of these 4,139 were stated to be *en route* to America, compared with 6,580 so stated in April 1896. The number of those not stated to be on their way to America was 4,101 (including 1,214 sailors), the corresponding figure for April 1896 being 3,839 (including 1,036 sailors).

FOREIGN TRADE FOR APRIL.

Imports.—For the first time since last August the total declared value of the imports was during April less than for the corresponding period a year ago, the decline being from £35,808,800 in April 1896 to £35,136,555 last month, a fall of 1.9 per cent. For the first four months of the year, however, the imports were greater by 3.3 per cent. than for the corresponding period of 1896.

The following table shows the declared values of the imports, grouped in large classes, for April 1897 and 1896:—

Class of Goods.	April, 1897.	April, 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£15,088,195	£13,435,768	£1,652,427	£—
Metals ...	1,701,612	1,683,325	18,287	—
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,130,597	1,157,436	—	26,839
Raw Materials for Manufacture	8,611,618	11,235,890	—	2,624,272
Manufactured Articles ...	7,493,363	6,930,600	562,763	—
Miscellaneous ...	1,111,170	1,365,981	—	254,811
Totals ...	35,136,555	35,808,800	—	672,245

The principal falling off is under the head of raw materials for textile manufactures. The decrease under this head amounts to £2,607,339, the decrease of raw cotton amounting to £1,037,872, and that of sheep and lambs' wool to £1,478,301, corresponding to decreases in quantity of 436,726 cwts. and 37,517,336 lbs. respectively. For the first four months of the year, however, both these imports show an increase. The principal increase in articles of food is that of £390,954 in the value and nearly 3,000,000 cwts. in the quantity of Indian corn. The import of wheat decreased in quantity by 456,650 cwts., but increased in value by £51,389.

British and Irish Exports.—The exports during April were of a total declared value of £19,700,122, an increase of 6.8 per cent. on the value for April 1896. For the first four months of the year they were slightly lower (by 0.9 per cent.) than for the corresponding period of 1896.

The following table shows the declared value of the exports, grouped in large classes, for April 1897 and 1896:—

Class of Goods.	April 1897.	April 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	£922,135	£812,985	£109,150	£—
Raw Materials ...	1,662,060	1,365,733	296,327	—
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	7,924,332	7,851,901	72,431	—
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	2,958,212	2,716,535	241,677	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,453,179	1,370,030	83,149	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,780,204	4,353,043	427,161	—
Totals ...	19,700,122	18,450,227	1,249,895	—

* Including sorting of hides.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN APRIL.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Informations laid.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs
By Owners, Managers, &c.:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to Limewash ...	7	5	2 0 6	3 0 10
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	18†	19	36 4 0	7 8 7
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, or to work between fixed and traversing parts of a Machine in motion ...	3	2	0 0 0	1 6 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	52†	56	26 3 6	22 1 11
Employing Women and Children in forbidden Trades ...	—	—	—	—
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour ...	50	47	29 0 0	21 2 6
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	15	15	4 8 6	4 17 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	24	24	4 8 6	9 12 0
At night ...	8	8	8 5 0	3 1 6
Employing Children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. ...	4†	9	3 0 0	1 12 2
Employing Children under legal age ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 7 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.:				
Not keeping Registers ...	27	27	12 1 6	13 2 3
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	23	23	11 4 6	7 18 8
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	10	10	9 10 0	4 10 10
Other offences ...	5	3	0 7 6	2 7 0
By Workmen:				
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c. ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 12 6
Employment at night ...	1†	4	2 0 0	0 11 8
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ...	3	3	0 15 0	1 0 0
By Parents:				
Allowing Children to be illegally employed ...	1	1	0 1 0	11 0
Neglecting to cause Children to attend School ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 10 6
Total for April 1897 ...	255†	259	151 14 6	105 14 11
Total for April 1896 ...	277†	246	126 5 6	92 132

II.—Under the Mines and Quarries Acts.*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					£ s. d.
Miscellaneous ...	1	1	—	—	1 7 6
By Workmen:					
Safety Lamps ...	1	1	—	—	0 10 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	4	3	—	1	5 13 0
Lucifer Matches, &c. ...	18	18†	—	—	15 12 0
Riding on Trams ...	5	5	—	—	4 18 0
Miscellaneous ...	7	7	—	—	9 11 0
Total for April 1897...	36	35	—	1	37 11 6
Total for April 1896 ...	14	12	1	1	13 17 0
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					£ s. d.
Abstracts, Registers, Notices ...	3§	3	—	—	1 13 9
Other Special Rules ...	1	1	—	—	3 0 0
Miscellaneous ...	1	1	—	—	2 0 0
By Workmen:					
Explosives and Blasting ...	3	3	—	—	1 7 0
Total for April 1897 ...	8	8	—	—	8 0 9
Total for April 1896 ...	1	1	—	—	0 15 0

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Con- victions.	Penalties.	Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Submerging Disc ...	2	2	45 0 0	2 6 6
Carrying excessive deck cargoes ...	4	4	20 0 0	5 11 4
Not providing life-saving appliances ...	1	—	10 0 0	and Costs.
Leaving seaman behind without Consular sanction ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 8 6
Proceeding to sea without certified officer... ...	2	2	5 0 0	and Costs.
By Seamen:				
Harbouring foreign deserters ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 13 0
Illegal boarding ...	2	2	0 5 0	—
Total for April 1897 ...	13	13	82 5 0	8 19 4**
Total for April 1896 ...	9	9	19 5 0	12 3 10

* Supplied by the Home Office.

† In these cases the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.

‡ In one of these cases an alternative of 14 days' imprisonment was ordered in lieu of fine.

§ In two cases the costs only were imposed.

** Exclusive of costs in three cases.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN APRIL.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in April it will be seen that 5 Trade Unions, 1 Employers' Association, 8 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 4 Associations for Production, 3 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 27 new Friendly Societies, and 10 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Twenty-three Building Societies, 3 Industrial and Provident Societies (1 of which has amalgamated with an existing society), and 1 Trade Union are reported as having ceased to exist, or to have commenced "winding up."

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—London Society of House Decorators and Painters, 37 Wynford Rd., Caledonian Rd., N.; London Wheelwrights' Operatives' Society, 40 Halton Rd., Canonbury, N.; Dudley and District Fender Operatives' Association, 26 St. James' Ter., Dudley; City of Birmingham and District Master Hauliers' Association, 23 Burlington Chambers, New St., Birmingham; National Society of Cycle Workers, Grand Turk Inn, 8 Ludgate Hill, Birmingham. *Scotland.*—International Tailors, Machinists and Pressers, Liberal Association Rooms, Commercial Rd., Glasgow. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—High Wycombe Co-op. Soc., Ltd., High Wycombe, Bucks; Domestic Servants' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 33 Southwick St., Oxford and Cambridge Ter., W.; Bridlington and District Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 34 St. Hilda St., Hilderthorpe, Bridlington Quay. Co-operative Brotherhood Trust, Ltd., 28 Clerkenwell Rd., E.C. Devizes Farmers' Produce Assoc., Ltd., Farmers' Depot, Southbroom, Devizes; East Anglian Farmers' Co-operation, Ltd., Finsbury Circus Buildings, E.C. *Scotland.*—City of Dundee Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 161 Ann St., Dundee; Hardgate Independent Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Hardgate, Duntocher.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Ballaghmeehan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballaghmeehan, co. Leitrim; Cleenish Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Arney, co. Fermanagh; Irvinestown Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Irvinestown, co. Fermanagh; North Cappagh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Dunmallan, Omagh, co. Tyrone.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Lewisham and Lee Liberal and Radical Club, Ltd., 174 High St., Lewisham; South Coast Land Soc., Ltd., 2 Church St., Christchurch; Lutterworth Freehold Land Soc., Ltd., 1 Church Gate, Lutterworth; *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 3; Dividing, 6; Working Men's Clubs, 5; New Orders, 2; Specially Authorised, 1; Benevolent, 1; Medical, 1; Juvenile, 1; Female, 1. *Scotland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1. *Ireland.*—Specially Authorised, 4; Ordinary Friendly, 1.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—A.O. Foresters, 3; I.O. Rechabites, 1. *Scotland.*—Caledonian Order, U. Oddfellows, 3; Various, 3. *Ireland.*—None.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Rossendale and surrounding Districts Quarrymen's Association, Stacksteads, Manchester. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By Amalgamation:—Beckton Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Beckton. Resolution to wind up received:—Westleigh Ind. and Pro. Soc. Ltd., Westleigh, Lancashire. Liquidators' final return received:—Broompark Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Broompark, co. Durham. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—By instrument of dissolution, 5; notice of commencement of dissolution, 5; notice of termination of dissolution, 12; notice of termination of winding up, 1.

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