

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

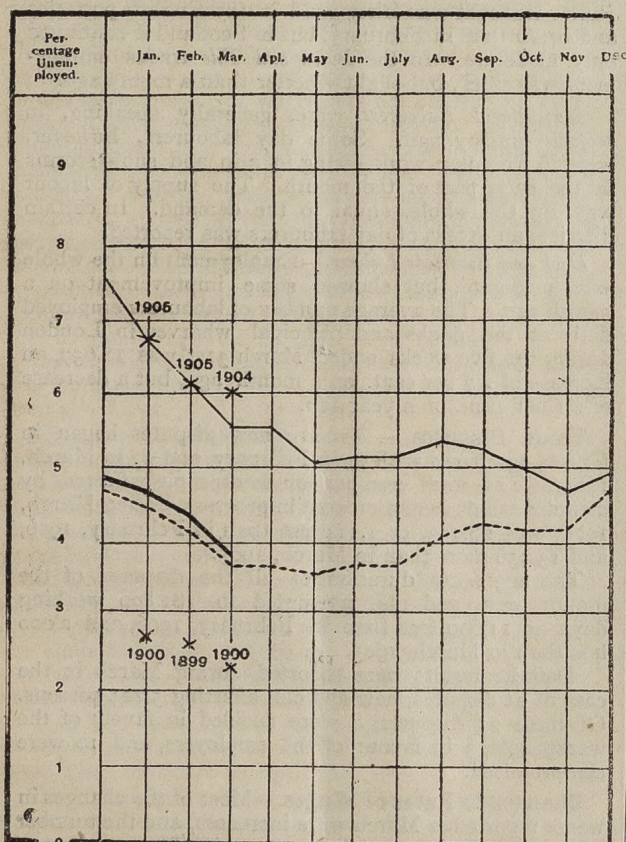


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[Based on 8,076 returns, viz.: 3,917 from Employers and their Associations; 3,705 from Trade Unions; 406 from Local Correspondents; and 48 from other sources.]

DURING March employment continued to show some improvement in most industries. It was good in the mining, metal, engineering, shipbuilding, and textile trades. There was a general seasonal improvement in the building trades, and the woodworking and furnishing trades also showed an advance. In the tinplate trade there was some decline. Rates of wages again increased, on the whole, especially in the metal group of trades.

As compared with a year ago there was a considerable improvement in coal mining, the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades (excluding tinplate), the textile trades, and the boot and shoe industry. The building trades showed little change.

In the 271 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 585,376 making returns, 22,465 (or 3·8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, 1906, as compared with 4·4 per cent. at the end of February, 1906, and 5·6 per cent. at the end of March, 1905.

Building.—Employment in the building trades continued to show a general seasonal improvement, which was especially marked in the case of painters. Compared with a year ago, however, employment showed little change.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was better than a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits per week during the four weeks ended March 24th, 1906, was 5·50, compared with 5·54 in February and 5·10 in March, 1905. The number of days worked in March, 1906, was greater than in the corresponding month of any year since 1900.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked by all mines and open works covered by the Returns during the four weeks ended March 24th was 5·85, as compared with 5·86 a month ago, and 5·84 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 24,200 workpeople, showed that 339 furnaces were in blast at the end of March, being one more than at the end of the previous month, and 23 more than in March, 1905.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment in this industry continued good, and was slightly better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago, the number employed at 203 works from which Returns have been received having increased by 9·2 per cent. The volume of employment at these works in the week ended March 24th, 1906, was 0·4 per cent. greater than during the week ended February 24th, 1906, and 10·7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment during March showed some decline as compared with a month and a year ago. At the end of March 401 mills were working, compared with 412 in February, 1906, and 407 at the end of March, 1905.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 2·8, as compared with 3·0 at the end of the previous month, and 6·1 in March, 1905.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment continued to improve and was good in the chief centres of the industry. As compared with a year ago, it showed a marked improvement. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 5·7 as compared with 6·9 per cent. at the end of February and 11·2 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 133,702 workpeople in the week ended 24th

March showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 30,315 workpeople in the week ended 24th March showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in February, and of 5.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment showed a further improvement and was fairly good, and decidedly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 51,011 workpeople during the week ended 24th March showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in February, and of 5.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment was fairly good and better than a month ago, especially in the weaving departments. It was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 51,028 workpeople during the last week in March showed increases of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in February and of 4.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment in this industry was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,234 workpeople in the last full week in March showed increases of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the last full week in February, and of 5.9 per cent. compared with March, 1905.

Silk Trade.—Employment in the spinning departments showed an improvement compared with a month and a year ago. The weaving departments, however, showed little change as compared with a month ago, and a slight decline as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was fairly good, and greatly improved compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,176 workpeople in the week ended March 24th showed an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 13.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment on the whole was good, slightly better than a month ago and decidedly better than a year ago. Firms employing 17,705 workpeople in the last week in March showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment on the whole was quiet, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of March in the *Silk Hat* trade was 13.5, compared with 13.5 at the end of February, and 12.1 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 4.5, 5.4, and 2.9.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued to improve and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 67,442 workpeople showed, as compared with a month ago, an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 3.8 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 6.1 per cent.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment improved slightly during March, but continued quiet on the whole. It was considerably better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,558 had 5.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5.8 per cent. in February, and 9.1 per cent. in March, 1905.

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

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

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment in these trades was better than a month ago and a year ago. In the printing trades it was fairly good in the letterpress section, but quiet with lithographic printers. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 3.9, against 4.7 in February, and 4.4 in March, 1905. In the bookbinding trades employment was moderate on the whole, the percentages of Trade Union members unemployed being 4.4 for March, 1906; 4.6 for February, 1906; and 5.4 for March, 1905.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in these trades on the whole was fair, and showed an improvement compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago. The improvement was most marked in the furnishing trades. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March, 1906 was 4.3, compared with 6.5 at the end of February, 1906, and 5.3 at the end of March, 1905.

Glass, Pottery, and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the *Glass* trades was only moderate, and worse than a month ago, though better than a year ago. In the *Pottery* trades it was fairly good in the English potteries and better than in February, but in Scotland it continued only moderate. In the *Brick and Tile* trades employment was slack, but slightly better than a month ago.

Agricultural Labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment. Some day labourers, however, were in irregular work owing to rain and snow storms in the early part of the month. The supply of labour was, on the whole, equal to the demand. In certain districts an excess of day labourers was reported.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment on the whole was moderate, but showed some improvement on a month ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended March 31st was 11,637, an increase of 2.7 per cent. on a month ago, but a decrease of 2.1 per cent. on a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty new disputes began in March, compared with 29 in February, and 23 in March, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during March, 1906, was 28,753, or 1,114 less than in February, 1906, and 13,556 more than in March, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 181,800 working days, or 11,600 less than in February, 1906, and 2,000 less than in March, 1905.

Definite results were reported during March in the case of 21 disputes, new and old, affecting 5,224 persons. Of these 21 disputes, 8 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 3 in favour of the employers, and 10 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Most of the changes in wages reported in March were increases, and the number of persons affected was about 48,500.* The net effect of the changes was an increase of £1,700 a week. Nearly 40,000 workpeople received advances amounting to £2,000, and about 8,500 sustained decreases amounting to £300. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 131,000 workpeople, the net result being an increase of £2,150 per week. During March, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was over 47,600, and the net result an increase of £750 per week.

The principal changes reported were increases affecting about 22,000 workpeople in shipyards on the North-East Coast, and 6,750 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and South Wales, and decreases affecting 6,600 coal miners in the Somerset and Bristol districts.

One change, affecting 700 workpeople, was settled by arbitration, four changes, affecting nearly 6,000 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and six changes, affecting nearly 15,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 26,800 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

* This number is exclusive of Jute spinners and preparers in Dundee who received an advance of 5 per cent.

AMERICAN COAL MINERS' DISPUTE.*

The negotiations between the coal owners and the miners, which had been proceeding for some time previously (*see last month's GAZETTE, p. 75*), having resulted in no settlement by the end of March, a general strike of the miners in both the bituminous and anthracite coalfields began on April 2nd, some 450,000 men being affected at first. The leader of the miners claims that there are now (April 17th) 400,000 on strike out of a total of 595,000.

Anthracite Coalfields.—In the anthracite coalfields of Pennsylvania the awards of the Strike Commission appointed by the President of the United States† in 1902, which have regulated working conditions for three years, expired on March 31st. The miners put forward demands for an agreement for one year with the United Mine Workers' Union involving a wage scale, a committee of miners at each colliery, and supervision by district officers of colliery operations, for an 8-hour day, for a uniform scale of wages throughout the mine regions, for an increase of 10 per cent. in the wages of men working under contract, and an additional 10 per cent. to men using safety lamps, and other matters. On March 11th the coal owners rejected these proposals, declaring that conditions did not warrant an increase of wages or reduction of the working day, that a uniform scale of wages was not practicable owing to the varying capacity of the workmen and the differing conditions, and that they refused to enter into an agreement with a Union controlled by the rival bituminous industry. Further conferences were held, but no agreement being arrived at, the Union ordered a general strike, and since April 2nd practically all the 165,000 anthracite miners have been idle, only sufficient men being at work to pump out the mines and protect them from damage. The Owners are stated to have accumulated sufficient coal to supply the ordinary demand for 90 days.

Conferences have been held between the parties since the stoppage, but up to the present no agreement has been arrived at.

Bituminous Coalfields.—In what is known as the central competitive area, there has been for some years past a system by which delegates from the coal owners and the miners' unions have met periodically at Indianapolis, a standard price for coal has been fixed in each district, and wages arranged in accordance with that standard price. The system is said to have worked fairly well and no important strike has taken place in this area for six years. The contracts between the Owners and the Unions expired on April 1st. Negotiations for their renewal failed, the men presenting an ultimatum demanding the 1903 scale of wages, entailing an advance of 5.55 per cent., which the majority of the Owners declined to grant, and a strike was ordered by the Union leaders to commence on April 2nd.

The Pittsburg Coal Company, however, which mines some 30 million tons annually, and has important contracts with the United States Steel Corporation, signed an agreement on April 2nd granting the 1903 scale of wages, and the majority of other Owners in the district of Western Pennsylvania have also given the advance.

A cablegram received on April 17th from H.M. Embassy at Washington, states that comparatively few of the 135,000 miners in this district are idle. In Ohio all the companies associated with the Pittsburg Coal Company have resumed work, but about 47,000 out of 50,000 miners in this State, are said to be still idle. In Illinois 57,000 out of 60,000 are on strike. Only a few have resumed work in Missouri, Arkansas, Indian Territory and the rest of the South Western Group, where some 20,000 in all are employed. In West Virginia, where 35,000 are employed, there has been no strike, labour being unorganised. The Southern States of Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, and also Colorado and other Western States, are not affected at present, but a strike has been in progress in Alabama for nearly two years on a different issue.

* Based on despatches and cablegrams from the British Commercial Agent at New York and the British Embassy at Washington.

† *See GAZETTE, April, 1903, p. 94.*

FRENCH COAL MINERS' DISPUTE.*

On March 14th, about 5,000 coal miners employed in the neighbourhood of the Courrières Colliery struck work. The strike spread rapidly, and three days later 26,000 miners in the Department of Pas de Calais had ceased work. The principal demands of the men were for a general increase in wages, the regulation of the conditions of labour, and that no enquiries should be made respecting the attitude of workmen with regard to trade union and political questions.

The employers offered to grant a general increase in wages amounting to 10 per cent. in the case of underground and 5 per cent. in the case of surface workers, on condition that work should be resumed immediately. This offer was declined by the men, and the strike spread to the Department of Nord. On March 20th, the number of strikers was about 50,000, by March 25th it had increased to about 75,000, after which it fell to about 30,000. A referendum was then organised as to whether or not the strike should be continued, the result being that about 33,000 votes were given in favour of its continuance, and 18,000 in favour of its termination. After the referendum the number of strikers again increased to 60,000. On April 4th the employers, at the suggestion of the Government, offered to incorporate in the standard wage 20 per cent. of the present "premium" pay (which is 30 per cent. above the standard), and to allow this new standard wage to carry with it a "premium" of 17 per cent. The effect of this would have been to fix the minimum wage at 4s. 7d. per day. By April 10th the employers had made the further offer of 5s. 5d. per day, but the miners' delegates demanded a minimum of 5s. 9d. and the introduction of a system of checking wages by means of duplicate pay-books. No settlement had been reached at the date of going to press.

Another dispute, not connected with the above, affecting 7,000 coal miners in the Loire district, began on the 11th of April.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES.

Coventry Carpenters and Joiners.

On March 26th joint application was made on behalf of the Coventry Master Builders' Association and the Coventry United Trade Committee of Carpenters and Joiners for the appointment of an arbitrator under the Conciliation Act to settle certain matters in dispute between the parties, and on March 31st the Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

The employers had given notice for an alteration of the hours and rate of payment for overtime, and the workpeople had claimed an advance in the rate of wages from 8½d. to 9½d. an hour, and, in effect, that the rule as to overtime should not be altered.

The employers complained that their best carpenters were taken away from them by the motor carriage builders, and it appeared that the operatives had relaxed their working rules in favour of these men by allowing them to work longer hours without payment for overtime.

The arbitrator issued his award on April 5th, deciding that the standard rate of wages should be advanced to 9d. an hour, and that all time made at the request of the employer between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the first five working days, and between 12 noon and 12 midnight on Saturdays, should be paid for at the rate of time and a half, and on Sundays and Christmas Day at double the ordinary rate.

Under the previous rules time and a quarter was paid (except on Saturdays) from the ordinary time of ceasing work up to 8 p.m., time and a half from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., and double time from 10 p.m. to the starting hour next morning; on Saturdays, time and a half from 12 noon to 10 p.m., and double time from 10 p.m. to the starting hour on Monday morning.

* Based on a series of despatches from H.M. Consul at Calais, dated March 17th to April 12th, 1906, and on newspaper reports.

Boot and Shoe Operatives at Stafford.

Differences having arisen as to the prices to be paid for certain operations at the firm of Messrs. Barton & Riley, Stafford, Mr. John Judge and Mr. Charles Freak were appointed arbitrators on behalf of the Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Federation, and the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives respectively. The arbitrators failed to agree, and on March 30th applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire.

The Board appointed as umpire Alderman Thomas Smith, of Leicester, who issued his award on April 12th, the operative clauses being as follows:—

1. For the operation known as "Pulling over or Drafting," one penny per dozen shall be paid for rounding the leather-board on the seat of the 1st shoe.
2. For the operation known as "Knocking up," twopence per dozen shall be paid.
3. That the price to be paid for the operation known as "Getting off" shall remain the same as provided in the statement dated February 16th, 1905.
4. That the extras specified in Clauses 1 and 2 of this award shall be paid to the men for all "Louis Heel" work made by the said Firm since January, 1906, and upon all such work made from the date of this award, and during such time as the statement dated February 16th, 1905, continues in operation.

Printers in London.

On December 28th, 1905, seven compositors employed on the "Jewish Journal" left work owing to dissatisfaction in regard to the proposed introduction of linotype machines. Subsequently the parties agreed to refer the dispute to six arbitrators, three appointed by each side, who, before entering on the arbitration, were to appoint an umpire, or in their default the umpire was to be appointed by the Board of Trade.

Application having been made to the Board of Trade on February 28th on behalf of the arbitrators, Sir A. Bateman, K.C.M.G., was nominated by the Board to act as umpire.

In their award the arbitrators and umpire declare that in view of the proved fact that the linotypes had not been introduced on December 27th and 28th, the action of the men in ceasing work without notice was premature, and that the employer's offer of December 28th was equitable. They award that the employer shall undertake to reinstate two of the compositors and permit them to qualify as operators; to give preference to those concerned in the strike when vacancies occur, if otherwise equally satisfactory; and to pay the week's wages earned by the men up to December 28th, on their accepting the award; and further, that the men shall use their best endeavours to help the employer in his business.

OTHER CASES.**Quarrymen in Leicestershire.**

On November 30th, 1905, certain terms submitted by Alderman Thomas Smith, the conciliator appointed by the Board of Trade, were accepted by the Enderby and Stoney Stanton Granite Company and the National Union of Quarrymen as a settlement of the differences between them (see GAZETTE for December, 1905, page 359). The local branch of the Settmakers' Union, who were also parties to the proceedings, declined to accept these terms, and on December 9th 112 members left their employment. The dispute had reference mainly to the working hours of piece-workers.

In March the members of the Quarrymen's Union resolved that three months' notice should be given to the Company for the withdrawal or material alteration of the working rules. Mr. T. Smith, acting on the suggestion of the executive of the Leicester Trades Council, and with the assent of both sides, re-opened negotiations with the parties. Eventually terms of settlement were accepted by the company, the Quarrymen's Union and the Settmakers' Union, on April 13th.

The new agreement, which supersedes that dated November 30th, 1905, between the company and the Quarrymen's Union, provides, among other matters, that the minimum working hours in summer months for blockers, settmakers, random-makers and kerbdressers engaged on piecework shall be 8½ a day, and that a time-check system shall be established by which the hours worked by each workman shall be duly registered and

recorded. Pending any new arrangement of the "rough" question, the settmakers resume work on the terms and conditions as to getting out blocks which prevailed before the dispute, and provision is made for arbitration on the question at the end of three months should necessity arise.

Hauliers in South Wales and Mon.

After lengthy negotiations an agreement was arrived at and signed on April 7th by the joint committee appointed by the Conciliation Board for the Coal Trade of South Wales and Monmouthshire to deal with the wages and conditions of employment of hauliers.

The agreement, which came into operation on April 9th, provides, among other matters, that hauliers aged 18 and upwards paid a rate of less than 3s. 4d. a day shall now be paid a "standard" wage of 3s. 4d. a day. In the case of hauliers under 18 the present rates are to continue, except that where they do the dooring they shall receive the extra allowance referred to below. At collieries where the hauliers now do the dooring, and receive extra payment, such payment is to continue to be paid. Where the dooring is not now done by hauliers, doorboys are to be dispensed with not later than June 1st next, and thereafter such dooring is to be done by the hauliers, who shall receive an allowance of 6d. a day when engaged on the day turn, and 3d. a day on the night turn. Where the combined rate now paid for hauling and dooring is not less than 4s. on the standard no change is to be made. Where under the increased rates above provided the combined rate would exceed 4s. the combined rate is to be limited to that amount.

The agreement is not to affect those collieries where the hauling is at present done on tonnage or other contract rates.

Owing to the varying conditions which have hitherto existed it is not possible to make a detailed comparison with previous rates.

THE COTTON SPINNING TRADE.

At the Conference of employers and operatives in the cotton spinning trade held at Manchester in August, 1905 (see GAZETTE for September, 1905, p. 259) it was arranged that the employers should pay a 5 per cent. bonus for twelve weeks from the first pay-day in September at all Federation mills, exclusive of the Bolton area, and that at the end of that time the bonus should lapse and the former rate of wages should continue up to March 1st, 1906, after which date either side should be at liberty to take whatever action it might think desirable with regard to an advance or reduction in wages. It was also agreed that steps should be taken with a view to framing some scheme for the automatic regulation of wages in future.

On March 22nd, 1906, the Amalgamated Association of Card and Blowing Room Operatives applied to the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations for a joint meeting "at a very early date and in accordance with the Brooklands Agreement," for the purpose of considering an application for an advance of wages in the whole of the districts covered by the Federation. Subsequently the representatives of the cardroom operatives in the various districts on April 2nd gave to the local Employers' Associations the month's notice required by the Brooklands Agreement for an advance of 5 per cent. These applications cover the Bolton area as well as other Federation districts.

On April 7th the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners gave a month's notice to the Employers' Federation for an advance of five per cent. on all work performed on and after May 7th, except in the Bolton area.

Proposals for the automatic regulation of wages have been framed by both sides, but have not yet been discussed at a joint meeting.

The spinners have arranged to take a ballot on April 17th, 18th and 19th, and the cardroom workers on April 21st, as to whether, in the event of the employers not conceding the advance, the operatives shall cease work.

The committee of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation have passed a resolution "that an advance in wages ought not to be agreed to unless given as the

result of the adoption of some scheme which will automatically provide for a reduction whenever the state of trade warrants such reduction." Failing this the committee have recommended the resistance of the application for an advance, and a ballot of members of the Federation is to be taken on April 23rd.

Wages in the cotton spinning trade are mainly regulated by the Oldham and Bolton Price Lists. In the Bolton area wages are at present 5 per cent. above List prices. Under the Oldham List wages are at List prices.

By the terms of the Brooklands Agreement no advance or reduction may be more or less than 5 per cent. on the current standard wages.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1905.

The number of deaths from industrial accidents reported in the year 1905 was 4,375, a total greater by 600 than that for 1904, and by 121 than the mean yearly number taken over the five years 1901-1905. The increase of 600 in 1905 over 1904 was mainly due to an increase of 476 in the number of seamen killed at sea. Of the remaining 124, a considerable explosion at a colliery in South Wales accounted for over 100; but otherwise the figures for 1905 show very little variation on those of the previous year.

The following Table shows the numbers of workpeople reported killed by accidents, connected with their employment, for each of the past five years.

Industry.	Total Number of Deaths from Industrial Accidents in					Mean for the five years 1901-1905.
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Shipping*	1,722	1,494	1,380	1,049	1,525	1,434
Mines:						
Underground	978	933	938	942	1,066	971
Surface	153	120	159	148	128	142
Total Mines	1,131	1,053	1,097	1,090	1,194	1,113
Quarries (over 20 feet deep):						
Inside	86	103	84	96	82	90
Outside	12	16	11	16	14	14
Total Quarries	98	119	95	112	96	104
Railway Service:						
Comp ny's Servants ...	539	468	470	431	424	467
Contractor's Servants ...	26	17	27	17	19	21
Factories	769	840	742	722	763	767
Workshops	13	10	6	5	12	9
Works under Sections 103-5 of Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 ...	253	260	299	291	288	278
Under Notice of Accidents Act	75	62	56	58	54	61
Total	4,626	4,323	4,172	3,775	4,375	4,254

As compared with the year 1904, the greatest increase is shown in the shipping industry, the number of seamen reported killed having risen from 1,049 to 1,525. It will be seen that the totals for this industry fluctuate considerably year by year, shipwrecks being the most variable factor, as the following statement shows:—

	Deaths by wrecks or casualties to vessels.		Deaths by other accidents.	
	1901	1905	1901	1905
...	992	...	835	...
...	775	...	730	...
...	622	...	719	...
...	361	...	758	...
...	810	...	715	...

Of the 1,194 deaths in 1905 among miners, 1,150 were connected with mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and 44 with mines under the Act relating to metalliferous mines. The actual number of accidents (some of which involved more than one death) was less in 1905 than in the preceding year, the totals being 996 and 1048 respectively, and the increased number of deaths in 1905 is largely accounted for by an explosion of firedamp in a pit in South Wales, which caused the death of over 100 persons. The most frequent cause of death in mines, however, continues to be falls of ground, and 531, or

* The figures relate to Seamen who were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. (This includes all trading vessels and about half of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards).

† Up to and including 1901 these works came under Sections 22 and 23 of Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.

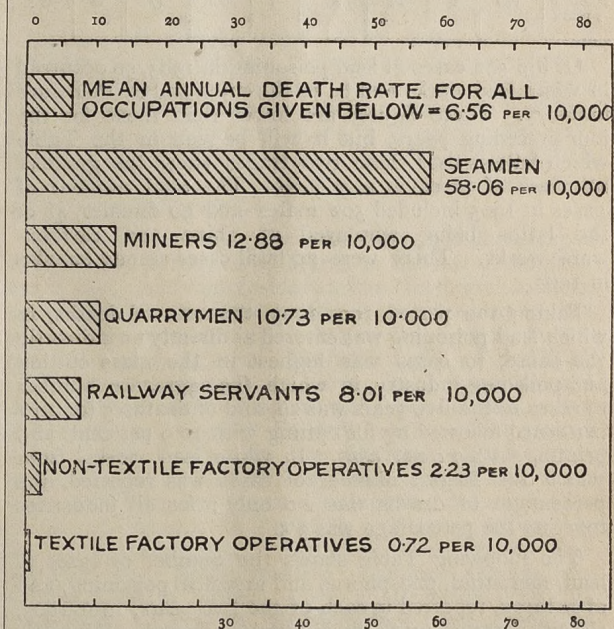
half of the deaths in underground accidents reported in 1905, were due to this cause.

Accidents to factory operatives reported in 1905 included 763 deaths (742 males and 21 females). The total is 41 higher than that for 1904, and is about the same as the mean yearly number for the five years 1901-1905. The increase in 1905 as compared with 1904 was spread over a number of industries. The greatest increase was in cotton manufacture, viz., from 28 in 1904 to 47 in 1905. The number under the heading founding and conversion of metals rose from 108 in 1904 to 125 in 1905. On the other hand, food and drink manufacture accounted for 18 fewer deaths (56 in 1904, 38 in 1905).

In the Table above, 288 deaths in 1905 are shown at works under Sections 103-5 of Factory and Workshops Act. These include 142 at docks, wharves, and quays, and 117 in connection with the construction and repairing of buildings, and the figures show little change as compared with the year 1904. Fatal accidents in workshops numbered 12 only in 1905, the mean yearly number for the five years being 9.

The number of railway servants killed by accidents has shown a downward movement during the five years included in the Table, and the total for 1905 (424) is well below the mean yearly number of 467. Of the 424 deaths in 1905, 392 were caused by accidents connected with the movement of railway vehicles. The greatest number of deaths in any one occupation occurred among permanent-way men (not including labourers), of whom 101 were killed.

In comparing the figures for the several trades in the above Table, it is important to bear in mind the numbers of workpeople engaged in the various industries, and in the following chart the results are reduced, as far as possible, to a mean annual death rate from accidents (taken over the five years 1901-05) per 10,000 employed in each trade. It will be understood, however, that these death rates are only approximately correct, as accurate figures respecting the numbers employed are not available for each of the years covered. The industries included in the Chart employed about six millions of workpeople.



The Chart shows that out of every 10,000 workpeople 6 or 7 are killed in the year by industrial accidents. The highest accident death-rate is amongst seamen (58 per 10,000) and it is found that in this industry the rate is much higher in sailing vessels than in steamships, the figures being 139 and 47 respectively. The lowest death-rates are shown in the case of industries under the Factory and Workshop Act. In textile factories the yearly rate is less than 1 per 10,000 operatives, while in non-textile factories it is somewhat higher (2 per 10,000).

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN 1905.*

AMONG the diseases contracted by workpeople in factories and workshops, lead poisoning is the one most frequently reported. During the year 1905 the number of cases of lead poisoning was 592, as compared with 597 in 1904. The numbers have declined year by year since 1901, as will be seen in the Table below. The number of deaths, however, shows some fluctuation, the greatest number being 34 in 1901, and the least 14 in 1902. During 1905, 23 deaths were reported. In addition to the cases of lead poisoning contracted in factories and workshops, 163 cases (28 deaths) of lead poisoning affecting house painters and plumbers were reported in 1905.*

The cases of other forms of industrial poisoning (mercurial, phosphorus and arsenical) numbered 12 in 1905, as compared with 9 in 1904. The mean yearly number for the period 1901-1905 was 16. One death (from phosphorus poisoning) was reported in 1905.

Anthrax showed a rise in the number of cases reported from 39 in 1901 to 59 in 1905, with an increase also in the number of deaths, viz., from 10 in 1901 to 18 in 1905.

The above facts are summarised in the following Table, in which also it is shown that, although cases of anthrax are much fewer in number than those of lead poisoning, the proportion of deaths to cases is much higher.

Summary Table.

Year.	Lead Poisoning.+				Other Forms of Poisoning.				Anthrax.			
	Cases.		Deaths.		Cases.		Deaths.		Cases.		Deaths.	
	No.	Per cent. of cases.	No.	Per cent. of cases.	No.	Per cent. of cases.	No.	Per cent. of cases.	No.	Per cent. of cases.	No.	Per cent. of cases.
1901	863	34	3.9	34	1	2.9	39	10	25.6			
1902	629	14	2.2	14	2	14.3	38	9	23.7			
1903	614	19	3.1	13	—	—	47	12	25.5			
1904	597	25	4.4	9	1	11.1	50	10	20.0			
1905	592	23	3.9	12	1	8.3	59	18	30.5			
Mean of 5 years	659	23	3.5	16	1	6.2	47	12	25.5			

Of the 592 cases of lead poisoning in 1905, 90 occurred in white lead works and 84 in the china and earthenware industry. These figures are lower than those for the four preceding years, but it will be seen in the Table which follows that these two trades show the greatest numbers of cases in any year. The total number of cases in 1905 included 502 males and 90 females, 48 of the latter being employed at china and earthenware works. There were no fatal cases among females in 1905.

Taking the period 1901-1905, the ratio of deaths, in which lead poisoning was entered as directly or indirectly the cause, to cases was highest in the glass cutting and polishing industry, in which the aggregate number of cases in the five years was 26, and of deaths 5 (or 19.2 per cent.) followed by file cutting with 10.9 per cent. and printing with 7.9 per cent. In white lead works, from which the largest number of cases was reported, the percentage of deaths was 2.0 only; for all industries together the percentage was 3.5.

The following Table shows the number of cases of lead, mercurial, phosphorus and arsenical poisoning, and of anthrax, reported in each of the five years, 1901-1905, classified according to the industries affected. With the exception of the figures for 1905, which have been compiled from the monthly Tables published in the LABOUR

* Section 73 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (previously Section 29 of the Act of 1895), requires "every medical practitioner attending on or called in to visit a patient whom he believes to be suffering from lead, phosphorus, arsenical or mercurial poisoning or anthrax contracted in a factory or workshop," to notify the case to the Chief Inspector of Factories. By the same section the duty is imposed on the occupier of sending written notice of every such case to the inspector and certifying surgeon of the district. Lead poisoning in industries, therefore, outside the Factory Act, as in house painting, or if contracted from contaminated drinking-water, is not notifiable. As, however, lead poisoning among house painters and plumbers is common and industrial in origin, many such cases are notified, notwithstanding the limitation of the section. † Cases reported under the Factory and Workshop Act.

GAZETTE, the statistics are extracted from the Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Factories. The number of cases shown for any one year is the same as the number of persons attacked, second notifications of persons already included in a Return within the preceding twelve months not being regarded as fresh cases. Such notifications numbered 17 in 1905.

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	Cases.					Deaths.				
	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Lead Poisoning.										
Smelting of Metals	54	28	37	33	24	3	...	2	1	1
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	17	12	11	7	9	...	...	...	...	...
Printing	23	19	13	15	19	1	...	2	...	4
File Cutting	46	27	24	20	12	7	1	2	4	...
Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware	10	11	14	10	14	...	...	...	...	1
White Lead Works	189	143	109	116	92	7	1	2	2	1
Red and Yellow Lead Works	14	13	6	11	10	...	...	...	...	...
China and Earthenware	106	87	97	106	84	5	4	3	4	3
Litho Transfer Works	7	2	4	...	3	3	2	...	...	...
Glass Cutting and Polishing	11	8	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enamelling of Iron Plates	9	3	4	3	2	...	1	...	...	...
Electrical Accumulator Works	49	16	28	33	27	1	1	...	...	1
Paints and Colours	56	46	39	32	57	...	1	1	1	1
Coach Making	65	63	74	49	56	4	1	5	4	3
Shipbuilding	28	15	24	48	32	1	1	...	...	2
Paint used in other Industries	61	44	46	27	49	...	1	1	3	2
Other Industries	118	92	81	84	99	2	1	...	...	7
Total Lead Poisoning*	863	629	614	597	592	34	14	19	26	23
House Painting and Plumbing†	169	179	201	227	163	4	32	39	39	28

Other Forms of Poisoning.

Industry.	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Mercurial Poisoning—					
Barometer and Thermometer Making	6	1	3	1	...
Furriers' Processes	4	2	1	3	...
Other Industries	8	5	4	2	4
Total	18	8	8	3	8
Phosphorus Poisoning—					
Lucifer Match Works	4	1	...	1	3
Other Industries ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Total	4	1	...	1	3
Arsenic Poisoning—					
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	3	5	3	3	...
Other Industries	9	...	2	2	1
Total	12	5	5	5	1
Total, Other Forms of Poisoning	34	14	13	9	12

Anthrax.

Industry.	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Wool Sorting	3	3	5	2	4
Wool Combing	3	9	15	10	30
Handling of Horsehair	9	10	7	12	7
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fell-mongers, &c.)	20	11	12	18	17
Other Industries	4	5	8	8	1
Total Anthrax	39	38	47	50	59

LABOUR DISPUTES IN AUSTRIA.†

ACCORDING to a report recently issued by the Austrian Labour Department, a greater number of strikes took place in 1904 than in any of the years 1900-1903. So far, however, as concerns the number of strikers and the number of working days lost by strikers, the figures for 1904 were exceeded by those for 1900, the year in which a great strike occurred in the coal-mining industry. The figures for the five years 1900-4 are given in the following statement:—

Year.	No. of Strikes.	Number of Strikers.	Number of days lost by Strikers.
1900	303	105,128	3,483,963
1901	270	24,870	1,577,744
1902	264	37,471	2,840,046
1903	324	46,215	500,567
1904	414	64,227	606,629

* Reportable under Factory and Workshop Act. † Not reportable under Factory and Workshop Act. ‡ Die Arbeitseinstellungen und Aussperkungen in Oesterreich während des Jahres 1904. K. K. Arbeitsstatistisches Amt im Handelsministerium. Vienna: A. Holder, 1. Rotenturmstrasse 13, 1906. Price 2s.

In addition to the persons shown in the above Table, there were 9,301 workpeople in 1904 (as compared with 5,245 in 1903) who suffered enforced idleness owing to strikes, although not themselves on strike. The working days lost by such persons in 1904 amounted to 60,029 (compared with 72,244 in the preceding year).

The trades most affected by strikes in 1904 were building and mining. In the building trades, 15,967 persons struck, the number of working days lost by them being 116,950, compared with 43,963 days lost in 1903 by 9,684 strikers. In mining the number of persons directly affected was 19,614, the aggregate duration amounting to 184,378 working days, or more than 2½ times the duration in 1903. In the chemical, glass, pottery, &c., trades, 5,700 persons went on strike, or more than twice the number in 1903, but the aggregate duration of these disputes (77,158 working days) was rather less than in the previous year. In metal, engineering, &c., trades, 5,611 persons lost 46,198 working days by strikes. In the textile and clothing trades the numbers in 1904 were less than in 1903, when the aggregate duration of strikes was greater in these groups than in any other.

As has been the case in each year since statistics have been published, the large majority of the disputes arose out of questions of wages, and especially through demands for increases of wages.

The number striking against a decrease of wages fell from 4,847 in 1903 to 3,128 in 1904, but strikes for an advance affected 69,158 persons in 1904 as compared with 39,738 in 1903, and on other wages questions the numbers were 21,472 in 1904 against 10,113 in the previous year. The number affected by disputes as to employment of particular classes or persons showed a slight decrease. On other questions the figures for 1904 were considerably above those for the previous year.

The results of strikes appear to have been brought to a termination entirely in favour of either workpeople or employers to a greater extent than in 1903, strikes affecting only 41 per cent. of the workpeople ending in compromises in 1904, compared with 68 per cent. in the previous year. The balance of success was in both years distinctly with the employers. The figures are compared in the following Table:—

Result.	Workpeople directly affected by Strikes.			
	Number.		Per cent.	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
In favour of Workpeople	11,925	4,620	18.57	10.00
In favour of Employers	25,739	10,159	40.07	21.98
Compromised	26,563	31,436	41.36	68.02
Total	64,227	46,215	100.00	100.00

The lockouts are separately tabulated in the report. In 1904, 23,742 workpeople were directly affected in six lockouts. Of these, the only one of importance was a dispute in the building trades at Vienna affecting 23,305 workpeople.

RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN MARCH.

ACCORDING to the Returns received from the Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, and from the Local Correspondents of the Department, the amount of distress due to unemployment in March showed a further decrease as compared with February, and was much less than a year ago.

From the date of the opening of the Registers to the end of March, the total number of persons who had made application to 37 Distress Committees in London and neighbourhood, and to 87 Committees in the rest of the United Kingdom, was 116,790, of whom 52,068 were in London and neighbourhood, 55,650 in the rest of England and Wales, 8,045 in Scotland, and 1,027 in Ireland. The number of cases that had been investigated

was 93,939, and the results are known in the case of 88,257, of whom 15,667 were found to be ineligible or not suitable for assistance under the Act.

The classes of workpeople most generally affected by distress were those connected with the building trades and general labourers. The returns show the occupations of over 97,000 of the applicants. Of these about 29 per cent. were reported as skilled, and about 71 per cent. as labourers. Of the skilled men nearly half belonged to the building trades, and one-tenth to the engineering and metal trades.

Altogether 28,621 persons received employment-relief during March, their total earnings amounting to £48,251*, or an average of about 33s. 9d. per head for the month. In February the total earnings were £41,292*, or 33s. 2d. per head, and in January £28,524*, or 28s. 9d. per head. The average number of days worked during March was 9.2. In March, 1905, the returns showed that 26,805 persons received employment-relief, the average number of days worked being about 10.

Gross Number of Unemployed Registered.†

The figures relating to the number of persons registered in the different districts of the United Kingdom are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Boroughs or Urban Districts.	Number of Applicants or Registered up to end of March.	District.	No. of Boroughs or Urban Districts.	Number of Applicants or Registered up to end of March.
London District			Rest of United Kingdom		
London Boroughs—			N. Counties	6	3,056
East	5	9,370	Yorkshire	11	11,932
South	9	13,786	Lanes. and	21	14,003
North	4	4,524	Cheshire	17	9,080
West	6	7,307	Mid. Counties	3	2,335
Central	4	2,418	E. Counties	7	4,207
Total London Boroughs	28	37,405	S.E. Counties S. & S.W. Counties	7	8,811
Outer London... ..	9	14,663	Wales & Mon. Scotland	4	2,226
			Ireland	3	1,027
Total, London District	37	52,068	Total, Rest of United Kingdom	87	64,722

London and Neighbourhood.—The total number of applicants to 37 Distress Committees registered up to the end of March was 52,068. Of the 37,405 applicants in the county of London, 13,786 were in South London, 9,370 in East London, and 7,307 in Western Boroughs. Of the 14,663 applicants in outer London, 4,671 were in West Ham, 1,829 in East Ham, 1,667 in Tottenham, and 1,653 in Edmonton.

Rest of the United Kingdom.—Of the 55,650 unemployed registered up to the end of March in the rest of England and Wales, 3,056 were resident in the Northern Counties, including 1,082 at Sunderland, 673 at Newcastle, and 517 at Tynemouth. In Yorkshire the figures include 3,387 at Leeds, 2,352 at Sheffield, 1,963 at Bradford, 1,197 at Hull, and 1,175 at York. In Lancashire and Cheshire there were registered 3,075 at Liverpool, 2,212 at Manchester, 1,509 at Salford, 1,228 at Bolton, and 1,063 at Stockport. In the Midland Counties the figures include 2,361 at Birmingham, 1,596 at Leicester, 795 at Northampton, 737 at Nottingham, 624 at Derby, and 519 at Burton. In Norwich, 1,588 were registered, and at Yarmouth 554. In the South-Eastern and Southern and South-Western Counties the figures include 2,900 at Bristol, 2,052 at Brighton, 1,924 at Portsmouth, 1,219 at Southampton, and 1,162 at Plymouth. At Cardiff 1,041 were registered, and in Swansea 706. In Scotland the applicants numbered 2,656 at Edinburgh, 2,457 at Glasgow, and 1,036 at Aberdeen. The Irish figures include 928 at Belfast.

* In the case of men employed by the London Central Body at labour colonies, the amount includes allowances to families and cost of maintenance of the men. † It should be understood that these figures relate to the total number of persons registered since the opening of the distress registers, and some of these are known to have obtained work since the date of their application, in addition to those who have received employment-relief. As in many cases, however, no effective provision has been made for recording the names of those who may have obtained work, the exact numbers to be deducted on that account cannot be stated. In many cases also the work obtained has been of a quite temporary character.

Employment-Relief in March.

The extent of the employment-relief given in the different districts is summarised in the following Table.

Table with columns: District, No. of Boroughs or Urban Districts, Total No. of Men given Employment-Relief in March, Total Amount of Wages earned in March by those given Employment-Relief, Average Amount earned per head in March.

London and Neighbourhood.—Work was provided by the London Central Body for 2,983 men at Chingford, Long Grove, Hollesley Bay, Osea Island, the Garden City, Farnbridge, and in the Royal and London County Council Parks.

Local work was provided for 2,026 men in 14 Metropolitan Boroughs, and for 5,668 men in 9 Boroughs or Urban Districts bordering on London.

Rest of the United Kingdom.—Work for the unemployed was provided in 71 towns by the Local Authorities or Distress Committees or by both. In the Northern Counties employment-relief was given at 4 towns, including Tynemouth, where 345 were employed, and Newcastle, where 688 were employed.

GERMAN LABOUR COLONIES IN 1905.

LABOUR colonies in Germany are institutions for the reception and employment of unemployed workmen. The first of these colonies was founded in 1882, and there are now 33 in the German Empire and one in the United Kingdom,* under control of a Central Board.

According to a report† recently issued on the work of the labour colonies in 1905, 10,009 persons were received during the year, as compared with 9,819 in 1904, and 10,046 in 1903.

* German Industrial and Farm Colony, Libury Hall, Munden, Ware, Herts.

Admission to the colonies was refused to 2,172 persons in 1905, as compared with 2,481 in the previous year; 858 of the refusals in 1905 were due to want of room, 212 persons were refused admission as not belonging to the district, 87 persons were not admitted on account of being either too young or too old, 140 on account of illness, 115 through incapacity for work, 60 owing to intemperance, while 157 persons were refused admission because they were on the "Black List,"* and 543 for "other reasons."

Of the 10,009 persons admitted in 1905, 4,113 entered a colony for the first time, 2,066 had been in a colony once before, 1,200 had been in a colony on two, 750 on three, 508 on four, 334 on five, 259 on six, and 779 on seven or more previous occasions.

Of the 10,009 persons admitted to the colonies in 1905, 3,246 (or 32 per cent.) are described simply as "workmen; " 962 had previously been employed either in agriculture or in fishing, 847 in the metal and engineering trades, 801 in the building trades, and 731 in commerce and transport.

Compared with the previous year, the distribution amongst occupations of persons admitted to the colonies remained about the same, except that the number of persons who had previously been engaged either in agriculture or in fishing declined from 1,174 in 1904 to 962 in 1905.

The number of persons who left the colonies in 1905 was 10,055, compared with 9,891 in the previous year. The circumstances under which they left are shown in the following Table:—

Table showing Number of Departures for 1905 and 1904, categorized by reason such as Discharged at own desire, Returned to their families, Discharged on account of sickness, etc.

On December 31st, 1905, the total accommodation in the colonies was for 4,256 persons, an increase of 113 on the previous year. The number of persons accommodated varied from 3,893 in January to 2,339 in July.

The aggregate number of days worked by colonists in 1905 amounted to 87,272.

REPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD ON LABOUR BUREAUX.

THE Unemployed Workmen Act gives to Central Bodies and to Distress Committees outside London certain powers in regard to Labour Exchanges, and with a view to assisting these Bodies the Local Government Board in September last instructed one of their Inspectors to make inquiry as to the working of existing Labour Bureaux and to report to them. This Report has now been published.†

The Report gives a short description of the 21 Municipal Bureaux known to be in existence at the date of the inquiry, and of three non-Municipal Bureaux, together with Tables based on the Returns made by certain Bureaux to the Labour Department.

The Report states that the Municipal Bureaux described therein divide themselves naturally into two groups, the first comprising those where little if anything

* As a disciplinary measure, to meet the case of gross misconduct, recourse is had to the system of entering a man's name in a "Black List," a copy of which is sent to all labour colonies throughout Germany.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT PRICES OF 1900.

A RETURN* has just been issued showing, for each of the years 1900-5, the estimated value of imports into the United Kingdom and exports therefrom of articles of British and Irish production, at the prices prevailing in 1900. Changes in the imports and exports from year to year are usually measured by the changes in the total values as declared by importers and exporters.

The general result is to show that imports have increased in volume by 9 per cent. in the year 1905 as compared with 1900, and the British and Irish exports by 23 per cent. In the same period the declared values have increased by 8 per cent. in the case of imports, and by 13 per cent. in the case of British and Irish exports.

The following Table summarises the results of the calculation:—

Table comparing Imports and British and Irish Exports for years 1900-1905, showing Values as declared and Estimated Values at Prices of 1900.

It will be observed that, as measured in terms of the prices of 1900, both imports and British and Irish exports have increased yearly in value, and that the increase has been considerably greater on the whole than is indicated by the figures of declared values hitherto published.

It is proposed to continue the calculation from year to year, and in subsequent years to calculate the re-exports of Foreign and Colonial produce in the same way.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

The emigration season to Canada has commenced, and suitable emigrants should start now. There is a good demand for competent farm labourers, general labourers, navvies for the hundreds of miles of new railway that are being constructed, and female servants for town or country; and a fair demand for mechanics, especially for those in the building trades, and mainly in the Eastern Provinces.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Cheap assisted or nominated passages are granted to suitable emigrants by New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia. The principal demand is for experienced farm labourers and female servants. The Report for 1905 of the Government Labour Bureau for Western Australia shows that there is very little demand for any kind of labour, except for farm labourers and female servants. In Perth "no manufacturing trade has had a very busy year, except the order tailoring trade. The boot trade has declined to a very great degree. . . .

* Cd. 2894. Price 2d. Wyman & Sons. † The figures for 1905, being based on the Monthly Accounts of Trade and Navigation, are subject to correction, but it is not anticipated that the final results, when calculated, will differ to any appreciable extent from those above given.

more is done than to register the names of any applicants who may present themselves, and to supply to any employer who may think it worth while to patronise the Bureau, one or more of the persons registered who may appear suitable. The second group is characterised by active effort, more or less successful, to meet the demand of workmen for suitable employment, and of employers for suitable workmen.

The Report mentions five Municipal Bureaux which appear to belong to the first class, and in the case of all of which the bureau is an adjunct to some other department of the municipal work. At these 5 bureaux, 8,550 applicants were registered in the 12 months ended August 31st, 1905, and there were 380 offers of employment. Employment was obtained for 701 persons, 200 with private employers, and 501 under local authorities. The employment was temporary in the case of 505.

In the second class, the bureaux are mostly in charge of superintendents, who give their whole time to the work or whose duties at the bureaux take precedence of other work. At 14 Municipal Bureaux in this class, there were 45,987 applicants registered during the year, and employment was obtained for 15,431 persons, 9,074 under private employers and 6,357 under Local Authorities.

The information obtained supports the conclusion that the chief field of usefulness of labour bureaux is likely to be found in the less highly organised trades. "Trade Unionists and large employers alike are benevolent in their attitude towards labour bureaux, but are equally of opinion that to them personally the bureaux can be of little service." The report states that "the personality of the superintendent is inevitably the most important factor in the business of a labour bureau." Reference is made to the question of intercommunication between different bureaux, and the opinion is expressed that if bureaux should increase in number in any industrial area, it would be natural and advantageous that a central exchange for the area should be established to act as a clearing house and centre of information.

IRISH MIGRATORY LABOURERS IN 1905.

A REPORT* has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland which deals with the annual movement of a large number of agricultural workers mainly from Connaught and parts of Ulster, who find temporary employment, principally as potato diggers and harvesters, in England and Scotland, and who, at the close of the season, return to their homes.

On the evidence obtained from various sources, it is estimated that, approximately, 25,000 migratory labourers went to England and Scotland during the season of 1905. Of these over 20,000 went to England while about 4,500 went to Scotland. The total for 1905 shows an estimated falling off of over 2,000 as compared with 1904. In recent years the number has been slowly decreasing, and it may be said that, regarding all the sources of evidence, there was a marked falling off in the years from 1880 to 1888, that between 1888 and 1901 the numbers increased, and that since 1901 the numbers have been declining, the decrease being greater in the past year than in any of those immediately preceding.

It would appear that, roughly, three-fourths of the migratory labourers in 1905 were natives of the Province of Connaught, and that of this number two-thirds came from the county of Mayo.

The Report gives particulars of the number of migratory labourers who are landholders, with the size of their holdings, and describes the distribution of these labourers in England and Scotland, conditions of work and living, earnings and savings. With reference to the savings made, and remitted or carried home to Ireland at the close of the season, it is stated that only an estimate can be formed, but that, regarding the wages earned by the various groups, the cost of living and the expenditure incurred in journeyings and search for work, it seems probable that the savings of the migratory labourers remitted or brought back to Ireland amount to not less than £275,000.

* Report on Irish Migratory Labourers. Cd. 2865. Price 3d.

There is a considerable amount of unskilled labour out of work, and skilled artisans are not fully and regularly employed." In other districts, except Northam and Blackwood, the supply of labour is quite equal to the demand, and at Coolgardie and Midland Junction, many mechanics and unskilled labourers are out of work. In several districts in the South-West there is a good demand for competent farm hands during the busy season, especially those accustomed to machinery.

New Zealand.

Reduced passages to New Zealand at £10 a head are granted to persons with a small capital, to navvies without capital who are able to work at railway construction, and to their wives and children, and to female servants and experienced farm labourers who will possess £5 on landing in the Colony. There is a good demand now for all these persons. Applications must be made as early as possible to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The building, engineering, clothing and boot trades, sawmillers, and brickmakers have been generally busy, and in country districts work has been plentiful for milkers, harvesters, haymakers and general farm hands.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one may enter Cape Colony unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured employment beforehand, according to a prescribed form of agreement. Though the demand for men has improved in a few trades, the labour market is still well supplied, and many unqualified mechanics are unable to find work. There is, therefore, now no opening for more mechanics, unless they go out to situations engaged for them, or have means of their own sufficient to keep them for some months; men in the building trades especially are warned against going. In any case there is no opening for indifferent workmen or unskilled labourers.

Natal.—Labour is plentiful in all trades, especially in the building trade, and persons—other than female servants—are warned against going to Natal in search of employment unless they are nominated by friends in the Colony.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit, which is not granted to anyone unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured *bonâ fide* employment beforehand. There are a great many persons out of employment in Johannesburg, Pretoria, and other towns. The number of applications from men of all trades and professions has largely increased. The greatest difficulty prevails in finding any means of livelihood for them. The cost of living remains very high, and there is an increasing number of respectable men and women seeking relief. All persons therefore are strongly warned against going there now on the chance of getting work. Female servants and the wives of families of British settlers may obtain assisted or reduced passages to the Colony.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit, and no one can obtain this permit unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured *bonâ fide* employment beforehand. The building trade at Bloemfontein has been very bad, and many carpenters and bricklayers are unemployed. There is no demand for skilled mechanics in other trades, or for general labourers, and many persons are out of work. Country districts are suffering as well as the towns.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 97 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries. (See also p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

FRANCE.

*Employment in February.**—Owing to the severe weather, unemployment in the building trades showed no diminution. Metal workers, on the whole, continued

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

fairly well employed. In the textile trades employment was somewhat unsatisfactory in the Rouen and Roanne districts, but remained good in the Nord and the Vosges, at Rheims, and in the western centres. Silk factories at Lyons continued busy. Employment began to improve in the garment making trades, and in the boot and shoe and hat trades. Printers and bookbinders continued satisfactorily employed for the time of year. A large number of tanners were out of work in the Tarn centres, but at Annonay employment was rather more plentiful. The number of unemployed vineyard labourers in the south of France was still large, but with gardeners employment improved. Winter forestry work had ceased in some centres.

Out of 196,337 members of 1,204 Trade Unions which made returns to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment of their members during February, 22,517, or 11.5 per cent., were described in the returns as out of work in the month, as compared with 11.6 per cent. in the previous month, and 11.0 per cent. in February, 1905. Returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais and Nord departments are not included. (As regards these figures, see note in previous column.)

*Coal Mining in February.**—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in February was 5.93, as compared with 5.99 in the previous month and 5.95 in February, 1905. Taking surface and underground workers together, 68.50 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week) and 31.50 per cent. from 5 to 6 days per week, the corresponding percentages for the preceding month being 96.74 and 3.26, and for February, 1905, 91.46 and 8.43 respectively. These figures relate to over 150,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines, and were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners.

*Labour Disputes in February.**—Sixty-eight disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun during the month, as compared with 54 in January, and with 79 in February, 1905. The number of workpeople who took part in 62 of the new disputes was 12,950, as compared with 10,052 workpeople who participated in 52 of the January disputes, and with 17,781 who took part in 71 of the disputes in February, 1905. The greatest number of disputes occurred in the textile trades, viz., 17; the metal trades had 8, mining 7, and the leather and transport trades 6 each. Out of 57 new and old disputes which came to an end in February, 16 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 17 in favour of the employers, while 24 were compromised.

The most important dispute during the month occurred in the Lyons district, where 4,500 tulle makers were on strike from February 12th to March 1st; this dispute was eventually settled by a compromise.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in February.**—Six cases of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having taken place during February. The initiative was taken by the Justice of the Peace in 5 cases and by the workpeople in 1 case. Committees of conciliation were formed in each case, and 5 of the disputes were settled by this means.

Strikes of Dockers and Stevedores at Boulogne and Rouen.†—A strike of dockers employed in discharging coal at Boulogne lasted from March 29th to April 5th, when work was resumed unconditionally. A strike of coal stevedores at Rouen was declared on April 4th, but work was resumed four days later.

(For particulars of coal mining disputes in France, see p. 99).

* *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† Based on despatches from H.M. Consul at Calais, dated April 2nd and 5th 1906, and from H.M. Consul-General at Havre dated April 4th and 9th, 1906.

GERMANY.

*Employment in February.**—On the whole the state of employment in February was decidedly favourable. This was due to a number of causes. The mild weather, which permitted work to be carried on in the open during the whole month, had a favourable effect on employment in the building and allied trades. The spring revival in these trades, at least in northern Germany, consequently commenced earlier than usual. As in January, the tariff changes that come into force on March 1st had the effect of increasing production of articles for export before that date.

The metal, engineering, electrical, chemical, and textile trades were very busy, partly as an effect of these tariff alterations. Owing to the general industrial activity there was a strong demand for coal, and coalminers were fully employed. In other trades, such as the ready-made clothing and printing trades, the state of employment was largely determined by seasonal influences, in some cases favourably and in others adversely.

Labour Disputes in March.—According to the Berlin journal, *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, 78 disputes began in March, as compared with 43 in the previous month. Of these 78 disputes, 14 were in the metal and engineering trades, 10 each in the building and woodworking trades, 8 in the clothing and cleaning trades, 6 in mining and smelting, 6 also in the transport trades, and 5 in the textile trades.

Strike of Seamen at Hamburg.†—The Hamburg branch of the German Seamen's Union has declared a strike amongst its members at that port against shipping in Hamburg owned vessels unless the demands of the Union for higher wages be granted by the owners. The latter have as yet declined entering into any negotiations with the Union. So far, the strike has not had the effect of preventing Hamburg vessels from obtaining sufficient men, and arrangements have been made by the ship-owners for shipping the men without taking them to the shipping offices at that port. By a resolution passed on April 11th by the Hamburg Seamen's Union, the strike has been extended to vessels belonging to Bremen owners, as the latter have likewise refused to enter into any negotiations with the Union.

BELGIUM.‡

Employment: December-February.—Returns made to the Belgian Labour Department by Trade Unions for each of the months December, 1905, and January and February, 1906, show the number and percentage of the members described in the Returns as unemployed towards the second half of the respective months to have been as follows:—

Month.	Unions Reporting.		Members described in the Returns as Unemployed.	
	Number.	Membership.	Number.	Per cent.
December, 1905	121	29,420	645	2.2
January, 1906... ..	139	31,262	812	2.6
February, 1906	151	32,678	832	2.5

The returns made by the Trade Unions do not include any figures as to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers. (As regards the figures shown in this Table, see note under heading "Labour Abroad" on p. 106).

Labour Disputes: December-February.—Sixty disputes (one of which is described as a lock-out), affecting a total of 11,479 workpeople (8,972 directly and 2,507 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in the period December, 1905, to February, 1906. Twenty-four of these, or two-fifths of the total number of disputes, occurred in the textile trades, 8 were in mining and quarrying, 5 in the woodworking, and 5 in the leather trades. Fifty-four disputes (including certain which began before December) came to an end in the period under review, and in the case of

* *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department).
† Based on a despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg dated April 11th, 1906.
‡ *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

53 of these the results were ascertained. Sixteen disputes, involving 1,196 workpeople, terminated in favour of the workpeople; 28, involving 6,189 workpeople, in favour of the employers; and 9, involving 1,847 workpeople, were compromised.

AUSTRIA.*

Employment in February.—The number of applications for situations made to public and private labour registries, relief stations, and other agencies for procuring employment, which reported to the Austrian Labour Department was 67,504 in the month of February, the number of situations offered was 45,038, and the number of situations found for applicants 27,466. The number of applications per 100 situations offered, and the number of situations filled per 100 applications are shown below for the three periods named:—

		Feb., 1906.	Jan., 1906.	Feb., 1905.
No. of Applications per 100 Situations offered.	Males	228	218	324
	Females	106	98	117
	Total	150	144	185
No. of Situations filled per 100 Applications for Situations.	Males	28	32†	22
	Females	56	60†	53
	Total	41	44	35

In so far as can be judged by these figures, therefore, employment in February would appear to have been not quite so good as in the previous month, but considerably better than in February, 1905.

NORWAY.

Employment in February.‡—The proportion of members described as unemployed by the Trade Unions forwarding returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics was as follows at the end of February, 1906. For comparison, the figures for January, 1906, and February, 1905, are also given, and it will be seen that, on the whole, the returns would indicate a slight improvement in February, 1906, as compared with a month and a year before. (As regards this Table see note under heading "Labour Abroad on p. 106.")

	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Feb. 1906.	Jan. 1906.	Feb. 1905.	Feb. 1906.	Jan. 1906.	Feb. 1905.
All Unions	11,008	11,783	11,524	5.3	5.7	5.7
Metal Workers & Moulders	5,278	5,094	5,659	1.6	1.8	2.5
Printers	1,146	1,088	1,095	6.2	5.6	7.5
Painters, Masons, & Bricklayers (inc. Labourers)	484	751	682	48.1	45.7	32.9
Bakers	562	540	700	11.4	11.1	7.0
Boot and Shoe Makers	474	449	375	3.2	1.6	3.3
Woodworkers and Cabinet Makers	1,280	1,096	611	7.5	8.6	7.3

ITALY.

Labour Disputes in February.§—Fifty-nine disputes were reported to the Italian Labour Department as having occurred during February, as compared with 53 in the previous month. The number of persons directly affected by 39 of these was 8,590; in January 5,274 were affected by 34 of the disputes. The largest number of disputes took place in the textile trades, viz., 10, in 9 of which 2,240 persons were involved; 9 disputes, 8 of which involved 2,870 persons, were in the building trades; 9 disputes also took place in the transport trades, 5 of these involving 2,280 persons; while 7, involving 780 persons, were in the metal trades. Out of 42 disputes which came to an end in the month, 10 (9 of which involved 3,320 workpeople) terminated in favour of the workpeople, 19 (16 of which involved 4,043 workpeople) in favour of the employers, while 6 (involving 1,170 workpeople) were compromised. In 7 disputes (involving 997 persons) the results were not stated.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.
† Revised figures.
‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Labour Department.
§ *Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro* (Journal of the Italian Labour Department)

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN MARCH.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 528 Returns—451 from Employers, 55 from Trade Unions, and 22 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good during March, and was better than a year ago, the improvement being general, with slight exceptions. Compared with a month ago little change was shown. The number of days worked was greater than in any March since 1900.

Returns relating to 1,366 pits employing 584,461 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended March 24th, 1906, was 5.50, as compared with 5.54 during February, 1906, and 5.10 in March, 1905.

Of the 584,461 workpeople covered by the Returns 507,926 (or 86.9 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended March 24th, and of these 398,406 (or 68.2 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The improvement, compared with a year ago, was greatest in North and South Wales, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Gloucester and Somerset, where the increases in the average number of days worked ranged from .52 to .72 of a day. Compared with a month ago there were slight decreases in 12 districts and slight increases in 4 districts.

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

Table showing average time worked by pits in various districts (England & Wales, Scotland, Ireland) for March 1906, February 1906, and March 1905, including columns for days worked and percentage changes.

In the Northern Counties employment was good generally, but in West Yorkshire one-third of the workpeople were employed at collieries working less than five days per week. Cokemen were well employed.

In the Midlands employment was good on the whole, but in the Leicester district short time was worked, and a few hewers remained out of employment.

In Wales and Scotland employment was good generally. In South Wales nearly five and nine-tenths days per week were worked.

From Returns relating to nearly 370,000 workpeople the following Table has been compiled, showing the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged.

Table showing average number of days worked per week by collieries in four weeks ended March 24th, 1906, for various coal types (Anthracite, Coking, Gas, House, Manufacturing, Steam).

Employment was better than a year ago in pits producing each description of coal. The greatest increase in the average number of days worked is shown by pits producing anthracite coal, and the smallest increase by pits producing gas and coking coal. For each of the periods under review, steam and coking coal pits worked a higher number of days than the general average, while pits producing house coal worked less than the general average.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in March, 1906, amounted to 4,812,256 tons, as compared with 4,054,149 tons in February, 1906, and 3,927,228 tons in March, 1905.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 93 returns—72 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in iron mines, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. In shale mines employment continued fair, but was not quite so good as a year ago.

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

Employment was generally dull in slate and granite quarries, fair in limestone quarries, and quiet in other quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended March 24th the average weekly number of days worked by all mines and open works covered by the Returns was 5.85, as compared with 5.86 a month ago, and 5.84 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Table summarizing iron mining returns by districts (Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, Scotland, etc.) showing days worked and percentage changes.

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 95.1 per cent. were employed in mines working twenty-two or more days during the four weeks ended March 24th, as compared with 94.2 per cent. a month ago, and 90.6 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,165 men were employed in the four weeks ended March 24th, as compared with 3,192 a month ago, and 3,153 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked in the four weeks ended March 24th was 5.52, as compared with 5.61 a month ago, and 5.81 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued to improve in tin and copper mines in Cornwall, with the exception of those in the Calstock district, while in mines in the Tavistock district of Devonshire employment was dull.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 221 Returns—203 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 6 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works in March continued good, and was slightly better than a month ago. It was considerably better than a year ago, 9.2 per cent. more workers being employed at the works covered by the Returns received.

The total volume of employment (i.e. numbers employed multiplied by the average number of shifts worked) during the week ended March 24th, 1906, at the 203 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.4 per cent. greater than during the week ended February 24th, 1906, and 10.7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 522,500, as compared with 520,600 a month ago, and 472,200 a year ago.

Large table showing employment and shifts worked in iron and steel works by departments (Open-Hearth Melting, Bessemer Converters, etc.) and districts (Northumberland & Durham, Sheffield, etc.).

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in Flintshire and Denbighshire. In Weardale it was fairly good, with the mines still working only five days a week.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was bad in North Wales, with the exception of the Llanberis district. In Argyllshire employment was dull, and five days a week were still worked.

Granite.—Employment continued dull in Aberdeen-shire. In Devonshire and Cornwall it continued bad, but it was a little better than a month ago in certain quarries. It was fairly good in Leicestershire.

Limestone.—Employment was fair in Derbyshire, Wear-dale and North Wales, and good in the Cleveland district and Cumberland. In the Bath stone quarries it was better than a month ago, when it was reported as slack. A slight improvement occurred in the Plymouth district, where, however, employment remained quiet.

Other Stone.—Employment was good in chert quarries in Derbyshire, where overtime continued to be worked. It was slack in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries. In grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was fair, and better than a month ago, and it was fair in sandstone quarries in North Wales. At Gateshead employment was somewhat irregular on account of bad weather. It continued moderate in the Cleve Hill road-material quarries and bad in Forfarshire, with much short time.

Settmaking.—Employment was good at Edinburgh, and fair in North Wales and in Aberdeenshire. It continued moderate in the Cleve Hill district.

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

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, 3 from Local Correspondents, and 1 other.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good, and showed a decided improvement as compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters show that during March three furnaces were relit (two in Derbyshire and one in Lincolnshire), and two were blown out (one in Yorkshire and one in Lancashire). The number of furnaces in blast at the end of March was 339, as compared with 338 a month ago, and 316 at the end of March, 1905. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the Returns summarised in the following Table is estimated at 24,200.

Table showing pig iron industry statistics by districts (England & Wales, Scotland) including number of furnaces in blast and percentage changes.

The Imports of iron ore in March, 1906, amounted to 716,850 tons, or 126,420 tons more than in March, 1905, and 189,379 tons more than in March, 1904.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during March, 1906, amounted to 114,159 tons, as compared with 80,135 tons in March, 1905, and 85,161 tons in March, 1904.

+ Revised figures.

Compared with a month ago, there were very slight decreases in the number of workpeople at rolling mills, puddling forges, and crucible furnaces, while the remaining departments showed small increases. The number employed increased by 492 in the Cleveland district, by 130 in Scotland, and by 100 in Northumberland and Durham, while in the other districts there were slight decreases.

Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease in the number of workpeople employed in Bessemer converting departments, but in all other departments and in all districts a considerable increase took place.

Compared with a month ago, the average number of shifts worked per man per week varied little, except at crucible furnaces, where a decrease of 0.50 of a shift took place, and in Bessemer converting departments, where an increase of 0.27 of a shift occurred.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week at crucible furnaces was 0.35 less than a year ago, while at puddling forges there was an improvement of 0.21 of a shift. Every other department showed some improvement, except Open Hearth melting furnaces, at which a slight decrease was reported.

At "Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns" the average number of shifts worked was 0.32 greater than a year ago, and in Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire the increase amounted to 0.23 of a shift, but in other districts the number of shifts worked remained about the same as a year ago.

TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on 56 Returns—52 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March showed a decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago.

At the end of March 401 mills were working as compared with 412 at the end of February, and 407 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 401 mills was about 20,000.

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

Table showing No. of Mills in such Works (Working, Not Working, Total) for March 1906, Feb. 1906, and Mar. 1905.

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and blackplates for tinning, are given in the Table below for the periods stated. Of the total exports of tinplates during March, 7,209 tons went to the British East Indies, 3,613 tons to the United States, 3,219 tons to the Netherlands, 2,270 tons to Germany, and 2,217 tons to France.

Tables showing Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets, and Black Plates for Tinning, with columns for Tons and Increase/Decrease for 1905 and 1904.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 943 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 889 from Trade Unions, and 44 from Local Correspondents.)

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

In nearly every district employment was good. Compared with February the districts showing the greatest improvement were the East of Scotland, the South Coast, the South Wales and the Glasgow districts.

The only district in which a decline in employment was at all marked was the Nottingham, Derby and Leicester district, though here, as in all the others, an improvement was shown as compared with a year ago.

Returns relating to 150,736 members of Trade Unions show that 2.8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 3.0 per cent. in the previous month, and 6.1 per cent. in March, 1905.

* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate.

The percentages for the various districts are shown below :—

Table showing percentages of members returned as unemployed at the end of March, February, and March of the previous year for various districts.

United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)

On the North-East Coast employment continued generally good. It was, however, only fair with pattern-makers, and with engineers at Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, and Bishop Auckland.

In Manchester and district employment remained good, and overtime was fairly general. At Liverpool it was still fair generally, though dull with brassfounders, but there was a slight improvement on a month ago.

At Sheffield iron and steel dressers and pattern-makers were well employed, but with engineers and ironfounders employment was only moderate. With boiler makers it remained slack.

At Doncaster employment continued moderate, with some short time. At Hull it was good with brassfounders, moderate with ironfounders, and fairly good with smiths.

At Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Coventry employment continued generally good, with considerable overtime in cycle and motor works.

At Derby it was good in the railway shops, fair with boiler makers, dull with ironfounders, and had improved with engineers. At Burton-on-Trent it remained quiet with engineers and bad with ironfounders.

Employment in the Potteries was moderate, but showed a slight improvement on last month. Engineers were on short time. Boiler makers were fairly well employed.

In the Eastern Counties employment was generally fair with engineers, moderate with boiler makers, and good with machinists.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

Employment in the London district, as shown by the Trade Union returns, was much the same as a month ago, but was better than in March, 1905.

In the dockyard towns employment showed a slight improvement, due mainly to the activity of private firms. At Southampton it was fair, with some overtime.

In South Wales employment was fair with engineers and good with founders. At Bristol it was moderate, and showed an improvement on February with brassworkers. At Gloucester and Swindon it continued good.

In the Clyde district employment was good, and continued to improve, with much overtime.

Employment at Edinburgh was dull with engineers, fairly good with moulders, fair with pattern makers, and good with brassfounders. At Falkirk employment with ironfounders continued fair, with some short time.

Employment at Belfast was fairly good generally. At Dublin and Cork it was still bad. Brassfounders at Dublin were on short time.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 248 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 224 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued to improve, and was good in the chief centres of the industry. As compared with a year ago a marked improvement was shown.

Branches of Trade Unions with 53,761 members had 3,049 (or 5.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 6.9 per cent. at the end of February and with 11.2 per cent. a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, the most marked improvement, as indicated by the percentages of unemployed, was on the Clyde, while the greatest decline was on the Humber and in the Bristol Channel Ports.

Compared with a year ago, a considerable improvement is shown in most of the great shipbuilding centres.

Table showing percentages of members returned as unemployed at the end of March, February, and March of the previous year for various districts in shipbuilding.

Employment continued good generally on the Tyne and Wear. On the upper reaches of the Tyne, however, it was reported as moderate only.

At Doncaster employment continued moderate, with some short time. At Hull it was good with brassfounders, moderate with ironfounders, and fairly good with smiths.

At Sheffield iron and steel dressers and pattern-makers were well employed, but with engineers and ironfounders employment was only moderate. With boiler makers it remained slack.

At Doncaster employment continued moderate, with some short time. At Hull it was good with brassfounders, moderate with ironfounders, and fairly good with smiths.

At Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Coventry employment continued generally good, with considerable overtime in cycle and motor works.

At Derby it was good in the railway shops, fair with boiler makers, dull with ironfounders, and had improved with engineers.

Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

† Revised figure.

shipbuilders. At Leith employment improved, and was fair; at Dundee it continued to be fairly good; at Aberdeen it was fair, but with boilermakers it was not quite so good as a month ago.

At Belfast employment continued good generally, and considerably better than a year ago.

Employment at Barrow-in-Furness was reported as moderate with boilermakers and slack with shipwrights. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft it continued good; at Ipswich it was dull; at Cork it was good with boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders, but bad with shipwrights.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's quarterly return for March, 1906, there is an increase in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction of 46,126 tons gross, or 3.4 per cent., as compared with December, 1905, and of 150,539, or 12.0 per cent., as compared with a year ago.

The district figures are given below :—

Table showing Merchant Vessels and War Vessels tonnage under construction by district for March 1906, December 1905, and March 1905.

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with December, 1905, increases are shown in the Clyde, Tyne, Wear, Hartlepool and Whitby, and Middlesbrough and Stockton districts, but in the Belfast and Barrow districts there were decreases.

As compared with March, 1905, the Clyde, Tyne, Hartlepool and Whitby, and Middlesbrough and Stockton districts show increases, but the Belfast, Wear, and Barrow districts show decreases.

War Vessels.—Increases in the Clyde and Barrow districts and a decrease on the Tyne are shown as compared with both last quarter and a year ago. The tonnage under construction at the Royal Dockyards is the same as at the end of December, and has increased 3.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was generally fair but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago. It was considerably better than a year ago. Eighteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 15,200 had 409 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, compared with 2.5 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 3.6 per cent. at the end of March, 1905.

Tubes.—In the tube trades employment was good except in South Staffordshire where there was much short time. In South Wales overtime was reported in some branches, and at Birmingham full time was being worked in all mills.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath, employment continued good with block chain makers, but was slack with anchor smiths. At Gateshead with chain and hammermen it was good and in South Wales it continued fair.

except in the case of motor chain makers, with whom some overtime was worked. It was good at Birmingham and West Bromwich with spring and axle makers and at Wednesbury with railway and constructional ironwork.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London employment with tinplate workers continued fair; with zinc workers it was still slack, though a slight improvement was shown. With tinplate workers it was fair at Glasgow and Aberdeen, and continued good at Nottingham, Oldham and Edinburgh. In the ironplate trade it was quiet at Birmingham and slack in the Lye district. With sheet metal workers, it was good at Manchester and fair at Birmingham.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers employment was good at Darlaston and Winlaton, and fair at Birmingham and in South Wales. With wire nail, shoe rivet, and cut nail makers at Birmingham it continued fair. At Black Heath with nail workers it was fair, but with rivet makers it was quiet.

Wine.—Employment continued generally good, and rather better than a month ago.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—Employment in the lock and latch trade at Wolverhampton continued bad, much short time still being worked. It had improved on cast iron hollow-ware, but had declined with makers of iron hurdles and fences. In the hollow-ware trade it continued good at Wigan, fair at Birmingham and West Bromwich, and slack at Sheffield.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment in these trades continued fair at Falkirk, but was very quiet at Rotherham. At Glasgow it had improved slightly, but was still quiet; at Bolton it was fairly good.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers was fair on the whole, and better than a year ago. In London it continued dull, and with copper workers it was moderate, and rather worse than a month ago. At Birmingham, with bedstead makers, it was moderate, and in the fender and fire brass trade it continued quiet, but had slightly improved as compared with a month ago.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—At Sheffield employment was bad in the table cutlery trade, slack with razor and pocket knife makers, but with saw makers it remained fair. In the file trades generally, it was fairly good. In the edge-tool trade it was moderate at Sheffield, fair at Birmingham, and had improved at Wednesbury. At Redditch in the needle trade it continued good, with some overtime.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment with goldsmiths and jewellers showed a seasonal slackness. In the silverplate trades it was moderate in London and Birmingham, and bad at Sheffield, with very much short time. It was fairly good at Birmingham with britannia metal smiths, but quiet with jewellers. It was quiet with watch makers at Coventry.

Farriers.—Employment on the whole showed a slight decline, and was generally quiet.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 585 Returns—500 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 75 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

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

The price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool was 07d. higher in March than in February, and 168d. higher than a year ago. The price of "good fair Egyptian" was 66d. higher in March than in February, and 229d. higher than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last week in March was 161,644, an increase of 0.1 per cent. compared with the number employed by these firms in the last week in February and of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 133,702 of these operatives have stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with a month ago, the number

employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. and the amount of wages paid an increase of 0.6 per cent. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 2.2 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 4.1 per cent. Looms were reported to be standing for want of weavers.

Analysis by Departments and Districts.

Compared with a month ago there was a slight improvement in every department, except preparing, which showed a slight decline. Compared with a year ago, the preparing department showed a slight improvement; in the weaving branch the numbers employed showed a slight increase, and the amount of wages paid a considerable one, mainly due to the higher rate of wages; in the spinning and other departments employment showed an improvement in wages corresponding to the improvement in numbers.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.		Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.		
Preparing	14,647	+ 0.0	+ 0.8	12,728	- 0.4	+ 0.9		
Spinning	26,920	+ 0.2	+ 3.4	25,310	+ 0.5	+ 3.4		
Weaving	61,757	+ 0.2	+ 1.6	55,119	+ 0.9	+ 4.8		
Other	12,015	+ 0.5	+ 5.3	13,092	+ 0.7	+ 5.5		
Departments not specified	18,363	+ 0.2	+ 1.7	18,806	+ 0.9	+ 4.0		
Total	133,702	+ 0.2	+ 2.2	125,055	+ 0.6	+ 4.1		

Districts.	No. employed in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
	Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.
Ashton District	7,931	+ 0.3	+ 1.1	7,529	- 1.1	+ 0.2
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,891	+ 0.0	+ 1.9	6,200	+ 1.8	+ 1.9
Oldham District	15,026	+ 0.5	+ 3.1	14,669	+ 0.0	- 0.2
Bolton and Leigh	16,202	+ 0.2	- 4.2	14,586	+ 1.0	+ 0.3
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	10,300	+ 0.1	+ 1.5	7,768	- 3.0	- 0.4
Manchester District	9,204	+ 0.0	+ 1.3	8,145	+ 0.8	+ 7.4
Preston and Chorley	19,630	+ 0.1	+ 1.1	19,449	+ 0.1	+ 3.9
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	18,491	+ 0.0	+ 0.4	20,952	+ 1.7	+ 4.9
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	5,449	- 0.4	+ 0.3	4,748	+ 0.9	+ 5.0
Other Lancs. Towns	5,739	+ 0.7	+ 6.5	5,563	+ 2.3	+ 10.8
Yorkshire Towns	6,610	+ 0.6	+ 0.4	4,956	+ 0.5	+ 19.0
Total	133,702	+ 0.2	+ 2.2	125,055	+ 0.6	+ 4.1

Compared with a month ago, employment showed an improvement in most districts, more especially in the weaving branch; in Manchester and Ashton there was a decline in the amount of wages paid.

Compared with a year ago no district showed a decline in numbers employed except Bolton, which was affected by a dispute at one large firm; two districts, Oldham and Manchester, showed a slight decline in amount of wages paid, the decline in both districts taking place in the weaving branch. The Bury, Rochdale, &c., district and the Yorkshire towns showed a marked improvement in every branch.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of March the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 592d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 607d., and the lowest, 577d. The price for February was 585d., and for March, 1905, 424d. per lb. For the period from 2nd to 10th of April, the average price of "middling American" was 610d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during March averaged 895d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 91d., and the lowest, 818d. The price for February was 829d., and for March, 1905, 666d. per lb. For the period from 2nd to 10th of April the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 948d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on April 6th, 1906, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 1,132,960 bales, as compared with 922,000 on April 7th, 1905.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month ended Mar. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with March,		Three months ended Mar. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
		Bales.	Bales.		Bales.	Bales.
American	273,576	+ 7,258	+ 83,936	807,924	- 3,145	+ 223,255
Brazilian	17,916	+ 15,256	+ 7,798	52,063	+ 44,847	+ 27,813
East Indian	4,226	+ 2,635	- 1,441	15,814	+ 6,820	- 1,387
Egyptian	45,500	+ 10,280	+ 15,560	134,857	+ 35,456	+ 31,527
Miscellaneous	10,582	+ 7,538	+ 8,164	26,144	+ 17,144	+ 14,219
Total	351,800	+ 42,967	+ 114,017	1,036,802	+ 101,122	+ 295,427

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Description.	Month ended Mar. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with March,		Three Months ended Mar. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
		1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.		1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—						
Grey	15,394	+ 950	+ 5,465	44,685	+ 5,462	+ 11,295
Bleached and Dyed	3,638	+ 229	+ 1,443	10,424	+ 712	+ 2,815
Total	19,032	+ 721	+ 6,906	55,109	+ 6,174	+ 14,110
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached	227,011	+ 26,916	+ 77,157	616,123	+ 55,323	+ 126,612
Bleached	155,849	+ 2,188	+ 25,733	460,242	+ 14,786	+ 71,326
Printed	95,278	+ 1,140	+ 15,509	277,036	+ 25,007	+ 80,123
Dyed or Manufactured Yarn	95,556	+ 3,654	+ 17,476	285,618	+ 13,163	+ 43,519
Total	573,694	+ 33,898	+ 135,875	1,639,019	+ 108,279	+ 261,580

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 491 Returns—484 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Woollen and Worsted trades showed an improvement in every branch and was better than a year ago. Prices of wool showed a further rise.

Woollen Trade.

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

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the week ended March 24th, was 38,450, an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 30,315 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	Number employed in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Wool Sorting	753	- 0.8	- 0.7	726	+ 1.5	+ 1.3		
Spinning	5,837	+ 1.1	+ 1.9	4,598	+ 2.7	+ 6.0		
Weaving	13,078	+ 0.2	+ 3.3	10,933	+ 0.8	+ 6.5		
Other Departments	8,601	+ 0.5	+ 0.9	8,648	+ 1.7	+ 2.7		
Unspecified	2,046	+ 1.1	+ 0.3	1,860	+ 2.6	+ 9.7		
Total	30,315	+ 0.5	+ 2.0	27,165	+ 1.6	+ 5.2		

Districts.	Number employed in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.
Huddersfield District	6,021	+ 2.2	+ 5.8	6,392	+ 3.3	+ 10.6
Leeds District	3,392	+ 0.7	+ 4.3	3,001	- 2.0	+ 6.8
Dewsbury & Batley District	3,827	- 0.4	+ 1.3	3,593	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Other Parts of West Riding	1,820	+ 2.7	- 0.8	1,574	+ 2.1	+ 2.1
Total West Riding	15,060	+ 1.2	+ 3.5	14,550	+ 1.3	+ 6.2
Scotland	9,037	- 0.6	+ 1.2	7,979	+ 1.4	+ 3.4
Other Districts	6,218	+ 0.4	- 0.1	4,636	+ 2.8	+ 5.2
Total Woollen	30,315	+ 0.5	+ 2.0	27,165	+ 1.6	+ 5.2

Compared with a month ago, the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.5 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1.6 per cent. Compared with a year ago the number employed showed an increase of 2.0 per cent., and the amount of wages an increase of 5.2 per cent.

In Huddersfield and the Colne Valley many firms worked overtime and one or two worked night and day. In the heavy woollen district there was a slight decline in numbers employed, but employment continued fairly good. In Leeds employment during the month was good. An improvement was reported at Rochdale and Milrow and employment at Stockport was good. At Trowbridge it was good, at Wellington fair. In Hawick, Galashiels, and Selkirk employment continued good.

Worsted Trade.

Employment showed a further improvement in every branch and was fairly good and decidedly better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the week ended March 24th was 65,155, an increase of 0.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 51,011 of these operatives have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with the last week in February, the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0.9 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1.3 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Wool Sorting & Combing	5,106	+ 1.9	+ 3.2	4,943	+ 4.0	+ 13.6		
Spinning	26,211	+ 0.7	+ 2.6	13,682	+ 1.1	+ 6.3		
Weaving	11,150	+ 0.6	+ 2.6	9,565	+ 0.7	+ 3.8		
Other Departments	5,943	+ 0.3	- 1.0	5,728	+ 0.5	...		
Unspecified	2,601	+ 4.4	+ 6.1	1,898	+ 1.9	+ 5.4		
Total	51,011	+ 0.9	+ 2.9	35,816	+ 1.3	+ 5.5		

Districts.	Number employed in week ending 24th Mar., 1906.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.
Bradford District	25,354	+ 1.0	+ 6.8	17,675	+ 1.9	+ 10.3
Keighley District	6,682	+ 0.7	- 0.3	4,906	+ 1.6	+ 4.4
Halifax District	5,860	+ 1.1	- 2.8	3,646	+ 1.3	+ 1.7
Huddersfield District	6,345	+ 1.9	+ 1.7	5,382	+ 0.5	- 2.3
Other Parts of West Riding	3,233	...	+ 0.7	2,029	+ 0.9	+ 1.8
Total West Riding	47,474	+ 1.0	+ 3.3	33,638	+ 1.4	+ 5.8
Other Districts	3,537	- 0.4	- 2.9	2,178	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
Total Worsted	51,011	+ 0.9	+ 2.9	35,816	+ 1.3	+ 5.5

Employment in Bradford showed a further improvement in the woollens and combing branches, in which employment was reported as exceptionally good; there was a slight improvement in the weaving branch, and a more marked one in the spinning branch. In the Keighley district employment was fairly good and showed an improvement in the combing and spinning branches, but no change in the weaving branch. In the Halifax district employment continued fair. In Huddersfield employment showed no further decline, but was not so good as a year ago in the weaving branch.

Prices of Raw Material.

The course of prices showed a further rise compared with a month ago, and was considerably higher than a year ago.

	Mar., 1906.	Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	133	133	111
40's Crossbred tops	174	161	192
60's Super Botany tops	274	261	24
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	132 to 141	133	111 to 102
40's Crossbred tops	163 to 173	16 to 164	141 to 131
60's Super Botany tops	263 to 273	253 to 263	232 to 24

Imports and Exports.

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

Description.	Month ended Mar. 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with March, 1905.		Three Months ended Mar. 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with corresponding period in 1904.	
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.
Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')								
Imports (less Re-Exports) British	65,589	3,120 + 13,670	163,388	- 20,836	+ 29,728			
Exports	3,316	+ 1,057 + 368	8,400	+ 1,501	- 73			
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.								
Yarn.								
Woolen ...	185	+ 43 + 60	575	- 62	+ 169			
Worsted ...	4,670	+ 631 + 231	12,706	+ 1,598	- 597			
Alpaca and Mohair	1,452	+ 202 + 491	3,567	+ 238	+ 614			
Total ...	6,308	+ 876 + 782	16,848	+ 1,774	+ 186			
Piece Goods:								
Woolen ...	5,814	- 130 + 1,568	21,695	+ 1,445	+ 5,621			
Worsted ...	9,270	+ 612 + 1,764	30,113	+ 257	+ 2,087			
Total ...	15,084	+ 742 + 3,332	51,808	+ 1,702	+ 7,708			

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 142 Returns—136 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, and better than a month ago, especially in the weaving departments. It was much better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last full week in March was 58,811, an increase of 0.3 per cent. upon the number employed by the same firms at the end of February, and of 2.5 per cent. upon the number employed at the end of March, 1905.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 51,028 workpeople made Returns of wages paid in the periods under review. From these Returns it appears that, compared with February, there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.				
	Number employed in last full week of Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last full week of Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	6,400	- 0.7	+ 0.5	3,331	+ 0.4	+ 1.5	
Spinning ...	11,318	+ 0.3	- 0.2	5,080	- 0.3	+ 1.1	
Weaving ...	18,970	+ 0.7	+ 3.1	13,363	+ 1.6	+ 7.2	
Other ...	7,229	+ 0.1	+ 0.9	5,599	+ 0.6	+ 3.5	
Departments not specified	7,111	- 0.3	+ 0.4	3,991	+ 0.5	+ 3.5	
Total ...	51,028	+ 0.2	+ 2.0	29,334	+ 0.8	+ 4.2	
Districts.							
Belfast ...	17,757	+ 0.0	+ 1.7	10,012	- 0.2	+ 3.4	
Other Places in Ireland	18,046	+ 0.3	+ 2.3	9,619	+ 0.7	+ 4.7	
Ireland ...	35,803	+ 0.2	+ 2.0	19,631	+ 0.3	+ 4.0	
Fifeshire ...	7,407	+ 0.9	+ 5.0	4,803	+ 3.1	+ 8.2	
Other Places in Scotland	6,003	- 0.4	- 0.7	3,793	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	
Scotland ...	13,410	+ 0.3	+ 2.4	8,596	+ 2.1	+ 4.9	
United Kingdom*	51,028	+ 0.2	+ 2.0	29,334	+ 0.8	+ 4.2	

The improvement in employment as compared with both a month ago and a year ago was most noticeable in Fifeshire, where the wages paid show increases of 3.1 per cent. and 8.2 per cent. respectively. The weaving departments showed a much greater improvement than the preparing and spinning departments.

* Including 9 returns from England.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Description.	Month ended March 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with March, 1905.		Three months ended March 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1904.	
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.
Imports:								
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) Tons	13,690	- 1,390 + 4,917	36,789	+ 3,845	+ 6,843			
Exports:								
Linen Yarn 100 Lbs.	12,193	- 2,693 + 1,598	35,291	+ 372	- 694			
Linen Piece Goods 100 Yds.	192,944	+ 22,453 + 57,620	524,779	+ 31,517	+ 87,115			

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 49 Returns—42 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 6 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At the beginning of the month employment was interrupted by a dispute which terminated on 7th March.

The number of workpeople employed in the last full week of March by firms making Returns was 23,603, an increase of 0.1 per cent. upon the number employed by the same firms in February, and of 3.7 per cent. upon March, 1905. Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 19,023, or 80.6 per cent., were employed in Dundee.

Firms employing 18,234 workpeople supplied particulars of the wages paid, as well as numbers employed, in the last full week of March, 1906. From these Returns it appears that, compared with the previous month, there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.9 per cent. in the wages paid.

The following Table summarises these Returns:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.				
	Number employed in the week ended 24th March, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid in the week ended 24th March, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	4,020	- 0.5	+ 4.1	2,590	+ 2.7	+ 6.5	
Spinning ...	5,028	+ 0.3	+ 4.4	2,921	+ 3.1	+ 6.4	
Weaving ...	6,275	+ 1.0	+ 7.6	4,445	+ 2.4	+ 9.3	
Other ...	1,673	- 0.1	- 2.3	1,650	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	
Departments not specified	1,229	- 0.5	+ 0.9	898	+ 1.9	+ 1.2	
Total ...	18,234	+ 0.3	+ 4.4	12,504	+ 2.3	+ 5.9	

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

Description.	Month ended Mar. 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with March, 1905.		Three months ended Mar. 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1904.	
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.
Imports:								
Jute ... Tons	30,822	+ 10,096	- 2,672	112,246	+ 13,331	- 17,611		
Exports:								
Jute Yarn 100 Lbs.	38,051	- 4,441 + 10,354	104,632	- 12,182	+ 7,430			
Jute Piece Goods 100 Yds.	136,214	- 18,624 - 31,577	395,441	- 7,754	- 89,913			

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 81 Returns—77 from Employers and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Number of Workpeople.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns at the end of March was 11,637, an increase

upon the numbers employed by the same firms of 0.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with March, 1905.

Compared with a month ago, the numbers employed showed little change in any of the branches. Compared with a year ago, there was a slight improvement in the spinning, and decreases in the other branches.

Districts.	Number employed by firms making Returns in last week of March.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Year ago.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Lancashire and W. Riding of York	3,988	+ 0.4	- 0.3	+ 2.8	+ 6.6
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	3,104	+ 0.3	+ 2.8	+ 6.6	+ 6.6
Leek	434	+ 1.9	+ 6.6	+ 6.6	+ 6.6
Eastern Counties	2,474	+ 1.4	+ 3.4	+ 3.4	+ 3.4
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,637	...	- 1.1	- 1.1	- 1.1
Total ...	11,637	+ 0.4	+ 1.4	+ 6.6	+ 6.6

Number of Spindles and Looms.

The number of spindles returned as working by firms making Returns in the last week of March showed an improvement both as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The number of looms working in March was practically the same as in the previous month, and showed a decline as compared with March of last year.

Spindles and Looms.	Number of Spindles and Looms working in last week of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	March, 1906.	Feb., 1906.	March, 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing Spindles ...	85,725	81,438	84,833	+ 5.3	+ 1.1
Spinning Spindles ...	156,958	154,274	149,270	+ 1.3	+ 4.7
Looms ...	4,772	4,774	4,532	- 0.0	- 1.2

In Macclesfield and Congleton employment was moderate on the whole with silk weavers. It was good with silk throwers, and full time was worked. Spinners are well employed. With finishers employment was moderate generally. At Leek employment was moderate on the whole, and some short time was worked; it was, however, somewhat better than in February. At both Leek and Macclesfield silk dyers were fairly well employed. Employment was fair at Bradford and Brighouse.

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

Description.	Month ended Mar. 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with March, 1905.		Three Months ended Mar. 31st, 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in 1904.	
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1905.	1904.
Imports:—								
Raw Silk ...	77,174	- 12,027	- 69,121	234,149	- 14,290	- 44,711		
Thrown Silk ...	58,817	+ 8,223	+ 1,507	138,983	+ 9,507	+ 3,401		
Spun Silk Yarn	24,436	- 8,280	+ 14,788	64,629	- 30,898	+ 28,674		
Exports:—								
Thrown Silk, Twist & Yarn	76,834*	- 1,822	+ 20,778	121,767	+ 6,684	+ 42,527		
Silk Broad-stuffs	887,239	+ 252,869	+ 513,328	2,185,123	+ 267,640	+ 1,076,379		

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 119 Returns—113 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was good, slightly better than a month ago and decidedly better than a year ago.

Firms employing 17,705 workpeople, and paying £13,526 in wages on the last pay-day in March, made Returns, which are summarised in the Table below. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In Leicester employment showed a further improvement, and was better than a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough it was good. In Nottingham employment on the whole was fairly good, but showed a slight decline. In Derbyshire employment showed an improvement and was good. In Scotland employment was reported as good.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on last pay-day in Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with Feb., 1906.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with Feb., 1906.	Per cent.
Leicester ...	7,460	+ 0.9	+ 3.5	5,948	+ 2.1	+ 4.6
Leicester Country District ...	2,995	+ 0.9	+ 6.8	2,444	+ 1.3	+ 8.4
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	3,217	+ 0.8	+ 5.4	2,545	+ 2.3	+ 11.6
Scotland ...	2,882	- 0.6	+ 6.7	1,892	- 1.3	+ 4.4
Other Parts of United Kingdom	1,150	+ 0.9	+ 1.7	694	+ 3.3	+ 6.6
Total ...	17,705	+ 0.7	+ 4.8	13,526	+ 1.6	+ 6.6

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 114 Returns—109 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Firms employing 10,176 workpeople, and paying £10,585 in wages in the week ended March 24th, made Returns, from which it appears that, compared with the last week in February, there was an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the numbers employed by those firms, and of 2.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 8.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment in the levers branch was fairly good, being considerably better than a month ago, and very greatly improved compared with a year ago; the improvement in Long Eaton and other outlying districts of Nottingham was entirely in this branch. In the curtain branch a decline was apparent in Nottingham compared with a month ago and a year ago, and employment was only moderate; in Scotland it was better than a year ago, and was reported as fair at Glasgow and good at Newmilns. In the plain net branch, employment continued good and was considerably better than a year ago.

In the following Table the Returns received from the employers* showing numbers employed and wages paid are analysed by branches of trade and districts:—

Branches.	Workpeople.		Earnings.				
	No. employed in week ended March 24th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of Feb., 1906.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended March 24th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last full week of Feb., 1906.	Per cent.
Levers ...	2,433	+ 1.8	+ 20.9	3,635	+ 5.6	+ 36.0	
Curtain ...	3,029	+ 0.4	+ 4.1	2,925	- 0.7	- 0.5	
Plain Net ...	3,208	+ 2.4	+ 7.3	2,806	+ 3.0	+ 7.3	
Others ...	1,506	+ 1.2	+ 1.3	1,219	+ 3.4	+ 9.0	
Total ...	10,176	+ 1.5	+ 8.3	10,585	+ 2.9	+ 13.3	
Districts.							
Nottingham City ...	4,072	+ 1.7	+ 3.6	4,500	+ 2.8	+ 13.5	
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,512	+ 0.4	+ 26.8	1,948	+ 5.2	+ 36.3	
Other English districts	2,343	+ 3.2	+ 8.3	2,025	+ 4.1	+ 8.1	
Scotland ...	2,249	+ 0.1	+ 2.9	2,112	+ 0.2	+ 1.6	
Total ...	10,176	+ 1.5	+ 8.3	10,585	+ 2.9	+ 13.3	

* It will be understood that certain employers have not made Returns to the Department, and that consequently the above figures do not represent the total number of workpeople employed or the total amount of wages paid in the trade as a whole. The Returns received include, however, a large sample of the whole, and are strictly comparable for the three periods named.

* Yarn, 76,278 lbs.

† Yarn, 210,151 lbs.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 17 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment at Macclesfield showed an improvement, and was fair. At Leek it was reported as good.

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

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester employment was reported as slack, slightly worse than a month ago, and worse than a year ago. At Loughborough operatives were fairly busy, and an improvement was shown compared with a month ago. Employment at Nottingham was reported as good with dyers and trimmers, and better than a year ago; lace bleachers at Basford and Bulwell reported employment as good.

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

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 145 Returns—120 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch in London showed a seasonal improvement, and was better than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £11,618 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended March 24th, showed an increase of 16.5 per cent. compared with the four weeks ended February 24th, and of 4.7 per cent. on the corresponding period a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as dull at Liverpool and Edinburgh; quiet at Glasgow; improving at Dublin; fair at Belfast.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment continued fairly good and was slightly better than a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported employment as worse than a month ago and better than a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment during the month was good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. According to Returns received from firms employing about 10,000 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment was good with firms employing 78 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the Returns, and moderate with firms employing 22 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 63 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 28 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 9 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 66 per cent. reported employment as better, firms employing 27 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 7 per cent. as worse. The Trade Union cutters reported employment as moderate.

Other Centres.—Employment in Manchester was moderate, and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In Bristol it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Employment showed an improvement at Ipswich and Colchester; at Haverhill it was slack, at Norwich fairly good. In Glasgow it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; with the Trade Union cutters it was fair.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 598 Returns—584 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 3 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued to improve, and was better than a year ago.

The number employed in the week ended 24th March by 584 firms making Returns was 78,833, an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 484 firms, employing 67,442 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. These Returns showed an increase of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, employment generally improved, but Northampton showed a very slight decline, and employment was only fair; the improvement in the Northampton country district was very slight. In Leeds the amount of wages paid was only slightly greater, and the number employed was less, and employment generally was reported as bad.

In the other heavy boot centres—Kingswood, Maybole, and Glasgow, employment, although improved, was bad. In Bristol a large number were thrown out of work at the end of the month through a fire. Employment was good throughout Leicestershire, and at Stafford.

Compared with a year ago, every district, except Birmingham, showed an improvement.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during week ended Mar. 24th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with last full week in		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Mar. 24th, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with last full week in	
		Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.		Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	3,183	+ 4.9	+ 7.2	4,109	+ 4.4	+ 9.3
Leicester	13,928	+ 1.0	+ 4.7	14,963	+ 2.5	+ 2.8
Leicester Country District	3,017	+ 2.7	+ 5.3	3,470	+ 3.9	+ 11.6
Northampton	9,342	- 0.8	+ 4.8	8,906	- 0.0	+ 2.9
Northampton Country District	9,286	+ 0.2	+ 4.1	8,717	+ 0.3	+ 9.6
Kettering	3,080	+ 1.0	+ 5.3	3,151	+ 1.6	+ 4.5
Stafford & District	2,545	+ 0.4	+ 0.6	2,307	+ 3.8	+ 2.8
Norwich & District	4,486	+ 1.5	+ 7.6	3,703	+ 2.5	+ 9.1
Bristol & District	1,859	- 0.2	+ 3.9	1,684	+ 0.7	+ 9.4
Kingswood	2,519	+ 0.0	+ 3.0	2,338	+ 2.6	+ 14.8
Leeds & District	2,688	- 2.3	- 4.0	2,258	+ 0.9	+ 3.2
Manchester & District	1,897	+ 0.1	+ 2.6	1,918	+ 3.9	+ 10.2
Birmingham & District	1,067	+ 2.4	- 3.0	873	+ 1.7	- 4.9
Other parts of England and Wales	3,199	+ 0.3	+ 2.6	2,804	+ 2.9	+ 12.0
England and Wales	62,696	+ 0.6	+ 4.0	61,261	+ 2.0	+ 6.3
SCOTLAND	4,242	- 0.5	+ 0.6	4,171	+ 1.0	+ 3.3
IRELAND	504	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	370	- 5.1	+ 1.9
UNITED KINGDOM	67,442	+ 0.6	+ 3.8	65,802	+ 1.9	+ 6.1

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported during March, 1906, and the three months ended March 31st, 1906, together with the increases or decreases, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1905 and 1904:—

	Month ended Mar. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with March,		Three months ended Mar. 31st, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with corresponding period in	
		1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.
		Imports				
Dozen pairs	21,679	- 1,255	- 5,145	58,079	- 1,139	- 2,003
Value	86,090	- 3,168	- 14,147	229,742	- 2,013	+ 17,092
Re-Exports						
Dozen pairs	1,823	+ 620	+ 157	4,930	+ 718	- 1,694
Value	5,416	+ 2,622	+ 1,290	14,199	+ 4,158	- 1,436
Exports (British and Irish)						
Dozen pairs	71,157	+ 4,747	+ 18,944	214,474	+ 21,470	+ 53,857
Value	178,707	+ 23,176	+ 57,351	599,910	+ 65,125	+ 141,831

HAT TRADE.

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

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 13.5, compared with 13.5 at the end of February, and 12.1 a year ago. In London employment was dull and worse than a year ago, with 1½ days short time per week. In Denton it continued quiet, with a good deal of short time. In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 4.5, compared with 5.4 at the end of February, and 2.9 a year ago. Employment generally was quiet, with much short time.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 237 Returns—227 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London showed a considerable seasonal improvement, and was slightly better than a year ago in the dressmaking and millinery trades. Employment in the shirt and collar trades continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. In the corset trade it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London, Returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,538 dressmakers in the last week of March, showed an increase of 15.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate, and slightly worse than a year ago. Court dressmakers, employing 1,561 workpeople, showed an increase of 19.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good, and better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms employing 2,894 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the last week of March showed an increase of 4.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fairly good. Firms employing 1,365 milliners showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fair, and about the same as a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 2,978 workpeople in the last week of March showed an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 8.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,287 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,973 in wages during the week ending March 24th, showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment was moderate in London, good in Manchester and Glasgow, fairly good in Taunton, Belfast and Londonderry.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,066 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the last week of March showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was good. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 79 per cent. reported employment as improved, and firms employing 21 per cent. as unchanged.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 42 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 25 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March continued quiet on the whole. It was considerably better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,558 had 5.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5.8 per cent. in February, and 9.1 per cent. in March, 1905.

Shinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment on the whole continued quiet, but was considerably better than a year ago. At Bolton, Bury, and Wigan, it remained good. Curriers in London, Northampton, and Wellingborough reported an improvement as compared with February, but at Walsall there was a decline in employment.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—Employment was still quiet generally, but better than a year ago.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—Employment with fancy leather workers and portmanteau makers was fair and better than a year ago.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 424 Returns—144 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 260 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was fair on the whole at the end of March, and was better than a month ago and a year ago.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment remained good on the whole, and was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 21,553 workpeople at the end of March showed that there was practically no change in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with February, but an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with March, 1905.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Mar., 1906, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:	
Northern Counties	6,185	- 0.5	- 1.3
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland	2,585	...	- 0.5
Southern Counties	6,015	+ 0.2	+ 1.5
Scotland	5,825	+ 0.3	+ 1.2
Total Machine-made Paper, &c.	20,610	...	+ 0.3
Hand-made Paper	943	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Total	21,553	...	+ 0.3

Trade Unions in the *machine* trade with 1,700 members had 2.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 2.2 per cent. a month ago, and 1.6 per cent. a year ago. In the *hand-made* trade, Trade Unions with 626 members had 5.6 per cent. unemployed, compared with 4.3 in February, and 6.6 in March, 1905.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment with *letterpress printers* was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with 39,895 members had 3.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.6 per cent. in February, and 4.2 per cent. in March, 1905.

The *lithographic* trade was quiet with printers and fair with artists. It was better than a month ago and a year ago, Trade Unions with 6,504 members having 4.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 5.2 in February, and 5.4 per cent. in March, 1905.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1906 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1906.	Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	18,703	3'3	4'4	3'7	- 1'1	- 0'4
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,176	4'0	5'4	4'7	- 1'4	- 0'7
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,401	5'3	6'0	6'7	- 0'7	- 1'4
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,027	3'0	3'9	3'9	- 0'3	- 0'3
West Midlands ...	2,386	4'4	5'1	5'8	- 0'7	- 1'4
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,750	2'5	1'9	3'0	+ 0'6	- 0'3
Scotland	5,509	3'4	4'6	3'0	- 1'2	+ 0'4
Ireland	2,447	7'2	7'3	6'8	- 0'1	+ 0'4
United Kingdom ...	46,399	3'9	4'7	4'4	- 0'8	- 0'5

London.—Employment with letterpress printers was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with 16,740 members had 3'1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4'1 per cent. in February, and 3'5 in March, 1905. With lithographic printers employment was quiet, but better than a month and a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Edinburgh nearly all the Trade Union members were in employment at the end of the month. At most of the other principal towns included in the Returns employment was fairly good, but it was reported as quiet at Dublin, Cardiff, Aberdeen, and Dundee; at Hull it was bad. With lithographic printers employment was quiet generally, but good at Bristol and Birmingham.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was quiet in London; fairly good, on the whole, in the Provinces, where it was better than a year ago.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Mar., 1906 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Mar., 1906.	Feb., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,664	4'9	5'3	5'3	- 0'4	- 0'4
Other Districts ...	3,297	3'9	3'8	5'6	+ 0'1	- 1'7
United Kingdom ...	6,961	4'4	4'6	5'4	- 0'2	- 1'0

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,042 Returns—131 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 1,856 from Trade Unions, and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades continued to show a general seasonal improvement, which was especially marked in the case of painters. Compared with a year ago, however, employment showed little change.

Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 62 London employers showed that in the last week of March they paid wages to 11,623 workpeople of all classes, compared with 11,152 in February, and 14,129 in March, 1905. Employment generally in London was rather better than a month ago, but a good deal worse than a year ago.

Returns were received from Employers' Associations in 73 districts outside London. In two-thirds of these employment was reported as dull generally; at Stratford-on-Avon and Maidstone it was very good, at Birkenhead good, at Ashton and Huddersfield fairly good, and at the remaining towns moderate or fair. Compared with a month ago, no change was reported in 52 towns, while in 14, including Stockport, Portsmouth, Bournemouth and Dublin, it was better; and in 7, including Hull, Chatham, and Swansea, it was worse. Compared with a year ago, employment was reported about the same in 44 towns, worse in 19, and better in 10.

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

With *bricklayers* employment generally was bad, but better than a month ago. The improvement extended to every district, except Ireland, and was specially marked in Lancashire. Employment was good at Burnley; fairly good at Birkenhead and St. Helen's; fair at Southport, and Plymouth; moderate at Middlesbrough, Stockton, Oldham, Stockport, and Chelmsford. Not much short time was reported.

Employment with *stonemasons* was bad generally, but showed some improvement as compared with a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. It was moderate at Oldham and Dublin; fair at Norwich, Cambridge, Plymouth, and in South Wales.

With *carpenters* and *joiners* employment was better than a month ago in all districts, the greatest improvement being shown in the Northern Counties and Scotland. Compared with a year ago, there was on the whole little change. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 7'4, compared with 9'5 in February, and 7'9 in March, 1905. Employment generally was reported as bad, but was moderate at Middlesbrough, Oldham, Preston, Warrington, Coventry, Rugby, Lincoln and Ipswich; fair at Dundee and Aberdeen.

With *slaters* and *tilers* employment was bad. In England and Ireland it was worse than a month and a year ago; in Scotland it was better.

With *plumbers* employment was worse than a month ago in London and Wales; in other districts it was better, most improvement being shown in Lancashire and Scotland. Compared with a year ago there was considerable decline in the East Midlands, Wales and Ireland, and some falling-off in London; most improvement was shown in the Northern Counties. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 11'1 at the end of March, compared with 12'1 in February, and 11'8 in March, 1905. Employment was reported as bad generally, but was moderate in Scotland and at Hartlepool, Jarrow, and Sunderland; and fair at Dublin.

With *plasterers* employment was better than a month ago. Generally it was dull, but in Scotland it was fair; it was moderate at Stockton, Bolton, Barrow, Coventry and Exeter, and fair at Oldham.

Employment generally with *painters* was fairly good, and very much better than a month ago. It was very quiet at Newcastle; bad at Huddersfield, Chester, Burslem, Chatham, Dublin and Cork.

With *labourers* there was a slight improvement, but employment generally was bad. It was moderate at Ipswich, Norwich and Portsmouth; good at Barry and Belfast.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 146 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 112 from Trade Unions, and 30 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in March on the whole was fair, and showed an improvement compared with the previous month, and was better than a year ago. The improvement was most marked in the furnishing trades. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of March was 4'3, compared with 6'5 at the end of February, 1906, and 5'3 at the end of March, 1905.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists on the whole was quiet, but was better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,813 reported 215 (or 4'5 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of March, compared with 5'0 per cent. at the end of February, and 5'7 per cent. at the end of March, 1905. Employment was fair at Hartlepool, Sunderland, Huddersfield, Burnley, Liverpool, Warrington, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Norwich, Reading and Limerick; improving at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Jarrow, Nottingham,

Northampton and Leek; and bad at Barrow, Rochdale, Stockport, Leeds, Hull, Grimsby, Loughborough, Wolverhampton and Dublin.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment was fair, and showed considerable improvement compared with a month ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 13,436 reported 602 (or 4'5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, compared with 9'4 per cent. in the previous month, and 5'4 per cent. a year ago.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers continued dull, and was worse than a month ago. It was good at Peterhead and Fraserburgh; fair or moderate at Manchester, Dublin and Cork; and bad at Burton-on-Trent and Bristol.

Coachbuilding.

Employment in this industry continued to improve, and was fairly good. With wheelwrights and smiths, however, it was only moderate. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 8,496 had 234 (or 2'8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, compared with 3'7 per cent. in the previous month, and 4'4 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers continued to improve, and was a little better than a year ago. In London it was quiet with ivory and bone brush makers, but fair with other branches. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,663 had 50 (or 3'0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 3'8 per cent. at the end of February and 3'3 per cent. at the end of March, 1905.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment generally was quiet; it was good at Nottingham and Bolton. With lathrenders it was slack. With basket makers it was good.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 56 Returns—11 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 24 from Trade Unions, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Glass trades was only moderate, and worse than a month ago, though better than a year ago. In the Pottery trades it was fairly good in the English potteries, and better than in February, but in Scotland it continued only moderate. In the Brick and Tile trades employment was slack, but slightly better than a month ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle-makers was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, fair at Glasgow, and improving at Leeds, Wakefield, and Dublin. With makers of medicine bottles at Glasgow employment was bad.

Employment with flint-glass makers was fairly good at Stourbridge, fair at Barnsley, Birmingham, and Glasgow, and bad at Warrington and Dudley. With flint-glass cutters employment, on the whole, continued quiet. With sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens it continued good. It was slack with pressed glass makers in the Tyne and Wear district, though slightly better than last month. With plate-glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham it was fair. Employment with glass blowers in London continued good.

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment generally was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Newcastle-on-Tyne it continued fair. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) half the factories only worked 4 days per week. In North Devon employment was fairly good at Barnstaple, but moderate at Bideford; in South Devon it was quiet at Bovey Tracey, and slack at Kingskerswell and Kingsteignton.

In Scotland employment generally continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. At Glasgow employment continued dull with tobacco-pipe makers.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment on the whole was slack. The slight improvement at Peterborough continued, and there was also some improvement at Oldham,

in the Market Harborough district, in South Wales, in South Staffordshire, and at Birmingham. Employment continued good at Exeter, and fair in the Tees and Hartlepool district.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on 156 Reports from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

FARM labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment during March. Some day labourers, however, were in irregular work, more especially during the first two or three weeks, when threshing, ploughing and spring sowing were hindered by rain and snow storms in the early part of the month.

The supply of labour was, on the whole, equal to the demand. In several districts in the Eastern and South Midland Counties there was a surplus of day labourers.

Northern Counties.—Reports from *Northumberland*, *Cumberland*, and *Westmorland* state that farm labourers were generally in regular employment. There was but little demand for extra men until the last week of the month. A correspondent in the Hexham Union (Northumberland) reports that at the annual hirings there were more men than usual, but rates of wages were much the same as a year ago. Regularity of employment was reported in *Lancashire*, and the supply of labour is said to have been equal to the demand. In *Yorkshire* unsettled weather caused some interruption to field work, and some day labourers were not in constant employment.

Midland Counties.—Agricultural employment was generally regular in *Cheshire* and *Derbyshire*, but some day labourers lost time in the early part of the month. In *Nottinghamshire* and *Leicestershire* the demand for extra men was somewhat greater than in February, and few were in irregular work. Farm labourers in *Staffordshire* and *Shropshire* were, for the most part, in constant employment. A scarcity of stockmen and teamsmen is reported in the Oswestry Poor Law Union. Some day labourers were in irregular employment in *Worcestershire* and *Warwickshire* during the first fortnight of March owing to unfavourable weather, but, towards the end of the month, ploughing and sowing provided regular work. Regularity of employment was reported in most districts of *Northamptonshire* and *Oxfordshire*. The supply of day labourers in these counties was, on the whole, in excess of the demand. In *Buckinghamshire*, *Herefordshire*, and *Bedfordshire* some time was lost by day labourers on account of bad weather.

Eastern Counties.—Field work was hindered by storms in *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire*, and a number of day labourers were in irregular employment. In *Lincolnshire* there was some demand for day labourers to assist with sowing and potato planting. Agricultural employment in *Norfolk*, *Suffolk* and *Essex* was regular, on the whole, but day labourers lost time through snow and rain in the first two or three weeks of the month. The supply of this class of labour was in excess of the demand in several districts.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Regularity of employment was reported in *Kent*, except in the case of day labourers, who were adversely affected by bad weather. In *Surrey* and *Sussex* some time was lost by day labourers, but in certain districts wood cutting afforded constant employment. Farm labourers in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire* were, generally speaking, in regular employment. There was an ample supply of day labourers, but men for permanent situations were reported to be scarce in a few districts. Employment was regular in *Wiltshire* and *Dorsetshire*, and there was some demand for extra men towards the end of the month, when the weather became more settled. The supply of labour was, on the whole, sufficient in these counties. Regularity of employment was reported in *Somersetshire*, *Herefordshire*, and *Gloucestershire*. A few day labourers, however, lost time owing to rain and snow storms in the early part of the month. There was also some slight irregularity of employment among day labourers in *Devonshire* and *Cornwall*. Several reports from these two counties refer to an insufficient supply of men for permanent situations on farms,

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 129 Returns—107 from Employers, 9 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was moderate, but showed some improvement on a month ago.

London.*—Employment generally continued moderate, but was better than in February. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended March 31st, was 11,637, an increase of 2.7 per cent. on a month ago, but a decrease of 2.1 per cent. on a year ago.

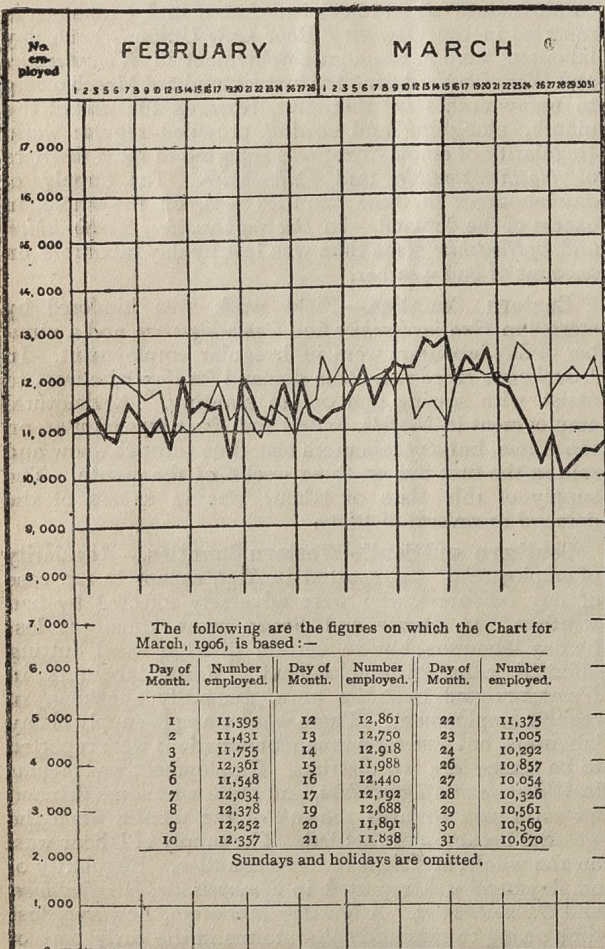
The daily numbers in March ranged from 10,054 on the 27th to 12,918 on the 14th. During the corresponding period of 1905, the numbers ranged from 11,128 on the 15th to 12,798 on the 23rd.

Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves.

Period.	In Docks*			At 107 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Mar. 3rd	3,564	2,307	5,871	5,611	11,482
" " 10th	3,779	2,688	6,467	5,688	12,155
" " 17th	4,595	2,436	7,031	5,504	12,535
" " 24th	4,042	1,795	5,837	5,678	11,515
" " 31st	3,437	1,551	5,008	5,498	10,506
Average for 5 weeks ended Mar. 31st	3,887	2,154	6,041	5,596	11,637
Average for Feb., 1906	3,809	1,968	5,777	5,550	11,327
Average for Mar., 1905	4,809	2,337	6,446	5,522	11,968

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

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



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

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	11,395	12	12,861	22	11,375
2	11,431	13	12,750	23	11,005
3	11,755	14	12,918	24	10,292
4	12,361	15	11,988	25	10,857
5	11,548	16	12,440	26	10,054
6	12,034	17	12,192	27	10,326
7	12,378	18	12,688	28	10,561
8	12,252	19	11,891	29	10,569
9	12,357	20	11,538	30	10,670
10		21	11,538	31	10,670

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,122 in March, as compared with 1,224 in February, a decrease of 8.3 per cent.

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

In Liverpool employment with dock labourers was slack, and about the same as a month ago. With quay and railway carters it was moderate. With flatmen engaged in the supply of coal to liners it was fair.

Other Ports.—Employment was good at Newport and Middlesbrough; fair at Dundee and with trimmers and teamers on the Tyne and Wear; moderate at Hull and Aberdeen, and with dock and quayside labourers on the Tyne; and slack at Swansea, Port Talbot, Cardiff and Barry, and at Bristol and Hartlepool.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 22 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board of Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 8 from Local Correspondents, and 1 from a Trade Union.)

THE fish landed during March showed a decrease both in quantity and in value as compared with a year ago, as will be seen from the following Table:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.
Fish (other than Shell):			£	£
England and Wales ...	691,819	703,889	593,695	596,266
Scotland ...	273,530	342,472	141,407	143,635
Ireland ...	16,817	14,673	11,988	12,844
Total ...	981,166	1,066,034	747,090	752,745
Shell Fish ...	—	—	29,040	29,830
Total Value ...	—	—	776,130	782,575

Fishermen.—Employment was reported as good at Hull, Grimsby, Yarmouth, Cardiff, Swansea, Milford, Aberdeen, and Peterhead; fair in the Tyne, Blyth and Wear district, though interrupted by stormy weather; quiet but improving in the Plymouth and South-western district; moderate at Lowestoft and Macduff; and at Arbroath and Montrose owing to stormy weather; bad at Fraserburgh; and dull off the South and South-western coast of Ireland. Compared with a month ago it was better at Grimsby, Yarmouth and Plymouth, and worse at Lowestoft, Fraserburgh, Macduff, Arbroath and Montrose; at other ports no change was reported. Compared with a year ago it was better at Hull, Grimsby, and Peterhead; and worse at Lowestoft and Fraserburgh.

Fish Dock Labourers.—Employment was good at Hull, Grimsby, and Aberdeen; fair at Yarmouth; quiet at Plymouth; moderate at Lowestoft and Peterhead, and bad at Fraserburgh. It was better at Grimsby and worse at Fraserburgh than a month ago and a year ago.

Fish Curvers.—Employment was good at Hull, Grimsby, Aberdeen and Fraserburgh; fair at Peterhead; moderate at Macduff; and bad at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. At Hull and Grimsby employment was better than a month ago and a year ago, while at Macduff it was worse than a month ago.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MARCH.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) showed that, during March 36,555* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 2,847 on the number shipped in March, 1905. The principal increases were at Liverpool, London, Glasgow, and the Tyne Ports. In three instances slight decreases occurred.

During the three completed months of 1906, 106,259* seamen were shipped, of whom 15,534 (or 14.6 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with the corresponding period of 1905, the total number shipped shows an increase of 5,329 (5.3 per cent.). The principal increases were at London, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Cardiff. Only two decreases occurred, the greater being at Swansea.

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	March,			Three months ended March,		
	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.	1905.	1906.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	2,452	2,779	+ 327	7,438	7,460	+ 22
Sunderland ...	431	394	- 37	1,275	1,189	- 86
Middlesbrough ...	193	285	+ 92	611	685	+ 72
Hull ...	1,032	1,037	+ 5	3,097	3,071	- 26
Grimsby ...	34	44	+ 10	111	207	+ 96
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	28	478	+ 450	1,593	1,896	+ 303
Newport, Mon. ...	570	786	+ 216	2,513	2,793	+ 280
Cardiff ...	4,601	4,841	+ 240	14,082	14,759	+ 677
Swansea ...	329	439	+ 110	1,619	1,134	- 485
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	12,581	13,372	+ 791	36,301	37,136	+ 835
London ...	5,227	5,656	+ 429	16,310	17,215	+ 905
Southampton ...	1,942	2,018	+ 76	5,819	6,319	+ 500
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	410	603	+ 193	1,224	1,800	+ 576
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth ...	97	198	+ 101	539	551	+ 12
Glasgow ...	2,950	3,323	+ 373	7,462	8,345	+ 883
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	67	80	+ 13	233	275	+ 42
Belfast ...	264	242	- 22	793	826	+ 33
Total ...	33,708	36,555	+ 2,847	100,930	106,259	+ 5,329

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

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

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Price according to last Audit.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with	
		Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	Month ago.
Coal.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Northumberland:— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	Dec., 1905—Feb., 1906.	6 3 42	+ 0 1 27	+ 0 0 48	
Pig Iron.	1906.				
Cleveland ...	Jan.-Mar.	50 4 48	+ 2 10 66	+ 4 0 59	
Cumberland ...	Jan.-Mar.	66 7 23	- 3 3 47	+ 9 0 58	
Manufact'd Iron.					
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	Jan.-Feb.	126 7 30	+ 3 0 77	+ 9 0 54	
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops, and rods)	Jan.-Feb.	121 0 59	+ 1 1 17	+ 8 0 68	

Coal.—The average price of Northumberland coal for the three months December, 1905—February, 1906, was 6s. 3 42d., which showed a slight advance as compared with the previous audit, and with that for a year ago. In connection with this ascertainment it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board, on 7th April, to advance the wages of underground workers and bankmen by 1 1/2 per cent., and of other surface workers by 1 per cent. on standard rates.

Pig Iron.—The net average invoice price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron for the three months January-March, 1906, was 50s. 4 48d. per ton. This shows an advance on the price of the previous three months of 2s. 10 3/4d., and on the price of January-March, 1905, of 4s. 9 3/4d. The price of Cumberland pig iron in the same period of 1906 was 66s. 7 23d., being 3s. 3 3/4d. less than in the previous quarter, but 9s. 0 3/4d. higher than a year ago. As a result of these ascertainment the wages of blast-furnacemen in the Cleveland district were advanced 3 1/2 per cent. on the standard, while those of blast-furnacemen in West Cumberland were reduced 4 per cent. on the standard.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the ascertained selling price of specified classes of manufactured

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

iron in January and February was 126s. 7 3/4d., which was 3s. 0 3/4d. higher than for the previous audit, and 9s. 0 3/4d. higher than a year ago. In the West of Scotland for the same period of 1906 the price was 121s. 0 59d., or 1s. 1 1/4d. higher than the previous audit, and 8s. 0 3/4d. higher than that of a year ago. As a result of these ascertainment the wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England and in the West of Scotland remain unchanged. The Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board also decided that the wages of puddlers and millmen in that district should remain unchanged.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.*

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

As compared with a month ago, no change in price took place at any of the towns shown in the Table.

As compared with a year ago, the price per 4 lbs. is less by 1d. at Middlesbrough, and by 1/2d. in London. In 8 towns (3 in England, 3 in Scotland and 2 in Ireland) the price is now 1/2d. per 4 lbs. less than a year ago.

Place.	Predominant Price at 2nd April, 1906, of quality* of bread most generally consumed by work-people in each town.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Last Change.
		Month ago.	Year ago.	
London ...	d.	d.	d.	Jan. '06
Birmingham ...	5	...	- 1/2	Aug. '04
Bolton ...	4 1/2 to 5 1/2	...	...	...
Bristol ...	5	...	...	...
Cardiff ...	5	...	- 1/2	Oct. '05.
Derby ...	5 1/2	...	...	...
Gateshead ...	4 1/2 & 5	...	...	Feb. '05
Huddersfield ...	5 1/2	...	...	...
Hull ...	4 1/2 & 5	...	...	Feb. '04
Ipswich ...	5 1/2	...	...	Aug. '03
Leicester ...	4 1/2	...	...	...
Liverpool ...	5	...	...	June '03
Manchester ...	4 1/2	...	...	Mar. '05
Middlesbrough ...	5	...	- 1	Jan. '06
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	5 1/2	...	...	...
Norwich ...	4 1/2	...	...	July '04
Nottingham ...	5	...	...	...
Oldham ...	4 1/2	...	...	Sept. '03
Plymouth ...	5	...	...	Feb. '05
Potteries ...	4	...	- 1/2	Oct. '05
Wolverhampton ...	5	...	- 1/2	Nov. '05
Aberdeen ...	5 1/2	...	...	Mar. '03
Dundee ...	5 & 6	...	- 1/2	Jan. '06
Edinburgh ...	6	...	- 1/2	April '05
Glasgow ...	5 1/2	...	- 1/2	May '05
Belfast ...	5 1/2	...	- 1/2	June '05
Dublin ...	5 1/2	...	- 1/2	Dec. '05

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Average Declared Value.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
March 1905.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	
March ...	7 2	7 3 1/2	10 0 1/2	10 7 1/2	
February 1906.	6 8 1/2	7 5	9 7 1/2	9 10 1/2	
March ...	6 7 1/2	7 2 1/2	9 8 1/2	9 8 1/2	

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September, 1905, to 31st March, 1906, amounted to 45,724,622 cwt., or 14,665,278 cwt., less than in the corresponding period of 1904-5. The imports

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

of wheat-meal and flour during September-March, 1905-6 amounted to 9,388,900 cwts., or 2,425,377 cwts. more than during September-March, 1904-5.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Factory Acts.

EMPLOYING CHILD IN MEAL TIMES: GIVING EFFECT TO STATUTE.
It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that a woman, young person or child shall not, during any part of the times allowed for meals in the factory or workshop, be employed in the factory or the workshop, or be allowed to remain in a room in which a manufacturing process or handicraft is then being carried on.

In a cotton-weaving factory one of the meal times, as notified by notices affixed in the factory, was from 5.30 to 6.0 p.m. On a day in June, 1905, the machinery in a weaving-room was stopped for the day at 5.30 p.m. At 5.35 p.m. a child employed in this room was found by an inspector in the room engaged in cleaning a spindle forming part of one of the looms. It is necessary for the proper and safe working of the looms that the spindles should be cleaned, which can only be done when the machinery is at rest. After the inspector had entered the room the persons employed were ordered to quit the premises.

The inspector took proceedings against the occupiers of the factory for having employed the child during part of the time allowed for meals. It was contended on behalf of the occupiers (1) that it was the practice in all well-regulated cotton-weaving factories to clean or wipe the loom spindles after the engine had been stopped for the day and in the time allowed for the meal time; (2) that, even if a technical offence had been committed, the matter was so trivial that the justices ought in their discretion to dismiss the information; but (3) that, the occupiers having taken all reasonable steps to prevent such work being done during meal times, the child was not at the time in question employed within the meaning of the Act; and (4) that the prosecution was contrary to the spirit of the Act and an abuse of its provisions. The magistrates were of opinion that the occupiers had used every possible means to carry out the provisions of the Act in the matter, and dismissed the summons.

On appeal, it was held by the High Court that the magistrates were wrong, and that, there having been a breach of the Act, the case must go back with a direction to the magistrates to convict.—*Rogers v. Barlow & Sons, King's Bench Division, March 10th, 1906.*

(2) Trade Union Acts.

WITHHOLDING MONEY OF TRADE UNION: JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES: ABSENCE OF DISHONESTY.

By the Trade Union Act, 1871, it is provided that if any officer of a Trade Union having in his possession any moneys, securities, books, papers, or other effects of such Trade Union, wilfully withhold the same, a Court of Summary Jurisdiction may order such officer to deliver up the same, and in default may order such officer to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any time not exceeding three months.

A Trade Union had a dispute with one of their local branches, which refused to obey the resolutions of the Union. Thereupon the Executive Council of the Union demanded the resignation of the branch officers and committee, and the appointment of others loyal to the Union; at the same time they demanded that the trustees of the branch should hand over to the trustees of the Union all moneys, books, vouchers and other property of every description held by them in trust for the Union. The branch then passed a resolution to the effect that, unless the Union withdrew all adverse resolutions against them, they should withdraw from the Union. The trustees of the Union then took proceedings in a Police Court against the trustees of the branch to obtain possession of the moneys and other property retained by them. It was admitted that there was no fraud or criminality of any sort, and the magistrate accordingly dismissed the summons on the ground that he had no jurisdiction where no fraud or dishonesty was alleged or proved.

On appeal, the High Court held that the magistrate was right.—*Madden v. Rhodes and others, King's Bench Division, March 9th, 1906.*

(3) Truck Acts.

DEDUCTION FROM WAGES; SET-OFF: DEBT DUE FROM WORKMAN TO EMPLOYER.

It is provided by the Truck Act, 1831, that the entire amount of the wages earned by or payable to a workman shall be actually paid to such workman in the current coin of the realm and not otherwise.

A colliery company took proceedings against a number of their workmen for breach of their contracts of service; and the magistrates made an order against each of them for the payment of 30s. by way of damages, to be paid by three fortnightly instalments of 10s. each upon days upon which the workmen's fortnightly wages were payable. Upon the first of these dates the company paid to each of these workmen the amount of his wages for a fortnight less 10s. The workmen then sued the company to recover the amounts deducted, claiming a declaration that the deductions were illegal under the Truck Act, 1831, and also claiming an injunction to restrain the company from making similar deductions in future. A judge granted an injunction against such deductions

until the trial of the action. The defendants appealed, and it was arranged that this appeal should be treated as the trial of the action. The plaintiffs at the same time withdrew their claim to recover the amounts already deducted, admitting that the defendants' right of setting off the sums in an action for the wages unpaid was not affected by the Act. It was also agreed that only the claim for the declaration should be proceeded with. The Court of Appeal then decided that the Act did not make the deductions illegal, and refused to make the declaration asked for.

On further appeal the House of Lords over-ruled the Court of Appeal, and made the declaration, holding that all the wages earned must be paid in coin, and that an employer can subtract nothing except what is expressly allowed by the Act, not even the amount of a debt lawfully due from the workman to the employer.—*Williams and others v. North's Navigation Collieries, Ltd., House of Lords, March 20th, 1906.*

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during March was 56, consisting of 49 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of arsenic poisoning, and 6 of anthrax. Seven deaths were reported, 4 due to lead poisoning and 3 to anthrax.

During the three months ended March, 1906, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 173, as compared with 159 in 1905. The total number of deaths during the same period was 20 in 1906, as compared with 8 in 1905. The number of deaths directly or indirectly attributed to lead poisoning rose from 4 in 1905 to 13 in 1906.

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Mar., 1906.	Three Months ended Mar.,	Month of Mar., 1906.	Three Months ended Mar.,
		1906.		1905.	1906.	1905.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals	3	10	7	—
Brass Works	2	7	1	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	—	2	3	—
Plumbing and Soldering	—	2	6	—
Printing	1	5	3	—
File Cutting	—	5	1	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron				
Hollow-ware	—	1	4	—
White Lead Works	5	20	23	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	—	1	1	—
China and Earthenware*	5	24	26	—
Litho-transfer Works	—	—	2	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	—	1	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	3	1	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	—	2	8	—
Paint and Colour Works	4	8	17	—
Coach Making	8	22	15	2
Shipbuilding	1	6	9	—
Paint used in other Industries	7	11	5	1
Other Industries	11	21	14	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	49	184	148	4
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	—	—	—
Furriers' processes	—	—	1	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	—	—	1	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	—	1	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	1	2	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	1	2	—	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting	—	—	2	—
Wool Combing	3	6	5	2
Handling of Horsehair	—	1	3	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	3	9	1	—
Other Industries	—	1	1	—
Total Anthrax	6	17	12	3
Grand Total	56	173	159	7

* Of the 5 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in March, 1906, 3 were females.
† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 11 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during March, 1906, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the three months ended March, 1906, was 39 (including 8 deaths), and for 1905, 31 (including 5 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during March, 1906, was 252, an increase of 41 as compared with February, and a decrease of 24 as compared with March, 1905. The mean number for March in the years 1901-1905 was 242, the maximum year in this period being 1905, with 276 deaths, and the minimum year 1902, with 204 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in March, 1906, was 144. The number reported in March of the years 1901-1905 varied from 141 to 379, the mean for the five years being 219.

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

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in March, 1906, as compared with a	
	March, 1906.	Feb., 1906.	March, 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	4	1	− 2	+ 1
Engine Drivers	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Firemen	1	—	4	+ 1	− 3
Guards (Passenger)	—	1	—	− 1	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	3	8	8	− 5	+ 5
Porters	4	4	4	—	—
Shunters	1	1	3	—	+ 2
Miscellaneous	24	10	13	+ 14	+ 11
Contractors' Servants	—	—	—	—	—
Total Railway Service	38	29	35	+ 9	+ 3
Mines—					
Underground	78	75	122	+ 3	− 44
Surface	15	8	6	+ 7	+ 9
Total Mines	93	83	128	+ 10	− 35
Quarries over 20 feet deep	8	10	8	− 2	—
Factories—					
Textiles—					
Cotton	4	2	8	+ 2	− 4
Wool and Worsted	3	—	5	+ 3	− 2
Other Textiles	3	1	—	+ 2	+ 3
Non-Textiles—					
Extraction of Metals	5	2	8	+ 3	− 3
Founding and Conversion of Metals	11	12	13	− 1	− 2
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	4	6	6	− 2	− 2
Ship and Boat Building	10	6	5	+ 4	+ 5
Wood	2	2	—	—	+ 2
Chemicals	5	2	—	+ 3	+ 3
Other Non-Textile Industries	28	25	30	+ 3	− 2
Total Factories	75	63	77	+ 12	− 2
Workshops	*	*	3	*	*
Accidents reported under Factory Act, 8s. 103-4—					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	12	13	8	− 1	+ 4
Warehouses	2	3	—	− 1	+ 2
Buildings to which Act applies	13	8	12	+ 5	+ 1
Laundries	2	—	1	+ 2	+ 1
Total under Factory Act, 8s. 103-5	29	24	21	+ 5	+ 8
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1895	9	2	4	+ 7	+ 5
Total, exclusive of Seamen	252	211	276	+ 41	− 24
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	17	65	73	− 48	− 56
Steam	114	77	91	+ 37	+ 23
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	1	3	6	− 2	− 5
Steam	12	8	3†	+ 4	+ 19
Total Seamen	144	153	201	− 9	− 57
Total, including Seamen	396	364	477	+ 32	− 81

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

* Now included under Factories.
† In 1905, 31 (including 5 deaths).

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the fourth quarter of 1905, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £7,807,967, an increase of 4.3 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1904, while compared with five years ago (i.e., with the corresponding quarter of the year 1900) the sales show an increase of 27.2 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,594,398, an increase of 9.7 per cent. on the fourth quarter of 1904, while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1900 an increase of 48.1 per cent. is shown.

The following Table gives details for the three Societies:—

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales.				
	In 4th quarter of			Percentage increase of 1905 as compared with	
	1905.	1904.	1900.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments	5,925,945	5,541,082	4,648,654	6.9	27.5
Manufacturing	972,434*	817,277*	615,160*	19.0	58.1
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments	1,877,139	1,938,175	1,484,465	3.1†	26.5
Manufacturing	589,515*	605,995*	461,205*	2.7‡	27.8
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE:—					
Manufacturing Departments†	32,449*	31,202*	—	4.0	—
IRISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES:—					
Irish Agency!	—	—	—	—	—
AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments	4,883	4,089	3,041	19.4	60.6
Totals—Distributive Depts.	7,807,967	7,483,346	6,136,160	4.3	27.2
„ Manufacturing „	1,594,398	1,454,074	1,076,365	9.7	48.1
Grand Total	9,402,365	8,937,420	7,212,525	5.2	30.4

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended March 31st, 1906, amounted to £4,327,731, an increase of £194,589 (or 4.7 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

During the thirteen weeks ended March 31st, 1906, the total amount was £13,529,273, an increase of £470,030 (or 3.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

	4 weeks ended March 31st, 1906.		13 weeks ended March 31st, 1906.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with 1905.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) as compared with 1905.
English Lines:—				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	1,554,212	+ 85,447	4,946,521	+ 213,326
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury.	475,777	+ 23,332	1,496,855	+ 45,701
Lanes. & Yorks., N.Eastern, and N. Staffs.	850,166	+ 49,282	2,614,841	+ 125,654
L. & S.W., and Gt. Western.	633,800	+ 16,700	1,977,400	+ 26,300
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	151,753	+ 3,334	485,018	+ 2,873
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	518,944	+ 20,011	1,670,732	+ 66,733
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern.	173,074	− 3,517	337,906	− 10,557
Total	4,327,731	+ 194,589	13,529,273	+ 470,030

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.
† In 1900 this department was carried on exclusively by the English Wholesale Society.
‡ No particulars are available for the Irish Agency. § Decrease.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty new disputes began in March, 1906, compared with 29 in February, 1906, and 23 in March, 1905. By the 20 disputes, 4,343 workpeople were directly and 252 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before March, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 28,753 workpeople involved in trade disputes during March, 1906, compared with 29,867 in February, 1906, and 15,197 in March, 1905.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	26	2	2	28
Mining and Quarrying	4	193	20	213
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	6	3,342	18	3,360
Textile	5	607	211	818
Other Trades	4	175	1	176
Total, March, 1906	20	4,343	252	4,595
Total, February, 1906	29	22,804	614	23,418
Total, March, 1905	23	7,647	3,239	10,886

Causes.—Of the twenty new disputes, five arose on demands for increased wages, five on objections to reduction and five on other wages questions, two on questions of Trade Union principle, and three on other questions.

Results.—Definite results were reported in March in the case of 15 new disputes, affecting 4,292 workpeople, and 6 old disputes, affecting 932 workpeople. Of these 21 new and old disputes, 8, involving 993 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 3, involving 2,466 persons, in favour of the employers; and 10, involving 1,765 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in March of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 101,500 working days. In addition, 80,300 working days were lost during March owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 181,800 working days, as compared with 193,400 in the previous month, and 183,800 in the corresponding month of 1905.

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

Groups of Trades.	January to March.					
	1905.			1906.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	5	1,302	34,300	5	518	24,400
Mining and Quarrying... ..	18	8,168	146,400	13	2,374	313,000
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	17	2,263	78,800	17	4,337	41,300
Textile	17	6,657	69,100	22	23,067	212,300
Clothing	11	1,676	24,500	10	504	11,500
Transport	1	100	4,200	2	99	400
Other Trades	9	1,711	22,300	8	260	5,300
Total	78	21,877	379,600	77	31,159	608,200

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1906.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.‡				
Engineering and Shipbuilding—							
Shipbuilders	The Wear	2,330	...	9 Mar.	2	Misunderstanding as to date when advance in wages took effect	Misunderstanding removed.
Ironmoulders	Oldham	450	...	30 Mar.	6	For advance in wages from 38s. to 40s. per week	Advance granted.
Miscellaneous Metal—							
Capsule Makers and other workpeople	London, N.	318	11	10 Mar.	3	Against reduction of id. per thousand for capsule embossing	Reduction of ½d. per thousand agreed upon.
Textile Trades—							
Linen Weavers, &c.	Aberdeen	300	...	20 Mar.	1	Alleged bad material	Better yarns promised.
Cotton Weavers, Preparers, &c.	Haslingden	249	9†	23 Mar.	3	Alleged bad material	Employer to look into the matter.

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

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for March.

IMPORTS.*

	Month ended 31st March.				
	1905.				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£ 20,444,488	£ 19,965,561	£ 19,565,480	- £ 400,081	- £ 879,008
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.†	15,145,659	15,592,929	19,348,067	+ 3,755,138	+ 4,202,408
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.‡	12,872,817	13,211,960	14,149,595	+ 937,616	+ 1,276,779
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	229,311	212,842	207,444	- 5,398	- 21,867
Total value of Imports	£ 38,692,275	£ 38,983,312	£ 43,270,587	+ £ 287,275	+ £ 578,312

* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight; or when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.
 † Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
 ‡ Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.‡

	Month ended 31st March.				
	1905.				Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	£ 1,211,691	£ 1,350,200	£ 1,471,372	+ £ 121,172	+ £ 259,681
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.†	3,188,008	2,966,941	3,637,904	+ 670,963	+ 449,896
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.‡	19,540,937	23,370,216	26,087,588	+ 2,717,372	+ 6,566,651
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	331,160	383,466	454,298	+ 70,832	+ 123,138
Total value of Exports of British produce	£ 24,281,796	£ 28,070,823	£ 31,651,162	+ £ 3,580,339	+ £ 7,369,366

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £5,946,649 in March, 1904; £6,812,209 in March, 1905; and £7,276,397 in March, 1906.

‡ The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.
 † Coal, wool, oil seeds, hides and skins, &c.
 ‡ Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, machinery, chemicals, &c.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in March.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in March was an increase of £1,700 per week, as compared with an increase of £2,148 per week in February, 1906, and an increase of £745 per week in March, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 48,466, of whom 39,816 received advances amounting to £2,043 per week, and 8,650 sustained decreases amounting to £343 per week. The total number affected in February, 1906, was 130,913, and in March, 1905, 47,619.

One change, affecting 700 workpeople, was settled by arbitration, four changes, affecting 5,976 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, six changes, affecting 14,990 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales, and the remaining changes, affecting 26,800 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for the Three completed Months of 1906.—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were reported to have been changed since 1st January was 293,332, as compared with 127,722, for the corresponding period of 1905. The changes arranged gave 283,146 workpeople a net increase of £8,567 per week, and 6,086 workpeople a net decrease of £376 per week, while the remaining 4,100 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was an increase of £8,191 per week, as

compared with a decrease of £3,295 per week in the corresponding period of 1905.

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

Groups of Trades.	January—March.			
	1905.		1906.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	220	- 18	1,500	- 152
Coal Mining	48,190	- 1,304	155,250	+ 1,750
Iron Mining ... ..	...	...	7,198	+ 197
Quarrying	622	- 19	2,556	- 25
Pig Iron Manufacture	10,569	+ 258	11,690	+ 894
Iron and Steel Manufacture	33,145	- 137	45,440	+ 1,651
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	29,903	- 2,349	68,575	+ 3,809
Other Metal Trades	100	- 5	...	...
Textile Trades	305	- 19	647	+ 30
Other Trades	1,596	+ 36	295	+ 18
Employees of Local Authorities	3,072	+ 262	181	+ 73
Total	127,722	- 3,295	293,332	+ 8,191

Hours.

No changes in hours of labour were reported during March, 1906. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour since 1st January last was 12,195, the net decrease in their working time being 19,925 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in March.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN MARCH.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1906.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change (Decreases in Italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	
Coal Mining	Bristol	Last pay day in March	Coal Hewers and other Underground and Surface Workers	...	2,500	Decrease of 5 per cent.
	Somerset (Radstock District)	30 Mar.	Coal Hewers and other Underground Workers Banksmen and Screenmen Enginemakers and Firemen ... ..	...	4,000	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 27½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. Decrease of 2½ per cent. Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 12½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Pig Iron Manufacture	Cleveland and Durham	2 April	Blastfurnacemen	5,500	...	Advance of 3½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 22½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	West Cumberland	April	Blastfurnacemen	1,350	...	Decrease of 4 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 33½ per cent. above the standard of 1880.
Iron and Steel	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 April	Blastfurnacemen	1,250	...	Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 6 per cent. above the standard of 1895.
	Eston	4 Mar.	Steel Workers	1,290	...	Advance of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 16 per cent. above the standard.
Shipbuilding	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 April	Iron and Steel Workers	5,000	...	Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 6 per cent. above the standard of 1895.
	North-East Coast	Mar.	Enginemakers, Cranemen, &c.	750	...	Advance of 1s. or 6d. per week on time rates to those who sustained reductions of 1s. or 6d. in January, 1905.
Shipbuilding	North-East Coast	Mar.	Platers' Helpers, Labourers, Smiths' Strikers, &c.	8,000	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. or 6d. per week on time rates to those who sustained reductions of 1s. or 6d. in January, 1905.
	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Plumbers	540†	...	Advance of 1s. per week.
Shipbuilding	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Shipwrights and Ship Joiners	6,000†	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week.
	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Ship Painters	1,000	...	Advance of 1s. per week.
Shipbuilding	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Drillers and Hole Cutters	1,829	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates.
	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Cabinet Makers, Millsawyers, &c.	303	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week.
Shipbuilding	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Shipsmiths	500	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates and of 1s. 6d. per week on time rates.
	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Shipsmiths	140	...	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week.
Shipbuilding	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Feb.	Shipwrights and Ship Joiners	1,410	...	Advance of 1s. per week.
	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Shipwright Ironworkers	630	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. 6d. per week on time rates.
Shipbuilding	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Mar.	Drillers and Hole Cutters	466	...	Advance of 5 per cent. on piece rates.
	Tyne and Blyth, Tees and Hartlepool	Feb.	Cabinet Makers, Millsawyers, &c.	60	...	Advance of 1s. per week.

NOTES.—Northumberland Coal Mining.—Early in April it was arranged that the Northumberland miners' wages should be advanced 1½ per cent., making their wages 17½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. Full particulars will appear in the May GAZETTE.
 Jute Trade.—At the end of February an advance of 5 per cent. was granted to spinners and preparers in Dundee. Full particulars were not received up to the time of going to press.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

Government Labourers.—Since the compilation of the above statistics a return has been received stating that 3,052 labourers employed by the War Office at Woolwich and in London have had their minimum rate of wages advanced from 21s. to 23s. per week from April 1st.

† Including plumbers in engine shops and ship repairing yards. ‡ Including joiners in marine engineering shops on the Tyne.

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.)
THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in March corresponded to a rate of 233 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with February, 1906, the total number of persons relieved decreased by 5,012 (1.2 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 3. There was a decrease of 1,211 (0.7 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, and of 3,801 (1.6 per cent.) in the total number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 14 districts, decreases in 20 districts, and the Nottingham district showed no change.

Compared with March, 1905, the total number of persons relieved decreased by 8,689 (2.1 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 8. There was an increase of 1,870 (1.1 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, but the total number of outdoor paupers decreased by 10,559 (4.3 per cent.). The most marked decreases were shown in the West Ham (40 per 10,000) and Wolverhampton (35 per 10,000) districts. There were large increases in Central London (26 per 10,000, and Leicester (23 per 10,000).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Mar., 1906.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolia.						
West District ...	12,012	3,825	15,837	189	- 7	- 8
North District ...	16,635	10,446	27,081	251	- 5	- 1
Central District ...	7,517	3,265	10,782	891	+ 1	+ 26
East District ...	15,847	9,083	24,930	343	- 16	- 7
South District ...	25,636	20,511	46,147	248	- 6	- 11
Total Metropolia ...	77,647	47,130	124,777	266	- 7	- 6
West Ham ...						
West Ham ...	3,669	17,810	21,679	315	- 8	- 40
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	2,349	5,309	7,658	174	- 2	+ 1
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,325	4,470	5,795	266	+ 3	+ 3
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	4,336	7,070	11,406	149	- 3	- 25
Wigan District ...	2,212	6,493	8,705	217	+ 1	+ 3
Manchester District ...	10,517	10,841	21,358	229	- 5	- 13
Liverpool District ...	12,725	10,349	23,074	223	+ 1	- 20
Bradford District ...	1,958	3,161	5,119	139	- 6	+ 3
Hull & Huddersfield ...	1,380	4,302	5,682	156	+ 2	+ 6
Leeds District ...	2,735	6,503	9,238	191	- 3	- 6
Barnsley District ...	857	2,941	3,798	155	- 1	- 2
Sheffield District ...	3,259	3,981	7,240	164	- 2	- 6
Hull District ...	1,659	5,607	7,266	263	- 1	+ 3
North Staffordshire ...	2,511	8,288	10,799	286	- 1	- 2
Nottingham District ...	2,265	6,152	8,417	203	...	+ 2
Leicester District ...	1,648	5,761	7,409	322	- 11	+ 23
Wolverhampton District ...	3,887	12,713	16,600	284	- 1	- 35
Birmingham District ...	5,379	3,769	9,088	186	- 1	- 2
Bristol District ...	2,934	6,960	9,894	253	- 2	+ 14
Cardiff & Swansea ...	2,211	7,677	9,888	261	+ 2	+ 3
Total "Other Districts" ...	66,127	122,287	188,414	209	- 2	- 8
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District ...	5,785	17,680	23,465	239	+ 2	- 7
Paisley & Greenock District ...	758	2,251	3,009	186	- 2	- 4
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,923	5,984	7,907	192	+ 1	...
Dunfermline ...	1,144	3,702	4,846	212	+ 1	+ 3
Aberdeen ...	772	3,375	4,147	246	+ 1	+ 3
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	372	1,549	1,921	200	+ 3	+ 1
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	10,743	34,112	44,855	221	+ 1	- 3
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District ...	7,545	5,823	13,368	339	+ 1	+ 2
Belfast District ...	4,073	381	4,454	109	+ 2	+ 8
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District ...	4,649	5,083	9,732	397	+ 1	+ 7
Galway District ...	388	356	744	211	- 5	+ 10
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	16,655	11,643	28,298	282	+ 2	+ 5
Total for above 35 Districts in Mar., 1906.	178,041	233,002	406,043	233	- 3	- 8

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MARCH.

TWENTY-ONE Bureaux furnished Returns, of which thirteen can be compared with similar Returns for a year ago. The figures for the remaining eight are not available for March, 1905.

(I.) Work done in March, 1906.

Name of Labour Bureau.	Applications by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Workpeople found Work during	
	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.
London.						
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd., E.)	1,920	2,160	1,048	722	1,155	857
St. Pancras (Crownale Rd., N.W.)	218	256	46	47	121	...
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.)	10	34	3	1	1	...
Hammersmith (St. Church Lane, W.)	112	135	55	51	55	331
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	351	322	287	172	107	100
Westminster (Hall, Caxton St., S.W.)	195	303	105	105	66	73
Islington (93, St. Paul's Rd., N.)	344	795	38	81	350	371
Hampstead (Finchley Road, N.W.)	47	56	25	38	20	27
Provincial.						
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Pilgrim St.)	502	458	42	97	31	72
Ipswich (Fore Street)	54	45	20	20	12	12
Glasgow (158, George Street)	393	479	711	556	175	156
Wigan (Library Street)	60	42	23	18	23	18
Coventry (3, Market Hall Arcade)	214	131	102	106	97	104
Total of 13 Bureaux ...	4,420	5,236	2,505	2,014	2,213	2,121
London.						
Poplar (Glaucus Street, Bromley, E.)	44	...	10	...	41	...
Lewisham (3, Springfield Pk. Cres.)	126	...	27	...	27	...
Provincial.						
Croydon (Catherine Street)	94	...	88	...	87	...
Eastbourne (Public Library)	5	3	...	...	...	...
Dudley	28	...	7	...	12	...
Manchester (King St., W. Deansgate)	594	...	332	...	150	...
Birkenhead (68, Chester Street)	461	...	31	...	319	...
Hove (Ventnor Hall, Hove)	26	...	...	...	85	...
Total of 21 Bureaux ...	5,798	...	3,000	...	2,934	...

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

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men.—			
Building Trades	57	94	151
Carmen, Stablemen, &c.	32	6	38
Porters and Messengers	35	15	50
General Labourers	26	26	52
Other Occupations	186	1,141	1,327
Lads and Boys	107	12	119
Women and Girls.—			
Domestic Servants	106	18	124
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	18	98	116
Other Occupations	67	...	67
Total engaged by Private Employers ...	634	1,410	2,044
Engaged by Local Authorities:—			
Men, Lads and Boys	16	747	763
Engaged by Salvation Army ...			
	...	127	127
Total of 21 Bureaux ...	650	2,284	2,934

(III.) Occupations of the Workpeople on the Registers of 21 Bureaux at the end of March, 1906.

Name of Bureau.	Men.					Lads and Boys.	Women and Girls.
	Build-ing Trades.	Engineer-ing Trades.	General Labourers.	Porters, Messengers, Carmen &c.	Other Occupations.		
London.							
Salvation Army	75	3	70	55	218	—	—
St. Pancras	100	60	242	91	27	38	—
Southwark	2	1	7	1	—	—	—
Hammersmith	64	6	60	17	2	5	—
Finsbury	30	24	43	65	37	42	61
Westminster	2	6	18	104	155	81	207
Hampstead	41	3	15	22	38	10	6
Islington	272	6	1,320	58	40	44	30
Poplar	623	270	394	303	806	3	23
Lewisham	72	4	85	16	22	—	—
Provincial.							
Ipswich	1	4	17	8	2	8	14
Glasgow	34	36	32	43	31	15	142
Wigan	60	2	137	17	15	14	—
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	109	94	582	63	131	13	88
Coventry	9	76	14	13	18	20	—
Eastbourne	108	13	105	20	39	—	—
Croydon	128	29	21	69	98	7	28
Dudley	57	112	168	31	61	28	—
Manchester	203	221	649	268	354	58	298
Birkenhead	25	34	142	18	34	20	25
Hove†	51	12	25	25	96	5	52
Total ...	2,070	1,016	4,183	1,414	2,280	395	1,917

* Not stated.
† Including 47 men too old or otherwise incapable of regular work.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH.

DURING March, 897 fresh applications (511 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by eight Bureaux furnishing returns, and 854 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 241 persons, of whom 144 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 241 situations found for applicants 178 were of a more or less permanent character, while 63 were temporary only. The work done by the Bureaux during March is shown by the following Table.

WORK DONE IN MARCH.

Name of Bureau.	Applications by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Permanently.		Temporarily.	
	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.	Mar., 1906.	Mar., 1905.
Summary by Bureaux.								
Central Bureau ...	110	80	85	70	25	18	5	7
9, Southampton St., W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Y.W.C.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26, George Street, (1) ...	489	494	432	470	75	78	27	17
Hanover Sq., W. (2) ...	110	119	179	145	33	46	19	20
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Watford, Edinburgh and Dublin)								
	188	168	158	128	45	43	12	13
Total of 8 Bureaux ...	897	861	854	813	178	185	63	57
Summary by Occupations.								
Superintendents,	69	75	38	20	12	3	1	2
Forewomen, etc.	12	13	4	2	1	—	—	—
Shop Assistants	66	82	138	118	30	48	20	19
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	63	54	15	17	4	4	4	2
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	9	4	45	33	8	2	—	—
Apprentices and Learners	511	478	555	566	110	106	34	21
Domestic Servants, etc.	167	155	59	57	13	22	2	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	897	861	854	813	178	185	63	57

BUILDING SOCIETIES IN 1904.*

The tenth annual report issued by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Building Societies Acts shows that in the year 1904 there were in existence in the United Kingdom 2,118 Building Societies, of which 2,075 made returns showing an aggregate membership of 609,785; total receipts during the year of £38,729,009, and a total amount due to shareholders of £39,408,430, and to depositors and other creditors £24,838,290, while the amount advanced on mortgages during the year was £9,589,864.

The following are the main particulars relating to the societies, distinguishing incorporated and unincorporated separately:—

	Incorporated.	Unincorporated.
No. of Societies making Returns	2,014	61
Aggregate Membership	553,709	56,076
Receipts during year	19,411,548	19,317,461
Advances on Mortgage during year	8,922,676	667,188
Due to Shareholders	35,823,285	3,585,745
Depositors and Other Creditors	13,975,263	10,263,627
Societies with Profit Balance	1,764	57
Amount	£3,154,669	£849,873
Deficit	177	4
Amount	£101,069	£1,601

The report shows that in 1904 the aggregate value of large mortgages, i.e., of over £5,000 each, amounted to £2,091,292 compared with £2,067,260 in 1903; that properties in possession amounted in value to £2,443,255 compared with £2,488,352; and that mortgages upwards of 12 months in arrears amounted in value to

Borough of Cowbridge, the Cowbridge Rural District, and the County of Monmouth. Mr. Wolfe's official address is: Western Mail Chambers, St. Mary Street, Cardiff.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Report on Irish Migratory Labourers, 1905. [Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.] A section of the Report deals with the distribution of the migratory labourers in England and Scotland, their conditions of work and living, earnings and savings. [Cd. 2,865: pp. 47: price 3d.]

Building Societies. Tenth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1904. Part II. Abstract of Accounts. [H.C. 42-1: pp. 185: price 1s. 6d.]

Workmen's Compensation. Copy of the Workmen's Compensation Bill, showing the effect on existing Acts. In this arrangement the ordinary type read with the erased type reproduces the existing Acts, the ordinary type read with the italicised type reproduces the Bill. [H.C. 98: pp. 31: price 3d.]

Annual Statement of Trade, 1904. Supplement to Volumes I. and II. Abstract and Detailed Tables showing Countries of Consignment of Imports and Countries of Ultimate Destination of Exports. [Cd. 2668: pp. xiii. + 719: price 5s. 10d.]

Fifty-eighth Annual Report from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England; with an Appendix. [Cd. 2859: pp. 116: price 6d.]

Life Assurance Companies. Return, 1905. Statements of Accounts and of Life Assurance and Annuity Business, and Abstract of Actuarial Reports. A section deals with the transactions of 19 companies classed as Industrial Life Companies. [H.C. 30: pp. 422: price 3s. 5d.]

Report to Home Office on the Draft Regulations for the Processes of Spinning and Weaving Flax and Tow and the Processes incidental thereto. By G. A. B. nner. The Regulations to which the inquiry with which this Report deals were noticed in the March issue of the GAZETTE, page 90. [Cd. 2851: pp. 21: price 2½d.]

Return. Higher Education, England and Wales. Application of Funds by Local Authorities during the year 1903-4. Shows the extent to which, and the manner in which Local Authorities have applied Funds to the purposes of Technical Education and other forms of education other than elementary. [H.C. 15: pp. 251: price 2s.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland. Extent in Statute Acres and Produce of the Crops, 1905. [Cd. 2854: pp. 43: price 3½d.]

Census of the British Empire, 1901. Detailed tables for the several Colonies—area, houses, population; also population classified by ages, condition as to marriage, occupations, birthplaces, religions, degrees of education, and infirmities. 1906. [Cd. 2660: pp. lxiv. + 301: price 3s. 5d.]

Navy. Victualling Yard Manufacturing Accounts, 1904-05. Cost of manufacturing provisions, casks, &c., at H.M. Home and Malta Yards. [H.C. 67: pp. 31: price 3d.]

Army Clothing Factory. Annual Accounts for the year 1904-05. Number of garments of various classes made, rate of making, total cost, &c. [H.C. 35: pp. 31: price 3d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Colonial Office Annual Reports. No. 481. Report on Ceylon for 1904. Notes on industries, immigration and emigration, rates of wages, and cost of living. [Cd. 2684-27: pp. 71: price 3½d.]

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

Canada. The Canadian Labour Gazette, March, 1906. Contains special articles on—A Co-operative Bank at Levis (Que.); conditions laid down for the protection of labour in the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, &c.

New South Wales. The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records, 1905. Vol. IV. Part 4. Reports of 14 cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 59.]

Western Australia. Reports of Proceedings before the Boards of Conciliation and the Court of Arbitration. Vol. IV. Parts II. and III. 1905. [Perth, W.A.: A. Curtis, Acting Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Wisconsin. Eleventh Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour and Industrial Statistics, 1903-1904. Factory and bakery inspection; sweating in the garment-making trades; number of persons employed and wages earned in various industries; workmen's compensation for industrial accidents; free employment offices. [Madison: Democrat Printing Co., State Printers, pp. xvi. + 539.]

Maryland. Fourteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Information of Maryland, 1905. Labour organisations; cost of living; free employment agency; statistics of unemployed members of trade unions in each month of 1905; strikes; chattel and salary loaning concerns, &c. [Baltimore: King Bros., State Printers, pp. 375.]

Massachusetts. Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No. 39. January, 1906. Statistics of recent Massachusetts immigration; legislation affecting hours of labour and employment of women and children passed in 1905; enforcement of the Massachusetts Compulsory Education Law, &c.

Labour and Industrial Chronology of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the year ending 30th September, 1905. Strikes and lock-outs; wages and hours of labour; trade unions; working men's benefits; labour legislation. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 227.]

France.

Monthly Journal of the French Labour Department. February, 1906. Contains law of December 29th on insurance of seamen against accidents.

Germany.

Statistical Yearbook of Baden for 1904 and 1905. Contains statistics of trade unions, employment registries, strikes, prices, wages, poor relief, &c. Baden Statistical Office, 1905. [Karlsruhe: Macklot'sche Druckerei: pp. xxi. + 800.]

Statistics of Baden, XIV.—Population Census of Baden of December 1st, 1900, Part II.

Statistical Yearbook of Saxony. Contains information on strikes and lockouts, co-operation, industrial inspection, savings banks, prices, &c. Statistical Office of Saxony, 1906. [Dresden: C. Heinrich: pp. 268: price 1s.]

Journal of the Royal Statistical Office of Saxony. Volume LI. Part II. Contains article on the housing of the working classes. Statistical Office of Saxony, 1906. [Dresden.]

Monthly Journal of the German Labour Department. Contains statistics of wages of Prussian Miners, 1905, and emigration from Germany in 1905.

Austria.

Strikes and Lock-outs in Austria in 1904. Austrian Labour Department, 1906. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. 251: price 2s.]

Italy.

Proceedings of Council of Credit and Thrift, 1905. [Rome: pp. 575: price 3s. 2½d.]

Report on People's Banks in Italy in 1902. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1904. [Rome: pp. xxiv. + 169.]

List of Co-operative Societies in Italy on December 31st, 1902. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1904. [Rome: pp. 163.]

Belgium.

Report on Agricultural Co-operative Societies in Belgium in 1904. Ministry of Agriculture, 1905. [Brussels: P. Weissenbruch, 49, rue du Poinçon: pp. 71 and maps.]

List of Recognised Agricultural Co-operative Societies in Belgium December 31st, 1904. Ministry of Agriculture, 1905. [Brussels pp. 148.]

Monthly Journal of the Belgian Labour Department. February, 1906.

Holland.

Factory and Workshop Inspection in 1903 and 1904. 2 vols. Department of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1906. [The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante.]

Quarterly Journal of the Dutch Labour Department, 15th Part. Statistics of wages and hours of labour in the 3rd quarter of 1905.

Switzerland.

Swiss Statistical Yearbook for 1905. Contains tables relating to poor relief, prices of wheat and flour, &c. Statistical Bureau of Federal Ministry of the Interior, 1906. [Bern: A. Francke, pp. 355.]

Births, Marriages and Deaths in Switzerland in 1904. Statistical Bureau of Federal Ministry of the Interior, 1906. [Bern: A. Francke: pp. 32; price 1s. 7d.]

Norway.

Statistics of Savings Banks in 1904. Central Statistical Office, 1905. [Kristiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.: pp. ix. + 23; price 6½d.]

Sweden.

Quarterly Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, 1906, No. 1. Contains article on strikes and lock-outs in Sweden, 1903-1905.

Spain.

Report on Bill for Workmen's Insurance. Spanish Labour Department, 1906. [Madrid: pp. 287.]

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3532. Shipping and Navigation of the Port of Antwerp for the year 1905. Transmission of seamen's wages; engagements of British seamen at Antwerp, &c. [Cd. 2683-57: pp. 44: price 7d.]

No. 3537. *Trade of Oporto for the year 1905.* Cotton thread factory started with British capital; trawl fishing by British ships in Portuguese waters, &c. [Cd. 2682-62: pp. 14: price 1d.]

No. 3538. *Trade and Agriculture of Poland and Lithuania for the year 1905.* Supply of labour; labour disputes; statistics of textile, metallurgical, &c., industries, their development, wages paid, hours of labour, &c.; establishment of new industries. [Cd. 2682-63: pp. 44: price 2½d.]

No. 3539. *Trade of the United States for the year 1905.* Statistics of the growth of the Portland cement and certain other industries; blastfurnaces in action or standing, new furnaces built; shortage of labour in the textile industries, &c. [Cd. 2682-64: pp. 46: price 2½d.]

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

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